Aquinas to Cap Admissions for Next Year

by Chris Manning
Times Contributing Writer

Aquinas College is bursting at the seams in a pair of pants that may have been tight to begin with.

The Admissions Department of Aquinas has recently decided to slam the gate on incoming freshman at 340 students. For the next four years there will also be a cap of 410 traditional admissions per year. This number includes 70 extra transfer students.

Both locally and nationally the number of college-bound young people has increased. This year Aquinas experienced a 19 percent increase in freshmen, resulting in the largest freshmen class ever.

The Grand Rapids Press reported that Grand Valley State University took a ten year dip. Currently it is only increase by about nine percent. This trend is opposite of the last decade in which the nation’s total number of high school students took a ten year dip. Currently it is the common belief that the traditionally middle class college students are now also being joined by lower middle class students as well. It simply comes down to demographics and availability. College has slowly become available on a much more equal basis than ever before. Grants and scholarships have made college equally accessible to all classes.

Vice Chair of Community Senate Renee North said that, "I think the cap is a good thing. It will bring competition to the school." North, who is also a tour guide for Admissions, feels that competition and limiting enrollment will help better Aquinas in the future.

In the meantime, Aquinas officials hope to bring the facilities up to the level of other institutions during the upward trend in enrollment. Among the improvements seen on this campus are a larger computer network that extends now to the Carriage House and eventually into the residence halls. In lower level Regina Hall a fitness center has also been added due to increasing demands on college campuses for exercise and fitness equipment.

Plans to remodel the residence halls room by room are also in the early stages of planning. Also, to give the best to the increasing number of students in the student body, the college is making many technological advances including the Jarecki Center (see related story).

The cap on admissions fits well with the resounding demand expressed by AQ community members at a recent town hall meeting to keep Aquinas small.
Peace Crane Christmas Tree: A Community Effort

by Brigid Bulger
Times Contributing Writer

The annual lighting of the Christmas tree at the Gerald R. Ford Museum has a new addition this year. For the first time, Aquinas College is represented among other local colleges and organizations. White lights and paper cranes on a Christmas tree are representing Aquinas this holiday season as a symbol of peace for all. The tree is one of 36 trees that are on display from now until Jan, 4 at the museum.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate the Aquinas community throughout the Christmas season through the collaborative efforts of cultural organizations and local colleges. A committee of staff and faculty representatives choose the theme of Peace Cranes as the appropriate theme for the representation of peace and according to Randy MacGeorge, Director of Residence Life, "remains within our budget constraints."

The decorations for the Aquinas tree came from the cumulative efforts of Aquinas faculty, staff and students. A table was set up inside of the Academic Building for people to fold cranes. Also, people folded cranes at events like the Harvest Hop. "The best part about this project was the chance for the Aquinas community to come together," said Dana Hebebrand, Director of Student Activities. "It was great fun making paper cranes during the Harvest Hop. Students tried dancing would sit down next to me and make cranes. It was a wonderful conversation starter."

"Because the tree came from the collaborative efforts of the Aquinas Community, the story behind the theme is even more meaningful. A young Japanese girl was dying from the effects of the atomic bomb. Before her death she wanted to fold 1,000 paper cranes in the name of peace and have them spread across the country. Unfortunately, the girl died after she made about 600 cranes. After her death, her friends continued to make the paper cranes until they reached her goal. Her story spread, and peace cranes became the symbol of a lasting peace. Now every year, Japanese children make peace cranes in December in memory of the bombing. The paper crane has become a symbol of peace and a symbol of the drive to end the use of nuclear bombs.

According to Mary Clark-Kaiser, director of Campus Ministry, "Using peace cranes was a way to communicate the Christian message of peace. We chose the peace cranes which have become a symbol of the end to warfare and violence. This is especially appropriate for the Christmas season because Jesus is the Prince of Peace."

The display may be viewed for free during Saturdays in December. Otherwise, the cost is $3 for adults, and free for children. 16 years of age and younger.

Health Care Initiatives Include New Course, Cooperative Learning, and Hands-On Training

by Maria Branchan
Times Editor-In-Chief

In hopes of capitalizing on the booming health care industry, Aquinas will be expounding into new partnerships and endeavors. Next semester, AQ President Harry Knopke will be teaching Introduction to Clinical Medicine. This is the first step in what Knopke hopes will be a new curriculum focus on health and illness.

Intro. to Clinical Medicine, open to interested juniors and seniors, will focus on medical case work and will include a 24 hour rotation in a hospital setting. Knopke has taught similar courses at other institutions where students were paired up with third year medical students to experience 24 hours of hospital life.

Knopke hopes that this will enable the student to see "how the hospital environment changes from day to night." Knopke said that students in former classes took part in everything from delivering babies to open heart surgeries. The class members will also prepare presentations on a complete patient case study.

This will involve the expertise of a physician from Grand Rapids, St. Mary's Hospital who will be on hand to guide the students. Students in the class will spend time at community clinics and interviewing professionals in the medical field. Knopke also wants to include the study of medical humanities in the 16 week course.

Pre-med Senior Matt Flannigan has enrolled in the course. He is interested in finding out about the real work of doctors. "This is what I will touch, what I will see, what I will feel (as a doctor)," Flannigan said. "This is my future."

Flannigan, who currently works drawing blood at St. Mary's feels that the addition to the curriculum is a "progression to the next phase while we're still at the undergraduate level."

Flannigan said that currently he just performs a task at work, but entering the hospital as an Aquinas student in the new class will be more realistic than his current classes. Because the way the major is arranged now, "being pre-med doesn't give you a glimpse of life as a doctor," he said.

Besides undergraduate classes such as Intro. to Clinical Medicine, the administration aspect of health care will soon become a part of the Masters in Management degree at Aquinas. Next fall, Knopke, who is currently working with faculty in both Business and Social Sciences to develop the health care concentration, hopes to see a cooperative learning program in place at Aquinas. This co-op would be with St. Mary's Hospital. The program would involve the enrollment of St. Mary's staff at Aquinas for professional development in a variety of areas.

This instruction would include, according to Knopke, "service orientation, transformation of leadership, and organizational functions training."

Knopke sees many benefits in cooperative learning with area hospitals. He feels that getting involved in the health care industry will help Aquinas accomplish its goals.

"We are always seeking to make a connection between the liberal arts and professionals. This could be our focal point," Knopke said. Knopke also hopes Aquinas will become a center for professional training in complementary care in the near future. This type of training could include hypnosis, acupuncture, and other cutting edge treatments.

It is expected that this type of training will take about a year to establish.

Proposed Summer Study Program aims for Oxford

by Mary Kopcheck
Times Contributing Writer

We've studied in Ireland, served in Haiti and spent a semester in California. How about Oxford, England?

This summer, 15 to 30 Aquinas students along with English department head Gary Eberle, hope to travel to St. Clare's College in Oxford, England for several weeks of study. The curriculum of the trip is still in the planning stages, but the possibilities include focusing on England's most famous authors such as William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Jane Austen.

Students will stay at local Bed and Breakfasts while learning about famous English writers at St. Clare's College, an independent college specializing in programs for foreign students. Oxford is in the center of England and close to many historical areas relevant to the trip. Students will choose one author per week to learn about as well as take day trips to literary sites such as Bath, London, Stratford and Canterbury. Whenever possible, the group would travel to sites relevant to the work being studied. This could include a visit in Scotland, if participants choose to study Robert Burns.

The entire cost of the trip is estimated at $1500 which includes round-trip airfare, accommodations, tickets to the theater, transportation in England and food. However the actual cost will depend on the duration of the trip. Students can also opt to use the trip for three credits towards an English class.

English Department Chairperson, Gary Eberle, who is organizing the trip along with his wife Professor Suzanne Eberle, is hoping for good student turnout.

"The trip is open to anyone who is interested. Right now we have nine people but we'd like to get twenty. It's going to be a wonderful experience especially for someone who has never been to England," said Eberle.

Anyone who is interested is asked to fill out a questionnaire, which can be found in the Carriage House and on the English notice board near the mail room. The questionnaires will be used to tailor-design the trip to fit student interests.
New Vice President Takes on Two Vacant Positions

by Julie Hilton
Times Contributing Writer

Aquinas welcomed another member to the community on Monday, Nov. 10. William G. Shefferly was recently appointed to the newly combined position of Vice President of Finance and Operations.

"I can add value and support to folks who report under me. My job is to improve the quality of services for the students, faculty, and staff. The students are our most important customers," Shefferly said when asked what he will bring to Aquinas.

As with most of the Aquinas community, Shefferly was attracted by Aquinas' unique atmosphere. "I was brought here by the people, the great people. I was impressed with the quality of the people and the kindness that's here. There is such a caring attitude," Shefferly said.

Among his priorities for the year, Shefferly puts Aquinas students at the top of the list. "I am looking out for the students. What do they like?" added Shefferly. "I want them to leave feeling like they've had a good education. That's what it's all about."

Shefferly replaces former Vice President of Finance Sr. Maureen Geary and former Vice President of Operations Barry Kantz.

The college has been operating without a Vice President of Operations since Kantz left last March, and without a Vice President of Finance since this summer, when Geary moved on to other interests.

Shefferly has spent the last 11 years at Ferris State University, as the Controller for 10 years and then moving on to be the Associate Vice-President for Finance. Prior to that, he worked at Federal Mogul as the Corporate Staff Controller for two years and the Group Controller for about five years.

After leaving Federal Mogul, Shefferly spent most of his time traveling internationally as well as domestically. Because of the amount of time that he was on the road, he decided to join the Ferris State staff.

Shefferly and his family have just purchased a home in the Heritage Hill area. They are looking forward to moving to Grand Rapids because of the change in scenery. They currently still reside in Big Rapids, but are hoping to move into their newly purchased home soon.

Shefferly's 19-year-old son, Bob, is a sophomore at Ferris but is planning on attending Aquinas at the start of spring semester. Tom, Shefferly's 21-year-old son, is currently a junior at Ferris. Shefferly's job description is not the only new position this year. Plans are in the work to hire a new Marketing Director.

Humanities Students Treated to Medieval Music

Sophomore students enrolled in the required Humanities course were reminded of the liberal arts component of an Aquinas education on Friday, Nov. 14.

The students gathered in the Art and Music Center's Kreischer Recital Hall to listen to medieval music.

"The performers, the Musicians of Quodlibet, dress in traditional garb and play medieval instruments which adds to the authenticity of the event," said Geary.

"Center," cont'd. from p. 1

At approximately the same time the college was reevaluating its Masters of Management program, the program has seen no significant changes in the past fifteen years. Improvements, however, would take more technology than Aquinas currently offers. Aquinas benefactor Peter Wege offered the college funding to make improvements in the graduate program possible.

So Aquinas had a donor who was willing to help fix a building that had no practical use, and the Masters of Management had a donor to help make improvements, but no place to build from. The problems solved one another and plans began to form.

The new facility will have several important features. First, it will allow professors to better integrate technology into the classroom by having computer network workstations in every classroom. This will allow students with laptops to access the Aquinas network in the classroom. The "standard" classrooms will also have necessary equipment to use an overhead projector, VCR, slides, Internet and even video conferencing. Yet, Dean of Academic Affairs, Gary Kieff, who has been instrumental in designing the new Masters program, stated that "The technology will be as transparent as possible." Computer hookups will be beneath panels in the floor so that they are not noticeable, but are easy to access. Most equipment will be kept out of view unless it is in use. Kieff explained that this is to preserve the "high touch" contact between students and the professor while updating the "high tech" aspect of the system.

Next, the building will have a special projects room, which Kieff likened to the "command deck of the U.S.S. Enterprise." This room will have computer monitors along the wall which will be able to run business simulation programs. This will allow graduate students to see how different decisions affect a business' profits and losses. Finally, the facility will have areas where graduate students can sit and talk or work on projects. "Right now," Kieff explained, "graduate students don't have anywhere on campus that they can be comfortable, a place they can call their own." The Jarecki School of Advanced Learning is expected to open in the fall of 1999. Aquinas faculty hope that it will be a message to all of Grand Rapids, to let them know that Aquinas is on the move.

Kieff said the new facility will "Make a statement to Grand Rapids about who we are."

classifieds

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We are accustomed to limits in our daily lives. Think about the last sold out movie or concert you wanted to go to. Remember the time at the supermarket when the single last Snickers bar on the shelf was snatched before your eyes? How about the packed restaurant you were turned away from? You had the same economic power and all of the same qualifications as the rest of your competitors. But you were told, “Sorry, sold-out,” or “Come back later.” Questions began to arise. Who decides how many people get into the movie or concert? Why don’t the store have more candy bars, if I’m willing to buy them? And what does the selection process mean we will have to accommodate for next year? We are accustomed to limits in our mission or vision statements. Do we really want to become such an efficient machine that we can’t see anything in our service commitment, and we count on it. Sure, more students would harvest more revenue which is consistent with that which they were entitled before. But the cap on the number of students admitted is a restricting factor is, in so many ways, limitless in the ways it can improve what are some weaknesses at our humble little college.

Do we really want to become the college that says, “Sorry, sold-out. Have a nice life,” or “Come back later when we have room for you?”

Aquinas students are already investing sizable amounts of money in their education should embrace a cap on the number of students admitted.

The cap on enrollment, in addition to being a necessary device to combat depletion of our resources, has many benefits independent of that. We will have much more control of the make up of future students. This in itself is multifaceted.

In creating more specialized criteria for admission trim-downs, students of higher academic standing, service commitment, and extra-curricular credentials could be selected. Aquinas could admit students in order to beef up enrollment in certain flailing academic majors. Countless and priceless goals both academic and otherwise could reshape the face of the typical class of Aquinas students like never before. What is perceived as a limiting factor is, in so many ways, limitless in the ways it can improve what are some weaknesses at our humble little college.

So, the placement of a cap on admissions to Aquinas could both help us maintain our identity as a small, nurturing community of faculty, staff, and students who know each other as friends, all the while revolutionizing the caliber of students admitted and marring some important goals.

This seems like a win-win situation since such a perversion of small-school values and traditions coupled with some great people to enjoy those commodities could create a sort of renascence-like atmosphere of higher learning.

Aquinas is now cherished for its jewel-like serenity; a tree-filled and historic setting nestled in the bustling of Grand Rapids. We know this and we count on it. Sure, more students would harvest more revenue for addition of facilities and faculty, but is that what we really want to do to our jewel? Do we really want all of the perks of a heavily-trafficked public college or university? Probably not. Our draw is in our size.

Providing an atmosphere so conducive to learning is the “one thing we can do that public schools can’t do,” says Meehan. I think that losing that edge by overpopulation would spell a grave error in the master plan and mission for what Aquinas is and is supposed to be.

If enrollment is allowed to continue skyrocketing, Aquinas will have to take the “small” out of its description as a small, private liberal arts college. If there is one key element in Aquinas’ secret to success, my guess would have to concern its small community size.

For next year the Admissions Department should have no problem drumming up more than thirteen hundred traditional students—a number which is definitely ideal for a school like Aquinas. That number would also allow for much growth since traditional enrollment is currently around 1,000 students. But, based on the tremendous number of incoming freshmen to the college, it is estimated that there will be a surplus of acceptable applicants for next year. How to accommodate: build more housing, add on to existing academic and sports facilities, and get used to some larger class sizes and longer lines for computers and just about every other service on campus.

In an effort to curb the surge in enrollment, the Admissions Department will be instilling a cap on the number of acceptances for next year. Admissions officials report that only 340 traditional freshmen will be accepted for next year. Aquinas students already investing sizable amounts of money in their education should embrace a cap on the number of students admitted.

When we as prospective students made our decisions to come to Aquinas, most based on that student-teacher ratio of fifteen to one and the average class size of around 25 students. Most wanted to know their professors and their fellow students. Dean of Admissions Paula Meehan went as far as to describe the current students as customers deserving of service consistent with that which they were sold on.
as Michigan law is presently written, firearm deer hunters are required to hunt from the ground. Hunting from the ground leaves open many options. Traditionally hunters have sat in homemade blinds, hidden in brush piles, sacon on tree stumps, and relied on chairs overlooking fence rows.

State Senator Leonie Stille, R-Spring Lake, and Rep. Mike Green, R-Mayville, have begun the push for legislation that would en­ able firearm deer hunters to hunt in a tree or on an elevated platform. Senator Stille introduced this bill into the Senate because he feels it would give hunters the advantage of being able to control the large herds. According to reports, drivers in Kent County hit 2,223 deer last year. These same herds also man­ aged to do $32 million in damages to local farmer's crops. Michigan is the only state that does not allow its firearm hunters to hunt from elevated platforms.

Those who are against elevated hunting claim firearm deer hunters have enough advantage as the law is now. Aquinas junior and avid deer hunter Benjamin Williams said, "I feel injuries would increase dramatically, and besides I for one don't need any extra advantages!" Another fear is that public hunt­ing lands would be overrun by ea­ ger deer hunters. Making matters worse, hunters who miss shots from elevated blinds increase the chances of wild bullet ricochets. The DNR believes that enforcement will be costly and difficult.

Hunters in favor of elevated blinds feel that this legislation will actually make deer hunting safer. Hunters can spot not only deer but fellow hunters at greater distances thus reducing the risk of wound­ing another human being. This above the ground advantage would hopefully result in more deer be­ing taken, and therefore reducing damage to automobiles and crops.

Deer hunting junior Dan Green said, "I am all for hunting from tree stands because it gives the hunter a tremendous advantage. With the deer population so high it is necessary to take this advantage to limit the population." Green also felt that the state should make it mandatory for hunters in el­ evated gun blinds to wear safety belts.


deer season brings policy dispute

by John Krajewski
Times Contributing Writer

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Politics and Religion Combine in New Institute at Calvin College

by Angela Bergman
Times Staff Writer

The inaugural lecture for the dedication of Calvin College's Paul R. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics combined two "publicly unspoken­ able" topics: religion and politics. The Nov. 17 dedication estab­ lished the Institute this year to commemorate last year's U.S. Congressman Paul Henry for his personal conviction, principle, and courage in the political arena. Henry was a political science professor at the University of Milwaukee as a polish-Baptist before run­ ning for local farmer's crops. Michigan is the only state that does not allow its firearm hunters to hunt from elevated platforms.

The lecture aimed for a definite reaction. A dynamic, yet placid and penetrating speaker, Budziszewski called the audience to imagine themselves in ancient, pagan Rome. He stated that Chris­ tians still haven't fulfilled their mission. "The world has never be­ come the city of God...it remains the city of man against God." He then asserted, "We are in Rome."

Budziszewski challenged the audi­ ence to (1) "Put on the mind of Christ," and (2) "Carry His mind into the Roman Public Square." But, in order to do this, he argued that Christians need to renounce the "snare of neutralism, the fal­ lacy of positivism, and the disillus­ ion of accommodationalism." He pronounced that Christians are called to be the "sustainers," or those people preserving the com­ mon grace of God. The Doctrine of General Moral Revelation, or "natural law," that states a universal moral principle is present in all and known by all, is embraced by Budziszewski. "No human being can honestly claim to be ignorant to natural law," he said, claiming even the Athenians had "intuition" of a higher god when building temples to pagan gods.

Budziszewski cited as evidence for this belief the "witness of God's handwork," or creation, "witness of harvest," "natural consequences for wrong actions," and "witness of our own design," or how things

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Hunting Season Brings Policy Dispute

by John Krajewski
Times Contributing Writer

 Deer Stalkers May Get A Boost

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natural are.

In bringing morality into the pub­ lic arena, Budziszewski believes that "modern ethics is going about matters backwards." According to him, the downfall of the contem­ porary morality movement is that there is too much concentration on education. He feels the problem "has to do not with the state of our knowl­ edge, but with our will." He as­ serts that the paradox of natural law is that it "is really known, but really suppressed." He explained this as "Pressing down one's con­ science doesn't make it weak...it's like pressing down a wild cat to make it docile...it (suppression) only makes it (one's conscience) wild."

Budziszewski was raised in Mil­ waukee as a polish-Baptist before with­ drawing from the church because he disagreed with "suppression" and "accommodation." He returned to Christianity until becoming a professor at the University of Texas. Budziszewski is the first of many lectures to be held at Calvin in conjunction with the Henry Inst­ itute. The Institute can be reached via e-mail: umid@calvin.edu or by calling 957-6870.

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Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, that quaint holiday where we all get away from campus, at least for a day, and feast on fine food with family and friends. It is a time to reflect on the gifts in our lives and to spend time with the people we love, either talking over pumpkin pie and coffee or cheering on our favorite football team. With final exams just around the corner it may be hard for a college student to find reason to give thanks.

But in thinking about it, Aquinas gives us many blessings. Walking around this campus as the season grows increasingly colder, we are warmed by the never-ending greetings from colleagues and friends. The many people who make Aquinas so special should make us feel all warm and fuzzy each semester, just because.

Another reason to count Aquinas among your list of things to be thankful for is the honesty and integrity of the people here. My roommate lost a diamond and heart bracelet in the Cook Carriage House and assumed it was gone for good. But some Aquinas samaritan turned it in and the priceless memento is now back in her possession. Imagine finding a lost stranger who holds the door open at the Academic Building, or the president donating his own television set to a residence hall for student use. Random kindness is rare in this day and age, but not uncommon here.

This Thanksgiving as I take time to get away from Aquinas and count my blessings, the warmth and love that permeates this campus will be close to my heart. Last year’s editor, Curt Wozniak, once told me that when writing this column I should strive to write something unique our campus is. Simply by providing a meal card number, students are made to feel all warm and fuzzy each semester, just because.

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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

There is a renewed interest in both the Community Senate and the current Administration to address the parking "problem" at Aquinas. While the effort is both laudable and popular, a realistic approach must be taken to improving the parking situation.

This is not the first effort at fixing the parking problem. Students and faculty are often frustrated with the crowded lots. Every year there seems to be an effort to amend the system. This year, as in the past, it is unlikely a solution will be found. This is through no fault of either the Senate or the Administration. Student expectations are much too high for campus parking. Very rarely does every parking spot on campus fill up. The Browne Center lot is frequently empty, and the Mayfield lot seldom at capacity.

Students must understand that the scope of our campus limits the possible solutions to the problem. Many students are quick to cry "build more lots!" but these students are also first to complain about a tuition increase for such a capital output. Those in favor of new lots also shirk at responding to where such a lot would be built. With the streams and trees on our campus, always held sacred, there are limits to what Aquinas can do.

Restricting freshmen parking is one solution usually discussed, and also difficult to justify. We can't forget that freshmen parking is a draw for admissions. "Seniority" works in unions but not at Aquinas. We suggest that any changes maintain the integrity and fairness that come with the current system. Students need to be better informed of the Browne Center, Plymouth, and Mayfield lots, which are available for their use. Students must also understand that the "long walk" from Browne to the Academic Building is a short stroll for students of most buildings on campus.

The cities are back, say the pundits, and they flash the statistics to prove their theory. People are moving downtown, development is taking off, and sports arenas are saving the day. At least three of my friends have told me this year they are moving to the big city next year. The cities must be back, right?

When this current trend began is difficult to ascertain. An esteemed Professor of Political Science at Aquinas once joked to a class of mine that it was actually television that initiated it. "Seinfeld" and "Friends" made it cool to live in the city, especially New York. That is where "it" is happening. When I ask my friends what exactly "it" is they often revert with a blanket response of "action," "energy" or "good coffee shops."

But regardless of how or why it began, the cities are once again cool for college students and recent graduates. The economy is good, they have money for the cool downtown bars, and they are helping to "bring back the cities."

However, this is an exaggeration. The cities may be losing their negative image, but sports arenas and Generation X-ers flocking to the social hubs downtown are not going to make a lasting impression on the cities.

What will do so is a reverse migration of people with money. It is unlikely that any of my friends are planning on living in the city when they get married and have kids. But it is precisely that which will truly provide the cities with the investment they need to regain solid footing.

The cities need more than our bar and restaurant money. They need residents—with money. They need tax dollars to pay for those things which make the city so great. Even New York City can hardly keep its brilliant art museums, operas, symphonies, and original musicians, without considerable public support.

Our generation cannot help "bring the cities back" unless we commit to living in the cities, for our lives. We need to shun the comfort of the suburbs, and rebuild the neighborhoods of the cities.

We find it convenient to move to the city when it is cool, but it won't stay trendy forever. Remember, just living in a studio apartment in upper Manhattan for a couple of years doesn't fit the bill.

Rejuvenating the cities means that once we get families and buy homes, we do it in Brooklyn or Queens, where it maybe isn't so "cool." The energetic atmosphere of the big city just isn't as appealing when one wants to raise a family. But, renting an apartment in Heritage Hill until you turn 25 does little good if it is followed by a ranch home in the suburb of Forest Hills.

Before jumping to conclusions about the rebirth of the city, let's save judgement for 10 years from now, when our generation has decided it is no longer convenient to live downtown, mainly because it isn't cool.

We need to commit to living in the city neighborhoods for life. This trend can't be love it and leave it. It must be love it and stay there, even with the kids.
Eat Here! Get Gas!

Dinner Nite Club Features
"The Slide Show Guy"

by Alicia Belcaz
Times Contributing Writer

That's right! Those who went to Dinner Nite Club are good food and had a gas—that is, a lot of fun. Dinner was served at 7:15pm on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Donnelly Center for Dinner Nite Club. This semi-annual event offers students the chance to eat (or over eat, as the case may be) a catered meal served by AQ's faculty and staff followed by an evening of entertainment. This semester the entertainment was provided by Frank King, a.k.a. "The Slide Show Guy." King is widely known within the college circuit as a comedian who brings his humor in the form of a slide show.

The show entailed pictures of signs from his travels which may read somewhat strange in the average passerby. One slide, for instance, depicted a sign outside of a truck-stop which read "Eat here! Get gas! And another! A slide of the street corner of: "Good" and "High" stresses that King found and photographed. It was probably no coincidence that it was in the little town of "Weed," according to King. Sophomore Kelly Lomb enjoyed the evening's fun. "The comedian was really entertaining, and the food was actually really good!...I thought the slides were especially entertaining," she said.

Senior Matthew Flannigan commented that he too enjoyed "the food and company." "I had a really good time," junior Liz Deuling remarked. "It just seemed too short to me. I guess I expected it to be longer, especially the slide show part. I did think it was funny though."

However, while some students agreed that the evening was amusing, there was some confusion as to the real topic of King's show. Much of his actual act involved joking with the audience, specifically certain members chosen apparently at random for their joke-material...and not the slide show which consisted of a handful of slides (no more than 10 or 15 selections). "Some of his humor made me uncomfortable," junior Angeline Batey mentioned. "Because I wasn't sure if the subjects of his jokes were okay with it...I think he should have focused more on the jokes about other schools—which I liked—and the slide show...I thought it [the slide show] would be more of the main focus than it was."

It seemed that others agreed with Batey in this view. "I thought he was more picking on people than telling jokes," Lisa Kozak, junior, pointed out. "I didn't like it when he was picking on Xavier [Jaramillo]...he was trying to help the guy out with the sound system and he didn't deserve to be made fun of." "I thought the comedian was funny at times," Flannigan said. "But I also thought he was insulting. He dug into audience members too much...He was supposed to be more creative, especially in his interpretation of his slides which seemed straight forward. They were funny, but they weren't remarkable."

Dinner Nite Club provided an evening "out" on campus, but maybe the only "gas" around was from lack of discretion in comedy.

Orbit Room Heats Up as Lords of Acid Play Naughty

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

There was no way to escape the notorious hormone rise, when Lords of Acid took stage at the Orbit Room Nov. 17. While "explosion" isn't the word for it, there was definitely an intense release of energy by all in attendance. The Belgium-rooted Lords are among a select few bands in the "electronica" music genre who take the bold step of incorporating rhythm loops and a live drum kit, music samples and live guitar/bass. The result is one of the most creative sounds in rock. "I don't take any musical influences with me when I go into the studio," founding Lords Of Acid member Nikkie states, "I want to be as creative and original as I can be."

The Orbit Room show, which stood mid-way through their American tour, made it clear that this band is living as far outside the mainstream as they can place themselves. Opening act "Jack-Off Jill" left a lot of ground for the Lords to make up as far as crowd enthusiasm went, and they didn't disappoint. "It's going to be a lot of fun," Nikkie said before the show. But as knippy as this band seems to the (don't pardon the pun) naked eye, sex isn't the actual focus of Lords of Acid. As Nikkie—who has no last name to speak of—formed me: "We're more about the funny side of sexuality."

So where do the lyrics come from? "I draw ideas for lyrics from the people around me and their experiences," she said. "Iced Tea" is a typical example, as "I made the song and they sung it to suit themselves as much as I wanted to." It's a good thing she's tagging along on this outing.
G.R. Meets the Real Perugino

Acclaimed Exhibit Opens at the GRAM

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Contributing Writer

If you are in Grand Rapids and you are breathing, you must be aware of the Renaissance exhibit at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. The media blitz has proven to be unre-
valed. The Grand Rapids Art Museum has dis- 

guished itself as a worthy entity in the arts world in bringing the works of Perugino to its community. The Perugino exhibit features 35 works, nine of which come from the Galleria Nazionale dell' Umbria located in Perugia, Italy. The exhibit runs through Feb. 1 and promises to attract many visitors to the art museum at 575 Division North. General admission is $7; college students - $6 with ID. Mu- 

seum hours are 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Thursday through Sunday and until 9 P.M. on Thursday. Tickets can be purchased at the art museum or through Tickets PLUS 222-4000 for specific time slots.) However, group reservations are kept between 9 A.M. and 11 A.M., and tickets are limited.

Already, the exhibit has outdone expectations, surpassing attendance projections and drawing between 800 and 1,000 art-lovers to the mu-

seum. Jill Bergeron, an operations officer at GRAM, said people have been "very ex-
cited to have the exhibit in the city with oth-
er artists amazed by the color and reso-
lution of the paintings." One painting in particular, the "Sanctuary of Christ," is an exceptional example of Perugino's skill with color. On the other hand, in his Delivery of the Keys to Saint Peter, from the Sistine Chapel frescoes, Perugino demonstrates his fervor for his work by including a self-portrait, standing in the midst of the apostles as Peter accepts the Keys of Heaven from Jesus. The Renaissance gave birth to the realities and significance of life. Perugino's contribution found in his work is, according to Durant, "the living quality of their light, the modest loveliness of their women, the bearded majesty of their old men, the soft and quiet colors, the gracious landscapes covering all tragedies with peace." The Pietà with Saint Jerome and Mary Magdalene exemplifies these characteristics.

Perugino is one of many artists who succeeded during the Italian Renaissance, each one leaving his/her indelible mark on the attitude and aptitude of the arts. Born around 1450, the Renaissance was already over 100 years in the making (1304-1576, according to historian Will Durant) when Perugino came into the picture. He began painting at the age of nine in Perugia and Florence with other young artists including Leonardo da Vinci and Botticelli. His popularity was un- 

sured after his commission of paint-

ing the walls in the Sistine Chapel. A prolific painter, Perugino was accused by his peers of duplicating parts of his paintings. Aside from his numerous pieces, his gift was also perpetuated in teaching tech-

niques to his assistants and stu-

dents; most notably, Raphael.

Nothing Compares to Jazz: AQ Feels the Splendor

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Contributing Writer

Strains of jazz music crept through the corridors of the Art and Music Center at Kresge Recital Hall as Fall Jazz Night took place. Sponsored by the Aquinas Col-

lege Music Department on Nov. 19, a small audience sat and lis-
tened to the sounds of the Vocal Jazz group and the Afternoon Jazz Band with special guests Michael Doyle and James Daniels.

The program began with the vocal ensemble crooning classics like "Till There Was You," "The Shadow Of Your Smile," and "I've Got The World on a String." Lead by Aquinas College Vocal Jazz director, Steve Talaga, the group sounded fantastic as members Kathy Denney, Andy Hollandar, Miriam Lynch, Matt Meyer, Geoff Sink, Schianni Dixon, Kelly Homb, and Casey VanDam sang their hearts out to the audience.

"The special guests on the sax and trumpet were excellent. Had a lot of heart that went into the music," said Andy Hollandar. "Kevin Schnell did awesome on his solo and Kristy was also amazing on sax." The audience members tapped to the beats big music of the Afternoon Jazz Band led by Director Dr. Bruce Early. Some ensemble members treated the audi-

cience to solos during the perform-

ance "Cappuccino Freeway," a funky blues song by blues legend John Coltrane.

Several students attended despite the fact they were not really huge jazz fans. Adrian Proctor said "The night was tolerable, but it really wasn't that bad," he said. "I am not a big fan of jazz, but the solos were cool." For some students the night was a chance to learn about different music styles. "I am not a big fan of jazz, but the performance was ex-
cel lent and gave me a better appreci-

ation of jazz," said Carrie Greenwald.

As the concert ended, audience members left the concert with euphoria looking upon their faces and the strains of jazz music still hung in the air.
Men's Basketball On Fire As Season Gets Started

Saints Stomp University of Windsor in Home Opener

by Justin Smith
Times Sports Editor

After posting a 17-12 overall record last season and returning four starters, the Aquinas men's basketball team had high hopes for the 1997-1998 season. So far, the Saints are in the clouds. With victories last weekend, the Saints now have a 4-0 record.

After winning two games against Grace Bible and Northland Baptist in the Grace Bible College Classic, the Saints won consecutive games against the University of Windsor on Friday and Saturday. It's also worth mentioning that senior guard Brandon Lowe was named the Grace Bible Classic Most Valuable Player, and junior forward Mike Jackson was named to the all-tournament team.

Possibly the most exciting game of the year thus far was Friday against the University of Windsor. There was quite a crowd turnover for the Saints' home opener, and the team didn't let their fans down. The Saints were paced by Brandon Lowe's game high 27 points, and junior transfer NaShune Hickman added 21 points. Mike Jackson also chipped in with 12 points and 8 rebounds.

The crowd came alive when Jackson scored a breakaway dunk from a brilliant touch pass from Lowe with 6:21 remaining in the first half. The Saints led 39-30 at the half.

With 6:11 remaining in the game and the score tied, sophomore guard Ross Willick drove to the basket, Bangladesh.

The Saints would face Madonna on Sunday, it was all Aquinas.

Volleyball Finishes Season by Playing Spoiler

Saints Shock Cornerstone in Semis Before Falling to Madonna

by Leslie Palmer
Times Contributing Writer

If the Aquinas volleyball team remembers one opposing team from this season, they will remember Madonna University.

Having already clinched a spot in the conference tournament, revenge was the only thing on the mind of the women's volleyball team as they hosted Madonna in their regular season finale on Nov. 11, at the USA Volleyball Center.

The Madonna Crusaders, hauling from Livonia, Mich., meanwhile were hoping to take home a victory that would give them the WHAC regular season championship and the opportunity to host the WHAC Tournament four days later.

The Saints had lost a heartbreaking five-game match to the Crusaders back on Oct. 7, and were looking to build momentum for a post season run. Determined to give the Crusaders a fight, Aquinas battled to a 17-15 victory in game one.

But from there it was all Madonna, as the Crusaders won three straight games to finish off the Saints to the tune of 15-7, 15-12, and 15-16. Despite the loss, coach Sharon Schatz's Saints still managed to finish in third place in the WHAC, with a 5-7 conference record.

Next came the WHAC conference tournament where the Saints received the third seed, matching them against Cornerstone College. The second seeded Golden Eagles already owned a pair of regular season wins over the Saints, and finished with a 10-2 record in the WHAC.

The Saints came out on fire, as they trampled over Cornerstone, beating them in three games, 15-12, 15-13, 15-13.

The triumph over the Golden Eagles would give the Saints a shot at pulling of yet another upset, as Madonna also advanced to the final by easily dispatching the fourth seeded Spring Arbor, 15-12, 15-4, 15-5 in the other semi-final.

The Saints would face Madonna one final time.

The Crusaders were not to be denied though, as they rolled over Aquinas in three straight games, 15-8, 15-15, 17-15, claiming the conference Championship in their first year as a member of the WHAC Conference.

Schatz felt that her team played well in both matches. "We beat Cornerstone by taking their big hitter out of her offense," she said.

"Against Madonna, we played very well, and looking at the statistics, there wasn't much more we could have done better. They just outplayed us," Schatz commented.

Four members of the women's volleyball team received All Conference honors. Seniors Elizabeth Overkamp and Tara Becker were awarded First Team All Conference honors, while senior Christy Cook and junior Alliwan Kissinger were named to the All-WHAC Second Team.

Overall, the girls felt that the season went well, but that it was much harder than expected. They believed that all the skills were there but it times the mental toughness wasn't.

Schatz thought that all team members showed tremendous growth throughout the season and that they fared rather well having only returned two starters from last year.

"I had a very enjoyable season, in terms of coaching, this year," she said. "I had a group of hardworking players who were also great people."
Men Take 6th, Women 16th at Cross Nationals

1:24 seconds separating the top five.

The men's and women's cross country teams pose at their season-end banquet.

"Cross," Cont'd from p. 1

Despite its flaws, I think college football deserves much better. Even though Michigan has the inside track to the "National Championship," I fail to see how a Michigan victory over Washington State in the Rose Bowl makes the Wolverines the best team in the country.

Right behind Baginski, lone senior Jackson Fox ran his best race ever to finish 38th overall. The junior Jackson Fox ran his best race to finish 7th overall with a time of 19:31 to earn All-American honors and lead the team to a 16th place finish out of 35 teams. This concluded a very successful season for Ervin in which she finished first for the Lady Saints in every meet.

The next six Aquinas runners across the line were solid as they finished only 49 seconds apart. Beth Boruta (21:17), Melody Huber (21:30), Sarah Carter (21:47), Audrey Komberg (21:54), Shannon Ottenweller (22:00), and Joelyn Rodgers (22:06) all ran well in the less than ideal conditions.

"It was tough, the times were really slow because we had to trudge through the deep snow. I kept slipping on the way up hills," Rodgers said.

It was tough, but things can only get better for this extremely young Lady Saints team. With no seniors and only two juniors in the top seven, the women's cross team is sure to continue its rise to national prominence next year.

The Lady Saints also caught the nation by surprise with a fine showing. Sophomore Leslie Ervin finished 7th overall with a time of 27:58 while Lee Maass finished 62nd, their top seven, the future looks very bright for the Saints as they look forward to next fall and topping the 6th place national finish.

Sophomore Leslie Ervin placed 7th overall at nationals, earning All-American status.

The "Mythical" National Championship

The only common opponent, Whoppers!!!

I don't think Nebraska is better than Michigan, but who cares what I think. Who cares what the coaches or AP writers think. Why can't we decide it on the field?

Take nothing away from all that from the great season that Michigan has had. In all likelihood, the National Championship will again be mythical.

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Right behind Baginski, lone senior Jackson Fox ran his best race ever to finish 38th overall. The junior Jackson Fox ran his best race ever to finish an outstanding career at Aquinas.

Knut Maass, Brett Bigorowski, and John Lee finished out the scoring for Aquinas finishing 62nd, 68th and 76th respectively. Only nine seconds separated the three as Maass finished in 27:35 while Lee crossed the line at 28:07. As expected the Saints were thrilled about their finish. "We went into the meet ranked 10th in the nation, so we were pleased to finish 6th," Baginski added.

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Leslie Ervin, a senior guard from East Kentwood was named the MVP of the Grace Bible College Classic. Jones scored 16 points and pulled down 8 rebounds against Grace Bible. Meanwhile, Baptist Jackson tossed in 17 points while grabbing 5 more rebounds.

Men's Basketball

Brandon Ewert, a senior guard from East Kentwood was named the MVP of the Grace Bible College Classic. Jones scored 16 points and pulled down 8 rebounds against Grace Bible.

Volleyball

Eva Overkamp, a senior from Holland West Ottawa High School completed her four year career on the Volleyball team by being selected to the All-Region team for the WHAC/FIGA/MI Rivers Region. Evertcamp, who earned All-American honors last year, was also named to the All-WHAC/FIGA team for the second straight year.

Sports Commentary

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Volleyball

Eva Overkamp, a senior from Holland West Ottawa High School completed her four year career on the Volleyball team by being selected to the All-Region team for the WHAC/FIGA/MI Rivers Region. Evertcamp, who earned All-American honors last year, was also named to the All-WHAC/FIGA team for the second straight year.

Sports Commentary

Despite its flaws, I think college football deserves much better. Even though Michigan has the inside track to the "National Championship," I fail to see how a Michigan victory over Washington State in the Rose Bowl makes the Wolverines the best team in the country.

Right behind Baginski, lone senior Jackson Fox ran his best race ever to finish 38th overall. The junior Jackson Fox ran his best race ever to finish an outstanding career at Aquinas.

Knut Maass, Brett Bigorowski, and John Lee finished out the scoring for Aquinas finishing 62nd, 68th and 76th respectively. Only nine seconds separated the three as Maass finished in 27:35 while Lee crossed the line at 28:07. As expected the Saints were thrilled about their finish. "We went into the meet ranked 10th in the nation, so we were pleased to finish 6th," Baginski added.

With only one senior among their top seven, the future looks very bright for the Saints as they look forward to next fall and topping the 6th place national finish.

The Lady Saints also caught the nation by surprise with a fine showing. Sophomore Leslie Ervin finished 7th overall with a time of 27:58 while Lee Maass finished 62nd, their top seven, the future looks very bright for the Saints as they look forward to next fall and topping the 6th place national finish.

The next six Aquinas runners across the line were solid as they finished only 49 seconds apart. Beth Boruta (21:17), Melody Huber (21:30), Sarah Carter (21:47), Audrey Komberg (21:54), Shannon Ottenweller (22:00), and Joelyn Rodgers (22:06) all ran well in the less than ideal conditions.

"It was tough, the times were really slow because we had to trudge through the deep snow. I kept slipping on the way up hills," Rodgers said.

It was tough, but things can only get better for this extremely young Lady Saints team. With no seniors and only two juniors in the top seven, the women's cross team is sure to continue its rise to national prominence next year.

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Volleyball

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Keeping the Faith

VOICES IN THE CROWD

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT RENEWING MEATLESS FRIDAYS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

“I’d probably follow it, but I wouldn’t want to.”
--Dave Flak, junior

“I’d probably follow Catholic Doctrine...but I don’t know why we can’t partake in it for more spiritual reasons rather than social and political reasons.”
--Josh Cochran, sophomore

“If it was church doctrine, I’d follow it, but I think it’s too much of an internal protest.”
--Mark Pittman, sophomore

“I think the church is trying to put it’s nose where it doesn’t belong. I wouldn’t follow it...There are better symbols to use.”
--Dave Kojowski, freshman

“I’d do it in a second...but then again, I’m becoming vegetarian. It’s a good idea, but they have to rework it a bit.”
--Joshua Bosley, freshman

“I would definitely go along with it. I think it’s a symbol that we’re dedicated to something.”
--Janelle Burden, junior

“I think it’s a good idea. It’s making a conscious effort.”
--Charity Schaefer, junior

“No, I would not follow it. I don’t like fish and the [meatless entrees] served in the cafeteria are not appetizing.”
--Jill Howey, junior

“I think it’s great. It’s a way of saying ‘This is what we stand for.’ It’s like raising a flag during a war.”
--Stan Waruszewski, freshman

Meatless Fridays For Catholics May Make a Comeback

by Heather M. Karal
Times Features Editor

Will 61 million American Catholics give up meat on Fridays year-round? Currently, U.S. Catholic Bishops are conducting a formal study about a proposal that will determine just that. Not eating meat on Fridays has been suggested as a sign for Catholics to take a stand against the American "culture of death." The abstinence from meat would be a penance for allowing such a system to take hold of the nation.

Years ago, not eating meat on Fridays was a trademark of Catholics everywhere. The day, Friday, was chosen because it is the day Jesus was crucified. Then, in 1966, Pope Paul VI stated that it was no longer a mortal sin to eat meat on Fridays. The traditional weekly penance was quickly abandoned. Now, the only days that Catholics are asked to refrain from eating meat are Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays during Lent.

The proposal is supported by bishops across the country including Cardinal Adam Maida, the Archbishop of Detroit. The idea was presented at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops by Bishop Bernard Law, Archbishop of Boston. The purpose of the proposal is for Catholics to give an outward sign of their belief in Pro-Life issues. Cardinal Maida explained that the proposed abstinence from meat is "for the explicit intention of combating the culture of death that pervades our contemporary culture—especially abortion, assisted suicide, war, violence, drugs, and all other attacks against human life and dignity."

Some believe that the proposed penance is a response to the church’s defeat in Oregon, where, despite Catholic and Pro-Life campaigns the state recently passed a law making assisted suicide legal. While the church does not deny that the disappointment in Oregon is a factor in this suggestion, Cardinal Maida also reminded people that this practice is rooted in the Bible.

"Whenever there were huge problems like this, our Lord always suggested prayer and fasting." As with all fasting and abstinence from meat in the church, this penance would only apply to Catholics over age fourteen who are not prevented from such a change in diet by health problems.

The study is expected to take six months to be completed and will end with a vote in June. The bishops will also consider a weekly fast on Fridays or another form of penance in place of abstaining from meat.

Revamping Reconciliation

A Changing Sacrament for a Time of Change

by Amy Briggs
Times Contributing Writer

"Forgive me Father, for I have sinned.

Sound familiar? Well if you're Catholic and have sought the sacrament of Reconciliation lately it should. According to the Roman Catholic Church, reconciliation is a sacrament of God’s grace. It contains both a holy element and a human element, which are the keys to understanding the true beauty of the sacrament. Reconciliation offers redemption by each other and by God.

Time has changed the Catholic Church’s practice of reconciliation. In the book Sacraments Alive: Their History, Celebration and Significance, Sandra DeGidio explains that, originally, the canonical penance was a three-part procedure: confession, penance, and absolution. Strict disciplinary guidelines were set for reconciliation to ensure a direction of upright faith.

The process could be quite long, lasting several months. Even short processes took a few weeks depending on the redemption needed. Prayers for the penitents were offered, and absolution concluded in the Lenten season.

Through time, the sacrament has shifted its focus to centering around God’s grace. All three parts of the sacrament take place in the same day, though penance and the length of time in which the penance is carried out may vary. Also, celebration has become a crucial part of the process when sins are forgiven.

Though its practices have changed since it began, the meaning of reconciliation remains firmly rooted in the foundation of the Catholic Church. Campus Ministry is planning a Reconciliation service in Bukowski Chapel on Dec. 10. The service, performed by the Aquinas pastor, Father Michael Danner will begin at 9:30pm.

St. Thomas, a local Catholic parish, located just West of campus also holds Reconciliation. The weekly service is open to all who wish to partake in forgiveness.