Singling Out Aquinas

by Brigid Bulger
Times Contributing Writer

The Cook Carriage House was teeming with people last Thursday night, all of them out to watch Aquinas' own version of "Singled Out," the popular dating gameshow. For the Feb. 5 "What the Heck Night," Programming Board organized an episode of the MTV originated game. Over a hundred people crowded into the Cook Carriage House to watch and participate in the event.

Andy Holtgrieve, lead singer for local music phenoms Domestic Problems, was the MC for the evening. He added a slight touch of music whenever necessary, and kept the energetic crowds in their seats.

The evening began with a large handful of AQ's single men being eliminated from the game through a series of categories. All of those eliminated from the game through AQ's single men being and kept the energy of the audience.

following the category eliminations, Schneider asked remaining contestants to respond to an open-ended question and she could choose to "keep" or "dump them." The three remaining guys listed themselves with their huge trays full of food. They brought plates stacked high with pieces of chicken, bowls of potatoes, broccoli, and bread with butter.

When the majority of people were finished eating and the dishes had been collected, the entertainment began. Altogether, members of Insignis performed six plays after the feast was complete. They were entitled: "St. Nicholas and the Image," "The Children of Eve," "St. Nicholas and the Schoolboys," "St. Nicholas and the Virgin," "The Old Game" and "The Interlude of the Pardoner and the Friar." The entertainment was directed by English Department Chair, Gary Eberle.

While the dinner and the entertainment combined for an extremely enjoyable evening, due in no small part to the performers themselves, it was unfortunate that student support, expressed in the mild turnout, was lukewarm.

Cultural Exploration Opens Students' Eyes

by Heather M. Karal
Times Contributing Writer

Where can Aquinas students hear Mexican music, see Irish dancing, and handle objects from the Native American cultures? On Saturday Feb. 1, all of this could be experienced right in Wege Cafeteria during a Cultural Exploration program. The activity was planned by the Multi-Cultural Department, the International Student Union and Los Mentores. Funding for the event was given by Student Senate, Programming Board and the Residence Hall Association.

The Cultural Exploration was an excellent opportunity for students to work together. Many of the college's Resident Assistants were involved, including Nicole Almond, Renee Gorsky; Tiffany Moore, April Carpenter, Felicia Buchanan, Brian Hillary, Mark Lyon, Carlus Henry, David Acevedo, Amy Lo, Yvette Wright, Gwen Johnson, Eva Berumen, and Heidi Stephen. Phyllis Taylor, Regina's Resident Director, participated as the master of ceremonies.

Participants had tables set up which displayed pictures and items representing different cultures. There were tables to represent France, Mexico, Jamaica, the Philippines, Haiti, and Native North America. There were also demonstrations of music and dance. David Acevedo played Mexican music on the guitar. There was also a music and dance demonstration by Grupo Tarasco, a group of Mexican style dancers. The group included elementary, middle school and high school age students who performed both traditional and contemporary dances. Finally, there was a group of Irish style dancers, Dalmas Ulse Ban Mor, who demonstrated traditional and modern Irish Ceili dancing.

The Exploration was an excellent chance for students to share their different ethnic backgrounds and interests. Students received the benefits of one another's knowledge and experiences as well as their heritage.

Medieval Dinner Nourishes Thomas Aquinas Week

by Carolyn Willey
Times Contributing Writer

Wege Ballroom has probably never looked as ancient as it did on Friday, Jan. 31, when the Aquinas College Insignis Program produced Tomfoolery '97.

The medieval dinner and plays were part of St. Thomas Aquinas Week, Aquinas College's annual celebration in honor of the feast of patron St. Thomas Aquinas.

The ballroom in the Wege Student Center was decorated especially for the event, and the room's desired look was fully achieved with finger bowls on tables and the absence of silverware.

After everyone appeared to be settled, the servers began coming around to each table with their huge trays full of food. They brought plates stacked high with pieces of chicken, bowls of potatoes, broccoli, and bread with butter.

When the majority of people were finished eating and the dishes had been collected, the entertainment began. Altogether, members of Insignis performed six plays after the feast was complete. They were entitled: "St. Nicholas and the Image," "The Children of Eve," "St. Nicholas and the Schoolboys," "St. Nicholas and the Virgin," "The Old Game" and "The Interlude of the Pardoner and the Friar." The entertainment was directed by English Department Chair, Gary Eberle.

While the dinner and the entertainment combined for an extremely enjoyable evening, due in no small part to the performers themselves, it was unfortunate that student support, expressed in the mild turnout, was lukewarm.
Arrival at Tully Cross
Today (Sat. Jan. 11) I arrived in Tully Cross. I can’t believe I’m here! The cottages are nothing like I expected. They are a lot more private—just like a summer cottage. I can’t believe the view out the back window! Everything is hilly here.

When we first drove up, the place kind of reminded me of living in the olden days. Everything is so old and way behind what we’re used to. I love it, though—I know I’m going to love it!

The town is a lot smaller than I expected, too. I like the fact that everything is within walking distance. I can’t believe the view of what should have been the ocean was right behind the cottages, too. A little walking needs to be done to get to it, but the walk is so beautiful it’s easily worth it.

I can’t believe the landscape—it’s a lot like Maine, but everything is hilly here. I thought the ocean was right behind me, I thought the ocean was right behind the cottages, too. A little walking needs to be done to get to it, but the walk is so beautiful it’s easily worth it.

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February 12, 1997

Presidential Search Nearly Over as Candidates Visit Campus

DR. DOUGLAS ASTOLFI
by Andrew Pieper
Times Assistant Editor

Dr. Douglas Astolfi, the first of three candidates for the College Presidency to visit Aquinas, arrived on the Aquinas Campus on the 29th of January. Through January 31, Astolfi met with faculty, students, staff and members of the Board of Trustees in a variety of settings, giving the college and the candidate a chance to feel each other out.

Astolfi is currently the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Professor of History at Siena College in Loudenville, NY. Astolfi is a graduate of the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University, and earned a Ph.D. in History from Northern Illinois University.

Astolfi said that one of his top priorities at Aquinas would be to increase the size of the budget, thereby allowing the creation of new programs, faculty development and a boosted image of the college outside of Grand Rapids. He stressed that the institution exists for the students and that improving the well-being of the entire community will only enhance student life.

The three non-academic aspects of Aquinas College that Astolfi stressed were Residence Life, community outreach and the continuation of the development and enhancement of the direct Aquinas community. He said, “Living on campus is important, but we must still maintain a focus on our community population.”

Astolfi stressed that involvement with the Grand Rapids community is important for the reputation of the college, and can also assist in fundraising endeavors. While working in Albany, NY, Astolfi helped to establish a soup kitchen and was also an active member on many community boards.

As a Catholic, Astolfi said his faith has molded him as a person, and may have developed some of his most admirable traits. “Participation within the Catholic community will give people stability,” he said. “I have a moral center.”

He stressed that he can provide leadership through example, and also wants to bring the local Catholic community into the Aquinas picture. “I noticed that the bishop isn’t directly involved in the college, and I think we should make an effort to bring him into our community more.”

When questioned about his commitment to the students, Astolfi expressed that he would be willing, especially on weekends, to attend any late night events that may be going on around campus.

Concluding his remarks to students, Astolfi said that he wants to be able to know the students from the day to day activities in which they participate. Lunches in Wege, hanging out in the Carriage House and attending sporting events are all important to fostering relationships. “It is easy for the President to lose contact with the students, and I would make a concerted effort to avoid that,” said Astolfi.

DR. KATHLEEN OWENS
by Angela Bergman
Times Contributing Writer

Presidential candidate Dr. Kathleen Owens, currently Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Saint Francis College of Pennsylvania, experienced the flavor of the Aquinas Community while converging with faculty, staff, students and trustees from the third to the fifth of February.

Owens exhibited various presidential qualities. She has a strong educational background, with a Masters Degree in Education from DePaul University, a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University of Chicago, and a MDP Certificate from Harvard University. Highlights of her experience include the position of Supervisor of Student Teachers at Loyola University and the positions of both Professor and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Lewis University. Dr. Owens has also served on the Advisory Boards for the Center for Latino Competitiveness and the Center of Excellence for Remote Medically Underserved Areas.

At the open forum with faculty, Owens responded that Aquinas’ mission statement and the General Education program attracted her. Her main focus is a “need to develop a balance between the internal and external demands of the President.” Addressing the question of finance, Owens stated that the external role of President includes fundraising, grants, a capital campaign, and utilizing outside resources.

If faced with a financial crisis and the elimination of programs, Owens suggested “restructuring” and “redefining how central the programs are to the mission of the college.”

On the religious Dominican tradition of Aquinas, Owens agreed with the characteristics of service and community as important in the student environment as they are in the professional world. She said that service options at Aquinas provide a “vision of where we are going, a stronger connection,” and that “there is a place for Aquinas and its Dominican Heritage in the community.”

Educationally, Owens saw the challenge which Aquinas faces as one to “communicate the value of what we can do for students.” She emphasized the value making moral and ethical judgements, speaking and writing clearly, and diversity and multiculturalism.

Presidential candidates are not confined to meeting with only administration and faculty. Aquinas Community Sena Chairperson René Palileo emphasized that student sessions with the candidates will provide satisfaction that their voices, opinions, and reactions are expressed. Aquinas junior and Senator Anne Tyler said, “I think she (Owens) was interested in getting a feel for what we do here and what the students are involved in,” after meeting informally with Owens.

Sophomore and student leader Stephanie Fochtman added, “She (Owens) is a very intellectual woman and cares a lot about education.”

Scott David, a student, added, “I liked how he will stand up for the students.” This remark was made after an incident was discussed involving the rights of the students and Dr. Knopke’s role in preserving their personal liberties despite much opposition.

DR. HARRY J. KNOPKE
by Chris Manning
Times Contributing Writer

The third presidential candidate to visit Aquinas, Dr. Harry J. Knopke, currently the Vice-President for Student Affairs at the University of Alabama, left Tuscaloosa behind for a blustery three-day visit to Aquinas from the fifth to the seventh of February.

Northern climes are nothing new to Knopke, however, whose career path seems to last to Racine, WI, where he graduated from Dominican College with an English major and minors in Philosophy, French and German. Upon receiving his degree, Knopke spent several years teaching high school, the foundation for his educational pursuits.

After several years of teaching at the secondary level, Knopke furthered his own education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, receiving his M.S. and his Ph.D. in Educational Administration. Eventually, this led Knopke to many positions in the realms of higher learning. Recently he served as the Interim Director of Alumni Affairs, Director for Communication and Educational Technology as well as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Alabama. Aside from his administrative duties, Dr. Knopke has also served the University of Alabama as Professor.

Among the accolades Knopke has earned is the Grand Gold Medal Award supported by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, an award which he had won several times in several different categories. Knopke also received the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award from the University of Alabama and the Walbourn Outstanding Service and Commitment to Women’s Interest Award along with an assortment of other distinctions.

Apparently opting not to shy away from the classroom, this candidate also taught several classes at the University of Alabama and has expressed in doing the same at Aquinas College.

Among those in attendance at Knopke’s reception in the Loutit Room on February 6 were many who expressed a positive interest in him. Mary Clark Kaiser remarked, “I really liked the fact that he was taught in the Dominican tradition and he is very comfortable with it and will support it.”

In an extended conversation with Dr. Knopke, he made it clear that the foremost issue pressing the Aquinas community was of finance, thus it was no surprise when he expressed his primary goal as being “to help this college achieve financial stability.”

When questioned about his commitment to the students, Astolfi expressed that he would be willing, especially on weekends, to attend any late night events that may be going on around campus.

Concluding his remarks to students, Astolfi said that he wants to be able to know the students from the day to day activities in which they participate. Lunches in Wege, hanging out in the Carriage House and attending sporting events are all important to fostering relationships. “It is easy for the President to lose contact with the students, and I would make a concerted effort to avoid that,” said Astolfi.
Is the Future of Aquinas Campus Radio Spelled Out "WAQU" or "RIP?"

**Point**

by Mindi Evans
Times Campus News Editor

Out of the many clubs and organizations we have on campus, the WAQU radio station is one of the most unique and most valuable resources for education that Aquinas has to offer. For students who wish to pursue a career in broadcasting or for those who just wish to fulfill a dream of having their own radio show, WAQU is the only on campus option for getting on-air experience. How likely is it that a student, with absolutely no radio experience at all, will receive an internship with a radio station? Not very likely. Listing D.J. experience on a resume will greatly improve their chances of furthering their career.

Not only does the radio station help to add experience for possible future job options, it's also something you can add to your list of general life experiences. We are attending a liberal arts college that emphasizes well-rounded individuals. WAQU is a golden opportunity to become a more well-rounded person right here on our very own campus. Some may think that the radio station is not an outlet of communication because most students are apathetic about listening. A good sized portion of the campus doesn't even have the option.

"WAQU is not an outlet of communication because most students are apathetic about listening. A good sized portion of the campus doesn't even have the option."

**Counterpoint**

by Maris Brancheau
Times Local/National News Editor

It's that time again. The Aquinas Community Senate is ready to dole out funding to campus groups. Much like the routines of starting a second semester, senators are faced with the task of weighing the benefits and pitfalls of organizing requesting funds. While many groups will be granted their requests, some, inevitably, will not.

It is expected and has been rumored that the Aquinas College radio station, WAQU 550 AM, will request funding once again from Student Senate. Perhaps it is time to reevaluate the necessity of a radio station on this campus. An informal survey given by the Senate last year showed that only about 5% of those polled listened to WAQU. A more complete survey is expected in the near future, yet the results will most likely be indicative of the same trend. The fact is that very few students listen to WAQU. Many freshman have never listened to it at all. Those who have listened do so primarily because they know the D.J. WAQU has overstayed its welcome. The station has to be so many regulations as to what went on the air. Plus, there is no place for an ugly radio tower on our lovely wooded campus. This goal won't be realized.

Students don't listen to WAQU because, let's face it, the station plays rather obscure music. This is pretty normal for a college station, but doesn't fit in with many students here. This isn't that progressive of a college. Most average AQ students want mainstream music, which they can find in much better variety and sound quality on any of several Grand Rapids radio stations. Some say that WAQU is an asset, a virtual center of stimulating ideas and a great recruitment tool. But if students don't choose a college for its trees, why would they choose one for its radio station? The few who would certainly would not choose Aquinas. It is time to tune out WAQU. The $40,000 or so spent on them in the last five years has not turned out to be a worthwhile investment. It is time to cut our losses and turn our attention to the more promising clubs on campus. Our funds and our support belong with them.
FEBRUARY 12, 1997

YWCA Offers Clinic for Victims of Rape, Sexual Assault

by Mari Brancheau
Times Local/National News Editor

Jane Doe has just been raped. Jane is experiencing many different emotions but she knows that she must go somewhere for help. Her body has been violated. She is heiry of going to a hospital and fast paced emergency room. Her hands are trembling, but she knows that there is somewhere safe, quiet, and professional where she can seek medical attention and counseling. Jane reaches for the phone and dials 776-RAPE. The YWCA of Grand Rapids has unveiled a new program for victims like Jane Doe. The Nurse Examiner Program is the first of its kind in Michigan, but has been tested on the national level with much success. The program began operating on Nov. 1, 1996 at the YWCA. Victims can go to the Y and be seen by specially trained female nurse examiners and receive counseling from volunteer advocates. Police are called in only when a victim would like to make a statement. The program is free of charge, and is funded through local contributions and state and Federal grants. According to the program's mission statement, "The program will ensure victims are always treated with the utmost respect and care while providing a more thorough and efficient evaluation of sexual assault cases."

Medical-Legal exams are performed in 24-hour, on-call basis. According to the director of Aquinas Counseling Services, Sharon Smith, Aquinas will be utilizing the new resource at the Y. Prior to the new program, victims of rape and sexual assault were referred by the counselor on duty to the emergency room. Now, Smith and her colleagues will work closely with the YWCA to provide an alternative to mainstream hospitals.

"YWCA is one of our best resources," said Smith. "The staff in the ER is qualified, but none at the Y have a specialty." Smith also said that the Y can arrange other support systems for the victim, along with medical and legal examinations. For example, if the victim needs a place to stay, or wants help with pressing charges, or would like to join a support group, the Y has those resources available.

"By hooking up with the Y we are giving the victim two areas of support," Smith said. "They will have us and the program for help."

Smith said that the YWC counseling center stays with the victim every step of the way, providing emotional support. She said that the YWCA is a good alternative to the ER, because the Y will make sure that the victim does not fall through the cracks.

Mary Eardly of the Aquinas Health Center visited the Nurse Examiner Program on Feb. 7, to learn more about the option. Eardly said that she feels the center will be of benefit to victims. She said the Nurse Examiner Program helps the victim to "retain more of their self respect, because it is all female nurses who have gone through special training." Another advantage she cited was that the center would lessen the load on emergency rooms.

Smith also said that the program has been notified of the new program. Gwen Johnson, a sophomore R.A., said that the program was a good idea. "It would be a lot better than the emergency room," said Johnson.

Smith, who counsels victims of rape and sexual assault, said that rape recovery is a long process and in the beginning it can be overwhelming.

"It's like you are riding a merry go round and the emotions are so overwhelming they make you dizzy," she said. Smith cited that the main emotions that affect victims are: denial, self-blame, anger, sense of loss, resolution, and eventually forgiveness. Yet she also said, "All those emotions aren't 1, 2, 3. They can be chaotic, like being hit by a tornado."

Smith said that the YWCA Nurse Examiner Program can provide last- ing support, especially when traditional support systems like friends and family begin to break down.

"When someone has been raped they have been violated," she said. "They feel they have to be a part of the crime. Their essence has been removed. It takes a while to gain it back."

That's a Wrap: News in a Jiffy

AQ Times News Wrap-Ups

by Heather Young
Times Contributing Writer

Nation

An April summit will soon convene and former American leaders in the non-partisan cause of encouraging volunteerism to help the needy. Former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, will serve as general chairman of the summit while President Clinton and former president George Bush will act as co-chairs. So far, the team has received the support of LionsCrafters that will provide one million people, especially children, with free vision care by the year 2003. Columbia HCA Healthcare Corporation will immunize one million children by the year 2000. The idea for the summit was originally conceived by former Michigan governor, George Romney (R), before his death last year. Powell summed up the purpose of the summit by saying, "This is about volunteerism. . . . This is about each and every one of us who have been blessed by the wealth of this country sharing that blessing by reaching down and reaching back and lifting up somebody in need."

World

For a long time the US has traded with China—Chinese streets bearing an American influence in the form of Chevrolet and McDonalds signs—but always under the lingering question of morals. Should the US consider the human rights violations with China, and should it construct its trade policies with this in mind? President Bill Clinton himself said that this balancing act was not working. American leaders discussed the issue last Thursday and a summit is under consideration.

Community

On January 9, Mayor Logie suggested a “needle swap” for intravenous drug users in his State of the City Address. The idea of exchanging dirty needles for clean needles is a controversial one. Both Governor Engler and Police Chief Hegarty hold strong reservations. Robert Barric, Consultant for the State Department for Community Health, is for it, stating that such an exchange would cut the spread of HIV. Currently, Boston Harbor and Detroit have similar programs.

Hope College senior Jodi James designed a knee brace that will be tested aboard the space shuttle. An engineering student, James will lead a group of other students going to Texas in April to do zero-gravity research on the brace and other student inventions. James’ knee brace might possibly be part of a remedy for the weakness in the legs that astronauts suffer after time in space.

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Nation

Northline Mall, a shopping center in Houston, TX, was the unlikely scene of tragedy last week when the wall of a closed store collapsed for an unknown reason. Three people were killed, and six more reported missing were found alive on Friday, Jan. 31. The wall was being removed in order to make room for a theater that was being built by former NBA star, Magic Johnson.

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by Heather Young
Times Contributing Writer

Nation

An April summit will soon convene and former American leaders in the non-partisan cause of encouraging volunteerism to help the needy. Former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, will serve as general chairman of the summit while President Clinton and former president George Bush will act as co-chairs. So far, the team has received the support of LionsCrafters that will provide one million people, especially children, with free vision care by the year 2003. Columbia HCA Healthcare Corporation will immunize one million children by the year 2000. The idea for the summit was originally conceived by former Michigan governor, George Romney (R), before his death last year. Powell summed up the purpose of the summit by saying, "This is about volunteerism. . . . This is about each and every one of us who have been blessed by the wealth of this country sharing that blessing by reaching down and reaching back and lifting up somebody in need."

World

For a long time the US has traded with China—Chinese streets bearing an American influence in the form of Chevrolet and McDonalds signs—but always under the lingering question of morals. Should the US consider the human rights violations with China, and should it construct its trade policies with this in mind? President Bill Clinton himself said that this balancing act was not working. American leaders discussed the issue last Thursday and a summit is under consideration.

Community

On January 9, Mayor Logie suggested a “needle swap” for intravenous drug users in his State of the City Address. The idea of exchanging dirty needles for clean needles is a controversial one. Both Governor Engler and Police Chief Hegarty hold strong reservations. Robert Barric, Consultant for the State Department for Community Health, is for it, stating that such an exchange would cut the spread of HIV. Currently, Boston Harbor and Detroit have similar programs.

Hope College senior Jodi James designed a knee brace that will be tested aboard the space shuttle. An engineering student, James will lead a group of other students going to Texas in April to do zero-gravity research on the brace and other student inventions. James’ knee brace might possibly be part of a remedy for the weakness in the legs that astronauts suffer after time in space.

Nation

Northline Mall, a shopping center in Houston, TX, was the unlikely scene of tragedy last week when the wall of a closed store collapsed for an unknown reason. Three people were killed, and six more reported missing were found alive on Friday, Jan. 31. The wall was being removed in order to make room for a theater that was being built by former NBA star, Magic Johnson.
A Letter from the Editor...

Remember when you were a kid? For some reason, it doesn't seem all that long ago, but even for us traditional-age students, we're talking about a gap of around twenty years between now and then. Yet, it seems like only yesterday that I was unleashed upon an unsuspecting Toys-R-Us, thrashing shelves of die-cast space ships and rummaging through racks of action figures (I always had to find the latest one). In the blink of an eye I can transport myself back to the old days when I would do all but beg on my hands and knees for a chance to go to whatever fast food chain offered the coolest any giveaway with their children's meal.

The line between the past and the present gets blurred further when I try to remember if it was last week or 20 years ago that I was transported to a world in which an unlikely hero rises from humble beginnings to realize his destiny, and a little truth about the universe.

The reason for my warped sense of time is this: Star Wars: The Special Edition hit theaters last week. A spiffed, buffed and polished celebration of the twentieth anniversary of writer/director George Lucas' galactic fairy tale released a flood of memories for people everywhere who, since its original release, have felt only a portion of the film's immense power on home video.

Calling Star Wars a blockbuster is as much an understatement as calling the Force just a bunch of smoke and mirrors. For five years after its release (until 1982's ET dethroned it), it was the highest grossing film of all time. Add to that the $4 billion made in merchandising and the millions the Special Edition has brought in so far, and it is obvious. Star Wars is a film phenomenon.

But the fact that the film has been so successful doesn't necessarily make it remarkable. That just makes it a success. The fact that so many people of our generation have latched onto this simple, borrowed story of a hero's journey – that's a start. The fact that Lucas' creation, for all of its folly, has stirred the sensibilities of an entire generation and child-hood innocence in so many people for such a long time is the big reason for its appeal.

The film is a link with the eternal child in us all. Its glorious return to the big screen gives us all another chance to recapture that idealistic element of youth that is so lacking in our modern lives. As the world wears on, this thought offers some comfort. Innocence is never lost as long as the Force is with us.

Mr. Assistant Editor:

This letter is regarding your article "The Whole Truth" in January's issue of the paper. I think you have no right to comment on the treatment of athletes, Men's and Women's Basketball in particular. All of the athletes at Aquinas College play their sport for the love of the game. This love is the basis of competition, and a team. To say that our breaks are too short is utterly ridiculous. Our basketball season starts in October. How much sense would it make to take two weeks off in December, the middle of our season? None. We are given meal money and everyone who regularly stays on campus has a place to stay with their teammates. It is a time for fun, and bonding within your team. Our house alone housed three fellow basketball players, and we had a blast. In fact a couple stayed after the dorms were available to them. As for the freshman who are dealing with "the longest separation of their lives from their families," most freshman girls did not come back until six days before the rest of the students needed to be back. Only two were asked to come back and practice early. I guess they made this sacrifice because they love to play basketball and want to be part of a winning tradition. Maybe you should have talked to them before writing on behalf of everyone else. Personally, during the season I see my parents more than I do any other time of the year. They attend games and stay for awhile afterwards. This is true with most everyone on our team. Perhaps it's not the quality time you are thinking of, but we all appreciate it anyway.

Basically this letter comes down to the fact that playing a sport is a sacrifice, but one that everyone chooses. Winter Break just happens to be in the middle of the season, our tough luck. We conditioned for 8 weeks prior to the season to be in shape. It is not a fun 8 weeks and something I would not like to do twice a year. Two or three weeks of would kill our hard work, and we would literally have to start all over. Not quite the strategy we like to use for beating our opponents. We are here to win, and play a sport we love. Coming back to practice is hardly a sacrifice to any one of us. If you will notice, the Women's Basketball team has never lost the conference, or had a losing season. I guess that shows the sacrifices we make are all worth while in the end.

Jen Forkner and Sarah King

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THE AQUINAS TIMES
PUBLISHED BY STUDENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AQUINAS COLLEGE PUBLICATIONS BOARD

THE EDITORIAL STAFF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REMOVE ANY MATERIAL THAT MAY BE LIBELLOUS OR SLANDEROUS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP.
In the last two weeks, Gov. John Engler and President Bill Clinton have proposed initiatives that are visionary, politically popular and entirely wrong. Engler has said that the Southbelt freeway construction will begin this year, and Clinton has proposed an education initiative that is about 15 years too early.

Under Engler’s plan, the Southbelt freeway, will create an expressway connecting I-96 and I-196 running south of Grand Rapids. This will ease the traffic burden on 28th St. and 44th St. Unfortunately, it also has an estimated cost of about $120 million. This is while the roads we currently use are falling apart faster than the money our roads severely need. Clinton, on the other hand, is supporting something that is needed. Education reform. Once again, it is politically popular. Who can argue with trying to educate our nation’s children? Unfortunately, Clinton is mending the problem, not fixing it. Instead of increasing aid for college students, our country needs to reform education from the bottom up.

Yes, you may want to read that over again. I said we need to educate our children properly before they get to college, instead of trying to insure all Americans of access to a college education when primary and secondary schools have already been educating them unequally.

For example, colleges try to accept people who do well on tests, and who have good analytical skills. Spending is not always a perfect indication of education quality. But how can students who have never used a computer be expected to compete with those who have a 3:1 computer ratio in their school? To make my point clearer, children need to be taught the basics equally before they can be given a college education with equal funding. There are poor children in rural areas, and even poorer children in urban areas, all of whom need equal funding for their elementary schooling. Clinton is using political rhetoric, coupled with tax breaks, to sell a program that is providing weapons to soldiers that don’t know how to fight.
**Destruction by Definition**

by Curt Wozniak

**Timess Editor-in-Chief**

Motown has given us great music in the past, but move over Quincy Jones. The adrenalized foursome, The Suicide Machines, are rolling a new sonic vehicle off the Motor City’s assembly lines with breakneck speed. And, lucky us, it’s rolling our way.

On the strength of their current single “No Face,” Jason Navarro, Royce Nunley, Derek Grant, and Dan Suicide Machine have caught the ear of the music world and aren’t letting go. Their aggressive musicianship and kitschy sense of humor arc endearing even to the average college radio band, struggling to be Hootie, Pearl Jam, and Live all at once. They sound very tight musically and play very well, but if you already own any album from any of the above mentioned bands, you might want to save a few bucks on this. While energetic tour scheduling brings the Nineteen Wheels experience to GR about every other week, most recently as part of WGRD’s “I Want My MTV Bash,” this reviewer has yet to catch any of their live shows. With 700 of these discs sold in the first five days they were available every other week, most recently as part of WGRD’s “I Want My MTV Bash,” this reviewer has yet to catch any of their live shows. With 700 of these discs sold in the first five days they were available, it’s hard to disagree with critics who have called it, “one of the best pop albums of 1996.”

What’s it saying? Pick up the disc or check the Machines out at the Reptile House on Feb. 27 and hear for yourself.

Catch the Suicide Machines at the Reptile House on Feb. 27.

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**Cigars: GR's Smokin' Hot Trend**

by Terra Moore

**Times Contributing Writer**

What would the first thought be going through your head if you saw a young woman, dressed for success, puffing away to release the rich aroma of her favorite stogie? Don’t be too surprised...it’s hip, hot, and your favorite Cigar Bar might be just around the corner! Quickly becoming one of the hottest hobbies is the art of becoming a cigar connoisseur. So what does Grand Rapids have to offer for those interested? After doing some research, I found out some interesting facts about the art. Where do you go to enjoy your favorite stogie? Where would you purchase a good quality one, and how much will you be paying out of your pocket?

**TYPES OF CIGARS:**

As consumers, we are always looking for the best quality at the best prices. To actually enjoy the aroma and richness of a cigar, you would probably want to invest in a hand-rolled cigar. Your other alternative would be to choose the wallet-friendly machine-made versions.

Anything purchased at a grocery store or gas station is likely to be machine made. Any cigar bought at a tobacco specialty shop will be hand made, unless otherwise noted.

Machine cigars are made of chemicals, paper and leftovers. Hand-rolled cigars are made of aged tobacco, no chemicals, or additives.

So what’s it going to cost you? We’ll let you be the judge, and actually, RE-ALLY, REALLY hurting for a cigar, you could get one for about $1. However, quality counts if you are to enjoy your smoke, so expect to pay around $3-6. These are just base prices. Top of the line cigars (about $15-20 a pop). What are you going to look for in quality? Here are a few examples: ash, texture of outer wrapper, taste, strength of draw, and even-burning flavor.

WHERE TO BUY:

What distinguishes a reputable cigar store from a lousy repertoire? Humidors. Why?

Many of the quality cigars are imported from Honduras, Nicaragua, Brazil, Mexico, the Dominical Republic or the Philippines, and to maintain their quality, require about a 70% humidity level, as well as a proper temperature setting. In GR, Buffalo Tobacco Traders and Turtles are ranked as the two best cigar stores. Some other places to check out would be Londonshire Shoppe (downstairs on the Monroe Mall), Smoker’s Express, and Siciliano’s.

**CIGAR BARS:**

Downtown, like cigar smoking, is becoming more popular, and attracting more and more people. Why not combine the two? Well, fortunately, the No.1 cigar bar is in the heart of GR. Lakos downtown participates in many cigar activities such as cigar dinners and cigar clubs. Catering to cigar lovers has become a quality of Lakos unmatched by others in the area. Planagan’s, J. Garadella’s, and the new “Tips” (rumor has it) can also accommodate your desire for a relaxing smoke.

See “Stogies,” p. 9
Encounter "Reencuentros" in AMC Gallery

Ten internationally known artists will be displaying their work in the AMC until Friday, Feb. 21.

"Reencuentros/Reencounters: Expressions of Latino Identity," was organized in 1990 by Project Director Sara Adlerstein-Gonzalez, Ph.D.

"Reencuentros" is a compilation of paintings and sculpture that reflect the artists' Latin heritage. Adlerstein-Gonzalez started painting when she was a biology student in college. Somehow she could relate painting to the cellular world of science. Her paintings are experimental and full of emotion.

Artist Juan Alonso was forced to leave his native homeland of Cuba when he was nine. He uses this experience to create his almost dreamlike paintings. The focus of his works seem to be on faces, faces that often resemble the artist himself.

Cecilia Alvarez, whose work has been featured in the Grand Rapids Press, uses the images of women to create her bright and vivid works. "LaTierra Santais particularly striking. A strong mother figure is pictured holding a baby and protecting the native resources of her land with an outstretched hand and an imposing stance.

The distinct painting style of Alfredo Arreguin can be compared to a kaleidoscope of intricate patterns, laced together with the use of interconnected lines. Arreguin has referred to his work as a sort of personal calligraphy. Sculptor Mark Calderon uses images from the Latino heritage as a starting point for his creations. The simplicity of his work brings a sense of grace and strength to the viewer.

Having a varied and diverse background enabled Rita Chavez to extend this diversity to her paintings. Animal heads atop human bodies seem to be the dominate theme of Chavez's work. Her images conjure thoughts of children's fables, yet one can also see evidence of political satire in her works.

Years and still Going features a dark tangle of spikes, chains and skulls. This particular work has a dreamlike quality that permeates the organized chaos of five-hundred years of history.

At an early age, Rodriguez Guerra became interested in art. His works often seem incomplete, with bodies that lack arms and legs. 500 "Reencuentros" runs in the AMC Gallery through Feb. 21. Photo by Duffy Cavanaugh

Margarita Leon uses the ordinary interactions of family for the theme of her sculptures. Her creations are not refined, but showcase internal beauty of the figure.

Cross-cultural humor is used in creating Ruben Trejo's work. Trejo has even written a paper called, "Chicano Humor in Art: For Whom the Taco Bell Tolls," which was published in 1987. Jose Orantes is best known for his work as a muralist. He works as an artist-in-residence with school children. Orantes calls his work "more universal than Latin, and more contemporary than ethnic."

In the lower level of AMC there will also be a Children's Art contest on display organized by the Hispanic Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids.

If it's a cigar dinner you're looking for, and you're paying college tuition, good luck. The Connoisseur Club, run by Robert Weronka (owner of Buffalo Tobacco Traders), requires that you spend at least $150 a month on cigars. Some of the benefits are a complimentary bag of cigars when you walk in the door, and a drawing for a box of cigars valued from $50-$100. Tuttle's would be more realistic simply due to the fact that they are open to the public. These dinners are becoming more and more popular among young women, too.

The BOB, (that is, the "Big Old Building") with its many restaurants and bars, is going as far as CIGAR LOCKERS!! There are others out there, so be assertive. Take advantage of what downtown has to offer--if you don't, it's your loss!!

No matter how you look at the issue, cigar smoking has become an activity indulged in by many. Whether you will enjoy them yourself or not is up to you, but go out there and check some out. Who knows, you may find yourself discussing cigars in a corner of GR next weekend.

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J.V. Hoops Finds Strength In Development

I.Aho, you the student body sat on your collective hands for 35 of the 40 minutes. Have no fear though, Paul Nelson, and Brad Winkler were there to cheer the Saints to a career win, which came mostly in front of disappointed Golden Eagle supporters. There was a fairly large Aquinas contingent, as there should have been. It was at our field house, unfortunately, not to none of these experiences. They go to the same school, go to the same practices and are friends with the players who actually do receive the benefits. These players are on the junior varsity team.

This year the Saints kept 20 players (fewer players than normal) who practice together rather than having separate J.V. and varsity practices. The coaches selected players who they thought had the best chance of playing varsity right away or eventually developing into varsity players. This differs from a lot of other schools who sometimes select players in which they have no intention of ever giving a chance to move up. "The goal of this system is to give kids a four year college basketball career rather than have them play a year or two and then quit. In taking fewer players than in years past, I think we're on our way to doing that. The more players we take, the more people end up quitting," said J.V. head coach Dean Cooper.

Cooper, who also is a varsity assistant, was very excited about some potential on his J.V. squad. "It's fun to watch the guys work hard for the purpose of becoming better players," he said. "People who think that a J.V. player will never play varsity are wrong. Some players have a little more developing to do before reaching the varsity level."

Not to say that all J.V. players will become varsity stars, but it is feasible for players to move up to the varsity level. Some players have to wait their turn for the glory. A great example of this truth is men's varsity forward Joe Crittendon. After playing J.V. and seeing very limited varsity action as a freshman, he moved into a starting spot last year and continues to be one of the finest three point shooters around. The possibility of playing varsity aside, there are also other aspects that J.V. players enjoy about their team. Kyle Baldwin, a sophomore who regularly plays J.V. and suits up for varsity, added "Playing J.V. is fun because there's less pressure, although playing varsity is more exciting."

Indeed those involved with the J.V. team seemed to enjoy themselves this season, and that doesn't always include players. Junior Brian Zurga was an important part of the team as well. Though he didn't play this year after playing the two previous years, Zurga is gaining experience with the team as a manager. This included coaching the J.V. team on several occasions under the supervision of Coach Cooper. "Brian did a great job helping us out this year, he really understands the game," said Cooper.

Cooper himself has a pretty good understanding of the game as he spends an average of three to four hours a day watching films of the Saints and their opponents. Cooper also does some scouting for the Connecticut Pride of the CBA. When asked what he likes about his J.V. position, Cooper said "I enjoy coaching and preparing for games because it's sort of a chess match."

"You have to study your opponent's every move and plan your strategy. You try to find a weakness in the opponent's game and use it to your advantage."

On the team, he concludes, "Our guys have done a great job and there is definitely some exciting potential for player development on this J.V. team."

Behold, the future of Aquinas varsity basketball is before us.

This brave soul seemed to inspire the Aquinas crowd, who from that point on, were as boisterous and supportive as any crowd I've seen. In fact, I almost left the scorer's table to join in the fun. I was also happy that from what I could see, all this cheering was in good taste, and there didn't seem to be any hostility between the Spring Arbor students and the Aquinas student body. That's the way it should be too, just a bunch of kids supporting their respective schools.

How much was it appreciated? Just ask a guy who stepped onto the floor for Aquinas that day and I'm sure he'll tell you. I'm not sure how many people saw it, but Rick Albro even came back out and applauded the Aquinas fans. His team had just beaten a nationally ranked opponent, and the first thing he did, not including the customary post-game hand shake of course, was to thank the fans. That speaks for itself.

So c'mon Aquinas, this could be our year. Rick and the boys are doing a great job, so get out and support them, as well as the Lady Saints, who, by the way, have won ten out of their last twelve games. I think this past Saturday showed how much fun school spirit can really be.

So, if you plan on going to an upcoming AQ basketball game bring your hands, and for heaven's sake, DON'T SIT ON THEM!

Joe Crittendon pulls up for a three point shot over Spring Arbor. Photo by Deffy Cennaugh
Aquinas Indoor Track Team Takes Off

by Judy Dewitte

Times Contributing Writer

The men's and women's track teams came up big in the WHAC Indoor Championships at Siena Heights on Saturday, Feb. 1. The men finished third while the women ended up in second place and set two indoor school records.

Though there were only four teams in both the men's and women's sides, the team as a whole made great strides in comparison to last year. The men scored 37 points compared to only one last year while the women scored 47 points compared to 11 in 1996.

The two record setters for the Lady Saints were Maureen Fielder and Brooke Vandermeulen. Fielder broke her own record in the 400 m dash with a time of 1:01.72, and Vandermeulen ran the 1500 m in a record time of 5:10.21.

Other noteworthy finishes included that of Leslie Ervin, who placed fourth in the 1500 m. Meanwhile, in the men's 1500 m, Jackson Fox and Justin Ogle took the third and fourth spots respectively. Carrie Blind took fourth in the women's 400 m with a time of 1:02.39.

In other events, Ervin and Vandermeulen took third and fourth in the women's 1000 m run, while John Lee and Ogle came in second and third for the men. Sophomore Greg Mileski took third and fourth in the pole vault and Kevin Cook flew to a first place finish in the triple jump with a bound of 44' 2".

In the 5000 m run, Melissa Pline (19:28.0) came in first and Molly Ammerino second, while Knut Maas of 5:10.21. and Ken Baginski finished one and two for on the men's side of the same event. Danielle Hammer finished third in the women's 55 m and 200 m, while blind took fourth in the 200 m.

Angela Newcomb and Tylene Walters competed in the 20 lb. weight and placed second and fourth. In the 55 m hurdles, Heather Montie finished fourth with a time of 9.54. Abigail English and Montie finished third and fourth in the women's 600 m and Molly Huber ended up third in the 800 m.

Greg Thull and Baginski finished third and fourth in the men's 3000 m, while Tamra Orendorff and Huber finished third and fourth in the women's high jump to round out the field.

The Co-MVP's of the meet for the men were Josh Wonders and Jeff Marsh, and Tina Richards and Jacki Clark, all from Siena Heights College. The track team competes next on Friday, Feb. 14 at Eastern Michigan University.

Track record setters: (l to r) Brooke VanderMullen, Molly Ammerino, Leslie Irvin, Maureen Fielder, Molly Huber and Angela Newcomb. Photo by Dolly Carman

IM Basketball: Let the Games Begin

by Matt Farnsworth

Times Contributing Writer

The road to the Aquinas Final Four began last Tuesday night as four intramural basketball teams from the "A" Division were in action along with the entire "B" Division.

There are eight teams batting for the title in the "A" Division this year. The eight teams are East (Erik Kruzaik), the Runnin Rednecks (Mike Wojcikowski), the Woodchucks (Mat Snyder), Liquid Courage (Scott Schmidt), The Buddies (Marc Wilis), The Press (Rob McCarty), Undeniable Rage (Jason Bialochowski), and The No-Ups (Chris Thorenson). There have been a few league rule changes regarding this intramural basketball season.

Perhaps the most significant deals with the referees. Instead of having students officiate the games, intramural big-wigs are having high school referees come in to make sure things do not get out of hand and to avoid favoritism. Also, all Sunday night games will be run fall court with the game clock so there will be no interruptions on score and time.

According to Paul Koepe, the commissioner of the league, "The league is going to be real interesting this year because there are so many good players on so many different teams." The games will take place in the fieldhouse every Sunday and Tuesday night until March 18.

The games on Sundays will run from 7:00 to 1:00 and from 10:00 to 12:00 on Tuesdays.

The Intramural Volleyball season came to an end finally after a long two and one-half months of play. After the regular season came to an end, the top four teams advanced into the play-offs. The teams were Shock the Corn, Dressze, McGuire and Private Property.

Shuck the Corn, the number one ranked team going into tournament play, would play Dreesie, the fourth place team. Shuck the Corn would prevail and await the winner of the two teams that tied for second place, Private Property and McGuire.

McGuire would eventually come out on top and earn the right to play Shuck the Corn for the title. It was a hard fought final between the two teams but in the end Shuck the Corn was just too strong for McGuire, powerfully claiming the Intramural Volleyball Championship.

Volleyball Champions Crowned as Basketball Season Gets Under Way

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MEN'S HOOPS

Feb. 1 L Tri-State 65-96

High Scorer: Lowe (19)

Feb. 5 W Cornerstone 67-56

High Scorer: Crienden (23)

Feb. 8 W Spring Arbor 93-80

High Scorer: Lowe (25)

WOMEN'S HOOPS

Jan. 30 W Cornerstone 85-77

High Scorer: King (25)

Feb. 1 L Tri-State 63-66

High Scorer: Lamoreaux (18)

Feb. 5 W K-College 82-54

High Scorer: Forkker (18)

Feb. 8 W Siena Hts. 84-72

High Scorer: Lamoreaux (28)

MEN'S TRACK

At the Feb. 7 meet hosted by Grand Valley State, the 3200 m relay team of Knut Maas, Justin Ogle, Jackson Fox and John Lee placed second with a time of 8:00.56, just seconds behind the first place host team.

STUDENT / FACULTY / STAFF B-BALL

The annual Student / Faculty / Staff Basketball Game took place on Sunday, Feb. 9. 12 members of the college faculty and support staff laced up their gym shoes against nine student representatives. The Faculty and Staff, who led most of the way, were on top when the smoke cleared, with a final score of 54-47. In the true spirit of the friendly game, every player on both sides scored. The winners all received gift certificates to TGI Friday's. An estimated 70-80 people were in attendance.

ScoreCard

Score Card
Features

All Work and No Play
by Melissa Ann Plane
Times Features Editor

"Hi, It's Ina, it's off to work they go.
Be it for the pay check at the end of the week or a wish to meet people, many Aquinas students are entering the work-world part-time while still in school.

"It's a chance to escape the pressures of school and be involved in the communities outside of school," said Joseph Ciarante. As a dance instructor at Linda Moen School of Dance, Arts, works 20 hours a week teaching 4-year-olds to adults ballet, tap and jazz.

"Dance has always been a passion of mine. I've been doing since age three. This is my fifth year as an instructor and I was a student instructor before that. Like my students and like to see them improve, but I have decided not to pursue it as a career."

"Others, however, hope their part-time jobs will assist them in their chosen career paths.

Nicole Atkinson, a student circulation assistant in the Woodside Library, plans to pursue a Master's degree in Library Science after graduating from Aquinas in May. With this she hopes to be able to work part time in a library while she pursues a degree in Child Sciences.

"I've always wanted to be in a library since I was in Middle School," said Atmon. "I love helping people research."

"For others, work is about meeting people."

"I get to drive nice cars," said McGahey. "After having a chance to drive them. I have no idea what cars I want to buy someday."

Career Opportunities

Learn the Skills to Pay the Bills with Career Services
by Melissa Ann Plane
Times Features Editor

You have a degree and skills.
They have a job that needs your knowledge and skills.
So how do the potential employee and employer find each other? En­mer the Aquinas College Career Ser­vices. Hidden in the lower level of Hioby Hall, Career Services is a treasure available to all Aquinas students and alumni. Within this small office resides the resources and people that can help connect you to your job of your dreams.

Career Services was started about 25 years ago by Jim Shulitz as an internship program for lower level students. Since that time, it has grown into a depart­ment offering services from employ­ability workshops to career counseling.

Unfortunately, with the location in Hruby Hall, student use of the center is lower than desired.

"Ideally we would be in the Acad­emic Building or Wege Center," said Karen Stefanksic, Assoc. Di­rector of Career Services. "We spend a lot of time marketing ourselves to our own students."

The staff of four full time em­ployees, one part time employee, a graduate assistant and a number of volunteers, certainly have a lot to offer students who do come to visit. Their services include: off campus and summer employment positions, individual appointments, intern­ships, career mentors, a career res­source library, career fairs, gradu­ate school information and degree placement services.

The newest addition to the list of services is the co-curricular career development component required for incoming freshmen. Under this new requirement, freshmen take a class focusing on self-assessment. Initial reactions of the component have been mixed.

But if you do have to start over in the future, Career Services can help with that, too. With an Aquinas degree comes a lifetime guarantee on the use of the Career Center's services. According to Stefanksic, about 40% of the people who use the services are in fact alum, some of whom have lost their jobs and have to start over, and others who want to make a change.

You Too Can Be a Certified Resume Expert!
by Melissa Ann Plane
Times Features Editor

Starting this semester, Aquinas College Career Services is con­verting to the Resume Expert sys­tem. This easy-to-use system al­lows you to register with Career Services, be referred to internships and placement openings, and pro­duce crisp, professional, typeset­quality resumes.

If you are interested in participat­ing in campus recruiting, employee referrals or the internship program, you must register with Career Ser­vices. Resume Expert simplifies the registration process by prompting you through menus from which you may select your pertinent skills and career interests.

By registering with the Resume Expert system, the staff can quickly match your skills to employer needs and then refer your resume to ap­propriate employers. Career Ser­vices believe this system will im­prove their services to employers, particularly those in the "hidden" job market, and greatly increase your chances of connecting with employers with immediate open­ings.

The Resume Expert system al­lows you to create the highly pro­fessional resume format employ­ers demand, leaving you to con­centrate on the content. You can produce multiple resumes aimed at different audiences. And since it's all computerized, changes and up­dates can be made quickly and eas­ily for years to come.

The resume software program is available in the Career Services Office for $20.00. Current students can charge the disk to their student account. Complete instructions accompany each disk and the staff is also available to answer any of your questions.