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By Jen Zimmerman

Men’s Hoops Are Coming Back

The season has been a constant struggle, but without struggle there’s no progress,” remarked a thoughtful, passionate Corey McNeal. Continuing, “Our record doesn’t begin to show how well we have been playing, despite injuries and other setbacks.”

The Men’s Varsity Basketball team, who is currently resting at 1-4 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and an 8-13 overall record, may have progressed enough to start turning this season around.

After a few close losses in the past two weeks to conference foes Sienna Heights and Cornerstone College, accompanied by being subject to an incredible shooting onslaught by Tri-State University, some may think that the Saints are headed for a season of few smiles and diminished hopes. After Saturday’s home trouncing of Madonna University, 95-72, some better think otherwise.

The Saints, who were led by Brian Galacowitz’s 20 points and eight rebounds, played solid throughout the first half and led 45-39 at intermission. Playing tough defense and making smart decisions put the Saints en route to a victory. Continue to increase their lead throughout the second half, Aquinas finished off Madonna with an 11-1 run, leaving the gym with a positive attitude and a good direction to continue in.

Besides “Wendy’s Player of the Game,” Zawierucha’s 20 points, additional scoring was contributed by Freshman Paul Utflig, who played solid underneath and scored 16 points. Myron Guyson and Derek Donnelly were the other two Saints who put up double figures, scoring 10 points apiece. Strong performances were also turned in by point guards Corey McNeal, and last weeks “WHAC Player of the Week” nominee, Brandon Lowe.

“The team has played extremely hard, only to lose close games,” commented Assistant Coach Tim Sailer. “We are very young and have had trouble scoring consistently, especially down the stretch. I think that the team will continue to excel as we gain experience.”

On February 1, the Saints are on the road taking on U of M-Dearborn, and on Saturday they travel to Sienna Heights. The next home contest will be Saturday, February 11, against Spring Arbor College.

### Campus Celebrates St. Thomas Aquinas Week

By Jen Zimmerman

Times Contributing Writer

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Career Services Is On the Move

By Kathy Denton
Times Staff Writer

Furnished travelers seeking sustenance on a bitter winter’s eve were greeted last Wednesday in the Wege Dining Hall by the lords and ladies of the Society for Creative Anachronism, (pronounced, -ana-chron-is-m). Members of this world-wide organization dress in traditional costumes from different time periods throughout the middle ages and the Renaissance.

Summoned by Campus Ministry, the Commuter Committee, and the History and Lit Clubs, they came to celebrate St. Thomas Aquinas Week by bringing with them the essence of the era in which the college’s namesake lived.

“We came dressed appropriately in the garb of the day that those in the late 13th century would have worn,” said Lady Alessandra L’Amour, aka Shelley Peters, seneschal, or president, of the Grand Rapids based SCA. “King Henry the III was in power,” she said, clad becomingly in a hand-embroidered sleeveless sirket over a simple cotton dress.

Hailing from the Canton of Rimsholt, members graciously welcomed guests in from the cold and back in time to the chivalrous middle ages. Bedecked in jeweled tunics and flowing gowns they performed medieval dances to lilting tunes before the feasting began.

And ‘twas a feast fit for royalty. Long, candle-lit tables were draped in fabric. Servers carried in platters heaping with succulent drumsticks accompanied by roasted new potatoes, tender baby carrots, cheese and fruit, and baskets staffed with warm rolls.

The only things missing from this midagal feast were tankards of ale and, well, silverware! “The good part about the meal was that you could use your hands, which is natural,” said senior Steve Greiling who attended the feast.

All of the titles are acquired by real duels for many of the gatherings, who said that some of the titles are acquired by real duels such as these which also include jousts and fencing.

Boasting that “historical research has never been this much fun,” the SCA is supported by over 20,000 members in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia and parts of Asia. New members must thoroughly research their identity and find authentic names and costumes to adopt from the century of their choice. Madrigal feasts and tournaments bring a cornucopia of personas to mingle with while learning a bit of history in the process.

Those interested in joining the SCA and creating their own medieval alter-ego can contact the Peters at 363-9483.

New Union Seeking Student Donations

By Kathy Denton
Times Staff Writer

All the talk will soon become reality as the proposed renovation of the Carriage House in which student union dues are turned to it’s financial goals.

Senators and volunteers have been canvassing the campus for small donations from the student population. Although the amount asked is only five dollars apiece, it represents serious student unity.

Addressing the Senate, President P. Paul Nelson, who has enthusiastically supported the project from the start, said that the pledges are an important step toward obtaining larger financial gifts from area businesses. He stressed that a “symbolic gesture” of student support needs to be seen before potential donations are considered.

“It sends a strong message to donors that support needs to be seen before potential donations are considered,” Nelson said.

“From what I’ve heard it’s been exhausting,” said Doug Dooley, Senate Chairperson. “Every week we put in multiple hours.”

But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar. But the dream of a new student union keeps them going. Some of the amenities the center would provide are a big screen TV, pool tables, video games, drama presentations, and a coffee and hot chocolate bar.
By Julie Williams
Times Ireland Correspondent

Aquinas students may miss a few familiar faces this semester as the Semester in Ireland program continues. This year, 21 students, along with Dr. Dan Brooks and Dr. Rebecca Coogan, will learn about Irish literature, culture, and history while living among the Irish people of Tully Cross for the next four months.

Many students have already met the citizens of Tully Cross and its surrounding communities at the single pub in town, The Angler’s Rest.

Guest student Maureen Healy, a junior from St. Mary’s College in South Bend, says she meets one or two locals a day.

“They’re very hospitable,” commented Healy. “They just like to have fun, always with a glass in their hands.”

With four months ahead, senior Kelly Opperman says she is having trouble adjusting to the yellow water, which is undrinkable, and missing 90210 and Melrose Place, while juniors Katie Clifford and Cathy Tahy find the way of life for Irish youth to be very different.

“It seems odd that they have to grow older faster. Boys at 17, my brother’s age, are full-time workers,” said Tahy. “Brian (the owner of Tully Cross’ small grocery store) let his daughter, who’s about 11, run the whole store by herself sometimes.”

“And the way the pub has all the generations there, even the young people, is very different,” said Clifford.

Above all, students commented on the easy lifestyle of a small town.

“I have a laid-back personality anyway, but things are even more laid-back here—” I feel like I’m rushing,” commented junior Stacey Phelps. Junior Brian Bydalek shares Phelps’ view. “Life is a lot slower here. It’s going to take three to four weeks to adjust to the pace of life,” he said.

Despite the relaxing pace of Tully Cross, Aquinas students continue to occupy their time, even without the use of a car. Walking is the greatest thing; I love walking. I have to like walking,” commented Phelps.

While senior Tim Priest simply enjoys having his own room with three beds, Healy amuses herself by walking to the ocean and exploring the terrain.

“There are a lot more mountains here than I thought there were; it’s incredible,” commented Healy.

Bydalek also appreciates the scenery of Ireland. “It’s just like the U.P. here, just village after village, with less trees,” he commented.

According to Clifford, Ireland’s weather is very different than that of the U.S.

“I’ve never been able to lean forward and be held up by the wind before,” commented Clifford.

Though four months seems like a long time, Krista Kahle, junior, says it isn’t too long for her. “I’m sure at the end I’ll wish I could stay longer. I feel like I fit in already.”

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The rise of violent crime is an issue being faced all over the country. In Grand Rapids, since 1984, violent crimes have risen 57%, and arrests have increased by 94%. It is not so surprising then, that a campaign embarked by the City Commission called "Safety '95," wants to increase the number of police officers on Grand Rapids' streets by almost one hundred.

The campaign is chaired by former mayor Jerry Hemhold and Ella Ramirez. Ramirez has lost two of her sons in the past two years to murderers on the streets of Grand Rapids. David Peoples-Ramirez's murderer was recently found guilty of the shooting which occurred at the corner of Franklin and Neland SE last July. Her other son, Calvin, whose killer strangled him and left him in a closet in his Wealthy street apartment in 1993, is still at large.

In a prepared press statement, Ramirez gave her story as an indication that there is a need for more police on our streets. She concluded her statement by saying that the issue is in the hands of the voters now.

The issue will be on the ballots March 28.

By Kathy Denton
Times Staff Writer

Clenched fists, held in silent protest by members of Calvin college's Black Student Union, greeted controversial author Charles Murray as he approached the podium on the stage of Calvin's Fine Arts Center.

"Head Start is great for things other than poor children," Murray intimated that an affluent "cognitive elite" was gaining power and that they may come down hard on the lower class, which he claims is becoming black. "But the book has the implications." In his book, Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein supposedly pose a genetic link between poverty and IQ, with Blacks falling below Whites and Asians.

"We wrote the book very carefully," Murray said in his speech, which was also transmitted on closed-circuit TV to the field house and campus dorms. He cited their reliance on intelligence, he said that "most of us fall below Whites and Asians."

People assume that the cognitive differences between poverty and IQ, with Blacks falling below Whites and Asians. Murray as he approached the podium on the stage of Calvin's Fine Arts Center.

"Why write about IQ when no one can define it?" Murray himself asks in apparent contradiction to those very chapters in their book. "We hadn't wanted to deal with genetics because they didn't have any relationship to anything else in the book. People assume that the cognitive differences between black and white is genetic or environmental."

But, contrary to what the media has said, Murray praised the Head Start Program for greatly improving the social skills and self image of underprivileged children. "Head Start is great for things other than IQ," he said.

What he doesn't believe the program does is raise individual IQ, as originally intended. Although environment plays a role in personal development, there are too many success stories from those born into poverty to prove a positive causal link, he said.

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But no matter what its original intent was, the book has increased racial tension once again and placed unnecessary doubt on the value of our African/American population. In an attempt to find humor in the way the media has portrayed him, Murray joked that his wife said that he could go trick-or-treating this year and not have to wear a mask.

The Bell Curve
Stirs Up Calvin

By Sarah Mieras
Times Contributing Writer

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Mother Nature Destroys Japan In Earthquake

By Sarah Mieras

Times Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, January 17, at 5:46 a.m., Japan's second largest port city, Kobe, suffered the country's worst earthquake since 1923. Japan, which sits on the intersection of four tectonic plates, which extend from Hokkaido to Kyushu, has a history of being obsessed with earthquake prevention. Once a year, National Disaster Day is observed, in which school children practice proper earthquake survival. Japanese engineers are also known for erecting quake-safe structures.

Throughout the latter half of 1994, Japan received three somewhat large tremors, the strongest measuring at 8.1 on the Richter scale. These tremors alerted specialists of the possibility of a larger quake in the near future. Thus, in some areas, especially Tokyo, the possibility of a larger quake in the near future. By Sarah Mieras, which extended from Hokkaido to Kyushu, has a history of being obsessed with earthquake prevention. Once a year, National Disaster Day is observed, in which school children practice proper earthquake survival. Japanese engineers are also known for erecting quake-safe structures.

However, Kobe lies on a small fault called an intra-plate, which is considered a high risk area, people began to prepare themselves. However, Kobe lies on a small fault called an intra-plate, which is actually a series of small faults, similar to a spider web in a larger fault. The city was not thought to be at risk. Consequently, seismologists had not been able to predict or even suspect the quake at Kobe. Throughout the disaster, Japanese officials have been criticized for being unprepared to handle the devastation, which has killed more than 5,400 people, left 310,000 people homeless, toppled over highways, crushed houses, brought down buildings, and started unquenchable fires. Many felt that bureaucratic policies slowed down the relief effort, resulting in many unnecessary deaths. Some foreign aid, such as medical relief from France, China, South Korea, and Bangladesh, has been denied or limited because they don't have Japanese medical licences.

Currently, many of Kobe's homeless are staying in the Nishinomiya sports center, which acts as not only a shelter, but also a temporary morgue. A week after the earthquake, gas and electric had been restored to some areas of the port city, and some schools were opened. However, recovery from the quake will not be done easily, and makeshift homes will have to be built to temporarily house residents while they rebuild their homes. Roads and water systems, as well as many other structures, are also in need of repair. Since Kobe has been declared a disaster zone, some residents and businessmen, whose insurance did not cover damages, may still be able to rebuild. The United States and Japan take different approaches towards constructing quake-safe buildings; the U.S. builds things to bend with the flow of the quake, whereas, in Japan, things are built rigidly to withstand the shock. Both countries can undoubtedly learn from their experiences with the recent earthquakes.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

Christian Reform Church Discusses Approval For Women Ministers and Elders

By Melissa Wysocki

Times Contributing Writer

Questions arise in the media, which often spark debates across the country. While some individuals rise up in violent protest against a cause, others cheer for what may seem as justice being served.

A recent debate, not new to any religious group, emerged once again as members of the regional body of the Christian Reformed Church voted last week requesting denominational approval of women ministers and elders.

A difficult question, the role of women in religious matters has always been an indissoluble issue for all members of a religious faith. Representing change in a tradition which dates back to biblical days, women on the pulpit may threaten the security some find when they see a male behind the altar. On the Aquinas campus, some students, however, are in favor of a change which would allow women to become priests and ministers.

Among them is Kelly Cory, who claims that women have equal rights just like men do. "If people aren't ready for change, they should step aside," commented Cory. Nicky Pyott believes that this change is substantiated if women are to be considered equal to men. "If women are going to truly be equal they shouldn't be separated, and by saying priests are men and women are nuns, women are not truly given an opportunity to be equal," she said. "It would really be weird, to see a woman in the position of a priest or minister."

A challenge to the traditional background of one's religious upbringing of men in the role of priests and ministers did seem weird, and caused indecision for some students when voicing their opinions. Molly Caldwell insisted that she didn't know how she felt about this subject. "I was raised with the Catholic Church and am used to the way it is, but there's always room for change... I just don't know," she said.

Laura Duncan also admitted that this was a difficult question, but concurred with the current policy where men are priests within a congregation. "I guess I disagree. I don't think women should be priests. Not because women are inferior; I don't think they're being discriminated against. There are other roles in the church they fulfill, but this (the priesthood) just has to be a position filled by men," she said.

Realizing that women will probably become priests and ministers sometime in the future, Tom Kustrzyk expressed truly no opinion in regards to this matter. "Sure it will happen," commented Kustrzyk, "but if women want to practice religion they could become nuns." Meg Roberts offered a contrasting view when she voiced her belief that women should have the opportunity to become priests and men the opportunity to become nuns. "They (priests and nuns) believe the same thing so why not?" questioned Roberts.

In a time of equal rights, this debate will take center stage as churches, such as the Christian Reformed, attempt to resolve this conflict, rendering decisions which may challenge the very heart of many religious traditions.

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**February 1, 1995**

**BY DAVE BULT**

**TIMES NEWS LINE**

**"PEACE POWERS ACT OF 1995"**

It's 1995, no longer the Chinese year of the dog, but ironically Bill, Bob, and other government poaches are barking out resolutions for the upcoming year.

One New Year's decision, the "Peace Powers Act of 1995," made by Old Yeller himself, Bob Dole, is exactly the cost-saving treat American citizens expect from a conservative Congress. The Act would force U.S. officials to check with Congress before funding any multinational peacekeeping missions. Any administration official who violates the new funding procedures could receive up to two years in prison and a $5,000 fine. Last year, U.S. peacekeeping efforts cost $1.2 billion. chalk one up for Bob and his Republicans for their money-saving efforts.

The top dog in the presidential post (no, not Hillary), Bill Clinton, also surprised Americans this Christmas with his $60 billion tax-cut plan. The plan included a $500 credit for eligible families with children, a tax deduction for college expenses, and an expanded IRA — but only for families making $60,000 or less. Republicans, with a plan three times more expensive than Clinton's, want the same benefits extended to families with incomes up to $200,000.

I don't know. I'll have to side with Clinton on this one. People making astronomical incomes $200,000 should be rich enough to pay for my college costs, not get another tax break on their own expenses. Finally, President Clinton thinks of a program that actually is "for the American people."

This New Year isn't about bashing our beloved political leaders. For the first time, I have positive feelings about our governmental system and its leaders, but I can't figure out why. I know my own resolution to be more positive in '95 doesn't have anything to do with it.
By Holly S. Kent
Times Copy Editor

Well seniors, how does it feel to have started your FINAL semester? Answering for myself, I’d have to say it’s the most incredible feeling I’ve ever had. It’s the light at the end of the tunnel. Are you sure it’s not only January?

I was looking at my old high school yearbook the other day, simply because I picked it up to move it, and became interested in taking a trip down memory lane. I was going through the pictures of the 688 people I graduated with, and there were very few of them whose names I could recall. This got me really thinking. Then, as I was reading some of the messages people had left me, I was surprised to see the number of people who had written "Stay in touch!" and intrigued to see how many of them I had actually stayed in touch with. I know that most of those friends I had in high school were not that profoundly important to my existence, but quite a few of them did play an important role in who I am today. And where are they now? Why haven’t I made an effort to stay close? Why haven’t they? Being a graduating senior, I think often of where I’ll be five years from now, but I think about it in terms of my career, not of my social life. The people I have met at Aquinas I want to know my whole life, but that’s going to be even more difficult than the task was in high school.

We all have different home towns, and most of us will move in order to find our jobs. It’s difficult to see them or talk to them now, let alone after graduation, when there will be hours separating us.

One person who is very important to me has already left Grand Rapids to go to another school. Now, someone that I talked to and saw every day of my life, I talk to every couple of weeks, and I consider myself lucky for that time. It’s amazing how much distance affects our lives and relationships. If we weren’t for distance, I can honestly say my life would be very different from what it is now. And most likely I would be happier. But what happens when we have real jobs? I hope I have more time to pursue my social life, since instead of working full time and going to school full time, I’ll only be doing half of that, but is that realistic? I know when I am truly honest with myself that, just like the few left from high school that I am still in close contact with, there will only be a precious few left from Aquinas. It is true what they say about the friends you make in high school.

Well seniors, how does it feel to have finished your 4 years at Aquinas College? I hope I have more time to pursue my social life, since instead of working full time and going to school full time, I’ll only be doing half of that, but is that realistic? I know when I am truly honest with myself that, just like the few left from high school that I am still in close contact with, there will only be a precious few left from Aquinas. It is true what they say about the friends you make in high school. They are in fact friends for a lifetime.
I'm so tired.
I'm tired of questions.
I'm tired of winter.
I'm tired of rules.
I'm tired of girls.
I'm tired of my birthday.
I'm tired of typing errors.
I'm tired of meaningless songs.
I'm tired of a dirty car.
I'm tired of Doug.
I'm tired of another four years of high school.
I'm tired of speed limits.
I'm tired of bright sunny days.
I'm tired of computers.
I'm tired of teachers that can't teach.
I'm tired of uncertainty.
I'm tired of great friends.
I'm tired of writers block.
I'm tired of power buttons.
I'm tired of plans.
I'm tired of meal plans.
I'm tired of money.
I'm tired of not having money.
I'm tired of you.
I'm tired of me.
Get Ready For Winterfest

By Chelsea Davis
Times Contributing Writer

Are you ready to show your school spirit, have fun with colleagues and friends while contributing to the Aquinas community? What does the start of a new year mean to you? It's the start of a new year, and what does the Aquinas College Community Senate have planned for second semester? Some of the issues discussed were those concerning the Carriage House. The Carriage House will be finishing their "Buy a Brick" campaign shortly, and they will also be sending out a letter to all seniors. The senators should also be taking the time to fill out the student surveys concerning the Carriage House within a couple of weeks. Any questions or concerns about it should be addressed in the survey.

Senate Announces Plans For Semester

By Elma De La Cruz
Times Contributing Writer

"What the Heck" Thursdays

By Tando Goduka
Times Features Editor

What the heck is "What the Heck" anyway? It is a seven-week Aquinas tradition, during the time after Christmas Break and before Spring Break, that allows students to sign up for the winter blues. It was created five years ago for students to work out their pent-up energies and offer another alternative to going out to the bars on a Thursday night.

said Sophomore Theodore Henderson, "I love the 'What the Heck' nights because they are a good escape from the residence halls, and an opportunity for me to mingle among friends and have fun." The Aquinas Fieldhouse became the ideal locale to house all the events due to its size, and because it was deemed an appropriate indoor arena for people to get together and enjoy each other's company. All "What the Heck" nights occur on Thursdays from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. They are free of charge for Aquinas students, and offer free snacks for everyone to munch on. There will be a sound system, so people are urged to bring their own music to play. Also, the Student Activities Office will be offering free movie passes on any given night.

To kick off "What the Heck" with a spectacular bang, there was a very well received 3-on-3 basketball tournament on January 12. Junior Brooke Davis said, "The tournament was so exciting. I was on the edge of my seat watching the players compete, and really appreciated their good, clean playing in an era of trash-talking basketball games."

The subject of this week's issue of "Who's Who" is someone who should be known to everyone. This time, the spotlight shines on a very special and gifted student here at Aquinas. Her name is Bonnie McNerney, born in Mount Clemens, MI, and currently residing in Marine City, MI. Her mother manages a restaurant and acts as an insurance salesperson, while her father is the manager of a supermarket. She has a younger sister and a brother, aged fifteen and fourteen respectively.

If the people of Grand Rapids had not been the recipients of McNerney's positive attitude and therefore all the great attributes that come along with the package, Arlington, Virginia would have been. McNerney had the difficult decision of choosing between Arlington and The George Washington University in the fall of 1993.

During McNerney's spare time, she volunteers in the community and has helped to teach migrant workers to speak English. When things get too stressful, she relaxes by spending time with her friends. But most of all, McNerney cares about the world we live in and all the people in it.

One of her strongest beliefs lies within the need for a change in the current educational system. She believes that at a young age, children should be taught a second language and the culture that goes along with the language. She also believes that children should be taught to be more accepting and open-minded.

During McNerney's spare time, she volunteers in the community and has helped to teach migrant workers to speak English. When things get too stressful, she relaxes by spending time with her friends. But most of all, McNerney's passion lies in her love of travelling. As long as she is not in the same place for too long, she is very happy.

McNerney is honestly a caring and generous person. She enjoys the friendliness of the people on campus and the close relationships she has here at Aquinas. She feels this way because she adds to this environment everyday.
New Jersey must be Hell. I come to this conclusion because, if Clerks is at all possible, this state is apparently a shapless vacuum clean-chuck-full of misfits and losers, whom are the focus of this odd, and sometimes hilarious, film. Director/writer Kevin Smith managed to throw this film together with a meager $277,000, and it looks like it by the way it's clearly uninteresting and enduring quality. The story centers on Dante Hicks, a 22-year-old (loser?) who works in a convenience store, and his buddy Randal, another (loser?) clerk who runs the counter at the adjacent video store. The gristy black-and-white footage fits the lives of these two guys perfectly, since they are both living lives without any apparent direction.

Dante has some pretty wild experiences during the course of his 16-hour working day (which the film chronicles). He has to constantly deal with customers, all of whom border on the psychotic, as well as facing problems with his current girlfriend and ex-girlfriend. Then, he still has to face Randal, who apparently keeps interfering with Dante's life, making it worse. But, they still have time to close the stores in order to play hockey and attend a funeral. The main difference between Randal and Dante is that Randal is perfectly comfortable with his lifestyle. Dante is in a constant struggle to find a direction for his life, and his fellow clerk points this out to him. I was surprised to find some semblance of a plot in Clerks, since I was expecting a totally pointless film with a basic “life is pointless” message. What I found instead was an insight into the lives of two realistic, yet unusual characters. The cast, consisting of a bunch of unknowns, does lack some acting ability on occasion, and some of the jokes fall flat, but these two minor complaints don’t hinder this otherwise absurdly realistic film.

I guess New Jersey really isn’t Hell. I, as well as Dante, learned this during the course of Clerks, since Dante made his own Hell...
an interview with
By Josh Newman
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Barenaked Ladies have created their own market niche. In a world full of noise and song-writing decay, Barenaked Ladies have managed to entwine light-hearted humor with semi-serious undertones, dashed with consummate musicianship, to create a fresh and unprecedented sound that is winning over fans and critics alike.

The quintet from Toronto have become big stars at our neighbors' house, and have begun to capture the much-needed and well-deserved attention of the American music scene.

Soon after the release of their 1992 debut, Gordon, Barenaked Ladies were showered with praise and success. Shortly after the first week of its release, Gordon turned platinum. Shoring up its way to the top, the release climbed to the number one position in the Canadian charts, where it would remain for eight weeks. Gordon swam around in the Top 10 for over ten months, and gave birth to four hit singles.

Now, armed with a new producer, and some experience under their belt, brothers Adam Duritz, lead singer and mastermind behind the Counting Crows, this is evident by such songs as "Iceland," which, at a boring may well be worth the purchase in itself. The Cranberries "Dreams" is the only really good collection. The radio stations have picked up some of the songs too, like the unique version of "Shine" from Barenaked Ladies' "Set the Valley Dancing." For the unbiased mind, this disc will prove to be a valuable addition to any collection. As far as track values there are a few. The unique versions of Live and Collective Soul may be well worth the purchase in itself. The Cranberries "Dreams" is the only really good song from that album and thus a valuable addition to your collection because you get the song and not at the price of a whole new disk. Finally, the fact that all of these songs are live versions rather than studio recordings is something that will be a welcome addition to any of the most comprehensive collections.

SORDID HUMOR

light music for dying people

Capricorn Records, 1994

My interest in Sordid Humor peaked when the DJ. on a radio station played a song which he said, was sung by some members of Counting Crows. I listened, and what I heard was pretty goddamn good. I bought the CD and listening to it for the first time, I was ready to drive right back to Vinyl Solution and beg the counter-person to give me at least five bucks for the disc. But instead of doing this I listened to it a few more times and it really grew on me.

The truth about Sordid Humor is they really don't sound anything like Counting Crows. Adam Duritz, lead singer and frontman among the Counting Crows, appears as a backup singer on every song, but that's where the similarities stop. He does not write any lyrics or music.

If I was to compare Counting Crows August and Everything After with Light Music For Dying People, I would have to say that Sordid Humor is much more electric guitar-based and lacks the whiny sound of Counting Crows. This is evident by such songs as "Iceland," "Gun Man," and "Miami Beach," which happen to be some of their best songs. I would have to say that about three-quarters of their disc is very enjoyable, but the other quarter is absolutely horrible. An example of the "Oklahoma" which, a taping party, could make an adequate substitute for mediocre square-dance music.

If you're thinking about buying this CD keep your ear warm because you too might want to head back to Vinyl. But I guarantee you listen to it for a while you'll start to like it. I would put Light Music For Dying People on my top ten CD list of all-time, but I did enjoy it, and therefore it deserves three stars.

BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS

strategem

Capitol Records, 1994

I recently caught up with one of the band's singer on every song, but that's where the similarities stop. He does not write any lyrics or music.

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By Curt Wozniak
Times Staff Writer

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What have you guys been up to?
ER: We're just hanging out, getting ready to come tour the states.

Alright, so where did you get the name? Is there a big story behind it or anything?
ER: Story? No really. My parents named me Ed…

Not your name, the band's name!
ER: Oh, oh, I see. No, not really any story behind it. Steve [Page] and I were just sitting around being idiots one day and came up with it, months before we became a band or even played together.

Who are some of your major influences?
ER: With all due respect, the Proclaimers. Probabably, us. I would say that Bluegrass and Country, not new, would be a major influence of mine. Whereas, Steve comes from a pure Pop background, and the Cocongas are more into the Classical and Jazz stuff.

You have a new producer, Ben Mink, on the new release. Was there a different approach or attitude this time?
ER: I think that there was definitely a different process this time. Two different producers with very different ways of doing things. As for how we were concerned, we wanted to go on and try this to make the new album as dissimilar from Gordon as we could. Successful as it was, we had no desire in trying to remake that album.

By Joe Stimac
Entertainment Editor

A&M Records, 1994

Woodstock '94 is absolutely horrible. An example of this would be the song "Oklahoma" which, at a boring approach or attitude this time? ER: I think that the approach is similar. As a band we're more versatile this time around, because we have more original material, but we still take the same approach towards entertainment; still "in your face" and "off the cuff." A lot of fun.

It looks like fun. You guys joke around a lot on stage with each other, and you just look like you're enjoying yourself.
ER: We like to keep the live show always a little bit different. We like to wing curve balls at each other. Keep us all on our toes. It helps in keeping the show fresh for us, so we never get bored playing the same songs.

Do you prefer one of the other, as far as being in the studio as opposed to playing live?
ER: I like both for very different reasons. Both have their strengths. There are things that you can do in the studio that you can't do live, and vice versa. We try to approach them differently from the beginning, which I think is a good attitude to take. Playing live is very much a visual experience. Jumping in the air can make a certain part of a song more exciting. You can't do that in the studio, well, you can, but no one can see you, so it doesn't matter.

Do you have anything really exciting planned to do during your free time during the tour?
ER: Actually, we just received a call from the White House. I guess a Press Secretary called up and said Bill Clinton wants to see us. The tour is all over the United States, so we have to try to squeeze us in. I think they have us in the Nation speech. You know, spelling and grammar check.

Apparently when Clinton went into office, our Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, sent down a package of "Things Canadian," and our CD was in there.

So you guys hang out with Brian a lot?
ER: No, we hang out with Bill, though. He plays sax with us quite a bit. He just seems to pop up in the weirdest places.

Ed, thanks a lot, we look forward to seeing you when you come to Grand Rapids. Have fun at the White House, and don't break anything!
ER: Hey, how much is this vaue worth? (shutters)
The time has come; the winter days are quickly dwindling, and soon it will be time for Mother Nature to melt away the snow and give birth to the gifts of Spring. That means that your skiing days are numbered, buddy!

The weather is sunny, yet cold enough to make snow, and many of the area’s skiing hot spots are in prime condition. Here is some information to help you get going:

**BOYNE HIGHLANDS**
Reporting a base of 52 inches with groomed slopes. There are four lifts operating and 17 runs are open. Lift tickets range from $22 to $38. Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM with night skiing on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 6:00-10:00 PM. Call 1-800-GO BOYNE for more information.

**BOYNE MOUNTAIN**
Reporting a base of 50 inches with groomed slopes. Five lifts are operating and 24 runs are open. Lift tickets range from $21 to $26 and rentals are available. Located in Cadillac, about two hours North of Grand Rapids. Hours of operation are 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM with night skiing available from 6:00-10:00 PM on weekends. Call 1-800-968-7544 for more information.

**CABERFAE PEAKS**
Reporting a 24-60 inch base. All eight lifts are operating and 20 runs are open. Lift tickets range from $21 to $26 and rentals are available. Located in Cadillac, about two hours North of Grand Rapids. Hours of operation are 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Call 1-800-968-7544 for more information.

**CANNONSBURG**
Located just 15 minutes North of Grand Rapids, skiing is available Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM. All lifts and trails are open and, there is up to a 40 inch base. Two for one lift tickets and $5 equipment rentals are available for college students with ID. Also, Sundays starting at 5:00 PM, you can get a lift ticket, rental, and lesson for just $10. Snowboarders are welcome, and there is a half pipe available. Call 1-800-678-4111 for more information.

**CRYS TALSCHUSS MOUNTAIN**
Voted the Midwest’s top ski resort, by the readers of Snow Country Magazine, this resort is located between Cadillac and Traverse City. There are four lifts operating and 19 runs are open. A base of 5 inches is being reported and hours are 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Sunday through Thursday, and 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM on weekends. Two, four, all-day, and night skiing lift tickets are available. Prices range from $18 to $33. Snowboarding half-pipe and terrain park is available. Call 1-800-YOUR SKI for more information.

**CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN**
Voted the Midwest’s top ski resort, by the readers of Snow Country Magazine, this resort is located between Cadillac and Traverse City. There are four lifts operating and 19 runs are open. A base of 50 inches is being reported and hours are 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Sunday through Thursday, and 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM on weekends. Two, four, all-day, and night skiing lift tickets are available. Prices range from $18 to $33. Snowboarding half-pipe and terrain park is available. Call 1-800-YOUR SKI for more information.

**NUB NUBS**
Located just North of Petoskey, skiing is available on 23 runs, and four lifts are open. Up to a 64 inch base has been reported. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM. All lifts and trails are open and, there is up to a 40 inch base. Two for one lift tickets and $5 equipment rentals are available for college students with ID. Also, Sundays starting at 5:00 PM, you can get a lift ticket, rental, and lesson for just $10. Snowboarders are welcome, and there is a half pipe available. Call 1-800-SKI NUBS for more information.

**SCHANTY CREEK**
Located just North of Traverse City, the resort offers skiing from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM on weekdays, and 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM on weekends. Lift tickets are $22-$35. Snowboarders are welcome and there is a half pipe available. Call 1-800-SKI NUBS for more information.

**TREETOPS SYLVAN RESORT**
Located just East of Gaylord, 18 runs and six lifts are open. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Lift tickets range from $18 to $26. There is a 126 inch base. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Lift tickets range from $10 to $26. Snowboarders are welcome. Call 1-800-444-6711 for more information.

**MORE SNOW IS EXPECTED TO FALL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, SO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONDITIONS, AND BE SAFE!**

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Federov and captain Steve Yzerman, should find the Wings holding the Cup when all of the Pistons, I find myself glued to the television to catch every slapshot, goal, highstick, save, and bone crushing check that the Detroit Red Wings deliver.

By Mike Chabot
Times Sports Editor

On opening night I prepared for the long season ahead, with my glass of Coke and tortilla chips and salsa, I anxiously awaited the singing of the National Anthem, introduction of players, and then the drop of the puck for the official start of the Wings season. The Wings faced their central division rival, the Chicago Blackhawks, in the season opener. "Paradise" is the only word I can use to describe the feeling that came over me as Slava Kozlov scored to give Detroit a 1-0 lead only 6:43 into the game; the Wings would go on to win 4-1.

Head coach Scotty Bowman was true to his word in describing the Wings new philosophy: defense. Allowing only four shots in the first period, the Wings dominated the Chicago offense. Forwards came back to help out, and crush any offensive attempt made by the Blackhawks. As the game went on, the effects of the lockout were apparent as players lost the edge on their skates and fell, fanned on shots, missed checks, and lines were on the ice for less than a minute at a time. Lack of conditioning slowed the pace of the game a bit, however, as a die-hard hockey fan, I coped with it. Currently in a tie for first with St. Louis with a record of 2-1-0, the Wings have recorded eleven goals for and eight against. One major factor that I feel, as do many others, makes the Wings Stanley Cup contenders is the acquisition of goalie Mike Vernon from Calgary. Vernon provides the stability in the net that the Wings have been lacking for the past several seasons. Vernon’s defense, along with the powerful offense of MVP Sergei Fedorov and captain Steve Yzerman, should find the Wings holding the Cup when all is said and done.

I know it is still early in the season, however, I feel that the Wings have what it takes to win it all: an experienced coach, who knows how to win, a strong defense, and last season’s most productive offense. In the end, it will be Detroit over Buffalo in the Stanley Cup finals. I’ll be back later with another SportsLook.

By Jeff Maloney
Times Contributing Writer

Once again the Lady Saints are proving the critics wrong. Last year the Saints were picked to finish in third place, and ended league play without a blemish. This year, after losing only one senior, the so-called experts had the nerve to pick our Lady Saints to finish no better than fourth place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. After a hard-fought three-point loss at Spring Arbor, the Saints showed everyone why they are the team to beat in the WHAC this year, with an impressive win over Trine State. At 4-1, and in first place in the league, the Saints seem to be in the driver’s seat, and in control of their own destiny.

As a team, we are coming together and are playing well enough to lead us to the national tournament,” said sophomore Dana Marcel. "Senior Sami Adams shared Dana’s thoughts, “By the end of the year, we should be playing our best basketball of the season, hopefully good enough to make it to nationals. We want to make it to the national tournament for the seniors who haven’t been there yet.”

The Saints start a three game home stand against Concordia College on February 2, at 6:00pm. On the fourth of February they will try to average their home league loss against Spring Arbor College at 1:00 pm.

Lady Saints Lead the W.H.A.C. Pack

By Mike Chabot
Times Sports Editor

49-26. The San Francisco 49ers dominated the San Diego Chargers from the opening kickoff in Super Bowl XXIX and never relinquished control. For the 11th straight year the NFC won the Super Bowl, sending George Seifert his second Super Bowl title, and head into the national tournament in their prime.

"Hopefully, we will hit our peak just in time for the national tournament," said sophomore guard Nicki Biggs. "The Lady Saints have the talent and confidence to make a strong bid for the league title. Get out and support one of the area’s premier women’s basketball teams, the one and only Aquinas Lady Saints."

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Super Bowl XXIX
Over Before It Started

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Both the offensive and Defensive units of the 49ers pulled together to give head coach George Seifert his second Super Bowl title, and Owner Eddie DeBartolo his fifth. By far the superior team, the San Francisco 49ers finished the season with authority, proving they are the best team in football.