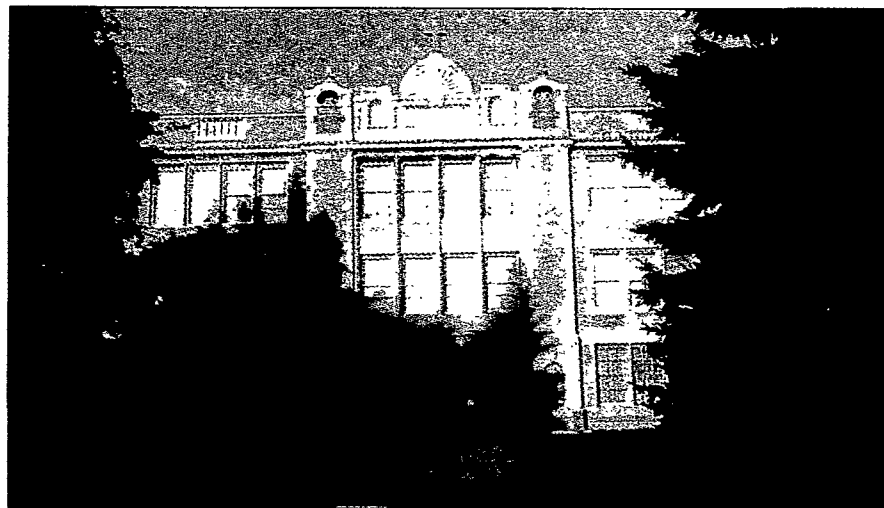


Controversy envelops AQ

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Portions of the Wegman donation were to go to renovation and building expansion at Aquinas' Dewey Avenue campus.

Controversy erupted Oct. 9 when Aquinas Institute announced that Robert B. Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets Inc., was delaying a \$10 million gift to the school, pending teachers' possible vote to unionize.

Members of local unions severely criticized the decision by Wegman, an Aquinas alumnus, and at least one pro-union writer to a local daily newspaper said he would not shop at Wegmans stores. The *Catholic Courier* left a recorded message at Wegman's home, and also left a message with a woman who answered the phone, but Wegman did not respond to the newspaper's request for comment.

A day after the delay of the Wegman gift became public, the school announced the departure of its president, Patrick Hanley. A school statement said Hanley had left to "pursue other interests." Joseph B. Knapp, the high school's director of public relations, declined to elaborate. However, Knapp emphasized that Hanley's departure had nothing to do with the controversy over Wegman's gift. The trustees appointed a transition team headed by alumnus Michael R. Daley to oversee the school until Hanley's successor is named.

In May of this year, the school announced that Wegman's gift would be used for building renovations; construction of an addition that will house a fine arts center; and enhancement of the school's scholarship endowment. The arts center was slated to open in the fall of 2003, but Knapp said construction has not yet begun.

New York State United Teachers, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO, had filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board Oct. 4, requesting that an election be held to determine if a majority of Aquinas' voting faculty want union representation. Representatives of the school and its faculty were slated to meet Friday, Oct. 18, for a hearing with the NLRB.

The *Courier* left messages at the school for three teachers reportedly active in the union movement. None returned phone calls. One of the three teachers, James Shook, declined to comment when the *Courier* reached him at his home.

The school issued a statement noting that it would recognize a union chosen by the teachers. However, the school's statement said: "We believe that when our faculty

weighs all the facts, they will choose to continue to work directly with the school."

Regarding Wegman's decision to delay his gift, the school's statement said: "What's fundamental to Catholic education is a community of administration, faculty, students, parents and alumni working together. It is Mr. Wegman's belief that the intervention of a third party could polarize those community dynamics."

Wegman's decision to delay his gift to Aquinas was bitterly denounced by Adam Urbanski, presi-

dent of the Rochester Teacher's Association, and national vice president of the American Federation of Teachers. Urbanski called the gift "30 pieces of silver" and noted that Pope John Paul II has advocated the right of workers to organize.

"I think Mr. Wegman is undermining the constitutional rights of workers for free association ...," Urbanski said. "Unionized families spend money at his stores. This, ironically, is the use of profits to undermine the very same people who contribute toward his ability to make these profits."

SOURCES PREDICT BAN ON GAYS IN SEMINARY

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Informed sources said Oct. 8 that the Vatican has prepared a draft document containing directives against the admission of homosexuals to the priesthood. The document says homosexuals should not be admitted to the seminary or ordained because the church considers the homosexual orientation "objectively disordered." Sources said the Congregation for Catholic Education prepared the draft document in collaboration with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and other Vatican agencies. It was being circulated for comment in October.

BOSTON PANEL MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS

BOSTON (CNS) — A special commission has recommended policy and structural changes to prevent child sex abuse in the Boston Archdiocese. The commission recommended permanent removal from ministry of offenders, parish and archdiocesan education programs to prevent abuse, and an independent outreach program to victims and their families.

PRO-CHOICE GROUP SEEKS ACTION BY U.N.

ROME (CNS) — Accusing the Vatican of covering up clerical sex abuse, Catholics for a Free Choice released a 40-page report in Rome Oct. 8, claiming the Holy See violated the 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. The group recently waged an unsuccessful campaign to get the Holy See's permanent observer status at the United Nations revoked. It promotes access to abortion, contraception and voluntary sterilization, and supports dissent from related church teachings.

CARDINAL PUSHES BILL TO PROTECT CONSCIENCE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua, chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, said the U.S. Senate must pass the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act of 2002 because of "a growing nationwide effort to attack the conscience rights of Catholic and other health care providers" who refuse to perform abortions.

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Dr. Joann Heaney - Hunter is a wife and mother who currently serves as Associate Professor of Theology at St. John's University, NY. She served as consultant to the US Catholic Bishops on their pastoral, **Follow the Way of Love: A Pastoral Message to Families**; and is author of **Unitas**, a popular marriage preparation program.

Sat., November 2
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
115 E. High St., Painted Post
9 a.m. - Noon

Sun., November 3
St. John of Rochester Church
8 Wickford Way, Fairport
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

COST: \$15 per person - \$25 per couple - Registration Deadline: October 25
Registration forms can be accessed:
on-line at www.dor.org/c&c/ym/departamental.htm,
at your parish, or by calling (585) 328-3210 ext. 295.