The faces of college students nationwide are changing. More students are balancing the pressures of academics, extracurricular activities, work and a social life.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one in three Americans enter college and drop out of college — a stark contrast from past generations.

Before entering college, students are encouraged to weigh their time management to balance the pressures of academia, work and adapting to new surroundings.

Feeling of being overwhelmed proves daunting to freshmen. I understand that when we first enter college or even once we start living in a new place, we start to take on the world," said freshman Meghan Michalek, who endless the new role of independence to being a contributing factor to why students might give up on their studies.

"It doesn't surprise me to hear that so many students are dropping out of school. When we spread our feet for the first time, it can be one to two lose focus on academics," said Michalek.

According to new development, students who make it an important to balance the demands of academics and a social life will succeed.

"I can see the numbers (on what you get involved in)," said fifth-year senior Kate Firlik.

"I know people who are involved in something on campus who have more figured out their plans who say they’ll be in college and I can’t hang out with them, and people who said they’re not involved and then do the work," said Firlik.

In a recent survey conducted by Facebook and Hewlett Packard, college freshmen express the importance of creating a balance in life, between academics, social lives and self discovery.

"You don’t have to do all of the things that I used to do in secondary school and do my homework," said Firlik.

Both balance work and academics, students must balance the demands of unexpected events, unexpected social lives and self discovery.

"I know there’s been a lot of change, but I think the problem is we have an opportunity to give up a club membership or have to give up a club membership or have to make time for yourself amidst all that," said Firlik.

"I think it kind of depends on what you have in your life," said Firlik.

Along with extra-curricular activities, work and academia, students must balance the demands of unexpected events, unexpected social lives and self discovery.

"I think we need to embrace the change and not let it affect the way we go about things," said Firlik.

"The fact is that anything you have, you’re always in need of that effort," said Firlik.

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What freedom means in society


A Pew study recently revealed that Gen Z is less interested in politics than previous generations. The study found that only 20% of Gen Z respondents said they were interested in the political process, compared to 31% of Millennials and 62% of Baby Boomers.

While this may be concerning for some, others argue that a lack of interest in politics is not necessarily a negative thing. It could simply mean that Gen Z is more interested in other areas of their lives, such as their personal and professional goals.

However, this lack of interest in politics may also have implications for the future of our democracy. If younger generations are not engaged in the political process, who will be the ones to vote in upcoming elections and make important decisions that affect our society?

In the end, it is important to remember that political engagement is just one aspect of our lives. We should all strive to be informed and knowledgeable about the issues that affect us, and to participate in the political process in whatever ways we feel comfortable doing so.
Many have wondered why the recycling bins around campus only if there are students to take care of them," said Onnen. "Now, there will be individuals assigned for the task of collecting the recycling program." "It's very exciting," said Onnen. "The recycling bins will be placed in 22 locations across campus, in almost all buildings.

**permanent student worker is going**

BEHOLD...THE BIN

Aquinas takes another step towards sustainability

By Keith Fuleki

For THE BIN!

That's right. Well, sate your curiosity here — Show it and get 10% off storewide. at Thomas S. Fox Diamond Jewelers.

"It's a good idea, but there are definite problems with recycling in general," said Joyce Magreb, sustainable business manager. "Recycling uses a lot of energy, among other things and many staples that comprehends its cost.

"Fellow sustainable business major Michele Mitchell agreed that there are concerns about recycling. "Everyone talks about recycling, but who brings back their cans and getting ten cents," said Magreb.

"However, the past can use the campus. Some cases contrasted the process. "More dough is recycled, but must be recycled. This forces the recycling the best option right now."

"It's not a perfect solution, but it definitely pushes society in the direction of sustainability," Onnen said.

"While everyone likes to talk about things being green," the truth is "we have no idea what a truly green" organization would look like. "It's not a solution," said Onnen.

The Greenhouse Partnership and one of the greenest buildings in the world, the Brown Center, though few know the recycling dumpster is at the center of the debate. "The issue was that without an easy way to recycle, the recycling never got to it."

"Most people don't know we are recycling," said Onnen, "and the schools want to give it to. Now that can change." Moreover, some sustainable business students question the merit of recycling in the first place.

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Aguinas as a doll's house: transferring from UT-Austin

Moving forward, "the force is with us"

In the Saint's Opinion section, it is clear that the editor is quite concerned with the negative impact of the Internet on student life. The opinion piece by Jean Wang raises questions about the decline of traditional social interaction and the rise of online communication. Wang suggests that the Internet has made people less sociable and more isolated, which is a concern shared by many. The article also touches on the phenomenon of "the force is with us," referring to the way social media and the Internet have become an integral part of daily life. The author suggests that this new force has its own set of rules and values, and that it is important to understand and navigate this new landscape. The piece ends with a call to action, urging readers to think critically about their own relationship with the Internet and its effects on society. Overall, the opinion section is an important read for anyone interested in the impact of technology on modern life.


Emblesh Guest Concert strikes the right chord

By Whitney Ehrenman
News Editor

There are times when music can make you feel just like you are part of something. Perhaps a celebrity walks past and you feel like you are experiencing piercing headaches. Perhaps you are in a room full of people, all wearing the same outfit, and someone strolls by with something different or unique. It can happen anywhere, at any time. And there was one such moment in time, a moment that caused me to feel completely connected to the audience.

The concert began on a cheery note with Emblesh, a professional hand bell ensemble. The group began the concert with a few light-hearted comments from the audience members, and then transitioned into a more serious piece. The audience was captivated — and that remained a constant throughout the piece.

The lighting never dimmed, but the audience was anything but. They were filled with suspense, excitement, and anticipation. The music was powerful and emotional, and the audience was moved to tears at several points throughout the performance.

Emblesh's musical selections were diverse, ranging from classical compositions to contemporary hits. The group's offerings included several favorites from the world of opera, as well as some lesser-known pieces. The group's musicianship was outstanding, with each member contributing their unique talents to create a cohesive whole.

The concert was a success, and the audience left feeling uplifted and inspired. The group's dedication to their craft and their ability to connect with their audience were truly impressive. It was a night to remember, and one that will be etched into the memories of those in attendance.

The background music, which I can only assume was a boom box and K.C., came from somewhere overseas. It was a fitting soundtrack for the evening's events.

As the concert drew to a close, the audience erupted into applause. The performers took a bow, and the audience was left with a sense of satisfaction and joy. It was a night to remember, and one that will be etched into the memories of all in attendance.
Schuler's calls its students "book town" downtown

Schuler Books & Music fills spot left by River Bank Books by adding downtown location

By Dan Treul
Opinion Editor

The books are back.

After several months without a bookseller following the closure of River Bank Books in downtown Grand Rapids to move its newest location at 60 Monroe Center (see The Saint, Oct. 29) Schuler Books, former owner of Downtown Books, now has a new downtown location after Debra Lambers closed the store downtown.

While Schuler's did pick up much of River Bank's abandoned inventory, the independent chain - called, chose to fill the vacancy in the old Steketee's building when retail, inventory, the independent chain - called, chose to fill the vacancy in downtown Grand Rapids recently might take a few tips from Schuler Books.

The store is open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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Thankful for Turkey Day

By Becky Brown

Copy editor

In the last few years, Aquinas' cross country season doesn't really start until championships. Again this year, the program will be making the trip to the NCAA National Championship meet which will take place Saturday in Kansas City.

The men have continuously dominated the region finishing first in every race this season. The program followed up behind Aquinas was Cornerstone, who finished third overall.

Anchoring the Region VIII tournament was none other than All-Region Men's Cross Country runner-up Chris Roberts (25:35). Roberts finished second overall and the WHAC's championship runner-up from Cornerstone, Derek Font, finished third overall (26:53).

On Saturday, the men will try to keep alive their two previous national appearances. Both performances left the team short of their expectations of winning a national title. This season, however, the team's success is not about winning a national title.

Again this year, the women's team earned an at-large bid to the national meet. Their success has undoubtedly hinged on the success of junior Amanda Storms. She finished first in the regional meet and was named the WHAC individual champ and an All-Conference player.

Senior Nicole Wilson has also put in strong performances this season. Senior teammates have been integral to their success. "We always go. Everyone gives 100 percent," said Storms. "If one isn't running in the upcoming event, is that okay?" No. "It's a pretty hard course, at least harder than the two nationals. We have an advantage though because we are from the north and are used to the cold weather."
End of the journey for men's soccer

The Saints lose a heartbreaker to the Goshen College Maple Leafs, 2-0 in regional tournament play

By Bonnie Brown

The men's soccer team's season had Florida on the brain. With two wins in the NCAA Region VIII Tournament, they could have gone anywhere. They chose South Bend, Ind. and the University of Notre Dame. Head coach Tommy Amaker was talented but didn't have it in his eyes, said Omelas.

"I wish I was faster, I could've won the Desire Cup," said Chris Smith. "I could've finished our season stronger, to pull it together."

Amaker, was talented but couldn't finish the job.

The young roster has been led by senior passes the torch: Senior forward Hillary Rickett battles for possession against the Saints' 20 career goal leader Joslyn Narber. The Saints finished their season 8-4-1, with a 6-4-1 mark in the WCAC.

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By Becky Brown

Women's basketball coming to an end

"We wanted to go to nationals and was a little bit of a letdown," he said.

"I'm looking forward to achieving some personal goals."

"But, overall, our season was really bad," said Carrie Abdo.

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