Aquinas lays thirteen employees off in face of budgetary problems, departments adjust to smaller staff

By Chris Epplett

FEELING Empty desks: The desk of Residence Life Assistant Char Frens sits empty during the days after her notice of termination. The Residence Life Office has made several adjustments following the layoffs, including shortened hours.

AQUINAS Recognition ceremony for graduated to be held Dec. 5

The Aquinas College Board of Trustees and the Student Senate will be hosting a recognition ceremony for its December graduates on Monday, December 5 from 5-7 p.m. at the Voge Ballroom. All December graduates, their guests, staff members and faculty members are encouraged to attend. Details about the ceremony will be a part of a December newsletter. For more information, please visit aquinascollege.edu.

NATION GRE to receive overhaul

Starting in 2006 GRE test-takers may see a longer, more complex version of the current graduate school test. The current version was two hours long, but according to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the new version would double the time. The new version would also include different sections. The service also said that the changes are also made due to security issues, citing the fact that some questions are frequently repeated on different versions of the exam which allows the answers to be memorized in the internet.

Beer getting blasted

The popularity of beer is slipping among young drinkers, a report by the Washington Post said. However, the alcohol industry has dropped its 58.1 percent, down from 59.6 percent in 1994. The report said that reasons for the drop were due to the growing awareness raised on sugar levels, which leads them to eliminate the bitter sweeter mixed drinks over the like the taste of sweeter mixed drinks over the rather bitter taste of most beers.

AQUINAS Schools discuss diversity

Presidents and students from Colleges and Universities around West Michigan gathered at Aquinas College at a day-long conference with the purpose of addressing diversity, cultural competence and inclusion in educational environments. The conference is part of a compact that was affirmed by the school's presidents to help respect diversity and individuality in the region. "Students will be able to gain awareness for success in a global society and strategies for effective cross cultural and international communication," said Oscar Perry, a training specialist and project manager for the Woodcock Institute at Aquinas.

Questions are frequently repeated on different educational environments. The conference is a major step in the proposed Iraqi constitution was passed on June 2006 Annual Operating Budget.

In addition, three positions were eliminated by vacancies and retirements. The layoffs marked the first major staff cuts since 1994.

According to a statement from the college, "unexpected expenses created deficits that have had a cumulative effect in the past two years" which has caused an "operational deficit" for the July 2005-June 2006 Annual Operating Budget.

In addition to the accounting errors, Provost/Dean of Faculty Dr. C. Edward Balog said that projections in income, such as the lower enrollment of continuing education students has contributed to the deficit. In order to balance the budget, Knopke and the Board of Trustees decided to eliminate jobs.

"We've been carrying a debt and we can no longer carry that debt," Balog said. "The only way to balance the budget was to eliminate personnel.

The move to actively work toward a balanced budget stemmed from the Board of Trustees, which asked for a positive balance to ensure the future accreditation of Aquinas College.

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which accredits Aquinas, will do its annual accreditation review in 15 February prior to the 2007-2008 school year.

If the budget continues to operate on a deficit, the college could lose accreditation.

"We have to have a balanced budget for accreditation purposes," Balog said. "Unless we have a balance (when the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools reviews Aquinas), their recommendation on accreditation could be negative. It's important for continued accreditation that we have a balanced budget."

Prior to the layoffs, Knopke called a closed emergency state of the college speech on Oct. 12 to discuss the recent financial problems with staff and faculty.

The Effects

According to Knopke, the layoffs "certainly had an affect on the individuals who lost their jobs." For many of those former employees, the layoffs came as quite a surprise.

"I was definitely shocked by the news," said Mary Dean, Information Services Coordinator. "When I heard there were 11 positions being eliminated, I didn't feel threatened, as I thought I was safe with my seniority and the specialized skills I had acquired over the years."

Dean, a 21-year employee of Aquinas College who began as an assistant to the faculty in 1984 by aiding in typing needs, worked her way up the department over the years, prior to her layoffs. Additionally, she earned her Bachelors of Arts Degree in 2000 from Aquinas.

"It was obvious that the College was in serious financial trouble due to poor decisions made by upper administration," Dean said. "The unfortunate aspects of these firings were that those responsible for this financial situation seem to be immune from these poor decisions."

Dean said she does not consider her job cut as a "layoff."

"At this point I think it's more accurate to say that these were not layoffs," Dean said. "We have a good understanding that our job positions were eliminated permanently. I believe we were fired."

Adjustments Ahead

Many of the departments affected by the layoffs believe it will take some time and creativity to adjust to smaller departments. The Residence Life Department, which lost longtime Residence Life Assistant Char Frens, found difficulty in adjusting during the first week back from fall break.

"Obviously the loss of a full-time clerical assistant from a small office will create some significant operational changes," said Randy MacGeorge, Director of Residence Life. "Students will notice some changes in how services are delivered and programs are implemented."

MacGeorge said some of the Residence Life work will be moved to other departments, including the entry of data regarding room placement, phone numbers, and other information. It will now be handled by the Student Accounts Office.

Additionally, production of student ID cards has been relocated to the Hruby Hall office. Eventually, this could be re-assigned to the Dining Services and Conferencing Services Office.

The Residence Life Office has reduced its hours as well and is currently listing its hours as 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

"I am trying to take this challenge as an opportunity to enhance some of our services through better technology," MacGeorge said, citing the movement of the off-campus apartment and housing listings from a binder-listing in the Residence Life Office to online links to apartments and renters.

Both the Residence Life and Career and Counseling Departments — with the loss of counselor Rebecca Moonhead — have lost a major program due to the layoffs.

The personnel reductions in the Career Development Department do not permit them the staff to present the Alcohol Education Seminar — a workshop offered for students who wished to review their own behaviors and attitudes regarding alcohol or who were assigned to attend through campus judicial action.

Please see LAYOFFS, page 2

Dear Aquinas employee,

Please vacate the college immediately. Your services are no longer wanted.

Have a nice day.

Michael Buck - The Saint

THE EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT STUDDENT ID CARDS HAS BEEN RELOCATED TO THE HRUBY HALL OFFICE. EVENTUALLY, THIS COULD BE RE-ASSIGNED TO THE DINING SERVICES AND CONFERENCING SERVICES OFFICE.
Seizing the moment

It has been said that natural disasters lay a disaster for that matter, natural or otherwise — are the kiss of death for a politician. I disagree.

Disasters suck, there’s no doubt about that. They’re horrible, but they can be the best thing that could happen to an elected official — if they have the intuition to use it to their advantage. There are many things that loop around unexpected events. Emotions, uncertainty, uneasiness — and people look for guidance; they look for someone who will provide all of the answers and take action to help for the problem.

A leader throughout the history of the United States there have been only a few which leaders, small enough to recognize the potential for success out of the disaster or in the midst of it.

FDR led the country through the Great Depression and brought hope to a nation that didn’t seem to have any

And it made him a popular leader.

Later, he would again be tested the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. This brought a state of shock to the nation, but he rallied the country; brought them together with his strong leadership. And it made him a popular leader.

In our recent history there was another situation — George W. Bush and the eve of 9/11. During a time when there was great uncertainty in the country, Bush made himself into a popular hero by taking action. He used what happened to his advantage — a brilliant political stroke.

He said what could be referred to as a one term, presidential fluke and turned it into a rather popular, justified presidency. He turned himself into the leader that America needed to look up to during a difficult time.

While it may not be fair to call disaster the kiss of death, it is very fair to say that the way that they handle an issue can make or break a reputation.

It is no doubt that President Bush did handle the recent situation with Hurricane Katrina in the best way possible; in fact he did nothing at all until days later.

New Orleans flooded, Bush remained motionless. He missed the boat on the opportunity to show his leadership abilities to the best way possible; in fact he missed the boat on the opportunity.

Neither did Bush miss the opportunity, but so did the Republican Party. A chance to show his leadership abilities to the best way possible; in fact he did not handle the recent reputation.

President Bush, I say — “maybe a one term, presidential fluke. A chance to show the nation.

To show his leadership abilities to the best way possible; in fact he handled the recent reputation.

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Not only did Bush miss the 9/11 opportunity, but so did the Republican Party. A chance to show how the right cared for the nation with.

So to the Republican Party and President Bush, I say — “maybe next time.”

LAYOFFS, continued from page 1
College intends to cut its spending

“So far, our projection for second quarter is holding. The big budget number comes with the spring semester. That’s when we’ll have a better idea of whether this budget will be met.”

Don C. Edward Balog, Provost/Dean of Faculty

“Our department was already understaffed from the 1994 layoff,” Dean said. “They now have to cut us 25 percent reduction.”

“We were a service-oriented department, meeting the needs of faculty, staff and students on an on-going basis. Losing a quarter of the departmental manpower is going to put a huge strain on those remaining. My co-workers will try their best to maintain a high level of service, but I believe the large copy volumes and last minute requests will be unrealistic to continue.”

Dean is not optimistic toward her department’s ability to easily adjust to the workload, she will continue to “value the friendship” of her former colleagues.

“I still have not changed my overall feelings toward the people I’ve come to know and work closely with,” Dean said.

“Half of my life has been spent here and during that time I’ve had many personal hard aches as well as joys and friends and fellow colleagues have supported me through them all. In spite of the enormous pain this disaster has caused me, I will continue to value their friendship.”

Campus safety, which lost full-time office Dan Wagner and is currently facing one of the largest campus crime waves in recent college history, now will have to work with less manpower.

What Lies Ahead

With the layoffs, many are skeptical of the finances of Aquinas College.

“I am concerned about Aquinas and its future,” Dean said. “Many people have expressed their sorrow — not just for my boss but also for the loss of trust. They are worried about their jobs. They miss their colleagues. They don’t feel safe and that’s a heavy burden.”

Meanwhile, Balog remained optimistic.

“So far, our projection for second quarter is holding,” Balog said. “The big budget number comes with spring rumors. That’s when we’ll have a better idea of whether this budget will be met.”

Balog also pointed out that the recent layoffs will create a positive balance, not merely a balanced, zero-bottom-line budget.

While faculty jobs were eliminated in the layoffs, the faculty will not receive their three percent salary increase and the possibility of new faculty positions has been eliminated. There will also be no cuts to employees benefits, even though the costs of those benefits are increasing.

Internally, the college has said that they are being critical of their spending to make sure that nothing is in excess. However, certain costs cannot be avoided. The student population increase also means an increase in costs to the school — such as maintenance.

Another action the school has taken to cut costs is the elimination of part-time jobs in the college workforce.

News Editor Michael Buck contributed to this article.

Parks’ death leaves impression on students

(U.W.R.) COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Civil Rights Activist Rosa Parks, best known for initiating the Montgomery Bus Boycott, has died. While Parks’ death has caused me, I will adjust to the added workload, she will continue to “value the friendship” of her former colleagues.

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Week-long event highlights pro-life issues

By Emily Johnson
The Saint Reporter

Students for Life presented a series of speakers to Aquinas College during Pro-Life Awareness week, held Oct. 24-28. Each session was attended by several students, faculty and members of the community.

"Young people, you are a great witness to these issues. You're doing a vital work," said Dr. Bill Pauley, a retired general surgeon, who now sits as the chair of the Saint Mary's Clinical Ethics Committee.

Passinault addressed end of life care, claiming that physicians are getting better at it these days. He argued that people feel they are the highest they have been in end to end of life suffering. There's the loss of medical bills to consider as well - medical bills only concern. There's the loss of euthanasia to put an end to a life. We believe in eternal life which helps us get through the hard times," said Passinault. He introduced alternatives to giving up and pulling the plug. He emphasized the importance of family and physician support. Equally important is adequate pain relief. Patients have the right to reject extraordinary means of care in order not to prolong death. But one thing is clear according to Passinault: "Our job is not to kill the patient but to ease suffering by sharing the burden."

Other issues were presented during Pro-Life week. Dr. Larry Burns, a practicing OB/GYN physician and a 1963 Aquinas graduate, addressed the ethical dilemma of stem-cell research. "We can see the wrongness of ending a life, such as euthanasia, but at the beginning of life, it's a little fuzzy. It's harder to understand - it's really," Burns said.

This confusion allows people who push for abortion to justify it, claimed Burns. But there is still a large gray area present in regards to stem-cell research. You can't volunteer someone's life to be ended, Burns said.

In stem-cell research, embryos are created by invitro fertilization, then destroyed for the purpose of scientific research. The argument focuses on whether or not the embryo is a human being. Burns says yes. "They possess the power to become what it has potential to be - a human," Burns said.

Sue Mol, founder of Rachel's Heart, a Bible study for post-abortive women, reiterated the importance life's beginning. Experiencing two abortions of her own, Mol feels that God is calling her to prevent other women from making the same decision. "Jesus has taken me out of the depths of darkness and shame," said Mol.

She kept her secret for more than 25 years, all the while, suffering from physical consequences and dark emotional and spiritual conflicts. Mol shared how she allowed God to forgive her and use her to preserve life. "I want women and men to know the truth about abortion. It does hurt. It kills," she said.

Also included in the week's topics was capital punishment by Jason Duncan, Assistant Professor of History at Aquinas College.

Duncan publishes book focusing on Catholicism in America

Fourth-year professor details struggle of Catholic Church in American History

By Jon Ringler
The Saint Reporter

Considering the number and organizational prowess of the Catholic Church in today's world, it may come as a surprise that at the dawn of the United States' autonomy, Catholicism was very nearly illegal.


Published in October 2005, Duncan's book details the struggle of the Catholic Church in early American history, citing rare archival sources in the effort to cover a relatively unrecognized facet of the past.

"A lot of Catholic American History is unknown," said Duncan, whose ten-year working project was originally presented as a dissertation for his Ph.D in 1999. In stem-cell research, embryos are created by invitro fertilization, then destroyed for the purpose of scientific research. The argument focuses on whether or not the embryo is a human being. Burns says yes. "They possess the power to become what it has potential to be - a human," Burns said.

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Avoiding MIPs
Misdemeanors may get stuck permanently on record if not dealt with correctly

(U WIRE) CORVALLIS, Ore. — WHAT STARTS AS A LITTLE MONKEY ON THE BACK COULD TURN INTO A GIANT GORILLA THAT WILL NOT GO AWAY.

A MISDEMEANOR LIKE A MINOR IN Possession CITATION CAN get stuck on a record permanently if not handled properly.

"You can take a diversion class to take care of it," said Teresa Young, Benton County, Ore., Court Supervisor. However, if not taken care of, MIPs can stay on court records.

While some may choose to let it be, others may need it to be expunged from their record.

"It depends on the person, it could affect employment ability, or if someone is going for their teaching certificate," Young said.

"There are lots of reasons." MIPs and the like can affect people looking for scholarships. This is the case in Oregon State University's Naval ROTC program.

"Surprisingly, it is a question of character and approval of becoming a naval officer," said Lt. Edward Baham of the OSU Naval ROTC program.

Stricken From the Record
According to Young, a person can expunge any misdemeanor violation, as well as class C felony. However, traffic offenses such as driving under the influence of intoxicants, cannot be expunged.

In order to expunge a violation, one must go through paperwork and pay a fee. Then the waiting period before the process can take 30 days because the affadavit that is notarized," Young said.

However, traffic offenses such as traffic citation, MIPs and the like can affect people looking for scholarships. This is the case in Oregon State University's Naval ROTC program.

As a crime wave swept through the Aquinas College campus and its surrounding area during the first month of school, no one felt safe walking alone — especially at night. Buddy systems were formed immediately, Campus Safety redoubled its efforts towards keeping all safe and pepper spray is now the new fashion accessory. The Residence Hall Association and the Residence Hall Councils are taking it one step further.

"Just a little smaller and sleeker than an electronic car door remote, these safety whistles will come fully equipped with a small LED light and a keychain. The whistles are provided by RHA and RHC and will be available within the next week and are free to students but RHA is asking for donations. The money made with the donations will be given to local violence shelters or crime prevention programs, or put towards new lighting on campus, in an effort to add even one more level of peace for Aquinas students."

"I think mainly it will just give students an opportunity to have some sort of security and know that if they are people trying to do something about the issue on campus," said Peter Gole, Vice President for East Area. He isn't alone in his optimism.

Randall McGeorge, Director of Residence Life, has seen the "safety whistle" successfully implemented on college campuses across the country and is hopeful for success at Aquinas. "RHA was very interested in finding a tangible response to the recent assaults and robberies around the campus area, and this program seems to be a good alternative to distributing sprays or small weapons that can be misused, or taken and used against a victim by an attacker," he said.

The concept of the safety whistle is simple — to make as much noise as possible. If a student is being approached in a threatening manner, attacked, or mugged, one huge puff of air is twice as effective as an easily silenced shout for help. Especially on crystal clear nights, the piercing shrill of the whistle will carry across campus, effectively scaring away the assailant or alerting a passerby to help.

However, the safety whistle is no joke and unauthorised use of the device could lead to a hefty fine warns Tony Nolan, Director of Campus Safety. "It's like setting off a fire alarm without cause," he said. Under a section of the Student Conduct Code, misuse of the whistle will result in a fine of up to $100.

Nolan also cautions that, while the situation may turn out that way, the whistles are not meant to result in a chain reaction that will alert Campus Safety. "I hope periodically as a way of fending off people — make noise to hopefully scare them away," he said. However, if a bystander hears a whistle going off, it in, Campus Safety will certainly "respond to the report of a location."
Taking it home: The men's cross country team took home their fourth straight WHAC title, while the women, who have recently been overshadowed by the men's performances, showed their stride while earning their first-ever conference title. Both teams will compete Saturday in the NAIA Regional meet at Riverside Park.

Chicago wins first title in 88 years

By Jack Salzwedel
The Saint Reporter

After a four game series against the Houston Astros, the American League White Sox claimed their first World Series Championship in 88 years. The last time the White Sox won the title was in 1917 with a group of players named Buck, Swede, Chick, Happy, Red, Nemo and "Shoeless Joe" some nine decades ago. The four game sweep of the Astros marked the 19th four-game sweep in World Series history.

The White Sox finished the 2005 playoffs with a record of 11-1, which ties them with the New York Yankees for having the best record during the 2005 playoffs with a record of 11-1, which ties them with the New York Yankees for having the best record during the 2005 season. They're working really hard," Coach Wojociakowski hopes the enthusiasm will continue throughout the rest of their season.

"It's a long season, but the teams' enthusiasm has been growing," he said. "Regionals and National Championships will be held on the Saint's home court at Riverside Park this Saturday.

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Chicago wins first title in 88 years

White Sox sweep Houston Astros for World Series title

By Chris Eppley
Editor-in-Chief

In one of the most important games of the season, the Detroit Lions fell to the Chicago Bears on Sunday at Ford Field, losing 19-13 in overtime.

Lions lose heartbreaker

By Chris Eppley
Editor-in-Chief

Trailing 13-3 at halftime, the Lions bailed out to tie the game at 13-13, following a 50-yard Jason Hanson field goal less than two minutes into the fourth quarter. The closest the Lions came to taking the lead came with 3:58 left in the game, as Detroit drove down to the Bear's 35-yard line before a sack put them out of field goal range.

"We have to play better and find a way to win games, not just get close but win games," Mariucci said. "Our next decision, I take the lead came with 3:58 left in the game, as Detroit drove down to the Bear's 35-yard line before a sack put them out of field goal range.

"We have to play better and find a way to win games, not just get close but win games," Mariucci said. "Our next decision, I take the lead and I take it personally. It is something that you learn from and you move on, but right now it hurts."

The Lions look to get back on track and keep pace in the NFC North as they face off against the 2-5 Minnesota Vikings Sunday, Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. at the Herbert H. Humphrey Metdome.

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Under the Bleachers

CHRIS EPPLETT

Lions need change in attitude

Just as I suspected. A typical Lions game.
Oh, they spaced it up a bit. It went into overtime on Sunday. In the end, it was classic Lions football—a 19-13 loss. I wanted to badly to begin this column with something completely different. Something like, "The Lions finished a game." But there's just no way to begin a column that way because it's never going to happen. Doesn't matter if Jeff Garcia is in there. You could throw rookie Dan Orlovsky in the mix. But you'll still have the same Lions. The ones who don't know how to finish a game.

Yeah, the thought of finishing a game has mostly flown out of my mind since the Lions drove down the field in the final four minutes of regulation during their disappointing loss to the Chicago Bears. Wait, I should say the NFC North drove down the field in the final four minutes of regulation during their disappointing loss to the Chicago Bears. Wait, I should say I'm not religiously watching the Lions. But go over the past 10 years of Lions football and you'll see they've had any chance of leading their division at the midpoint of the season. Sure, they began last year with a 4-2 record, but I'd like to place an adjective before that 4-2 record—"meaningless."

There were teams far better than the Lions a year ago. This year, their division is the laughing stock of the league and anyone in first place is likely not going to stay comfortably there. It's a long time since the Lions had any chance of leading their division at the midpoint of the season.

If you're a Lions fan, you've probably heard some variation of my comment before. But it needs to be a true change in attitude. There's a need for a different kind of player to help the team most, being led by captains Mike Blicher, Damien Mayo, and Jeff Jayson.}

The team is led by captains junior Mike Blicher, senior Damien Mayo, and Jayson. All WHAC third team, chipped in 9.9 points per game last year. Blicher, point guard, had a team-high 176 assists last year. That single season number is the third highest in Aquinas history. He made only 64 turnovers in 33 games.

"We need to improve everyday to make it to the national tournament," said Blicher. "My job is to stay positive." The Saints hope to compete for the league title. Standing in their way is defending WHAC Champion Cornerstone. Last year, Aquinas was 0-3 against the Golden Eagles. But this team, the league looks to be pretty competitive as Cornerstone; Siena Heights, Concorida, Indiana Tech, and Aquinas all promise to bring talented teams to the court.

"We're going to have some Hot in the Mix."

It's winning time: The men's basketball team, who finished with a 20-13 record last season, wants to improve on their record and make it to the Nationals. Third-year head coach Dave Hammer thinks that they just might have that game. On the women's side, Coach Linda Nash believes that the women are going to be a powerhouse—their ultimate goal being to wind up in Sioux City, Iowa for Nationals. Photos by Emily Johnson.

READY TO STEP IT UP

Men want to make it to Nationals: Nash thinks women could win big

By Rebecca Brown 
The Saint Reporter

After winning 20 games for the first time in five years last season, the men's basketball team is eager to improve on its previous 20-13 record (7-5 in the WHAC).

"Our goals are to win the league and make it to the national tournament," said third-year head coach Dave Hammer.

The Saints have a potent blend of young talent and experience. They are returning six seniors and WHAC Player of the Year, junior Jeff Jayson who averaged 15.4 points per game, leading the team in scoring. But Jayson isn't feeling any pressure.

"I just play and do the best I can for the team," he said. "We can compete in the league if we keep playing as a team and keep playing good defense." The team is led by captains senior Mike Blicher, senior Damien Mayo, and Jayson. All WHAC third team, chipped in 9.9 points per game and 4.1 rebounds per game last year. Blicher, point guard, had a team-high 176 assists last year. That single season number is the third highest in Aquinas history. He made only 64 turnovers in 33 games.

"We need to improve everyday to make it to the national tournament," said Blicher. "My job is to stay positive." The Saints hope to compete for the league title. Standing in their way is defending WHAC Champion Cornerstone. Last year, Aquinas was 0-3 against the Golden Eagles. But this team, the league looks to be pretty competitive as Cornerstone; Siena Heights, Concorida, Indiana Tech, and Aquinas all promise to bring talented teams to the court.

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Legacy enters the record book, Wings off to 11-1 start

By Bryan Esler
HeadEditor

Manny Legace finally got his chance. After being a backup goaltender for the Detroit Red Wings the past six seasons, Legace is competing for the starting job with the Wings.

And so far, he’s off on a pretty good start.

Getting the opportunity to start the first ten games for the Wings, Legace is off to a hot start. Freshman Chris Osgood, the Wings’ other goaltender, had been out with a groin injury, giving Legace the go-ahead.

The 10-1 record is the best ever posted by a goaltender in a month’s period, putting Legace’s name into the record books.

Osgood finally got the start on Saturday, though, and got his first win back with the Wings, 4-2 against the St. Louis Blues. He had 23 saves in the win, which pushes Detroit to 11-1 overall.

Kirk MALBY opened the scoring for Detroit, with goals coming later from Mikael Samuelsson and Robyn Lang on the power play, and Henrik Zetterberg, whose brother Nicklas Lang also had an assist on the Samuelsson goal.

The Wings hosted Chicago on Tuesday evening in an event which resulted in a print.

The Wings’ next game is Thursday, when they host the 5-4-1 Edmonton Oilers at 7:30 p.m. They then host Phoenix on Saturday, also at 7:30 p.m.

Spartans engineers take care of business

By Bryan Esler
HeadEditor

The Michigan State Spartans were off to a great start this season.

Then they lost back to back.

The Spartans finally got their win last weekend, however, when they beat the visiting Indiana Hoosiers, 45-15.

Scoring opened early when Demond Williams ran back a 98-yard kickoff for a touchdown. It was the first kickoff returned for a TD in Big Ten play.

He also blocked an Indiana extra point attempt.

Leading the Spartans on the offensive side was quarterback Drew Stanton, who passed for 244 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for a touchdown of his own.

Spartans running back Jevan Ringer ran for 109 yards on 11 carries, including a 45-yard touchdown run. The win puts the Spartans at 5-3 overall, and 2-3 in the Big Ten. The win keeps the Spartans’ bowl hopes alive for the time being. They still have many games at Penn State and Minnesota, before coming back to East Lansing to take on Penn State to close out the regular season.

The Michigan State Spartans had a similar day against the Northwestern Wildcats, winning 35-17.

The Spartans were led by their defensive strategy, which kept the team in the game, despite three interceptions by quarterback Chad Herron.

Herrington finished with 174 yards and one touchdown. Running backs Jerome Jackson rushed for 105 yards, while Kevin Gately rushed for 64 yards and a touchdown.

Kicker Quinn Rivas booted four field goals in the win, from 19, 38, 26, and 28 yards.

The Spartans scored to have an offensive chance, with quarterback Brent Bensaman throwing for 326 yards and two touchdowns. But with his two interceptions, it gave the Wolverines a chance to capitalize.

The win puts Michigan at 6-3 overall, and 4-2 in the Big Ten. Michigan’s next game is Nov. 12, when they host Indiana. They close out their season Nov. 19 against Northern Illinois.

BUMP, SET, SPIKE: IMAGES FROM VOLLEYBALL

Michael Bach The Saginaw News

Splitting up: Left, sophomore Maureen Neugent prepares to serve in a match Tuesday. Right, freshman Corey Hammel, Andy Razmus and senior Megan Holst attempt to block the net. The Saints beat Siena Heights last weekend.

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Columbus Day should be day in honor of country's founder

By Charley Clapp  Sales Representative

DID YOU REMEMBER A FEW WEEKS BACK WHEN THE Aquinas campus saw a massacre on its beloved grounds? At some point dozens of people were gunned down and around the outside of Wege Center and the Academic Building.
The need for chalk to outline the lifeless bodies of these poor souls was so great that the police were forced to raid a local third grade class for their strategic supply of multi-colored Crayola chalk.

Before this, body outlines had not been so vibrant and beautiful. There were red, blue, yellow, green, orange and pink chalk out lines.

Because, you know, nothing says "this is where a dead body was" like pink.

So what was the dead you ask? Well the answer is obvious — Columbus Day has once again rolled around the calendar.

Wait, what?

Columbus Day. A day set aside to celebrate the discovery of the new world. For those of you keeping score — the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, South and Central America.

He discovered quite a bit. Two hemisphere's worth — north and southwest.

Quite a feat. Sure he didn't discover each and everyone of those places, but he opened the door for others to do so.

Disturbing Imagination?

So why the chalk outlines?

Because Christopher Columbus is going to kill you — apparently.

He could be anywhere. Around the corner, in that dark alley, sitting two rows to the side of you at the movies or standing right behind you. Look out.

You may ask how this murderous rogue got a holiday — well it's easy. He brought slavery, rape, torture, murder, disease, genocide, pestilence, death, war and any other horridness you care to name — the School of the Americas — upon the New World.

For that, Columbus Day is celebrated in the normal fashion at Aquinas College — mail is stopped and wanted posters are being posted on every wall on campus.

Not So Fast

I almost forgot, he did also discover the New World, making possible the very existence of countries such as the United States and probably every person of European descent living in it.

But that's not the point. The point is he's going to kill you.

Actually that's not really the point. The point is the School of Americas is bad.

Now, step back take a deep breath. Any student approaching the table that was setup to distribute flyers pointing out how evil Mr. Columbus was will notice that, after a few ugly things said about Chris, the beef is really with the School of Americas.

Or the Western-Hemisphere school of Collective Defense, or whatever the name is now. You know it really as the School of the Americas.

A school where the US military teaches Latin American thugs inappropriate behavior, including important anti-insurgent, terrorist, freedom fighter and liberty techniques.

Where We Stand

We've been basically training ruthless, bloodthirsty killers how to cruelly kill and oppress the populace of Latin America since the 60s.

You would think that we would have better things to do, but we don't.

This school is a bad thing. A evil horrible thing. It represents everything US should not be. We should shut it down. We should make our people aware of it and be so inane with it that they shut the thing down.

Really shut it down — not just rename after a contest to see how many extra words can be jammed into the title. The place exists for training South and Central American militaries to terrorize their people into obedience.

Not exactly the American way. So it should be shut down. Mystics of people have organized all over this great land of ours to shut it down.

Which is what was happening on Columbus Day. Did the tearing down of a historical icon really help the cause? Probably not.

Student Reaction

For every student that understood the point of writing Columbus up on crimes against humanity and comparing his methods to the school of the Americas, I saw two or three that shook their heads in annoyance and shook.

Since most of the students working the table handing out the literature appeared to be your average socially concerned white people into the title. The place exists for training South and Central American militaries to terrorize their people into obedience.

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Wrongfully Accused

To use Christopher Columbus as a means to attack the School of Americas might be an accurate leap. He may have enslaved and committed genocide on the native people.

In fact, he did. Chris was not a nice guy, looking to make a profit. He was the proto-conquistador. He committed some horrible atrocities in his time.

But he also discovered the New World. And — despite what you say, think and know — he's still looked up to, on some level, by a large segment of people in this country.

The School of the Americas is bad.

Chris is bad.

It's evil enough.

How did Rosa Parks impact the civil rights movement?

"IT'S SAD THAT SHE DIED. She helped jumpstart the civil rights movement. She made people realize it was possible."  

ROB NAUSSBAUER, SENIOR

"ROSA PARKS IS A GREAT role model for us today. She'll be long remebered after her death."

RACHAEL LYNCH, JUNIOR

"SHE HELPED BRING A female stance to civil rights."

SCOTT WANHALA, SOPHOMORE

"I THINK SHE WAS AWESOME. You hear about Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, but she's 'the woman' of civil rights."

JANE TOPPING, FRESHMAN
Well, Information literacy sucks, and you had a long Saturday night, and morning. It sucks, but you should go. You have to get up for church the next day. Everyone knows what it's like. Information Literacy as I do for leaving in a freezing cold classroom, fifteen minutes in my whole schedule, for incoming freshmen.

This class was the longest hour and fifteen minutes in my whole schedule, seemingly bearing the same thing every week and getting the same dragged out busy work. I could not be happier waking up early in the morning or closing your room. Yeah, any of the three things could wait or we could get by in life without doing them, but our lives do better with them. Truly, I have a hard time believing that there are freshmen in that class who did not learn one thing in Information Literacy. I just don't believe it. I guess if people want to teach themselves how to use the Ellision machine, that's fine with me. What? You don't know what the Ellision machine is? Another benefit of Information Literacy is that it is a simple class. Show up to class. Do the work. You get an "A." Since when are people opposed to an easy "A?" There can't possibly be one freshman out there who couldn't use an easy "A.".

You could almost look at this class is the kind of GPA boost every adjusting freshman needs. Perhaps they're doing us a favor by requiring such an easy class. Look on the bright side, bring a sweatshirt (and possibly winter hat) and learn a thing or two — you're not the smartest person in the world. It's only eight short weeks, in which you learn all the managing, research and resource skills to help you over your next four years at Aquinas.

Of course, I can hear the angry mob chanting "dork," as I type. That's cool! I'm doing the work with the most mindlessly easy "A" of my life. Where am my pocket protector?

The Saint

Learned and Earned

Information Literacy course beneficial, should remain a freshmen requirement

By Rebecca Brown
The Saint Reporter

As my fellow freshmen light their torches and grab their pitchforks, I am going to say it on the record — Information Literacy should remain a requirement for incoming freshmen. I harbor similar feelings for Information Literacy as I do for church. Everyone knows what it's like. You had a long Saturday night, and you have to get up for church the next morning. It sucks, but you should go. Well, Information Literacy sucks, and everyone should go.

This class was the longest hour and fifteen minutes in my whole schedule, sitting in a freezing cold classroom, seemingly bearing the same thing every week and getting the same dragged out busy work. I could not be happier waking up early in the morning or closing your room. Yeah, any of the three things could wait or we could get by in life without doing them, but our lives do better with them. Truly, I have a hard time believing that there are freshmen in that class who did not learn one thing in Information Literacy. I just don't believe it. I guess if people want to teach themselves how to use the Ellision machine, that's fine with me. What? You don't know what the Ellision machine is? Another benefit of Information Literacy is that it is a simple class. Show up to class. Do the work. You get an "A." Since when are people opposed to an easy "A?" There can't possibly be one freshman out there who couldn't use an easy "A." You could almost look at this class is the kind of GPA boost every adjusting freshman needs. Perhaps they're doing us a favor by requiring such an easy class. Look on the bright side, bring a sweatshirt (and possibly winter hat) and learn a thing or two — you're not the smartest person in the world. It's only eight short weeks, in which you learn all the managing, research and resource skills to help you over your next four years at Aquinas.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Saint has worked diligently for the past 24 years to produce an informative, entertaining and journalistically-correct student publication. The Saint is distributed by students at Aquinas College and in the surrounding community. Our goal is to continue to provide an open forum for the ideas, views and concerns of the Aquinas community.

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The Saint is published in Greenville, MI by Newsweb Printing.

[ Have an Opinion? ]

Letters to the Editor may be delivered to The Saint office, located in the Lower Level Student Center suite e-mail to thesaint_editor@aquinas.edu or through the mail to the following address:

The Saint
Aquinas College
1607 Robinson Rd SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

All letters must be signed and include a phone number for the sole purpose of verification. The Saint reserves the right to edit letters to the editor based on content, punctuation, length and libel issues. Letters should not exceed 300 words and should remain objective. We will not print anonymous letters to the editor and will not accept letters to the editor over the phone.

From the Crow

A little taste of The Saint's look at the Aquinas campus

Applause...

A standing ovation, not just an applause, to the thirteen employees who were recently laid off from Aquinas College. You've affected the lives of many students as well as your co-workers. Your presence will be missed and the campus won't be the same without you.

To Students for Life for putting on one of the most successful weeks of programming by a club so far this school year during Pro-Life Awareness Week (Oct. 24-28). You did an outstanding job organizing and the programs were relevant and insightful. It's also refreshing to see a group support the moral teaching of the Church at Aquinas College, which is rooted in the CatholicDominican tradition.

Heckles...

To the person/people responsible for tearing down the signs Students for Life posted during Pro-Life Awareness Week. This was a disgusting, immature act that shows an irresponsible and careless character. To top it off, you replaced the club's signs with filthy, profane material that does not belong on a Catholic campus.

To the Corner Cafe for once again closing early this past Sunday. The hours posted on your door and found on www.aquinas.edu/hds/list your hours as 6-10 p.m. on Sundays. If there's been a change in hours, please let the Aquinas community know. This is not the first time the Corner Cafe was not opened during its regular hours on Sunday. Arbitrarily closing early does not make hungry students happy.

To J.V. Sodding Services for increasing the cost of all Mars candy products by five cents in the residence hall vending machines. The higher pricing, which will be in effect starting November 7, is a tragedy for late-night vending machine cronies. Did you forget that we are low-income change-scraping college students?
IS THERE REALLY A PRESENCE?

Ghost hunter John Zaffis visits Aquinas to check out some of the rumors of spirits

By Jon Ringler

Hunting down spirits: Left, an image from the fireplace in Holmdene. Ghost hunter John Zaffis, right, was able to feel many presences of spirits in Holmdene, including spirits that ranged from angry men to children. The ghost hunting program was put on by Treetop Productions last week.

The Saint
Ballroom, Fr. Jim Chelich, pastor of
more specific, Adult Swim's, and more
ask questions.

Church? How do you begin to pick
doubt? Should you even go to
Caucasians. From this, the viewer is
obvious that they distrust and dislike
to cause trouble, making it blatandy
by" and "fit in" with his new
neighborhood, suddenly has the
children. Granddad, who has
"unfortunate" guardian of the two
Granddad, the irritable,
brother, Riley, who is essentially the
to tell you that they are all African-
obviously haven't seen the show yet,
racial humor, racial humor, and you
same as Huey, except he has corn
rows while Huey sports an afro, and
Granddad, the irresistible, "unfortunate" guardian of the two
children. Granddad, who has
recently purchased a brand new
retirement home in the middle of an
upper class, all-white neighborhood, suddenly has the
children forced upon him, though
the reason for this is never really
explained.

And here is where the shows
supposed comedy kicks in. While
Granddad is simply trying to "get
by" and "fit in" with his new
neighbors, Huey and Riley are out
to cause trouble, making it blatantly
obvious that they detest and dislike
Caucasians. From this, the viewer is
bombarde by massive amounts of
racial humor, racial humor, and

Fr. Jim Chelich visits AQ, talks about doubt in faith
by Emily Peffer
The Scripture Reporter

Do you pray when you're in
doubt? Should you even go to
Church? How do you begin to pick
up the broken pieces of your faith
when your mind is so full of
questions?

Most believers face doubt at one
point or another, and most believers
ask questions.

On Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Wege
Ballroom, Fr. Jim Chelich, pastor of
St. Thomas, gave a presentation
about doubt in faith. It might become
the first of a series of
presentations.

According to Fr. Jim, many
people misunderstand doubt, viewing it
as an enemy of faith. "Doubt is a
necessary part of faith," said Fr. Jim."There can't be faith
without doubt. Faith is a choice.
And it can't be a choice without an
alternative."

We are human, for us, doubt
does come. "There are always
reasons to doubt. But that sends out
faith searching for reasons to believe," said Fr. Jim. So when you
find yourself doubting, you can't
sit and hope that it goes away. Your
faith needs to search for and find
new, stronger reasons to believe. We
must search the world and our past
to find these reasons.

"It's as though God's saying,
'trust current faith is insufficient for the
future. I need you to be disturbed,
so that you aren't overtaxed later in life.' You must
go through this process over and
over again. It is an ongoing part of
faith.

"How long do you remember
when people do something good
for you?' Fr. Jim asked. "There's no
human being that doesn't have 100,
500 minutes by the time they're 20.'
We simply don't remember
them, because, as humans, we
tend to remember the bad.

"The context of human psychology is very skewed. It's
brilliant portrayals of light just slip
through your fingers," said Fr. Jim.
In the end, we must choose to
believe.

One of Fr. Jim's favorite things to
do while in doubt is to go for walks.
He encourages others to do the same,
because it helps to relieve the mind
of size and see a new light.

"See? It's things like that. That's
a miracle," said Fr. Jim, pointing out
a tree, blazing orange, as he and I
were walking on campus.

When people come to him with
doubt, he encourages them not to
give up. "I don't talk them out of
doubt. I talk them out of
stopping," he said. People need to
"let doubt be the friend of faith."
Fr. Jim has many articles and
interests on his website, which is
located at http://
home.catholicweb.com/FrChelich/
index.cfm.

Saint Culture Editor Kyle Mahoney E-mail thesaint_editor@aquinas.edu Phone (616) 832-2975 Web site http://www.aquinas.edu/thesaint

PAGE 11 - CULTURE

The Boondocks

By Kyle Mahoney
The Saint Reporter

The Boondocks is set to become
Cartoon Network's, and more

Aquinas

Munching it up at Regina

Cherished Possessions

Leaves Grand Rapids

The Black Pearl

Aerosmith to rock Grand Rapids

The Saint

SERVE AND PROTECT

What are you talking about now? Who's Marlin? Marlin

Ah, he had the idea, but
important. And not
currently in attendance. But
heating food through a straw.

The Sciable Symbol

I'm confused, but

That's not a word, man.

Maybe a word.

Culture Editor Kyle Mahoney E-mail thesaint_editor@aquinas.edu Phone (616) 832-2975 Web site http://www.aquinas.edu/thesaint

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CLEANING UP KATRINA

Nine Aquinas students and two faculty members spend their fall break helping with Hurricane Katrina clean-up in Gulfport, Mississippi.

By Bryan Esler
Assistant Editor

We all saw it on TV. The winds and water of Hurricane Katrina crashing into parts of Louisiana and Mississippi. Destroying homes, memories, and lives.

During fall break, a group of nine Aquinas College students, including myself, and two faculty members decided to do something about it. We traveled over 1000 miles by bus to Gulfport, MS to spend our time off from classes, jobs, and anything else in our lives, to help out the people of the area.

Sophomore Patrick Howard came up with the original idea for the trip, and spread the word to others. “I felt a desire to do something to help, so when I came back to Aquinas (from Labor Day weekend), I talked to a few friends and we started organizing it,” he said.

Our group decided to pair up with volunteers from Holy Redeemer Parish of Jenison and Jamestown Reformed Church, having Deacon Richard Pitt, of Holy Redeemer, lead the team.

The team left Friday, Oct. 14 around 10 P.M., and arrived in Gulfport on Saturday afternoon.

The experience started as soon as we got there - we had to unload the semi-truck of supplies we had brought down with us. But this was nothing compared to what we would see and do for the next five days.

On Sunday, we were given a tour of the area. We made our way to the Long Beach coast and were instantly hit with the devastation. We saw houses torn in half. Trees on top of cars. People trying to pick up what was left of their lives.

And that was just the beginning. Once we hit the coastline, we saw gates and sidewalks leading up to houses that were no longer there. Piers in the Gulf of Mexico that had been wiped away. Trees all over the place.

We were now ready to get down to business. We went out in teams to work on a few projects - ranging from roofing, trees, and housing. And after just a half day, we were all exhausted.

Having each of us spend days working in different areas. But often, the most memorable experiences were with the people, helping them in the distribution center at the church.

I especially enjoyed when I spent time with an older lady who was with her friends. She had lost quite a bit, but when we were done picking out her items to take home, she handed me a package of stationery. It had her artwork on it. She was a local artist who had painted landmarks of the Mississippi area. The landmarks seemed amazing - just like you would find on the coast of any ocean city.

Then she told me that the landmarks were no longer there. They had just been washed away from the storm. And that made it that much more special.

I helped her carry her things out to her car, and then helped one of her friends pick out clothes. She had lost everything - her house, her clothes, her memories.

If there was one thing I’ll remember from this trip, this will be it.

And many of the other Aquinas students had similar experiences - whether it was finding old childhood toys while “gutting” a house, or getting a kiss from a German lady every time she saw you.

“It was so great to go down there and help such heartwarming people,” said sophomore Mai Pham. “They were so appreciative and couldn’t thank us enough for our time. It was uplifting to see everyone’s high spirits after such a devastation.

And some of the people weren’t even helping themselves. They were like us, helping others. Volunteering their time to get others back on their feet, rather than themselves. “It was amazing to see people whose own homes were destroyed, and yet they were right out there with us helping others,” said Wusko.

When I left, I knew practically every face. Not necessarily by name, but what they had accomplished during the week. “The community of the group was overwhelming,” said sophomore Joey Bishop. “By the end of the trip, everyone felt so close.”

And there’s no better way for me to describe it.

When we left the following Friday, Oct. 21, we were all glad to be going back to the comforts of home or our dorm rooms. But at the same time, I think I speak for everyone by saying we would never have imagined such a positive experience taking place.

“Then there were so many things to learn and so many experiences,” said Bishop. “The trip was by far the best one we could have had.”

But that week will never be forgotten. All in all, I think that we got out of it just as much as the residents of Mississippi. They got the help they needed, and we got to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Unforgettable Times: Top Students and faculty from Aquinas College pose for a picture before coming home from their service-learning trip. The Aquinas group spent their fall break in Gulfport, MS helping Hurricane Katrina victims. They worked on everything from hauling out trees to completely “gutting” homes. At left, sophomore Joey Bishop picks up branches from knocked-down trees at an area home. Photos by Bryan Esler.