Fall Break Offers Students the Opportunity for Service, Fun

by Angela Burrows
Times Contributing Writer

Over fall break there were a variety of activities and trips planned for AQ students. Three such trips included two service learning trips (one to L'Arche and one to Wilderness State Park) as well as a fun getaway called “Saddles and Paddles.” These trips provided students with an escape from the monotony of campus or home life and allowed them to experience something new and special.

The students who elected to attend the L'Arche service learning trip spent a week in a community designed to meet the needs of physically and mentally challenged adults, allowing them to enjoy a somewhat normal lifestyle.

AQ students helped these disabled adults, allowing them to experience something new and special.

Another group went to the humane society where they helped clean the yard, wash windows, walk dogs, groom cats and basically give some well-deserved attention to the animals.

It was hard not to feel sorry for the animals, stated Into the Streets participant Tammy Osgood. “I wanted to take them all home with me, but it felt good to be able to help out.”

Fallen leaves and the crisp air that still remained from the recent rain showers marked a successful trip for the students. “It was a very heart warming, emotionally charged experience,” recalls AQ student Cathy Gamper. “I came away with some lasting memories and new recognitions about myself. I feel anyone who can take part in this program should. It really makes you look at yourself—your faults and fears—and realize how many types of people there are in this world.”

The Wilderness State Park retreat was equally successful. Those who travelled to the State Park near Dark Lake included Janelle Burden, John Rice, Nina Perko, Melissa Pline, Erin Henehan and Lia Brower-Mix.

The wooden bridge they worked hard to build over swampy waters will leave their mark on the area for years to come.

As Erin Henehan said, “The boardwalk looks really great. We could really see how all our hard work hauling lumber paid off.”

Besides this accomplishment, they had a chance to forget the stresses of school and just enjoy. See "Trips," p. 2

Halloween Haunts East Area All Year

by Molly Ann Huber
Times Contributing Writer

On dark, creepy, autumn nights, do you ever wonder what may be lurking in the darkness of Aquinas' campus? What were those strange noises you heard late last night? Were the dark shadows sweeping across your room merely a hallucination? On the minds of some East Area residents in particular, these questions are ever present.

Before housing Aquinas’ Residential Volunteer Programs, East Area belonged to the Grand Rapids Baptist Bible College.

"It later was bought by Aquinas College and dedicated on June 23, 1990," said archivist Sister Jean Milhaupt.

The four houses all have some very interesting histories and features that have led to suspicions of the supernatural.

Knape Hall, for instance, used to be a funeral home. In the basement there is even a "cooler room" that was used for the preservation of the dead.

As Erin Henehan said, "The boardwalk looks really great. We could really see how all our hard work hauling lumber paid off."

Besides this accomplishment, they had a chance to forget the stresses of school and just enjoy. See "Trips," p. 2

Annual "Into the Streets" Project Calls Students to Community Service

by Mindi Evans
Times Campus News Editor

From October 6 to the 13th, AQ students took time out of their busy schedules to help carry on a great Aquinas tradition.

The annual Into the Streets project offered service opportunities for participants at several locations throughout the greater Grand Rapids area.

AQ junior Matt Flannigan coordinated a Hospice program where students helped clean a house whose owner was under Hospice care. Their efforts were recognized and reported by WOOD TV-8 news.

Another group went to the humane society where they helped clean the yard, wash windows, walk dogs, groom cats and basically give some well-deserved attention to the animals.

It was hard not to feel sorry for the animals, stated Into the Streets participant Tammy Osgood. “I wanted to take them all home with me, but it felt good to be able to help out.”

Participants also cleaned at the Degage soup kitchen, sorted clothes at Into the Image and ran a food drive that benefited the local Hispanic center.

"The theme for Into the Streets was "Try it for a day, you might like it for a lifetime,"" said Campus Coordinator Nancy Ti Scherfke. When asked about the success of the program she stated, "I heard a lot of positive feedback and I think it really impacted people emotionally."

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the beautiful, simple gifts of nature. "The trip was a wonderful chance to get back to nature. Preserving the wilderness brought me closer to God," said Janelle Burden. Although living conditions were a little rustic (they stayed in a cabin without heat or electricity), they made the best of the situation and even learned to enjoy it. "It was like stepping back in time. We used a wood stove for heat and candles for light," said sophomore Melissa Plinc.

The "Saddles and Paddles" trip was also a chance to experience the beauty of nature. There were 14 companionship to fill their days with a variety of adventure and camaraderie to fill their days and nights. The entourage bravely put their fears and apprehensions aside and ventured to West Virginia for this two-day trip program-
ning board sponsored. The trip included white water rafting and horseback riding.

Do you remember what you were doing Monday during fall break? Well, these ten students were experiencing the two biggest rapids on the trip: Pure Screaming Hell and Lower Marsh.

"I don't know what was more fun/scary, white water rafting, or driving with Zack through those small country roads," joked rafter Scott Arsulowicz.

Molly Huber said, "The trip was a lot of fun, but the trip in the van was a little hard and so was the first night sleeping in tents out in the cold." Huber added, "Luckily, the other day and a half we got to stay in chalets... so we were ready for the high adventure of rafting and horseback riding."

Project Open Heart brings National Disabilities Week to Aquinas
by Brigid Balger
Times Contributing Writer
While most were scrambling over mid-term projects, one group on campus sacrificed some of their time to educate the public.

Project Open Heart brought National Disabilities Awareness Week to Aquinas through various activities over the week of October nineteenth.

The week began on Monday with a game to test one's knowledge of famous people with disabilities. "What's Your Disabilities Awareness Quotient?" gave students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge for candy prizes.

Tuesday, Project Open Heart brought music to Wege lunch. Students and facility listened to various artists including Cher, Bee Gees, and Gloria Estefan. All of the musicians chosen are famous and disabled.

On Wednesday morning, Lesa Niemhaus, the Program Administrator for Spectrum Community Services shared her experiences from working with the mentally impaired. Jill Straub recalls that Niemhaus emphasized the way one should treat them mentally impaired. "The correct way to treat them is to treat them the way you want to be treated. And that stands for everyone with a disability."

That evening in the Carriage House featured the movie "Passion Fish." It tells the story of a young soap opera star who becomes a paraplegic. The young woman lets her disability discourage her and turns to alcohol as an outlet from her problems. Following the video, Straub shared about her life as a paraplegic woman. "I shared about the things that I have to deal with, how I can watch the movie and see where this woman is coming from. At the same time, I can relate a lot of what she perceives. I don't drink at all. She kept saying 'I can't, I can't. I don't agree with her, but I can empathize.'"

The week concluded with a panel discussion with Aquinas students who are disabled.

In spring, Project Open Heart has another Awareness Week planned. Highlights include a comedian, a service learning project, and a basketball game between the Grand Rapids Pacers and the Aquinas Basketball team. "I think that students will really enjoy it," shared Straub.

St. Joe's Haunted Hall:
The Spooky Tradition Continues
by Juliana Hilton
Times Contributing Writer
On Thursday night, St. Joe's Hall was taken over by ghosts, monsters, and variations of "spookables." The residents decorated each floor with toilet paper, laundry detergent and black lights. They set up refreshments and activities such as coloring and bobbing for apples.

The community turnout was about 250, according to Stephanie Inold, St. Joseph Hall RHC board member. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and get into the spirit of it. "The children who came in wanted to be scared so anything that jumped out was just an added bonus," said Elizabeth Martin, a tour guide at the Haunted Hall. "The parents were as scared as the kids were. I told parents in my speech for their safety they may wish to send the children first because the spooks will jump out at whoever goes first."

The main reason the Haunted Hall was such a success was because of the enthusiasm of everyone involved in setting up and running it. "No one had to do it, so the ones who did got into it. It's amazing how far TP can go," said Martin.

There were only about thirty AQ students who went through the Hall, much lower than in the past. Martin, with her face painted white and glowing, came face to face with one student to whom she gave a fright. "I thought she was going to pout on me!" said Martin.

Freshman Kelly Homb summed up the evening by saying, "The Haunted Hall was a success. Little kids must have enjoyed themselves and those putting it together seemed to be having fun." He added, "I think it would have been better for AQ students if more people had stuck around. But it was an okay diversion."

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Exciting Children's After School Program Comes to Aquinas

A class of eleven children are studying chemistry here on the Aquinas Campus. They are sacrificing some of their after school time to study Gobs of Goo, a program offered by The Children's Talent Center. Once a week the small class meets to study chemistry. Yet the youths are so busy having fun that they forget they are learning.

"We are making gravity," explained Willie Riebel as he watched the raisins rise to the surface of a glass propelled by carbon dioxide. The children are learning everything from safety at home, to the properties of carbon dioxide, to experiments to try on a rainy day. The classes look to teach both information and community social skills while still allowing the kids to be kids.

Parents can attest to the value of the class. Mike Novinski has two sons who are participating in the program. "It's enjoyable for the kids. They are learning while they are having fun. They cannot stop talking about it. My four year old won't let me tell him seven year old go without him."

Part of what makes this class so enjoyable is the teacher, Bruce Reges. Reges strives to help his students use thought to develop creativity and problem solving skills. He encourages them to ask "Why do things happen?"

The class of eleven ranges in age from four to nine years old, to the S.A.V.E. organization was passed overwhelmingly by the Community Senate. Other issues discussed included a fund raising event hosted by the Development Department, Youth Day, the Eastown Community Association, and an prospective student phone-a-thon. The S.A.V.E. organization, represented by P.J. Tannian and Nate Richardson, proposed a $600 budget. The money would be used to enable the members in clearing away the recycle goods collected over a two week period. Senate's budget committee supported the allocation with the stipulation the organization would not be guaranteed the money every semester. They would have to reapply. The motion to allocate $600 was approved.

Reges feels that a good teacher does not worry about the difference in the age between his students. Rather, he feels one must "start with a student wherever they are, and drag them along to where they should be."

The students are being taught by a teacher who "loves learning." Perhaps this is why Karl Vonderhyde defines a diaper as a "reciprocal for people who have not learned how to use the bathroom and cannot control themselves or their bodily wastes." One of their classes involved discovering the importance of diapers, and how much water a diaper holds.

Reges enjoys his job, creating a positive experience for all of his students. Reges shares his education with his students. He also encourages everyone to remember, "If you don't like what you are going to do with your education, forget it."

These children are learning that Chemistry can be fun on AQ's campus with Bruce Reges' Gobs of Goo Program.

by Brigid Bulger
Times Contributing Writer

Democrat Flory Speaks to Aquinas Students

by Angela Bergman
Times Contributing Writer

Sparking all American stars and stripes, Betsy Flory, Democratic challenger for the Third Congressional district of Michigan, spoke to Aquinas students Tuesday, October 29 in the Loutit Room. Even then, with the elections a week away, and popular Representative Vernon Ehlers as the incumbent, Flory admitted a victory did not look promising. She, however, had not lost determination to express her viewpoint.

"I really feel that the two-party system works best, as long as you hear from both parties," she explained. "The Democrats [in West Michigan] tend to keep Republicans honest, and vice versa in other areas of the state."

By inviting Flory, as well as other politicians, the Political Affairs Committee of the Aquinas Senate hoped to increase political awareness on campus of candidates and issues. Flory stated, "People who are going to vote for or against me have the right to know why they're doing that."

A teacher for 38 years, Flory promotes President Clinton's plan for education. She supports the Head Start program to target children of disadvantaged families and a $1,500 tax credit for students with a B or better grade point average the first two years of college. Flory also agrees with Clinton's $10,000 tax deduction for students pursuing a continued liberal arts education or graduate school.

Welfare reform also has priority on Flory's agenda. "The old system is not working. It is expensive and demanding to the people. We need to move people off welfare and into jobs through job training and child care programs," Flory related her own personal experience with previously government-dependent mothers. "Every person walked taller and were more confident [off welfare]. They never once wanted to go back to the old way of putting a check in their pocket and just going home."

Flory also addressed her pro-choice position on abortion, stating that she feels it is "the people's decision rather than the government's." She also admitted that she may not be 100% right on this issue. The decision to start homosexual-marriage rights has given Flory "the greatest wrestling match with my own conscience," she said, more than anytherwise.

She supports campaign finance reform, for she feels to win elections the moderate must be targeted, and "the way you reach those people is with money." Flory herself was looking to raise only about $12,000, and had no support from the Michigan Democratic Party, which looks at the "winability factor" in determining assistance to campaigns.

Betsy Flory allowed for Aquinas students interaction in expressing personal beliefs, concerns, and questions regarding the field of politics.

Junior Kimberly Thomas commented, "I thought she was a good speaker and had some good points. It was different from what I expected though, I thought she was a conservative Democrat."

"She did a good job of presenting herself and connecting with both Democratic and Republican controversial issues," sophomore Onice Soto explained.

According to junior Stephanie Langstaff, the goal of the Political Affairs Committee was achieved. "She was very interesting and very open. I enjoy hearing personal opinions along with political stances, for then I become familiar with the other areas and vice versa."
Should the Federal Government Continue to Guarantee College Students' Loans?

**Point**

by Jeremy Poindexter  
Times Guest Commentator

Many Aquinas students are concerned about the rising cost of higher education. Many of these students, myself included, are helping to pay tuition costs through student loans. There is, however, a major problem with these loans. They do a lot to compound the already inflated cost of tuition.

Loans taken out to pay for education are given to students through the free-market. Private banks can issue the loans to students.

The major problem with this, though, is that these loans are guaranteed by the Federal Government. If a student defaults on his or her loan, the Federal Government will pay it for you.

This gives banks no incentive to act responsibly. Banks will hand out as many loans as possible, because, no matter what happens, the bank will make their money.

This, therefore, increases the amount of money that can be spent on higher education. If banks continue to hand out loans to more and more people, then there will be more money available to spend. The colleges and universities know this, so they raise their tuition accordingly. The figures from last year show that tuition at state universities increased at twice the rate of inflation. This is actually down from previous years.

Now, loans in general are not a bad thing. In fact, student loans are essential to provide higher education. Banks should have the responsibility of handing out those loans only to people who have proven that they are trustworthy enough to pay it back, or have it co-signed by someone else who is. If the Federal government guaranteed car loans, the public would be outraged. Why should student loans be any different?

Guaranteed student loans also increase government controls over private colleges. When a private college, like Aquinas, accepts students that have guaranteed student loans, they are, in essence, accepting government money. When this happens, the government sets forth an agenda on what colleges have to do.

To suggest that students do not utilize student loans is not the solution. I utilize them, and I know that students will do what they have to do to pay for tuition. As long as guaranteed student loans exist, though, tuition will continue to increase. As long as tuition increases, government will always step up with more money.

With more money, the government gains more control, not only of state universities, but private colleges too.

If the government guaranteed car loans, the public would be outraged. Why should student loans be any different?

**Counterpoint**

by Maris Brancheau  
Times News Editor

There is no debate over the issue of guaranteed student loans, for without them colleges and universities as we know them would not exist.

First of all, Federal lending programs allow students to take out loans from private lenders in order to pay their higher education costs. Students are able to do so because the Federal Government backs the loan. This is important because without this guarantee, the banks would not be inclined to loan money to students. The bank pays the school, and ideally after graduation, the student pays back the bank. When a student fails to make her or his loan payments, she or he can enter default.

Default does not occur as often as some people think. In fact, according to Financial Aid Director Dave Steffee, Aquinas ranks in the top 3-4% of all schools for our low rate of default.

The government requires that the banks make every effort possible to collect before the loan payments are paid by the government. First the lender must exhaust a vigorous collection process. Numerous warnings are sent to the student, and the college often gets involved as well. Students will feel not only collectors breathing down their necks, but schools applying pressure as well. Once Uncle Sam gets involved, the collection is turned over to the Federal Government. The Feds have access to all of a student’s records, and her/his tax information. In fact, the government will take a defaulted student’s tax return and apply it to the balance owed on the loan. According to Steffee, the government will find defaulters and even confiscate their wages. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the net cost of defaults on loans dropped from $2-billion in 1992 to $400-million in 1995. Yet, over the same period, tuition has increased. The increase, therefore, is obviously not driven by loan default.

Guaranteed student loans must be available or a significant number of students would not be able to attend college. No bank would be willing to loan money to countless high school graduates without the Federal guarantee. The liability of the banks would simply skyrocket. Denied access to student loans would decrease college enrollment significantly. If such a case occurred, tuition would then have to increase because of a lack of students. It is vital to maintain the Federal loan program in order to ensure that college is accessible to all students.

The government is providing a much needed service by guaranteeing student loans. In fact, the recent phasing away from private lending to direct lending should help control the default rates on such loans. With direct lending, the bank is cut out of the picture and students borrow money directly from the government program. This helps ensure that the government can control the amount of money lent, and perhaps have some influence over tuition costs. According to Steffee, Aquinas was slated to begin phasing into direct lending, but those plans have been put on hold until snags in the program have been worked out on the national level.

The government should be commended for guaranteeing loans, not criticized. If students are concerned that such loans are driving up tuition, perhaps they should consider where they would be without them.
The Van Andel Arena: Center of Development

by Heather Young
Times Contributing Writer

Sometimes overlooked, the Downtown Grand Rapids Area is teeming with attractions, events, and other entertainment opportunities. Whether it be a passing amusement or a permanent feature, the downtown area is defined not by interesting diversions. With the recent opening of the Van Andel Arena, Aquinas students will be downtown more than ever, and downtown is looking better than ever.

VanAndel Arena is a looming, yet impressive structure in the heart of downtown. The sparkling Arena has an astonishing maximum capacity of 12,000. The actual capacity varies per event, but, "that's what it was" for the Neil Diamond concert," said Arena contacts. This glassy wonder opened for the first time on Oct. 8 with a performance by figure skater, Kristi Yamaguchi in what was called the "Grand Entrance." Now fully functioning, the arena hosted alternative rock band Smashin Pumpkins on Oct. 29.

GR is becoming quite a hockey town with the new Grand Rapids Griffins playing their home games in the Arena. Other scheduled events range from World Championship Wrestling in early November, Broadway productions, to merging, with the final outcome being better than ever.

Meet Butterworth Media Relations Coordinator Tim Bulson

by Mari Branchem
Times New Editor

Bulson and Blodgett Hospitals have moved significantly closer to merging, with the final outcome now in the hands of the Federal Times to the Emmanual Christmas Street Festival WresUing in early November.

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A Letter from the Editor...

The end has finally come to a year full of promises and double-talk. Decision ‘96 has been made.

Although at the time this issue went to press, Americans were still heading to the polls, I’m taking some liberties and addressing the all but certain outcome of Election Day.

Now, Nostradamus I am not. I admit, it may seem a bit unorthodox to base a column on an event that hasn’t actually happened at the time it was written. Although I thought of my own over-exploited little middle class family giving up a percentage of their income that made me wince with pain when I thought of my own over-exploited middle class family giving up a percentage of their income that makes way too close to half to make anyone comfortable. My loyalties shifted throughout the campaign depending on which candidate, the Presidential incumbent or his challenger, former the Senate Majority Leader, was telling me, with a seemingly clear conscience, that my government was ripping me off. Taxes are always an emotionally charged issue. It seemed as though they were especially so this Election Year. Are taxes that far out of line...? See “View,” p. 7

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control? As students many of us do not feel the sting of governmental usurpation as sharply as our parents. Typically, our incomes are lower and we are often claimed on our parents' returns, leaving us the option of claiming "zero" exemptions and keeping more money in our pockets with each pay check. But for the average middle class American family, the type to which both voter and loser in yesterday's big race were trying to appeal, are they that far out of control?

According to a report given on the National Public Radio Program, "Morning Edition," the often cited figure of 38.2 percent refers not to the average American's tax burden, but to that of families with two incomes, families who tend to pay taxes at a higher rate because they earn more money. When all household are looked at together, the tax burden is lower—only about 34.8 percent.

In the same report, Richard Kogan, Senior Fellow at the Cen- ter on Budget and Policy Priorities, said in an interview, "Partly by the way other people use their num-
ber, there's an impression being given that a normal person you meet on the street might be paying 40 percent of his household in-
to taxes, whereas in reality, a number like 27 percent is much more appropriate."

Another factor that tends to skew the numbers is the tendency of Americans to underreport their in-
comes, either in fraud or in error, which makes their tax burden seem higher in comparison. Those are some pretty great dis-
crepencies between the numbers economists provide us with and those which potentially soon-to-be-
unemployed politicians can muster up. To many Americans, however, even 27 percent is a chunk of their income which they'd rather not have the government spend. We'd all like to take home more of the money we work for, but there are other factors to con-
sider.

But are these numbers, whatever you decide to settle on, really too high? Isn't, rather, the way to think about this more like: What am I getting back for my money?

The bottom line is this: our taxes have the potential to do a lot of good things for our country. If used properly, the quality of life that could result from a tax burden of 38.2 percent could be such that the administration asks us in to the new millennium (whoever's it is) will be looked back upon as the Golden Age of American civi-
lization. Complaining about paying taxes won't bring about the end of their grip on your paycheck. Complaining about how your tax 'money' is spent, however, may im-
prove the standard of living in our country in the coming administrations and for many administrations to come.
CD REVIEWS

Life is Peachy
Korn
Immortal Records

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times Contributing Writer

For those of you who own Korn's debut album and thought it was intense, get over it. Life is Peachy will put you in your place even before the first track is over. Believe me, there has never been a band quite as energetic or all-out enraged as Korn, and they're determined to take you to their world. With song titles like "Twist", "Mr. Boggs", and "K&€*$@%", you experience a wide variety of hate and chaos, a change from the run-of-the-mill song topics most people are accustomed to. In keeping with the group's sound, Korn's CD's cover art is haunting and left to the viewer to decipher.

As with the group's first release, lyrics are omitted from the liner notes. For those interested, an internet page is available that provides complete lyrics (http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/users/p/pbshort/html/korn.htm).

Between Now and Forever
Bryan White
Asylum Records

by Andrew Pieper
Times Assistant Editor

This second release from the rising country star has disappointed me, while still providing solid listening. Between Now and Forever has some quality cuts, but lacks the smash hit of Bryan White's first album. Perhaps it is over-anticipation on my part, but this guy has the voice to do some great things in country music.

Belting out the ballads is certainly White's calling in life, and he brings a couple of good pieces to this album. "I'm Not Supposed to Love You Anymore," has already hit the top of the charts, and is a smooth, fantastic piece of songwriting that we can all relate to. "Between Now and Forever," the title cut, and "That's Another Song" are both strong and are also probable chart-breakers, but don't shatter any excitement gauges in the listener's senses.

One weakness of White's is the twangy song, I know, those of you who are not exactly "fans" of country music, and even some who are, may not appreciate this brand of tune. Even the best ballad singers, however, need to add a little excitement to their music. "Satin' On Cu" and "So Much For Pretending" don't cut it for White, even though the latter is currently rising on the charts.

White is certainly going to hit it big, and one could argue that he already has, but he needs to continue writing songs with the quality of "I'm Not Supposed to Love You Anymore," and the hits of his last album.

To Be An Angel Blind, The Soul Divide
The Tear Garden
Netwerk

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times Contributing Writer

It's true: top honors, the gold medal, FOUR STARS! That's how good this disc is. Very refreshing. Here's why:

Point 1: The band contains two members of the now dissolved Skinny Puppy (a band that has accumulated much notoriety in their thirteen year career).

Point 2: Despite Skinny Puppy's reputation for off-the-wall industrial tunes, this album takes "off-the-wall" itself in a new direction.

Point 3: There is no single band with which to compare Tear Garden's sound, so I consider it more than just original, which is a compliment in itself. It's like a cup of perfectly warm hot cocoa on one of those cool fall mornings; hot cocoa with just one dash of salt in it. The flavor is not lost, but altered just enough to be noticed.

The Tear Garden deserves a profound amount of praise for this effort. Get a whiff of it.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
ROMEO + JULIET

by Andy Pieper
Times Assistant Editor

Ahh, the joys of Shakespeare! But alas, the new release "Romeo + Juliet" is but one way to make a classic tale of the original star-crossed lovers. That's right, the long awaited Baz Luhrmann modernization, William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, debuted at a special showing last Wednesday night, Oct. 30, at Studio 28.

The film was superbly made and edited, and the sound effects probably rank up there with Star Wars. Most will enjoy the movie immensely, if for nothing more than the new twist it provides on the famous tale.

The downfall was the adherence to the original Elizabthan dialogue. Aside from the actors' natural American accents, no changes were made in style to fit with the radical costumes, hair, and props.

The film starred Oscar-nominees Leonardo DiCaprio and Emery-nominee Claire Danes as the star-crossed lovers, Romeo and Juliet. DeCaprio's features and mannerisms reflected those of the late River Phoenix, and DeCaprio did an excellent job of combining those good looks with a smile and charm only worthy of a Romeo.

Danes suffered as the beautiful Juliet Capulet, but seemed to trivialize some of the language and lines. The long-awaited "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo," line, for example, was drily delivered, and a disappointed sigh overcame the audience at perhaps the most famous line in dramatic history. Both roles combined a fair amount of dramatic anguish with scenes of romantic bliss, and

DeCaprio and Danes seemed at ease performing both styles. More importantly, the two looked like they actually could be lovers. They were extremely convincing in the original love scene, which, though appropriately mild, was masterfully effective.

Another downfall of the movie was the inescapable fact that most people knew exactly what was going to happen. Anyone who has graduated from high school knows the tale of the feuding Montagues and Capulets.

In this version, the two families are essentially two rich, powerful empires located in the mythical city of Verona Beach (which could easily be mistaken for LA or Miami if not for the 100 year story of Christ rising from its center).

Some of the fight scenes are actually brilliant, with every shot ringing through the theater and tingling each audience member's senses. The score was exceptional, too, highlighted by a young choir boy's rendition of Prince's "When Doves Cry."

If you can overcome the performers appearing as if they were "GQ" or "Cosmo" models while sounding as though they are standing directly on the stage of the Globe Theatre, then this is a movie to see.

The language does manage to give the movie its own flavor and aura, but if you can pretend that you really don't know the ending, you are a better person than this reviewer.

*  *  *

Two revamped star-crossed lovers, Romeo (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Juliet (Claire Danes) enjoy a muggle amidst the violent tension that erupts between their two families.
Smoke 'Em If Ya Got 'Em!
Talking Stogies with Russ Pitts

by Scott Bacon
Entertainment Editor

Aquinas Visiting Instructor-In-Residence Russ Pitts took up smoking cigars in the 1970's while enrolled in the journalism department. Pitts enjoyed the relatively inexpensive luxury for almost twenty years until, in 1991, a change occurred in cigar smoking culture, namely the publishing of the magazine Cigar Aficionado. The magazine, originally meant for small circulation among enthusiasts, met great public praise, and as a result cigar smoking was adopted by mainstream America.

The media hype was further encouraged by a cigar smoking chic celebrated by the rich and famous. Madonna, David Letterman, Sharon Stone and a host of other celebrities regularly appeared in tabloids smoking cigars. As a result, the cigar industry has flourished, attracting large amounts of new smokers.

For a novice, going to a tobacco shop can be a very intimidating. Following a few guidelines, your first purchase can be an enjoyable one.

According to Pitts, "...when you want to smoke what people would call a 'premium cigar,' there are two things to consider: how strong of a cigar you want to try, and what you can afford." Pitts suggests avoiding strong cigars on your first time out. "If you want a pleasant

experience on your first purchase, you should be prepared to spend between $3.50 and $5.00 and you can get a good, pleasant, long-lasting cigar." As a rule, variations in

tobacco strength and flavor partly based on country of origin. For a winning first-time experience, Pitts suggests Honduran and Dominican Republic cigars. "A lot of people talk about Cuban cigars. I've had Cuban cigars, and I think a good Dominican Republic cigar is just as good and if not better." Tobacco shop employees are a good source of advice on mild cigars that are carried in stock.

Tobacco shop cigars are kept in moisture- and temperature-controlled humidors to maintain their

flavor and burning characteristics. It is important to take proper care of cigars upon purchasing to in

sure a rewarding smoke. "In terms of what you should do with the cigar when you get it the first time, unless you have a humidifier, which most students don't, you need to smoke it within 24 hours. Keep it in a plastic bag and moisten a paper towel and really ring it out, so if it's damp but not wet and throw it in the bag with the cigar, because a cigar will not taste good if it's dry, it will be hot, and it will smoke very fast."

After purchase, special preparation and etiquette are involved when smoking. As Pitts explained, "You need to cut the end of the cigar off, don't bite it off, it will unravel in your mouth. You can buy a cheap cigar cutter for about $1.50 or just ask whoever you buy the cigar from to cut the end for you."

Once the cigar is prepared for smoking, it should also be lit properly. "When you light the cigar it is very important that the entire end of the cigar is lit or it will burn irregularly. Do not put the cigar in the flame, hold it above the flame, and as you draw on the flame it will pull it up to the cigar. Other than that, just enjoy the cigar."

There are a host of tobacco shops in Grand Rapids. To avoid the possibility of experiencing cigar snobbery, Pitts recommends Tuttle's, a tobacco shop located at 3835 28th street, (616) 942-6990.

Jazz Band Benefit Concert Honors Stan Kenton III

by Andrew Pieper
Times Assistant Editor

The Aquinas College Jazz program was given a financial boost this past Saturday night at the Bruce Early Evening Band, with special guest Jerry McKenzie and Lillian Arganian, put on a benefit concert in Kresge Recital Hall.

The concert's theme was "A Tribute to Stan Kenton III," and McKenzie and Arganian are specialists in Kenton's music. McKenzie is a Kenton drummer while Arganian has written a book entitled "Stan Kenton: The Man and the Music," copies of which were sold at the event.

Along with such Kenton classics as "Eager Beaver" and "Street of Dreams," a variety of Bill Holman arrangements were performed. They included "Kingfish" and smooth "Malsegna." The members of the Bruce Early Evening Band reign from all corners of Michigan, and even played in Detroit last weekend, according to Carol Hutzel, Jazz Department program representative.

This is third year for the fundraiser, and the proceeds go directly into Aquinas College's scholarship funds. The concert's body of supporters has been comprised largely of a steady base of people who have continued to support the Jazz Program over the years. "These people come from all over because they are so loyal to the programs," said Hutzel.

Watch for upcoming Music Department programs in future issues of the Times.
Welcome back from fall break! While many of us were at home resting up from the first half of the semester, the Aquinas College sports teams were still in session, and in case you didn’t find out what happened, here is what you missed.

First, let’s get caught up with the men’s and women’s cross country teams. Both teams headed to Dowagiac, Michigan, for a meet on October 11. The men finished 8th out of a field of 18, while the women came in 10th in a field of 17 teams. Sophomore Brooke Vander Meulen bought home the best time for ladies coming in 46th in a time of 18:56.

The following Saturday both teams headed down to Kenosha, Wisconsin. The women came in 11th in a field of 29 teams, with Leslie Ervin bringing in the fastest time for the Lady Saints, finishing 48th in a time of 19:31. On the men’s side, Sophomore Knute Mass finished with a time of 26:01, pacing the men to a 10th place in a field of 30 teams.

Next, let’s head indoors to see what the Aquinas women’s volleyball team has been up to lately. On Oct. 8 the women defeated Tri-State 15-5, 15-4, 15-5, then, four days later, headed south to a tournament in St. Edward, Texas. The Ladies came home with a 2-2 record, defeating Lubbock Christian, and Tarleton State.

The women then came home to finish out the WHAC season, and they did it in fine fashion. The Lady Saints defeated Spring Arbor 3-0, then went on to beat Sienna Heights the following week 3-0. The Ladies then played in the Calvin College Invitational, and for the second tournament in a row finished with a 2-2 record. On October 29 the team defeated Concordia 3-0, closing out the regular season and clinching the WHAC championship. Congrats Ladies!

Finally let’s hit the soccer field and get the scoop on the men’s and women’s soccer teams.

The Lady Saints recorded wins over Albion 2-0, Sienna Heights 3-1, Spring Arbor 12-1, and Calvin College 7-1. However the Ladies also suffered three losses, losing to Calvin 3-1, Grand Valley State 2-0, and Oliver 2-1.

The following Saturday both teams headed down to Kenosha, Wisconsin. The saints finished the season second in the WHAC, and will host the first game of the WHAC play-offs today at the Aquinas College soccer field.

Well that’s a wrap from the last two weeks. Remember that play-offs are ready to start, so head out to support your Aquinas sports teams.

The Yankees ended losing 12-1. In a few words, that’s a shalacking. In the true spirit of a competitor, he came back in game five to complete 8 1/3 innings and pick a four hitter. The result—a 1-0 victory by his team.

Incidentally, as the score of that game shows, Atlanta Braves Starter John Smoltz didn’t toss a bad game either. He ended up yielding only one run, unearned to the Yankee sluggers. In an era where mass run production is common, it was nice to see a pure pitcher’s duel in a game that was worth something.

A sub-plot that is sort of interesting deals with the resumes of the managers.

The manager of the Yankees, Joe Torre, used to play and even manage for the New York Yankees. In fact, Joe Torre was in Fulton County Stadium (the Braves’ home field) for the first game that was ever played there. Sure enough, he was also there for the last game ever to be played in the stadium, which happened to be game five of the World Series.

The manager of the Atlanta Braves, Bobby Cox, has been the manager of the team for quite a while now. Something that is not common knowledge is that Cox is a former first base coach with the Yankees.

For you Atlanta Braves fans, there was another performance to marvel at. Nineteen year old Andrew Jones became the youngest player in Major League history to homer in the World Series. He did so by hitting consecutive home runs in his first two at bats. Ironically enough, the Braves’ outfielder bosted New York Yankee legend Mickey Mantle for the record.

In 1986, two current Yankees of the names of Darryl Strawberry and Dwight Gooden each won their first championship for the New York Mets.

Earlier this year, Gooden was making a comeback into the majors, and Strawberry was playing minor league ball. A decade after the first, they each won another title.

The play-offs of any pro sport is usually the best part of the season because the competition is between the best trying their hardest. It’s during the play-offs that new stories are created to be told.
Men's B-Ball Looks to Experience and Talent to Carry The Load

by Alan Plum
Times Sports Editor

Basketball season may seem to start earlier every year for many people. However, the Aquinas Men's Basketball Team couldn't wait to roll out the ball in order to prepare for this season. The Saints will tip off the season this Sunday at Orchard Lake St. Mary's. The Saints will look to a talented core of returnees to tackle one of the toughest schedules in school history. Highlighting the Saints' schedule this year is not only a trip to Alaska, where they will tangle with NCAA Division II University of Alaska-Anchorage, but the Saints who will take part in a four-team tournament at the Van Andel Arena. In addition to Aquinas, the tournament will feature Grand Valley State University, Cornerstone College, and 1995 NCAA division III National Runner-Up, Hope College.

Assistant Coach Tim Saliers pointed out the advantages of playing a tough schedule. "Although it could hurt our record, playing more difficult games will help us when the conference season begins."

Last season, the Saints' posted victories over both Hope College and Oakland University, but injuries took their toll on the Saints who struggled towards the end of the season. Faced with the prospect of knocking off Hope, who is ranked second in many Division III pre-season polls, Saliers refused to make predictions regarding the Saints' contest with the highly touted Dutchman. Saliers said, "I won't know till it all over. Basketball is a funny game."

Win or lose, the tournament will benefit the Saints. "This tournament is a great showcase for not only Aquinas, but for college basketball in general," commented Aquinas Sports Information Director Adam Baxter. "Not only does the tournament allow Aquinas to play in an exceptional venue, such as the Van Andel, but it also provides us with excellent competition," added Baxter.

Facing excellent competition will definitely not be a problem encountered in the tournament over both Hope College and the University of Alaska-Anchorage, but injuries and "Elway" money prior to the season, senior Corey McNeil. McNeil's versatility, which is why I view the Saints' front line. McNeil points to the team's experience as its biggest strength. "This year, everyone's been on the same page since day one," McNeil explained. "We could potentially play seven or eight people off the bench."

The younger players also have noticed the benefits of this experience. "I think with so much experience, the underclassmen have progressed faster," observed Vamesdeel. "That definitely improved our team chemistry."

This could be one of the most exciting winters in history for Men's Basketball. With all the options available, the Saints have a team that should compete. Aquinas will again take on the role of a tough schedule, with juniors Jim Richards and 1995 NCAA Division III National Runner-Up, Hope College.

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It’s been a home to many things in its 86 years, from horses and the carriage master, to concerts and poetry readings. Some out of the ordinary experiences have led some people to believe the Carriage House is also a home to ghosts. “It was late one night in 1973 when I was getting ready to leave my office,” said Gary Konow, Academic Vice President. As director of the theater program from 1967-75, Konow’s office was located at the top of the stairs of the Carriage House. “I turned my office light off and suddenly it was pitch black because the stairway light had burned out. When I was about halfway down the stairs, the picture came flying down and hit me in the back of my knees.”

The picture was a 4” x 3” oil painting on plywood of Sr. Mary DeCahault, Luke, a Speech and Drama instructor in the 60’s at Aquinas. The painting had been leaning against the wall for years. “It would have taken a great force to initiate its fall down the stairs,” said Konow.

Shortly before its renovation in the winter of 1993-94, the Carriage House played host to another strange incident. “It was late afternoon and I was the only one in the building,” said Tom Summers, Director of the Physical Plant. “I had been tearing the framework out of the Carriage House in preparation for renovation. I reached for the nail bar I had been using, and it wasn’t where I thought I had set it. I looked around for it, but it was getting dark so I couldn’t see very well.” Summers continued, “The next day I came back and emptied the room, but still couldn’t find it.” Then two weeks later, Campus Safety called and asked if we had left a tool in the Carriage House. They described where they had found it and it was exactly where I thought I had set it.” Still a mystery, Summers said, “All I know is the tool was there, then it wasn’t, then Campus Safety found it in the place where I had left it.”

More recently, students using the Carriage House have noticed out of the ordinary experiences, from the elevator moving itself up and down to the random inver­ sion of the crucifix on the wall in the Student Leadership Offices. Through its history, strange noises have echoed through the walls of the Carriage House, mostly from natural causes. Yet, one has to wonder if something from the supernatural isn’t making a bit of noise itself.

### East Area Haunts

**Art House Haunts**

by Alicia Belchak

Students and Staff Claim Haunted Holmdene Is No Joke

by Melissa Ann Plane

Times Features Editor

“Carriage House Cooks Up the Bizarre”

To anyone who’s been around campus a little while, it comes as no surprise to hear a spooky story or two about the old Lowe mansion. But is Holmdene really haunted? Holmdene was built in 1905 as a wedding gift for Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lowe. The Tudor-style home, constructed by contractors John McNabb and Sons, has accumulated its share of stories since then.

There are numerous tales of lights mysteriously turning on and off, doors slamming, door knobs rattling, and the elevator running when no one is using it. Some even claim they have seen something (or someone?) lurking in windows in Holmdene after hours.

Throughout the years, there’s been some weird things that happen in Holmdene, and we always blame the Holmdene ghost, said Doug Greenslate, Director of Housekeeping. Dawn Blair, a Campus Safety officer in 1986, related an incident for the October 29, 1986 Aquinas College Student Press. “One evening [in 1982], a lady was cleaning and a loud noise from what sounded like a bookshelf falling over came from another room. She screamed, and Campus Safety was called to check it out. However, after a search through the building, nothing was found.”

As recently as this past summer, Rico Cammon, Aquinas senior, experienced something equally eerie. Cammon, a Campus Safety officer, was on late night rounds by himself as he remembered walking through Holmdene and turned off all the lights and double checking every room before leaving. As I exited, I looked back, and everything looked fine.

Returning an hour later, he dis­ covered a light on in the third floor. “By the time I’d gotten up to the third floor, the light was off and the office door locked. . .[when] I ex­ ained the building again and glanced up, the light was on again!”

Eric Bowman, Campus Safety officer and housekeeper, has had lights go off on him as well. “I have never felt anything particularly evil in Holmdene... but lights go off. They turn off with no one’s around to turn them off!”

Another common incident in Holmdene is associated with the elevator. Current Vice-President of Operations Barry Kanz, who was Campus Safety Director at the time, was quoted in the October 29, 1986 Aquinas College Student Press saying, “The elevator’s going up and down by itself seems to be the most frequent goings on in Holmdene.”

It’s still true today.

Rumor has it that this mysterious elevator is controlled by the ghost of a little boy. As the story goes, while the family still lived on the estate, one of the Lowe sons fell down the shaft of the dumb waiter and broke his neck. The dumb waiter was exactly where the elevator is today.

Kelly Cory, a junior on campus, thinks she may have seen this little boy’s ghost. “Last year, I was living on first west Regina, and from my window I could see Holmdene. I was looking out the window one night, and in the window [of Holmdene] I saw this little boy... wearing a white shirt. I could see his head and shoulders. He stood motionless at the big third floor window... I turned away for a minute and looked back, and the

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If you look closely in the upper right second floor window, you will see what some people claim to be Holmdene’s ghost... uh, wait a second... it disappeared! Abhhhh! Photo by Duffy Cavanaugh

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Contribution Writer

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Senior Heidi Stephan supposedly contacted this same ghost a couple of years ago. She also had a room on First West Facing Holmdene. “One night,” Stephanie said, “We got the ouija board out to contact some spirits. So we tried contacting Holmdene’s ghosts... and we got a hold of the little boy in Holmdene.”

Wanting proof of this spirit’s presence, Stephanie said, “We asked him to turn a light on in the hall, but he refused. We asked him why, and he spelled out CSO. Just then we saw a Campus Safety officer come out of Holmdene.”

There are many other tales about the unusual occurrences in Holmdene. Their causes are impos­ sible to identify, but one thing is certain: strange, supernatural events continue to pervade the old brick mansion.