by Melissa Ann Plane
Times Contributing Writer

Centuries ago, world explorers returned home with treasures of gold and precious gems. In the spirit of earlier explorers, three Aquinas faculty have returned after a summer exploration in Ghana bearing treasures of their own.

Glen Barkan, Chair of the Political Science Department, Michaelene Kelly, Professor of Philosophy and Kurt Kaiser, Professor of Fine Arts, traveled to the west coast African country as part of a joint travel group funded by a grant from Fulbright. Educators from St. Andrews, Grand Valley State University, and the Grand Rapids Public Schools joined the Aquinas professors for the mid-summer visit. During their month-long stay, the group attended lectures, visited local schools and participated in various cultural events.

"The purpose was to learn as much about it as we could, then come back and teach our students," said See "Ghana" Page 3

Damon Bouwkamp and Danielle Johnson have been crowned 1998-99 Homecoming King and Queen for Aquinas College. The King received a medallion while the Queen was adorned with a crown and bouquet of roses by the 1997-98 royals, Matthew Flannigan and Stephanie Fochtman. The announcement was made after the women's soccer game at 3 p.m. Saturday, September 19.

Upon being crowned Queen, a tearful and emotional Johnson attempted to describe how she felt. "I'm happy, thrilled, honored and speechless—and that doesn't happen that often," she said. "It's nice to know that the students feel that I'm a good model for Aquinas."

Johnson is completing a major in Communications Arts and serves as the Chair of the Community Senate.

Bouwkamp, majoring in Business Administration and Sports Management, was honored to be elected King as a junior. "I always thought it was a 'senior' thing," he said. "It's overwhelming but it feels really good." Bouwkamp expressed his gratitude by saying, "I'd like to thank everybody and congratulate the rest of the Court."

The newly crowned, 1998 Homecoming Queen and King Danielle Johnson and Damon Bouwkamp enjoy the moment. Photo by Angela Barnes

Everyone was given an opportunity to share their memories of Dr. Early.

When the service was over a red horse chestnut tree was dedicated in his honor on the east side of the Art and Music Center. Father Dan Davis blessed the tree, and those in attendance sang, "When, in Our Music, God Is Glorified!"

Dr. Early, who received his Bachelors of Arts from Albion College and both his Masters and Doctorate from Michigan State University, began teaching at Aquinas in 1971. He taught music theory, composition, instrumental methods and twentieth century popular music. He gave many students their start and was instrumental in bringing young people to the world of professional music. Early started the Aquinas jazz band and a high school summer jazz camp, and he began a yearly jazz concert which has become a Homecoming Weekend tradition. This year, the concert was held as a tribute to Dr. Early.

Twenty-five years ago, Early started the Jazz Festival which has attracted groups from colleges in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Texas and Pennsylvania. Over the years he earned a reputation as a fabulous pianist and trombone chair. Barbara McCargar, chair of the Aquinas College Music Department, studied with Dr. Early in the late `70s. She remembers him as being "a very energetic man. Some would even say he was hyper. He was always moving."

While in college, Dr. Early toured with many big bands and worked as a professional in Switzerland, England, Ireland, Germany and Scandinavia. In recent years, he and his group, "The Bruce Early Orchestra" played back up for many big name jazz singers when they visited West Michigan.

Dr. Early made many significant contributions to Aquinas College during his 27 years here, and he will surely be missed.
Common Sense, Humorous Approach to Relationships
by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

A fifty-year-old Jewish woman from Brooklyn intended to marry an aspiring Irish-Catholic priest at the age of 18. Could she legitimately give relationship advice to a group of 50 college students? Ellen Gootblatt, former ABC radio talk show host, did, and they listened.

Gootblatt captivated the lunchtime audience in the Wege Ballroom on September 19, with her humor and her dynamism. She adamantly demanded complete attention to the topic, "Sex, Passion, and Intimacy." "I'm very proud of what I do," she said, "And I'm very high class." This marks Gootblatt's third time speaking at Aquinas. She attended Brooklyn College and Long Island University, obtained graduate degrees in guidance and counseling and taught for 22 years at Harlem Junior and Senior High Schools.

Programming Board sponsored the lecture. Advisor and Student Development Representative, Kelly Hildebrand, explained, "Basically her topic and her style of presenting the topic is appropriate at a Catholic college. We thought her talk would enlighten students on what healthy relationships are about." Discussion focused on Gootblatt's "17 Commandments for Good Relationships." She emphasized maintaining high self-esteem, seeking a standard of excellence and distinguishing "inherently good" relationships from the "inherently bad." "Relationships are meant to be easy," she taught, "but when a relationship is inherently good and you assume similar lifetime goals, have the absolute commitment to make the relationship work."

Gootblatt held firm and conservative conviction on the issue of sex, yet felt her views reflected common sense. She especially addressed virginity by saying, "There is nothing more honorable than honoring a vow to yourself...don't change your vow to make it convenient." A distinction was made between "performers" and "lovers." Gootblatt advised listeners to pursue intimacy in ways that are not purely physical. "The sexiest aphrodisiac," Gootblatt revealed, is "shared history and continuity with one person."

Sophomore Mary Maguyr felt that the session offered guidelines for future relationships and explained why past relationships failed. "She gave you a foothold on what to look for in relationships and understanding on how important strong, fulfilling relationships are for a long time..." Freshmen Vicki Hargrader and Shannon Eggbechert agreed with Gootblatt. "I think that it is awesome to make yourself fabulous before entering a relationship," Eggbechert said. Hargrader added, "I was definitely worth the time."

Gootblatt has two tapes available for sale, "Men Are Worth the Trouble," and "Meeting, Dating, Relating, and Mating." They can be ordered by writing to: Ellen Gootblatt, P.O. Box 241, Planitarium Station, New York, NY, 10024.

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"Ghana" Cont'd from Page 1

Barkan, "Report From Ghana," the first in the Aquinas Lecture Series for the 1998-99 academic year, was held in the Ballroom Tuesday, September 15. The lecture was an opportunity for the Aquinas trio to share their treasures of knowledge and experience with the Aquinas community.

Kelly spoke about the attitudes and traditions of the Ghanaian people. Her observations included such Christian missionaries on the culture. "The Ghanaians see themselves as essentially religious," she said. "For them, there is no clear line between the spiritual and the physical."

Michaelene also articulated the importance of ethnic identity and ancestors in the Ghanaian culture. Next, Barkan's narrative slide show illustrated the daily life and culture of this English-speaking country. Observations he shared were on the friendliness of the children, the importance of physical touch and the problem of traffic. Pictures also highlighted special events of the trip, including a visit to a gold mine, a canopy walk half a mile above the forest and a visit to a slave trading post. Finally, Kaiser shared slides of art within Ghana's culture, highlighting the native art of mask making.

The professors are now integrating their experience and knowledge into curricula to share with students. "I will be teaching Global Explorations in the spring and I will add some Ghana to that," said Barkan. "Also, in my Urban Geography class, I’ve talked about their problems. In Africa, in general, people are facing the rural areas to go to the cities."

This flight to the cities described by Barkan has led to overcrowding, especially in schools. The group found the student-to-teacher ratio to be around 60:1 in most schools. Further, the schools lack books and supplies. There is a great need for support to students who are responsible for their own uniforms, school supplies, and even desk and chair before they are allowed to enroll.

The Aquinas faculty members reported that they were grateful for the treasures that they received. To reciprocate, the professors hope to support a Ghanaian school that shares the Aquinas name. This is yet another example of the Aquinas community reaching beyond the bounds of the immediate local area in order to explore, experience and assist the world beyond our own.
Aquinas College Homecoming weekend was packed with various activities and exciting events for alumni, faculty, students and families alike. Both Saturday and Sunday were planned to accommodate all who were present and show off the spirit, beauty and pride of AQ. The purpose of Homecoming, to promote these attributes, was more than evident for the beautiful weekend.

Saturday, September 19 at 9 a.m., the Centipede Shuffle started at the Field House. The contest kicked off the day's events. The Centipede Shuffle was an exciting five-person race that required teamwork and creativity in order to race linked teams through the mile and a half course.

The fastest men's, women's, co-ed, most spirited and most creative teams received awards for being most creative and most spirited respectively.

Food booths, sponsored by organizations including program houses and service learning provided snacks and drinks on the hot day. Not only did they provide the snacks but also used the opportunity to promote their programs with pictures and information. For the music lovers, "The Tent," located next to the soccer field in East Area, featured live music from 1 to 9 p.m. The AQ Jazz Ensemble played an especially entertaining afternoon set. "It was really jazzy, it made me feel like I was in a New York cabaret. I kept waiting for Frank Sinatra to bust out a rhyme," said Alyssa Espinosa.

The Shade of Life, the Most Creative Team race for the finish line of the Centipede Shuffle.

Winners included the following: Red-Riders for fastest co-ed team, Rainbow Bright for fastest women's team, Black Blood for men's fastest. Teams named Travel in Time and Scrubs received awards for being most creative and most spirited respectively.

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Time Travelers, the Most Creative Team race for the finish line of the Centipede Shuffle.

Winners included the following: Red-Riders for fastest co-ed team, Rainbow Bright for fastest women's team, Black Blood for men's fastest. Teams named Travel in Time and Scrubs received awards for being most creative and most spirited respectively.
Republicans Gear Up for November Election

by Bridget Kent
Times contributing Writer

Downtown Grand Rapids has un­
dergone $672 million worth of im­
provements and additions in the last decade, and it's about to see at least $185 million more.

New research facilities, health-care centers, retail shops and entertainment venues are among the projects city residents can look for in the next three years.

The Van Andel Institute for Edu­
cation and Medi­
cal Research tops the list of construc­
tion projects for this year. The pri­
vately funded in­
itute will occupy 1.4 acres on the northeast corner of Division Avenue and Crescent St. The $100 million, 200,000-­square-foot corpo­
rate building will cost $50 million to build. It will in­
clude research labs, conference rooms, an auditori­um and winter gardens.

Plans also include a 400,000 square feet ex­
pansion over the next ten years, with estimated costs of more than $200 million.

St. Mary's Health Services has taken on a $50 million campus­
renovation program. This renewal program means an expansion of the main hospital, a new physi­
cians' office building, a parking deck, and an underground tunnel linking the Health and Learning Center to the main campus. The project should be finished by the summer of 1999.

Another project which has caught the attention of many city­goers is the Mackie's World, the nation's first mall designed specifically for kids.

Deputy City Manager James Knack stressed, in the 1998­99 Grand Rapids City Guide, the im­
portance of variety in the many proj­ects downtown. "These are all very important to create a diversity of at­traction," he said. "That's clearly a trend, a very important trend."

By 2001, Grand Rapids will see the largest planned development in the city's history. The $40 mil­lion Cherry Street Landing will consist of 12 buildings on Ionia Avenue and Cherry Street, just south of Van Andel Arena. The buildings will be a mix of new architecture and century­old build­ings containing restaurants, enter­tainment, offices, apartments and townhouses.

Peter Secchia, Chairman of the Board for Universal Forest Products, is part of the effort to fix old buildings. He is currently working on 14 downtown projects. As former U.S. Ambassador to Italy, Secchia brings with him knowledge gained abroad. "While in Europe," he said, "we learned the center of a city is the heart of cultural activity." His mission is to buy vacant build­ings in disrepair, and put people in them. He says that the city of Grand Rapids has been very cooperative with his mission of UFP for which he works.

Finally, the streets of downtown Grand Rapids have been undergoing some work. Ottawa Project, which began last July, will be completed late next month. The area of repair is Ottawa Avenue northeast, between Michigan Avenue and Fountain Street. The $2.14 million project, funded mostly by the city, is intended to help the city to replace pavement, repair and replace old electrical wiring, replace the storm sewer and fix water piping. City, state and federal funds will pay for this project.

Clearly, residents will see big changes in downtown Grand Rapids and its surrounding areas.

To find out more about the city and its coming attractions, visit the Grand Rapids Area Web Site at http://www.mswco.com/wmich/wmich.htm.

Aquinas Students Study in Montana

by Lorena Aguyon
Times Contributing Writer

This year Aquinas College of­
fered a brand new cultural imm­
eration program focusing on service learn­
ing components in Montana. Dr. Michael Denty, along with thir­
teen students from Aquinas, is spending the first semester on Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

The reservation is 25 miles from Browning, Montana. It is adjacent to Glacier National Park on the west and bordered by Alberta, Canada to the north.

Students will experience living in tee­pees for several weeks until they finish building log houses.

The houses are to have all the basic necessities such as electric­
ity and heat. Bathrooms, however, are outdoors.

Students take three different courses focusing on Native American culture and literature at the Spirit Talk Institute. Course A is Spiritual Tradition and Belief of the Plains Indians instructed by Long Standing­Bear Chief. The purpose of the course is to educate students on Native American val­ues and beliefs from a Native American perspective with special emphasis on the Blackfoot Indi­ans. Dr. Denty teaches course B, Native American Literature, spe­cializing in Blackfoot myths and legends. Mrs. Cindy Doree, from Montana State University, will teach course C, Natural History of Montana. Her focus is on Northern Rockies and the Northern Plains.

Classroom learning is coupled with service learning projects. Some students will tutor elemen­
tary or middle school children or those preparing to take the GED. Others will work tracking wild­life with the Blackfoot Fish and Wildlife Service. Students can earn up to twelve credits for the courses and service learning projects.

There are also numerous field trips offered. Students have the opportunity to visit the Heads-­Smashed-In­Buffalo Jump, an interpretive center in Piegan, Alberta, Canada. There is a trip to dinosaur fossil excavation sites in Chouteau, Montana and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Montana.

Kris Lou, Aquinas' new Assis­tant Dean of International and Cul­
tural Studies is pleased to see stu­
dents taking advantage of the semester­long trips offered by Aquinas. "We see a program like this just as effective as a study abroad trip," she said.

Lou. Students left Aquinas by train for Montana on September 8 and will return December 15.
Two girls stand in front of a full-length mirror. One sees a reflection of a girl in a bright blue bikini with diagonal stripes. She frowns while adjusting the suit and trying different poses to appear thinner in the mirror. "Blah, Gross," she says, kneeling the dimples on her thighs. Nearby, another girl is standing in front of a mirror, except she sees a reflection of a girl in jeans, hiking boots and a cream-colored wool sweater. Instead of feeling self-conscious, she admires her outfit and walks away without her self-esteem being damaged. Both girls are now asked to take a math test. Nearly every time, the girl in the sweater will get a higher score, say results of a recent experiment by researchers at the University of Michigan and Duke University. These findings are only one part of the experiment on self-objectification, which is how people measure their self-worth after comparing their physical appearance against beauty standards of today's society.

Other parts of the experiment included having both male and female students wear either a swim suit during a math test. My mind would be on the beach." She frowns while adjusting the suit and frowns at the image of women changes and low-cut, that can have this effect. She continued, "Any clothing or circumstance that make a woman feel self-conscious about how she looks to others, even if she thinks she looks great, might reduce the mental energy she brings to demanding tasks."

Aquinis psychology professor Lorraine Straw agrees with the experiment on self-objectification, which is how people measure their self-worth after comparing their physical appearance against beauty standards of today's society.

Lorraine Straw agrees with the experiment on self-objectification, which is how people measure their self-worth after comparing their physical appearance against beauty standards of today's society. She added, "The image of women changes a lot from decade to decade but it's always demeaning in some way." Straw also said that girls who actually are pleased with themselves are somewhat put down. "There's an underlying assumption that if you see yourself in a positive way, then you're bucking the system."

Gurzynski commented that she wishes women today could rid themselves of the stigma of having to conform to society's standards. She said, "Girls, in general, let their happiness depend too much on what others think, instead of how they truly feel about their bodies."

Straw concurred, "Girls are taught to deviate themselves by society, their families, the media, each other." She added, "The image of women changes a lot from decade to decade but it's always demeaning in some way.

Straw said, "You're not in context. It's your body, that's all that matters." In a quote to the Times, Fazil allegedly drove a white pickup truck to the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. Haroun Fazil, the third suspect charged in the August 7 bombing, Fazil charged in U.S. Embassy bombing. A fugitive from the Comoros Islands was charged September 17 with murdering 12 Americans in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. Haroun Fazil, the third suspect charged in the August 7 bombing, helping plan the attack and rented a vehicle and rolled onto the shoulder. Doctors found no injuries that could cause permanent damage. The windows were shattered, doctors found no injuries that could cause permanent damage. The windows were shattered.

She was only hours old and her umbilical cord was still attached. Police believe the baby was tossed from a moving vehicle and rolled onto the shoulder. Doctors found no injuries that could cause permanent damage. A Pittsburgh-area couple who had already gone through pre-adoption screenings were notified that they were taking a baby home when they were ready.

A newborn baby girl found on the Pennsylvania turnpike September 16 is getting a new family. The child, called Baby Jane Doe, was found crying, cut and bruised along the turnpike about ten miles north of Pittsburgh. She was only hours old and her umbilical cord was still attached. Police believe the baby was tossed from a moving vehicle and rolled onto the shoulder. Doctors found no injuries that could cause permanent damage.

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Point/Counterpoint

September 23, 1998

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Point

Just What the Doctor Ordered?

by Angela Bergman

Times Campus News Editor

New research and developments in science have enabled consumers to explore a vast array of choices in daily life. Now we will have the power to conveniently choose the sex—and eventually the genetic characteristics—of our children.

The female chromosome contains more genetic material than the male chromosome. This allows scientists to sort through sperm cells by staining and viewing them under a fluorescent light. Scientists can then choose sperm cells with more DNA if a female is desired, and less DNA if a male is desired. The results of research and experimentation are not yet verified.

Determining the future composition of the human race is not equivalent to a decision about whether to wear glasses, contacts or have vision correction surgery. No one, including the scientist, has the right to select the sex or genetic characteristics of another unique individual.

Disrupting the balance in nature will have grave and irrevocable consequences. There is not a corrective mechanism in place to prevent the selection of all male children or an over-abundance of people with the most fashionable physical features. Once sex selection and genetic maneuvering are common, it will be difficult to return to a system of natural progression.

The question of sex selection has additional moral and ethical implications. Primarily, people cannot be trusted to make decisions that are so critical to human survival. Power has the potential to be abused in responding to societal and cultural pressures. For example, the Chinese typically place more value on male children as a result of China's one-child policy.

Female children will not even have a chance to be born if sex selection is allowed. Ethnic and now gender-cleansing will take on a whole new meaning, for it will be accomplished in the confines of the laboratory.

Science is not always flawless. What happens if a mistake is made while flirting with the genetic process? The mistake may be major, and inadvertently create a child with a genetic disease or worse. What do we do with the "defect"? Truthfully, there is no predicting for sure what might happen. "Accidents" cannot be tolerated when human dignity and human lives are at stake.

What are we using sex selection to accomplish? It appears that a goal may be to have a happy, diverse family with an equal balance of boys and girls. Sex selection could reduce the number of gender-related diseases, such as hemophilia and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. These are a few benefits, but at an incredible cost.

This new breakthrough in sex selection is not another decision to be taken lightly. We must consider the implications of scientific advancement before we hastily take advantage of them.

Imagine a couple with five sons, trying one more time for a baby girl. Everybody knows someone like this. Chances are they'll have another boy and a really expensive grocery bill, and no little girl to dress up and to talk about things only a mother and daughter can talk about. Now, couples like this can have a better shot making their hopes realities.

The process known as "sperm sifting" allows fertility doctors to sort through male and female-producing sperm by using a fluorescent dye and shining light on them. The ones that are female contain 2.8% more genetic material.

To be sure there are doubts that the process is ethical and safe. These doubts, however, are easily clarified when one weighs the pros against the cons.

First of all, sorting the male and female-causing sperm is safe. Studies show that the dye used to color sperm cells is nontoxic and does not cause DNA mutations. Need less to say, the light shined on them causes no damage either. The process is also no longer experimental. The results are in, and they are good: 11 human babies have been born after first being sorted, not to mention 400 animals. All were perfectly healthy.

Before we jump the gun on ethical and "tampering" concerns, we should stop and think about the relief that this would give to pre-parents. Not only does sex-selection help parents who want to choose a certain gender for their family planning, but it also helps at-risk parents avoid genetic disorders in their children.

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Counterpoint

Sex selection also helps at-risk parents avoid genetic disorders in their children.

by Heather Young

Times Assistant Editor

Recent breakthroughs in fertility research have enabled doctors to "sperm sift," sorting male producing sperm from those producing female children. If this technology were made available to the public, future parents could target female babies with 85% accuracy and male babies with 65% accuracy.

Summary:

Recent breakthroughs in fertility research have enabled doctors to "sperm sift," sorting male producing sperm from those producing female children. If this technology were made available to the public, future parents could target female babies with 85% accuracy and male babies with 65% accuracy.
Aquinas College is at the adolescent-like stage of not quite being a child and not yet being prepared for an adult world. Aquinas is growing and expanding. Through all of the excitement accompanying growing up, Aquinas caretakers have neglected a serious aspect of the college's development.

The neglected aspect is parking. However, the problem is not simply that the parking conditions on campus are horrid and impossible. Rather the issue is that the administrators did not have the foresight to plan well enough for this crisis.

With the construction, the number parking spaces for students have been drastically cut. No longer are the entire Dominican or Classroom lots accessible to students. Administrators lacked foresight and are only now trying to cope with the problem, but no one has made an effort to act upon the situation yet. Failure to address this problem has led to a cramped campus that is not conducive to the student’s needs.

The construction, combined with the largest student body in Aquinas' history, caused the Aquinas College Campus Safety Office to send out a mailing this summer. This letter asked that cars be brought only if they are needed for an emergency. Despite the pleas, students and cars arrived anyway. So Campus Safety temporarily allowed students to park in lots that were previously off limits.

Plans to knock down Burfeindt Hall and Resident Director Eric Bridge's house will create more parking and ease the problem next year. Until that time the administration has asked the Aquinas community to make the best of the situation.

These solutions do not guarantee that the parking problem will be instantly solved. There were problems even before the construction began, and if the number of students continues to increase as the trend suggests, the problem will worsen. President Knope and Dean of Students Brad Winkler have stated that they are open to suggestions. However, being open to suggestions illustrates little attention was given to the parking problem.

During the day, the onslaught of commuter and continuing education students results in car-lined streets around campus. This has forced many local neighborhoods to go to one hour parking on their streets. Also, those at Aquinas have run into one final problem. Despite the proposed parking lot that will be built next year, Aquinas is out of room. To find the room to accommodate more parking would require destroying the lovely wooded campus that is synonymous with Aquinas'.

There are a few feasible solutions to this dilemma. One, which many students and faculty have discussed, is prohibiting incoming freshmen from having cars on campus. Another idea is to charge students to park on campus. This would free up some parking spaces, and generate money for the College. The final suggestion would be to protect the wooded environment of our campus. Aquinas could begin building up or down by creating multi-level parking structures. They could do this with the anticipated parking lot or on existing parking areas.

Lack of foresight brings discomfort and chaos. This is illustrated by the effects of the current parking situation on campus. When all are affected by the problem, one should consider many options to solve it and approach the issue with an open mind. Clearly, something needs to be done. What seems a matter of inconvenience is rapidly becoming a serious problem.

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

Aquinas Times View:
An Editorial Comment

There are some things that should not be mixed: business with pleasure, chlorine bleach with ammonia and politics with religion. In the 1998 Michigan gubernatorial election, however, religion and politics have been thrown together to create a muddled view of the governor's race.

Of course it's very tempting for the Republican Party especially to use religion to their advantage because their opponent, Geoffrey Fieger, has such a combative history with Michigan's religious leaders over the issue of assisted suicide. In fact, by the middle of August the Republican Party had compiled a list of Fieger's controversial and offensive religious statements, most of which were made during his defense of assisted suicide.

At the same time, some religious leaders who oppose Engler's decrease in state funding of social programs will use their influence to decrease Engler's popularity in their communities.

However, the question remains of whether religion should be a focal issue in a political campaign at all. In a nation that prides itself on religious freedom and diversity, we must remember that an elected official will be expected to represent all of his or her constituents, not just a particular interest group. Therefore, it is not practical to vote for a candidate based on the support of a particular religious group.

This religious diversity is the reason that Americans regard religion as a very personal topic. As a personal and individualized topic, religion stirs strong emotions in people. Like all highly emotional issues, religious arguments can cloud the people's judgment and take attention away from the actual issues. A candidate may hold similar religious views as we do, but will that affect the way that they govern? We must vote for policy and plans as much as we do the person who intends to enact them.

A vote for Engler needs to reflect approval of his past leadership and future visions for our state, not a vote for the image of a good Catholic Christian. A vote for Fieger, should relate to agreement with the changes that he wants to make in the Michigan government, not a vote for someone who takes the view of a religious liberal.

Fieger's criticism comes from both Christians and Jews for the brush statements that he has made about these religions. These statements were made in defense of assisted suicide while Fieger was still serving as Jeff Kevorkian's lawyer. Even though they may reflect a lack of tact, they do not necessarily reflect his ability to lead the government.

The religion that we are raised with helps us to develop a set of values that we apply to every aspect of our lives. This is where the mixing of religion and politics must end. We should vote based on a rational evaluation of the candidates, their platforms, and, most important, their ability to lead within the government.

We can evaluate a candidate by their morals and ethics, but it is best to leave the religious preferences at home when we go to the polls.

From our readers

Dear Aquinas Times:

I would like to say “Thank You!” and “Congratulations!” to the Aquinas Times. I have just finished reading the article “From our readers” by David Flak. What a refreshing! I am a Christian practicing in the Catholic Church and a Theology major searching for faith in the students on this campus. Dave’s article is great by acknowledging, yet not forcing, that the way to live is by our Savior’s example. I don’t know the last time that I have read anything religious orientated in the AQ Times. Maybe I have missed it at past issues, but how could I miss this issue with an article and picture of Fr. Dan on the inside cover, and then on the next page an article about the "In The Name of The Lord" campaign here in the Grand Rapids Diocese.

Not to mention the NEXT page having David’s article. Thumbs up to you, AQ Times Staff and to you Heather Karal! It is high time that Aquinas College serve some recognition to the tradition of the Catholic Church and a Theology major searching for faith in the students on this campus. Dave’s article is great!

In Christ’s name and all glory to Him,

Wendy Bogner
Wireless Green Electrifies Listeners

by Elizabeth Dudok
Times Arts and Entertainment Editor

In a small basement on Diamond Street, walls are lined with carpet and a fluorescent light illuminates the room behind a drum kit. A Wurlitzer piano and other pieces of musical equipment are stationed all around the room. Welcome to the home of Wireless Green.

This is the home of instrumental music that can't be defined in one statement. Run impetuously to your favorite record store and buy the self-titled disc, "Wireless Green." A cornucopia, if you will, of a sound that is a cross between hip-hop, jazz, funk, and everything in between.

Wireless Green, formally known as Baxter, was conceived in a coffee house in 1996 by Chris Nienhuis and Randy Eckhardt as a four-piece group that would feature a "traditional hip hop sound and lyrics with a rap-style delivery." The band began with eight band members and a plethora of instruments and are now scaled down to six members: Erik de Kok, Randy Eckhardt, Bruce James, Chris Nienhuis, Matt Nienhuis and Thad Salter.

"We have a hardcore group of fans," said de Kok. Chris Nienhuis added, "Since we've had a lineup change, the music has gotten better. You can expect the unexpected from us.

In an interview with the Grand Rapids Image, Randy Eckhardt was able to define their music, "Each song sets an atmosphere or a mood. Our listeners envision pictures in their minds, like scenes from a movie, while taking in a song."

How did Wireless Green come up with their name? According to Chris Nienhuis, "We debated for months unsuccessfully. Wireless Green was a combination of several different names we had tossed around. Over a span of two years, Wireless Green has played in Grand Rapids, introduced themselves and their sound in places such as The Intersection Lounge, Sluggo's and the Dugout, Schuler Books and Music and Ten Westen Art Gallery. Playing with other popular bands such as the Drovers and Mustard Plug, fans are able to see the creative juices flowing.

Thirsty for more information? Fans can see this band play at Sluggo's on Tuesday, September 29. For more information, call Sluggo's at 453-5608. For more band information, write to Wireless Green at P.O. Box 68467, Grand Rapids, MI 49516.

A Grand Weekend of Fun, Free Live Music

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Celebration on the Grand stirred things up in downtown Grand Rapids over the weekend. Fans enjoyed two days of free live concerts featuring the talents of Better Than Ezra and The Why Store. Friday night, September 11, began at 5 p.m. with Knee Deep Shag taking the stage for an hour-long set. Domestic Problems followed with yet another hour of great music. During their performance Domestic Problems invited kneed deep Shag onstage with them and the crowd was treated to an impromptu scatting session by Andy Holtgreive (lead singer of Domestic Problems) and Matt Gross (lead singer of Knee Deep Shag).

Better Than Ezra took the stage around 8 p.m. and played to thousands of screaming fans. Crowd surfing and mosh pits were abundant as the U.S. Marines hired for security fought to keep the stage barricades from toppling over Tom Drummond, the bassist for Better Than Ezra, said the crowd was nothing short of "crazy." Better Than Ezra cranked through its set, which included the songs "Good," "Desperately Wanting," and their latest single "One More Murder" during which lead singer Kevin Griffin handed out white carnations to the crowd.

Saturday's musical festivities began at 1 p.m. in Old Town Grand Rapids where a stage had been set up on the cobble stone street. Local talent Paisley Dave, Karmic Milkhouse, Trouf for Trout and 19 Wheels played great sets with tons of energy and enthusiasm. Milkhouse announced that they were going to have a song featured in the next Quentin Tarantino film.

The atmosphere created by the bands was the perfect setting for The Why Store who took the stage at 6:45 p.m. Fans danced, cheered and sang along as The Why Store played for almost two hours. The Why Store's fans were not going to let the band stop playing for long and were able to lure them back on stage for an encore, during which they performed their hit "Lack of Water," and their current single "When You're High." The Why Store played with incredible energy and wowed the crowd with spontaneous jam sessions throughout the concert.

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend of shows. A huge thank you from all in attendance goes out to 97.9 WGRD who sponsored the weekend's musical festivities.
A Times’ Interview With
Kevin Griffin
Lead Singer/Guitarist of Better Than Ezra

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Those students who attended Better Than Ezra’s concert at the Monroe Mall Amphitheater on Friday, September 11, know that the show was incredible. Some also may have noticed that the band didn’t have a place to meet with fans and sign autographs. Meeting up with Better Than Ezra later that night, I had the honor of sitting down with Kevin Griffin for a brief interview at the Intersection Lounge. Here’s what he had to say about the fans, the show, returning to West Michigan and more...

Question: What’s it like to play to such a large audience?
Kevin Griffin: “Huge audiences are always exciting. You never have a chance to get bored. We usually play to about 2,000 people, so this [Celebration on the Grand] was great.”

Q: Did you get to meet a lot of your fans?
KG: “Quite a few. Normally we have a signing afterwards, but there really wasn’t any room here [at the Amphitheater].”

Q: What’s your absolute favorite place to perform?
KG: “That’s a really hard question. Everyplace has something fun. Though there are some places we down right hate playing at. Major cities are fun. We love playing Chicago, New York, Detroit, Seattle. When we get to play small towns, though, is where we meet the most fans. Small towns in the middle of no where have some of the most interesting people.”

Q: You write all of the songs of Better Than Ezra. What would you say is your biggest inspiration?
KG: “Experiences. You’ve got to constantly be experiencing new things.”

Q: Would you ever come back to Grand Rapids or Celebration on the Grand?
KG: “Absolutely. We’d come back for sure. Tonight [September 11] couldn’t have gone more smoothly. It was a blast.”

Q: When are you touring next and does your tour bring you back to Michigan?
KG: “Our tour for ‘How Does Your Garden Grow?’ starts on September 16. We’ve got a show at St. Andrew’s Hall in Detroit in October [15 at 7pm], and another one in Detroit in mid-December.”

Fans of planning to attend the October 15 show may wish to call soon for tickets while they are available. They can do so through TicketMaster. Charge by phone at (248) 645-6666. There is no word yet on the date for the December concert.

September Spotlight on Printmaking

by Ana Strassburger
Times Contributing Writer

Looking for something different to do one weeknight this month? Check out the Annual Statewide Alma College Printmaking Competition being held at Aquinas’ Art and Music Center.

Going on now through September 30, the printmaking exhibit is free and accessible Monday through Thursday in the Art and Music Center’s gallery from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Professional printmakers from throughout the state of Michigan have submitted their best work. There are a variety of printmaking forms as part of this renowned exhibit which travels to different colleges throughout the state in order to show a lesser-known form of art.

Dana Freeman, the Gallery Director at Aquinas, is excited about the printmaking exhibit. Freeman said, “The college hasn’t shown printmaking before, and it is very well-respected and interesting.”

Well-known printmaker Bruce Thayer, whose work is on display in the exhibit, is conducting a workshop with the Aquinas College printmaking class. He will also be speaking to the public on Wednesday, September 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Art and Music Center. A reception will follow his presentation, and everyone is welcome. His work is of particular interest, because his subject matter is inspired by his job as a crash tester at General Motors.

The printmaking exhibit is worth the time to see. For more information on the present or future exhibits, contact Dana Freeman at extension 3426.
games have more meaning now. To win the race in the end, McGwire was the middle of a pennant race and his record stood for 5 days. McGwire’s record was more significant because it came later. After Maris’s first, well yes, but that does not make Sosa’s accomplishment any less memorable. In a recent match against Hope College and Grand Valley State University, Fruin set a personal record with an 88. “Working together as a team, being supportive and helping each other are our main objectives in reaching our goal of having fun on the course,” said Mazzoni.

The athletes also recently won a match against Kalamazoo College where Toncray and Gurzynski finished with scores of 96, sharing medallist honors. In a recent match against Hope College and Grand Valley State University, Fruin set a personal record with an 88. “Working together as a team, being supportive and helping each other are our main objectives in reaching our goal of having fun on the course,” said Mazzoni.

With so many interesting happenings in the sports world, it is virtually impossible to choose one topic to harp about. McGwire hit his 62nd homer a couple of weeks ago, but Sammy Sosa answered with his 62nd last week. It McGwire’s home run more significant because it came first? Well yes, but that does not make Sosa’s accomplishment any less memorable. After Maris’s record stood for 37 years, McGwire’s record stood for 5 days. Remember that Sosa is in the middle of a pennant race and his games have more meaning now. He could have a better chance to win the race in the end. McGwire accomplished what everybody wanted, now can he keep it up? The easiest way to solve the puzzle is to have the two finish even at, let’s say, 68 homers apiece. On to a team with a bad record, the Detroit Lions. How many different ways can a team lose? Well, they tried a new way last week losing in overtime on an interception return for a touchdown. How can a quarterback end both regulation and overtime by throwing interceptions? It is one of the world’s great mysteries that only Scott Mitchell can figure out. Now if he could only figure out how to throw touchdowns with some consistency. He might not have to make any more decisions, however, as head coach Bobby Ross has demoted Mitchell to third string. Rookie Charlie Batch got the call to start his first professional game after a successful college career at Eastern Michigan. College football is in full swing and, like every other season, it is full of surprises. Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke took some lessons from Scott Mitchell by throwing 6 interceptions in a recent loss to North Carolina State. Yes, that is 6 interceptions, and yes, that is in North Carolina State—the basketball school. Michigan State went from getting blown out in their first two outings to blowing out Notre Dame and jumping to a 42-3 halftime lead. Speaking of Notre Dame, they easily beat the team from Ann Arbor but were easily beaten by the team from Lansing. What does this say about the University of Michigan? More importantly, it sets the stage for an intriguing matchup this week when the Spartans visit Ann Arbor and look to average last year’s loss to the Wolverines. A little bit closer to home, the Aquinas community celebrated Homecoming last week with only one slight problem. Only one of the sports teams had a home event. The women’s soccer team does deserve a lot of fanfare, but why were they the only team able to enjoy the largest crowd of the year? Rumor has it that the men’s team had a choice of choosing to play a home game on either Homecoming or Parents’ Weekend. The choice in this case was Parents’ Weekend. The question is, why not play home games on both weekends? In recent history this scheduling conflict has never existed. Granted, scheduling is not an easy or enjoyable task, but Homecoming is supposed to be just that—a chance for the teams to play at home in front of the largest crowd of the season and enjoy the Homecoming festivities. From St. Louis to the Windy City to Detroit to college campuses around the nation to our own campus, sporting news is unraveling. Pay attention.
Lady Saints Give AQ a Homecoming Victory

by Damon Bouwkamp
Times Sports Editor

Amid all the excitement of the annual Homecoming festivities on campus last Saturday, the centerpiece of the day was the women’s soccer game against Madonna University. It proved to be just what the doctor ordered, as the host Saints crushed the visiting Crusaders from Madonna 6-0, improving the Saints’ record to 2-3 overall and 2-0 in the WHAC.

“This is just what we needed,” said head coach Shannon Henrette. “This game will help tremendously in building our confidence after our rough schedule in the beginning of the season.”

Sophomore Kim Eager scored a hat trick with three goals, while freshman Marijo Adamcik tallied twice and junior Pam Bierzynski hit the back of the net also. This gives Eager six goals on the season as she tries to follow last season’s precedent of gaining All-WHAC honors. East Grand Rapids High School drum ensemble rallied the crowd at halftime using a variety of stickwork and horsecay to excite the crowd. The crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen of 1998 immediately followed the game. Soon after which, the games resumed with the alumni soccer players getting into the swing of things in the co-ed alumni soccer game. Alumni split into teams by odd and even-year graduates, as they looked to polish off the rust that had built up on their cleats for a few seasons.

With a 6-3 score the odd year team took home a victory and bragging rights for a year. Meanwhile, in Angola, Indiana, the men’s soccer team looked to end their scoreless drought and come home with a victory against the Thunder of Tri-State University.

Answering that call was senior P.J. Tannen as he tallied a goal late in the second half. The Saints fell short as Tri-State held on for a 2-1 victory. The loss drops the Saints to 1-2-2 overall and 0-3-1 in the conference.

Lady Saints Prepare to Serve Up a Great Season

By Ryan Smith
Times Sports Editor

In what seems to be a trend this fall, the Aquinas College volleyball team has struggled early with a young roster. With only one returning starter and a lineup filled with freshmen and sophomores the Lady Saints are looking to gain experience. Led by first year coach Marc Shulz, the team is progressing at a rapid pace. After an impressive second place finish at the Kalamazoo College Tournament, the Lady Saints battled to the end in a 3-2 loss to Sienna Heights last Saturday. There were many positives, however, as the women displayed outstanding defense.

“We progressed, especially on defense. Because of our height we’ll have to win games that way,” Coach Shulz added. As long as the team keeps improving their coach will be happy. “We’re a young team so we hope to be playing our best volleyball by midseason,” stated Shulz. Shulz has installed a brand new system and has made a few lineup changes that seem to be helping. “We moved Meghan McGahey to the right side where she is more comfortable,” Shulz explained. Shulz has found the title of first year head coach rather exciting. “I’ve had nothing but great support from everyone at Aquinas,” he said. Shulz brings his knowledge and experience from Juniata College in Huntington, PA. His arrival has been well received by his players. “He makes us work really hard, but he’s really down to earth,” junior co-captain Milanowski commented. “He has a really good sense of humor that makes it enjoyable to play for him.”

Helping Shulz with the coaching duties is recent Aquinas graduate a last year’s captain Christy Cook. Also returning, but on the court, is senior All-Conference setter Alison Kissinger. As the only returning player with a lot of experience and the lone senior, she looks to lead both on and off the court. With the help of the two new coaches and the leadership of co-captains Kissinger and Milanowski the Lady Saints look to make some noise in the WHAC. Their conference season continues this Friday and Saturday with a home conference tournament and match against Spring Arbor.
Aquinas Through the Years

The Ghosts of Holmdene's Past

by Chris Manning
Times Features Editor

There are ghosts in Holmdene, some have said, that wander the mansion on cold nights. Perhaps there are no be, but there is definitely a spirit that lives on those of whom first called it home. Those first and only residents of the Holmdene estate were Edward and Susan Blodgett Lowe.

Richard E. Butterworth had many local business interests including the Old National Bank and a machine shop. Susan Blodgett Lowe was from Hersey, Michigan. Her father, Delos A. Blodgett, was a local lumber baron who decided to divide his fortune three ways giving Susan one third of it. Edward would soon become involved in the Blodgett business interests as well.

Edward was often seen walking through the downtown area in the finest clothes, his black eyes gleaming and his black hair nearly combed. His voice maintained a distinctive English accent that not even forty years of Midwestern dialect could pollute. However, when this privilege pair wanted to chat they could converse as candidly as the colorful locals.

The Lowes took great pains to obtain quality and rarely settled for anything that wasn't the best money could buy. It's no surprise that when they decided to build their new home they first spent a summer in England studying English homes. After the tour they commissioned a Boston architectural firm to design an estate in the Tudor Renaissance fashion.

Gouverneur B. Rathbone was the "eccentric" old settler that first farmed the estate grounds. Edward Lowe had heard of the old man passing on and leaving a decaying homestead and decided to visit the grounds. The U p o n a r r i v a l, L o w e w a l k e d through the forest and came upon a great elm tree. The strength and beauty of the elm made such an impression that he determined he had to build his estate on this 69 acre plot of land on Robinson Road.

While the mansion began to take shape, an eager Edward would take a trip to the future home to show them his new gardens. Many visitors mentioned that he seemed far more pleased with the grounds than the mansion. He brought in dirt to fill the swampland while creating a stream that ran through the property named Coldbrook Stream. He would later plant 1,000 trees on the grounds, many by his own hands—some of which still stand on the campus today.

The grand structure was even featured on the front page of "The Evening Press" during its construction. The finished mansion was named Holmdene after the "holm oak" and "dene," which was a British reference to a tract of land.

Lowe's estate featured a winery (now Jordan Hall), stables (Bukowski Chapel), a carriage house (now the Cook Carriage House), a garden and a greenhouse just off Robinson Road and the Holmdene gardens. The estate gardens produced flowers and an abundance of fruits and vegetables allowing the estate to be self-sufficient.

Animals were also a love of the Lowe family. Edward spent many hours riding one of his prize horses through the forest and lawns of the Homestead. Jimmy, their youngest son, was pictured with his mother and one of the family's goats. A full-time dairyman was hired to look after the cows which also furnished all of the milk and cream for the estate.

To care for such an immense property, the family hired a chauffeur, an errand man, 14 laborers, a butler, six female servants and Nellie Streng, a widow who supervised the home. She and her children were considered a part of the Lowe family.

Considered one of the most beautiful homes in West Michigan, the estate grew in its fame. In fact, the home had become so well-known that by 1911 President Theodore Roosevelt stayed in the home while visiting for a speaking engagement. Despite the spotlight earned with their home, the Lowes preferred the quiet pursuits of their leisure at home rather than their public lives. Edward loved to golf, which he introduced to West Michigan after a trip to Scotland. He also built the first golf course in the area. Both were avid gardeners, but Susan was inseparable from her flowers. The Lowes and their pursuits were helpful during World War I when coal and food shortages affected the city. During hard times they invited families to stay in their home when coal was scarce. Any food they didn't need from the garden was given to people in need. At one point the estate's main lawn was plowed under and planted with potatoes during a food shortage.

The Lowe's giving spirit didn't stop at just donating what they didn't need or already have, though. The respected philanthropists donated the current location of the former Butterworth hospital and 500,000 dollars to build the new hospital bearing Edward's grandfather's name.

Tragedy struck this giving family on the evening of August 4, 1931. Edward died spending the day tending to his gardens. Susan died suddenly. Edward, realizing his wife's love of gardening, asked his gardeners to be the pall bearers. Mrs. Edmund Booth said of Susan Lowe, "No eulogy is necessary, for her deeds of kindness are known to a number in this region."

The estate and Edward never recovered from the loss of Mrs. Lowe as his health declined steadily until his death on July 2, 1938. Julius Amberg of the Grand Rapids Bar Association said of Edward, "I've never known a man with a finer sense of justice..."

While they seem lost far off in the past, this family loved beauty, shared with the community, sought a fulfilling life and left behind a beautiful home. And with that home they left behind these same values that are reflected in the Aquinas classroom and the trees that stand tall above every student.

Homecoming Sparks Historical Remembrance

by Jeremy Chesla and Chris Manning
Times Contributing Writer and Features Editor

Although no one who wanders Aquinas' tree-canopied campus today would recognize the school's original grounds, Aquinas College has existed since 1886. During its founding years, AQ was a teaching school for aspiring Grand Rapids Dominicans. In 1923 the name was changed to Catholic Junior College in the nation. At this time, the name was changed to Catholic Junior College. While the school was identified by this name, major changes were made to the curriculum, eventually resulting in the school becoming a traditional four-year institution.

The early intent for the junior college was to graduate teachers. In 1936 the Michigan State Department of Education approved Catholic Junior College to graduate students with a limited teaching certificate—students needed to go elsewhere to receive full teacher certification. Sister Estelle Hackett arranged for the purchase of the Orange Dame University, Marygrove College and the University of Detroit. But, the arrangement proved to be inadequate. It was not until 1937, when Father Bukowski (who would become Monsignor Bukowski in 1938) was named president of the college, that the situation was finally resolved. With the assistance of Dr. George E. Carrellers, Fr. Bukowski sought to have the college accredited by the Association of North Central Colleges. On July 7, 1939 the Dominican Sisters at Marywood held a twenty-four hour prayer vigil requesting a favorable report by a University of Michigan evaluation committee. Their prayers were answered.

In May of 1940 the Association of North Central Colleges accredited Catholic Junior College as a four year school. The school was named Aquinas College in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas and Mother Aquinata Feiger.

As the school grew, the demand for more space became a primary concern. In 1945, M.E. Davenport arranged for the purchase of the Lowe Estate, owned at the time by Edward and Susan Blodgett Lowe. The $1 million estate, secured originally for use by the University of Grand Rapids, was sold to the Dominican Sisters for $150,000. The estate included the Holmdene mansion, a winery, stables and the recently renovated Cook Carriage House.

The perpetual development of Aquinas College has roots deep within its history. This is continued the ambitious plans for the future of the college.