



BRIEFS

Theology Honor Society Seeking New Members

Undergraduate or graduate students who meet the established criteria are invited to apply for membership in the University of Scranton chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Honor Society for Religious Studies/Theology.

Criteria include completion of 12 credits in Theology/Religious Studies with the average of all your theology courses at least 3.5 and your overall GPA of at least 3.0.

Trinity Deadline Extended

The deadline to submit articles to Trinity: Past, Present, & Future, the University's new Political Science and History journal, has been extended to Wednesday, March 9th. Length of the paper must be ten or more pages double spaced. Publication release forms and submission requirement papers are still available in O'Hara 405, so please stop by and pick them up today.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact either Val Dever- deverv2@uofs.edu or Lauren Propst- propstl2@uofs.edu.

Bookstore Spirit Sale

The University Scranton Bookstore will hold a School Spirit Sale on March 15th.

Stop in the bookstore on March 15 wearing your school colors, purple and white, or school name and receive a special 20 percent discount. Sale excludes the following (text books, video games, DVD movies and online orders)

All Clearance items will also be 20 percent off the clearance price! Special Thank You to all our customers!

Summer Lifeguards Needed

The Byron Recreation Center Pool is in need of lifeguards for Summer 05.

A current certification is required, summer open swims are over the noon hour and early evening.

Contact Dave Hair, Aquatics Director, haird1@scranton.edu or 570-941-6205

Wanna Salsa?

Everyone of all levels is invited for a Social and Lessons on Latin Dancing, Saturday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the Aerobics Room of the Byron Center. No charge instruction by Mary Brand.

Be sure to wear comfortable clothing, shoes, and don't forget to bring your Royal Card.

Hope to see you Saturday!

Relay for Life

The University will be hosting the American Cancer Society's Second Annual Relay for Life. The Relay will be held on the Royal Way Saturday, April 16th, 10am through Sunday, April 17th, 10am. Get 8-15 people together to form your team today! Team packets are available in the CSASI office.

FORMER NAACP CHIEF SPEAKS ON DIVERSITY



By **CECILIA BARESS**
Staff Writer

"Why me? Why not?"

This was part of the inspirational message of the Honorable Kweisi Mfume, a former congressman and the former president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He spoke at The University on Monday, Feb. 28.

The topic of Mfume's speech was "Diversity and Democracy: Brown vs. the Board of Education." He began by stating that diversity and democracy, "will never work as two words on a piece of paper."

He proceeded to share his advice on what different races need to do to improve society. He said that whites should be just as indignant as blacks, that different races should come together to form coalitions, and that African Americans need to get beyond blame and excuses and start doing for themselves.

Next, Mfume addressed the case of Brown vs. the Board of

Education. He gave a brief history of the case, and called it a celebrated decision, a watershed to the law of the land, and threshold for launching a new era. He claimed that the Brown case grew out of both love and hatred.

"What about the promise of Brown 51 years later?" Mfume asked.

Mfume stated that because people took democracy and diversity as more than words, things have improved.

"It is only by forgetting, that we repeat the mistakes of the past," Mfume said.

However, Mfume stated that problems still exist in the world. He said that race and skin color are still prominent, and mentioned the lack of minority elected officials. He spoke of a "Robin Hood reverse" in which we take from the poor and give to the rich. He also mentioned that public schools are overcrowded and ill-equipped, and that drugs are more available than textbooks.

Poor educational quality was also on his list of grievances.

He spoke about those in society that experience "ugly alienation instead of harmony," and also addressed the difference between the "people who have and the people who have not." The homeless and illiterate were two of his examples of the people who have not.

"None of [these problems] have to be permanent," Mfume stated.

Mfume then began to direct his talk at the student audience.

"Difficulties between groups in society are not novel or new," Mfume said.

Mfume issued a challenge for students to stand up for what is right.

"The great enemy of truth is the myth. It is persistent, pervasive, unrealistic, and when left unchallenged it becomes the truth," Mfume said.

He encouraged them to actively speak out when justice is denied and reiterated the words of Dr. Martin Luther King when he said, "No Now is the time and today is the day."

"He really gave us a message

that now is our time and to just go out there and make a difference," Tim Dougherty, a freshman from Fresh Meadows, NY, said.

Two students who will be attending The University next year were present at the speech and commented on the message Mfume communicated.

"What Mr. Mfume dictated was very eye-opening to how young people should not wait to make a difference but take action now in order to change the future lives of our children," D'Orsay Mancauso, a senior at Dunmore High School, said.

"Mr. Mfume was very inspirational and he gave us words of encouragement and hope for the future," Tiffany Murphy, a senior at Dunmore High School, said.

Father Scott R. Pilarz, SJ, was pleased with the speaker's message.

"The congressman gave challenging and inspiring remarks. I am glad he focused on our students and I'm sure that they are receptive to his vision for democracy and diversity," Fr. Pilarz said.

AQUINAS

The Student Voice of
The University of Scranton Since 1916

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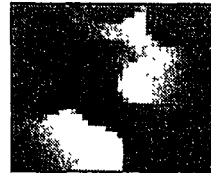
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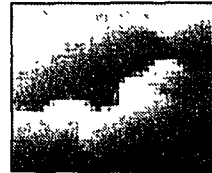
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THE FOUR-DAY FORECAST



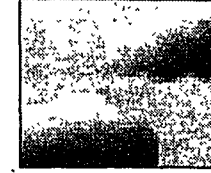
FRIDAY

32° / 22°
Partly cloudy



SATURDAY

34° / 20°
Snow showers



SUNDAY

32° / 24°
Few snow shower



MONDAY

36° / 30°
Snow showers

TODAY IN HISTORY

MARCH 3, 1991

Hyundai.

Police Brutality Caught on Tape

At 12:45 a.m. on March 3, 1991, robbery parolee Rodney G. King stops his car after leading police on a nearly 8-mile pursuit through the streets of Los Angeles, California. The chase began after King, who was intoxicated, was caught speeding on a freeway by a California Highway Patrol cruiser but refused to pull over. Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) cruisers and a police helicopter joined the pursuit, and when King was finally stopped by Hansen Dam Park, several police cars descended on his white

A group of LAPD officers led by Sergeant Stacey Koon ordered King and the other two occupants of the car to exit the vehicle and lie flat on the ground. King's two friends complied, but King himself was slower to respond, getting on his hands and knees rather than lying flat. Officers Laurence Powell, Timothy Wind, Ted Briseno, and Roland Solano tried to force King down, but he resisted, and the officers stepped back and shot King twice with an electric stun gun known as a Taser, which fires darts carrying a charge of 50,000 volts.

Box-Office Top 5



"Diary of a Mad Black Woman"

\$22.7 Million



"Hitch"

\$21 Million



"Constantine"

\$11.8 Million



"Cursed"

\$9.6 Million



"Man of the House"

\$9 Million

Campus Mass Schedule

Daily: 12:05 p.m. | 4:40 p.m.

Saturday: Noon

St. Ignatius Chapel / St. Thomas Hall

Sunday: 11:00 am | 7:00 pm | 9:30 pm

Madonna Della Strada Chapel
Rock Hall, 419 Monroe Avenue

Santorum Touts Need For Social Security Reform at Town Hall Meeting

By FRANCIS GRADIJAN
Staff Writer

On Feb. 24, Sen. Rick Santorum came to The University to speak in the Eagen Auditorium. Santorum presented the president's plan for Social Security Personal Retirement Accounts to nearly 220 University students and Lackawanna County residents.

The Thursday appearance was Santorum's eighth town hall meeting this week. As a senator, he has made appearances in more places than any other representative or senator of either party in order to educate the populace about Social Security reform.

Although Santorum was very welcoming, and in fact invited many people standing in the back to come down and sit in empty seats, the opposition to his positions was mostly vocal. While he spoke, elderly persons in the audience made snide comments, interrupting the presentation at several points. Audience members muttered, complaining about war spending in Iraq and voicing strong concerns about how they believed these Personal Retirement Accounts will leave younger workers without a fair amount of cash due to the volatility of the stock market.

Santorum's main points were that the plan would not affect Americans age 55 and older and that it would be an optional plan which younger people could choose to opt into. Currently each person pays 12.5 percent in taxes into the Social Security system on their first \$90,000 in income. Under the proposed system, 4 percent of that 12.5 per-

cent would go into a personal retirement fund. Currently, Social Security is a pay-as-you-go system where 10 percent of each person's wages fund current retirees' Social Security benefits. The remaining 2.5 percent is invested-as mandated by law-in government bonds.

It was not addressed how the president's system would continue to pay for current retirees if many people opened Personal Retirement Accounts since of the 12.5 percent only 8.5 percent would be available to current workers. Thus, as some in the crowd argued (although none of them posed the question to Santorum directly) it appears that future retirees may suffer a cut in benefits of perhaps 2.5 percent. However, Santorum assured the crowd that no one would have their benefits reduced. Indeed, with the new Personal Retirement Accounts, citizens would have a chance to increase their eventual benefits-gaining larger amounts of income due to rising stock market prices.

Santorum argued that we must save Social Security now, even though it is more a long term problem that will culminate in the trust fund's depletion in 2042. Any 'tweaks' or adjustments in the tax rate-or reduction in benefits-could lead to societal unrest, or even lower the ability of American industries to compete with those overseas. As taxes rise, the cost of doing business in America rises and corporations might relocate to more trade-friendly nations, causing jobs to flee and wrecking the economy.

According to Santorum's charts, 20-year-

old Americans would receive even less than a predicted negative one percent rate of return if taxes were raised to accommodate changes in the system. Indeed, people would be paying into Social Security and wouldn't get their money back.

Finally, Santorum pointed out that the current Social Security surplus of \$70 billion is invested in bonds. These bonds are used by the federal government to pay obligations. Without them, the deficit would have been \$450 billion, but since they exist, the deficit was only \$360 billion. As the amount of surplus diminishes, then fizzles sometime in 2018, this source of capital for ceasing the bleeding flow of the deficit will dwindle. Eventually, it will disappear, putting the United States in dire financial difficulty.

Santorum believes very strongly in Personal Retirement Accounts. When asked "if privatization wasn't an option, what would you recommend to improve Social Security's long-term viability," Santorum answered that "there isn't any urgency to do anything right now if we don't have personal retirement accounts."

Defending the program, Santorum explained how American accounts would fare much better than Britain or Chile's failed experiments since President Bush would only allow people to invest in a small array of broad-market mutual funds, or have their investments managed by a Lifecycle Fund-which manages what people invest in based upon their age. After the system gets started, if people opt into it, they will, by the time they reach age 55, be required to invest in "fixed income securi-

ties" whereas younger persons' accounts will be put into equities and other riskier, but possibly more rewarding, venues.

The cost for President Bush's system-as estimated by his administration, though not alluded to in Santorum's speech-will be \$754 billion in transition costs. Santorum maintained that the mutual funds would be low maintenance and managed in a way similar to Thrift Savings Accounts, which can be researched at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. He argued that due to the economic stimulus and increased stock market income realized from investment in Personal Retirement Accounts, there would be a general increase in the amount of American jobs. He also noted that there might possibly be a slight reduction in the number of government jobs as a result of this revision.

Speaking for 45 minutes and answering at least eight questions to fill the remainder of his hour and 15 minute appearance at The University, Santorum bid the audience goodbye but welcomed people to approach and speak with him. Some spoke about health care and other non-Social Security-related issues but the majority of people asked about Social Security.

"We need people to be comfortable and to understand and see what system works best," Santorum said.

This is why Santorum hopes that people will discuss President Bush's proposed Social Security plan. To this end, he hopes to organize "Seniors to Seniors dialogues" where senior citizens and college seniors converse on Social Security issues.

Business Plan Competition Deadline Nears

By MARIE FINNEGAN
Copy Editor

The Great Valley Technology Alliance of Wilkes-Barre, PA plans to hold its third annual Business Plan Competition this spring.

The BPC is an excellent entrepreneurial opportunity for college students in Northeastern Pennsylvania with business plans to earn \$20,000 in start-up capital and over \$40,000 in In-Kind services.

The winners of the first BPC were students from Keystone College, who designed a matchmaking service for lawyers and potential clients (perfectlawyer.com). The winners of the second competition, from Marywood University, started a company called Henna Chem that manufactures skin care products. Each year the competition continues to grow, and in 2003, 33 business plans were entered into the contest.

Help sessions were held Feb. 24 and March 2.

Business plans are due on March 29 by 5p.m., and the Skills Presentation Session is on April 5 at 6p.m. (CIGNA Healthcare, Moosic). Finalists are selected on April 15, and on April 21, finalists make their presentations to judges. The awards ceremony will be held on May 5.

Business plans must be submitted to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Technology Institute, 7 South Main Street, Suite 227, Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18701. For more information, or to register for the BPC, visit www.greatvalleyalliance.com or call (570) 408-9811.

Senior Graffiti Party

The University of Scranton Programming Board's upcoming "2005 Hours 'til Graduation" Senior Graffiti Party is not only an opportunity for seniors to celebrate their years at The University, but also a way for them to help the community.

The party will be held at Tink's on March 5, 2005. Tickets are being sold for \$10 and at least one non-perishable food item donation. The goal is to collect over 400 food items to donate to local church pantries. The seniors also receive free T-shirts when they buy their tickets, and they will have the opportunity to sign each other's T-shirts at the party.

New Program Launched by Alumni Relations

By JESSICA GRIZZANTI
Managing Editor

In years to come, University students wishing to remain friends after college will encounter obstacles like distance and con-

flicting work schedules, making it difficult for them to remain in contact with one another. The Alumni Relations Department is beginning a new program called the Class Volunteer System, which they hope will allow alumni of The University to stay in closer contact after graduation.

Jeff Romanecz, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, said that the new program is meant to help connect all University alumni. He said that they are beginning the class volunteer system with the students of the classes of 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 while they are still at The University so after graduation it will then be easier for them to stay in contact.

Romanecz said that the program will also be extended to all other classes of University alumni that have graduated over the years, beginning with Young Alumni, who are graduates of the last decade.

Romanecz has created a document that states the initiatives of this new alumni program.

He describes what the purpose of the class committees in the Class Volunteer System will serve, once they are formed.

"Class committees serve to keep alumni classes engaged and active with The University of Scranton Alumni Society and Annual Fund after graduation," Romanecz noted. "During the year leading up to Reunion, the class committee expands and increases its activities to draw classmates to

the Reunion and re-engage them with The University. This is accomplished through increased electronic and print communications, greater personal outreach, and more regional events- culminating in Reunion Weekend."

Graduating classes having their own web pages online is another part of the Class Volunteer System.

Robert P. Zelno, Director of Alumni Relations, hopes that the web pages will help students to always know news about their class no matter where they move after graduation.

Zelno used the class of 2005 as an example of what the program can help do for alumni.

"You can, for the rest of your life, be identified with the Class of 2005," Zelno said.

Also, to help classes have more of an identity, students of the classes of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 will carry class banner with their class year written on it during graduation ceremonies.

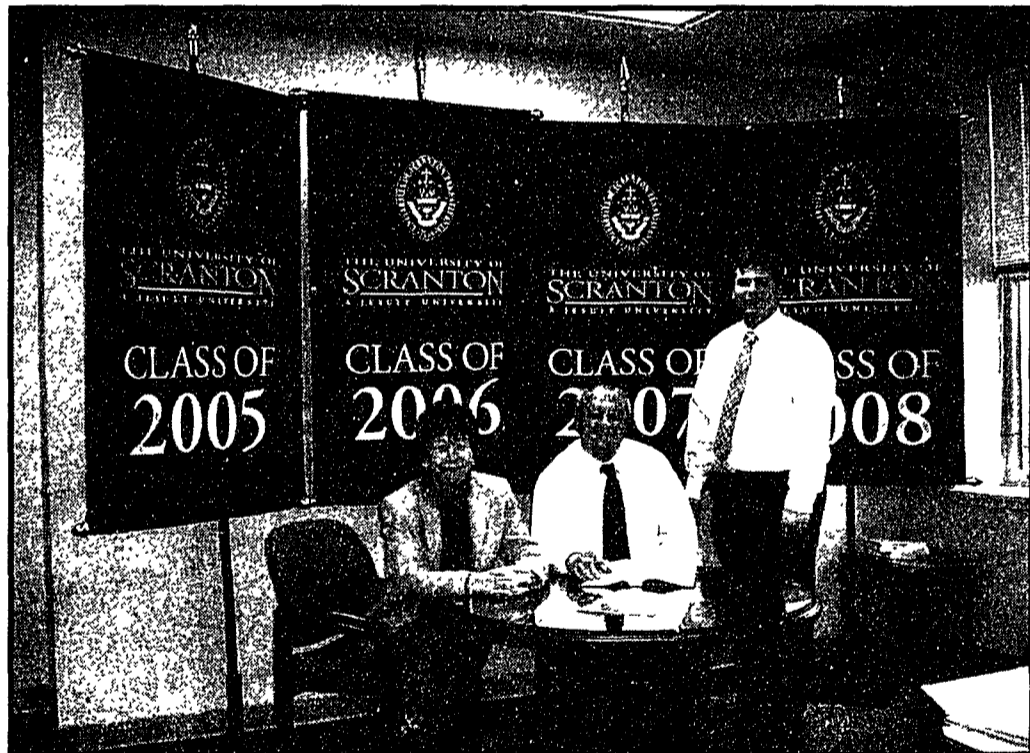
Zelno said that the Class

of 2005 will be the first class to carry such a banner. He hopes that these banners will also be put on display at reunion events hosted by returning classes.

The class of 2008 was presented with their banner during the freshman assembly last August.

Romanecz is directing the Class Volunteer System program and starting to get the endeavor in motion. He said that he would like to have student volunteers from the classes of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 help create class web pages and start to organize class committees.

"It's a big initiative," Romanecz said. Any student interested in helping Romanecz work on the Class Volunteer System program can contact him at x7660.



THE CLASS BANNERS pictured above are one part of the Alumni Relations Department new program called the Class Volunteer System. Left to right: Maryjane Rooney '80, Associate Director of Alumni Relations, Robert Zelno '66 G'77, Director of Alumni Relations, and Jeff Romanecz '04, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations.

SPECIAL TO AQUINAS: JEFF ROMANECEZ

The Class Volunteer System will be a way for Alumni Relations to form stronger bonds between classmates in classes who have not yet graduated from The University and will also allow them to strengthen bonds between existing alumni.

There are over 37,000 living alumni of The University. These alumni come from as far back as the class of 1928. There are a number of alumni clubs that host social events for alumni in different states such as New York, New Jersey, Florida and California.

Romanecz said that the Class Volunteer System will help "to develop class unity and affinity." He hopes that by having class committees, members of classes will know who in their class to connect with, either by phone, email or some other means, to stay current with alumni events.

Forum



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Our View

THIS ISSUE: We Discuss the Successes and Failures of the United Nations, and what the United States should do about them.

The United Nations, a supranational organization founded on October 24, 1945, dedicates itself to preserving international peace and security. Throughout its history it has strived, through dialogue and the passage of resolutions, to prevent disputes from escalating into war, and to help restore peace in areas where tensions are high. To this end, it has participated in food aid dispersal, election observation, and handing down judicial settlements of major international disputes.

However, the United Nations' accomplishments have not always been so glorious. Although they may provide a legitimate and apparently unbiased force when they are dispatched in order to ameliorate conflicts or provide peace-keeping efforts, they have not been as successful in ending genocide or the rule of human-rights abusive dictators.

Many would argue that the United Nations failed in its mission of peace and human rights due to the continued reign of Saddam Hussein despite actions and resolutions taken against his regime. Others can cite the United Nations' inability to end Milosevic's genocide in the Balkans until the United States came to its aid. Still others complain that the United Nations's failure to acknowledge genocide in Sudan

provides evidence of its ineptitude and irrelevance.

While the United Nations may have failed in many cases to end inner-state strife, it is hard to argue that the United Nations has not provided a forum for peaceful resolution of inter-state disputes. Throughout the Cold War, the United Nations provided neutral ground where America and the Soviet Union could practice politics and trade insults without needing to go to war with each other. Since the United Nations' inception, there has been no major world-wide conflict, and inter-state conflicts have generally been limited in scope to two major parties. (Or in the case of Vietnam and the Korean conflicts, two major parties utilizing others as surrogates.) In that sense, the United Nations has succeeded in its mission for peace.

Indeed, the United Nations has eradicated smallpox through the labors of its World Health Organization, reduced child mortality rates, provided aid to disaster-ridden areas such as Bam in Iran, and more recently tsunami-drenched Indonesia. These, among other accomplishments demonstrate how the accretion of international resources into a supranational structure can positively affect the world.

But, that being said, and its accomplishments being acknowledged, there does appear to be some need for the United Nations to be reformed. For example, what logic dictates the positioning of certain nations on select committees? Indeed, Libya, a long-time human rights abuser, has been chair of the Commission on Human Rights. Also, the UN seems powerless to enforce its resolutions on nations that resist them. All the international badgering and sanctions it enacts hardly appears to make abusive regimes like Saddam Hussein's in Iraq, or Momar Qaddafi's in Libya, change their agendas. Only when force is threatened by individual state actors, like America or Britain, has sufficient change been made.

The United Nations is, as Winston Churchill once said of the Soviet Union, "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma." Though it has the power to do good, and appears to have prevented inter-state conflict, it falls short in preventing inner-state genocide and is frequently inefficient and mastered by political bickering. As with all things, reform is needed in the United Nations. Hopefully this week's Red v. Blue provides some interesting viewpoints on the issue.

DIVIDED AMERICA: BLUE

Respect the World Community

It is interesting how many of us Americans see the United Nations as a nuisance, a threat to our agenda, disabling us from pursuing our own objections and establishing our own wellness. This idea is helped along by the oil for food crisis and conflict over Iraq. Some may angrily argue that the world doesn't care about us so why should we care about the world.

"We are a great country," they say. "Their problems are due to their inadequate government or society. Still, why should I care?"

We should care about what is going on in the world and we should care about how other nations think about our actions. The reasoning is a lot more selfish than you might imagine.

It is not due to our weaknesses that we should listen to the world community; it is because the philosophy of togetherness is far more beneficial to all parties than a philosophy of 'us vs. them'.

Though we may be the world's greatest superpower today, if we flaunt it, when another superpower emerges we will have already set the precedent of haughtiness and unilateral power.

We need to cooperate with the UN because we need to set a precedent of togetherness and concord. History shows that powers, when they collapse, collapse totally with much misery for their people.

I do not want history to repeat itself and that is why I desire a humble superpower. Perhaps we should worry more for ourselves than for others. It is not all together wrong to think that way. We need to preserve ourselves and better ourselves before we think about helping or bettering others. However, the idea of a humble superpower is a selfish desire for me because I foresee a legacy of peace that will outlast America's dominance.

Got an opinion?
We want to hear it.
Send e-mails to:
editor@theaquinas.com



Goodbye Blockbuster

By CHRIS MOLITORIS
Staff Columnist

There exists a greater problem with prescription drugs than Medicaid coverage or the issue of importing Canadian drugs at a lower cost. Currently, much of America's drug industry combats cancer, sickness and pain through the use of "blockbuster" drugs - a kind of statistically efficient means of treating the most common conditions. These drugs create immense profits for the drug companies; however, these drugs are dangerous and ineffective for a minority of users.

Vioxx, a pain-reliever that is used to treat arthritis, has recently been taken off the market because of its complications with individuals who used it. The pain-reliever will not be currently available to those who used the drug effectively without side-effects. Although Merck, the manufacturer, may re-release the drug with new monitoring techniques-given its effectiveness on the majority, the problem resides with the process in which drugs are produced.

Developments with the Human Genome Project in the last decade and new technology have created the possibility of targeted

molecular drugs-basically, a drug personalized to the individual who requires it. Given this breakthrough, the possibility of drug-related injury is greatly reduced as drugs will be more effective.

By personalizing the drug industry, diseases such as cancer can be combated on an individual, case-by-case basis. In fact, research has shown that no cancer, whether it is a tumor or a skin cancer, is the same. Each case must be treated differently.

Drugs must be created for the individual. The drug industry's method must be changed.

Obviously, there are problems that must be overcome with the restructuring of the drug industry. The "blockbuster" profit can no longer be a concern. With personalization comes the process of a more efficient drug marketing and profit for the industry.

Furthermore, because of the smaller markets with each drug, prices may be relatively more expensive, thus a tax-based initiative must be developed once the industry has been restructured to provide the drugs to those who need them. At first these new drugs will be typically more

Please see "EXPENSIVE" page 5

FORUM POLICY

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sidered for both print and online editions unless the writer explicitly states otherwise.

Aquinas will not print anonymous or pseudonymous letters, except in unique circumstances.

DIVIDED AMERICA: RED

It's All About the Money

As usual, it's all about money.

The United Nations is suffering from what is possibly the largest scandal in recorded history. It is too early to accurately gauge the level and extent the corruption in the now infamous "Oil For Food" program has reached. The corruption includes at least 270 people in 45 different countries.

The arch-villain in a league of villains is undoubtedly Benon Savon who supposedly made more than \$70 million by receiving vouchers from Saddam's Iraq, which entitled the bearer to one barrel of oil for fifty cents. It is alleged that he then re-sold these vouchers in large quantities making on average \$300,000 per transaction. According to the United States Department of State, on all the transactions in the entire program, Savon skimmed money from the program 48 percent of the time.

When questioned about his sudden financial gains, Savon expects the world to believe that the recent influx of cash to his bank account is the result of inheritance from a deceased aunt.

Peter Ruane is a Freshman Philosophy major from Scranton, PA. Honestly, is that not the oldest excuse for such a thing? I don't know how they do it in France but Americans are a bit more savvy than that.

Ultimately responsible for all this is UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Now it appears his son, Annan, is also involved in the scandal. Many are calling for resignations. The total amount of money ripped off by Saddam Hussein in this scandal is estimated at \$21.3 billion.

In light of such unethical actions, what is the US to do?

Many people on Capitol Hill have advocated financial punishments to be enacted by the United States against the United Nations if major reforms are not swiftly begun. The idea would be to cut funding by 10 percent. The measure has 75 co-sponsors.

"This is life-and-death stuff." Representative Jeff Flake (R-AZ) said in a statement. "To see U.N. officials involved in a program that was used to pay off families of Palestinian suicide bombers, to discover that money from this program is now being used to fund the people killing our troops in Iraq is very troubling. I definitely feel that people are fed up."

Congressman Flake couldn't be more right! I can't imagine these despicable people getting away with this.

I was a bit surprised by the figures when I looked up the amount of money the United States actually contributes to the UN. Our taxes contribute the very influential amount of 22 percent

Please see "BUDGET" page 5

The Aquinas encourages its readers to voice their views on legislative issues. The following legislators represent the University community:

U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum
511 Dirksen Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6324

U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter
711 Hart Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4254

U.S. Rep. Paul Kanjorski
2353 Rayburn Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6511

State Sen. Robert Mellow
Senale Box 203022
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-6481

State Rep. Fred Belardi
117 North Office
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-6908

DISPATCHES

Go Royals!

By VINNY SOLOMENO
Staff Columnist

The Scranton Women's and Men's Basketball teams do not get enough credit for all that they do to bring our school together and enhance our reputation for national academic and athletic excellence. Our other sports teams deserve recognition for their hard work, but our basketball teams in particular have played a unique role in fostering a sense of community that we all know is alive and well at the University.

A few weeks ago, USA Today named our Lady Royals the number one Division 3 women's team in the country. Anyone who has cheered them on at a game recently will tell you that they deserve that honor. As for the guys, there are plenty of freshman girls in the Darren Cannon Fan Club who can vouch for their hero's ability both on and off the court. In all seriousness, the men's team never ceases to impress me, bringing much needed grit, determination and class to the court. Despite my middle school's league naming me "All-Star Scorekeeper" in the eighth grade, I do not pretend to be much of an expert on basketball. I do, however, know that a combination of our players' hard work and their coaches' commitment should make us all proud.

As for games, if you have not been, you are missing out. There is nothing like the sight and sound of Scranton cheerleaders to

brighten my day. Faced with the challenge of redeeming their image, Team Captain Lisa Strusiak has done a great job of making sure that our top rate players have top rate cheerleaders to root for them. Moreover, no halftime would be complete without an appearance by our dance teams, making guys like me squirm in our seats at the thought of what it takes to complete even something as simple as a split.

If there is a game, one can find hundreds of others and me courtside, cheering on the best Scranton has to offer. I am not nearly as serious a fan as some, but there is something to say about the kind of fun there is in taunting referees and shouting yourself hoarse from the comfort and safety of the student section.

At a time when the University faces many challenges, it is refreshing to know that our basketball program is not only good, but great. Our school is a community like no other, blessed by students, faculty, staff and administrators who genuinely care about one another. The success of our basketball teams remind us of who we are: proud members of the Scranton family. Their example should be a reminder to us that there are plenty of things to be happy about here on campus. As they continue on into the N.C.A.A. semi-finals, each of us owes it to ourselves and our community to be there, cheering them on every step of the way, reminding each other why this is the special place we choose to call home.

Got an opinion?

We want to hear it.

Send e-mails to: editor@theaquinas.com

"EXPENSIVE" - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

expensive, thus a tax-based initiative must be developed once the industry has been restructured to provide the drugs to those who need them. At first these new drugs will be typically more expensive and back to the old problems. It seems as though paying for these drugs will still be an issue the government will have to work out. This policy must also deal with ways to

provide poorer countries around the world with these new and improved drugs.

The first step is admitting that such an overhaul is necessary. With the creation of highly advanced drugs for each individual, the near future may hold the opportunity to live in a world without cancer or life threatening disease.

"BUDGET" - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to the regular operating budget. We Americans also pay for a full quarter of all costs for International Criminal Tribunals, such as the ones needed for Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Quite possibly the most astounding number of all is the United States contribution to the peacekeeping budget—a whopping 26.69 percent! More than a quarter of the budget!

Many liberals will tell you, as they've told me, that the US doesn't contribute all that much. Actually, as the above numbers state, we really do. Our taxes make up \$1.12 billion the UN spends each year. I could think of a lot of ways to spend that money other than throwing it at a seemingly useless international bureaucracy. We could spend it on schools, balance the budget or better yet, give it back to the taxpayers!

In the immediate aftermath of the Tsunami, Liberals and Europeans accused the United States of niggardly funding in relief efforts. These figures from the 2003 fiscal year prove otherwise. The US contributed 57 percent of the world food program's budget to feed 104 million people in 81 countries.

We properly gave 14 percent of the budget for the UN Development program to eradicate poverty and encourage democratic governance. Appropriately, the US provided 17 percent of the budget for the UN Children's fund to feed, vaccinate, educate and protect children in 158 countries. Our tax dollars also made up 33 percent of the budget for the UN High Commissioner for refugees. And these are just the government allocated funds. These are not at all a reflection of the overwhelming donations from private individuals.

The other issue that the UN must keep in mind is that the other nations need our help much more than we need theirs. We asked for help toppling two terrorist governments

in Asia Minor. We got a few nations to help us, but we did most of the fighting and dying ourselves. The UN refused to help the US make the world safer and terrorists less likely to strike against the west again, so the US went alone. We asked for their help, they wouldn't give it. Now we see why. France, or at least French officials, had been receiving quite a nice deal from Saddam.

Many libertarians are calling for the US to completely pull out of the UN. I'd love to side with them on this issue. It would bring me happiness to say the UN is a band of corrupt, selfish, useless liars. And I'd be right in saying so. Many at the UN are clearly corrupt. But I can't agree with them. I think we need the UN.

In theory, the UN is great. The UN is supposed to be a place where international difficulties may be brought to the table and dealt with. The UN is supposed to be a body where representatives from other nations may come together with honesty, truth and integrity.

The UN was founded to be a place where nations could take problems and have them resolved. It was founded to be a place of fairness and a promoter of world peace—not a hotbed of corruption and a proponent of greed. The UN was supposed to stop war and end genocide and promote justice and tolerance. It was not started to help stronger nations take advantage of weaker ones. It was not started to have bureaucrats embezzle and misappropriate billions of dollars while pretending to aid oppressed people.

With the help and the demands of the United States, the UN might again live up to these goals. The UN could be what it was intended for. As I said above, unless there are serious reforms, their budget will be cut. Money is a language all bureaucrats speak, even at the UN.

CENTERPOINT

Pain and Suffering

By FRANCIS GRADIJAN
Forum Editor

Last week you heard a fairly traditionalist defense and critique of the abortion issue. So, this week, I thought I'd mix things up with a new argument; a possible philosophical third way compromise what, for most, is a non-compromisable issue. Although this solution may not be fully acceptable to either side, it might provide some common ground that everyone can agree upon.

My solution is this: rather than debate at what point the conceived zygote becomes 'animal' life or when it evolves a reasoning brain and becomes 'human-life,' merely consider at which point the creation can feel pain.

You see, although some people will still argue that ending a creation's life within the womb is unfair and damns it to never fully experience what it means to be human—and others will argue that the creature is nothing more than a mere parasite at this point, neither side can disagree with the simple fact that after a certain point—a bit after the first trimester, the creature evolves a spinal cord. Because it has a spinal cord and it has begun to develop nerves, the creature can and will feel pain if aborted.

What does it mean then, if we agree that the creation feels pain? Well, I think that we can all agree that pain is inadvisable. We would not willingly inflict pain upon ourselves or those whom we love. Therefore, in a sense, pain is bad for creatures. Indeed, there are even laws against abuse of animals. Thus, regardless of whether one considers the creation a 'human' or an 'animal' at this stage in its development, there does exist similar legislation dealing with dissimilar issues that could, if extended philosophically, make pain-inflicting abortion a crime.

The only objection I can see to a ban on second and third trimester abortions utilizing the 'no-pain' principle developed above,

is that one could argue that the mother, in hosting the child in the womb, experiences the pain of 'morning sickness' and of actual birth itself. However, one could also argue that the child has no choice in the manner of birth, and therefore it is non-culpable in a legal sense for any pains that the mother must endure during the bearing process. Indeed, because the mother participated in activities that conceived the creation, she is in a sense bringing these birth pains upon herself. Therefore, if she chooses to enact pain upon her creation in order to end her own suffering she is committing a crime against an innocent being, much as a police officer would be committing a crime if he shot a person who was forced, at gunpoint, to hand over cash to a bank-robber. However, if someone insists that even though the action of intercourse was perpetrated and there was no choice to bear a child, then these objections can fall upon unresponsive ears. Nevertheless, it should also be acknowledged that the pain the child feels in being torn limb from limb or crushed or simply destroyed would be much greater than the pain the mother would feel in carrying the child to term, since the creation's life would be ended in one case, and the mothers merely made uncomfortable in the other.

Now, this 'no-pain' argument can be used as a defense for President Bush's new Partial Birth Abortion Ban legislation, since that legislation can, in cases where the mother is not in danger of losing her life through birth, allow abortions in the first trimester, but not in the second or third. Indeed, the 'no-pain' argument further supports the legislation, defining the issue in philosophical and scientific terms. Hopefully this further definition has provided a reasonable 'third-way' that will satisfy people unsure of their position in the abortion debate and also define things in terms that abortion advocates will have little or no reason to oppose for vagueness.

ROLEPLAY as a NATION of YOUR CHOICE!

Come to the first meeting of the International
Politics Club- Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Brennan 500

Pass/Fail

By AARON KARO
KRT Campus

Isn't taking classes pass/fail great? They should just call it, "Doing as poorly as possible without actually failing," because that's what everyone tries to do anyway! Pass/fail is strange because your reaction to grades is reversed. You get an A and you're like "Man, I spent way too much time studying for this." You get a D- and you're like, "Yes! I aced it!"

How do people miss the last few questions on a test? After an exam, when everyone is talking about what they thought about the test, there's always that one kid who realizes that he missed the last five questions because he didn't look at the last page. How dumb are you?

Why don't I have any classes that have movies as assignments? I have this friend who is a film major. He never studies, never does work, because all he has to do is watch movies. What kind of classes are these? Hey, how about you give me an A for sitting here and doing nothing all day? I see my friend in his room watching TV, relaxing and drinking a beer and I'm like, "What are you up to?" And he says, "Oh, not much, just doing some homework."

My friend changed majors because the building where all his classes met was too far away. So he switched to a major in a closer building. It's good to know that some of us are making the most of our education. Ever notice that the amount of reading

you actually do for a class is inversely proportional to the amount that is assigned? Think about it. You sit down to do some reading and you see only six pages or so are assigned, so you read all of it. But if you see that you have 50 pages to read, you're like, "Forget this, I'm not reading any of this crap!"

This is something I have always wondered about. Why does Microsoft Word have all those fonts that are nothing but gibberish? You know, you'll be playing around with the fonts, trying to make a fancy cover page instead of actually writing your paper, and you'll get that Wingdings font that isn't letters, just weird symbols. What is the point of that?

For the most part, colleges across America teach Western values, such as democracy and equality. So why do all forms of capitalism cease to exist the moment you step into the campus bookstore to sell back your textbooks? How can they give me \$10 back for a \$100 textbook? What happened to the free market economy and the laws of supply and demand that we learned so much about? I swear I didn't even want the book. I never even opened it; it's brand new! And I love when they offer you a really insulting amount of money back, like 75 cents. At first you're like, "75 cents? No way man, that's ridiculous, I'm just gonna keep the book!" Then you look at this huge textbook that you never used in the first place and you say, "Um, could I get that in quarters?"

Bachelorette by Choice

By ERICA SZYMANSKI
Arts & Life Editor

Bachelorette Jen Schefft made reality television history on Monday Feb. 28, when she turned down not one, but two eligible bachelors. Schefft's disappointing response at the show's conclusion may leave reality television buffs wondering if love can ever exist in the make-believe realm of cameras and lighting.

ABC's two hour season finale began with the bachelorette's two final prospects traveling to her hometown to meet the Schefft family. John Paul Merrit and Jerry Ferris made contrasting impressions on the relatives. While Merrit, 25, of Oklahoma City, convinced the Scheffts that he was prepared for a stable marriage with their daughter, Ferris, 29, of Los Angeles, appeared less certain of his future plans.

After choosing the perfect oval-cut engagement ring and white lace halter dress, Schefft was prepared to make her final decision, or was she? Although Schefft claimed that Merrit had all the right attributes she desired in a husband, there was "something missing" in the relationship. However, when Merrit proposed, viewers caught a glimpse of the exact ring Schefft had admired in an earlier scene at a jewelry store. Perhaps the bachelorette experienced second thoughts about her choice after seeing Merrit's good taste.

Following Merrit's rejection, viewers were left to nervously await Schefft's meeting with the marvelously handsome Ferris. The winning proposal aired during the live after-show titled "After the Final Rose." In a talk show session, Ferris was questioned about his feelings for the bachelorette before his proposal was aired.

When Ferris approached Schefft with a different, yet equally exquisite engagement ring, the bachelorette explained that although she was choosing him, she wanted to take some time before accepting the ring.

It was then revealed that the couple was meeting on the after-show for the first time since the original proposal. Schefft entered the stage and greeted her hand-picked

bachelor. However, when Ferris once again revealed the ring, Schefft did not accept.

"I think that we both came to the realization that we were better as friends," she said.

So after kicking former "Bachelor" star,



Andrew Firestone, to the curb, Schefft managed to find flaws in 25 other single men striving to gain her attention. It seems odd that she would be so incredibly selective after volunteering for the world's most elaborate blind date...twice.

Will America continue to believe in the possibility of TV-based love matches, or has Schefft spoiled the reality television craze? After witnessing numerous relationships crumble, how long can fans keep the faith?

For viewers of unwavering optimism, ABC will be airing yet another series of "The Bachelor," starring Charlie O'Connell, brother of actor Jerry O'Connell. Tune in March 28 for another season of hopeless romance, flowing tears and smooching galore.

'The Gates' in Central Park

By NATALIE HELLMERS
Staff Writer

Central Park was lit with rows of bright orange gates from Feb. 12 through 27. For 16 days, New Yorkers experienced the illusion of a returning autumn when the trees were silhouetted in glowing orange.

Some critics stated that this 26-year project was a waste of time and money, since such great effort was put into an exhibit

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, which originally displayed the plans for this exhibit a year ago, opened up their rooftop to tourists, who were permitted to see the view from up above 86th Street and 5th Avenue. People purchased postcards and paintings of the display and local restaurants and shops gained business as a result of the exhibit's popularity.

Why would an exhibit that cost \$20 million to make have such a short lifespan? In



AQUINAS / NATALIE HELLMERS

THE GATES pictured above graced the legendary Central Park in the heart of Manhattan

that would last a mere two weeks. However, this project cost New York City taxpayers nothing.

The \$20 million that it took to create these 16 foot gates was funded by the artists, Christo and Jeanne-Claude. This husband and wife pair specializes in outdoor art displays, and emphasizes the fact that all materials used are recyclable.

New York residents should be grateful for the profit this art exhibit brought into the city. Hotels were booked by international tourists the past two weekends- all with an interest in The Gates.

their book "On the Way to the Gates," Jeanne-Claude and Christo explain the meaning of their art work. The Gates are a metaphorical representation of life, since all aesthetic things are fleeting.

In past years, Rockefeller Center has been a landmark site decorated by various artists. Hopefully in the future, Central Park will be utilized for the same purpose like it was with this art exhibit. The Gates brought a spirit of festivity to the park which will not be forgotten.



Movie Review: Hitch

By CECILIA BARESS
Staff Writer

At first glance, "Hitch" appears to be the perfect romantic comedy. It was released just before Valentine's Day.

The previews hyped slapstick comedy moments, such as freaky allergic reactions to fish. To top it all off, the movie stars Will Smith, an actor almost guaranteed to bring in the laughs, while oozing charm and good looks. However, "Hitch" is not perfect. Its downfalls include long-winded plot development, predictability and over-hyped comedic moments.

The men who come to Alex "Hitch" Hitchins (Will Smith) for relationship help are in dire need. They are not the best looking guys. They are clumsy, awkward and nerdy. Why does Hitch help them?

Apparently he used to be one of them. In a flashback to Hitch's college years, we see him fall in love with a girl who eventually cheats on him and leaves him because he is too clingy and emotional. After that, he somehow morphs into the fashionable, smooth, "Date Doctor," who anonymously helps guys all over New York City win the girls of their dreams.

However, he only helps men with pure intentions. When hotshot Vance (Jeffrey Donovan) contacts Hitch for advice on how to get a woman into bed, Hitch immediately declines to help him, even when Vance offers him large amounts of money.

Hitch's main client is Albert Brenneman (Kevin James). Albert is an accountant in love with the rich, famous, and newly single Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta). He is on Allegra's board of advisors, yet she has never noticed him. Hitch coaches Albert on how to dance, how to treat Allegra's friends and how to give the perfect first kiss.

However, Albert's awkward, klutzy ways still manage to sneak out and surprisingly, they do not faze Allegra. She falls in love with the real Albert Brenneman-bad dancing and all.

Hitch does not neglect his own romantic needs. He tries to win the heart of gossip columnist Sara Melas (Eva Mendes). In the process, he goes through some embarrassing encounters-most of which were spoiled by TV trailers. As a result, the shock value of Sara getting kicked in the face or Hitch getting his shirt caught in a taxicab door is greatly lessened.

The movie turns serious pretty fast. One minute Hitch and Sara are falling for each other. The next minute, Sara discovers that Hitch is the "Date Doctor" and assumes that she has been played. She runs a column exposing Hitch and Albert. Albert loses Allegra; Hitch loses Sara and his business; and women all over New York City are questioning whether the "Date Doctor" has aided their men.

Don't lose hope! Love wins out in the end (it wouldn't be a romantic comedy otherwise). The conflict is resolved after some plot twists, which are a little too drawn out to be totally effective. Hitch races to fix things with Allegra and Albert and with Sara and himself. As a result, the movie has a cliché happy ending. Of course, one wouldn't go see a romantic comedy if one did not expect a happy ending.

So the movie serves its purpose while delivering some memorable moments that either make you want to laugh out loud or bury your face in your hands and say, "I can't believe he's that bad of a dancer!" If you've got a great attention span and a passion for physical comedy, this is the movie for you!

Thursday Night Fight

By EMILY HOLLERBACH
Arts & Life Editor

Names: Sarah Nowik, Maureen "Mo" Costello, and Amy Brightbill
DJ Name: The girls use their real names for the show.

Show Name: "Thursday Night Fight"

Show Time: 12 a.m. - 2 a.m.

Hometowns: Nowik is from Bath, Costello is from Prospect Park, and Brightbill is from Warwick, NY

Favorite Artists: "Thursday," "Hawthorne Heights," "Rise Against," "Brand New," "The Used," "Underoath," "Mae," "Coheed and Cambria," "Relient K," and "The Flaming Lips"

Favorite Movies: Nowik's favorites are "Napoleon Dynamite" and "The Sound of Music." Costello's favorites are "High Fidelity" and "When Harry Met Sally." Brightbill's favorites are "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "Shaft Goes to Africa."

Interests: Going to concerts, random road trips, Salvation Army shopping, stalking people on Facebook, and hanging out with friends.

Favorite Quotes: "For the alpha-numerically challenged" and "Let's play the Strongbad PSA again."

One of many alternative music shows at WUSR, "Thursday Night Fight" caters to the strong student desire for non-mainstream music. Juniors Sarah Nowik, Mo Costello and Amy Brightbill love to play the music they listen to everyday. The girls say they play emo, some hardcore and screamo, punk, ska, and a little pop punk.

Friends since their freshman year, Nowik, Costello and Brightbill always talked about becoming DJs on WUSR and even made a pact between the three of them that they

would eventually do it.

In the girls' sophomore year, while living at Liva House, they finally got their chance. When their RA, Amie Montemurro, senior from Milford, asked the girls to cover her show one night, they were thrilled. The show went fairly smoothly and the girls had a blast. They subsequently covered a few more of Montemurro's shows before getting their own show the following semester.

With so many alternative shows on WUSR, Nowik, Costello, and Brightbill like to keep their show fresh with contests that allow listeners to call in and win prizes. Earlier this semester, the girls held a taste-test contest between Tasty Cakes and Hostess after Nowik and Costello found out that Brightbill had never tasted Tasty Cakes before. They asked listeners to call in with their preferences and Tasty Cakes won.

Nowik, Costello and Brightbill are very involved outside of WUSR as well. All three of the girls enjoy doing volunteer work and are involved in intramural flag football. Both Nowik and Brightbill are involved in the Health Professions Organization and Biology Club. Brightbill tutors and volunteers at CMC Hospital.

The girls would like to give a shout out to all the PB's, the bum commune, the Leahy girls, 443 Taylor, the English Triad, Mulberry C7, the 313 Taylor crew, their devoted listeners, and their wonderful families.

Tune into "Thursday Night Fight" on March 10 for the "Lyrics Call-In Contest," where the girls will play bits and pieces of lyrics and give the listeners chances to win three CD prize packs. For more information or to participate in the contest on March 10 between 12 a.m. and 2 a.m. call 941-WUSR.

Scranton Boys Hit the Dance Floor

By **EMILY HOLLERBACH**
Arts & Life Editor

When the girls' Urban Beats hip-hop dance team officially became a chartered club this year, a few brave guys seized the opportunity and joined. Comprised of nine male students at The University, the guys Urban Beats hip-hop dance team is the only all-male dance team on campus.

Brandon Guy, junior from New York City, NY, and Donell Young, sophomore from

Royals basketball game, miscommunications between the girls and guys Urban Beats team and the athletic department caused the male Urban Beats performance to be erroneously removed from the half time show. Frustrated and feeling powerless, the guys team almost quit on the spot.

Visurraga and Domingo, however, would not give up so easily. After appealing to the athletic director Toby Lavecchio, the mistake was corrected and Urban Beats performed flawlessly in their second on-campus routine.



AQUINAS / EMILY HOLLERBACH

PICTURED ABOVE Members of the Urban Beats Dance Team

Scranton had the initiative to approach Lesha Knight, junior from Taylor, the captain of the girls Urban Beats hip-hop team, last semester about creating a guys dance team under the same charter.

Knight welcomed Guy and Young to the team, who in turn invited their friends to join. Once a sufficient number of males joined the Urban Beats team, they branched off to form their own, all-male dance team.

Once word spread of the new all-male dance team, Urban Beats member Cesar Visurraga, senior nursing major from Hyattsville, MD, was approached by the Student Nurses Association about performing at their annual dinner. This was the first time the guys officially performed as Urban Beats.

Like with anything worthwhile, establishing the male Urban Beats team as a credible performance group was not easy. Joegi Mathew, sophomore from Long Island, NY, majoring in finance stepped up to lead the group. Due to scheduling conflicts and internal resistance, Mathew found that leading a group of strong-willed guys was not a simple task. Eventually, Urban Beats Vice President Dan Domingo, junior from River Vale, NJ (currently studying abroad in China), suggested that the team direct themselves by collective management and democratic voting.

Internal strife was not the only hurdle Urban Beats had to face. After practicing for three months to perform at a Lady

The guys Urban Beats team, although a fairly new club, is quickly becoming a campus favorite.

"It's something different seeing guys dance and it's exciting," Kerri Hubbard, senior from East Meadow, NY, explains.

Even during practices in the aerobics room of the Byron center, the boys always draw a crowd. Visurraga is not surprised at the apparent interest the students are taking in the team. "This is the first male hip-hop dance team in Scranton ever. We're making history," Visurraga said.

All Urban Beats performances are purely original and every team member contributes something different. Guy, Young, and Andrian Bondad, sophomore from Cherry Hill, NJ, choreograph the performances. Mathew mixes all the music for both the girls and guys teams. The rest of the team performs and Antwuan Evans, junior from Scranton, "pushes play" and provides moral support as the Urban Beats cheerleader.

Look for future performances by the male Urban Beats team in the May talent show, hosted by Urban Beats. A possible partnership with corporate sponsor Red Bull is also in the works, which could possibly provide Urban Beats with much more on-campus visibility.

Any one interested in joining the male Urban Beats team or booking them for an event on or off campus should contact Cesar Visurraga at X7346 or E-mail him at visurragac2@scranton.edu.



AQUINAS / EMILY HOLLERBACH

THE THURSDAY NIGHT FIGHT girls, Sarah Nowik, Maureen Costello, and Amy Brightbill



Celtic Fusion Band Wants You to Enjoy 'Haggis'

By **BRANDON HATLER**
Staff Writer

Not too many people can say they listen to Celtic Rock. A rock band with bagpipes, a fiddle and a bluegrass influence? What a great idea!

Enter the band "Enter The Haggis." Formed in 1996, "ETH" is a self-described Celtic Fusion band, fusing together different styles of music including heavy rock, traditional Celtic music, and bluegrass.

"ETH" is comprised of five members: Brian Buchanan on vocals and fiddle, Craig Downey on bagpipe, Trevor Lewington on guitar, Mark Abraham on bass guitar, and James Campbell on drums.

With members originally from areas such as Scotland, Nova Scotia, Toronto, and Ontario, this Canadian rock band uses Celtic influence for a unique sound.

Their latest album, "Casualties of Retail," was released in 2004. The album contains fan favorites such as "Gasoline," "Music Box," and "Congress."

Since "ETH" is playing at the Scranton Cultural Center in March, I had the opportunity to sit down with active fan Sarah Johnson, sophomore from Clarks Summit, and "ETH" guitarist Trevor Lewington and ask him some questions about the band.

How did you come up with the name, "Enter The Haggis"?

"ETH" was the idea of our bagpipe player who is originally from Glasgow, Scotland. Haggis is a traditional Scottish dish where you take a sheep's stomach and stuff it with its innards and then boil it. Our name is a metaphor for taking what you have and making the most of it. It's just like taking a sheep and taking everything you can and stuffing it. That's what we do, we try and mix many different styles as possible and come up with something not unlike a haggis!

How did "ETH" begin?

It was actually a long process of getting together. There were a few different people in the band in the very beginning, but we pretty much nailed down a great chemistry with the people in the band right now. Our piper, Craig, was living in Toronto in 1996 and he formed the beginnings of ETH. Mark, our bass player, joined about four years ago. Jim [the drummer] and I have been in the band for about six years, and Brian for about five years. It's working out really well now. We're not a commercial band so we're able to play around with different styles and experiment and that's what it's all about, not getting bored and keeping it fresh.

When you started playing music together, was Celtic Rock the agreed form of music you all wanted to play?

I've always had a Celtic music background whether it was from playing acoustic guitar with a fiddle player in high school or taking world music courses in university. Back in high school, we all played in your standard garage rock groups. None of us really imagined that

wed be playing this type of music.

Is there a song on "Casualties of Retail" that the band enjoys the most?

We really enjoy "Music Box" because it came about from all of us jamming around in the rehearsing and recording sessions. That's probably the song that everyone in the band had the most input on. I personally enjoy singing "Down With the Ship" the most. I really feel it comes together when we perform it live.

The song "Gasoline" is very popular among your fans. How did that song come about?

We started recording the album in December 2003. A little before that, I began to get into bluegrass music and bought the live double CD by bluegrass legend Allison Krauss. The intro riff of "Gasoline" was inspired by one of her tunes. A few weeks after Brian and I jotted down some scratch lyrics, we recorded a live two-night show with PBS at [SUNY] Plattsburg in New York. A day before the show, Brian finalized the lyrics for that song. The first night, Brian was looking down at a lyric sheet on the floor and he still messed up the lyrics for it! But the second night we were a little more comfortable with it.

In your live DVD, "Live at Lanigan's Ball" most of the band members are wearing kilts. Do they represent something about you and your heritage?

The reason why we wore kilts at that show was because we were given free kilts as part of a promotional deal. The only people who really wear kilts on a regular basis are Craig and Brian. We feel that our music covers different areas and we didn't want to get pigeon-holed into the category of "Celtic Rock" just because we wore kilts a few times.

You guys are on the road a lot. Do you have any favorite pastimes when you're not performing?

Well, we travel in a 12-seater van with a trailer so there isn't much room to move around. Mark brings his laptop sometimes so we watch a lot of DVDs. We really love the HBO series "The Office." We find it absolutely hysterical. We also spend a great deal of time reading in the van on long rides.

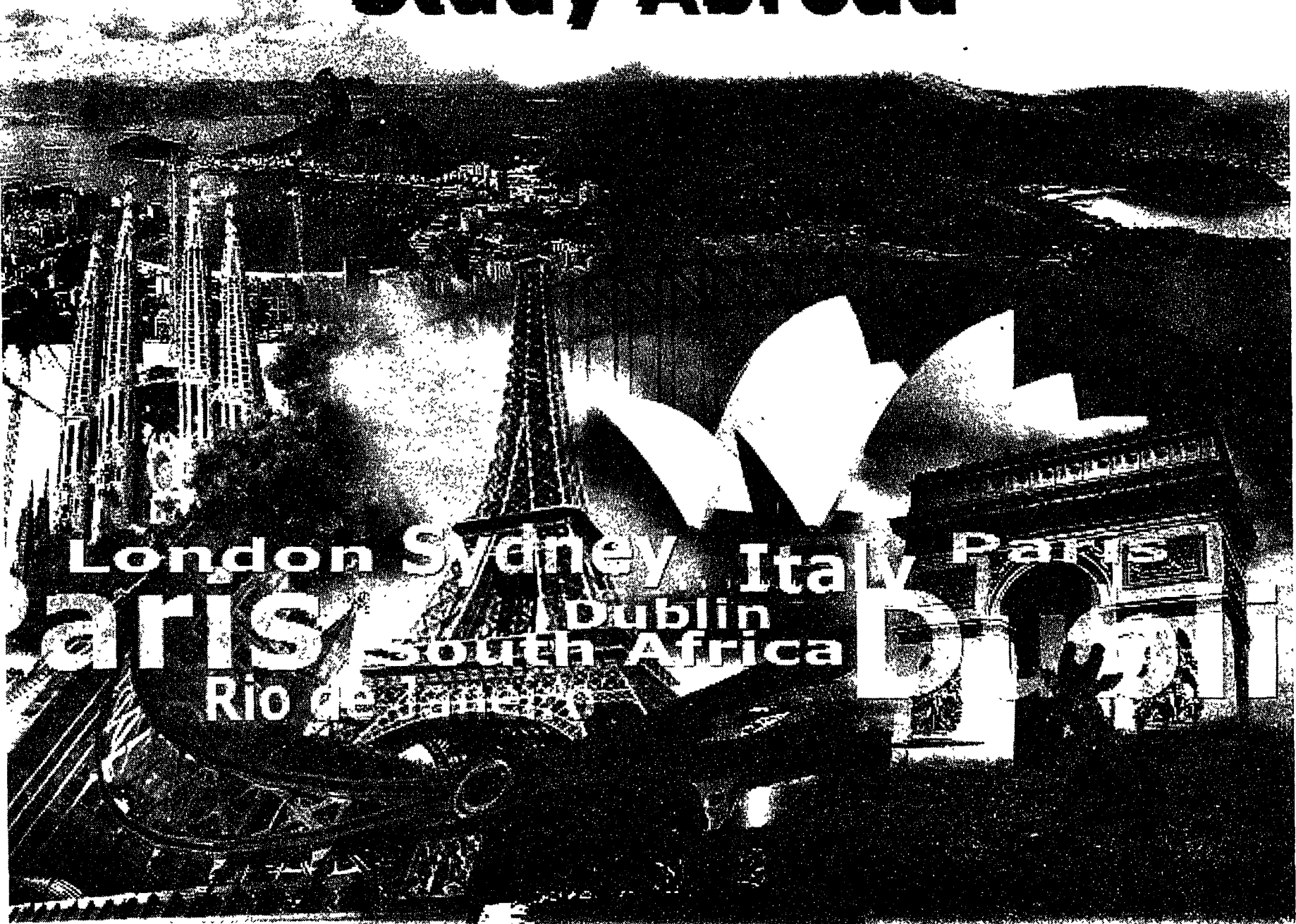
Finally, what would you like to say to the students at The University and your fans in Northeastern Pennsylvania?

We'd just like to say thanks for the past support. We appreciate the enthusiasm and great turnouts whenever we come around the area. As for anyone who's never heard of Celtic Fusion or Celtic Rock, definitely check it out!

"ETH" will be performing at the Scranton Cultural Center on Friday, March 11 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (\$7 with Student ID). For more information visit their website www.enterthehaggis.com.

Arts & Life

Study Abroad



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These letters were written by two students at The University, on the message of true love and chastity in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

To My Future Husband,

Hello, my love. I am thinking about you right now and my heart longs to be with you. All around me I see broken relationships, heartache, misery and despair. I will not settle for these because I know that true love exists and that it is worth waiting for. You are worth waiting for.

In our society today, temptation is everywhere but I know that my sexuality is a beautiful gift from God that I want to give totally to you and only you. I know that what you ultimately desire from me is my purity as a gift. With God's grace, I will be able to give this to you. I want you to be the one, the only one, to unveil my mystery throughout an entire lifetime together. I am praying for the protection of your purity; please pray for mine as well. I may have made some mistakes and for these I ask your forgiveness. Know that I, too, am willing to forgive.

I want you to be a strong man, not only for me, but for your own sake, for the love

of God and for our future children that you will someday hold in your arms. You may be surprised to know that you in no way prove your manhood to me by giving in to sexual temptation. This is not love. I know that deep in your heart you long to fight for what is beautiful. Will you rise up and be that warrior? Know that your sacrifice to preserve your virginity means far more than anything else you can do for me. Not only does this make you wildly attractive, this is true love.

I wait in anticipation for you. God will allow our paths to cross someday but I do not need to wait until then to begin loving you. I am already committed to you, already loving you. I know that God will fulfill our hearts' desires if we let Him.

Until we meet, know of my tender love for you.

Wait for me,

Irene Alfred
Class of 2006

To My Future Wife,

I may or may not have met you yet but let me begin by saying that I love you. I love you in the deepest way any two people can because it is God who joins us together. For this reason I am waiting for you and saving myself. I want to give myself totally and completely to you. I don't want to be "experienced" on our wedding night. I want to be filled with awe and beauty as we consummate the love we declared that day before our family, friends and above all, God.

I want to be a father and have a family with you. When I dream of our family, I see

our hands woven together, holding your pregnant womb. Please don't do anything to jeopardize that. I know you may have made mistakes in the past but I forgive you, just as I pray you will forgive me. You enter my prayers at night. Although I cannot see your face, you are beautiful. Until the day we meet at the altar, I am praying and waiting for you.

Wait for Me,

Trevor Needham
Class of 2006

Campus Mass Schedule

Daily: 12:05 p.m. | 4:40 p.m.

Saturday: Noon

St. Ignatius Chapel / St. Thomas Hall

Sunday: 11:00 am | 7:00 pm | 9:30 pm

Madonna Della Strada Chapel

Rock Hall, 419 Monroe Avenue

Body Art: Take Precautions When Getting Piercings and Tattoos

In 1991, a 5,000-year old corpse was found in the mountains between Austria and Italy. He became known as "Ötzi the Ice Man." What is especially interesting about this man is that he had more than 47 tattoos on various places on his body.

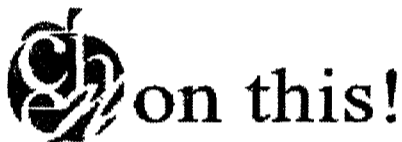
The art of tattooing can be traced to thousands of different cultures from the Bronze Age (like Ötzi), to ancient Polynesians, to India, Ancient Greece, the Celts and the Egyptians. In a similar manner, body piercing has been traced to hundreds of cultures around the world. Ear piercing was present during the same time as Ötzi. Nose-piercing can be traced to a 4,000 year old Middle Eastern culture. Tongue piercing has its roots in ancient Aztec tribes and lip and labret piercing has been practiced widely around the world.

The implication here is that tattooing and piercing—otherwise known as body art—is not some fad or phase that will come and go. It is a ritualistic art form that has embedded itself in almost every culture. Today in our own western culture, body art is as widespread and as diverse as the people who wear it. So it would not be a surprise if you, reader, were considering getting some body art yourself! But before you do, there are some points to consider so that you get the body art that you want and won't regret it.

First of all, you need to consider if body art is right for you. Do you actually like the way body art looks? Have you thought about how it would look on you? Do you have worries about how it would look on you in five or 10 years? Let's face it, tattoos are permanent; and many piercings, although they can be removed, may leave permanent changes to your body. It is important that you consider these changes and are prepared to accept them. While there are some ways to remove and change tattoos, these processes are very expensive and time consuming. If you think now that you may want to have your body art removed in the future, it may be best not to get it at all. Interestingly, some tattoo artists report that changing a tattoo, such as hiding a name of a past love, makes up almost half of their business.

Ask yourself, do you want body art for

your own personal gratification, or because you feel pressured by friends? Are you trying to communicate something that you felt you couldn't say otherwise? Being pressured by friends or feeling spiteful—maybe against parents or an ex—should not sway your decision



A good studio should use hospital-grade sterilization processes as well as use a new needle for every new piercing or tattoo. The studio should be clean everywhere! All surfaces, even in the waiting room should look and smell clean. Otherwise, there may be bacteria and other

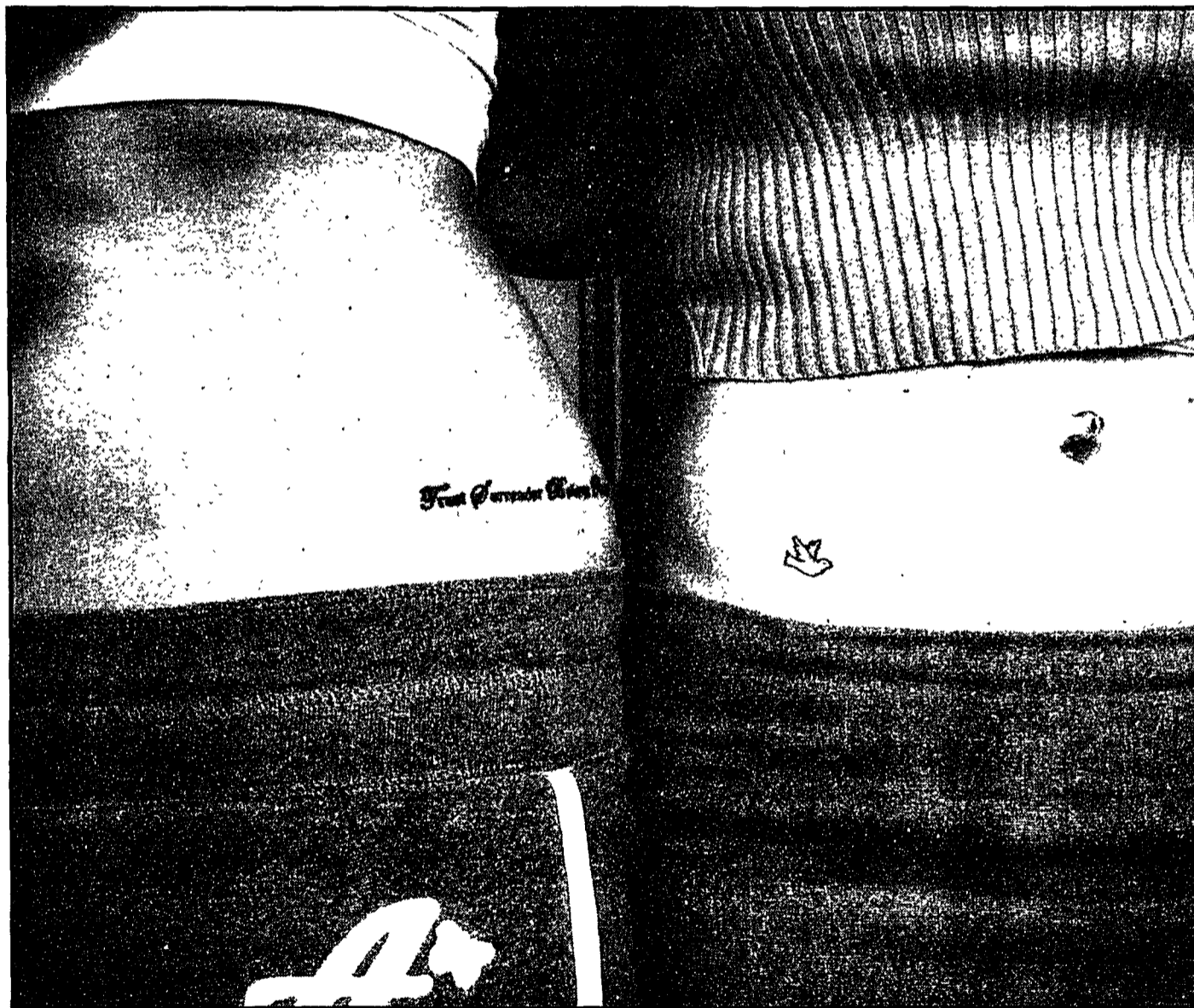
determines its ultimate look and quality. For example, if you take excellent care of your new tattoo or piercing by applying the appropriate antiseptic everyday—limiting its exposure to friction and following the other guidelines that the studio provides you with—your body art should heal quickly.

The redness and swelling caused by a tattoo should alleviate within days and the tattoo should remain vibrant. Piercings should

heal quickly without any discharge, bleeding or migration (yes a piercing can move on you if you don't take care of it). Long-term care includes daily cleaning, touchups in the case of tattoos and new jewelry in the case of piercings (although most surgical steel jewelry can last for years).

It is important to embrace your body's own uniqueness without any body art. If you do want to take the leap, sleep on the decision for a long time— it is not wise to be impulsive when it comes to permanently changing your body. Ask other people about their experiences and if they can make any recommendations about a studio or particular procedure. Try wearing a fake version for a while to see how you like it.

SPECIAL THE AQUINAS / CHEW



Members of the CHEW crew show off their body art

about body art. The decision should be made by you alone when you are sober, without being under the influence of drugs, alcohol, love or anger.

Do you know the risks involved in getting body art? Body art procedures are safe and involve little risk— if you go to the right studio and follow the appropriate aftercare guidelines. Choosing a studio is a very important decision and could be the difference between being happy and safe versus having regret and acquiring an infection.

The artist should be willing to talk to you about your decision and answer any questions you may have about the process and their experience. You can even ask to see a portfolio if it would make you feel more comfortable.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, are you prepared to take care of it as needed? Body art takes anywhere from two weeks to a full year to heal depending on the type of art and location. How you care for your body art during the healing process usually

cheesy but it works and can be lots of fun! Search the web and other resources for an example of what you want and to give yourself a better idea of what to expect. Above all, if you are good to your body, your body will be good to you. Keep and eye out for more information about body art at CHEW's "Safe Spring Break Fair," Wednesday, March 16 in the Long Center from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

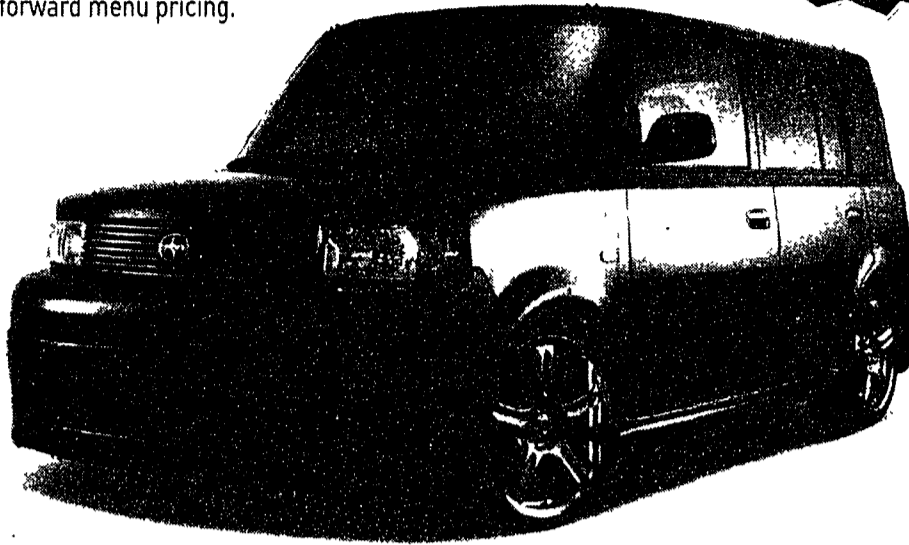
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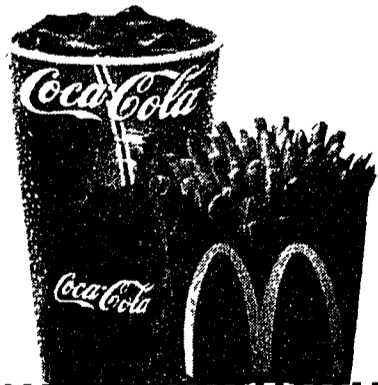
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Spring 2005: Mixing & Matching With What You Got!

BY BRIGGITTE SCHELL
Staff Writer

Color is one of the most important aspects of fashion for 2005. This spring there happens to be an overflow of color. From darks to lights, everything can work as long as you pair it correctly. Always remember that contrast is very big, mixing blacks and grays with whites, pale pinks and periwinkle blues. These subtle color differences are slimming to the body and create a more adult look. Next, if you feel these colors are too subtle for you, this spring bright and bold is just as good. In particular, you should accent with deep maroon reds, saffron yellows and forms of brown. Bringing ethnicity into your clothing can make you look more grown up, smarter and intrigue the mind if the opposite sex. Lastly, there are what some call the "color punch up." These colors can be added to an outfit of any color to virtually add punch to your look. Colors such as creamsicle orange, ruby, turquoise, jade, shades of gold and deep blues can do this. They elicit a more intense look with little effort.

For women:

-Sophistication can come very easily. Instead of dressing from head to toe in elaborate and overdone outfits, mix a very feminine piece with something simple and clean.
-Forever 21 seems to have good, affordable selections of shirts ranging from \$12 to \$30 in many different styles, including ethnic-inspired, very bright, very dark or maybe just the perfect blend.

Royal's Season Ends

By NED BRITTON
Senior Writer

A shrug of the shoulders. A nod of the head. A smile that quickly fades. For Brian O'Donnell and his University teammates the season ended too quickly and words were not needed. In this case the expression was enough.

That is how it happens this time of year. A whole season can be lost in five minutes. No preparation. No reflection. Just over.

Player of the year, Brian Horgan, checks in, hits some three's and it is back to the classroom.

Last Wednesday night Cinderella's slipper fell off as the Royals lost, 76-70, to a King's team they had beaten twice during the regular season.

All year the Royals made amazing second-half comebacks. Not Wednesday night though. Wednesday, King's held them off and ended a season that continued to build bigger and bigger dreams all the way up to the end.

Goals of making the playoffs had turned into goals of winning the championship and making a run in the NCAA Division III tournament. That is all over now. Now they have to settle for the ECAC Southern Championships, the NIT of Division III basketball.

So one might think that after winning 19 games and going from cellar dweller to the No. 3 seed, these guys might have some regrets. Maybe a few complaints about the way it ended. A team they beat handedly at the beginning of the season got into the Division III NCAA tournament and they did not. There have to be a few grips.

Nope, not really. Not even O'D. Talk to him and he sounds like a public relations pro.

"It hurts but the way you have to look at it is we could have been in the NCAA's and teams we beat are in there but at the same time we won 19 games," O'D said. "We had a great season."

So what about Albright making it in? "Yeah, we could have and maybe should have been there but at the same time it's like, wow we really had a great season." Answers you expect to get to pop out of it they stay the same.

Excitement? Sure. And all these guys are not Cinderella. They were good. They were not jokers making a playoff run. They were a legitimate threat.

Maybe that is the hardest part. Look at O'D. and talk about the season and its obvi-

-Pairing any shirts like this with a simple pair of jeans and a small healed shoe will leave you comfortable, cleverly adult and give you the perfect look of the season at a reasonable price.

-The key is to ooze girliness but with a semi-tough effect.

For men:

-Sophistication takes effort but is more than reachable. Stop popping that collar! It's not cool and no one thinks you look cool with it.

-Wear button down shirts that have strong contrast such as dark blue and white. The only two light colors that still look good together are pink and white. I recommend American Eagle. They have incredibly reasonable prices and button down shirts in every color you could think of.

-Also, Abercrombie & Fitch gives you this look. Although you may not want to spend the extra money, that money is well spent in making you look like you know what you're doing.

-Pair this look with jeans and a pair of semi-nice shoes and you have just impressed that girl across the room because you know your style

The key to fashion this spring is being willing to take chances with colors and understand that too much is not good and too little is not good either. Don't think you need to buy new wardrobes and accessories. Mix old things with a few new. Be crazy. Think outside of the box. Fashion is alive this spring with such bold looks. Blending different styles isn't clashing-it is BOLD, intriguing and now imperative to having the look of the season.

ous. A 20 win season and this team is probably still dreaming. Still going against the odds and making their fans hyperventilate during another late second-half run.

He is not going to say it but O'D's eyes tell you it is true.

Had they beaten FDU-Florham, coach Danzig is still pacing the sidelines, Randy Arnold and Darren Cannon are still taking three's outside of everyone else's range and O'D. is still banging down low.

They win that game they are the No.1 seed and playing at home in the playoffs instead of at King's on the road.

One more regular season win and, well the answer lies in the shrug of the shoulders. The nod of the head. And that tongue in cheek smile O'D. uses in the place of all those words that cannot describe the feeling quite as well.

Then you remember where this team was four months ago. A smile forms, and hey, it was a heck of a ride.

Fashion Tip of the Week: Girls!

The new spring fashion lines have brought out a tremendous selection of hot denim skirts, which would look perfect with a pair of Uggs, flats or moccasins. Yet, the weather is still pretty brutal and my rule is if there is still snow out on the ground, don't wear a skirt!

However, even I have broken my own rule with a wearing nylons! Your grandmother wears them and our mothers liberated against them! But I must say, wearing a pair of nylons with that "extra-firm support" (even if you do not need it) creates a great look to any leg type, as long as you get it in the color that most closely resembles your skin. So toss the jeans and try on the skirts!

Beauty Tip of the Week: Girls!

Bold, luscious lips in peachy and nude tones are really in this season. Yet, if you feel that your lips are a tad bit on the thin side, have no worries I have a solution for you!

Invest in a lip plumper and nude lip-liner! I adore "Pure Venom" lip plumper, which can be found online at Sephora.com. It gives you that tingly kick that adds just the right amount of plump. You then add a touch of your concealer on the outside lip lines and apply the nude liner starting from the middle and carefully outlining each side. The result will be an amazing set of lips, surely ready for a kissable night!

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Sports



Men's Basketball Wrap-up

Page 11

Lady Royals: MAC Champions Again

By NED BRITTON
Senior Writer

Long after The University won its second consecutive MAC Freedom Conference Championship, Eileen Webster was still wearing the remnants of the net around her neck.

Around here these championships have become a right of passage. They have won four over the past six years. The University's coach Mike Strong has won 14 of them. You get the idea that when Strong sits down freshman at the beginning of their careers here, he makes winning at least two championships a requirement for graduation.

The seniors on this team (Tara Gemmel, Maura Kane, Megan McMurdo, and Webster) won three. Requirement fulfilled.

The sophomore class has fulfilled it as well. Maybe Strong will have to boost the number to three.

The MAC Championship, however, is just the tip of the iceberg of what this team can accomplish.

Talk to Strong and he makes a few things very clear.

No. 1, he believes strongly in this



SPECIAL TO THE AQUINAS

COACH STRONG and the Lady Royals are the 2004-05 MAC Freedom Conference champions

team. Safe to say Strong knows a winner when he sees one. He won a NCAA Division III title in 1985 and 20 years later feels he has that shot again.

No. 2 is he believes that along with all the senior leadership, there are a couple of sophomores that are pushing this team forward. If the four seniors are the anchor, Taryn Melody and Allison Matt are the throttle.

Everyone knows Melody was player of the year in conference

but it was Matt who took home MVP honors for the conference tournament.

No. 3 is they have the role players that hold everything together. This team is all about specialization and The University has a player who can come off the bench to do whatever the team needs.

Need a rebound? Kane comes in. Need a steal - here comes Erin Healy. Perimeter defense? Kelly Lewandowski.

The list goes on and it led the

Lady Royals to 26 straight wins, the No.1 seed in the NCAA, a first round bye and hopefully home court advantage up until the Final Four, which is held at a neutral site in Norfolk, Virginia.

Their first tournament game will be in the round of 32 at the Long Center, Saturday, March 5, at 7 p.m., against the winner of McDaniel College and Frostburg State.

That is good news for the Lady Royals who are virtually invincible

at the Long Center. In this tournament, only the Final Four is held on a neutral court and with The University being the No.1 seed that means if anybody wants to knock them off they have to do it here.

With a win on Saturday, the Lady Royals would advance to the Sweet 16 where, barring an upset, they should face Messiah who is ranked No. 8 in the country. This is like Illinois facing North Carolina in the Men's Division I tournament in the Sweet 16. Not an easy draw.

A win there and they advance to the Elite Eight to most likely face Bowdoin University, the same team that eliminated them last year on Bowdoin's home court. Bowdoin is currently ranked No. 2 in the country.

So you get the idea the Final Four kind of starts in the Sweet 16 for the Lady Royals.

It is not an easy route but one the Lady Royals are eager to start. That net around Webster's neck was not a celebration as much as it was a sign of the ultimate goal.

One net down. One more to go.

Ned Britton is a senior communication major from Middletown, NJ.

Baseball Feature: Dom McNulty

By RICH BARRABI
Staff Writer

A veteran catcher with a wealth of experience can do wonders for a young pitching staff. The value of a leader that understands situations and strategy, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of his pitchers, and the importance of a strong work ethic, cannot be measured on the back of a baseball card.

The University's baseball team believes senior Dom McNulty could be that leader this season.

The University's pitching staffs during his first three seasons have been disastrous. Last year, the Royals team ERA was 8.81. It is impossible to be successful when a team does not have solid pitching, and the Royals finished with a 7-27 record in 2004.

Many of the players believe the influence of McNulty in a growing leadership role could be the key to a vastly improved pitching staff this season.

"He's always working hard and he tries to make sure everyone on the team is working at the same level," sophomore infielder Rob Armenti said. "You won't find anyone on the team that doesn't respect him."

Junior pitcher Brian Felkowski echoed Armenti's claims.

"The pitching staff has tremendous confidence in him because of his ability and knowledge of the game behind the plate," Felkowski said.

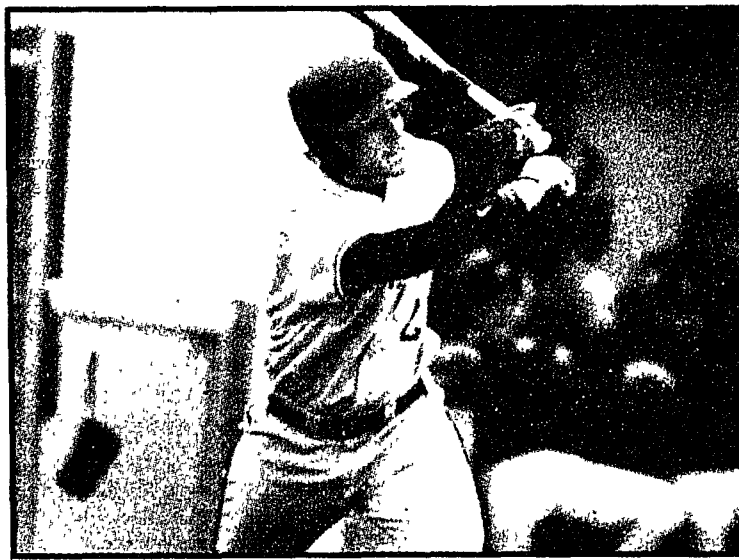
McNulty knows all too well the inability of the Royals pitching staff to bail his team out of difficult situations.

"I think it's always hard for guys to pitch effectively when you always start the game in a hole because then you try to do too much," McNulty said. "The key to pitching is controlling what you can and let the other guys in the field do their part."

The Royals pitching staff will see a significant overhaul this season,

as last year's senior duo of Mike Urbanovich and Brian Grady has since departed. This leaves the team with a large void, however it also presents an opportunity for

McNulty, who was the bullpen catcher for the Triple-A Scranton Red Barons this summer, has learned not only by doing but by watching as well.



SPECIAL TO THE AQUINAS

DOM MCNULTY provides veteran leadership for the Royals

many of the younger pitchers on the team.

McNulty is being counted upon to help these inexperienced pitchers by tutoring them both on and off the field.

"Dom is one of the most hard-working and dedicated players I have ever seen," freshman pitcher John Gennaoui said. "As a freshman, he has given me the confidence and motivation to succeed at the college level."

Pitchers can be confident in the fact that McNulty will come through for them behind the plate. He did not commit an error in 17 starts last season, and he has been successful in throwing out would-be base stealers as well.

"I think he gives pitchers confidence because he's been there for like three or four years calling games and blocking pitches," sophomore outfielder Nick Rodio said. "He keeps guys off of second base."

"You need to be aware of every aspect of the game," McNulty said. "[The Red Barons players] were always doing more than what was expected to strive to be the best and make it to the next level."

"Some players were better than others but by the way they worked you could never tell."

Last season in the World Series, experts raved about the respective jobs of Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek and his counterpart, St. Louis Cardinals catcher Mike Matheny, in handling their pitching staffs, and the unique relationships they had with their pitchers. On a lesser level, McNulty has a chance to be that kind of player for the Royals this season. For The University to be a legitimate MAC Freedom Conference contender, he needs to be.

Rich Barrabi is a sophomore communication major from East Meadow, NY.

It's Softball Time

By ROB ARMENTI
Staff Writer

With all the snow we have been getting lately, it is hard to think of a warm weather sport such as softball. But while everyone else has been sledding down the commons, The University's softball team has been working hard indoors preparing for the upcoming season.

Jerry Alunni enters his third season as head coach of the Royals and is looking to build upon the team's 17-16 record from the 2004 season. He was an assistant coach in 2001 and 2002 when the Royals recorded their first winning season since 1992 and made appearances in the Freedom Conference postseason tournament, so he knows what it takes to win games.

The girls on the team also know what it takes. They are working hard, staying focused, and trying to improve on the basics of the game. The team's motto is "work together." They stress the importance of playing as a team and being comfortable with each other.

"I think we have a great shot this year," junior outfielder Michele Segear said. "We have a great work ethic and are staying focused by taking it one day at a time."

While the Royals have lost some key players to graduation, they are confident that they will be able to make up for them with a solid group of returning players and a talented freshman class.

"The freshmen are a talented bunch of girls with great qualities on and off the field," Segear said. "They adjusted and meshed with the team quickly."

Offensively, the team looks to be in great shape. They have seven returning players who all hit over .300 last season, led by sophomore outfielder Michelle Ballantyne, who hit .485. Senior captain Tracy Granzio hit over .300 in each of her first three seasons as a Royal

and is expected to play a key role on the team this year. Other key players will be junior Allison Schmidt, and sophomores Melanie Carnevale and Michelle Bochanski.

If the offense picks up where it left off last year, the Royals should have no problem scoring runs. An area where the team needs to put in some extra work, however, is defense. The Royals made 53 errors in 33 games last season and it is a well known fact that errors cost a team games. By practicing the basics in preseason workouts, it should help the Royals cut down on errors and give them a better chance to win games.

The team will greatly miss the pitching of Sarah Rhodes who led the Royals last year with a 10-6 record and a 1.67 ERA. This year, they will look to Granzio, who was second on the team last year with a 2.28 ERA, and Senior Beth Mullen. Other pitchers that are expected to contribute are freshmen Carlyne King, Kim Eckenrode and Tanya Parolari.

Last season, the Royals started out great, winning six of their first nine games. But after that, they had trouble staying consistent and went on an up and down streak of winning and losing.

By working hard and staying focused in the preseason, the Royals hope it will give them an edge on other teams and keep them playing strong throughout the whole season.

The Royals will put all their work to use on their spring break trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where they will play eight games to start their season.

With the talent, experience and work ethic that the Royals have shown so far this year, they have a chance to be a legitimate contender in the Freedom Conference.

Rob Armenti is a sophomore communication major from Ramsey, NJ.