

The Aquinas

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The student voice of the University of Scranton

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Scholarship winners receive awards (p. 3)

George Young plays his sax for students (p. 8)

Haitian art goes on display in Gunster (p. 8)

Suspects found in racial incidents

By ANDY WHELPLEY
Aquinas News Editor

Earlier this week, University officials found the individuals they believe are responsible for defacing residence halls with swastikas and other hate messages.

"We have positively identified two people that did racial slurs and hopefully that will stop it," said James DePuy, director of Public Safety.

No students are suspects at this point, according to DePuy.

"The ones we think are actually doing graffiti and racial slurs are people in the neighborhood that have friends who are students," DePuy said.

He believes the only involved students were friends of the alleged perpetrators who helped them get access to the residence halls.

"Early Sunday morning, one of our resident assistants reported some suspicious activity with individuals on campus," DePuy said.

The RA came upon swastikas similar to those found several times this semester in Redington Hall.

"Public Safety officers then got involved and found some suspicious people," DePuy said. The individuals immediately fled the

scene once they were noticed.

Fortunately, an RA was able to give a description which identified one of the people. Investigators questioned the person and came up with more information and some substantial leads.

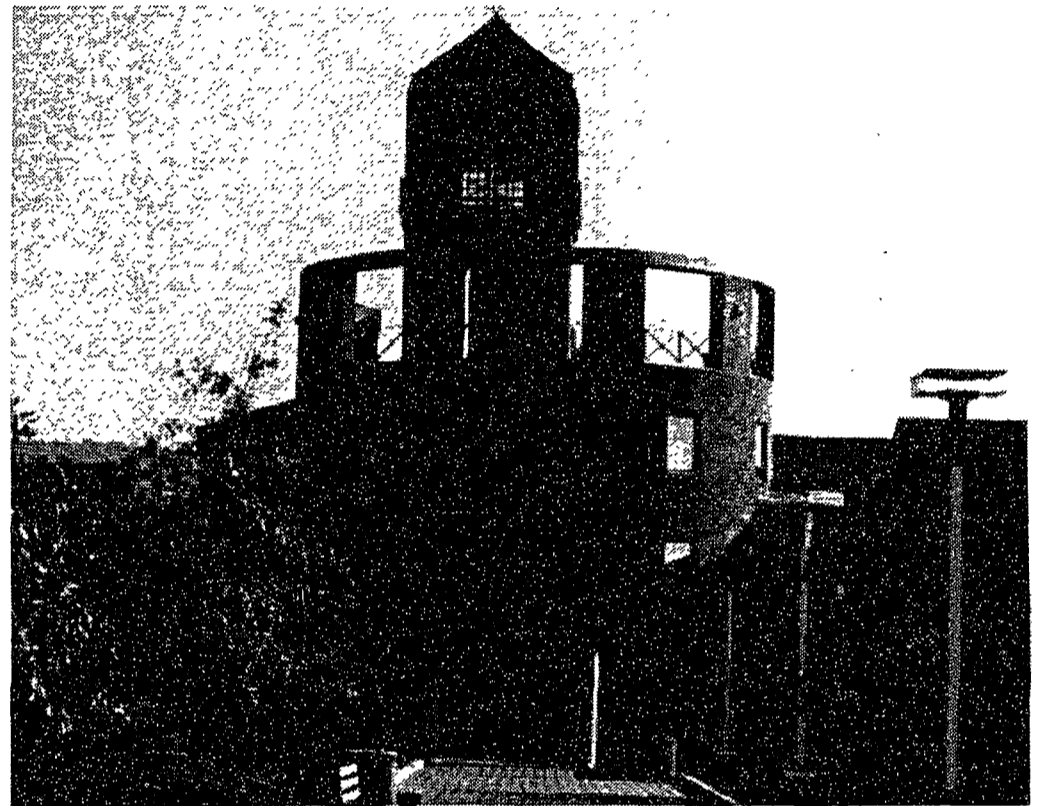
"One individual now is the focal point of the investigation," DePuy said. "We have been working all week to get more information."

DePuy credits the swift identification of the suspects to the combined efforts of the Public Safety officers and RAs involved. "If they weren't working together, this never would have happened," he said.

Public Safety and Residence Life have worked to create a greater sense of team unity between their offices, according to DePuy. "This was a good example of what has happened over the last couple of years," he said.

At this point, DePuy believes the incident will remain a University matter, but it might involve police or even the FBI if it becomes a serious hate crime.

"The way the law is written, it's criminal mischief or could be destruction of property," DePuy said. "There have been no direct victims that would qualify it for becoming an official chargeable hate crime, but we're treating it with the same serious-



Redington Hall, pictured here, was defaced twice this semester with numerous racial slurs.

ness."

At the very least, DePuy said an attorney for the University will issue the suspects a court order which legally bars them from campus.

Due to the circumstantial nature of the evidence, DePuy is not sure if the suspects will be arrested. He said, "If we can make a case, we're going to go for an arrest."

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New parking policy goes into effect

By MATTHEW SULLIVAN
Aquinas News Editor

Last year, students delinquent in paying parking fines lived in fear. After the third fine went unpaid, many students found the dreaded wheel-lock placed on their cars, a lock that would not be removed until they paid an extra \$50 fine.

Things will be different this year, promises Sharon Evans, the assistant director of Public Safety, Parking/Traffic Manager.

No more will students need to fear the wheel-lock.

"This year, after two unanswered tickets, they will be towed," Evans said.

The discontinuation of the wheel-lock threat is not the only new policy that students have en-

countered this year.

Already, students who have bought parking permits for their cars have noticed a 25 percent jump in the price of the permit since last year, from \$80 to \$100.

Rates have gone up this year, in part, to pay for the new Parking Pavilion, a structure which houses 510 new parking spots on campus.

"We had a severe parking asset shortage," Evans said, adding that a number of students, staff and faculty members with decals were not able to find spaces last year.

"We were the ones who felt the parking problem more than anyone," said Len Gougeon, professor of English. Because many staff members arrive at the University at 8:30 a.m. or earlier, many faculty members who keep more er-

atics schedules could not find parking spaces.

"I couldn't plan on meeting a student at 11 o'clock unless I came in at 8 o'clock," Gougeon said.

With the new parking designations, faculty have been given their own parking area in the parking garage and in a few other areas of campus, allowing them to come and go with more ease.

However, with these privileges come a price, as faculty members have been paying \$150 for their permits this year, more than any other group on campus.

"It's because it's reserved parking," said Robert Spalletta, associate professor of Physics. Reserved areas carry the extra expense of reserve signs and security patrols to maintain the area.

Although Spalletta does not

believe the reserved spaces are worth the additional \$50 today, he thinks that these spaces will become invaluable in the future.

"I personally believe that the parking situation is going to deteriorate," Spalletta said, citing increased construction as one of the main reasons that parking spaces will become scarce on campus.

Although some faculty members have been upset over the high rates, there has been no vocal opposition. "I don't think I've gotten any complaints," Evans said.

Resident students will be pleased to learn that the original plan to not allow students to park in the Parking Pavilion overnight has been changed. Now, all students will be allowed to fully uti-

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