Aquinas names new soccer coach

By Bryan Estler
Sport Editor

The search has ended.

As of last week, Aquinas College has a men's soccer coach, following an announcement from the Aquinas Athletic Department stating that former Rockford High School coach Joe Veal would serve as the team's Athletic Department stating that Vugteveen goes for weather, Aquinas junior Joe for cold and flu season looking forward to going back to it. "time with his family.

Vugteveen says that he reaches for anything warm," he he Pat Hoatlin in 1996. That was also a appetite through more.

Veal's most recent stint with Rockford lasted nine years, where he posted a 92-75-5 record. He also coached at Cornerstone University for seven years, from 1988-1995. During that time, his teams posted a 66-63-16 record and also won a WHAC Championship. Veal earned Coach of the Year honors in 1993. Veal had a brief two-year stint with Wisconsin University-Pierce University at Indianapolis in 1997 and 1988 as well, where he was honored as NCAA Division 21 Coach of the Year. He posted a 27-13-2 record during his time with the team.

Veal will take over a team that went 4-15 overall this season under former coach Abraham Shereen, who left the Saints at the end of the season to pursue a growth in his personal business and to spend more time with his family.

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Veal has a B license from the United States Soccer Federation, as well as a national diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He has also served as the NAIA's Men's Soccer Coaches Association second Vice President from 1994-1997 and the NAIA's Men's Soccer Committee for 1993-1994.

Veal graduated from Bethel College with a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Health and Physical Literature. During his time at Bethel, he captained the men's soccer team and earned All-District honors in 1975.

"Veal is a proven entity and well respected professional at the local, regional and national levels," said Aquinas Athletic Director Terry Brown.

Veal brings over 20 years of soccer experience as a player and coach to the Saints. His coaching duties with the team will start immediately.

As far as immediate progress, Veal's goals aren't unusual for soccer teams at Aquinas.

"One of the main goals every year is to try and win the conference. I've always had a goal of getting my players to represent our school and program well," he said.

New schedule to keep stomachs empty

By Rebecca Brown

As the construction on the Ginter Hausenman Library moves forward, the existing Jarecki Center will be losing to students at the end of the semester.

"Construction is going to start moving inside for the remodeling of Jarecki, and it would be too hard to try to accommodate students in that environment," said Aquinas College Provost, Dr. Richard Balfour.

Several changes will be made to accommodate the closing of Jarecki. All classes previously taught in Jarecki will be moved to the Academic Building. To free up the necessary class time, the Registrar's office had to add a 12:30 time slot to the schedule.

We added the 12:30 time slot to overcome the loss of all those classrooms," said Registrar Ciel Mesler. "We actually found we are able to spread classes out easily enough, but there will be more 9 a.m. classes and late afternoon classes. Those aren't normally popular times with students.

The 12:30 class time is inseparable inconvenience.

"If someone had an 11 a.m. class that ended at 12:15 and also had a 1:30 class, they would entirely miss lunch," said freshmen Francesca Vandenbroek. "I had that conflict with my schedule, and decided not to take the 12:30 class."

Neither hopes that the 12:30 time slot will give students more options.

"A lot of students don't like taking early or the later classes so we added the 12:30 class for them, but I think more students will be taking those early or late classes also," he said.

However, students including Vandenbroek seem to agree that the closing of Jarecki is a necessary inconvenience.

"Even though it's kind of annoying, it's a sign of progress, and obviously, not much else can be done," she said.

Balfour reminds the move and the changes are temporary.

STOMACHS empty.
True Love Waits

Aquinas students chose to practice abstinence, save sex for marriage

By Matt Bergevin
The Saint Reporter

Staying abstinent from sex until marriage. In today's society, this path is almost non-existent for the female. However, there are many who choose to remain faithful. Religion often plays a large role in this choice for someone who chooses to remain abstinent. As the bible says, “Live for the Lord, not for sinful cravings” (Galatians 5:6).

The Church has a very concrete view on remaining chaste and practicing abstinence. “Fornication is carnal union between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman,” The Catechism of the Catholic Church states (paragraph 2335). “It is gravely contrary to the dignity of persons and of human sexuality which is naturally oriented to the good of spouses and the generation and education of children.

However, it’s a great scandal when these commitments are violated. Dominican Sister Mary Navarre agrees with the Catholic Church’s position. “The position of the Catholic Church on the importance of a good marriage is because of moral standards. It's a great scandal when they commit an act of this kind.”

Not to mention the growing unpopularity of the war in Iraq and is not looking to repeat mistakes which were made during the Vietnam War—which something political pundits have been drawing parallels to. However, there are many who are skeptical, and for good reason.

One reason that the idea of marriage is unappealing is that marriage is becoming a matter of one’s own choice.
McDaniel wins students with unique teaching

By Jon Eisinger
The Saint Reporter

"Being the guardian of the schedule is a scary thing," said Dr. Michael McDaniel, Chair of the Mathematics Department. Almost a chaos of student assignments, letters from faculty, stamps, post-its and general clutter, McDaniel scrambled to put together a perfect final exam schedule for his students. At the last minute, Meek himself called Dr. McDaniel, saying what could have been a very disastrous situation.

McDaniel has been at the game for about ten years, presenting himself as the unconventional element in the Aquinas faculty line-up. He earned his doctorate in mathematics from the George Washington University in 1997. Students instantly recognize him not only for his idiosyncratic teaching methods and many quirky classroom antics, but also for his dedication to his students' success.

Surprisingly, it may seem, then, that thirty-five years ago, as a college freshman, young McDaniel wanted nothing to do with math. It was only through the intervention of senior Ann Mason that McDaniel began in math from the George Washington University in 1997. Students instantly recognize him not only for his idiosyncratic teaching methods and many quirky classroom antics, but also for his dedication to his students' success.

At the last minute, Meek himself called Dr. McDaniel, saying what could have been a very disastrous situation.

McDaniel, who first began teaching high school math in the Virgin Islands, is said to sometimes employ unorthodox teaching methods in his classrooms.

"If that makes your eyes cross, just know that McDaniel's discovery is not only "interesting," but also useful for mathematical constructions."

Though McDaniel sometimes earns his share of spit on campus — as in his annual booth contradicting the statistics of the Women's Studies Club's Equality Bake sale — in the classroom, he is hard not to like him.

"I have him for my 8:00 class," said Junior Laura González. "And he's really energetic even at that time. He's always willing to explain things, and he's not to the point where they don't want to learn.

"The great thing about math," said McDaniel, "is that you can crush the ambiguity of it, and it can still be beautiful."

McDaniel takes the connective of right mathematicians, admitting that his favorite part of teaching is being involved in the process that produces Bachelor Degree- bearing students. Satisfyingly, McDaniel, earning a degree comes with a mental prowess that will always be available.

"There's a fascination that comes from this, McDaniel," said "and that makes you like a warrior."

Get a smoothie or cappuccino, sit back and get a smoothie or cappuccino, sit back and enjoy our unique deli, lounge! Enjoy our unique deli, lounge!

STOMACHS, cont. from page 1

"We are still hoping that the library will be finished by the fall, and this change will only be for the spring," he said. "There will still be a few classrooms in Jumark after the library is complete.

One of the biggest adjustments that is going to have to be made isn’t just by the students, but by the Business and Accounting teaching staff too. Professors will have to move their offices by the end of the semester.

"Most of them will get offices in the lower academic center, very similar to their current offices, but in one undesignated room," said Fish. "Some will also be moved to the Donna Center as well."

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**Men's basketball takes Bram's Shoot-Out**

By Rebecca Brown  
The Saint Reporter

On Saturday, the Saints came back from behind to beat Kalamazoo College 64-59 on their home court and won the Bram's Shoot-Out tournament. Junior Jeff Jayson was clutch at the end scoring a game-winning three-pointer with under one minute to play, and adding two free throws to seal the win. The Saints went down by as many as twelve points late in the game.

"Kalamazoo College has a veteran, very physical team," said Coach Dave Hammer. "But we held them scoreless in the last four minutes and that's what we needed to do."

**Women's basketball splits weekend games**

By Matt Bergelin  
The Saint Reporter

The Aquinas women's basketball team has been on a roll since the Aquinas College Classic, winning three of its first four games. On Nov. 23, the Lady Saints defeated their cross-town rival Calvin 62-59. Two players almost recorded triple-doubles, as junior Jessica Braspenning scored 19 points and had eight rebounds. Senior Ashley Heuvellman had 16 points, eight rebounds, and five steals.

Three days later, the Lady Saints continued winning as they defeated Rochester and Olivet at Rochester. The Rochester Warriors fell to the Saints 88-43. Sophomore Claire Hogan led the team to victory with 22 points. She also added five rebounds. Freshman Carrie Abdo came off the bench and dropped 18 points along with eight rebounds.

The next day, the Lady Saints were at it again, this time defeating Olivet at the Comets' home court 92-46. Braspenning had 24 points, six assists, and five rebounds. Heuvellman also had five rebounds, along with five assists and 12 points.

All good things, however, must eventually come to an end. On Nov. 26, the women's basketball team's streak ended with a loss to the Grand Valley State University. Please see M-HOOPS, page 6.

**Comparing Figures**

**MEN'S HOOPS**

The men saw their season hit the 20-win mark for the first time since the 2000 season. Starting with a 6-3 record this season, the Saints have already improved on their record at this time last season, which was 5-6. The men have brought back seven seniors, and five freshmen have entered the program, including senior Bryan Esler, pictured right, who is averaging 17.7 points per game so far.

**WOMEN'S HOOPS**

The Lady Saints will need to keep it up in order to match last season's impressive 22-10 overall record. The team will continue to rely on the play of junior Jackie Braspenninx, who has a 2.7-7 record this season. The Saints will then move on to play either Hope College or Madonna University.

**The Matchups**

TODAY: WOMEN VS. ALMA COLLEGE  
The women look to extend their 6-5 record as they host Alma College at 7:00 p.m. The Scots have a 4-1 record on the season thus far.

The Lady Saints will look for junior Jackie Braspenning and senior Ashley Heuvellman to lead the team to another win.

FRIDAY: MEN VS. MARYGROVE COLLEGE  
The men look to continue their winning ways at the Hope College Tournament, beginning on Friday. The men take on Marygrove College in the first round, who has a 2-7 record this season. The Saints will then move on to play either Hope College or Madonna University.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

Dec. 9  
(Home) Margarett 11 6:00

Dec. 10  
TBA (Hope Tournament) TBA

Dec. 27-29  
TBA, Flushing Invitational TBA

Dec. 30  
Grand Valley State 7:00

Jan. 4  
Siena Heights 7:30

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Dec. 7  
Alma College 7:00

Dec. 14  
Spring Arbor 7:00

Dec. 27-29  
TBA, Flushing Invitational TBA

Jan. 4  
Siena Heights 7:00

Jan. 7  
Muskegon Community College TBA

**INDOOR TRACK & FIELD**

Dec. 9  
GLUEC Holiday Open 5:00

Dec. 16  
GLUEC Holiday Meet 4:00

Jan. 3  
GLUEC Open 4:00

Jan. 20  
GLUEC Invitational 4:00

Jan. 27-28  
GLUEC Invitational 11 AM

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**THE POWER OF**

15 PLAYERS - TWO TEAMS - ONE GOAL
**Cross Country teams finish strong at Nationals**

**By Bryan Esler**

The Michigan State cross country teams finished strong at nationals, placing 6th overall for men and 10th overall for women. The men’s team was led by fifth-year senior Jeff Luehm, who finished 25th overall in the race. Head coach Dave Wood has high hopes for the teams, as he said in a statement, “We all ran together, but we got separated.”

**Track and Field**

**By Bryan Esler**

The Spartans picked up their fourth straight bowl victory for the season, defeating the Arkansas-Little Rock 72-67. Senior intramural official Dale Frost himself could have been any match for trash talking sophomore May spiked one ball after another while sophomore Frost himself could have been any match for trash talking sophomore May spiked one ball after another while sophomore Frost himself could have been any match for trash talking sophomore May spiked one ball after another while sophomore Frost himself could have been any match for trash talking sophomore May spiked one ball after another while sophomore Frost himself could have been any match for trash talking.
I t’s that time of the year again. I mean, this is Michigan. The snow is making its way here whether we like it or not, so we might as well try to enjoy it. There are many fun activities to do during harsh winters. And why shouldn’t we?

About a quarter of our year is spent snow infested, so there is no need to sit in a warm house in front of your TV or computer and waste away. Bundle up, get out and enjoy the frigid side of Mother Nature. Aquinas students love to have fun in the snow; some are even praying snow sticking to the ground.

“I can’t wait to finally break-in my new snowboard this year,” said sophomore Kady Brown. “My friends and I will be hitting the slopes over winter break, for sure.

There are many places to ski or snowboard that are relatively close to the Grand Rapids area. Popular sites include Cannonsburg Ski Area, Swiss Valley Ski Area and Pine Knob. But skiing and snowboarding are definitely pricey — usually too pricey for an average college student — but there are cheaper ways to enjoy the snow.

There is nothing wrong with hitting up a local hill and riding a sled or inner tube down it. There is a wicked hill in Wyoming, Mich. at Piney Park (off De Hoop Ave) — my old stomping grounds where I got my first concussion. Sledding down this hill always embeds everlasting memories. Or, you could get creative with this sledding concept in many different ways.

“Living up north, I’ve grown up to enjoy winter fun the redneck way... bump jumping (a seat built on a ski) and using old tire tubes to go sledding,” said senior Leslie Hoffman. “It’s great.”

If you can’t afford that I’m sure you could afford to borrow a large garbage bag from somebody — even Aquinas’ janitorial staff. But be careful — this is very dangerous. “I live on a steep hill and one winter, after a blizzard, we wore big black garbage bags and ran and slid down the road,” said Karlee Haynes, a sophomore at Grand Rapids Community College. “We just put on a bunch of clothes for cushion — great times.”

But if this all sounds too exhausting you could always go to Pando Winter Sports Park, located in Rockford, Mich., for downhill skiing, snowboarding and tubing.

If you’ve never been to Pando you should go. It opens the day after Thanksgiving. There are six smaller hills — once again. sjc

Let’s do this: Women’s basketball head coach Linda Nash directs her women’s basketball team, however, is very confident.

“As a team, we started off strong,” said Braspenninx. “We are finally getting our offenses. We also need to work on our box-outs. This should help us get more rebounds.”

Braspenninx averages more than five rebounds per game.

The Lady Cougars of Spring Arbor University have a tough start, having yet to win. They still could prove to be a challenge for the Saints. The Aquinas Saints’ guard Damien Mayo takes the ball to the hoop during Friday’s 92-66 win over Madonna University, a defensive challenge for the Saints.

“They are a very athletic team. We have to stay with them early if we want to win,” said Coach Hammer.

Also participating in the tournament are Hope College and Madonna University.

“The tournament should be very competitive,” said Hammer. “Hopefully we will be healthy.”

Health could be an issue for the Saints in the future with two injured starters. Senior captain Detric Wright of Roberts Wesleyan had a game high with 31 points and 12 rebounds, and Heuvelman had double-doubles. Heuvelman had 19 points, ten rebounds, seven assists, and five steals — a close triple-double.

The next day of the tournament was a test for us,” said sophomore Whitney Marsh. “Even though we lost, we still played very well and did improve.”

The Lady Saints played at the Trinity Tournament this past weekend. The Saints started the tournament off strong with a victory over Olivet Nazarene, 78-62. Both Braspenninx and Heuvelman had double-doubles. Heuvelman had 19 points, ten rebounds, seven assists, and five steals — a close triple-double.

The final game of the tournament was a defensive challenge for the Saints, as he averaged 18 points per game last season, earning him the honor of being a United States Collegiate Athletic Association Division I All-Americans.

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Taking it in: Saints’ guard Damien Mayo takes the ball to the hoop during Friday’s 92-66 win over Madonna University, a defensive challenge for the Saints.

Douglas will be out at least a few weeks with a broken hand, and fellow senior Mike Blacher left the Kalamazoo College game with an injured ankle.

After the tournament at Hope College, Aquinas will travel to Chicago to play in the St. Xavier Tournament on Dec. 21-23.

Community Tournament: cont. from page 4

Aquinas will open the tournament on Friday against Margrowe College (2-7) at 6:00 PM. Hamm is being careful not to be deceived by the Mustangs’ losing record.

“They have an extremely tough schedule,” said Hammer. “They play games all over the Midwest.”

Senior David Stephens will be a defensive challenge for the Saints, as he averaged 18 points per game last season, earning him the honor of being a United States Collegiate Athletic Association Division I All-Americans.

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OPINION

PAGE 7

How I lost my love for Hruby Hall

And that's the thing...

KATI STUTSMAN

I had all of my dorm necessities bought, packed, and ready to go by the day I graduated high school. I accessorized and color-coordinated until I couldn't look at bedspreads and pillows any longer. With a friendly smile and lots of energy, I was more than ready to leave behind everyone I knew to start over. Things like high school popularity and drama would no longer be as commonplace as excuses ofdog-eaten homework and everyone's own private version of Laguna Beach. My mouth fell open the first time I heard the nickname “Hruby Reject.” Though catchy, I admit, my college experience wasn't meant to start off with a not-so-attractive label. 

Even now those girls are the best friends I have on this campus. It baffles me that an entire group of people consisting of cheerleaders, social butterflies, homecoming queens, class clowns and all around nice people could be so misunderstood by an entire campus. In the beginning, we were encouraged to keep our doors open when we were in our rooms.

The school wanted us to build a community here — to embrace our new family and change the bad rep Hruby has. Hallway congregations quickly became the norm. We'd order pizza (Dominos is on speed dial), plug in a movie or play Pictionary in our newly decorated lounge. And the trouble started off innocently enough. The RA would kindly ask us to move our hallway congregations into the lounge. A diligent student would volunteer to keep it down. And then the complaints started coming not once, not twice, but many times in one evening. My friends and I still played the same games of Pictionary, still innocently chatted about our days while sipping soda sitting on the floor in the hallway.

But after the first anonymous call to Campus Safety, our group activities were confined to the lounge — then the college was effectively put on a 24/7 silent hour restriction. As my friends and I were told, we had to keep our doors shut at all times, couldn't have music playing, and if someone stood outside our door and could hear us, we were being too loud.

As of last week, five of us signed forms to move from one end of the hall to the other after being strongly encouraged by the RA and quite a few girls in the hall to move. Unfortunately, some who live on the end we are moving to don't want us living on that side either. But frankly, none of us can live like prisoners. So my only suggestions to the Powers That Be who decide room placement and dorm rules — let people know when they move in that Hruby is a quiet dorm.

Don't encourage one thing and then punish when it's compelled, don't make next-day deadlines without notifying everyone involved, don't exaggerate by calling kids in the hallway "fire hazards" and next time don't hesitate to waive the $10 room changing fee when residents are being pressured to move. It's not nice.

Letters to the Editor

Library needs stricter policy on "quiet" areas

To the Editor:

My name is Tiffany and I am a senior here at Aquinas. My question of the day for all of you is — isn't the library supposed to be a place where you can go to study in peace and quiet?

Yes it is, at least that's my understanding. So why is it every time I try and study in those cute little cubbies, people are talking, not whispering or they are on their cell phones? I find this very rude and inconsiderate to all of those like me, who go to the library to study in peace and quiet.

I would think being in college people would be able to read, if not read, then be able to tell when a picture of a cell phone with a red circle on top of the phone means. But I guess I must be wrong, because I don't think anyone comprehends "this is a cell free zone," but for a few good souls who take their calls in the hall outside of the library.

It is my hope that the new library has a room inside the building called a "24-hour silence room" where people like me, who like a quiet studying environment, can go and not be disturbed because it is 24 hours of pure silence. If this cannot happen then perhaps a stricter policy on cell phones needs to be created and we need to enforce punishment on those who use them in the library. Maybe people can find it within themselves to be courteous and find a little common sense and be present in the library.

I understand that there isn't much student input to get help with their studies from tutors, or there is talk at the computers, but the little cubbies, come on, there is a reason why they are separated individually like that.

Can't the conversations with friends, whether he be in person or over the phone, about how cool Saturday's最大 is going to be, or how hard French class is or how cute the pizza delivery guy was last night, be saved for when you leave the library? All I'm asking for and I don't think I'm alone when I say this, just for us to get a little peace and quiet.

Tiffany Boyar

Senior Student

Higher One card system needs further explanation

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the recent opinion critical of the Higher One card ("Higher One card a curse for Aquinas"). Ms. Telfer offered good advice that everyone should research this card and have their facts straight prior to using it. I feel the need to clarify a couple of points that Ms. Telfer's diligent research did not reveal.

Aquinas went to the Higher One refund process for two primary reasons. First, by going this route, students would receive their refunds earlier than by the former process. In fact, this year students have received their refunds an average of one week earlier than in the past. Secondly, students are now offered three different forms of refunds. Students can receive their refund by opening a Higher One account, having the refund deposited directly into an existing bank account or by paper check. Students now receive their refunds earlier and have more options for receipt — hardly a "curse".

Students were notified about this change in refund policy by both e-mail as well as the postal service. On July 19, an e-mail was sent to all returning students from Aquinas College with a message titled "Student Account Update." This e-mail explained that the College was implementing this new refund procedure. On August 5, an e-mail was sent from Aquinas College with the title "Refund Card Information." This e-mail contained a picture of the Higher One card as well as the envelope it would be coming in and informed the student not to throw the card away. Neither of these e-mails had the appearance of "junk mail".

The last week of July each student was mailed a postcard from Aquinas notifying them of the change in refund policy and requesting updated addresses. Also, included in the bill for the Fall semester, there were two enclosures about the card explaining the process. There was also an enclosure regarding the College's e-mail policy that all students check their e-mail regularly or have their e-mail forwarded to another e-mail account. The message on the bottom of the card also contained verbiage that there was a change in the refund policy and to consult the enclosures. All of these communications went out before the cards were mailed. The first card was free to the students. If the student ignored the multiple attempts the College used to communicate and change their card away, then there was a $20 charge for a replacement card.

When researching this move, the College was conscious of not encouraging students to receive additional debt, which is why we chose a pre-paid card. Higher One offers a few forms of refunds (Debit Card, Higher One Account, check). There was a Higher One ATM installed on campus to assist students in avoiding the non-Higher One ATM usage fees. The other fees mentioned in the piece are only potential if the student chooses to open a Higher One Account and these fees are consistent with any other bank one would have a relationship with. It is also important to note that the fees are not a possibility if the student chooses to receive their refund by ACH or by paper check.

Change is never easy nor accepted by 100 percent of the population. However, the Student Accounts Office has received several glowing reviews of this new program from both students and parents who appreciate the flexibility it affords.

Thank you for the opportunity of clarifying some of the information Ms. Telfer presented in her opinion piece.

Sincerely,

LISA A. STEVER

Controller, Aquinas College
(616)632-2166
Laissez-fair college dating practices harmful, risky

By Kat Stutman
Copy Editor

I am not cheap, but I am on special this week. With such a laissez-faire attitude towards dating and casual sex, it's no wonder a certain nonchalance adds itself to most college relationships. And when you find yourself developing a serious case of tennis neck trying to keep up with all the mixed signals flying back and forth across campus, there's nothing for it but to sit back and take stock of what you really want — not just out of a relationship, but out of a life, on earth.

For centuries, абсantae has been the primary method of birth control — a questionable safeguard against both pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases of any sort. An acceptable practice in everyone on earth, abstaining from any sort of sexual intimacy is ideal for men and women who, by religious faith or otherwise, aren't ready to take their relationships to a physical level.

Though great in theory, it's almost impossible for young people to uphold it, due to both hormonal curiosity and the misconception that every college student has the social habits of a rabbit. Unlike other animals, humans muddle the primitive call of sex with messy things like emotional ties and psychological angers on behavior. Very few are ever able to leave a relationship with dignity — let alone sanity — intact when the fine line between talk and action is crossed.

Abstinence is a fail-proof way of connecting on an emotional level first, saving the step of solidifying a relationship physically for when both partners are positive it's the right thing, regardless of one's religious or moral values.

The truest test against the adversity of society imaginable, abstinence is a battle that man (or woman) must wage between the wanton primitiveness of passion and the self-mastery that wins human freedom. What many fail to realize is that refraining from intimacy, including self-indulgence, doesn't mean that they can't express love or affection. If anything, the lack of complications on a purely physical plane often brings two people closer together.

Perhaps it isn't merely the physical obligations and expectations that are put on a relationship, but the people we choose to date that are the problem. I can safely say as a best friend and trusted confidant, my shoulders has been used as a hammock more times than I can count because "some jerk with an ego the size of Texas and rocks for brains" was stupid. I've patted shoulders, dried tears, nodded in sympathy and viciously stuck pins over certain anatomically relevant voodoo doll body parts all because...
Keeping the Beat

Local record store is revitalized with new paint, new owner and new hope

By Jon Ringer
The Saint Reporter

The corner of Diamond and Fulton isn’t known for heavy foot traffic or its window shopping opportunities. In fact, the corner of Diamond and Fulton only sports a few meager businesses, mostly conforming to a brown brick motif, except for one record shop shimmering with lime green paint and purple trim. Against a canvas of grim profit-based office spaces and crumbling dilapidation, Beat Goes On solemnly represents the dying remnants of American free enterprise. Despite the pressures of media piracy, big business competition, and a generally sluggish economy, store owner Mario Leon refuses to let Beat Goes On go quietly into that good night. After the previous ownership was forced to shut down the store five years ago (under the moniker “Believe in Music”), Leon made it his mission to resurrect the shop that had employed him for twenty-three years. “It was partly nostalgia, partly the terror killings of eleven Israeli Olympic athletes at the 1972 Munich Games. ‘I don't think any movie can ever make up for what we've lost,'” said Walter Cronkite. However, the show only drew the first cousin of two years, in which mom and dad was a dream come true. “I was just so choked up,” her mother Ava Keen said, “She was so excited.” The 17-year-old cancer patient. For Chalon Keen, who has been fighting a cancer that creates tumors in her muscle cells for two years, meeting Combs was a dream come true. “I was just so choked up,” her mother Ava Keen said, “She was so excited.” The annual event has thus far raised 13 million dollars for families in need.

MUSIC

Rock group gets involved with Katrina relief

Rock group 3 Doors Down has organized a benefit to aid in the Hurricane Katrina relief. The band, which hail from the Mississippi Gulf Coast, suffered personal losses in the storm. The show, to be held in Mobile, Alabama on Dec. 10, also includes performances by Alter Bridge, Tracy Lawrence and the band’s 13 million dollars for families in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Gardens Polar Express

Based on the children’s story by Chris Van Allsburg, visitors can experience a G-scale train ride to the North Pole. Admissions: Adults $12.00, Seniors (65+) and Students $9.00, Children 3-17 $6.00, Children 2 and under free.

Home for the Holidays Exhibit

Enjoy the museum decked out in holiday decorations, including period decorations and the story of Christmas at the White House. Admissions: Adults $5.00, Seniors $4.00, Children 3-17 $3.00, Children 2 and under free.
It's a Wonderful Life debuts at Master Arts Theatre

By Stephanie Gerig
The St. Report

"Interesting isn't it? How each man's life touches so many other lives?" On Thursday, Dec. 1, Master Arts Theatre performed their rendition of It's A Wonderful Life. The timeless classic has only been presented once before, in 1997.

The audience was portrayed as entertaining and believable. The performers of this tale in front of a small audience of 98 people, many of whom were members of the famous "Red Hat Society."

Master Arts Theatre prides themselves on creating an audience-intimacy. Performed in a small, carpeted room with only three rows of seating on opposite sides, the audience is very near to the performers. From the reactions I saw, the play and can't but help share the emotions of the performers. If you wanted to, you could literally reach out and touch them — or trip them — depending on the kind of person you are. The audience laughed when the actors laughed — without even thinking about it. You found yourself constantly wanting to jump up and help the actors through their performance. The audience is actually engaged in their own actions. It's a wonderful, entertaining, and believable version of this famous tale.

Lukas D's demo tracks and full-length album can be expected out on a Christmas shopping guilt trip. Inform them about the perfect gifts for children in all over the world, like those in the United Kingdom, and how you're duty to watch the Thundercats box set for them. I know you never want that part, so be sure to bring that up.

If you have no effect (parents can be pretty cruel at times), use fear. Remind them that in forty years, they'll be extremely senior citizens and love their children. If you're going to bribe them, be sure to bring up Santa. Lukas D went solo and his music can be described in three words, enchanting, versatile and haunting. Lukas D's demo tracks reach for good pop light, however, with its techno additions and vocals that can compared to Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, to his softer acoustic tracks like "Moving to California," which contains deep, sought out lyrics and Eno-toned vocals.

When I asked Lukas D what inspires him to continue with his music, he said, "I always try to stay true to my heart. I've been a huge Lisa Frank fan ever since I was a little girl, and I feel like I've made a lot of mistakes. I want to educate the young people in the same path as me. I want to show people it's not just sex, drugs and rock 'n roll."

Currenty, he intends on continuing solo with his two distinct sounds. He has five finished tracks and he will have five more done by the first of the year. A full-length album can be expected in the spring. If you do not want to wait until spring, you can pick up one of Lukas's demos at one of his shows, go to http://www.myspace.com/lukasrock or pick up a copy of WGRD's Beat at Myer's, which contains tracks from Lukas D's first album, " beat it'.

Lukas D is presently not on a label. He makes his living working for 97.9 WGRD and by playing local shows. In addition he is a student at Western New England University, in the process of obtaining a Marketing degree. When I asked Lukas why he is not on a label he said that he has connections and friends at many of the labels,"I've been on MTV twice, and MTV Canada. I've played over 1,000 shows, but when all is said and done I've realized one thing, DIY, do it yourself."

Overall, Lukas D is an amazingly talented individual who really cares about his fans. Lukas D also had a message for young musicians that want to make a name for themselves, need to create a job for myself," said León, who funded the project with credit cards and loans, stocking the shelves with his own personal music collection. Today, Beat Goes On carries a wide array of both new and used music and movies, as well as posters, outerwear and other musical related merchandise.

"like going to buy cities like San Francisco and Chicago and finding those funny little record stores," said León, calling attention to the beautifully stocked stores. Beaded drapes and and Sonny and Cher memorabilia cover the walls of Beat Goes On, reminiscent of León's membership in the Sex Fan club. León is proud of his seventeen hundred "Old school." León's old school values are quietly struggling to stay on top of new school marketing strategies. León explained that large corporations like Best Buy have a policy of going into towns with a large selection of music at low prices. Once their competitors have been crushed, these new superstores will deplete their selection and bring up their prices, leaving customers with little choice but to go to the big guys.

"Where do people go for the artist's full catalogue?" asked León. "Best Buy only carries four Madonna titles, I carry thirteen, and at about the same price."

In spite of this, stores like Martin's are being overlooked by customers and are suffering.

Still, León continues to run Beat Goes On with outstanding perseverance. Along with Hern Baker, another longtime friend of León and owner of Vivant Records, León continues to keep small business booming in Grand Rapids. However, with recent slow sales and the pressures of running a local shop mounting, one can only hope that Beat Goes On will go on.

“Three are there elements — one, focus on your music — two, focus on your education — three, work in the media."
“One day I was sleeping in my bed and I was awakened by a lady named Mary...”
- DR. DAVE DENBRABER, FORMER NFL & CFL QUARTERBACK

We praise Your Name:

On the left, junior Elizabeth Godin raises her hands during the praise and worship section of XLT: Exalt, a night that included praise and worship (music), preaching and Adoration. As pictured on the right, the event, sponsored by the Catholic Studies Club and Campus Ministry, drew in over 70 Aquinas students and members of the community at each of its nights on Nov. 17 and Dec. 6.

Spirit-led: Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dave DenBraber speaks about his faith conversion. Using an analogy of being buried in a deep whole, DenBraber captured the audience and delivered a strong message.

Here I am to bow down: Pictured above, following exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Fr. Mike Shea of St. Lazare’s retreat house (Spring Lake, MI) kneels in Adoration along with the rest of the students and others in attendance during the recent XLT: Exalt night.

Right: Chris Kreslin, lead singer of Pete Cornelius Band, leads students in a time of praise and worship. The Pete Cornelius Band, which along with Dr. Dave Denbraber is part of One Desire Ministries, performed and prayed with students for just over an hour in the Bukowski Chapel. The band includes the following members: Kreslin (lead singer & guitar), Emily Rolf (background vocals), Coleen Kelly (background vocals), Randy Seabolt (bass guitar), Ruth Dirkes (bass guitar), Tony Frisbee (rhythm guitar), Greg Kelly (lead guitar) and David Dunst (drums).

Multimedia Content

For more photos of XLT: Exalt, visit our website at http://www.aquinas.edu/thesaint