These Boys Can Play
Domestic Problems Releases Second CD

by Maris Brancheau
Times Editor-in-Chief

The floor was shaking, the crowd was jumping, and an energy of peace and excitement surrounded Domestic Problems as they released their second CD, "Play," to the world on Oct. 17.

Playing to a crowd estimated under 1,400 at Calvin College's Fine Arts Auditorium was not a problem for the local band with roots at Aquinas. Led by charismatic lead singer, Andy Holtgreive, the six board members celebrated their new CD with the Calvin show and a later performance at The Intersection Lounge.

"The Calvin show was, according to Holtgreive, "in all definitions a show" complete with video footage. The entire 12 track CD was performed in order, featuring the crowd pleasers "Bowling", "Summer in the Sandbox," and "James Francis." Play also re-releases "Ernie's Tragic Love Triangle" and "I Think It's Funny" and boasts the local radio hit "My Only Love," which was played to accompany personal video footage of the band.

The Calvin show ended with "El Matador," a longtime live favorite that didn't make the cut onto Play. Fans who ventured to the Intersection for the afterglow performance were treated to "El Matador" again as the opening song.

But "El Matador" was one of the only similarities between the two shows, with the Intersection set being a trip down nostalgia lane for longtime DP fans. As Holtgreive performed in order, featuring the song.

See "Play," p. 9

Interfaith Conference Celebrates Religious Diversity

by Brigid Bulger
Times Contributing Writer

Hindus, Muslims, and Christians joined hands to celebrate faith on Oct. 9th and 10th at Aquinas.

Thursday, Oct. 9 marked the first day of a two-day conference on world religions. On this night, participants had the opportunity to learn about the Bahá’í Faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, or Judaism during evening workshops. The second day offered presentations on practical applications of religion.

Some of the highlights of the conference included the opportunity to experience Bosnian youth singing a traditional song in their traditional garb, the sharing of a Hindu morning ritual on offering food, a Catholic reflection on Holy Week, and a dance for universal peace which concluded the Festival of Faiths.

Friday's keynote speaker Dr. Charles Haynes addressed the importance of finding a "middle path of civic consensus, constitutional, and sacred" in the world of public education. Even though the different faiths may not agree with each other, it is the common responsibility of all faiths to protect each other's rights.

Haynes is the editor of Finding Common Ground: A First Guide to Religion and Public Education.

This event was coordinated and sponsored by a committee formed by Aquinas, Calvin College, Grand Valley State University, the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism and the Interfaith Dialog Association. Mary Clark-Kainer, the Director of Campus Ministry, represented Aquinas on this committee.

She said that the committee, besides the event itself, was her favorite part of the entire experience because she had the opportunity to work with ten people representing different religions.

Clark-Kainer realized the importance of this event being hosted by Aquinas, "I think it is important from our Domincan tradition of hospitality and our search for the truth to welcome people from different faith traditions to come together in dialogue about their deepest search for the truth."

See "Faith," p. 2

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Students Out Serving

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Students See Stratford, Shrew Over Break

by Heather Karal
Times Features Editor

The Stratford Festival theater darkened for the evening performance of William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." The audience waited expectantly. A lighted figure came into view—the Statue of Liberty. Following the lady liberty, the audience watched a series lighted of skyscrapers during the 1800's. After the matinee the participants were free to explore Stratford and visit its restaurants for dinner.

That evening they attended the performance of "The Taming of the Shrew" which was set in the 1920's in New York City. Professor Gary Eberle, the advisor for the Stratford trip, explained the reason that the stories are not done in traditional setting and costume: "They recycle the same plays every few years. If they kept them as museum pieces it would get bor­ing, so they have to do something to keep people interested," he said.

Although everyone on the trip enjoyed the creatively produced performances, junior Janelle Bur­den commented, "I had never seen "Taming of the Shrew" performed.

"Faith," cont'd from p. 1

Of the approximately 100 participants, Clark-Kaiser said that the group of about 30 college stu­dents was the largest represented. These students that were unable to attend the workshops and speak­ers were able to enjoy the information booths set up inside of Wege. Sophomore Elizabeth Martin at­tended the conference with Pranav Butala, an international student from India. She found the experience to open her eyes to the experiences of a minority. "I went with Pranav to the Hindu sec­tion," she said. "I thought it was a great opportunity because I get to learn what he does back home. When I was learning about Hindus I was one of the only non-Hindus in the room. I thought it was cool because I must have felt like he feels when he is alone with a group of Catholics."

For Aquinas Sophomore Zoe Velez, the event taught her about Judaism, while at the same time, it helped her understand her own faith.

She said that the workshop pre­senter "persuaded us not to convert to Judaism, rather than trying to convert us." Velez went into the session interested in exploring this new faith. "I wanted to learn about Judaism. I am always thinking about what if I became this or that; but now I realize I am really happy being a Catholic," said Velez. "I am really lucky with my religion."

Profile of a President: Harry Knopke Revealed

by Alan Plum
Times Sports Editor

What one word does the new President of Aquinas College use to describe himself? He's not "boring," "overwhelmed," or even the slightest bit "unsatisfied," despite the fact that he, his wife Sheila, and daughter Anne are still in the process of moving into their new home.

"Actually, the first word that came into my mind is happy," said President Harry Knopke. "I'm happy with a lot of things."

Clearly he is, even though one wall in his garage is lined with boxes waiting to be taken to vari­ous charity organizations, such as the Salvation Army. Knopke seems very comfortable in his new sur­roundings, except for maybe one place. "We haven't even been able to get two cars in here yet," Knopke said as he walked into his two-stall garage at Willowbrook Manor, which rests on the southeast side of the Aquinas College Campus.

In fact, to watch him converse with students and their parents at a previous matinee performance of Romeo and Juliet. This story was set in 1670 Robinson Road, which is why he wants Aquinas to develop its own identity, separating it from many nearby institutions.

Adding what he calls "professional components," Knopke is in­tent on Aquinas developing its own niche. "We don't want to be another Calvin or Grand Valley State," he said.

For someone who wound up in college administration by what he calls an "accident," Knopke has a firm understanding of the role of education and ways to improve it.

To some, making Aquinas the top Catholic liberal arts college in the Midwest may seem like a lofty goal. But Knopke understands the values a Catholic liberal arts edu­cation can provide. He believes an Aquinas education can help stu­dents develop faith in themselves and others while it supports the diversity that provides individual strength.

"My job here is to grow the oppor­tunities we have," said Knopke.

Community Update:
At the State of the College address over fall break, President Knopke announced a 6% faculty salary in­crease. On Oct. 30 from 12:30 to 3:00 in the AMC there will be a town hall meeting for members of the col­lege to voice their opinion and pro­vide input on the future of Aquinas. All are welcome to attend.

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PART TIME WORK
OCTOBER 29, 1997

by Mary Kopchick
Times Contributing Writer

Instead of spending the first week-end of Fall Break at home, 13 Aquinas students traveled to Oak Hill, West Virginia for a weekend of white water rafting and camping. Students left Friday morning for the 10 hour drive to West Virginia and his mini-bus. The trip, they say, was worth it. The students, along with 70,000 onlookers, were able to see professional free-falling and parachuting off a bridge spanning a 1,000 foot deep canyon into the river. One of the highlights of the trip was when students had the opportunity to take a break from rafting to climb and jump from a 32 foot rock into a calm part of the river. Programming Board representative Scott David was pleased with the entire trip. "The water was lower than last year, but we were able to get $100 it's a really good deal; that isn't half as much as people wanted to go by themselves. In fact there were a lot of people saying they wanted to go next year." David went on to say, "It was different because it's not like a ride at Cedar Point, it takes a lot of skill and it's a good alternative to doing nothing during break." The trip was senior Rosie Stempky's first time on the rapids. "My favorite part was jumping off the rock. Even though the water was kinda cold, I'm really glad I went," Stempky said. The annual trip was advised by Sue Kilborn and sponsored by the programming board and cost each student $100, which included transportation, food, lodging and all rafting equipment.

Rafters Chance the Rapids
Trip Highlighted by Rock Jumping

by Phil Stinae
Times Contributing Writer

Attention future laureates, creators of couples or anyone else with a penchant for poetry. The Aquinas College Contemporary Writers Series, fueled by the generous support of Linda Nemec Foster and Dr. Tony Foster (both Aquinas alumni), is sponsoring a reading by the highly acclaimed poet Li-Young Lee. Lee's academic history includes years of study at the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan and Northwestern University. He has also taught at a myriad of universities including the University of Iowa and Northwestern University. Lee will be at Aquinas Thursday, Nov. 6, speaking first at the Cook Carriage House at 12:30 pm about his writing and answering questions about the creative process. That evening at 7:00 pm in Classroom Building Rom. 109, Lee will be reading from his works. The Contemporary Writers Series is in its inaugural year but the Fosters hope that the program will continue to grow. "We felt that the whole city of Grand Rapids, being the second largest city in the state, should have this sort of exposure available," says Foster. In addition to the Aquinas community, we want this series to benefit the community at large," Nemec Foster said in a press release. "We are really pleased to be able to bring a very intimate audience sat and listen intently as the voice of Michael Burgsult carried them away to a world of Schubert and Brahms at the Kreutzer Recital Hall in the Art and Music Center on Oct. 12, 1997. The concert, entitled "A Matter of Life and Death," was a recital honoring the bicentennial of Franz Schubert's birth and the centennial of Johannes Brahms' death. The recital was given by tenor Michael Burgess and was accompanied by Sean E. Ivory on the piano. Burgess sang a variety of songs by both Schubert and Brahms in the German, French, Italian, and English languages. The songs in the first half of the program were lighthearted and symbolic of love with such lyrics as "There twinkle through willows and blinks a glimmer shining pale from the room. Of my beloved's son...My love creeps intimately and hastens blithely," (from the Fisherman's Joyful Lamentation). The songs in the second half of the program were angry but exuberant, focusing mainly on life and death. For example in the song entitled "Autumn," Burgess sang "I watch, flowing on like waters of the torrent, your days imbued with melancholy. The songs preformed in the recital reflected Burgess' passion for music and song. "There is a rich texture, when I sing Brahms," he said, "It is so clear in form and straightforward." The title of the recital came last for Burgess. "A Matter of Life and Death" is not even a title. It's more of an imperative," Burgess said. "It covers so well the intention of the program: observing the birth of Schubert and the death of Brahms." He believes the program contained enough linguistic, poetic and idiomatic musical contrasts to provide diversity. Providing insight into the performance, Burgess said, "To help bring personality and drama to the texts, I imagined each group as depicting or relating different events in the life of one man." Burgess has been an adjunct instructor in voice at Aquinas for three years. He teaches students at GrandRapids Community College, Cornerstone College, and Reform Bible College. He is currently working on his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

Faculty Recital:
'A Matter of Life and Death'

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Contributing Writer

"The quiet company/" The Quiet Company
Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Sept. 28, 1997

Photo by Dave Curtis

Writers Series to Showcase Li-Young Lee

by Mary Kopchick
Times Contributing Writer

Attention future laureates, creators of couples or anyone else with a penchant for poetry. The Aquinas College Contemporary Writers Series, fueled by the generous support of Linda Nemec Foster and Dr. Tony Foster (both Aquinas alumni), is sponsoring a reading by the highly acclaimed poet Li-Young Lee. Lee's academic history includes years of study at the University of Arizona, University of Pittsburgh and the State University of New York at Brockport. He has also taught at a myriad of universities including the University of Iowa and Northwestern University. Lee will be at Aquinas Thursday, Nov. 6, speaking first at the Cook Carriage House at 12:30 pm about his writing and answering questions about the creative process. That evening at 7:00 pm in Classroom Building Rom. 109, Lee will be reading from his works. The Contemporary Writers Series is in its inaugural year but the Fosters hope that the program will continue to grow. "We felt that the whole city of Grand Rapids, being the second largest city in the state, should have this sort of exposure available," says Foster. In addition to the Aquinas community, we want this series to benefit the community at large," Nemec Foster said in a press release. "We are really pleased to be able to bring a very intimate audience sat and listen intently as the voice of Michael Burgsult carried them away to a world of Schubert and Brahms at the Kreutzer Recital Hall in the Art and Music Center on Oct. 12, 1997. The concert, entitled "A Matter of Life and Death," was a recital honoring the bicentennial of Franz Schubert's birth and the centennial of Johannes Brahms' death. The recital was given by tenor Michael Burgess and was accompanied by Sean E. Ivory on the piano. Burgess sang a variety of songs by both Schubert and Brahms in the German, French, Italian, and English languages. The songs in the first half of the program were lighthearted and symbolic of love with such lyrics as "There twinkle through willows and blinks a glimmer shining pale from the room. Of my beloved's son...My love creeps intimately and hastens blithely," (from the Fisherman's Joyful Lamentation). The songs in the second half of the program were angry but exuberant, focusing mainly on life and death. For example in the song entitled "Autumn," Burgess sang "I watch, flowing on like waters of the torrent, your days imbued with melancholy. The songs preformed in the recital reflected Burgess' passion for music and song. "There is a rich texture, when I sing Brahms," he said, "It is so clear in form and straightforward." The title of the recital came last for Burgess. "A Matter of Life and Death" is not even a title. It's more of an imperative," Burgess said. "It covers so well the intention of the program: observing the birth of Schubert and the death of Brahms." He believes the program contained enough linguistic, poetic and idiomatic musical contrasts to provide diversity. Providing insight into the performance, Burgess said, "To help bring personality and drama to the texts, I imagined each group as depicting or relating different events in the life of one man." Burgess has been an adjunct instructor in voice at Aquinas for three years. He teaches students at GrandRapids Community College, Cornerstone College, and Reform Bible College. He is currently working on his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

"Stratford," cont'd. from p. 2

before, so I think I would have liked to see it done in the traditional Elizabethan costumes. But it was still very good." On Saturday morning some of the students toured the warehouse which stores all of the costumes and props used at the Stratford Festival Theater. They learned that the costumes are seldom reused exactly as they are, but are frequently altered to be used in another performance. The group also saw some of the secret tricks of theater to make a prop or costume look authentic. For example, most chairmaim worn by actors playing the role of and knight is knitted and then painted to look like metal. During the tour, the participants were allowed to try on some of the costumes so that they could experience how heavy and awkward the costumes are. The group spent the rest of the morning exploring the shops of downtown of Stratford. Then they returned to Grand Rapids. The trip was greatly enjoyed by all the participants, though each had their own opinion of the performances. Junior John Krajewski commented, "I liked [Tammy of the Shrew] much better than Romeo and Juliet. It was a lot more funny," 
In the days leading to the Promise Keepers' "Stand in the Gap" movement in Washington D.C., alarm, pessimism, and anger propagated throughout American society. For the moment, we threw away our sacred First Amendment. The facts and motives of the PK were blown out of proportion. What a tragic downfall and overthrow of "American" ideals. Why did this happen?

Quite simply, our nation was terrified. We may have lost our vision because we have become skeptical that people still trust in God and are capable of taking personal responsibility to fix the problems in our country. Before the event. Americans were aware of two things: about 500,000 men were gathering at our capital and they were gathering to praise God and renew their promises to families, churches, and country.

Were their intentions sincere? Of course not, we exclaimed. Society reacted as if there was a hidden Republican plot to storm the capital building and seize Congress. White males are probably conniving to take revenge. The Promise Keepers "Stand in the Gap" move- ment which brought hundreds of thousands of men to the nation's capital, Saturday, Oct. 4.

The group of industrious men met in hopes of changing religion as we know it. It seems, to them, male irresponsibility and poor church attendance are the direct result of male feminization. In their opinion, religion has evolved to glorify only "female virtues" like passivity, weakness, and self-sacrifice. Apparently, men must reclaim their power as Evans said, "The demise of our community and culture is the fault of sissified men who have been overly influenced by women."

Many of the quotes of this nature did not make their way to the public ear because of media bias. This bias painted the event as a healthy bonding experience where males got together, tackled national issues, and decided to take on more responsibility in the home. This is definitely a great idea in theory. But looking at the words and strategy of the PK, it is easy to see that what obtaining racial harmony would involve. Similarly, these crusaders for harmony also insult the gay and lesbian communities. Bill Briggs criticized activist gays and lesbians as "arrogantly demanding their rights." This is an interesting assertion since in the United States, any demand of rights is rarely considered "arrogant." It alarmed that such a large number of men who think that they should lead the nation are bent on condemnation and homophobia.

"I believe that feminists of the more aggressive persuasion are frustrated women unable to find the proper male leadership. If a woman were receiving the right kind of love and attention and leadership, she would not want to be fertilized from that." This quote by Promise Keeper speaker and leader Tony Evans characterized the spirit of the evangelical men's movement which brought hundreds of thousands of men to the nation's capital, Saturday, Oct. 4.

The group of industrious men met in hopes of changing religion as we know it. It seems, to them, male irresponsibility and poor church attendance are the direct result of male feminization. In their opinion, religion has evolved to glorify only "female virtues" like passivity, weakness, and self-sacrifice. Apparently, men must reclaim their power as Evans said, "The demise of our community and culture is the fault of sissified men who have been overly influenced by women.

Many of the quotes of this nature did not make their way to the public ear because of media bias. This bias painted the event as a healthy bonding experience where males got together, tackled national issues, and decided to take on more responsibility in the home. This is definitely a great idea in theory. But looking at the words and strategy of the PK, it is easy to see that what obtaining racial harmony would involve. Similarly, these crusaders for harmony also insult the gay and lesbian communities. Bill Briggs criticized activist gays and lesbians as "arrogantly demanding their rights." This is an interesting assertion since in the United States, any demand of rights is rarely considered "arrogant." It alarmed that such a large number of men who think that they should lead the nation are bent on condemnation and homophobia.

Most men in attendance regarded the experience as uplifting, perhaps without realizing the sexist, homophobic, and racist implications. It's too bad that the Promise Keepers "Stand in the Gap" movement didn't make their way to the public ear because of media bias. This bias painted the event as a healthy bonding experience where males got together, tackled national issues, and decided to take on more responsibility in the home. This is definitely a great idea in theory. But looking at the words and strategy of the PK, it is easy to see that what obtaining racial harmony would involve. Similarly, these crusaders for harmony also insult the gay and lesbian communities. Bill Briggs criticized activist gays and lesbians as "arrogantly demanding their rights." This is an interesting assertion since in the United States, any demand of rights is rarely considered "arrogant." It alarmed that such a large number of men who think that they should lead the nation are bent on condemnation and homophobia.
GR City Commission Considers Wealthy St. Historic District

by Elizabeth Duder
Times Contributing Writer

The Grand Rapids City Commission Meeting on Oct. 7, 1997 at Grand Rapids Christian High School brought worries and concerns to the table as residents gave their thoughts and opinions regarding a proposed Wealthy Street Historic District.

Mayor John Logie and the rest of the City Commission listened attentively as outraged residents of the proposed district voiced their views about how having a historic district could be a way of racially segregating white residents from black residents. “The city has a way of doing what they want to do,” stated Shirley Allen, a 45-year resident of the area. She continued, “This is a way to take over our neighborhood.”

Michael Smith, another resident in the district agreed with Allen and said, “In the past ten years, the ethnic population in Grand Rapids has changed drastically. This may re-segregate this city.” On the other hand, many residents agree with the creation of a historic district. Carol Moore is a resident and member of the study committee for the possible district. “I own property and the historic district would give a stronger image and bring new business capital to area. The district is an effective means of economic revitalization,” she said.

Gail Peterson, another member of the study committee, also agrees with the Wealthy Street Historic District. “The Historic District will get rid of the abandoned landlords and the drug dealers,” she said.

The district was proposed because of new investments and building from generation happening in the neighborhood. The Wealthy Street Historic District would be located between Eastern and Fuller Avenues.

A study committee concluded the district qualifies for designation because of architecture, community planning and development, ethnic heritage, and an important historical connection to Grand Rapids. The City Commission will approve or reject the Wealthy Street Historic District on Nov. 4.

A boarded up home on the corner of Wealthy St. and Barth St. is in the area the City Commission may deem a historic district.

A beered up home on the corner of Wealthy St. and Barth St. is in the area the City Commission may deem a historic district. Photo by Andy Pieper

Arena Celebrates One Year Anniversary

by Hanh Nguyen
Times Contributing Writer

The Van Andel Arena has hosted many successful events during its first year, but on Sunday, Oct. 12, the arena itself fell under the spotlight.

To celebrate its one year anniversary and thank the community for its support, the arena hosted an open house which featured public ice skating on the rink, free movies to the first 2,000 visitors, free popcorn and pop, and displays highlighting upcoming shows. The event ran from 1-5pm and both parking and admission were free.

Entering the foyer of the arena for the open house, there were activities to please the whole family. Displayed on the mall in front of the arena was the “Nitemare” monster truck and “Ruthie’s Playhouse,” a huge blow-up type jumping bed for children. This was sponsored by Country Fresh’s mascot Ruthie the cow. Outside the arena 96.1 FM broadcasted live.

“It’s been extremely fun,” said disc jockey Beau Derick. “Van Andel is extremely geared for opening the arena for skating, free food, drinking and celebrating. I’m having a lot of fun!” Inside the arena, there were raffle drawings to win various prizes from sweatsuits to vacations. TV 13 also taped some footage of the skating activities for the news that night.

Visitors were greeted by the Grand Rapids hockey team Griffins mascot, Griff, who was friendly and came up to guests hugging them and kissing ladies’ hands.

Sophomore Deanna Robins said, “I thought it was really engaging how they had so much free entertainment for the kids. They did everything they could to make it a family atmosphere.”

On another enthusiastic note, Sophomore Ellen Harburn remarked that “It had a lot of fun and I also got a free key chain! It was a nice way to spend 30 minutes of my Sunday afternoon taking a relaxing study break.”

During its short life span, the arena has surpassed even the most optimistic predictions. Yet arena officials remain cautious with expectations for success entering into the second year since there are fewer shows forecasted and therefore a decrease in attendance. Some acts such as the Royal Lippizaner Stallions won’t return for two years to the city, and some events were lost by the arena, like the NCAA hockey tournament and the IHL All-Star game.

Despite the smaller projections made the memorable trip, while The Michigan Daily said that busloads of students left campus regardless of changes made.

Mass. Board Votes to Ban College Booze

After two alcohol-related student deaths, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education unanimously voted to urge all 29 state colleges and universities to ban most alcohol use on campus. The vote, which took place Oct. 14, would prohibit alcohol use on campus or in dormitories where any of the residents are under age 21. The prohibition, which must be approved by the board of trustees at each school, has drawn considerable skepticism. According to USA Today, the proposal would be “difficult to monitor and enforce,” since alcohol will always be present on campuses regardless of changes made.

U of M Accused of Reverse Discrimination

A class-action lawsuit has been filed against the University of Michigan, striking down affirmative action. The lawsuit claims the university treated qualified whites applicants unfairly by helping less qualified minorities gain admission. The controversy is centered around confidential University of Michigan policy guidelines that show a ratio of girls which test scores and grades are applied differently to whites and non-whites. The system was made public by a University of Michigan professor, who claims that race is unconstitutionally used in admission decisions. According to The Daily, U of M’s newspaper, the university claimed that admission policies should remain the same because a multi-cultural student body is very important.

Spacecraft Seeks Saturn

Despite many protests, NASA’s plutonium-powered Cassini spacecraft lifted off Oct. 15 on a seven-year trip to the planet Saturn. The rocket, carrying 72 pounds of plutonium, took off on schedule. Many activists had sought to stop the launch, fearing a nuclear disaster in the event of an accident. Although the launch went fine, activists are even more frightened of a 1999 fly-by, when Cassini will reportedly come within 500 miles of Earth. However, NASA says the likelihood of Cassini re-entering Earth’s atmosphere is less than one in a million.

Training Aggressive Drivers

A North Carolina driver’s education instructor was suspended for allegedly ordering a student to pursue a car that had cut them off.

According to The Daily Herald, David Cline, 36, was teaching two female students how to drive when another car quickly pulled in front of them. Angered, Cline instructed the studentdriver to chase down the car. Once the motorist stopped, Cline punched him in the nose, ordered him to get out of the car. The instructor also threatened to discontinue driving lessons if the student didn’t return to his job or be dismissed.

Million Woman March Enlightens Many

Following in the footsteps of the Million Man March, African American women from around the world flocked to Philadelphia on Saturday, Oct. 25. The first ever Million Woman March was an examination of human rights violations against blacks and a meeting of women to address platform issues. The issues included the development and completion of black independent schools. Winnie Mandela gave the keynote address, joining such activists as Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King. The MSU State News reported that 60 students made the memorable trip, while The Michigan Daily said that hundreds of students left campus for Philadelphia to participate.
A class action law suit has been filed against the University of Michigan claiming that the school’s use of affirmative action in admissions is unconstitutional.

The suit claims discrimination against qualified white students who were denied admission to the selective university, while minority students allegedly were admitted with lower test scores and GPAs.

The case is also a representation of a nationwide backlash against affirmative action, a backlash I feel is unfounded.

Being a reject of U of M myself, this case hits close to home. In 1995 I was put on a waiting list for six months before Michigan decided they wouldn’t accept me. With a high grade point and ACT scores that were worthy of admission to a selective university, while minority students allegedly were admitted with lower test scores and GPAs.

Aquinas. I came to a place that will appreciate me and my mind. It would be easy for me to be bitter, having been rejected by a school that is consistently ranked as one of the best in the nation. In fact I may even qualify for a settle-

ment if the case against Michigan succeeds. Though I have been adversely affected by the affirmative action policies at U of M, I wouldn’t want the school to change a thing. And I certainly would have my hands out to take a piece of any moneys the ridiculous suit might bring in.

A University of Michigan education will mean much more to a poor African-American woman than it ever would have to me. I come to the game with many more advantages and privileges. It’s sad that in America being white is a privilege, but it is.

Many doors will be open to me because I come from an upper middle-class background, even if Michigan wasn’t open to me. My past educational opportunities have allowed me to develop talents for writing and speaking.

I grew up in a neighborhood where I was sheltered from poverty. I attended schools where my personal growth and education were fostered in a safe environment.

I know that my rejection from U of M had nothing to do with my ability to succeed there, because I certainly would have. My rejection had more to do with stepping aside so that others could have the opportunities that my class and race would provide for me elsewhere.

It’s about the realization and acceptance that this country does not give equal opportunities for development because of race, class, and gender inequalities. When a school attempts to make up for these inequalities they are taking positive steps towards correcting social wrongs. Bringing suit against them is a step backwards.

The suit states that the white students “suffered humiliation, emotional distress and pain” as a result of being rejected. As a fellow reject, I pose this challenge to those who feel they have been discriminated against: Look in the mirror. From the moment you were born white in America you have been at an advantage. As middle class individuals you have had the good life.

It is time to stop your crying and step aside so that others less fortunate can benefit from what has always been handed to you: educational opportunity.

Times View: An Editorial Comment

“I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend to my death your right to say it.”

—Voltaire

Government action does not always benefit well those who are presumed to be helped by such actions. A perfect example is the Wealthy-Eastern Historic District proposal.

There are several reasons that, in our view, The Grand Rapids City Commission should not approve the designation of Wealthy St., near Banner St., as a Historical District. The goal of such a designation has not been made clear. Presumably, proponents could have two different goals. First, to preserve the area as it is. Second, anyone who has driven through the area in the last 30 years can see that it is not desirable. The district is full of seemingly deserted buildings, worn-out, and, litter strewn. The status quo should not be acceptable.

But a second motive and a more likely one, would be to revitalize the area. Policy makers would be mistaken to promote historical district status as a panacea to the ills the area faces. Merely giving the area historical district designation would not help desperate people who live or work there.

This is not to say revitalizing the area should not occur. Rich homeowners would certainly invest in the area, making it a desirable, desirable place to live. Those currently living there, mostly poor minorities, would be forced from their homes. This hardly constitutes progress or a positive step for the current residents.

This is not to say revitalizing the area would be negative in itself. But the method the city proposes masks the problems. Any area can be made desirable to the haves, and thus rejuvenated. But the core issue is the problems. Any area can be made desirable to the haves, and thus rejuvenated. But the core issue is the problems.

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What the designation would do is drive the cost of living up. Rich homeowners would certainly invest in the area, making it a desirable, desirable place to live. Those currently living there, mostly poor minorities, would be forced from their homes. This hardly constitutes progress or a positive step for the current residents.

The goal of such a designation would involve curing the problems facing the people of the community, not of the physical community itself. The city should encourage the people of the community to revitalize the physical structures themselves, primarily through economic investment.

A historical district would only create an island where the poor cannot afford to live, and the neighborhood next door will have to absorb them—hardly a sound cure for poverty.
Does anyone else long for the Cold War? I mean not the Cold War of nuclear threats and needless propaganda, but the Cold War of a certain enemy and consistent, obvious policies.

With the expansion of NATO, the US and its allies face difficult decisions, and the structures within which those decisions will be made are being tested. While everyone seems confident that the addition of former Warsaw Pact countries will be a positive move towards world stability, the methods to pay for that expansion may be more difficult to negotiate.

The first problem to be dealt with is just how much the expansion of NATO will cost. Original estimates put the cost at about $30 billion, but some experts warn that is too high, some too low, and most countries agree that they are not willing to foot such a bill. The US has said it plans to pay only about $2 billion of that cost. It assumes that new member states will pay about 50% of the cost, and current allies the remaining 44%.

But European members are currently being stingy about their share of the cost. France has stated they will not pay for that expansion. It plans to pay only about $2 billion in Bosnia. NATO itself spends about $440 billion annually, and $60 billion over ten years is a small price to pay. But domestic political pressures may promote the idea that no more security is needed in Eastern Europe. This is false. But that is point three.

Point two is that NATO will provide a stabilizing force in the former Communist countries. Western forces will be able to train and influence the military cultures into a peaceful, rather than confrontational, mentality. Providing troops within the Communist bloc is a practical extension of the policy of containment, but only with the consent of the countries, not the consent of the governments of those countries.

This brings me to the third point. Communism is not dead in the former Soviet bloc. Uncertainty still exists. Hard-line Communists still have powerful positions in the country. Those NATO troops will be able to quell any communist insurgents, and indeed, that will be expected of them. It will no longer be capitalist imperialism containing Communist resurgence, but legitimate governments of the co-operating countries themselves asking for Western aid.

Russia is still a dominant ideological force in the region. Pragmatically, its influence is slight, but its economic, military, and political situations are still unstable, and this is cause for concern. Welcoming Russia into the market economies of Europe is desirable. But first, the country must be stabilized. With no obvious successor to Boris Yeltsin, some former hard-line Communists are looking to take back power, and what their policies might be are hard to guess. Many Russians long for a time when the West feared and respected them, and may go to great lengths to regain that respect.

The NATO countries must not back down from their commitments to a secure and united Europe. The costs of expansion are slim compared to the costs of another Cold War—no matter how much I miss it.
Gran Rapids Diocese to experience a higher level of Youth Rally; a day for high school students in the he will be reading from his works. Contact Cathy poet Li-Young Lee will be speaking and answering Drama (A.D.D.) Performances also on 11/14 &15. Free admission. See story, this section.

Ticketmaster ($12); 18+ with legal-type ID. if you go, you’ll know at least ONE tune) Ticketmaster @ 456-3333; must be 18.

(11/2) Intersection: Smash Mouth and Smoking Poles bring their brand of fun to Grand Rapids; (hey, if you want to remain on Earth as mortals. If the angels succeed, they can return to Heaven and keep their jobs.” (If they fail), they are to remain on Earth as mortals.

Even Heaven is downsizing these days. That’s the point of the entire movie they don’t show you in the previews. When “angels” Holly Hunter (The Piano) and Delroy Lindo (Get Shorty) are told by Gabriel that they must make an unlikely couple fall into everlasting love, we find ourselves at the beginning of an unique twist on the opposite-sides-of-the-tracks love story. If the angels succeed, they can return to Heaven and keep their “jobs.” (If they fail), they are to remain on Earth as mortals.

Enter Ewan McGregor, newly fired from his two-bit job and dumped by his girlfriend for “an aerobics instructor.” Desperate, he accidentally ends up taking his boss’s daughter (Cameron Diaz) hostage. What ensues is a riot of laughs revolving around the odd couple’s acquaintance (he teaches her to drive, she teaches him to kidnap properly), and through the aid of the angels (hired by Daddy as bounty hunters/hit-men), their bizarre courtship.

While it is obvious that McGregor will deliver on the humor and quirky Sco-lost-in-America character with lines custom-made for him by director Danny Boyle (Trainspotting). and Diaz will perform perfectly as the sultry spoiled-brat-in-denial, the angels are the unexpected slapsticks in this film. Hunter portrays a neurotic romantic, while Lindo’s warm-hearted, cataclysmic vibes on life. If you are looking for a good time without having to open that precious pocketbook of yours, then you should know where to go: Carriage House, Nov. 5 beginning at 8pm. Be there, or you’ll be sorry you missed it.
"Play," cont'd. from p. 1

The album ends with "Much Afraid" and "Hymn," both are very slow and serene. The instrumental interludes are also much stronger than the previous album. Overall, Much Affraid is very true to the group's original musical style, yet none of the new songs hold the promise of being as successful as "Flood," the band's hit from the first album. Much Affraid is an American Online software promotion to get the listener to sign on and never try to get out! Ever think you could do better, even though you've never picked up an instrument? I have. So what lies this to do with a three-part band driven by a hillbilly wannabe with a few basses in his closet? The point is that filmmus has managed to dig itself out of the depths of a failed album and back onto the shores of potential. With a new drummer ("Bones"); Les Claypool (the hillbilly) and Larry Flatteland (the mandolin guitarist) have found a new groove: literally. These songs, while very quirky and off-beat, will make you move. The sound is as familiar as can be, but has a new energy to it that was never lacking in Pintch Affraid. And these tunes don't make you feel like you're in a rollercoaster car rolling down one of Grand Rapids' favorite highways. They have a melding of confusion to them. Primus will be at Kalamazoo (one of the song titles...) State Theater on Nov. 1. See the Big 8 for more info.

Primus: \textit{Brown Album}

\textit{Interzone, I Dream Song}

\textit{Times Akimbo Edition}

Ever had a feeling you've heard a song before, even though you know it's the first time? Ever wonder why bands fall into ruts and never try to get out! Ever think you could do better, even though you've never picked up an instrument? I have. It seems that bands stop caring about how creative they can be, and just make what they know will sell. There are a select elite who actually try to experiment with music, and even fewer who succeed.

So what lies this to do with a three-part band driven by a hillbilly wannabe with a few basses in his closet? The point is that filmmus has managed to dig itself out of the depths of a failed album and back onto the shores of potential. With a new drummer ("Bones"); Les Claypool (the hillbilly) and Larry Flatteland (the mandolin guitarist) have found a new groove: literally. These songs, while very quirky and off-beat, will make you move. The sound is as familiar as can be, but has a new energy to it that was never lacking in Pintch Affraid. And these tunes don't make you feel like you're in a rollercoaster car rolling down one of Grand Rapids' favorite highways. They have a melding of confusion to them. Primus will be at Kalamazoo (one of the song titles...) State Theater on Nov. 1. See the Big 8 for more info.

Beneath the Wreath
Brings Beads To AQ

The 13th annual Beneath the Wreath, hosted by the Junior League of Grand Rapids took place in the Academic Building last weekend. The fair brought together an eclectic group of arts and crafts vendors to sell their wares. Among the vendors was Paul Bateh, a nationally renowned bead artist who sold very unique and beautiful glass bead jewelry.

Since so loud that Eastown must have felt the energy for blocks. Original band member timing and recent band member drummer Tedd Kimble joined the crew for a few songs. "I thought it was nice to see some of the old school DP alumni come back," said AQ senior Tim McGahery. "They really whipped the camel's butt with a stick." For the first time ever at the Intersection and only the third time live the band belted out "Sad Song" which is something new the crew has been working on. Another highlight of the second set was the special appearance of WGRD radiohost Mark Sandstedt who played drums on a cover of "Mustang Sally." Sandstedt and WGRD premiered Play in its entirety on a special edition of Radioactive the Sunday before the show. Fans at the Intersection had to wait for an encore to hear the title track "Play" which is Holtgreve's favorite DP song due to the use of "horns, baby, horns." Domestic Problems has been heading South and West with the National Association of Campus Activities showcasing their talent and earning gigs with colleges all across the country. On the verge of national recognition, DP will be joining NACA in Colorado and Washington in the upcoming months. In addition, March through May will find the band on tour at colleges all through the South. Still under the homegrown label Triple Rock Records, the band played on the H.O.R.D.E. tour this summer, which is the breeding place of big names such as Blues Traveler. DP also had a stint on the Jenny Jones show where they played about two minutes of "Ernie." The band lost drummer Tedd Kimble who left to focus on other things, but replaced him with Stankee, a Berkeley Grad, who seems to fit in well with the tight knit group. Play hit the shelves officially on Oct. 21. Domestic Problems' first album Scattered Pieces has sold over 11,000 copies and in 1996 held the #1 spot in sales at three of Grand Rapids' largest retail stores Sam Goody, Harmony House, and Vinyl Solution.

It's not too late to join one of the most active organizations on campus! The Circle is a secret group whose mission is to bring pride to the Aquinas community. Applications are being accepted until November 4. For more information, please contact Dave Weinandy at ext. 3920 or pick up an application in the Student Activities Office located in the C.C.H.
**Cross Country Teams Gain National Prominence**

Runners Accelerate with Nationals in Sight

by Ryan Smith

Times Contributing Writer

While most students were at home last weekend enjoying their first few days of fall break, the men’s and women’s cross country teams were boarding a bus to Wisconsin to participate in the University of Wisconsin Parkside Invitational. Both Saints’ teams went into the meet nationally ranked and looking to build on their winning ways.

The men’s team put on probably their best performance of the year by placing fourth out of 36 teams. The performance is even more impressive considering the team that won the meet, Louis University, finished second in NCAA Division II last year. The second place finisher, Calvin, and the third place finisher, University Wisconsin-OshKosh, are currently ranked seventh and tenth respectively in the latest Division III poll.

Not only did they do well in the meet, the Saints were led by lone senior Jackson Fox who finished third with a time of 25:40. This strong showing has the Saints ranked tenth in the latest NAIA poll and has them looking forward to the conference meet on Nov. 1.

Not to be outdone, the Lady Saints put on an impressive performance in Wisconsin as well by finishing eighth out of 34 teams.

Sophomore Leslie Ervin led the pack as she finished seventh out of 350 runners with a time of 18:52.

Perhaps some of the alleged violations were out of Fisher’s control, but when you hold the highest coaching job at a college like U of M, you also assume ultimate responsibility. It’s on the line of job duties, right next to choosing the starting lineup.

When the Kansas City law firm released the results of their investigation of the Wolverine Basketball Program three weeks ago, headlines in many papers reported that no major violations were found. If we take a closer look however, what the investigation discovered was that none of the major violations could be proved, but that many couldn’t be discounted either. Obviously things were far from being squeaky clean.

That’s why hearing people cry foul over Fisher’s dismissal makes me want to yak. Especially nauseating to me are the comments by former Wolverines Chris Webber, who called the university spineless.

Webber continued on, saying that many former Wolverines no longer feel loyalty to the school.

To hear Webber, who played all of two seasons at Michigan, talk about loyalty and allegiance is quite simply a joke. Please, explain to me what Webber knows about loyalty, and allegiance is quite simply a joke. Please, explain to me what Webber knows about loyalty, and allegiance is quite simply a joke.

I’ll give Steve some credit, he did his best to defend his good buddy Steve. Fisher that is or they were looking out for number one.

So to review, I’m not quite sure why it took so long for Fisher to get the book. Sure, he could recruit, but his teams repeatedly underachieved. If I wrote term papers like Steve Fisher coached, I’d collect the best data available, and then write the final draft with my best Crayola crayons.

Besides his 20-6 record in the NCAA Tournament, the rest of Fisher’s numbers are average, especially considering the players he had to work with. Since Bo Schembechler handed him the reigns in the early 1980s, Fisher had compiled a record of 184-82 (.692). His record in the Big Ten was even more average, as Fisher struggled to a mark of 88-56 (61%). It’s perhaps, what he didn’t do, it’s what he failed to do. Despite his two consecutive Final Four appearances, Fisher and I still have the same number of Big Ten Titles.

For those of you who don’t know me, I haven’t won any. I’ll give Steve some credit, he did guide last years team in their incredible run to the NIT Championship. Last time I checked, nobody cared about the NIT. Did I mention I was going to be Wheel race when it was five? We may never exactly know how many violations were committed at Michigan, but Fisher clearly was involved with Detroit booster Ed Martin. That’s if nothing else found II of M Athletic Director Tom Goss to pull the trigger.

Call Fisher the scapegoat if you want, but he was in charge. Make no mistake, it wasn’t all his fault, it couldn’t be. He knew about Ed Martin though, and he did little to keep him away from the program.

As the coach, Fisher was in the best position to allay the fears of boosters like Martin, but he didn’t. Most likely because Martin helped to provide him with some of the best blue-chip talent in the nation.

Fisher was the coach, he is supposed to watch over and guide the Rock. Martin mean-spirited was clearly a Wolverines in sheep’s clothing.

Put those two together and you have problems. Unfortunately for Fisher, when the school tried to weed Ed Martin out, he got caught in the cross fire.

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Setters Hope Experience will Lead to WHAC Tournament

by Tim McGahay

Times Contributing Writer

There is a certain security that overcomes Aquinas Volleyball fans when the ball leaves setter Allison Kissinger’s hands, and they are looking for the “unofficial” head coach Sharon Schatz, that feeling comes from experience.

“I’m glad to see the seniors stepping up and taking control of this team,” said Schatz recently.

Unfortunately though, the Saints couldn’t find enough control as they lost a tough match to cross-town rival Cornerstone College this past Wednesday.

It was the first home match in almost three weeks for the road weary Saints who split four games at Saint Edwards University in Texas, before a disappointing loss to WHAC foe Concordia on Oct. 14.

The match started with a 15-3 loss in the first game as the Eagles came out flying. The Saints refuse to be rattled though, as they bounced back to win the second game 12-15.

They held the momentum into the third game as well, grounding the Eagle attack to take a 2-1 lead. Off the 8-15 victory in game three, the Saints looked to close out the match after the side change.

Cornerstone grabbed the momentum though as they won game four 15-8, seizing the momentum.

See "Setters," p. 11
Chasing A Dream: An Interview With Red Sox Hopeful Sonny Thompson

by Justin Smith
Times Sports Editor

Have you ever thought what it would be like to practice with a Major League Baseball team at Spring training? Imagine being in Sunny Florida arguing February and playing catch next to Nomar Garciaparra or walking into the batting cage after Mookie Betts. For Aquinas' Sonny Thompson, this is exactly what he now faces.

Thompson is a Sophomore from West Bloomfield, Michigan, who has signed a contract with the Boston Red Sox. This means that he will report down to Fort Myers, Florida during the last week in February to participate in spring training along with the big boys. Having already signed a contact, it appears that Sonny Thompson is on his way to making a career in baseball.

"Cross," Cont'd from p. 10

from the Saints in what was a very hard fought game. The Eagles then sprinted to an early 7-2 lead in the decisive fifth game. The Saints staged a big comeback pulling to within two at 8-10, before falling by a 15-10 score.

On the outside senior co-captains Cook and Overkamp strong hitting will be needed to spark the offense. The two seniors may also be called on to make some big blocks. Speaking of defense, expect back row specialists Shannon Milanowski and Kristin Wisniewski to continue making big saves to back up their front row counterparts.

The quickness and sure hands of middle hitters Carrie Albert and Kammy Powell will also be needed to ensure the Saints keep the ball alive after blocks. Finally, the court leadership and soft hands of Kissingers is a must in order to ensure the Saints a spot in the WHAC post-season.

The Lady Saints' will close out their home schedule on Nov. 11, as they battle the Lady Crusaders of Madonna University in a match which may have WHAC tournament implications.

"Cross," Cont'd from p. 10

recently ran her personal best of 18:25 to help her finish fifth among small colleges at the Michigan Intercollegiate meet. The Lady Saints' success of late has them ranked 25th in the NAIA.

Coach Dave Wood has nothing but positive to say about his team. "We did very well on the course where nationals are going to be held," he said noting that the future may look even brighter for the Saints. "This is a huge turn around from two years ago," he added. Indeed it is a big turn around as both of the cross country teams are now feared not only in the WHAC, but across the country.

With the conference meet being held in town this year at Riverside Park, the Saints' home course, Aquinas will gain even more of an advantage, as they are very familiar with the terrain. Unlike in past years when Spring Arbor used to dominate the conference, the Saints will clearly be the favorites this year, as both the men and women have left their competitors behind.

Photo Courtesy of Sports Information

The Women's Cross team was ranked #25 in the nation in last week's NAIA poll.

The Lady Saints' will close out their season on Nov. 10, as they host the 1997-1998 Aquinas Men's and Women's Basketball teams, who will hold scrimmages. Also on hand will be the 1997-1998 Aquinas Cheerleaders as well as the new Aquinas Dance Team.

Show your spirit and come out.
You wouldn't choose a college for its trees, but you might choose a service learning trip for them. During the 1997 Fall Break, seven Aquinas students did just that. The group went on a service learning trip to Wilderness State Park, near Mackinac City, Michigan to help the park be more clean.

The students made the trip on Sunday, Oct. 19, and the five hour drive there was, according to students, worth the experience of going. Upon arriving, they found themselves in the midst of a very cold north Michigan fall, complete with snow.

"The weather was cold while we were there. We often wore four or five layers of clothing, but as the day progressed we would be peeling them off because we were working so hard," said Aquinas sophomore Elizabeth Martin.

Most of the time the students cleared trails, which were described by the students as "horizontal," completely flat because a storm had recently blown through.

"It was a lot of hard work because we had a lot of hiking," Martin continued. "We often rose and went to bed with the sun because we were working so hard," said Aquinas sophomore Elizabeth Martin.

The students stayed in cabins on the park grounds and found an additional benefit of the service trip, one of fellowship. This is what some students believed to be the most important part of the trip.

"The dynamics of the eight people that went were awesome. We worked together as a team and felt we accomplished something," said freshman Alex Nudd.

"One of the reasons I went was to get out, away from everything, and it struck me one night, as we were sitting around the cabin, that if we were back at the dorm we would be watching TV, a movie or listing to the radio, but we were forced into having intelligent conversations about important things," said Martin.

"The entire experience was great. We went to Canada, had a snowball fight, got to hike and experience the stars — things you can't do everyday," said Nudd.

Overall, the trip gave the seven students a unique perspective on service.

"The trip as a whole was so simplistic, and the simplicity you're forced into leads to a better sense of the community," said Nudd.

Weekend Agenda: tile, drywall, gross, stain, clean.

Sound like a nightmare? For nineteen Aquinas students it was reality — and it was fun. And for the Lake County Habitat for Humanity, it was a blessing.

Three days of solid hard work might not sound like a good time, but these Aquinas volunteers were determined to make a difference. A Habitat for Humanity volunteer center is being built in Baldwin, MI, and it needed elbow grease to make it happen. Enter these energetic students and, not only does the job get done, but seeds of faith are sown as well.

"Habits for Humanity is a strong program in Lake County," said Eric Bridge, Service Learning Director and Aquinat Campus Ministry representative. "This new volunteer center will be a big help.

Currently, volunteers who help out at Lake County's Habitat for Humanity warehouse have no on-site lodging facilities. The volunteer center will change that situation; it will serve as housing for volunteer groups who donate their time and energy, it was a blessing.

During the 1997 Fall Break, six Aquinas students traveled seven and a half hours to live with this community and share their daily experiences as part of an Aquinas service learning trip.

Each student lived in a home with a L’Arche "family." The families consisted of four core members, people who are mentally and physically handicapped, and four assistants. For five days the students were completely immersed in life of this family as they lived, ate, and went to work with the core members.

Despite special needs and abilities of the core members, sophomore Veronica Mueller observed "It was just like being in a normal family.

Indeed, the families follow regular meal schedules and pray together daily. The core members that are able attend jobs within and outside of the L’Arche community. There are recreational and social events such as coffee and donuts or bowling. Yet, through common activities the Aquinas students formed relationships with these uncommon people.

"That's what L'Arche is all about in building relationships," commented Aquinas senior Sherri Glaza. "You learn that everybody is beautiful inside.

These relationships are the reason that senior Kim Mitchell, decided to participate in the L'Arche trip a second time. She went two years ago, the first time that the trip was offered. "I loved it there. It's like no other place on Earth." Mitchell was surprised to discover that the relationships that she built two years ago still held firm, "People actually remembered who I was!" she exclaimed.

The experience is not just about the relationships with others though, "It's a time to reflect upon yourself. I've learned how to see others and about being flexible," Mitchell said.

Each student who attended L'Arche went for a different reason. Some just wanted a new experience, others had worked with the handicapped or elderly before and knew how positive it could be. Regardless of their reason for participating, they all came to see something different and somewhat awestruck by the experience.

Mueller summed up the group's feelings by saying, "When they say it is a life-changing experience, they aren't kidding."