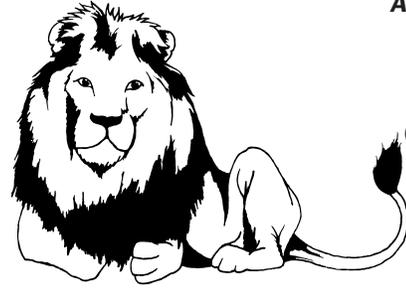


Happy Halloween

The Crown Prints

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Monarchs 'bloom' in Homecoming Week

Reimers and Sylvester reign over annual event.

By Jayci Roh

The 2018 homecoming theme was "Monarchs in Full Bloom." The senior committee and senior moderator/ high school English teacher Mrs. Teresa Pokorny planned a full week of activities for the Aquinas Students.

The senior homecoming committee created this year's theme. "The theme is created by a combination of different ideas the group came up with and for the dress up days to make it fun," Pokorny said.

Monday's theme was "Nature's beauty in Monarchs" where students wore floral/ Hawaiian/ camouflage shirts with uniform pants/ shorts. On Tuesday students did a "Monarch Double Take" which had a student dressing as twins with another student.

Wednesday's theme was, "Monarchs Through the Ages," and students dressed as a baby or in elderly attire. "Wild Monarchs" roamed the halls on Thursday when students dressed in camouflage or gardening attire. Friday's theme was "Blooming Monarchs" students showed their pride wearing black, white and gold.

Junior Macy Kobza said her favorite dress up day was "Twin Day" because she got to dress as a cow. Senior Sierra Meysenberg's favorite dress up day during the week was "Monarchs Through the Ages" because "it was funny to see everyone."

The senior committee consists of class officers and the seniors who volunteered. "Each person had different ideas and jobs to help with different things

throughout the week," Pokorny said. The most challenging part about planning and executing homecoming according to Pokorny is "deciding on an idea and coming up with the ideas, so it's not restrictive, and so people have some options with how to participate."

Although the senior committee has different tasks, Pokorny plans the class games along with middle school social studies teacher Mrs. Ann Heermann. Class games are "top secret information that only Mrs. Heermann and I know," Pokorny said.

Underclassmen have responsibilities

when it comes to homecoming. Underclassmen participate whether they are in a class game or dressing up. Junior Class President Macy Kobza says that she has to "schedule people for games and overall be in charge of the class video." According to Kobza, homecoming is "a good excuse to have a good time."

Each high school class had to come up with a class video. Each of the class officers are in charge of the video. The videos were premiered at the homecoming pep-rally Wednesday night. The overall winner of the class games were the seniors.

The 2018 homecoming senior royalty candidates for king were Miles Eggleston, Jack Jakub, Tad Naiberk, Joseph Reimers and Zach Zavodny. Vanessa Bohuslavsky, Faith Kozisek, Hannah Moravec, Larissa Sellers, and Sydni Sylvester were the candidates for the queen. The king and queen chosen for this year's homecoming was Joseph Reimers and Sydni Sylvester.

The best part about homecoming according to Meysenberg was the dance because she liked seeing people dress up and the people have fun with it. According to Meysenberg, [homecoming] is an important tradition for a school to have because "it's nice to have a time when alumni can come home."

Homecoming is another last for seniors. Meysenberg said "[Homecoming] is exciting but sad that it's my last homecoming because I won't be able to go to another dance."





A growl... or a roar.
Monarchs sound off.

What is your favorite part of homecoming week and why?



Senior Hannah Moravec

“Getting to work with classmates for games and videos because we got to bond.”



Sophomore Alli Hartman

“Dressing up because some people are really creative, and it’s fun to see what they come up with.”



Senior Lindsey Nickolite

“The class games because they were fun to watch, and they’re unique to our school.”



Science Teacher Mr. John Wehrs

“It’s fun to see all the students in different outfits because you see their personalities more.”

Safety over comfort

By Jayci Roh

The Aquinas students and staff now use a new security procedure by wearing identification lanyards. Policy requires each student and staff member to wear this item at all times.

Each year Aquinas’ response team evaluates different ideas to help Aquinas Catholic Schools to become safer. After much consideration the response team decided the student body and staff should wear lanyards for identification. High school English teacher and response team member Mrs. Teresa Pokorny said, “We trained with Dr. Dudley. He is a well-known response teacher who has responded to school situations from Columbine to Sandy Hook. We did a training with him this summer and decided it was time to make the lanyards for security.”

Dudley’s trainings are available all over, and Pokorny said, “Most of the trainings are provided in Lincoln. Mine started with my master’s class, and at Aquinas we began to take different trainings throughout Nebraska.” Pokorny has been training with Dudley for the last twenty years, as he updates his training, and the school stays current with the different ideas.

Some people may find the lanyards to be annoying, and Pokorny said one major complaint has been how easily the lanyards break. The response team recently invested

in new, stronger plastic covers for the students to use for their identification lanyard.

“Students weren’t used to [the lanyards], but we’re getting better. Sadly, lanyards are a necessity needed in the current world,” Pokorny said. In the year 2018 there have been multiple school shootings, including the shootings in Texas, Florida, School, Kentucky, and Los Angeles. Other well-known school shootings are Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut (2012) and Columbine High School in Columbine, Colorado (1999).

The response team is always looking for ways to secure the school in case of a life or death situation. Pokorny said, “We continue to work with police officers to work on providing a secure learning environment. Pokorny said a “[Lanyard] is a means of identification while in the building, so when we have substitutes, students can identify who should and shouldn’t be in the building.”

Students and staff members are required to wear the lanyards at all times and consequences exist for non-compliance. Pokorny said the consequences are “initially just a demerit and eventually move it to a detention.”

Pin the tail.. on the flower?



Aquinas para professional Mrs. Miriam Chermok puts a blindfold over sophomore Keegan Lavicky’s head during the “Flower Power” homecoming game at the public pep rally on Wednesday of Homecoming Week. During the pep rally parents are included in the class games and won the “Monarchs on the Fly” Game. The points were awarded to the seniors who placed second. Photo by J. Brown



Sparrows one act takes flight

By Hayden Schawang

Though the travesties of Hitler’s “Master Race” ended over 70 years ago, the story of the Hitler Youth is still relevant today. This year “Sending Down the Sparrows” by Laura Lundgren Smith is the competitive one-act for the Aquinas drama department.

The story’s setting takes place in Hitler’s Nazi Germany. As a reluctant member of the Hitler Youth, Viktor is surrounded by Nazi ideology, from the math problems he is given in class to the conversations he has with his friends. Viktor is different because of his developmentally disabled sister Alina, who he visits in a state institution. As he learns just how far the Third Reich will go in the name of “genetic purity,” he must choose where he stands, no matter what it costs.

According to junior Travis Roh, who plays the lead role of Victor, this production is much darker and less comic than previous years’ competition pieces. Drama director Mrs. Ann Heermann said, “We haven’t done a full drama in many years. We’ve always had a lighter dramatic show, and there

normally is comic relief. This show has no humor.”

The production shows an inside perspective on the Nazi Regime and Hitler Youth. Performing such an intense show about Hitler’s genetic cleansing offered an interesting outlook for sophomore Josh Uhrmacher, who plays the antagonist role of Karl. “I’ve learned a new perspective of the Nazi’s while performing as Karl, and how detailed the Nazi’s were. They were not just serving their country, but they were serving for their leader.”

Utilizing new actors and having the ability to portray such a serious topic takes time to develop. Roh said, “We have quite a few new actors or people who haven’t had much stage time. Time will be spent getting those people accustomed to the stage. However, we have amazing directors, and some strong returning actors.”

The production will have several showings. The uncut show will perform on Oct. 27, and the first competition is at Norfolk High School on Nov. 3. The cast will per-

form at Butler County One Act Night on Nov. 15, and conference one-act productions will take place on Nov. 19. The show will compete at districts, and may compete at state.

The first competition of “Sending Down the Sparrows” will be at Norfolk High School. Roh said, “[At that competition] we are competing against six class A schools for our first performance. We may or may not struggle with it, but [our performance] will show we are working that much harder to get where we can be.” Heermann added Aquinas is one of the smallest schools attending.

According to Roh, the overall message of “Sending Down the Sparrows” must be known. “We need to remember the message, so we never repeat ourselves. The Youth was so easily brainwashed. What people teach children is going to be carried on through generations.” Both Uhrmacher and Roh agree the message of the show is “every life is worthy of life.”

Aquinas’ super scary fall play

By Braden Smith

Lights! Camera! Action! Aquinas thespians hoped to impress audiences through their comedy one act. These thespians practiced for weeks in order to perfect their show. The play is called “Super Scary” written by Tim Kochenderfer.

The fall show has many different parts that fall into one main plot. The main plot of the play consists of a man who attempts to entertain his audience. He does this through a series of scary stories. However, he is repeatedly interrupted until the concept of “scary” is gone. Senior actor Luke Stara explained his character’s role and situation in the play. “My character is like the most popular kid in school, but he’s a mummy. The mummy and Frankenstein, played by senior Zachary Chromy, are trying to get Belle, played by junior Jayci Roh, and we both have our own different ways of doing it, my characters being unsuccessful.”

The fall show can definitely be challenging, but actors say it is also very fun. Stara

said the toughest part for him is being something you are not on the stage. “[Drama] takes a lot of training and discipline to drop your normal personality, and to step into a character’s shoes, but it’s worth it.”

The fall show can also be an opportunity to try something new, or face a fear. For sophomore Deyanira Villa, the Aquinas stage is a first time experience. Villa said the reason she wanted to participate in the fall show was to “get over my fear of stage fright.” Villa added that she has a lot of fun because she gets to be with her friends.

The fall show opened up opportunities to many students. This year senior Katie Brezina took the opportunity to be the student director of productions. The role requires “doing whatever Mrs. Heermann wants. I set up lines, call scenes or control a small group,” Brezina added “This opportunity teaches you to delegate things, and seeing how hard these people work and seeing the show from beginning to end is enjoyable.”



Seniors Caitlin Hoefler and Matthew Duke performing in the fall play *Super Scary*. The fall play had a large cast of 30 students while the one act had a cast of 22 students. Photo by J. Brown



Agent Orange: Affecting veterans and their descendants

By Morgan Littlefield

In 1962 President John F. Kennedy approved a chemical defoliant that would be used to destroy Vietnamese jungles and crops. Agent Orange covered Vietnam, with whom the United States was at war, as well as Laos, and Cambodia. However, the chemical also covered the American service personnel, causing damages for decades to come.

Agent Orange consisted of two harmful herbicides: 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D. The combination created an extremely toxic dioxin: TCDD. A dioxin is highly toxic compound produced as a byproduct in some manufacturing processes, notably herbicide production. This compound is a serious environmental pollutant.

The United States dumped over 18 million gallons of the herbicide over more than four-and-a-half million acres in the involved countries. Mr. Hank Bagwell, who is currently directing a documentary on Agent Orange, said, "Soldiers were told that [Agent Orange] was simply a weed killer and had no effects on humans...they drank the water that was contaminated and wore clothes that were soaked in it."

The "yellow rain" of Agent Orange affected over two million United States service personnel. The government recognized only one of those two million cases. According to Mr. George Winston's Agent Orange's Long Legacy: Its Now Affecting Vets' Grandchildren, the dangerous chemicals created hundreds of birth defects in future generations, including "spina bifida, extra and missing digits, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and leukemia". Additionally, the contaminated soldiers experienced sudden cancers and skin diseases.

One of those affected was Mr. Timothy Morrison. He served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Elkhorn during the Vietnam War. After the war ended, he began experiencing lung issues and grave unexplained skin rashes. In 2015 he was diagnosed with sudden and severe stage four cancer in his brain, kidney, lungs, and spine. Morrison was only given a few months to live, but he survived two painful years.

Morrison's daughter was born with ex-

trema birth defects. Growing up, this woman endured surgeries and received new casts every three weeks. Today the bone deformities and nerve damage still affect her, making it difficult to write or hold objects for long. She has lost feeling in parts of her hand and gained extreme pain in others. Morrison's daughter also has deep, foot-long scars in her arm from the constant surgeries.

The recent passing of Senator John McCain has led many to suspect that the sudden onset of his brain cancer was also caused by Agent Orange. Senator McCain was a prisoner of war and refused early release to spend several years in Vietnam's "Hanoi Hilton." Many believe he was exposed to the toxic substance before and during his capture.

Winston's article on Agent Orange's long-term effects also points out an obvious fact: the government refuses to acknowledge the alarming amount of damage done to its citizens and drags its feet about doing anything to correct the situation. Morrison's daughter never received a promised a disability compensation before she finished high school and joked, "My parents said that those bills could have put me through Harvard."

Bagwell hopes his future documentary opens eyes: "If [the government] would treat veterans so poorly, what do they think of you?" The amount of Agent Orange related incidents has skyrocketed, and more are coming forward with their personal stories. The government allowed the dangerous chemicals to be sprayed with no safety precautions and refuses to take responsibility for the herbicide's effects. Bagwell said, "I want us to seek truth and justice—not just browse for snippets that embrace what we want to believe."

Agent Orange may seem to be an issue of a past time, a moment in history. However, this is untrue. Issues with Agent Orange have gone on to affect even Morrison's grandchildren. Morrison is this reporter's grandfather. His daughter is my mother. This reporter deals with the effects of Agent Orange daily.

All Ghosts and Goblins... It's Halloween

By Hayden Schawang

Trick or treat? More like spooks in the streets! Halloween is currently a time of celebration; however, All Hallows Eve was once one of humanities' wards of defense against demonic spirits.

Halloween is an annual holiday celebrated each year on Oct. 31. It originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities such as trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating sweet treats.

The tradition of trick-or-treating originated from English and Irish cultures. Americans borrowed from their ideas and began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition. Halloween is now the second largest commercial holiday, and one quarter of all the candy sold annually in the U.S. is purchased for Halloween.

According to senior Jacob Cech, Halloween is meant to be a time of unwinding and leisure. "[Halloween] is celebrated, so people can dress however they want, and people have time to chill and relax. Additionally, kids get free candy." Cech added he once visited nearly every house in David City on Halloween.

Halloween traditions, like other holidays, are celebrated in their own unique way. Junior Shyler Jones said, "Most of my family relaxes at home and watches *Hocus Pocus* on Halloween." Cech added his family's favorite tradition is to turn off all lights in the house, so visitors stay away.

The age to start and stop trick or treating are both relative. Jones said, "People start trick or treating around the age of six, because there are some things that will scare kids any younger. Trick-or-treating ends around 15 or 16 because candy is for the kids." Cech said with the starting point being whenever the visitor is conscious enough to realize the tradition involves free candy, and the end being whenever they realize there are other things to do.



Serving their way to victory

By Emily Dalton

From their first game to their last, the middle school volleyball team has worked hard to overcome their weaknesses. Now that the season is over, the players can see the results.

The teams finished off a successful season with wins for both the 'A' and 'B' teams against St. John's. The C team also performed well this season, winning the Scotus 'B' tournament earlier this year. The season was filled with hard work, and a "best" game was not agreed upon. Head coach Ms. DeDe Demuth was especially happy with their games against Centennial. "[Centennial] isn't a bad team, and [all three of our teams] won."

Although the young volleyballers finished successfully, the season started with a loss. According to Demuth, the three teams only had ten practices to prepare for their first game, many of those days being used to decide what the teams would be. Because of this, their first game against

Archbishop Bergan was their weakest. Demuth said, "That first game showed us what we needed to focus on most."



Eighth grader Allisen Jelinek prepares to serve a volleyball. The middle school volleyball a and b teams finished with a 5-3 and 6-2 record, respectively.

In their first game, the teams' weakness in their serving and serve received showed, but the teams were determined to fix it.

According to seventh grade setter Bianca Romshek practices focused heavily on serving. "[At practice], we had to run lines every time we missed a shot."

As the season progressed, the three teams saw progress in their serves. Eighth grade setter Mara Yindruck said, "Our first game, we missed twelve serves, the next game, five or six. Last game we only missed three." Demuth added, "I think every girl has worked hard, and I've seen improvement with every single girl."

For the eighth graders, those who choose to continue volleyball will be making the transition from the middle school team to the high school team next year. Because of the extra serving practice, Demuth said the eighth grade will be bringing good strategic serving with them to high school. However, the transition will be a little difficult. According to Demuth, "[Middle school] has limited practice time, in high school they'll need to get used to more conditioning."

Middle school gains experience

A difficult season still creates Monarch pride.

By John Dalton

The middle school football teams had a good season of experience. Though the final record does not show it, the players did find some things to celebrate.

The final game of the season was against Bishop Neumann. Both the seventh and eighth grade teams lost with scores of 0-54 and 0-52 for the teams, respectively, according to middle school football coach Mr. Dan Mettler.

At Norfolk Catholic both of the teams lost with a score of 0-36 and 0-40 according to Mettler. "They had more players than us, and we couldn't execute our game plan."

The eighth grade team was able to get their first win of the season at Twin River with a score of 22-13 according to Mettler. "Beating Twin River was a great confidence builder," said eighth grade football player Luke Sellers.

At Lincoln Lutheran both middle school teams lost. "They had thirty-five players to our thirteen," Mettler said. Lincoln Lutheran was the toughest game of the season according to eighth grade football player Julian Morales.

The first game of the season was against Scotus and both the seventh and eighth grade teams lost with scores of 0-18 and 6-12 according to Mettler. Mettler believes that the teams did not make enough plays during the game.

Overall Sellers feels that the teams did pretty well for the season. But despite the losses the teams feel like they got something out of the experience, such as being a better person and getting to know their teammates according to Morales.

Although the record does not show it, the players still had strengths which they

displayed during their games. "Our teams' strength is probably our running, our defense is also pretty good," Morales said. Mettler feels that the every week effort picked up to get better plays.



Eighth grader Krae Lavicky chases down the tackle against Lincoln Lutheran. The middle school football team played Lincoln Lutheran in their second game of the year.



Lady Monarchs 'set' to win it

By Braden Smith

Can you dig it? Senior captains Breanna Stouffer and Larissa Sellers led the Lady Monarch volleyball team through a tough series of games this season before focusing on postseason play.

In the last regular season matchup of the year, the volleyball team traveled to Grand Island to take on the Grand Island Central Catholic Crusaders. The Monarchs lost the match three sets to one, against a tough top

five opponent. This would be the team's last match before sub districts.

The most recent tournament for the volleyball team was at the Lincoln Christian Invite, where the team won their first match against Auburn two sets to one. However, the girls could not repeat that success in the following two games, with losses against Lincoln Lutheran and Thayer Central. Senior co-captain Larissa Sellers said, "We kind of beat ourselves. We are much better than we showed in that tournament. We just have to keep communicating and playing as a team, because we have a ton of potential."

Before the Lincoln Christian invite, the Monarchs hosted their last home game, which included senior night. The Lady Monarchs battled the Bluejays of Guardian Angels Central Catholic, winning a tough five set match sparked by Sellers' 17 kills. Sellers was proud of her team and said, "We were down two sets to one, but we came back." This victory capped off an undefeated season at home for the volleyball team.

The Monarchs also won two matches in the last triangular of the year against the Centennial Broncos and cross town rivals, the David City Scouts. Head Coach Mrs. Jody Pelan said, "We got better as the night progressed. We started slow, but our defense picked up, which helped our offense." Before the triangular, the team was coming off of a loaded conference tournament.

The team struggled, losing to all three of their opponents in the tournament. Senior co-captain Breanna Stouffer said, "We didn't play good at all in our first game against Kearney Catholic, but we played better in our Saturday games, showing we can play with some of the top teams in class C." The team competed well throughout the tournament, winning one set in all three of their matches.

The volleyball team now prepares for a tough sub-district. The field includes the top two teams in class C-1, according to the most recent rankings by the Lincoln Journal Star, in Wahoo Public and Wahoo Bishop Neumann. Pelan said it can be tough to prepare for those teams, but "we have to stay focused and play the way we play."



Senior Breanna Stouffer (left) prepares to pass the ball as Seniors Larissa Sellers (center) and Micaiah Vrbka (right) prepare to assist her. The varsity volleyball team finished their postseason with a loss to Neumann at subdistricts. Photo by J. Brown

Monarchs head to playoffs

Sophomore Keegan Lavicky prepares to get tackled by a David City Scout. The varsity football team won their final regular season game 31-14 at Shelby on Oct. 19. The team will continue into playoffs after winning 38-14 against Donophan Trumble. The Monarchs will play at home against Sutton on Nov. 2. Photo by J. Roh





Cross Country boys race at state



Senior Allie Frasher begins her race at the state cross country meet. Frasher ran her a personal best time at the meet, 20:56.1. Photo courtesy of C. Fiala

By Hayden Schawang

When seasons change, cross country teams race to conclude their seasons. The girls finished fourth at districts with one

state qualifier; the boys' team placed eleventh at state.

The state tournament proved more difficult than expected. Head coach Mr. John Svec said, "Allie [Frasher] competed against 15 main competitive others, and she ran for her medal. The boys' race was loaded with great teams. We finished lower than I thought we would, but [the race] was state, and state has great competitors." Senior Luke Stara finished eighty-third at state, admitting the race was much tougher than he anticipated.

Prior to the state competition, the boys' team brought home the runner-up district plaque from the Branched Oak course, which qualified the team for state. Stara said, "Malcolm, Wilber Clatonia, and Tri-Country gave us a run for second place. Every varsity runner had a personal best or a career best; we were set up to be successful." The last time Aquinas boys' cross country team brought home a district plaque was in 2004.

The girls' team placed fourth at distri-

cts, concluding their season. Senior Katherine Slama said, "Tri-Country pushed us out of the third place spot because they ran close together, had close scoring, and similar times. We did better than what we were expected to do. We ran our best at districts, all running personal best.

The Centennial Conference was a tough meet for the boys' team, but Svec was content with their third place finish. "We may have peaked at conference. [The boys] had a really good run and did equally good at districts. I was pleased with our work ethic, and I think [that ethic] was commensurate to our finish," Svec said. Stara added as the meet was a tough conference, he was satisfied with the teams' success.

The Centennial Conference meet had tough "out of class" competition for the girls' team. Slama said, "I think we did really well at conference with a fourth place finish. That was where most of the team peaked, but [the competition] did not prepare us for districts as much as we wished."

Softball 'swings' into the record books

By Keegan Lavicky

Record breakers! The 2018 Aquinas Catholic softball team had the best season in school history. The team ended with a record breaking season of 22-10.

Assistant coach Mr. Trevor Weiss said, "The team played a very good Malcolm team in the first game. Too many fielding errors

helped give Malcolm a lead and we were unable to come back." The district tournament was held in Wahoo, Nebraska. The Lady Monarchs beat Wahoo in their next game of the district tournament. Unfortunately, the Monarch's season would come to an end after a 15-8 loss to Raymond Central.

Head coach Paul Gahan reached his hundredth career win at the Central City tournament this year. Senior pitcher Vanessa Bohuslavsky said, "It felt good to get him that win because he's put so much into this program; it was nice to see it and help it pay off for him." Senior center fielder Sierra Meysenburg also added, "It was nice knowing we helped him reach his goal."

Meysenburg and Bohuslavsky led the team along with four other senior girls: Jill Witter, Bridget Sisco, Sydni Sylvester and Valerie Bohuslavsky. Meysenburg broke the single season record for homeruns with 11, the career record for homeruns with 16, and the record for runs batted in a sea-

son with 47. "I had confidence in myself every at bat, and knowing my teammates and coaches had confidence in me helped," Meysenburg said.

Senior catcher Valerie Bohuslavsky broke the record for career batting average. Vanessa Bohuslavsky now holds the school career records for hits. Vanessa Bohuslavsky said, "I just tried doing the little things; it takes discipline and focus to be a successful hitter."

The 2018 Aquinas softball team consisted of six seniors, six juniors, three sophomores, and four freshman. "We had a very good connection, and everyone had fun together and gets along, it helps when we all play for each other," Meysenburg said. Vanessa Bohuslavsky added, "We are constantly singing, dancing, or joking around and having fun."

Many of the Aquinas softball players also play softball during the summer. Weiss said, "I feel we have a lot of girls who love to play the game of softball."



Senior Sydni Sylvester catches a ball at the softball "pink out" game. By scoring 20 runs, the softball team broke the Nebraska Schools Activity Association's Class C record for the most runs in an inning against Pierce. Photo by K. Lavicky



Do your grades match up?

By Ivy Schmid

Is the current grading scale at Aquinas negatively affecting students' chances of financial aid and higher college placement? Would the students benefit from a traditional grading scale to appear more comparable to students on a national level?

The current grading scale at Aquinas consists of:

- 100-93 A
- 92-85 B
- 84-77 C
- 76-70 D
- 69-0 F

The current grading scale is meant to place higher expectations and accountability on the school's students. Senior English teacher Mrs. Teresa Pokorny said, "I think we keep the grading scale higher because we have high expectations for students. I also think it makes us more comparable to other schools who may offer more classes."

The grading scale with high standards does have benefits. According to Pokorny Aquinas students consistently score well above the Nebraska and National percentages on the ACT, and higher on the Iowa

Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) than other schools in the Diocese of Lincoln.

However, this editor believes Aquinas should convert the current grading scale to the traditional scale used prominently by colleges around the United States. According to the United States Department of Education, the tradition grading scale consists of:

- 100-90 A
- 90-80 B
- 80-70 C
- 70-60 D
- 60-0 F

The majority of college applications require students to self-report grades from their high school classes. When self-reporting grades, students do not enter percentages instead they enter letter grades. Official transcripts often are not sent in until much later, so admission directors and scholarship committees base admission and scholarship selection on GPA, self-reported grades, and ACT scores.

This editor believes the current grading scale could be negatively impacting Aquinas

seniors by allowing lower self-reported letter grades to be compared to other students' self-reported grades from a different grading scale.

The majority of colleges combine the admission application and the application for school funded scholarships into one application. Therefore, applicants' grades are self-reported on both applications.

Scholarship committees look for academic success in recipients. For example there may be two highly qualified potential recipients with the same ninety-two percent grade, but one student self-reports an "A" and the other a "B." The student with the reported "A" will be more likely to receive the scholarship.

In conclusion, this editor believes the grading scale at Aquinas should be changed to the traditional grading scale to better assist the seniors in future application endeavors. All involved want seniors to be successful in their lives beyond Aquinas. A change of this type could assist the seniors in their preparations for the future in the best way possible.

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CrownPrints

The *Crown Prints* is published eight times a year to inform, educate, and entertain the Aquinas community. We urge letters to the editor. Letters should be given to Ms. Jean A. Brown in Room 16. Letters must be signed; however, anonymity, if requested, will be granted if deemed necessary.

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