Service Charge Hike An Injustice?

by CHARLEY CLAPP

"A gross injustice—we've signed a contract to pay a dollar, and they hiked it on us." Soch is the attitude of resident student Jo Ann Sherwood on the raising of the phone rates from one dollar to a dollar-fifty.

According to Dr. Mary Alice Cannon, vice-president of student affairs, and Terry Zimmerman, new student program assistant, the rates were raised because the Michigan Bell Telephone Company raised its rates 49c. Yet many students seem to think that the rate should be lowered.

Last semester three students, Barry Scutillo, Dave Naumes, and Gary Theisen, collected all the resident students' telephone bills. They charged one dollar for a service charge. This fee was used to pay their salaries and the cost of xeroxing the monthly bills which amounted to two dollars a month. Last semester the "Campus Collection Agency", as they called themselves, collected all the telephone bills. This was an improvement over last year when over $3200 was left unpaid at the end of the spring semester of 1976. This semester Zimmerman is in charge of collecting all telephone bills for several reasons, according to Dr. Cannon. Moneys can now be collected during the business hours, records can be kept by the Student Affairs office, and money will not be kept overnight in the resident halls.

Zimmerman is a C.E.T.A. employee so Aquinas does not pay him. Because of this, Scutillo, Naumes, and Theisen feel that the service charge rates should be lowered. "We aren't so much upset over losing our jobs as we are over the raising of the service charge rates," disclosed Theisen. Another reason for the raising of the service charge was that the increase in rates wasn't budgeted. Scutillo's reply to this was "We have to pay for their inefficient budgeting!"

Damage to the telephones was another cause for the raising of the service charge. But any damage to the telephones caused by students is taken out of the students' $50 room deposit or if that has been used up, the students are billed later. Damages to the telephone not caused by students are paid for by Michigan Bell.

When the money was collected by the "Campus Collection Agency" (C.C.A.) it was used to pay their salaries and the cost of the operation of the college. Staff is expected to be cutbacks in administration and faculty. The Aquinas president took the decision to cutback on the past as the college enters a new phase of declining enrollment with staff salaries.

The college's 1977-78 budget calls for an additional $100,000 to be spent on educational costs. At the same time, no substantial increase in enrollment in any of the school's programs is expected. Furthermore, no increase in outside funding is seen.

The first phase of the re-tenurechment program will involve cutbacks in administration and staff only, since these persons are under yearly contracts. Teachers, however, will not be affected by the cutbacks until the following year, since their contracts call for a one-year notice before dismissal.

Teacher cutbacks are being planned for the academic year 1978-79. At this time, the number and areas of the cutbacks is being studied by the academic council. Sr. Barbara Hansen, Academic Vice-president, estimates that approximately three teaching positions will have to be phased out.

The work load of staff members who will be fired next year will be absorbed by remaining employees.

The decision to cutback on personnel was made by the long-range planning portion of the administration. Hansen explains that since approximately three-fourths of the schools expenses are salary related, most of the budget cutbacks had to come from staff lay-offs.

Teachers, already unhappy over a salary freeze this year, will be given raises next year when the staff cutbacks are implemented. According to Hansen, a salary freeze for more than a year would affect the quality of the teaching staff. The administration chose to cut back on quantity rather than quality.

Tuition Going Up

by JOE ZWIER

Growth and expansion at Aquinas may become things of the past as the college enters a new phase of declining enrollments and personnel cuts. That was the essence of Dr. Norbert Hrubý's speech to administration and faculty Feb. 2.

The Aquinas president took the opportunity to announce to faculty members a retenurechment program to reconcile declining enrollment with staff salaries.

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Tuition Going Up

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Next year, students will pay $194 more tuition to attend Aquinas College.

That amount represents an increase of 8% over last year's tuition. Next year's students will pay $2626 compared to $2440 this year.

Despite the fact that general enrollment decreases are being projected for the future, the number of full-time full-tuition paying students is expected to rise from 874.5 to 886 next year.

The percentage of tuition increase is slightly higher than last year's inflation rate, which, according to Mr. Gary Robertson, assistant professor of economics at Aquinas, stood at 4.8%.

The amount of financial aid granted to Aquinas students by the college will also increase by 8%. Sr. Barbara Hansen, Academic Vice-president, notes that nearly all of the outside money collected by the college goes toward financial aid for students.

Enrollment trends in the future may affect tuition rates to a higher degree than now. Hansen notes that there are actually fewer 18-year-olds around now than a few years ago. Further complicating the problem is the fact that fewer of these 18-year-olds are choosing to go to college and that fewer of those choosing to go to college are attending liberal arts colleges.

Encore and Career Action students will also be paying higher tuition next year. Rates will be increased from $54 to $58 per semester hour.

Room and board rates for next year have not yet been finalized, although room rates are expected to rise by $40 from $520 to $560. Board will probably increase by $50 from $790 to $840 according to administration estimates.
STUDENT LABOR
Aquinan has always been proud of the fact that they use a great deal of student labor. In fact, one of the items Aquinan states in their brochures is that students can find jobs on campus. Yet three students Dave Naumes, Barry Scutillo, and Gary Theisen collected all the resident students’ phone bills. They charged $1 to each student for their services, and Aquinan did not pay them. Last semester there were no outstanding phone debts; everything was collected. To me this seems very efficient.
Despite the fact that these students collected all the phone bills, they have been replaced by Terry Zimmerman, the new student program assistant. Zimmerman is a CETA employee and therefore not paid by AQ. Why should these students be replaced? Obviously they were successful, and the concept of students working with students seems more informal and comfortable.

STUDENT LABOR
Theisen of their duties; the main reason being that the money collected is more informal and comfortable.

STUDENT LABOR
Dave Cannon cites many reasons for relieving Naumes, Scutillo, and Theisen of their duties; the main reason being that the money collected sometimes has been kept in their rooms overnight, leaving a possibility of theft. Another reason was that when students kept the records, Student Services had no record on the phone bills.

STUDENT LABOR
When kept overnight, the money was locked in a desk drawer and the doors to the room were also locked.

STUDENT LABOR
To me it’s a shame that these students lost their jobs. Especially those of the paper as a whole, the Community Senate or the Aquinas Administration rather than the veterans’ administration.

SUBSCRIPTIONS
The SUNRISE is published bi-weekly during the regular school term by the students of Aquinas College. Subscription rates are $2 per semester and $3 per academic year.

D I R T
The Rug

Dear Sheldon Herman,

Enclosed is a front page article in last Friday’s Grand Rapids Press told the story of a peculiar problem at Calvin College it faces with the problem of over-enrollment...yes OVER enrollment.

At the same time, Aquinas College is in the process of adjusting to declining enrollments. Dr. Hruby, two weeks ago, explained the college’s situation to faculty and administration, outlining a plan for staff cuts and tuition increases to meet with the growing problem.

‘76-77 Aquinas students were successful in keeping Calvin’s problem out of their campus. Yet, when Calvin’s problem is rather ironic in light of Aquinas’ dilemma. Both colleges are church-related and Aquinas is Catholic, Calvin is church supported whereas Aquinas is not, Calvin is Christian Reformed and Aquinas is Catholic, both colleges are liberal arts colleges in the sense that the money which cares to be someday plugged into the corporate mess.

It seems obvious to us that the throngs of letters that still exists among people in the Appalachian Mountains; the subtropics of racial growth; the insatiable demand for plentiful, cheap energy.

America had its second crop of withdrawl symptoms this winter. We almost lost our ‘fix’ of plentiful, cheap, energy. In 1973, America felt the pain of withdrawal for the first time during the much publicized oil boycott. We blamed it on the oil companies and on the Arab nations.

Our second round with withdrawal has left us out in the cold. People ask, is the gas running out or is it a gigantic conspir­acy? The public has been subjected to a number of publicity stunts which have been called a radical monopoly over staying warm. The vast majority of us are not capable of staying warm without the energy corporations. Our government. For their part, if we turn off the heat our own homes leaves us only one option, buy for insurance. The government has felt the pressure of an almost empty storehouse of our energy corporations. Not only do we expect to be heat because of the great energy corporations.

The earth has much more fossil fuel, the companies extract the fuel, the pressures, the companies must raise their prices if they are to maintain their profit margins. We gave no choice but to pay the price. We are addicted to cheap energy.

The coming of the winter of ’77 and increased use of fuel, the companies find themselves in the increasing scarcity.

The fuel crisis, the coming of the winter of ‘77 and the increased use of fuel, the companies find themselves in the increasing scarcity. Pressure in the lines starts falling. People get cold. The crisis was bound to happen. We dis­
The inevitable February fever has once again afflicted me. The Detroit Tigers are preparing to begin spring training and despite the fact that the weather is suitable for just about nothing, I'm once again dreaming about the joys of hot dogs, beer, and baseball.

There is something about baseball which sets it apart from other sports. Maybe it's the length of the season where for six months people live day-in, day-out with the antics of their team. Or, perhaps, as in my case, it's the purity of the game.

Baseball for all its faults has managed to retain the lack of complexity which separates the game from almost any other sport. Football, with the intricate and often bizarre formations, along with basketball and hockey and their ever-changing strategies and styles miss the intimacy with their fans that baseball enjoys.

A baseball player must have a combination of skills to play the game. Until recently they all had to be able to hit, throw, field and run the bases. The American League pitchers don't have to bat anymore, a change that I greatly lament, but the overwhelming majority still must utilize these basic talents.

Joe Namath may throw a game-winning touchdown pass, but he'll never make a game-winning interception. Ron LeFlore on the other hand, may make a great catch OR hit a home run to win a game. And it doesn't have to be a player of LeFlore's caliber, it may be a Tom Vergeer or an Aurelio Rodriguez.

"THE BIRD" PROVED IT!

Then there is the intangible element: the ballpark itself. I'm not speaking of the antiseptic stadiums, with their domes and artificial 'rugs'. I'm talking about the Tiger Stadiums, or Fenway Park or the most traditional of all, Wrigley Field.

I get a feeling when I walk into one of these places that I get in no other. A true baseball fan upon entering an old park is immediately struck with a sense of history, of past drama that has unfolded within these confines.

I can't walk into Tiger Stadium without marveling at what has transpired there: Ty Cobb sliding into second base, spikes flashing, Hank Greenberg driving in still another run, and more recent excitement I have witnessed myself - Denny McLain winning his 30th game or Reggie Jackson hitting his mammoth All-Star game home run.

The things I didn't see I imagine. The things I did witness I remember. I remember the uncommon camaraderie I felt with everyone else who was lucky enough to be there. No black or white. No male or female. No rich or poor. Just fans, that's all. If you think it's useless or temporary just try achieving that sort of feeling through any other vehicle.

It doesn't take a championship team or a superstar to unite the crowd, either. "The Bird" proved that. His appearances generated enthusiasm everywhere. They literally became happenings in the city of Detroit. Even in defeat persons who had spent as many as four hours just to see him chanted for a post-game appearance. Just to show that it was alright, that "we'll be back because we had a good time."

TRY IT. YOU'LL LIKE IT!

Just writing this column and having to recollect a few of the many fine times I've had at the ballpark, or while listening and watching the games on television or radio has affected me.

Memories of incidents large and small are jumping into my head. I'm trying to imagine the smell of the ballpark that Joe Falls has talked about so many times. That odor which is a strange mixture of peanuts, beer, popcorn, and all the elements of a city. Truly one of a kind.

I'm sure there are people that have never been to a baseball game. Maybe even here at Aquinas. I know I tend to look through glasses of the rose-colored variety. But I can't think of a summer outing being much more fun.

Sit in the bleachers and wear your bathing suit and get some sun. Or sit behind home plate and try to figure out how they hit little ball that curves and sinks. Whether you want to or not you'll probably have a new friend sitting next to you by game's end.

You may or may not get hooked on the game by itself but the odds are definitely in favor of you enjoying yourself.

If you do get hooked you may, as the Voice of the Tigers, Ernie Harwell, is prone to say, have made yourself some 'instant friends.'
Porter's Sort of Sports
by LARRY PORTER

The intramural basketball season is now in full swing. And the enthusiasm is great. There are 20 IM teams, 13 men and 7 women. If none of the teams have any basketball talent, they should get pink shirts for their ingenious names. They read like a script from Monty Python's Flying Circus.


The women's teams are: The Babes, Dough Risers, Green Machine, Wild Women, Chain Saw Mamas, Steam Rollers, and Bananas.

Most team names, to the devious mind, have double meanings. Here are some mild examples: The Dough Risers vs. The Bananas sounds like a cooking contest; Wild Women vs. Chain Saw Mamas could be the title of an R-rated movie; I could go on, but this is a family newspaper.

As always, there are a few teams in each league who will dominate. This is well and good. But it follows that if there are dominant teams, there must also be teams who are not so dominating. If anything, these so-called "B" teams enjoy playing IM's more than the "A" teams. Granted, they would like to win, but playing seems more important than anything else.

Perhaps Dave Naumes sums it up best. "If we win, great. But I'm not going to get overly upset if we lose. I enjoy the chance to get involved in a game."

Thanks, Benzie.

Now equal time to "A" teams. By watching the best teams in either league square off, one usually sees a game as exciting as a varsity game.

The important thing is that intramurals is doing its job. That is, allowing students and faculty the chance to participate in a sport at their own peer and talent level.

A belated congratulations to Ernie Bouyer, Bill Bruce, and Sam Clendion for capturing the three-man basketball title.

Mousseau: Progressive Athletics at Aquinas
by RALPH ZOPPA

The athletic director is constantly in the spotlight of both the public and the press and therefore holds much of the responsibility of the workings of the athletic department. Aquinas college has a person who maintains a firm control of that department. He is Athletic Director Ernie Mousseau.

"Coach" Mousseau, as the athletes and staff call him, has been responsible for the introduction of two new sports at Aquinas: women's basketball and women's volleyball. He has rejuvenated the budget of the department this year and had the responsibility of hiring four new coaches. He also holds the position of assistant professor of physical education.

Mousseau, his wife Sue, and their three sons came to Aquinas in 1973. His dream as an undergraduate was to be the athletic director of a small college. He immediately filled that post upon coming here. Mousseau also became head cross country and track coach, fulfilling yet another ambition.

He had eight years of coaching experience of high school teams and served as assistant coach at Central Michigan University where he had the responsibility of organizing the CMU Relays, a prestigious track meet held for high school-age runners.

Mousseau's educational background is an interesting one. He attended a one room school house from grades five through eight. This was in the north country of Alpena, where he was raised.

He received his BA degree in physical education at Alma College and his Masters at CMU where he landed the job as assistant track coach.

Mousseau's philosophy of athletics is a progressive one. He states the three parts of intercollegiate athletics as physical education, intramural athletics, and intercollegiate sports. "These three parts could be described as three different levels of a graduate course," explains Mousseau, "with intercollegiate sports being the highest graduate level to be reached."

He also places athletics alongside of education at Aquinas, "not only development of the mind, but of the body and of the emotions." He believes an athlete receives much needed emotional release as he practices or competes. This is the emotional growth he referred to.

Life In Ireland

Church in Tully Cross.

Photo by Karam

Bill Burke hard at work.

Photo by Karam

Rush hour in downtown Tully Cross.

Photo by Karam

Cottage dining room

Photo by Karam