Local Woman, 22, Found Dead Near Campus

Police Discover Body Near I-96 and College Ave

by Maris Branchou
Times Editor-In-Chief

Police recovered the body of Billie Jo Watson, 22, on Dec. 4 near the overpass of I-96 and College Avenue in Grand Rapids.

Watson, the mother of a 2-year-old daughter, had been missing for four days after leaving work on Nov. 30 and never reaching her home. Police are questioning Watson’s friends, family, and anyone who knew her pattern of walking home from work each night.

Police believe Watson was abducted from Michigan St., near the major street after Fulton St., located north of campus. College Avenue is one exit west of the Fuller St. exit on I-96. Her body was found in the area of Highland Park, a small park near the overpass.

Investigators have no real suspects at this point. Watson’s boyfriend Anthony Skeleton passed a polygraph test and has an alibi for the night of Watson’s disappearance. A neighbor reported that he was home with the couple’s child. Skeleton reportedly tossed a questioning room when he was notified by police of Watson’s death.

Police reported no obvious signs of trauma to Watson’s body and no immediate cause of death was apparent. Her body was partially nude when found buried under debris near the overpass.

Aquinas freshman, Aaran Bush, thinks it is frightening that no suspect has been arrested. “You just can’t walk around by yourself anymore,” Bush said, “You don’t know who is nice anymore in the world.”

Sophomore Elly Gusmano called the murder a “reality check.”

Many students expressed concern about the case surfaced. Sophomore Staci Valley agreed. “I think that she should have been more cautious. She was walking home all alone late at night... she should have known better.”

The Department of Campus Safety at Aquinas did not release a statement about the murder. Officials said they were waiting to comment until more details about the case surfaced.

Area Dignitaries to Hold Forum at AQ

Sheriff, Angela Bergman, Chair of the

Discussion on local politics and political positions for real people will high-light tomorrow’s “Local Politics Forum.” Sponsored by the Political Affairs Committee, the event will take place on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom.

The panel, consisting of local elected officials, will address the duties of their position, their involvement in the community and any questions or concerns that are raised by the audience.

The panelists will include Judy Harrison, Kent County Third District Commissioner, Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie, Katherine Kuhn, Kent County Commissioner Fourteenth District, and James Doughan, Kent County Commissioner.

She has recommended that audience members address issues like the mall to be built on Alpine Avenue, concerns about the nearby jail, and traffic issues. Bergman stressed that they “are welcoming all sorts of issues.”

She also stated, “It’s really important for us as college students to be informed about community issues, local government, and where to go if you have a concern in your community.”

Bergman emphasized that this is an opportunity for students “to see what options are out there for people to play an active role in their communities.”

Besides the panel, representatives from the local Democratic and Republican parties will have booths set up so that students may get more information and learn about volunteer opportunities available in political affairs.

The event is open to Aquinas students, faculty, staff and community members.
**Brave Souls Trek to Windy City for Holiday Shopping**

by Rico L. Cannon  
Times Contributing Writer

On Saturday Dec. 6, students, staff and friends journeyed off to the Windy City for a day of fun and excitement. The annual Chicago bus trip takes participants to the city for shopping just in time for the busy holiday season. Aquinas staf member Mary Jo Cranecki said the trip had its ups and downs. "It really puts you in the Christmas spirit; the big city with all the lights," she said. "On the downside, there were crowds everywhere." For the students to spend an entire day in Chicago the cost was $15.00, which included juice and donuts while on the road and a tip for the bus driver. While in Chicago, which is one of the nation's largest cities, students had the opportunity to visit the museum, do Christmas shopping, and see the sights.

Aquinas student Dick Steenwyk shops in Chi-town

**"AIDS," Cont'd from p. 1**

"AIDS," Cont'd from p. 1

Tests are free, confidential, and anonymous at the Kent County Health Department, McAsley Clinic, and Clinica Santa Maria. There is a "window period" of about 6 weeks to 3 months before the time of actual exposure to the virus and the detection in a test. Student Activities Director Dana Hiebert asked Grant for her suggestions to help spread awareness about HIV and AIDS. Grant answered, "The first step is to educate your peers. After that, people can pass education on one-one-one. The trickle down effect has a much bigger impact than anyone gives it credit for." The AIDS Resource Center, located at 1427 Robinson Road, is always in need of volunteers to help with food drives, transportation for patients to appointments, and office help. The Resource Center can be reached at 459-9177.

Wege Pond May Become Preserved Wetland Site

by Rico L. Cannon  
Times Contributing Writer

Would you ever choose a college for its trees? That is one of the countless reasons why a large number of students choose to come to Aquinas. Aquinas's campus strives to offer natural beauty, which is priceless. A group of students on campus are spearheading the Wege Pond Wetland Restoration Project, which is a project that will conserve the environment that is located behind Wege Center. Project leader, student David Mifsud feels that the initiative will bring Wege Pond to its full potential of "beauty and diversity." But the group wants to take things one step at a time. "We want to take our time so we don't repeat mistakes that were made in the past," Mifsud said.

Wege Pond, a traditional picnic area for students and staff, may become a protected wetland.

The two had a good time walking around and checking out the stores. "Chicago is an awesome place, if only had money," Willis said. Stoughton thought some things in Chicago were overrated. "I saw the ugliest pair of shoes at Nieman Marcus for $1600," she said. "I saw the ugliest pair of shoes at Nieman Marcus for $1600," she said.

Wege Pond May Become Preserved Wetland Site

by Rico L. Cannon  
Times Contributing Writer

Not only would this project benefit Aquinas students, but it would also serve as field trip sight for local elementary school students.

The cost of this project will be about $10,000 for dredging the pond, supplies, equipment, plants, and for further research development. Possible funding may come from various environmental groups in the area, private donors, alumni, and state and federal grants for developing wetlands and restoration. As prospective students visit Aquinas its natural beauty and landscape are one of the main selling points. Freshman Peter Morio is not involved in the initiative but thinks it is something the college should pursue. "It's a good idea. It's a better way to get students to the school. I mean, I have trees in my backyard," Morio said.

AQ Lecture Series Tackles Post Cold War Crisis

by Chris Manning  
Times Contributing Writer

About the only reminders of the Cold War are old bomb shelters and those emergency tests on the radio once in a while. They used to be a little scary but now we just consider them an annoying interruption. Still, as Dr. Roger Durham, assistant professor of Political Science, reminded the audience in the Ballroom of the Wege Center, the aftermath of years of testing on nuclear holocaust is still very dangerous. His lecture, given on Dec. 2, was the latest in the college lecture series. Durham's topic was Post Cold War Crisis Situations.

One of Durham's central discussion points was the existence of war and the question of what we mean by "peace." Durham explained the expansion of the global market since the end of the Cold War. He also noted the disintegration of former nations like Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union and the fighting within the various states. He said the "economically strong states" like the U.S., France, and China were also the most powerful states.

Durham also shed some light on the reasons why the U.S. hasn't become involved in Bosnia. Much of the reasoning, he thought, had to do with the terrain of the land. As most realised after Vietnam, the U.S. has poor luck in guerrilla warfare. In the landscape of Bosnia, this kind of fighting would be very prevalent. However, deserts such as those in Iraq present a smaller risk. Also, the U.S. didn't have to deploy a land offensive and could stick with an air offensive.

The lecture also moved toward the reasons for some of the recent conflicts in the U.S. in the past few years. Durham discussed the economic motivation for the goal war, the political and military reasons for the intervention in Haiti and the political reasons for the situation now occurring in Iraq. Of our recent interventions, only two--the U.S. in Somalia and in Haiti--were motivated in part for humanitarian purposes.

Dr. Michael Cushion of the Sociology Department agreed with Durham on this point. "His thesis makes a lot of sense--strong states, such as the United States, are more likely to intervene in international conflicts where there is economic interest rather than a political or humanitarian issue," Cushion said. Dr. Durham's lecture reported on the research he has been conducting for a future book. Durham has already written several chapters, but has yet to look for a publisher.
Fire and Ice Combine at Annual Winter Dance

by Mary Kopchick
Times Contributing Writer

It was hotter than fire and cooler than ice. Aquinas’ annual winter dance Friday night drew a record crowd of 267 students at the Donnelly Center, making the 1997 dance the most successful ever. The festivities began at 8pm and lasted until midnight with students dancing to everything from Garth Brooks to the Artist formerly known as Prince. The semi-formal, alcohol free event was sponsored by the Residence Hall Association. This year’s theme was fire and ice. Music was provided by Starlite DJs. Each person’s $5 ticket sold at meals or $7 ticket at the door went to pay for food, complimentary mugs and flaming snowflake ice sculpture. The Association expected only 200 people to attend and wish last year’s attendance at only 160 people, the Residence Hall Association ran short of the glass mugs and will have to order more. RHA boardmember junior John Rice said that the group was pleased with the success. “I think the big turnout shows a need for a big social event during the semester,” Rice said. While some students came with dates, many came in groups. “I just came with a bunch of my friends and I had a really good time dancing. Sometimes we couldn’t even get onto the dance floor it was so packed,” said sophomore Courtney Cooper. “My favorite part was taking pictures with my friends,” said sophomore Sheri Zima.

Sophomore Holly Heitzman is a hard working elf. Photo by Amanda Miciani

A Taste O’ Irish Culture at First Ever Ceili

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Contributing Writer

Everyone felt a hit Irish as the first ever Irish Ceili took place at the Aquinas College Wege Ballroom on Sunday, Nov. 23. The Irish Ceili was the idea of senior Caitlin Dillon and benefitted the Eagle’s Nest School in Ireland. Eagle’s Nest School is a school in Ireland that Aquinas College students volunteer at while participating in the Ireland Exchange Program with the college. “The purpose of the Ceili was to try and give back to the Aquinas community. The Programming Board helped sponsor the event, which was a big help. The Insignis group helped put it on,” Dillon said. The Ceili featured groups performing Irish music and dancing. A treat for everyone was the Irish Ceili combine at Aquinas. The Irish Ceili was the idea of sophomore Alex Rosman. The Dambha Uisce Ban Mor (the Grand Rapids Ceili Dancers) also performed. The Celtic band Amaadun played Irish songs as well. An impromptu “rec,” an Irish jig, was performed by Kathleen Casey. From the Art and Music Department, Sharon McCarthy and sophomore Geoff Sink sang an Irish ballad. The audience was honored to have Michael Ruddy, a past student at Eagle’s Nest School, read a poem for the audience. After the show freshman Lauren Ivory gave a positive review of the Irish Ceili. She said “The traditions of Ireland were expressed and greatly enhanced by the dancing and cultural music.” Dillon heard about most of the groups that performed by chance. “Groups came through word of mouth and we had a tremendous response. After the Ceili, people came up to me telling me about groups they knew of or had pre­formed in who thought they might want to help next year... if we decide to have the Ceili again,” Dillon continued. Insignis is attempting to make the Ceili become a tradition here at Aquinas College. On Jan. 6 1998, the annual se­mester in Ireland begins.

Semester Break Work
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to start. Attention all students: local firm has 1-5 week work programs over break. Will work programs over break. Will train. Will secure a summer position. Flexible schedule around classes and finals. Call 245-3882 10-5pm
Building five more prisons is like having to pay for car insurance. We hate to shell out the premium, but in a hostile environment it’s the high price of protection.

Michigan prisons are rapidly overcrowding and Michigan Corrections Director Kenneth McGinnis says that prisoners will be deported out of state next month regardless of whether the Governor’s proposal passes or not. The state is plagued with an immediate dilemma. What should we do with the increasing numbers of those who violates the social contract?

We rely on prisons to keep dangerous and violent felons confined. Who wants a convicted murderer or rapist sleeping in your neighbor’s bed at midnight? Be prepared, for with shorter prison terms and more frequent parole, they just might be.

The public agrees that committing a crime automatically results in doing the time. This is evident by the Truth in Sentencing Act passed in 1994. It assures that a violent offender will serve the full minimum sentence, ensures stricter parole requirements, and advocates longer mandatory prison sentences. Let’s be serious. We have to be tough on criminals to keep law-abiding citizens safe and protected.

Suppose we release the 20-30% “non-violent” offenders. Generally a non-violent offender is a person whose crime is habitual or results from addiction to a substance; for example drug-related crimes or drunk driving. Many claim releasing these “non-violent” people from prison will rehabilitate habitual offenders— as if giving them more freedom will help them. The recidivism rate will instead increase due to premature release. The new proposal includes three minimum security prisons that if used practically could very well include rehabilitation programs while assuring that these addicts will not be harming anyone else.

Taxpayers grumble about the price of keeping criminals in jail. This is my question: what is the price to pay when a prisoner on parole rapes and murders a girl friend? Breaks into a house? Shoots a friend in a drive-by? The Governor is right. If we want to brutally combat crime, we have the responsibility to incarcerate those who are a threat to society.

The Governor is right. If we want to brutally combat crime, we have the responsibility to incarcerate those who are a threat to society.

Following through on our responsibility now pays, too. Michigan recently received $18 million in federal grants for keeping these violent criminals locked up as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Assistance Act. Since the act was passed, Michigan has received over $34 million in federal funds.

Putting the prison issue on the scale. On one side, no one wants the prisons. But we do have the obligation to preserve law and order. Those who take our precious values and hard earned rights away from those we love. The higher premium will be worth it.

The overcrowding of prisons is an issue that must be addressed, but building more and more dangerously costly facilities cannot be the answer. The purpose of putting someone away is basically twofold. We want that person, for whatever reason, away from the rest of us for safety purposes. We also want an amount of retribution for the crime that was committed, both supposedly teaching the offender a lesson and following through with a punishment system so that both the perpetrator and other potential criminals will think twice before crossing the line.

It would seem that the most violent of criminals would be the ones that we would want “put away” for a very long time, keeping everyone safe. Interestingly enough, violent crime rates in Michigan have decreased 18% as other violent rates have increased slightly only to be overshadowed by monstrously growing incarceration rates. It seems that instead of increasing the responsibility to incarcerate people who are the most dangerous, the vigilante in most Americans is taking charge in a massive “crack down” that sends annoying but not deadly offenders to the slammer.

The majority of these such annoying offenders are drug related, and the penal system has proved almost pointless where they are concerned. Statistics show that 90% of inmates serving time for possession of narcotics will return to prison within three years. These are the criminals that sometimes fall into the category of a mandatory sentence. They fill the prison beds for a time and return like regular hotel guests, costing tax payers infinite amounts and perplexing those trying to solve the problem of crowded prisons.

There are other methods of taking care of drug-offenders. "Smart Punishment" for drug offenders provides program help involving interventions and care during vulnerable stages at a price of less than $100 per year as compared to incarceration which can cost around $25,000 per year. Some other solutions to relieving overcrowding of prisons are the use of community corrections. Communities can provide a correctional and holding service by keeping many less dangerous criminals at a local level.

At the local, less expensive level, the community keeps people, retribution is served, and rehabilitates without spreading problems into society. Can be much easier and gradual. If a person can be effectively rehabilitated and reintegrated into society, storage problems are eliminated. Also, with criminals still around, the "cure-all" feeling of putting someone away is lessened since that undesirable is still in a tangible place.

As prisons fill over capacity, we should consider all of our options. Building more and more containers for exponentially growing undesirable seems hardly a solution.
Monroe Center Opens with Ceremony Downtown

by Harsh Nguyen
Times Contributing Writer

The renovation of the Monroe Center in downtown has finally seen its first car tires pass over the freshly laid pavement. The newly remodeled Monroe Center took seven and a half years of planning, $6.4 million in cash and six months of construction in hopes of revitalizing downtown. On Wednesday, Nov. 24, the car to hole down the renovated stretch in two decades was a city trolley car, driven by Mayor John Logie. The grand opening of the “main street” of Grand Rapids was held at 11 a.m.

Formerly known as the Monroe Mall before the changes, it was famous as a popular hang-out spot for teens and crowd watchers during the past few summers’ free concerts.

Many changes have been made in the process of all the reconstructions. The former retail businesses that were there six months ago are gone, and five new ones are arriving, including Mackie’s World Children’s Bookstore. The mall is set to open in late spring.

The new street has a snow-melt system installed. Trees and benches now line the street for a more friendly-looking environment. Wayne Norlin, the Design Plus architect who planned the new street explained, “The idea is not just to open it to traffic, but open up the space, create a vista and a feeling of accessibility and availability.”

The city officials are hoping that their project will bring more life and pizzazz to downtown Grand Rapids. “There was no interest a year ago,” said Ray Kniser, a broker with S. C. Wongs real estate company. “Now the opening of the mall is the only thing stimulating that interest.”

The grand opening ceremony had a pretty turnout, mostly journalists, photographers and near-by business employees wanting to see and hear what Mayor Logie had to say. There were even a few grade schools and middle schools who took a field trip to witness the event. Despite the rainy weather, everyone seemed content with Catholic Central High School’s marching band, which opened the ceremony and closed it while marching down the newly brick-laden street. Logie called the new street “a symbol of hope to carry to the 21st Century,” as well as a “shining example of how the public and private sectors worked together for the success of the project.”

GRCC has Slow Down, Not Strike

The contract controversy occurring at Grand Rapids Community College has led to designated study days, along with many mixed emotions. A GRCC Faculty Association meeting held in mid-November planned certain study days, the first of which being Nov. 24. A “study day” means that all faculty will be in classrooms and offices during scheduled hours, but no new material will be covered. Many GRCC students have shown concern for the teaching halt by holding an organized walkout. However, the majority of the classes remain empty due to lack of attendance. The study days are being held to draw attention to the GRCC faculty’s contract problems.

Raptor Bones Exceed Expectations

Paleontologists have discovered a dinosaur claw that is more than a foot long and very likely belonged to the largest raptor that ever roamed the earth. The claw, discovered in the Patagonia region of Argentina, is 54% larger than the claws of T-Rex, the biggest raptor known to date. The new “dinosaur,” named Megaraptor, was estimated to be 25 feet long—eight times larger than the velociraptors portrayed in Jurassic Park. The 15-millimeter long claw was unveiled Dec. 2 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. It is expected the new find will draw a large crowd, but most likely not as many spectators as the hit Jurassic Park movies.

Funding Investigation Not Over Yet

Attorney General Janet Reno has decided not to seek an independent counsel to investigate fund-raising phone calls by President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. Although the decision is final, the administration is not yet in the clear. According to USA Today, Reno still might appoint a special counsel to investigate whether campaign contributions influenced Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt’s decision to accept a request from three Native tribes to open a casino. Reno has set a Feb. 11, 1998 deadline in the Babbitt case. Even though an independent counsel won’t be called in, the White House still faces continuing fundraising investigations. These future investigations will be led by the Justice Department and Congress.

Artists Come Together for Christmas, Charity

Christmas time is here again, and that means it’s time for...yes, Christmas music. This year’s season comes with a Christmas album that everyone can enjoy—and it also helps a good cause! A Very Special Christmas III is a compilation album featuring artists such as The Smashing Pumpkins, No Doubt, Dave Matthews, and Puff Daddy along with the Christmas All-Stars. Some of the featured artists, including The Smashing Pumpkins were original songs for the disc. The full-length CD is the third Christmas album to bring together various popular artists, and the proceeds are donated to Special Olympics. This is the perfect gift for anyone. It not only features great artists, but puts everyone in the Christmas spirit with its great cause.
Two weeks ago, Detroit lost one of its modern heroes as former Mayor Coleman Young passed away. His death marked the end of a chapter in history where Detroit was shunned by much of Michigan and used by the national media as a prime example of urban decline.

While Detroit’s decline began well before Young came along, and started to end before he left, he is often associated with what outsiders consider difficult times for Detroit.

On the surface, the comparison about to be made is ludicrous, but Ronald Reagan and Coleman Young were leaders with similar characteristics and results in their leadership positions. Consider their constituencies, popularity, and policies.

Reagan’s constituency was the white, middle-class voter who was tired of a weak America and large government. Reagan was a conservative who was able to convince the public that his pro-military, anti-communist foreign policy was good for the country. Young on the other hand, was elected by a primarily black electorate in response to the growing income gap in the city and the surrounding region. He was a liberal to the bone, and pursued policies which the people of Detroit thought were to their benefit.

Both men were accepted overwhelmingly among their constituencies, who were as opposite as can be. Reagan was incredibly popular, even as his policies created tremendous problems for the United States. He accelerated the arms race, increased the national debt exponentially, and rolled back social benefits, all while remaining one of the most popular presidents in American history. Young, on the other hand, did not have such destructive policies, but was inept at protecting Detroit from the decline which overcame almost every urban area in America. He was despised by many Michigan leaders, but adored by Detroiters. These two men’s popularity rested on a simple portrayal of a common enemy. Reagan reframed America’s energy on defeating the Soviet Union in the Cold War, which caused us to go broke. Young blamed Detroit’s problems on the suburbs, which isolated Detroit from the allies it needed.

In the end, both men were popular, if not successful, because they created a patriotism motivated by a common enemy: the Soviet Union for Reagan and the suburbs for Young.

History may not treat either of these men incredibly well, but they have two things in common. First was Reagan’s ability to make Americans feel good about being American and Young’s ability to make Detroiters feel good about being from Detroit. The second is that they may have been the last politicians to actually stand for something and follow through on it. Reagan was unabashedly conservative, and Young not ashamed to be liberal. Such traits are seldom found today, and this country truly suffers from the wishy-washy leaders we currently have.
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

Anyone who has ever taken a quad format class knows exactly how they are structured, right? They last four hours and meet only eight times. Or is that three hours with an hour break? Perhaps we should also consider whether the class lasts three hours and forty minutes? That is the current problem with quad classes. It is unclear, to both professors and students, what to expect from the class. There does not seem to be a consensus among the professors as to what the format is really supposed to be. Even among the Times staff there is a wide variety of interpretations.

Some have been told that it is four hours with a 20 minute break. A common assertion is that quads are supposed to be four hours with two 20 minute breaks, and that justifies allowing one 20 minute break and ending the class at 10:10 pm. Other professors merely have class for 3 hours with about a five minute break. Others have justified letting quads out at 9:30 every week because they have a "major research project" which requires extensive outside work. This is supposed to be inherent in every quad, and should not affect the time spent in class.

A professor consulted by this paper asserted that for every hour of class time there should be 10 minutes of break. This would result in a total of 40 minutes of break in a quad. But as most students know, the schedule of a quad is usually decided by the whim of a professor. The administration of the college needs to control the format of this type of class, which is one of the most important types of class the college offers.

There are several reasons to clarify this. First, it is only fair to students and professors. Students should know exactly what they are getting into before they sign up for something, and professors should know exactly what is expected of them. There is currently too much discrepancy in the system.

Second, the Aquinas degree needs to remain prestigious. There are too many quad format classes that do not cover all of the material that a three credit class should cover. This is a result of professors being given too much leeway in formatting the classes. When classes are cut off at 9:30 pm (as many quads are) the degree granted by Aquinas certainly isn't fair and is detrimental to a quality education.

Finally, students need to get their money's worth. This is especially important to those students who pay by the credit hour, but valuable to all. Students pay a substantial amount of money to attend Aquinas College, and cutting quads short essentially steals from those students. A certain amount of information is expected when paying for a college class, and the subjective time limits of quads negatively affect that education.

The Aquinas administration must set and publish guidelines for quad format classes. Students, and professors, are currently left to judge individually just how effective they need to be. Aquinas' reputation requires rigorous standards upon which to be judged, and currently, no such standards are in place or in practice for quad classes.

N CORRECTION

The Aquinas Times would like to apologize for misinformation in the Nov. 12, 1997 issue. A Features article stated that Matt Flickinger originated the idea of A.C.T., when the club was in fact suggested by Dania Fiorito and Lauren Ivory. It was then formed by the combined efforts of Fiorito, Ivory, and Flickinger. A.C.T. will also not be reading poetry or working with Literature as the article stated.

Out on a limb

with Maris Brancheau

Are you sick of hearing about AIDS?

As what point does a deadly preventable disease become so ingrained in our culture that its existence is accepted and even ignored?

On Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, a speaker from the Aids Resource Center came to the Cook Carriage House at Aquinas to talk about AIDS. Times staff writer Angela Bergman covered the event. Times photo editor Katy Tucker went to take pictures.

Student Activities director Dana Hebreard and Student Activities intern Belgid Bulger attended as part of their respective jobs. And that’s all folks, with the exception of two students who made appearances. One left early, the other came late.

That’s right. Four people, each who had a obligation to attend, came to hear about AIDS from someone who thinks about AIDS and works with AIDS patients every day. I was shocked when I heard about the low turnout.

I felt embarrassed for the school, for those who attended, and for the speaker. But then I realized...I wasn’t there either.

There are several speculations as to why no one came to hear about AIDS that night. Hebreard said it could be because the speech was on a Monday night, right after a long weekend. Maybe. But should World AIDS Day have been scheduled to fit in with Thanksgiving?

Should the number one killer of our age group be overlooked because we have finals to prepare for? Perhaps no one knew about the speech because they deleted their Student Activities phone mail.

Isn’t it just plain annoying that we have to be bothered by this disease?

Sarcasm aside, the real reason for staying away in droves from the AIDS talk might have more to do with our endless exposure to the disease?

Perhaps we feel immune because we don’t do the things that “those people” who get AIDS do. We know about clean needles, safe sex, and the dangers of blood. We all know about Ryan White too. We don’t sweep AIDS under the rug. Rather we have constant reminders in advertising, ribbons, and superstitions with the deadly disease.

But still, there is more to learn. There are stereotypes that live and breathe and keep children out of school in West Michigan. Just this fall a young girl was kept from attending class at her Portage elementary school because administrators learned about her HIV status. We sure know all there is to know, don’t we.

A killer is still a killer. No matter how many red ribbons we wear around our wrist, we will never know all there is to know until we have a cure. We will never hear enough, until we hear the story of every victim and of every orphaned child who has lost their parents to AIDS.

Of all the things to be apathetic about, we sure have picked the wrong one.

It’s sad when more people show up for bagel night than to hear about an illness that has invaded our lives. It’s even sadder that we may not be bothered by this disease.

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Little Caesars'
WGRD’s RadioActiv III
Kick-Off Boosts Local Bands

Compiled by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

Two things. First: I didn’t have space for an article about the excellent performance by the Percussion Ensemble, but wanted to at least put in print how awesome the show was (and well-attended). Second: Keep in mind that only two months from now until the next issue, it doesn’t seem like much is happening. So mixed in are things to keep yourselves entertained over break. Have a good one.

(12/11) Cook Carriage House: Take a study break for the sounds of Front of Truck. The band is out of Milwaukee and promises to please. Hey, it’s music, and that is always a good thing.

(12/13) Calvin College: The Wallflowers with the Jayhawks. Bob Dylan’s son et al have been snaring up the charts for some time. Find out why. $12 for Calvin students, $2 extra surcharge for general public through Tickets Plus (222-4000). Show starts at 8pm.

(12/14) Aquinas AMC: College Concert. Various artists straight out of the Aquinas Music Department collaborate in a free show. After all that studying for finals, you’re sure to need some fresh air and mind clearing music. Sure to be unique, the concert starts at 3pm.

(12/17) Van Andel Areas: I don’t care, his name is Prince until he goes public with his birth name. He’ll be in town for one night. Tickets are ridiculously expensive and impossible to get. But you can hang out outside and heckle fans.

(12/25) Christmas Day. Wherever you are: have a good one. Surround yourself with happiness and joy and peace and egg nog. Snore while pretending to watch parades. Rent It’s a Wonderful Life or Miracle on 34th Street for a bit of nostalgia. Or just stay in bed listening to “Blue Christmas.”

(12/30) Orbit Room: The Father of Gothic Rock is coming to town. Yes, Alice Cooper (the original Marilyn Manson) will be here, blood, fangs and all. Tickets through Ticketmaster ($55-3533), $25; must be 18.

(1/19/98) Kalamazoo State Theater: Megadeth. Seems these guys just don’t know the word quit. Die-hard metal fans, here is your leader. Tickets through Ticketmaster ($21.50); must be 18.

(Anytime) Make sure to build at least one snowman over break. One snowball fight. One trip down the killer hill on the super-greased saucer. One near-fatal slip on the icy causing back injury and possible concussion. These are the standards. Ah, winter.

If you are looking for something to do on an afternoon off or have time in between a class, stop by the Aquinas Art and Music Center Gallery where the Faculty Exhibition has been taking place since Nov. 30.

I have always loved art— anything that is synonymous with an artist will receive my undivided attention, which was one of the reasons I was glad to be offered a chance to take a glimpse at some pieces at the AMC by some Aquinas’ faculty. I have never seen a big fan of modern art, because I was always taught to believe art was unable to be understood by anyone but the artist, but the work I saw changed my mind. The artists who were highlighted in this exhibit were Dana Freeman, Sharon Sandberg, and Kurt Kaiser.

When I first entered the Art Gallery, I was greeted with my first piece by Freeman called “Floor to Slow You Down,” consisting of egg cartons encased in plaster taking up the entire entrance way to the gallery. As I first was unsure of how to even enter the gallery without damaging Freeman’s work, but then saw a sign that stated stepping on the work was okay. I hast­

ily made my way over the cartons, entering the gallery. Freeman is known for her installation art, which involves the viewer. I made my way around the gallery looking at all the work in awe. Each different artist has their own style in the exhibit. While Freeman’s work was unique and thought-provoking, Kaiser’s work was incredible—each sculpture was geometrically designed and everything had its own place. Sandberg’s paintings, like “Nine of Pints,” were colorful and a treat to see. All the art that is featured in this exhibit is for sale, price lists are available at the gallery if you are interested in buying art. The exhibit is certainly worth seeing, if not to see and appreciate the talents of the faculty, then to broaden your artistic horizons (excuse the cliche).

The exhibit is going on through Dec. 19, with an opening reception that occurred on Dec. 7 from 2-4 pm. The hours of the AMC gallery are Monday-Thursday from 10am-7pm, Friday from 10am-5pm, and Saturday/Sunday from 2-6pm.

“I really believe in what’s going on here,” Sandstedt said. “I believe in the talent this sector is producing and I sense a lot of gifted people in this area that can make west Michigan a national scene. I think in the next few years everyone will know where Grand Rapids is.”

Very encouraging words. And from the looks of things, true enough. The RadioActiv series is definitely a good channel for exposing local bands. As Sandstedt put it—“I just see myself as the conduit; the messenger. WGRD has given me all the support I could ever want, and so far it’s been a really great experience.”

Faculty Exhibit Inspires

Compiled by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

It was packed. Standing room only, and not much of that. The intersection was chock full of people excited and embused about the release of RadioActiv III, a WGRD-sponsored compilation of local bands that is put out each year. The two-disc package showcases many local bands from western Michigan and surrounding areas. The release party, which took place Friday, Nov. 28, drew quite a positive response from the cramped-in audience.

Julia Set opened the show with a stirring set of tunes. Usually screwed waists until the headline band takes the stage before moving to the front to start really getting into the music, but with the amount of energy and finesse with which Julia Set played, there were already people on the main floor dancing and having a good time.

Dangerville came on soon after Julia Set to keep the party moving. What can I say? Nothing makes a rock-n-roll crowd move like rockabilly. In one of the first few songs, frontman “Danger” sent out a round of cheers for the bands performing, Mark Sandstedt of WGRD, the intersection folks, and “all you people having a good time getting drunk and stupid!”

Headliners 19 Wheels took a little longer to take the stage, but not long enough to lose the crowd. They put on a good show, more than satisfactory to the Grand Rapids concert goers. They performed their radio-play songs as well as the song appearing on the compilation, and give each band a proper introduction. He was handing out free t-shirts on behalf of I-Serv for sponsoring the disc’s production. “(The release party) is to raise awareness of the disc,” said Sandstedt in an interview, “and give the bands some exposure. There’s no question people are behind this thing.”

The compilation was constructed from submissions by over 90 local bands, but only 39 were able to fit in the final cut. “We had 20 bands to fill the last three spots,” said Sandstedt, “so I was forced to make a call. I look for people who are taking the music seriously (not just a couple guys doodling around), the quality of the recording, and how listenable it is for the intended audience.”

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The Jesus Lizard Brings Real Rock Back to Grand Rapids

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

The last time the Jesus Lizard was in Grand Rapids, the Verve Pipe's "Freshmen" was just barely making its radio break. The Reptile House was still open. House was still an employed musician. Thank God they came back. After the Missfits canceled in September, I felt sure Grand Rapids was being spoiled as the last hole on earth to send rock concerts. Last Thursday proved me wrong, for now.

The best way to sum up any performance of the Jesus Lizard is: without very human-looking eclectic exploitive, there simply is no way.

From the first notes the opener to the final notes of their set the crowd went absolutely nuts. I even found it difficult to concentrate on taking photos without joining the "ensemble of mod-interpretive dance," as frontman David Yow put it. It turns out that Yow was more than willing to give closeups (he repeatedly leaped into the crowd and floated (almost liter-ally from the amount of sweat cov-ering his body) across the "sup-portive" crowd.

After about a straight hour and a half of aggressive musical attack, the band left the stage, only to return to play for another half hour. I was weary and actually had to be pulled out of the mess of bashing and crashing people so I could catch my breath and fix my best glasses.

Needless to say, I felt replenished and healthy upon leaving this show. I felt like garbage the next day, but it was a good, worn-out feeling that so rarely happe-
pens around here lately. Contented sigh.

David Yow gets in the collective face of the crowd. Photo by Joe Theuerkauf

Film in Review...

Alien: Resurrection

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

I prepared for Alien: Resur-rection. I went out and rented the first three parts in order to catch up on the surprisingly smooth story that connects these mov-ies. I watched all of them right in a row to get the idea of the stories and the details of the Allen's rela-tionship with Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver). I was sure I should've done it. Only spoiled the creativity that I would otherwise have seen in Alien: Resurrection.

The biggest problem I have had with the Alien series is the casting. Each one has a certain group of characters that never changes in any of the movies: Ripley, three white-guys, a black guy, at least one woman (exception being Allen), and a "synthetic" (future slang for very-human-looking an-
roids). All characters die in order throughout the series. Try it yourself and see.

So when there was no synthetic human presented in this one right away, I pegged Call (Winona Ryder).

Bingo.

There are some surprises to be found, but mostly through the exposure of some of the better deca-per-tion scenes in cinema to date. Ah, technol-ogy. As one of the biologists breeding the aliens in this film put it: "So, you are a fast learner." Special effects were excellent, and not abused as in recent sci-fi (e.g. Independence Day). The plot, however, reminds me of a bit of dialogue from Little Women: "What's happening?" asks (ironi-cally) Winona Ryder's character.

"The inevitable," comes the response. For the queen alien to take a mammalian reproduc-tive cycle after being ge-netically bonded with Ripley is predict-able. The resulting offspring, however, left me stupefied. Hellish spawns the likes of which even H.R. Giger (original designer of "The Bitch" who has not been involved since Aliens) would be proud.

It's a decent movie for the fans, and a good extra this year to 1997's special effects display movies. Series rank: Alien: Alien: Resurrection, Alien: Alien 3.

Sigourney Weaver and Winona Ryder pair up in Alien: Resurrection.

CD Reviews

Garth Brooks
Sevens
Capitol Records

by Katy Ticker
Photo Editor

The long awaited album from Garth Brooks has finally arrived. Brooks's first studio album in three years is quickly racing up the charts. Sevens is named so because it is his seventh studio album. Garth was born of the Feb. 7, and this is also the seventh year in this decade. Plus, the first 777,777 albums sold were marked as special collection's limited editions.

Two singles have already been released from the album. The first was the smash hit duet with country sensation Trisha Yearwood, entitled "In Another's Eyes." "Long Neck Bottle" was the second to be released and is racing up the charts. Steve Warner, a well known country song writer wrote the catchy tune and also pitched in on vocals.

There is a good balance between ballads and two-steppin' songs on this album. All of the lyrics tell definite stories with some being very light hearted like the song entitled, "Two Fina Coladas." Others take a more emotional stance like: "You Move Me," and "Fit For A King." Plus, there are also the typical Garth rock-influence songs like "Do What You Gonna Do," and "Take The Keys From My Heart."

This album is just 14 new songs that give a fresh new twist to the growing range in the country music industry. There are still the songs with a strong influence of steel guitars and twin fiddles, but the lyrics seem to come away from that and what you hear is just the great stories and two-steppin' bear. The album starts off strong and fast then over the next 13 songs brings you to a relaxing state.

Sevens has sold over 800,000 copies in two weeks. This album has been predicted to out-sell all of Garth's previous albums, and it should. Brooks has made good on his two-year-old promise to deliver a new album. Sevens is four-star quality from start to finish.

Metallica
Reload
Elektra

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

That's the best rating I can scrounge. And the haitie comes only out of respect for this former metal monster that was Metallica. I bocked every-where on this album for some small glimpse of hope that it was worth more, that the rumors of a Metallica return-to-form were true. Unfortunately, the only return to anything on this album is a return to Metallica (Black Album) for some repetative lyrics from "The Unforgiven." Yes, there is an "Unforgiven II." Sigh. I'll try to avoid the obvious "firing blanks" jokes that Metallica has walked into with this one.

Let's pretend for a moment that the first sounds on the CD are not James Hetfield growling "Gimme fuel, gimme fire, gimme that which I desire." Let's pretend we can overlook yet another Bob Rock (of ever-nostalgic Motley Crue Dr. Feelgoood fame) interference. Let's ignore how many lyrics and/or song titles from previous albums get incorporated into current "new" songs. Let's pretend this "effort" contains some element of the primal and altogether awesome power that "The Band From Faminely Known as Metallics used to possess. Let's pretend this two halflength maximum hasn't become an embarassing reality since Metallica. And let's forget completely about the shock-ing similarity between the layouts of Load and Reload.

If you can do at least this much (spaced parentheses telling you more), you've got yourself an excellent Metallica album. But if you're like me, you'd rather live in reality than try to make believe in something that is screaming at you "This is AWFUL!"

I have to say if of the best metal band to emerge from this disc's symphony of '97 and '98, but this may be taken on Reload: don't buy it and don't even borrow it from your friends.

Possible titles for future Metallica albums: Goodbye Baby Twelve, Radio Killed 'emAll, or maybe just simply Reload. Mushtinks the producer doth long for another Grammy too much.
Men’s Hoops Trounce Cornerstone after Falling to GVSU at Van Andel
Saints Finish Third in Annual Tourney

by Andrew Pieper
Times Assistant Editor

In basketball, the outcome truly is a matter of how the ball bounces. After a miserable shooting performance in a loss to Grand Valley State during the first round of the Old Kent Classic Nov. 28 and 29, the Aquinas men’s basketball team found their stroke in the consolation game against league rival Cornerstone.

Led by junior forward Nsahume Hickman’s 22 points, Aquinas defeated the Golden Eagles 83-62, to bring home the third-place trophy. After falling behind early to the Eagles, a Mike Jackson lay-up with 14:47 left in the first half put the Aquinas men’s basketball team Old Kent Classic Nov. 28 and 29, claiming the Old Kent Classic first-place trophy.

Aquinas shot 49.1% from the field, and a lowly 12.5% from beyond the 3-point arc. The Lakers were able to connect on nine 3-pointers, while Aquinas was held to only two.

“We obviously shot the ball better against Cornerstone than we did against Grand Valley,” said coach Rick Altbo. “But frankly, the biggest difference between the games is that we moved better with and without the basketball.”

Other tournament action at the Van Andel included Hope devouring Grand Valley in the championship game, 77-68, claiming the Old Kent Classic first-place trophy.

The Lakers won the first ever Old Kent Classic, beating Aquinas 73-63 in last year’s championship game.

Exactly what the Trainer Ordered

by Leslie Palmer
Times Contributing Writer

If you’ve ever been to an Aquinas home athletic event, you’ve probably seen a woman with a dog close to the sidelines. Usually, the woman and dog are surrounded by a small crowd of people.

More often than not, this is the Aquinas Head Athletic Trainer JoAnne Gorant and her dog “Tango” surrounded by student trainers.

Ever wonder why the training room in the fieldhouse is such a popular place to hangout? Each day at the fieldhouse, the training room seems to be just crawling with students. Granted, many of them are seeking treatment or fulfilling student training hours, but many of them are there to just “visit.”

There is one main reason for all the attention the training room gets, and that is JoAnne.

JoAnne (Winters) Gorant was born and raised in Gothen, Indiana. She attended Ball State University with an intended double major in Sports Psychology and Journalism.

As many college students do, Gorant changed her major to Physical Therapy once she realized that she had already completed most of the physical therapy requirements.

She graduated from Ball State University in 1986 and went on to Miami of Ohio University for her masters which she finished in 1988.

From there, Gorant worked as the Head Athletic Trainer for Grand Rapids Central High School for four years. She also has worked under contract with Nova Care as a Physical Therapist.

Three years ago, in 1995, she came to improve Aquinas. JoAnne Gorant examined senior Brandon Lowe.

Head Athletic Trainer JoAnne Gorant is responsible for evaluating and treating athletic injuries for all sports. She also refers students to outside physicians when needed and provides yearly physicals. For the athletes with various injuries who need rehabilitation, Gorant creates rehab plans that include strength and conditioning activities.

Gorant is also responsible for the many student trainers who seem to spend the majority of their academic life in the fieldhouse. Each one of them has to put in at least 1500 hours in the training room before they can get their degree.

For Gorant, this is one of the most enjoyable parts of her job. She really likes working with the student trainers and feels that she is able to play a role in their early careers.

The student trainers feel the same way about Gorant. To them, she is a role model and a friend.

“It’s a lot of fun,” said first year student trainer Tim Caswell.

“JoAnne has brought a bright new atmosphere to Aquinas sports medicine field. That’s something that was not here before Joanne came.”

Last May, Joanne Winters was married to Jim Gorant. When Gorant is not spending time at the fieldhouse or in the classroom, she and her husband enjoy golfing, traveling, mountain biking and attending sporting events.

College Football Bowl Game Schedule

Bowl Date Teams

Las Vegas Dec. 20 Air Force (10-2) vs. Oregon (6-5)  
Aloha Dec. 25 Michigan State (7-4) vs. Washington (7-4)  
Motor City Dec. 26 Marshall (10-2) vs. Mississippi (7-4)  
Heritage Dec. 27 South Carolina St. (9-2) vs. Southern (10-1)  
Insight.com Dec. 27 Arizona (6-5) vs. New Mexico (9-3)  
Independence Dec. 28 Notre Dame (7-5) vs. LSU (8-3)  
Humanitarian Dec. 29 Utah State (6-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4)  
Carquest Dec. 29 Georgia Tech (6-5) vs. West Virginia (7-4)  
Holiday Dec. 29 Missouri (7-4) vs. Colorado State (10-2)  
Alamo Dec. 30 Oklahoma State (8-3) vs. Purdue (8-3)  
Sun Dec. 31 Arizona State (8-3) vs. Iowa (7-4)  
Liberty Dec. 31 Southern Miss (8-3) vs. Georgia (9-2)  
Fiesta Dec. 31 Kansas State (10-1) vs. Syracuse (9-3)  
Sugar Jan. 1 Florida State (10-1) vs. Ohio State (10-2)  
Outback Jan. 1 Wisconsin (8-4) vs. Georgia (9-2)  
Gator Jan. 1 North Carolina (10-1) vs. Virginia Tech (7-4)  
Florida Citrus Jan. 1 Penn State (9-2) vs. Florida (9-2)  
Cotton Jan. 1 UCLA (9-2) vs. Texas A&M (9-3)  
Rose Jan. 1 Michigan (11-0) vs. Washington St. (10-1)  
Peach Jan. 2 Clemson (7-4) vs. Auburn (9-3)  
Orange Jan. 2 Nebraska (12-0) vs. Tennessee (11-1)
December 10, 1997

Hot Shots: After Slow Start Women’s Basketball
Turns up the Heat

by Alan Plum
Times Sports Editor

Some college basketball statistics if you will. Let’s say 2,777 yards rushing on 489 carries. That equals a 6.2 yards per carry average. How many touchdowns did the team score? None. But what does that equal? 6.2 Touchdowns per carry average. Lawrence Phillips accomplished that in less than three seasons at the University of Nebraska. Most of this however was recorded before the law ever factored into Phillips’ life.

Some law problem statistics if you will. During his junior season at Nebraska, Phillips was accused of assaulting a former girlfriend of his. He ended up pleading no contest and was sentenced to a one year probation. Still, the star RB was taken with the sixth overall pick by the St. Louis Rams in the 1996 NFL draft. Since then he was arrested for drunk driving in the state of California, which led to a 23 day jail sentence this past March. On Nov. 20 he was waived when he skipped a Rams’ team meeting and practice. This week he signed with the Miami Dolphins. This most recent Phillips incident raised two questions. What is the problem with Phillips? How many chances can you give a guy with a history like this? After all, he was given a chance to play big time college football, and here given a second chance after the assault charges, then a third chance after the DWI, and now another chance with another team. Bring on the outside, I can’t possibly know exactly what’s going on with Phillips to make him act this way, but from a glance, he appears to be pretty well off. Excluding all of his dazzling college numbers, he was the taken extrememly high in the NFL draft and made a lot of money. He had received this despite the assault charges which caused him to miss a good portion of his junior season and promoting him to forge his senior season. He had a father figure coach in the Rams’ Dick Vermeil, and finally he was the team’s leading rusher with 633 yards in 11 games.

A big problem in that Phillips was slapped on the wrist in terms of law enforcement. If there were stiffer penalties, maybe mishaps could be prevented. Everyone should be responsible for their actions. Sure, Phillips is 22 years old with a world of expectations and pressure on his shoulders, but how did he handle the pressure before his junior year of college? Everybody faces some degree of pressure in some points in their lifetimes. Is there an exact moment in which he broke down, or was he always troubled? If Phillips wasn’t a phenomenal football player, would he have got ten off so lightly on the charges? Everybody deserves another chance, but he’s quickly using up his. The assault charge was bad enough, but then the DWI arrest and finally leaving the team with whom he was contractually obligated is unacceptable. He made himself unwanted.

This was in the running back’s hands more or less because he chose to break team rules. I believe that he was counselled thoroughly after the assault charges, but you can’t help somebody who doesn’t want to be helped. What now for the troubled but potentially great running back?

He is now playing for Miami coach Jimmy Johnson, who is well known for taking unwanted players. Maybe Phillips will come into his own under Johnson. Then again may be not.

For Johnson’s sake, the Dolphins sake, and most of all for Phillips’ sake, let’s hope that there aren’t as many places to get in trouble in Miami as there are in Lincoln and Saint Louis. Last time I checked though, Miami wasn’t the type of oasis that is called for in this situation. I think that the oasis is a new found safety for the young man. This probably means some time away from football and getting this help that is needed.

Phillips Puts the Law in Lawrence

with JUSTIN SMITH

Sports Commentary

With concentration and expectations have become much more defined. We do have the luxury of experience that will allow us to bring our younger players along in a comfortable manner,” she added.

Nash also emphasized that the season is still very young. “It’s actually very exciting, because I don’t think we’ve reached our full potential,” she said.

Nicole Miehlke, a sophomore from Michigan, also made the Grand Rapids Press Tourney. Forster was also named to the All Tournament Team at the Grand Rapids Press Tourney.

For the women’s basketball team, fish might have been a more appropriate Thanksgiving leftover. After all, the Grand Rapids Press Tournament hosted by Aquinas over Thanksgiving weekend was definitely a story of the one that got away. Unfortunately, the Saints were the ones who let the fish off the hook.

The Saints didn’t leave the weekend empty handed though, as they rebounded from an agonizing 75-72 loss to Lake Superior State on Friday to post a 72-49 victory over Alma on Saturday.

The loss to Lake Superior State was frustrating, considering that the Saints overcame two double digit leads in the second half to pull within three of the Lakers. The second comeback occurred with under three minutes to play as the Saints, trailing by 12 with 2:50 remaining, clawed to within three seconds left.

It was definitely a game of missed opportunities, especially for the Saints who stumbled their way to 25 turnovers while shooting only 52 percent (13-25) from the charity stripe. Poor foul shooting was instrumental in the Saints comebacks, as Lake State went 1-4 in the last 43 seconds.

Perhaps the free throw line was too close for the Saints who had relied on the hot shooting from junior Carmen DeCook and senior Jen Forkner, who combined to hit six from deep, and scored eight of the Saints final 10 points. Obviously the Saints can light it up, and coach Linda Nash believes the Saints are at their best when they open it up. "With the 30 second shot clock (changed from 35) we’ve tried to stress that double digit leads can disappear like that," she said.

To score points, though, you need the ball, which is why Nash says the turn overs need to be eliminated. Through their first seven games the Saints had turned the ball over 151 times, averaging almost 22 a game. "I think its basically a problem with concentration and consistency," she said. "We just need to learn to take better care of the ball."

Consistency also had been hurting the Saints at the foul line. A day after their horrid 13 of 25 performance, the Saints combined to sink 19 of 23 attempts for 82 percent in the 23 point win over Alma College.

“I think we have the potential to be a good foul-shooting team, but again we just need to concentrate," Nash added.

Against Alma, the Saints once again received strong play off the bench from Miehlke who grabbed 16 rebounds and dropped in 15 points. Miehlke, who along with Forkner, was named to the All Tournament Team, averaged a double-double for the weekend averaging 13 points and 12.5 rebounds. The Saints managed nearly 20 points a game for the tournament while shooting an amazing nine of 17 from three point range.

The Saintsput the pressure on the as a Lake Superior State player controls the ball.

Photo by Andy Paper

The Saints were instrumental in the Saints comebacks, as Lake State went 1-4 in the last 43 seconds.
It's Time to Deck the Malls

by Amy Briggs
Times Contributing Writer

Does West Michigan need another mall? This is a popular question during the holiday season and year-round in Grand Rapids. Are we really a region fixed on commerce? Is shopping about to become the favorite local pastime? On the other hand, do we want to put up with the hassle of overcrowded stores and too small parking lots? A new mall is slated for construction in Grandville, and its implementation has stirred up both positive and negative emotional responses from West Michigan residents.

“We need another mall,” says self-proclaimed “frequent shopper” Peggy Post. “Grandville’s a good site. It will divert traffic from 28th Street.” But Harlan Rothechild, mall-walker at the Rogers Plaza Mall does not agree.

“There are too many malls already in this area,” says Rothechild. “Life’s not about credit cards.”

Perhaps your outlook on the mall issue depends on whether you are a shopper, a store owner or a Grandville resident. “No. All I can say is ‘no’,” states lifetime Grandville resident. “Noel.” The Christmas meal is an important family gathering with good meat and the best wine. In Belgium, small family presents are placed under the tree or in stockings near the fireplace, to be found Christmas morning.

Americans tend to vary within their families as to traditions. Sophomore Brigid Avery celebrates in a unique way. "Every year [my family] watches National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation while decorating the Christmas tree. We've watched it so many times that I have the entire movie memorized," Avery said.

Shoppers at Woodland Mall are willing to brave the lines in order to tell their wishes to Santa.

Photo by Carlton Henry

'Tis the Season: Christmas Traditions Explored

by Thomas Kustrzyk
Times Contributing Writer

So what are you going to do for Christmas? For all Christians, Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, but there are different methods of celebrating this special time throughout the world. Christmas is full of beautiful and meaningful symbols, but do we even consider the reasons for the many different Christmas traditions?

One very common figure in Christmas traditions is Santa Claus. The character of Santa Claus is based on Saint Nicholas, an archbishop in 4th century Myra, who was devoted to good deeds and gift-giving. These Christmas gifts symbolize the gifts given by the Magi to the baby Jesus.

Across the globe, Christmas traditions show both great variety and striking similarity. Germans love to decorate their houses at Christmas. Father Christmas brings presents in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve. The presents are then found under the Christmas tree when families return from mass. On Christmas Day, fish (carp) or goose will be cooked.

In Portugal, Father Christmas brings presents to children on Christmas Eve. A special Christmas meal of salted dry cod-fish with boiled potatoes is eaten at midnight on Christmas Eve.

In Sweden, the most important day is Christmas Eve. A special Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Eve — ham, herring, and brown bread. This is the time when families give presents to each other. Many people attend a church meeting early on Christmas Day.

In France, Christmas is called “Noël.” The Christmas meal is an important family gathering with good meat and the best wine. In Belgium, small family presents are placed under the tree or in stockings near the fireplace, to be found Christmas morning.

Americans tend to vary within their families as to traditions. Sophomore Brigid Avery celebrates in a unique way. "Every year [my family] watches National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation while decorating the Christmas tree. We've watched it so many times that I have the entire movie memorized," Avery said.

by Thomas Kustrzyk and Heather M. Karal
Times Contributing Writer and Features Editor

Don't look now, but Christmas isn't the only holiday this season. Also occurring during winter months are the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah and the African-American holiday of Kwanzaa.

Often overshadowed by Christmas, the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, also known as the “Festival of Lights” is celebrated for eight days. It is a time to relax with family and friends and celebrate the warm traditions.

Hanukkah is a holiday commemorating the victory of the Maccabees, a Jewish people, over the Syrian Greeks in 165 B.C.

While Jews exchange gifts and donate to the poor during the holiday, the central act of celebration at Hanukkah is the kindling of lights in an eight-branched candelabrum with a ninth candle raised above the others in the center called a shamash. This is used to light the other candles. This raised candle is what makes a hanukkah, or Hanukkah menorah distinct.

On the first evening of Hanukkah, the far right candle is lit and, on each successive night, another candle is added.

Hanukkah is full of various traditions and symbols. Aquinas Education professor and practicing Jew, Dr. Shirley Lewis, explains that the lights on the menorah represent the miracle, that, though there was only enough oil left to light the temple for one night, it lasted for eight days. A common tradition is the dreidel game, a four-sided top that is spun. There are also a variety of food traditions. In the U.S., many Jews eat latkes, a potato dish, during Hanukkah.

Lewis stated that, although it is one of the best known holidays by Christians, “Hanukkah is actually a very minor holiday. The only reason it's so hyped up is because it's so close to Christmas.” The most important holidays in the Jewish faith are actually Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Another holiday that falls close to Christmas is Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a seven-day celebration that pays tribute to the strength of history, heritage, and spirit of African Americans. The holiday is observed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. Stella Ferris, Director of Aquinas' Multicultural Department explained that the holiday "celebrates the seven virtues that strengthen family and community.”

According to Ferris, each day of the celebration, “a candle is lit on a kanura, which is similar to the Jewish menorah.” The candles represent the following seven principles: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work And Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. Kwanzaa celebrates each principle.

Though there are many differing traditions during the holiday season, remarkably everyone seems to celebrate with their own family, friends, and share in one's generosity and love.