Spring Fling A Huge Success (Again)

by Mindi Evans
Times Contributing Writer

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Doors opened at 6:30 to the crowd of approximately 280 students, and dinner was served at 7:30. The buffet line consisted of oriental vegetables, creamy broccoli, rice with shrimp, chicken, and prime rib. A dessert of cheese cake topped with kiwi followed the dinner. After the meal dancing, with music provided by Soundations, lasted until 12:30 AM.

This annual event proved once again to be quite popular with the Aquinas student body. “Tickets were sold out by noon of the second day,” said Mary Kay McKinney, who helped organize the event. “It was pleased, as was the Programming Board, with the turnout.”

Student response proved to be in agreement. Marcie Witkowski states, “This was my first time going as a junior. I won’t think why I didn’t go before this. I had a great time with the girls on my floor, fourth west.”

Timi Hough, Spring Fling coordinator and Director of Student Activities, said, “It was the most successful and well-attended Spring Fling yet. It’s nice to end the year with a bang.”

This award goes out to the five students per grade judged to have performed outstanding volunteer, paid, or credit service and leadership to the Grand Rapids, Eastown, and Aquinas community this school year.

Who’s Who in Colleges and Universities is a National Award that recognizes outstanding junior or senior students whose academic standing (3.0 or higher GPA) and participation in extra-curricular activities are above average, and their potential for continuing success is evident. Receiving this award were seniors Mary Alice Clor, Douglas Dooley, and John Niedzielski.

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Named Community Service Outstanding Students for the 1995-96 school year were freshmen Janelle Burden, John Krajewski, Dana Samonis, Onice Soto, and Korantha Todd; sophomores David Acevedo, Matt Flannigan, LaTara Heardon, Stephanie Langstaff, and Rene Palileo; juniors Felicia Buchanan, Elma De La Cruz, Darrell Faraci, Brain Matzke, and Charisa Williams; and seniors Cicely Bridges, Kentya Christian, Douglas Dooley, Mary Kay McKinney, and John Niedzielski.

Timi Hough, who has worked at Aquinas for the past seven years, announced that June 14 will be her last day as Director of Student Activities.

In her first three years at Aquinas, she worked for Residence Life as Resident Director in both Regina and St. Joseph Halls, until she took the position of Director of Student Activities.

Hough’s main duties lie in the coordination of numerous events and activities for Aquinas students. She has organized the infamous and wildly successful Spring Fling, helped open the Cook Carriage House, served on the Retention Committee and sponsored the “What the Heck” nights. Some special highlights Timi remembers this year are the Super Bowl party, and the new five-day orientation designed to smoothly integrate freshmen. “Because everyone can’t be pleased, I try to plan diverse activities, so most anyone can participate at least once. I also try to balance education with fun.”

She also co-founded the Programming Board, which she has been a part of for six years. The Programming Board selects and hires the entertainers that perform at Aquinas.

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Faculty/Staff Group Runs Toward Health

by Andy Pieper
Times News and Photo Editor

Happily none of you think you are in better shape than your professors. If you do, maybe you should make sure they are not part of the fourth place running squad representing Aquinas in the Blodgett Triple Crown Series. They have been working hard and training for months, all with intention of promoting good health.

Nine faculty and staff members participated in the first race, the Irish Jug, on March 16. They were: Randy MacGeorge, Sue Haup, Mike Gant, Joyce LaFleur, Tom Dooley, Dave Milarch, Don Chaffee, Tom Dickerson and Eric Beverusius. Cindy Pain and Bob Ryan hope to join the team for the second and third races, the Pietro’s “Run Fasta, Eat Pasta” race, and the Reeds Lake Run on April 20 and June 29, respectively. All of the races are 5K and there are two divisions in the Blodgett corporate competition. The first consists of those companies with over 500 people and the second is those with under 500 people.

Currently, Aquinas is in fourth place in Division II, only 11 points behind the third place team, Treadway. In second place is Gazelle Sports, and Parke Davis rounds out the top spot.

Sue Harvey of Development said, “We got together to support the community and promote Aquinas College.” She added, “We wish Paul (Nelson) could run with us, but we would like to thank him anyway, because he paid our team fee out of his own pocket.”

It all started last winter, recalled MacGeorge. “In December, I looked into the American Cancer Society’s 24 hour run/walk and had a limited response. I decided to pursue this option because it was easier to organize,” he said.

He added that this idea of forming a running group had been thrown around for a while, but no one had actually gotten around to organizing it.

“Our only goal,” said MacGeorge, competitively speaking, “was to compete with integrity. We achieved that and more, and with the fourth place finish at the first race, we are pumped about the possibilities.”

Awards, from p. 1

Student. Eligible students must have been active for four years in service to Aquinas College. This year’s deserving winner is Brooke Davis.

“It’s a privilege and an honor to receive the award,” commented Davis. “This year’s class was very competitive. I’m really excited.”

Davis intends to pursue further excellence by attending grad school and studying Urban Politics.

Candidates for the various awards were nominated by staff. The students were then sent questionnaires which allowed them to highlight their services to the community. The most qualified students were then chosen by a group of 25 faculty, staff, and students. Plaques will be awarded to the winners at the Awards Banquet Sunday April 28. Seniors will receive theirs at the Senior Banquet May 10.

For Outstanding Freshman Janelle Burden, service has been an important part of her first year at Aquinas. “My involvement allows me to have a part in the school more than just going to classes,” she said. “I like the people I meet and the projects I work on are close to my heart.”

“It is an honor to be chosen as one of the five from everyone who was nominated,” said Outstanding Senior Mary Kay McKenny. She also received the Outstanding Junior Award last year for her service to the Aquinas and Grand Rapids communities, “I would be bored if I wasn’t involved.”

Celebrate the Year at "The Awakening"

by Phil Stinus
Times Contributing Writer

For those of you who go home on weekends, April 27th is the one Saturday that you must stay for. "What is worth hanging around for?" you ask. The first annual end of the year party, "The Awakening," that’s what. Sure there won’t be a beer tent at homecoming, but the entertainment will perhaps be the best ever hosted at Aquinas. With sponsors like WORD, Vinyl Solution, The Intersection, and Aquinas’ own Programming Board and Senate, one must expect nothing short of a great time.

Imagine this: a stage in front of Holmdene with six bands cranking out music from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM. With food stands and arts and crafts exhibits lining the street, it sounds like Aquinas’ very own Lollapalooza, complete with stage security, professional sound, and stage lighting.

The bands booked include: Monkey Chuck, Jaw Bone, The Realist, ME, Outcry, and Aquinas’ own Domestic Problems. If you know anything about music, you know these are not bands playing for the first time out of their garages. These are quality rising bands with music on CD throughout the U.S.

"The Awakening" will be a chance to hang with all sorts of people. All prospective Aquinas students were mailed invitations. These students also have the opportunity to stay the night and take a tour of the school on Sunday through the Residence Hall Association. Neighboring college student governments were sent invitations inviting their student bodies also. In addition, a good number of Easttown hippies will most likely set up a tent up the crowd. Bottom line is, this party could be huge.

If you are wondering how such a potentially awesome festivity will be taking place at Aquinas, one must thank Josh Newman. It was through his eyes this vision was constructed, and he is the one who has remained the driving force behind its completion. Josh is quick to point out he has had plenty of help along the way, from the Programming Board in particular. "I would like to thank the Programming Board, Senate, the Intersection’s Dave Deaver, WORD’s Mark Sansied and Sue Farmer, and Herrm Baker at Vinyl Solution for sponsoring this event and their cooperation,” Newman said.

Once again “The Awakening” will be taking place on April 27th from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There are no costs involved for Aquinas Students. Only those coming off campus will have to pay for parking.

Save 30% with your Student I.D.
Easter Hike a Spiritual Success

by Curt Wozniak
Tens Ireland Correspondent

Throughout Ireland, the past throws constant reminders of itself at you, sometimes haunting, sometimes comforting. Graveyards seem to pop up randomly amid fields and bogs. Pre-Famine potato ridges line the hillsides. Early Christian monastic sites and medieval castles give insight to an even older Ireland, while Neolithic standing stones, erected centuries before the arrival of the Celts, give us a glimpse into a very advanced, very ancient civilization.

Besides the lessons learned through their study of Irish history and the rich landscapes that tell its story, the members of the Aquinas College Ireland program have established yet another link with the past: the annual Easter Morning hike up Tully Mountain.

Defying weariness and heavy fog, 18 students, advisors Kurt and Mary Clark-Kaiser, and their family rose at 6 AM (about one hour before sunrise, and several before most usually get out of bed) in order to reach the peak by the break of dawn. Senior Brian Cook called the climb, "yet another neat experience." Recalled Cook, "We all started climbing at the same time, but arrived at the top in small groups. The groups at the top yelled to the groups not quite there yet to lead them out of the fog."

"We all started climbing at the same time, but arrived at the top in small groups. The groups at the top yelled to the groups not quite there yet to lead them out of the fog." Kurt Kaiser concurred, citing the event as a wonderful experience of "group bonding." Said Kaiser, "There were as many group pictures taken at the peak as you could count." The group was allowed to recuperate from the fatigue of the hike later in the day when the Kaisers hosted a traditional Easter meal in their cottage.

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SENATE UPDATE

by Erin Flynn
Tens Contributing Writer

Student Senate recently chose its new chairpersons for each of the Senate committees. New chairpersons on all committees have high hopes for success in the coming year.

Andy Pieper, who will head the Political Affairs Committee, has high hopes for his committee. Pieper stated, "My main focus is to educate AQ students on more current events. I also hope to bring some major issues to Student Senate and to Aquinas life."

The remainder of the new chairpersons are: Matt Flanington for Student Affairs, a co-chair of Kate Kush and Jennifer Leet for Promotions and Publications/Programming, April Carpenter for Budget, and Kate Grgal for Student Representation. Each chairperson will work hard to add new and interesting perspectives to Student Senate and to Aquinas life.

In addition to new chairpersons, Rene Palileo released the big news of the Senate. Palileo stated, "WAQU has finally reached its goal. It will no longer necessarily be a committee, but instead a free standing entity much like the Aquinas Times."

Rico Cammon, who is the rehired chair of WAQU stated, "I'm really excited to have been rehired. A personal and staff goal is that WAQU becomes a strong force on campus. A second goal is that we will eventually broadcast off campus, and WAQU will become the strongest college radio station in West Michigan."

The Resident Advisors and program house members, chosen for the 1996-97 year, are excited to begin their duties, and live in their new homes. Here's a look at where these people will be:

- **REGINA HALL**
  - 1 East—Brian Hillary, Greg Mileski
  - 2 East—Janielle Ostrowski, Eve Berumen
  - 3 East—Morgan Higginbotham, Gwen Johnson
  - 1 West—Nicole Almond
  - 2 West—Felicia Buchanan
  - 3 West—Carlin Henry, Justin Manwell
  - 4 West—Amy Loi, Stephanie Fuchman

- **ST. JOSEPH HALL/HUBBLY HALL**
  - 1 SJ—Brendan DeBly, Dave DeBly
  - 2 SJ—Mark Lyon, Tiffany Moore
  - 3 SJ—Renee Gonsky, Janelle Burden
  - 1 HH—Angela Newcomb
  - 2 HH—Nikisha Griffin

- **EAST AREA**
  - DH—Deidra Wright, April Carpenter
  - BH—Heidi Stephan
  - KH—Duffy Caruana

- **Ireland Correspondent**
  - Stephanie Fuchman reflected on her position, "I feel privileged to be chosen out of all the good people who applied." Amy Loi, who is a veteran RA, says, "I'm really looking forward to the coming year. I'm very excited about the new staff, I think everyone has great potential!" Justin Mansell, a newcomer to the RA staff, stated, "I'm tremendously excited and think it's going to be an overall great experience."

In addition to the RA's, the program house volunteers have been selected and are as follows:

- **Program Houses Chosen for '96-'97**

**Program Name**

- **Big Sisters**
  - Beth Schaab
  - Andrea Smith

- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)**
  - Kim Thomas
  - Melissa Lim

- **Aquinas Youth (MAY)**
  - Samantha Szczepanski

- **Social Action Serving Seniors through the Environment (Rassy)**
  - Angie Frin

- **Students Against the Violation of Environment (male SAVE)**
  - Tim McGahey
  - Mark Campbell
  - Alan Plam

- **Students Against the Violation of Environment (female SAVE)**
  - Angie Frin
  - Burfeindt

- **Students Out Serving (SOS)**
  - Kate Kush
  - Melissa Wypicki

- **Volunteering Opportunities (VISSA)**
  - Rico Cammon
  - Penny Avery
The Montana Freemen: Waco, Part 2?

by Andy Pieper
Times News and Photo Editor

Perhaps you have a strong opinion one way or the other on which route the Federal Agents in Montana should take regarding the Freemen standoff. For over three weeks, the F.B.I. has been watching over the compound located on a ranch just outside of Jordan, Montana.

Every couple of days representatives for the Freemen, an anti-government isolationist group, have been leaving the compound to negotiate with federal officials. I would like to know just what exactly are they negotiating over? Do the officials think that the group doesn’t have the right to live in isolation from the rest of the world? According to reports, the Freemen have embezzled money through various scams and now the F.B.I. wants them to pay up. So, the government is willing to spend thousands of dollars a day to put guards around the compound, ready to attack at any moment, in order to retrieve money that they can probably guess the Freemen don’t have anyway?

Some people say we should just go in and blow them away, or at least use a little bit more force to attempt to get them to surrender. Normally I would agree. I have never been one to protest a little force here and there. However, because these folks are just holed up and keeping to themselves, if they don’t, oh well. It’s no skin off our backs.

I think it is safe to say that we are in an era of militant, anti-government groups, and the government needs to come up with a consistent policy on how to deal with them. That policy should be, live and let live. As soon as they make a mistake, capitalize on it. Our government has a history of only going half way on raids. We kill everyone in Iraq, but leave Saddam to glare in the sun. We attack in Waco, but then withdraw, hoping to save face. Maybe we should learn a few lessons from those instances.

Let the Freemen alone. Once a media firestorm is gone, all the lights are down, and they realize they are not in the spotlight anymore, they will make a mistake, or get greedy. The government has basically given them a platform on which to shout out their right-wing beliefs. Who had ever heard of the Freemen a month ago? The people in the compound (the one in Montana) are a little light in the loafers, and do not deserve the time of day from us here in reality.

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Much of this debate rests on the missed opportunities that the FBI had before this whole mess got started. For years the residents of Justus Country have begged for the police to secure loans. Many have put bounties on the heads of public officials, have written fake checks and money orders in excess of $3 million, and have used the private property of government officials as collateral in an attempt to secure loans. So with this in mind, should the federal government go in now and get them, or should they wait out in the cold Montana spring air for them to emerge? I think it is about time to put a stop to this nonsense and go in and bring them out.

The people in the compound are a little light in the loafers, and do not deserve the time of day from us here in reality.

The Times welcomes guest editorials or ideas for the "Point/Counterpoint" page. Contact x4106 for Info.
"41 Men"

by Michelle Botrall

Timers Contributing Writer

Former President Gerald R. Ford was in town this past Saturday to announce the opening of the new exhibit, "41 Men," at the Gerald R. Ford Museum. Cited by the President as the "largest and most historically significant exhibit in the history of the museum," "41 MEN" is a compilation of personal artifacts from the reign of all 41 of our nation's presidents.

Dominating the exhibit is William Howard Taft's giant white porcelain bathtub, which was constructed to hold all 360 pounds of him. While viewing the exhibit, several small children had gathered to peer over the side of the tub, realizing that a dozen kids could have easily fit into its depths, with room for even more to play. Calvin Coolidge's $800-pound electric horse is also on display. He was said to often ride this mechanical monstrosity for exercise, and was even seen seated upon it in his taxedo before a state dinner.

A replication of a 1400 pound cheese that was presented as a gift to Andrew Jackson by a group of New York men is also present. When the cheese was eaten by residents on the birthday of Washington D.C., the smell of cheese was reported up to a 1/2 mile.

If you look closely, you may see small pieces of George Washington's hair encased in a ring given to him by his wife. Further on a bronze casting of Abraham Lincoln's hands and head, and the ballot box where he cast his vote for President. A small mother-of-pearl case he once used to store his writing and which was left behind when he was killed, is displayed. The FBI
did not have this item.

President Ford said, "In an age where heroes are out of fashion and cynicism is in..." He said these dreams are probably unrealistic, less than $40,000 a year seems difficult to swallow after four, six, or even eight years of education over and above a high school diploma.

State-funded colleges predictably paid more, with University of Michigan professors receiving an average of $85,000 yearly and Michigan State professors receiving an average of $88,800.

When the exhibit was reviewed, the press found the exhibit "dull" and "insensitive." The San Francisco Chronicle reported that the FBI robbery was "a failure."..." When asked to list the benefits of working at a private liberal arts college, Winkler cited liberal vacation policies and, more importantly, "smaller classes, interaction and developing relationships with the students, having an impact on their education and the benefits of working at a private liberal arts college."

Brad Winkler, Dean of Students, admits that there is some disagreement over compensation but feels that "salaries are by and large quite comparable among private, liberal arts, church-related colleges in the state of Michigan." He does feel professors must, when entering the field, make a choice between a larger salary at a large public institution and the benefits of working at a private liberal arts college.

The FBI scoured the cabin, X-raying every square inch, in fear that it may be booby-trapped.

by Eric VanGessel

Times News Editor

On April 4, in a small town in Western Montana, Federal agents from the FBI raided a home in the mountains, and when entering the field, make a choice be- tween a larger salary at a large public institution and the benefits of working at a private liberal arts college.

Alleged Unabomber Taken Into Custody

Professor Salaries: AQ and the Average

by Michelle Botrall

Timers Contributing Writer

Full-time professors at Aquinas College earned an average of $39,400 last year. This figure is way below the national average of $50,000 that was cited by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in last week's Chronicle of Higher Education. Many of us go to college with dreams of someday making six figures and, while we know that these dreams are probably unrealizable, less than $40,000 a year seems difficult to swallow after four, six, or even eight years of education over and above a high school diploma.

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Excurions...  

By John Serba

Theodore J. Kaczynski. Do you know the name? Maybe you know him better as the Unabomber—allegedly so, that is. Yup, the FBI has tracked him down in Montana (a state apparently in need of educational reform) after months and months of searching, thus ending one of the longest running manhunts in American history.

The nail in Kaczynski’s coffin came when the FBI, according to news reports this past Saturday, found in his Montana domicile the supposed original copy of the Unabomber’s manifesto, originally published in the Washington Post and the New York Times in exchange for a hiatus in mail-bomb activity. What other evidence do we need to persecute this man(iac)?

What could possibly motivate someone to make homemade bombs and set them off at universities and airlines, randomly injuring and killing civilians? According to a Time magazine article, it’s paranoia. “You’re sharpening stones, walking on coals,” sings Michael Stipe on the R.E.M. classic “Exhuming McCarthy,” which is apparently what people like the Freemen of Montana and Kaczynski are attempting to do. Apparently, the U.S. government is out to destroy the lives of all citizens in this, the greatest country in the world; however, only horribly cynical geniuses like Kaczynski and David Koresh are aware of this. It appears that our Unabomber holed himself up in Lincoln, Montana, and didn’t leave—probably because he feared that the person driving in front of him was following him the long way around the earth.

Wait a minute, though. Before we pound the nails in Kaczynski’s hands and feet or tighten the noose around his neck, maybe we should examine this situation. The knee-jerk reaction to the Unabomber’s existence lies within a question posted earlier: Why would someone do this? Who knows? Maybe he took radical stock in Darwin’s theory, and he’s the fittest, the predator, basking in his weak prey (who he would probably consider most ignorant American citizens).

Or, perhaps I’m backing up the wrong tree here. Who hunted this man down? The federal government. Does anyone examine or question the methods of the federal government? No, the general populace pretty much considers the government to be God—what He/say, goes, and that’s the truth. Admittedly, I initially said “Oh, he’s toast now,” upon learning about the discovery of the Unabomber’s manifesto manuscript. Then, a second thought crossed my puny, washed brain: How do we know if the FBI didn’t plant the manuscript and all of the bomb paraphernalia, thus framing poor Kaczynski, just like O.J. was framed?

Hence, the FBI looks pretty damn heroic, don’t they? They caught the mad genius, and, boy, aren’t they smart. How do we know that the whole Unabomber thing isn’t a set-up to begin with? You know, the government could pay off a stool pigeon like Kaczynski to take the heat for the bombings—wait a minute, maybe the government set up the bombings in the first place, just to create some media hoopla around a mad bomber who doesn’t really exist, and they, in turn, catch the phantom maniac, stick Kaczynski in the spotlight, and get a pat on the back from the stupid American citizens, who are taught but cattle in their eyes. Maybe this doesn’t make too much sense, after all, the bombings killed a few taxpayers; but, hell, they’re the government, they can just print more money.

I don’t know about you, but I’m scared. The government could just see us all as pawns in a massive game of chess, manipulating us just for the sheer evil joy of entertaining themselves. I have a close friend who received an internship for computer programming at the National Security Agency. He showed me a brochure and it said, “Maybe you haven’t heard much about the NSA—but that’s intentional.” Don’t you see? They can control what we see and hear! They are probably watching me type this editorial by way of government spy satellites, and they’ll assassinate me and make it look like an alien abduction. Maybe Theodore J. Kaczynski wasn’t too far off base with his “hunch.” Or am I just being paranoid?
A Letter from the Assistant Editor

After years of planning and development, months of renovation, and a few nights of dedication ceremonies, Aquinas opened the doors to the Cook Carriage House last fall. The history of the Carriage House is a rich one, as it is served as the former science building and as a theater. Its current use, however, as our newly renovated Cook Carriage House Student Activities Center, is clearly the most promising. For years, the Carriage House sat in disrepair with no use except as a landmark from the former Lowe estate.

However, after architectural renderings were commissioned and a massive fund-raising effort was spawned alike, two years was completed, the Carriage House has become the new center of organized student activities. Too much credit was given to a group of students who worked on the project, but it was certainly an important step forward for Aquinas College. It proved to everyone involved with the college that amidst budget constraints, this school could move forward. Colleges are becoming more like businesses every year, but very few ever come from class to play a game of pool or relax with friends.

The Carriage House was the beginning of Aquinas' new life, for we could not stay the same. The Cook Carriage House offered the opportunity to improve the quality of life for on-campus students who previously lacked an alternative to their dorm rooms outside of classes. For commuters, the Carriage House could be the place to actually be a part of the campus except for attending classes. On the business end, we would boost recruitment and retention, as well.

Reality, though, is different than expectations. Though only in its first year of operation, the Carriage House has a long way to go to meet the original expectations. Part of the problem dates back to when the Cook Carriage House suddenly added the Student Activities part to its name. At the risk of sounding trite, the original plan was always to renovate the Carriage House into a Student Union. I believe this distinction is important. The idea for a renovated student building was not to put a stage in and have concerts, or to relocate student offices and senate meetings. The idea was geared more for the students who want a place to relax or hang out with friends and watch (cable) TV or play fooseball. They wouldn't have to be Budget Director for the Senate or an assistant to the Student Activities Director. They could be any student who takes a class at Aquinas.

The Carriage House has become a Student Activities Center where hundreds of students have come to listen to bands or danced at weekend events or watched a play or attended any number of other events, but very few ever come from class to play a game of pool or relax with friends.

One student recently said to me that we should rename the building The Cook Country Club, as only officers of student organizations seem to inhabit this important building. A person in the administration said to me that if the Carriage House turns out to be a great new place for student leaders, then it will have served a good enough purpose. At a cost of $700,000, I would disagree.

The Carriage House is a landmark from the former Lowe estate. At a cost of $700,000, I would disagree. At times, I walk through the main room on the lower level and wonder if I am the first student all week to see the walls of this room. We once dreamed of a coffee house where anyone could come and relax in comfortable couches and listen to music and simply be there, instead of in the library or class or in their room. Some people here felt that this coffee house-style room would be too inflexible. Well, I can hardly think of something more inflexible than an empty room.

I hope the Student Senate or a group of students come together to put some life into the Cook Carriage House. Start by making it a student union, not just a student activities center--and certainly not a country club. Then maybe put a coffee shop on the main level. It was attempted and it failed, but it can be done. Making the building into a functioning center for all students would be a much more impressive accomplishment than any student effort that helped to raise the initial funds to renovate it. For the future viability of this campus, few things will be as important as a practical and welcoming student union.

Dear Editor,

No I'm not a militant vegetarian, but I had to comment on Mr. Serba's review of vegetarian food at The Cottage (Issue 17, March 20). His last line is "Not recommended for vegetarians..." He must have reviewed it very thoroughly, as the Cottage does keep us herbivores in mind. I always suggest the garden burger to vegan and omnivores alike. And the Cottage bagel with guacamole is to die for. But at least no animals die for it.

So if you prefer food without faces you need not pass The Cottage by.

Sincerely,

Fred Stella II

Thanks for filling in the cracks of my review. When the saliva starts flowing over those Cottage fries, things get overlooked.—Ed.
April 17, 1996

AQ Freshman Part of National Performance/Service Program

by Mindi Evans
Times Contributing Writer

Twenty-eight years ago, toward the end of the tumultuous 1960's, an organization known as Up With People was born at an international youth conference. At this conference the participants expressed their belief that the world must work together in order to solve the problems of the era. They presented this idea through a high-powered musical show. Inspired by the enthusiasm of these dedicated youth, J. Blankton Belk visualized a program that would harness the idealism of the generation and build global unity.

Today, Up With People offers a world-traveling experience to young men and women ages 17-26. The program includes five weeks of Orientation and Staging. After an initial interview and approval of a submitted application, Pniewski was selected to be a cast member.

Pniewski will travel to Denver, Colorado for five weeks of Orientation and Staging. While there she will be trained for the challenges of the world tour.

After the training period, Pniewski, along with five different casts, will go on a year-long tour of the United States and several regions of the world. “Although I will be taking time off from college, the opportunity to travel and perform will teach me things about myself and the world around me that I could never learn in the classroom,” says Pniewski.

While traveling, the students will be staying in host homes. This gives them an opportunity not only to learn about the country, but also to form a relationship with the people. During the year, the students only get two weeks off to return home to visit their friends and family.

Along with the on stage performances, Up With People members dedicate time for community service. In each location that Up With People visits, members participate in some sort of service project, such as visiting people in hospitals, nursing homes and prisons, serving meals at soup kitchens and talking to elementary schools about their home country. “Up With People will not only be an unforgettable experience for me, but also for the people who benefit from the program,” said Pniewski.

Up With People is a non-profit organization, so traveling costs, food, housing and transportation expenses are covered. “I could never learn in the classroom,” says Pniewski. “I've seen a many a thing. But let me tell you, one thing I have never seen is a term paper that did itself or a back up for what work that was magically waived at the end of the semester by a kind prof. Truth is kids, you bought the ticket for this trip so this isn't in your best interest to bail out now. This late in the game, you've either got to do or die and remember you're playing for the whole ball 'o' wax, the whole goosey' mash, the whole enchilada, the whole whatever else is on the line. Oh my gosh, a glimmer of light spreads across the sky; it's the end of the semester. That's right, it's not all dark and scary or an AQ at the end of April/beginning of May. One could also look at this period of time as an opportunity to finish strong. What I'm really trying to say here is two fold: the end of the semester rush is do-able, but you're the one that's got to do it. Now is the time to start tackling the "neglected" projects, and I guarantee that you will not have enough time the week before a deadline. If you've got a lot of deadlines looming consider the following Top Ten list...

1. Wake up early. You'll really go off even if you set it for 7 a.m. (gasp)
2. Marathon studying sessions are not as productive as shorter, less pressured ones. Exams are weeks away, look at each class' notes a few minutes a day.
3. When you are studying, study for 50 minutes and then take a 10 minute break. This allows you to think and remember you're playing for the whole ball 'o' wax, the whole goosey' mash, the whole enchilada, the whole whatever else is on the line.
4. Staring at your notes is not learning. Get a real job, you'll feel like this all the time.
5. Take a half hour each day to do something completely ridiculous. It will make it easier for you to feel like this when you graduate and get a real job, you'll feel like this all the time.
6. Spend money (this works for me).
7. Be nice to all you encounter, they are in the same jam as you are.

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Currently on display in the AAC are the sculp­tures and paintings of Lisa Burrows (right) and Chris LaPorte (left). The show opened on April 14, and the works will be on display through May 11.
ME Brings Unique Sound to AQ

by John Serba
Times Editor-in-Chief

As a writer, the search for an easy topic to pontificate (or report) on is difficult. Thus, when the opportunity to write about ME (capitalization necessary) came about, I jumped at the chance. What an easy job, one must think. Maybe not. All self-referrals (and idiotic puns) aside, describing what the Philadelphia-based band ME (composed of lead guitarist Hugh Colocott, Kaj L.T. on rhythm guitars and keyboards, Jim Rowland on bass, vocalist Brando Rush, and Erik Thor Steinert on drums and programming) sounds like is quite difficult. Describing the sound of one’s own band can be quite difficult, and Steinert initially danced around it, “Um, WWF (World Wrestling Federation) with guitars,” he joked, adding, “no, don’t use that.” In reality, however, ME is an interesting cross-breed, a veritable cornucopia, of sounds. Rap, hard rock, funk, and industrial are the typical genre classifications one would use to describe various aspects of ME’s sound, but for some reason the ME experience eludes all of these terms.

“We’re somewhere between industrial and pop,” Steinert said. “But most industrial groups’ songs are just bad. Kaj is a great songwriter, and I add the industrial touch.” He elaborated. Evidence can be found in the often danceable songs on their 665 records and sampling prevalent in industrial (as well as hip hop) music, with the former song incorporating a hummable metallic guitar riff and the latter featuring a funk-inspired bass line.

It Must Suck To Be You’s single live track, “The Real Wars,” promises a high energy live show without being heavy handed—thanks to vocalist Brando Rush’s sense of humor. Besides, how can you take a band called ME too seriously?”

“We just came up with the most arrogant thing possible,” said Steinert, with a tinge of humor in his voice. Apparently, he had been doing a lot of work for the band at one point, and he jokingly commented, “Let’s name the band ME!” Obviously, the name stuck—but the name has a dual nature; according to the band’s bio, the name is a reaction to society’s selfish greediness, as well as a selling point to radio stations, with the idea that DJs could have fun saying “That was ME” after playing the record.

Regardless of the theoretical implications of their band name, ME promises a hell of a show when they play at The Awakening on April 27th, and the Intersection later that evening. As Tarrant would eloquently put it, “ME good. Go see ME.”
A lot of things have changed within the Verve Pipe camp since the band was out on the road promoting its Pop Smear album back in 1994. Sure, Don Brown’s playing a new drum kit, Doug Corella now has a bigger role with his keyboard playing, a darker edge has emerged in Brian Vander Ark’s innate sense of song writing, some of them have new hairstyles and... God forbid... they did change the ever-precious tune “The Freshmen.” But if you’ve seen the Verve Pipe in the past, and you caught them last week at the Orbit Room, you know that the band is still the same.

The soulful, moving lyrics are still there, as are the strong melodies. The band still has a stage presence as good as anyone in the business, and, above all, the group’s overall songwriting savvy has matured beyond belief. So yes, the band has made some changes for its major label, RCA Records debut, but they’re for the better.

Kicking off with “Cup of Tea,” the Verve Pipe set the pace early last Thursday as they attempted to overwhelm a capacity crowd at the Orbit Room with their patented, no-frills power pop. The band cranked out other upbeat new tunes like the alternative-friendly title cut from the new album and the new, chart-climbing single “Photograph.”

Old songs, such as “Many A Material,” from their independently released debut, I’ve Suffered A Head Injury, and “Bullets on Vacation,” from their other independent release, Pop Smear, brought a huge response from the slam-dancing, crowd-surfing throng.

But it was when the group—which also includes bassist Brad Vander Ark and guitarist A.J. Dunning—slowed things down that they were at their best. Potential hits from the new album, like “Penny Is Poison” and “Vener” really highlighted Vander Ark’s songwriting abilities and charisma on stage, while an encore solo acoustic version of “Pretty For You” did the same. It was Vander Ark’s performance of the original version of “The Freshmen” that made this show a most memorable one.

After asking “How many people out there have the original Version of ‘The Freshmen’,” in which an enormous number of fans raised their hands and responded loudly, Vander Ark commented, “that’s all that matters,” and went on with the song. Most everyone in the venue helped in singing near every word of the song.

And though it would be nice to keep the Verve Pipe Michigan’s little secret, soon people all over the world will be singing along with the band. Despite a new look and a new sound, the Verve Pipe still has the formula necessary to make them this year’seward-winning sweethearts among music fans and critics alike in the U.S. Within the next year or so, Verve Pipe could very well achieve the success of acts like Live, Dave Matthews and Hootie by Josh Newman

Times Entertainment Editor
Saisons Baseball on a Mission

by Justin Smith
Times Contributing Writer

Not to say that the team offense isn’t holding its own, but certain members of the pitching staff have just been outstanding in the early part of the season. Through April 11, senior pitcher Chris Waligora had posted a 5-1 record and an excellent 1.82 ERA. Additionally, opposing batters were hitting just .193 against him. Sophomore pitcher Jim Hood had recorded a 3-0, while Ian Congrove and Brian McGuire were both a very respectable 3-1.

For the sticks, Adam VanderToom leads the Saints with an illustrious .400 batting average. Laura Kobler, a senior, has maintained a pacing .375 average and 21 runs batted in. Adam and Laura are two of the top four batters in the line-up for the Saints – a position where they get a little better." 

Adam Vandentoom (left), Chris Waligora

Softball Heats Up at Mid-Season Mark

by Alan Plum
Times Contributing Writer

Despite a slow start to the season, due to poor weather and numerous cancellations, the Aquinas women’s softball team is now plowing through a rigorous schedule. The Saints, who currently stand at 9-11, have been playing what seems to be more of a professional than a collegiate schedule. Although the team has played 19 games thus far, they still have four doubleheaders that they will eventually have to make up. Over the next two weeks, barring further cancellations, the ladies will have home games every day except for April 16th, 18th, 25th, and April 22nd.

However, these dates could be used to squeeze in some of the Saints makeup games. In addition to all these makeup dates, the Saints are still required to finish a game with Sienna Heights that was postponed due to rain.

On a mission. That is one way to describe the Aquinas Saints baseball team. The Saints are currently in second place in the WHAC with a 6-2 record, and they are only one game behind Sienna Heights for first place. Overall, the team has compiled an impressive 21-4 record, which is dynamic, especially considering that the team has only six seniors on its 32 man roster.

The reason for the success so far "Defense," claims head coach Terry Bocian. "The pitching has been consistent, and our fielding percentage is well above average. I expect the offense to pick up once the weather gets a little better."

"The pitching has been consistent, and our fielding percentage is well above average. I expect the offense to pick up once the weather gets a little better."

April 17, 1996

A Q TENNIS

Men Aim at WHAC Title

by Stephen Greene
Times Contributing Writer

The Aquinas men’s tennis team continued its successful season with wins home and away against rivals from the WHAC conference and the city.

AQ successfully defended its claim as the best team in the city, knocking off Cornerstone College 8-1, and then beating a tough GRCC team 5-4. AQ’s depth and strong singles play held off the upstart GRCC team. “It’s a win that we needed to reach our goal, and the guys came through,” commented coach Jerry Hendrick after the victory.

Next, Aquinas defeated Albion College at the packed Aquinas fieldhouse, 6-3. This environment caused problems for the visiting Brittons, who had no answer for AQ. To keep the win streak alive, the team made their longest road trip of the season to Sienna Heights. AQ routed their WHAC foe 8-1, despite not having two starters for the pivotal conference match.

After a rainout at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, AQ continued their road warrior mentality, defeating arch rival Tri-State in Angola, Indiana. Co-capitan Eric VanGessel led the way with a decisive doubles win and a solid three-set victory at the one singles flight. This win made the final score 9-0 and ensured the team a trip to Ponderosa.

AQ still has dual meets against Hope and Spring Arbor which should be very competitive. Prospects for another WHAC title look promising, as do the NAIA regionals. "Our hard schedule throughout the year will really have us ready for the post-season tournaments, so we should do well, but we are not going to overlook Hope, who we really want to beat, bad!" said VanGessel. There is definitely good reason to be optimistic if the team stays healthy and focused.

Women Gaining Experience

by Justin Smith
Times Contributing Writer

At first glance it would be difficult to notice anything out of the ordinary about the 1996 Aquinas Women’s Tennis team. On further examination of the roster, the youth of the Lady Saints becomes apparent. After all, the team is composed of three freshmen, three sophomores, one junior, and even a first year coach.

"The talent is there," said freshman Erin Schmedieck, "but at the same time our lack of experience is sometimes evident." The team has thus far posted a record of 2-6, although that’s not a fair indication of some of the close matches that have taken place.

As of late the Saints beat Adrian, as they were led by #1 doubles Courtney Parker and Melissa Misidstarfer (who also plays in the #1 singles position). In other current action the team lost to an overpowering Calvin squad, and, most recently, won 5-4 at Sienna Heights. Also on the team are #2 doubles Lauren Nook and Erin Schmedieck, as well as Miriam Lynch, Louisa Keefe, and Christine Rodriguez.

Despite their record, the group is gaining experience as they continue their season.

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Red Wings Crush
NHL Record

61st victory first step to the Stanley Cup

In the final week of the NHL regular season, many things are still up in the air. It is during this time that every game has incredible significance as the teams pedal on the bubble scrap for the final playoff spots and assurance to face the powerhouse in a bid for the illustrious Stanley Cup. In light of all this, it would seem that a team like the Detroit Red Wings would likely coupe into the post season as the unouchable Western Conference Champs. Not this year, though. These Wings had placed themselves in a position to eclipse the record for most wins in a regular season and to finish second in total points, both records held by the 1976-77 Montreal Canadians. (Not surprisingly, both of those records are held by current Wings coach Scotty Bowman.) The magic number of 61 wins was needed to assure this great team a spot in NHL history. It seems only appropriate that the opportunity to fulfill this wonderful dream would come against their division rivals the Chicago Blackhawks.

The Blackhawks, who had just lost to the Red Wings a week earlier by a three goal shutout, as they continue to chase a three point gap back into the playoff hunt. The opportunity to fulfilling this dream was supposed led by defenseman/ goon Chris Chelios. Chelios had spent the entire week leading up to the game crying bloody murder and swearing vengeance for an injury which had been imposed upon fellow defenceman Steve Smith by Detroit’s Igor Larionov. The injury was the result of a slash that Larionov had given Smith in retaliation which had been imposed upon fellow enforcers Larionov and Smith. The injury was the result of a slash that Larionov had given Smith in retaliation for being slashed himself. From listening to Chelios’s rantings to the press about the viciousness of the injury, one was made to believe that Larionov had actually severed Smith’s leg from his body. Last that week, it was revealed that a stress fracture was the real extent of the injury, hardly a situation that implied intent to injure. The real kicker was that after a full week of swelling retribution, Chelios mysteriously came down with a case of the “flu” (translation: he was scared) on the day of the game. The end result found Detroit facing an outgunned and out manned Chicago squad. Needless to say, the Red Wings managed to defeat the Blackhawks 5-3 in yet another hard fitting game that should have been more to Chicago’s liking.

This was a game that featured the Wings trailing 3-1 at the end of the first period, a KO on Chicago thug Enrico Ciccone by our feisty little friend Dino Ciccarelli, and a bid by Bob Berry for his own NIKIcommercial with a Sergei Fedorov-style move that resulted in a Paul Coffey goal. Chicago was left to skate off the ice at the end of the game not having beaten the Red Wings since the playoffs last year, and even then it only happened once.

Having now set the mark for wins in a season, the Wings players and coaching staff are still not content with their accomplishments, nor will they be until they capture the Stanley Cup. In the last few weeks, Detroit has proven that a relatively small team can still play the physical game necessary to defeat teams such as Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and New Jersey. The Wings start their playoff season on the 17th, where they’ll face the Winnipeg Jets. By the way, our friend Barry Melrose recently predicted a New Jersey Devils victory over the Wings in the Finals. Um, Barry, the Devils didn’t make the playoffs this year, in case you didn’t …as time to go back to the drawing board, I guess.