Residence Hall Violation Guidelines Revised

by Nick Ochcipieti
Times Contributing Writer

Despite the bitter cold and biting wind some thirty students, faculty and community members bundled up to make the trek from the Academic Building to Bukowski Chapel in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 15, 1999.

The event, sponsored by the Multicultural Department, Campus Ministry and Student Activities, took place on Wednesday night and was centered around the life of Martin Luther King Jr. The event featured various readings, music and speeches from a variety of speakers.

The event started with a prayer and a moment of silence, followed by a reading from the book "The Autobiography of Malcolm X." The reading included passages that highlighted the similarities and differences between King and Malcolm X.

Father Dan Davis opened with a prayer and some of his thoughts on King. He talked about "agape," a perfect, disinterested love, that is selfless. Dr. King showed this love to others. Walch believes that his work with service learning and youth leadership made him highly eligible for the position as Director of Student Activities. "This is a great opportunity to come back and serve the college," said Mullen.

Dean of Students Brad Winkler believes that Mullen's history with Aquinas will help him in his new duties. "Eric really has a good sense of where it's been," said Winkler.

Walsh also mentioned that women have held the Director position over the past ten years. Walsh thinks Mullen will be a positive change, and possibly a new perspective, for Aquinas. "I'm really excited," she said. "It's great to have a man running it."

Mullen said that he intends to get a general feel for the college in his first semester here. "I will spend the first semester being an observer and listening to students," said Mullen. He has already heard from students who have voiced their concerns on commuter issues, student participation in events and the spirit and vitality of Aquinas student activities.

"Students that work with Eric through student activities will warm up to him quickly," said Winkler.
Community Senate Update

by Heather Young
Times Assistant Editor

Last Wednesday's meeting opened with the induction ceremony of five new senators for the year's second term. The group, including Brad Clark, Jessica Cleveland, Crystal Noonan, Cynthia Olluff and Keith Pochert, stood before the Senate and repeated the Senate's mission.

Second on the agenda, Vice Chair and Senior John Krajewski said a few words and made his formal resignation. Krajewski has been hired by the Grand Rapids Police Department and will be attending Police Academy presently. His position as Vice Chair will be filled by junior Amanda Spitzley.

Upon the resignation of Student Affairs Committee Chair Nicole Schneider, David Mifsud stepped forward to combine that position with his own as P.R. Committee Chair.

Senate Chair Danielle Johnson delivered "a State of the Senate" address, a step-by-step analysis of all senate actions and major discussions including committee reports. Johnson highlighted the Student Input Session earlier in the year and some of the steps, such as a new Senate New Student Bulletin Board in Lower Wege. She also indicated that there will be a second semester Student Input Session addressing more specifically the departmental issues brought up at the first Input Session.

Budget Director Kyle Baldwin wrapped up the address with his own "State of the Senate Budget" addition. Baldwin then introduced the budget proposal presented by Amanda Spizley who represented Aquinas United in Revitalizing Activity (A.U.R.A.). The proposal passed by a unanimous vote and will allocate $1,000 toward a $4,000 total used to bring the Sexual Assault Speaker Kate Koechlin on April 14 of this year.

Also, Assistant Director of Student Activities Shannon Bessett announced plans to reorganize the Cook Carriage House to make it better serve as a student union. Student input about furniture to be added or other changes is appreciated.

Before the meeting's close, David Mifsud, chair of the P.R. committee, presented the award of Senator of the Month to freshman McKelvey, Club/Organization of the Month to Dana Hebreard, Faculty of the Month to Dr. Jeffery McKelve, Club/Organization of the Month to J.A.M.M.I.N. and Senator of the Month to freshman Matthew McCarthy. All were recognized for their contributions to the Aquinas Community.

Montana Trip Full of Surprises

by Janelle Burden
Times Contributing Writer

"I miss the simplicity," is the phrase that Junior Ann Leen reflected on after spending a semester in Montana.

Leen was one of 10 students who participated in the newest Aquinas Semester-Long Cultural Immersion Course. The students lived on a Blackfoot Indian Reservation near Glacier National Park. They took three formal courses. Studies focused on Native American history and literature, taught by their advisor Dr. Mike Denty. Blackfoot religion and culture were explored, along with geography and ecology of the Northern Rockies and Great Plains.

The program also consisted of a service learning component. Many of the Aquinas students chose to work with Native American youth at the Boys and Girls Club. This included playing games with and tutoring the children.

Junior Jessie Seaman selected to give her time at the local Mission and the retirement center. Seaman noted that something as basic as sharing a meal became a real learning experience. "We had the chance to listen to the mission, to be involved in their world for a while," she said.

Aside from interacting with and learning about the Blackfoot people, the trip also allowed the students to get to know each other and engage in self-discovery. Dr. Denty's teaching assistant, Nolan Gerber, led several backpacking excursions that catered to this type of learning. Seaman spoke of these trips as bonding time, where hostilities were put aside, obstacles were overcome and all could enjoy the serenity of the mountains.

When asked how they handled the cultural immersion, most of the students said they had actually expected a higher level of interaction.

Michelle Barnes commented, "I expected that we would live side by side with the Native Americans. We lived as they did, but not with them."

The students were actually 35 miles away from the center of town. They lived in tents until mid-November, then moved into a small cabin from the 1930's. Their daily lifestyle included bathing in streams and adapting to a life without electricity. This was the simplicity Leen referred to and missed.

Overall, participants say the course seemed to accomplish its purpose. While the students did study literature and geography in formal settings, their true learning came from attending native celebrations, exploring Glacier National Park, eating meals with the Blackfoot people and living in a teepee with fellow students.

Although most of the students shared Leen's enthusiasm for the "simple life," several also commented that since returning to the "simple life," several also commented that since returning to Aquinas they have become more appreciative of modern conveniences.

For information about attending the Montana program next fall, contact Dr. Kris Lou at extension 3605.

The 10 students who spent a semester in Montana pause outside their cabin with their teaching assistant Nolan Gerber.

New Education Department in the Works

by Mindy Smith
Times Contributing Writer

Aquinas' Education Department has undergone several changes this year and is in the process of developing many new programs. Now known as the School of Education, it is one of the largest and most rapidly growing departments on campus, attracting over 600 students to its courses per semester.

Many new staff members have been hired this year including two Hungarian women, Judith Roth and Illdiko Pataki. Roth and Pataki are helping to develop an endorsement in Conductive Education. Those in the endorsement will be learning how to teach children with severe motor impairments such as Cerebral Palsy.

At the present time the only places where conductor training is available are Hungary and England. Aquinas will be the only place outside of Europe to offer the endorsement. A lab school was opened at St. Stephen's last fall and the goal is to have 100 children enrolled by this time next year. In the future Aquinas hopes to turn the lab into a charter school.

Another new endorsement being developed is English as a Second Language. It will allow students to be able to teach Language Arts in grades K-8. Currently Aquinas is in the process of petitioning the State of Michigan to recognize these new endorsements.

Changes are also taking place in the Child Development Center. Regionilms ideas from Italy will allow children to express themselves through the arts. These will be practiced with preschool students. In the next five years Aquinas hopes to expand the program through grade five and begin a charter school based on Regionilms ideas.

More facilities are needed to house the charter schools and new programs. Aquinas is planning to build two new buildings about three to four miles off campus for these programs. Lake Michigan Academy will also move off campus to the new site.

The School of Education has also been reorganized this year to take some of the administrative work away from the Dean, Dr. James Garafolo, to allow him more time to work on the development of new programs. Many other new programs for the department are still in the early developmental stages.

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classifieds
Students Experience Oaxaca During Winter Break

by Mandy Schneider
Times Contributing Writer

Eleven Aquinas students and two sponsors traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico to spend their Christmas break living the true meaning of Christmas:

Over the span of ten days sophomores Michelle Vera and Mona Habib, juniors Rob Kiel, Gloria Coste and Mckenzie Kossey and seniors Anne Parker, Kristin Sobjac, Kristin Miles, Rebecca Rocellos, Kyle Baldwin and John Krajewski, along with their sponsors, Brad Ellis, Professor of Spanish at Aquinas and his wife Diane Mahoney, professor of Spanish at Hope, learned the real meaning of a service-learning trip.

The group stayed in a small community outside of Oaxaca. The trip lasted about two weeks because they stopped in Mexico City for a few days when they were done with their service. This trip was the "final exam" for the course taken specifically to prepare the students for this trip. According to the students that went on the trip, this was one final they say they will never forget.

Professor Ellis said, "We learned a lot about ourselves, about working as a unit and the impact we could have on these people." He also stressed the fact that they were in this little community to serve the people native to the area.

The people were served with monetary aid - Oaxaca is the second poorest state in Mexico. The money mainly went to help complete the chapel in the community, where the Aquinas students helped with the general maintenance. The group put glass in the empty windows and cemented around the existing brick structure.

Ellis said, "We provided the money and labor but they gave us something back too. They taught us a lot about ourselves and they opened their families to us." Many similarities were discovered between the two cultures. The Aquinas group learned that basketball is basically universal. The children enjoyed playing with the students - especially Krajewski and Baldwin who towered above them.

This trip was groundbreaking as Aquinas students had never gone to this particular community before. Usually students on the Aquinas Oaxaca trip stay in Oaxaca and works at three different sites. This year the group travelled daily by bus to an area just outside Oaxaca called Venere-Cinco de Enero and focused on a single site.

The group set up contact with the village by getting addresses of people there so they could stay aware of the needs of the community members. Future trips will benefit from the path this group paved, for now they will know the community and their needs.

While in Oaxaca, the group stayed in a convent and had their meals provided by the sisters there. Habib said, "We thought the food was okay at first but as the trip went on we thought it was getting better. It wasn't. We were just getting used to it. We learned what real Mexican food was. The stuff here doesn't come close!"

Kossey recounted, "The thing that moved me the most happened on the Ephnay. We took one big green army bag full of cereal to a church to give to the children there. When I saw how many children there were, I just knew there were more children than presents, but I remembered the story of the lemons and the fishes and I prayed God would help us. We had enough for all the children there and more that came later."

Coste said, "What surprised me was the friendliness and the openness of the people there. They would pass a baby around even if they didn't know the people. We are so afraid [in the United States] about our children getting kidnapped or hurt. The children there protect each other and stick together when they are away from adults or around strangers. They [the children] have such innocence."

Krajewski said, "It was a wonderful, eye opening experience. I think that when you leave your culture and go to another one you not only learn about that culture, you gain so many insights about the society you live in. We were learning from the people while helping them. It was great to make those friends and see the smiling faces - especially the children. I had a really great overall experience. I think it is great for Aquinas students to broaden their global perspective and see other parts of our world, and it was a good overall trip."

St. Thomas Celebration Offers Variety
by Monique Nadon
Times Contributing Writer

Saint Thomas Aquinas is not only our patron saint but also an amazing man. He dedicated his life to studying God's word. Therefore in the honor of this extraordinary man, this week has been dedicated Saint Thomas Aquinas week.

Saint Thomas Aquinas Week began on Sunday with a Gustav Reclit by Paul Vondiziano that kicked off the week without a hitch. On Monday, it was a family picture day. All Aquinas students, staff and faculty were welcomed to have lunch, birthday cake was served off the week without a hitch. On Tuesday, there was a very moving tribute to Saint Aquinas. During lunch, birthday cake was served to this particular community before.

"Violation" cont'd from Page 1

St. Thomas Week Schedule
Wednesday, January 27: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. "Walking the Labyrinth" Ballroom
4:30 p.m. A Celebration of Sister Mary Catherine Brechting, O.P., Mary Beth Chambers, Dr. Lawrence Kielich, and Dr. O.P., Ph.D. Associate Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame. Ballroom
8:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Cornerstone
Thursday, January 28: 12:30 p.m. Aquinas Women's Center Tea - the Third Annual Women in the Time of Aquinas Lecture. Loutit Room
7:30 p.m. Spiri Week Pep Rally
10:30 p.m. What the Heck Night with Wally Pleasant, a musical comedian. CCH
Friday, January 29: 12:20 p.m. Eighth Annual Aquinas Lecture: Sr. Catherine Hilker, O.P., Ph.D. Associate Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame. Ballroom
6:15 p.m. Medieval banquet - Can use meal plan; six free commuter tickets available or else tickets are six dollars. Ballroom
7:15 p.m. Insignis Play
Saturday, January 30: 1:00 p.m. Women's basketball vs. Madonna, Field House
3:00 p.m. Alumni Basketball game, Field House
5:00 p.m. Reception for Patty Tibaldi- Former Aquinas Coach selected to the NAIA Hall of Fame. Field House
Sunday, January 31: 10:30 a.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Mass and Celebration of students on Dean's List. Reception is following. Ballroom

"Violation" cont'd from Page 1

...it is a positive development." said Residence Life Director Randy MacGeorge, "I think it maintains our niche and it is a positive development." We at the Times regret these errors. We apologize for errors in the Oct. 28 issue. In the Features article "Academic Nightmares at AQ" Page 12 about students with disabilities at Aquinas, the writer did not intend to imply that student Agostinelli's last name in the article. We at the Times regret these errors.
Democrats Hope to Raise Minimum Wage

By Dan Austin
The State News (Michigan State U.)

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich. — Finally, something MSU students could really use. It’s a proposal that Michigan House Democrats made Jan. 20 which would increase the state minimum wage rates. The Democrats would like to see the minimum wage bumped up to $6.15 an hour by January of 2000 — a $1 per hour increase from the higher rate.

Students like Gabriel Lawson, a mechanical engineering sophomore, favor the increase. "(A higher minimum wage) would be lovely," Lawson said. "It’s a disparity when you make $5 at jobs that are more common to students. Some of the higher paying jobs aren’t high spread enough for everybody to make more money."

Michigan workers have needed the increase for quite some time, said Andy Hetzel, press secretary for House Minority Leader Mike Hanley. "(When) you have 300,000 people in this state who work hard for minimum wage and when the power of that amount of minimum wage has been reduced so much over the last 20 years, it raises some questions," Hetzel said.

The proposal also requires that the minimum wage rate increase annually with the rate of inflation. Democrats said in recent years, inflation increased at a faster rate than the rise in minimum wage.

However, labor economics professor David Newmark said the proposal may not be a good idea. "The problem we are trying to address is increasing the income of low income families," Newmark said. "Most (minimum wage earners) are teenagers, and I don’t think we should necessarily raise the costs of labor for small business owners just for that reason."

Newmark said there are more logical approaches to resolve the issue. He said if employers were required to pay their workers more, they may not be able to afford to have as many employed.

Many House Republicans are also worried about a possible increase in unemployment. But Hetzel said the last minimum wage increase hardly caused a loss of jobs, instead it lead in Michigan’s current prosperous economy.

"We increased minimum wage two years ago and the economy created 250,000 new jobs," he said. "So the statement that the increase is a job killer is obviously false as proven by these numbers."

But Hetzel said the plan is a step toward solving the poverty problem. "We want to make sure that the income being made by the lower income workers will help them keep up with the essentials like rent, groceries and other things that go up with costs of living. Otherwise they will be working just as hard for less," Hetzel said.

Joshua D. Cochran
Times Local/National Editor

For the second time in three months, the Grand Rapids-Holland-Manistee area received national recognition for its economic growth and stability. Earlier this month, Reliastar Financial Corporation, the eleventh largest publicly held life insurance company in the United States, based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, released their annual list of the top 125 cities in which to make money.

The Grand Rapids area ranked fourth in the nation behind Fort Wayne, Indiana; New Haven, Connecticut; and number one Ann Arbor, Michigan.

This is the second such report to give high marks to Grand Rapids.

Last November, Fortune magazine published its list of top ten cities for business in North America. In this list Grand Rapids came in at number ten. These high marks have local business and city leaders excited to see what this could mean for Grand Rapids.

The rankings from both the Reliastar and the Fortune reports took various factors into account while compiling their lists. Among the criteria were business climate of the city, new businesses, job growth, cost of living, household income, financial security, and crime rate. Grand Rapids ranked high in many of the Reliastar categories, including sixth in the nation for participation in retirement saving services, which 71.4% of the households in the Grand Rapids area possess, and seventh in the nation in extensive health insurance coverage, which revealed that only 11.3% of Grand Rapids residents remained uninsured. Also, Grand Rapids came in thirteenth in the nation in high wealth at an average household income of $79,621. Grand Rapids ranked eighteenth in the nation for job creation, averaging a 3.4% increase in jobs per year.

Although most of the report illustrated high marks for Grand Rapids, sources also revealed a few shortcomings for the city. Among them was a ranking that cited Grand Rapids as ninety-eighth in the nation for meager income support programs. Grand Rapids also ranked sixty-ninth in the nation for low job quality, a ranking which cited $27,903 as the average annual earnings per job in the Grand Rapids area.

City government organizations believe the high marks and results will have a positive effect on both businesses already existing in Grand Rapids and those businesses who potentially could locate in Grand Rapids. The Business Advocate’s Office for the city of Grand Rapids, whose main function is to promote Grand Rapids to prospective businesses and assist businesses which are locating, remaining and expanding in the Grand Rapids area, was pleased with the results and what they can do for the city.

"What these reports do for local businesses is confirm what they already know, that Grand Rapids is a good place to do business," said Susan Shannon, business advocate for the city of Grand Rapids, "for those of you who are looking to recruit businesses to come to Grand Rapids, it helps us as we now have an outside source who has ranked us favorably compared to other cities in the United States."

These rankings are being used to promote the city of Grand Rapids to businesses considering moving here. Leaders in the city hope that these rankings will give Grand Rapids a boost over other cities, as Grand Rapids is the smallest city appearing on the Fortune list. Currently both rankings are being cited in city publications that are given out to prospective businesses. Also, they will be included in a new brochure that will target both commercial and retail businesses looking to locate in the downtown area.

Although the city admits that these rankings do not cause a huge influx of businesses to Grand Rapids overnight, it believes that the rankings will do other positive things for Grand Rapids, aside from just promoting new businesses.

"What I expect is that these rankings will give us an identity in a national sense, among all of the larger cities. People are already aware of the larger cities on the reports, but with these they will begin to recognize Grand Rapids," said Shannon.

Grand Rapids was not the only Michigan city to featured in the Reliastar compilations. Ann Arbor ranked first, Kalamazoo-Battle Creek second, Detroit third, Lansing-East Lansing fourth, Saginaw-Bay City-Midland seventh and Flint ranked thirty-seventh.
Deaths Up With Increased Speed Limit

States that increased their speed limits four years ago saw a jump in the number of road fatalities. The report results, which were announced on Jan. 14, indicate that highway traffic deaths have increased by 15 percent since 1995 when Congress lifted national speed limit controls. The speed controls were imposed in 1974 in response to the energy crisis partly resulting from the Arab oil embargo. They reduced speed limits on interstate highways to 55 mph. In 1987 this upper limit was raised to 65 mph on rural Interstates. The controls were lifted because the prosperous economy and lower fuel prices no longer required Americans to conserve fuel as strictly.

Following the removal of federal speed controls in 1995, many states, including Michigan, increased the speed limits of rural highways to 70 mph. Unfortunately, this has caused more people to die on the nation wide. A similar increase in highway fatalities was reported after the 1987 speed increase.

This trend is causing concern among state police department, insurance companies and drivers. Because the actual highway speed and fatality rates have increased gradually over the past three years, officials have expressed concern that the death tolls will continue to rise.

by Justin P. Manwell

Grand Rapids to Receive $38 Million

The City of Grand Rapids is scheduled to receive $38 million according to a bill signed by Governor John Engler earlier this month. The bill increases Grand Rapids' stake in the state's revenue sharing plan over the next ten years from $23 million to a total $38 million.

Some are unsure what this plan will actually mean for the city. According to Bob White, director of Fiscal Services for the Mayor's Office, the actual purpose of the changes in the revenue sharing plan are to shift some of the State's wealth from the city of Detroit to smaller cities such as Grand Rapids. Under the previous system, Detroit received 25 percent of the total annual budget, a total $338 million, while supporting only ten percent of the state's total population. The new bill freezes Detroit's share at 25 percent, and allows other communities to take up the difference in their own revenues.

Those in the Mayor's Office believe that the plan is based on calculations that are far overestimated. According to White, the annual increase in revenue for the State of Michigan per fiscal year is on average only 1.6 percent. The projected increase to $38 million is based upon a projected annual revenue expansion to a staggering 4 percent, an increase indicative of an economic boom not seen since the Industrial Revolution.

Also, changes in the fiscal budget have been slated to be phased into the state over the next ten years, so even if money was given to Grand Rapids in a single lump sum, the city would only see an additional $1.5 million per year. This would bring the total annual revenue up to $24.5 million rather than the $38 million projected. Bob White and others at the mayor's office surmise that the new bill serves only to limit Detroit's funding, rather than increasing Grand Rapids'. Many state leaders speculate that the new plan will not benefit any city at all.

"The plan merely proposes a modest, negligible increase in state funding, an increase contingent upon a redistribution of wealth from the city of Detroit," said White.

by Heather M. Karal

Times Editor-in-Chief

Increased fatalities in highway traffic accidents may be due to the raised speed limits, according to a report by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

A study was conducted by comparing the fatality rates per vehicle mile traveled in 24 states that raised the speed limits to a control group of seven states that maintained the lower speeds on Interstates. The results were clear: fatality rates in the states that raised the speed limits increased substantially. The number of highway fatalities in the control group showed no significant change.

The report results, which were announced on Jan. 14, indicate that highway traffic deaths have increased by 15 percent since 1995 when Congress lifted national speed limits.

"Brandon D's" Hiking to D.C.

Doris Haddock, an 85-year-old New Hampshire woman, is demonstrating her anger by walking across the United States. Haddock, who goes by "Brandon D," committed herself to the 3,055-mile walk to Washington, D.C., to protest how political campaigns are financed. She trained during 1998 and began the walk in Passadena, CA, on New Year's Day. The activist plans to hike 10 miles a day, collecting signatures in support of campaign finance reform for delivery at the end of her trip.

Websites Publish Sex Offenders' Identities

Several states around the USA have launched websites that publish the names, addresses and even photographs of convicted sex offenders, according to The Center for Sex Offender Management. The public has utilized these sites in large numbers: in Virginia, one site has fielded more than half a million inquiries since it was launched. State officials say the sites are a cheaper, more efficient way to meet the requirements of public notification statutes. But the postings have also rekindled a debate over whether the public's right to know outweighs the privacy rights of those who have paid for their crimes.

Alcohol Contributes to Student's Death

A 20-year-old Ferris State University student's death was caused by massive head and internal injuries suffered in her three-story fall, forensic pathologists have ruled. Although Adriane Allen's death was ruled accidental, her blood-alcohol level of 0.22 percent — more than twice the limit of 0.10 for impaired driving — was a contributing factor. Allen is the fourth student in Michigan to die after drinking in the last four months.

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The goals and objectives inherent in the proposal drafted by the Diversity Committee of the Board of Trustees to increase diversity at Aquinas are commendable. However, the strategies suggested to accomplish those goals raise several crucial issues and may be considered hasty actions.

There is no doubt that the level of diversity, or the assortment of viewpoints and cultural perspectives, is limited at Aquinas. Partially this is a result of a small "critical mass." That is, enrollment is significantly more limited than at larger public universities. But make no mistake—more diversity is still a plausible goal for Aquinas College.

Moving toward the goal of diversity can be accomplished one of two ways: (1) by first increasing the number of people of color on the campus or number of diversity topics within the curriculum, or (2) by first creating an environment that fosters diversity. This begins with an inward dedication to appreciate and become more educated about cultural and personal differences in listening, speaking, working and relating to others. I argue that the second objective is more effective and will eventually lead to the first.

If we want to increase the number of faculty and board of trustee members of color, and specify quotas for this objective, we risk hiring and appointing solely on the basis of color. When a person of color who is highly qualified for a position is hired, there is harmony between our commitments to both diversity and quality. But there is a very real possibility that the commitments to both diversity and quality are in conflict, and quality clearly ought to take precedence.

For example, a faculty member who is not a person of color, may teach concepts of diversity better than a less qualified professor of color. Our concentration will tend to turn to quotas if this is established as our primary objective, and this is not a real commitment to diversity. If we retain our commitment to quality first, there should be no reason why diversity must be excluded.

Aquinas prides itself on the freedom granted to all associates of the college. Thus, diversity programs should not be forced—people cannot be coerced to accept diversity. But they can be persuaded. Faculty, staff and students will be oriented more towards diversity and persuaded by a more relaxed environment, one that is voluntarily participated in.

Specifically identifying particular races, religions or cultures as preferable in promoting diversity is contrary to the mission of true diversity and can be discriminatory.

We need to confront some of these crucial issues and explore other options before taking a hasty action to automatically start setting quotas and dictate a limited view of diversity to be taught in the courses here. There is a better way to move toward diversity—and that is by developing a true inward dedication first and upholding our primary objective of quality.

Aquinas College is a very small, very private and very traditional school. When it comes to preserving the tradition of a homogeneous student body, we are not doing ourselves any favors. I think that the Board of Trustee's Diversity Committee has its hands on a stronger, more ethically correct tradition: that of promoting diversity in every aspect of the college which will serve both the minority and the majority student.

The first goal deals with increasing the representation of people of color on all levels of the college, from student to Board Member. By approximating the race ratios of our surrounding community, we are definitely giving students, both white and of color, a "real world" experience should they remain in the Grand Rapids area. The leap between the academic world and the working world is tremendous enough. Giving students the global perspective that they will encounter in the work force will help make that transition more gentle.

The gradual addition of more people of color to Aquinas Community could make our day-to-day interactions lead to a better end. Students of color would not have such small spheres of individuals that they felt comfortable with.

The second goal involves the development and implementation of diversity education/training for the Aquinas community. The third makes us accountable with governance mechanisms. The fourth goal focuses on retention of students, personnel and Board members of color. This is just follow through on our goals. You can't add people and do nothing to keep them.

The fifth goal involves networking with the Grand Rapids community in addressing diversity issues at Aquinas. This, to me, is quite important since we are attempting to prepare students for their post-college experience. Preparing students for interaction with people from a different racial background than themselves is an essential element of this experience.

The sixth goal involves the curriculum. Certainly, Aquinas should incorporate diverse exposure in its curriculum, since a Euro-centric viewpoint can only take everyone so far in the world where boundaries are as minimal as seconds for e-mail to process. We don't want to limit ourselves.

In the implementation of this diversity plan in a careful way (that I know our faculty, staff and administrators are capable of), Aquinas College remains a school that we can all be proud of. Aquinas will turn out students who are more adaptable and ready to handle a global community with love and respect as well as fair treatment and understanding.

White students would be less likely to see isolated groups and make snap judgments. A more diverse setting could add one more educational element to the Aquinas environment: a culture education through experience—something that could not be learned through readings or speakers.

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Last November, the American Bishops met in Washington D.C. and put forth a proposal to American Catholic colleges. Under this proposal the 236 Catholic Colleges throughout the United States would shift the control of their colleges from Board of Trustees to local bishops. Other provisions in this proposal include rewriting college charters to bring them under Vatican law, requiring the President of the college to take an oath of fidelity to the Church and require theologians to attain permission from local Bishops in order to teach. Also, the church would require the colleges to change hiring practices, urging colleges to recruit for their faculty only “faithful Catholics.”

It seems apparent that this proposal would limit academic freedoms for both students and faculty and revert American Catholic colleges and universities back to the Middle Ages when only what the Church decreed to be true could be accepted and taught. Additionally, this proposal would provide a host of other problems for both the Catholic Church and America’s Catholic colleges and universities. This proposal is a response to a document issued by Pope John Paul II in 1990 called the Ex corde Ecclesiae. This issuance was intended to define and strengthen the Church’s relationship with institutions of higher education worldwide. However, the pope left it to the Bishops of respective nations to determine how to implement the document.

In an academic setting, limiting what can be taught counters the very reason why colleges exist. Permitting professors to teach from only one perspective, whether Catholic, Hindu, or Jewish provides a limited world view and leaves students ignorant of other perspectives. Also, what a professor can teach or publish could be removed from the college’s authority. This appears to be what the church is aiming to do: take control of the college under church doctrine. Local bishops would serve in a sort of dictatorial capacity, having the final say in all college matters ranging from what is taught in the classroom, to who can be hired, to what is served in the cafeteria.

If you’ve kept up with the papers (i.e. the Aquinas Times) during the past few months, you know that the news has been inundated with tragic stories about college students who suffered alcohol-related deaths. It is evident that Michigan colleges and universities are aware of this fact, too. Michigan State University is considering suspension of the fraternity where freshman Courtney Cantril drank before falling to her death out of her dorm window. Ferris State University is eliminating the use of alcohol at both student and alumni functions on campus. Even our own Aquinas College has set a plan to crack down on alcohol abuse and enforce consequences for those students who violate policy.

“Alcohol is dangerous!” exclaim Resident Assistants’ bulletin boards and speakers sponsored by the Counseling Department. Media and college officials seem to paint a picture of college students that is not very favorable, or easy to remember in the morning. However, here is an interesting statistic that has gone unnoticed during the recent hype about alcohol-related tragedies: drug and alcohol use and abuse among college age Americans has decreased over the past two decades, according the National Centers for Disease Control. Furthermore, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health reported that binge drinking – defined as five or more drinks at one time – by college students has decreased 5 percent in the past twelve years. The number of problem drinkers ages 19-25 has dropped 2 percent in that time and the number of college students who drank in the past month went down 11 percent. And, ironically, the parents, faculty and administrators who condemn the use of alcohol among college students belong to a generation that consumed more alcohol than today’s college students do.

Admittedly, it is distressing that four college students have died in the past four months due to alcohol-related incidents. However, do these recent deaths earn college students the bad name they have been given for being more reckless partiers than past generations? The truth is that college students are not causing more problems or forming more dangerous habits. Yet, the media and college and university actions seem to imply that college drinking is an increasingly pressing problem. However, just for a moment, let’s realize that the change is not an increase in problems, but an increase in publicity. Alcohol related issues are a much more popular topic than they were two decades ago. Findings about the effects of long-term alcohol use, alcoholism and substance abuse have thrown the college parties and all of their sordid details into the spotlight.

Of course, I am not endorsing binge-drinking or proposing a campus-wide kegger. Nor am I stating that the increased awareness is a bad thing. The public, especially college students, who can legally drink for the first time, need the information about the risks. But students don’t need the bad name. We haven’t earned it. It’s time the media picked up on that.
January 27, 1999

**Art Exhibit Mixes Media**

Art by Bridie Kent
Times Contributing Writer

Sex, death and poetry were the words that came to the minds of observers who attended the opening of an art exhibit Sunday, Jan. 17. Maria Velasco, Associate Art Professor at the University of Kansas, brought her newest display, Tierra de Nadie (literally, Nobody's Land) to Aquinas College's Art and Music Center. The installation combines a juggled mixture of art media accrued over the past few months.

Velasco says that the ideas for her work are constantly brewing. She created this particular installation last summer in Paraguay. Tierra de Nadie combines photos of the artist's own body, silk-screened onto plates, set on a wooden altar-like fixture, half covered in 44 yards of bridal satin and separated in the center of the body by a wall covered by multi-colored textured hairclippings. Colleen Huddas, a freshman, attended Sunday's opening. "I thought it was really sexual because of the exposure of the flesh on the plates," said Huddas. "Even the name of the piece was sensual." "The body is being offered on the plates, to be eaten and digested," said Velasco. "For me, the body is the thing that I draw from for inspiration."

The backdrop of the installation is a wooden wall covered in human hair that Velasco compiled from hairdressers' and barber shop floors over the course of a month. Velasco said, "The hair is a source of fascination and repulsion. It represents the sexual and the animal in people." The different hair colors and types represent a clash of cultures, said Velasco.

Freshman Josephine Kaiser, who attended the opening, said, "It reminded me of a funeral or a wake or something. It had a somber feeling."

Velasco said that the wooden table represents both an altar and a coffin, suggesting both death and desire at the same time.

Aquinas Art Professor Kurt Kaiser said of the exhibit, "It is rich with potential to be interpreted. There are varied intermutations of a piece like this."

He especially liked the contrast of textures such as wood and flowing satin and the way that the wall of hair appears to be animal skin at a distance. "It is kind of like a poem," said Kaiser. "The content is picked up in different ways by different people." Maria Velasco's Tierra de Nadie is currently on display on the upper level of the AMC. For those who aren't necessarily interested in art, Velasco says that art is more than aesthetic. "Art is something that will hopefully change your experience," she said.

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HEAR IT BEFORE WGRD PLAYS IT!
DiFranco's Music Soars with Newest Release

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Arts and Entertainment Editor

"Up, Up, Up, Up, Up," (yes, there are six u's in the title) is the newest song from folk musician Ani DiFranco. Released on Jan. 19, this is the 14th release off of DiFranco's own record label, Righteous Babe Records, following the smash hit record "Little Plastic Castle.

Place into the nearest CD player and sit back as DiFranco sings about the war on drugs, race and social standing. If fans are looking for an upbeat answer to some of society's woes, this isn't the place to investigate. Rather, expect a few depressing endings.

For example, in the song "Tis of Thee," DiFranco sings "my country 'tis of thee to take your swings at each other on talk show TV / why don't you just grow up and turn off the sun / 'cause we'll never live long enough to undo everything they've done to you."

In recent press release, DiFranco revealed what "Tis of Thee" and "Trickle Down" are all about. She said, "These two particular songs are not happy ending type ditties because I feel we are still very much on a path of self-destruction. "Trickle Down" views the war on drugs as simply a war on poor people. Plus, as the chorus reveals, "I'd just gotten a taste of the Jerry Springer show, which always wants to make me slit my wrists." "Trickle Down" is about Buffalo, which is a microcosm for our national economy, shows no sign of an imminent, miraculous turn around.

Despite her apparent pessimism in the blunt verses of these two songs, DiFranco views the war on drugs as simply a war on poor people. Plus, as the chorus reveals, "I'd just gotten a taste of the Jerry Springer show, which always wants to make me slit my wrists." "Trickle Down" is about Buffalo, which is a microcosm for our national economy, shows no sign of an imminent, miraculous turn around.

Ponch Rocks Intersection

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Arts and Entertainment Editor

Ponch, the newest music group to be born of the Aquinas campus, played their first concert with other musical acts Mission Orange and Abusing Troy on Thursday, Jan. 27, 1999. In a late night jam session, band members Kevin Schnell and Alex Nudt discussed their recent success. With new music and a fresh perspective, Ponch came together at the Intersection for an evening of great music. Playing songs like "Magnoelia" and "Broken," the band brought down the house with some amazing sounds.

The band has been together for more than six months, and has found that their musical sound has changed. "You can hear the change in our newest songs, we have a different style. The sound has matured, it is a harder kind of rock," said Schnell. Nudt pointed out that the musical style of the band really depends on lead singer Andy Hollander's moods during composition. "There will never be one sound. It all depends upon Andy and the mood he is in when writing lyrics," said Nudt.

Both noticed a difference in the way Ponch played at the Intersection their first time, "Something wasn't there when we played on Thursday, but it goes to show you that shouldn't dwell on one show," said Schnell. Ponch has received excellent responses from Aquinas students. It was obvious watching the band perform at the Intersection that the Aquinas community contains its most enthusiastic fans.

"There is an energy that comes from the band when we get a great crowd response," said Schnell. Ponch has begun preliminary recording on their first LP at River City Studios in downtown Grand Rapids. With the help of Mark Rehl, Ponch has recorded both "Magnoelia" and "Broken." Fans can look for new music from Ponch early next year, since they hope to put out their first CD by September of 1999.

Ladies & Gentlemen

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who they are:
Scott Snup - Lead Vocals, Mark Tremonti - Guitar, Brian Marshall - Bass, Scott Phillips - Drums

Where they're from: Tallahassee, FL

How you know them (current singles): "One," "What's This Life For," "My Own Prison," and "Torn"

Lyrics worth repeating: "Shadows paint the sidewalk a living picture in a frame. See the sea of people - all faces look the same." - from "Pity For A Dime"

My thoughts on "My Own Prison": Creed has been making waves ever since the band released "Torn," the first single off of "My Own Prison." With their first studio album, Creed proves that they are not part of the new wave of pop bands inundating the world. Instead the four members established themselves as a rock force to be heard. "My Own Prison" is chock full of thick guitar riffs, heavy drum work and strong lyrics. Their latest single, "One," is currently situated at 17 on Radio & Records' Alternatives chart.

"My Own Prison" was released as an independent disc in April 1997 and was then picked up by Wind-Up Records and re-released to the masses later that same year. Creed is currently back in the studio working on their follow-up album that is tentatively due out late this year.

Fans hungry for more Creed can check out the soundtracks for "Dead Man on Campus" and "The Faculty" soundtrack. Creed will be featured on the Late Show with David Letterman Feb. 3, so be sure to tune in.

Visit Creed at: www.creednet.com

A Bizarre Night of Comedy

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

If the cold and snow of the past weeks has trapped students on campus, they didn't have to fear boredom. Programming Board has planned "What the Heck" nights to ensure a great crowd response.

The event took place Thursday, Jan. 14, in the Cook Carriage House and featured the comedic talents of John Bizarre. Bizarre traveled from his hometown of Los Angeles, California to entertain the Aquinas community. He has been featured on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, as well as appearing on Showtime, MTV and Fox. Even with AQ favorite Ponch performing at the Intersection that same night, John Bizarre managed to ensnare a large number of cold students for a wonderful, though yet-to-be-determined prize.

When asked, students could only manage to describe Bizarre as absolutely "hilarious." With "What the Heck" nights off to such a great success, what's next? Programming Board has a full line-up of talent to entertain students through the dreary winter Thursday evenings.

By bringing the Programming Board passport, found in campus mailboxes and in the Carriage House to each and every "What the Heck" night, students can collect stamps from seven of the ten events and be eligible to enter a drawing for a wonderful, though yet-to-be-determined prize.

Feb. 12 is Dinner Night Club, when hypnotist Michael Anthony will be featured. This is one event that requires reservations and is sure to fill up quick. Be sure to check out the entertaining and comical Wally Pleasant tomorrow, Jan. 28, as well as the Boehmer Family Jugglers, Feb. 19, musical duo Red Letter Day on March 4, and comedian Elvira Kurt on March 25.
Lady Saints Struggle for Consistency

by Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

Junior Nicole Mielke came off the bench, scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, but that was not enough to prevent the women's basketball team from falling 68-50 to Siena Heights on Saturday, Jan. 23.

"(Mielke) had an outstanding game. I felt she played really well defensively and was our most consistent offensively," head coach Linda Nash said.

After a big first half Siena never looked back. The Siena Saints pulled a 40-26 lead at halftime and outscored AQ 28-24 in the second half.

On paper, the whole game looks close with rebounds, assists and steals nearly even. The thorn in the Lady Saints' side was shooting. The team shot 32.8 percent from field goal range, one from 12 three-point attempts and 60 percent from the free throw line.

"We have been inconsistent offensively all season. Coupled with the three-point misses, we lost a lot of shots inside," Nash said.

"We have not been able to consistently shoot the ball. It may be a bit of inexperience. We lost five of our top seven scorers from last year. More people had to take on a more leading role instead of a supporting role. The effort and desire are there, but we haven't been able to put together two solid halves of basketball," Nash said.

Most of the players said that they felt that the team will overcome the inexperience barrier.

"I think we need to regroup and we need to learn to play with each other better, then we will win," sophomore Mary Bond said.

Many people feel the team's problems stem from the players who are no longer with the team, but Bond disagrees. "I think the (loss of players) has affected the team, but I think it is affected the team for the better," she said. "I think the team benefited from what happened."

Bond and Ronda Bolitho added eight points apiece. Bond also had seven rebounds.

AQ falls to 6-12 overall and 1-4 in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference, and hosts Cornerstone College tonight.

A View from the Bench

NBA Reputation Forever Tarnished

by Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

Just after Michael Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to another title, the NBA went from celebrating another great ending to a season-rumoring lockout.

In our era of the inflating players' salaries, we have lockouts caused by the players complaining about not making enough. However, this current lockout was the owners saying how the players make too much and demanding more restrictions placed on salaries of the players.

Although this is a good idea, there are many different ways the owners could have approached this. It's not like Congress shut down to influence the passing of a bill.

After many months of debating, the two sides finally came to agreement on the 13 items brought to attention by the owners.

One of the big ones is the new salary cap. Instead of giving the teams a salary cap over everyone, the sides agreed on a cap per player.

The settlement holds that players with zero to five years experience can make, at most, $9 million dollars a year, players with six to nine years $11 million and players with 10 or more years $14 million.

This is a great idea because it keeps the players with lower salaries from seeming like they are too underpaid. There will also be longer suspensions and higher fines for player misconduct, and all players will be drug tested once per season.

Basketball will have an even louder voice in the NBA to find an exciting player like Jordan to help save the reputation of basketball.

Many people have been saying how Kobe Bryant and Grant Hill would be the next Michael Jordans, but we all know no basketball player will ever replace or dominate the game the way Michael Jordan did.

As far as the season in the NBA goes, I will not be one of the fans cheering on the Piston or any of other my favorite teams because the loss of basketball is forever.
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AQ Men's Basketball Saved by Last-Second Shot

Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

Slam dunks by seniors Mike Jackson and Nashune Hickman and a buzzer-beating jump shot by Hickman were just a few of the ways the men's basketball team defeated Concordia College 58-56 on Saturday.

The Saints pulled ahead 38-25 at halftime but watched the Cardinals come storming back and eventually take the lead late in the game. "We came out slow in the second half," Jackson said. "We weren't real intense like we should have been."

Hickman hit a running jump shot with 0.4 seconds left to play to help lift AQ, but the team seemed a little disappointed with a two point win over last place Concordia.

"Basically, I think it was the ugliest game we have ever played," senior Courtney Norman said. "We should have beat them by at least 20."

According to Hickman, the last few games have been rough for both him and the team. "It was a struggle like it has been all year," he said. "We know we are a much better team."

He also said that he sees this game as a turning point for himself. "That (the game-winning jump shot) is a good thing," Hickman said. "I did some good things tonight."

Although the team is .500 both overall (10-10) and in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (3-3), they still feel they have not been playing well all season. "We haven't put a complete game together all season," Jackson said. "We haven't put a complete game together all season."

Norman said that he agrees with Jackson and that everything has to come together by Wednesday. "We have a big game on Wednesday, so we need to step it up," he said. "Hopefully we have a few good days of practice this week."

Hickman led the Saints with 19 points. Norman added 14, and Jackson and junior Ross Willick tallied nine apiece. AQ looks to keep the winning going and start playing as a team tonight at Cornerstone College.

"Eventually we are going to get it together," Hickman said.
The Transition of a Quiet Nation

Where on Earth is Malawi?

AFRICA

MALAWI

by Chris Manthing
Times Features Editor

Like a misbehaving child, it seems that the countries with the most turmoil also attract the most attention from the outside world. The rest fall to the wayside and continue to struggle with much less foreign aid and intervention. Among these quiet nations is Malawi. This primarily agricultural African nation of about 12 million people is bordered by Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. Malawi has been a nation far removed from the spotlight in the past few years. Even the government's transition from a dictatorship to a republic with an elected president was peaceful and quiet. This is a sharp contrast to many African nations making similar changes. Despite their cultural differences, tribes within the nation embrace compromise which is also uncommon. These tribes include Chewa, comprising about 90 percent of the population, the Nyanja, the Tumbuka and the Ngoni. Still the plight of the people is difficult. Recent growing seasons have been devastating to the agricultural economy. As Aquinas student Clement Chiwaya explained, "In the last 2 or 3 years El Nino has caused a shortage of food and many of the people are subsistence farmers. They survive on what they can grow." Basic medical supplies like vaccines and antibiotics are in very short supply if available at all. Not surprisingly, the average age of death is only 46 years old. Chiwaya, born in 1971, could have been vaccinated for polio but it was unavailable at the time in Malawi. Most citizens spend their entire lives working very hard just to survive. Because work has become so important to the people of Malawi, those that cannot perform necessary tasks become a "burden." Wheelchairs and crutches are very scarce making transportation anywhere very time consuming and strenuous. Without any mobility, the lack of capability to lift and no real place in the economy, the disabled are seen as a "nuisance" or "liability" to the efficiency of the economy. Those that are disabled receive no government aid, and few have the opportunity for education. The disabled of Malawi encounter very-financed access into buildings and in public restrooms. Buildings with a second floor may not have an elevator or may not have a ramp in addition to the steps leading to the door. Besides the burden of economic stigma Chiwaya also pointed out a very strong cultural stigma toward the disabled. "Since most of the handicapped stand in the corner and beg for money the stigma is made even worse." Most disabled spend their entire lives begging on village streets for their next meal. For Chiwaya, his goal in being a student at Aquinas is very simple, "My mission here is to make contact with the government and other organizations, both American and Malawi, to help the disabled in Malawi." More importantly Clement will be paving the way for others, physically disabled or not, to seek an education and eventually better the lot of the people of Malawi.

Small Steps Toward Progress

By Casey Van Dam
Times Contributing Writer

For Clement Chiwaya, America is about windows. The differences between this country and his homeland show him new windows to open every day, and he is determined to open them all before he returns home.

Chiwaya was raised in Malawi by Bishop A. Assolari of the Mongochi Diocese in Malawi, Bishop Assolari had cared for Chiwaya from age six after Clement contracted polio at age two, paying his medical bills and aiding him with his education. It was Bishop Assolari who sponsored Chiwaya's visit to the United States.

When Chiwaya arrived in Grand Rapids, Bishop Rose and the Diocese of Grand Rapids took him in. They acquired for him a home by President Knopke to secure admittance to Aquinas College.

Upon his arrival here, he noticed many differences in the treatment of the disabled.

"The disabled have no rights, and there is no concern for them in Malawi," said Chiwaya.

He saw that people seem to care here, and that there is always someone who will lend a hand. People have helped by donating a wheelchair, aiding the continuation of his education and even just saying hello and offering to wheel him to his next class.

"Many of the students in Malawi were very competitive and not helpful to me. They weren't ready to help as people have been here," added Clement.

Along with the mentality toward the disabled that differs between America and Malawi, Chiwaya has also noticed a different approach to education. In Malawi, there are no federal mandates requiring handicapped access to public facilities such as the United States has. Between time restraints and the physical strain of this attitude toward the disabled, his education and his body suffered. Unlike the United States, Chiwaya did not have the benefit of public transportation in Malawi.

In a country of 96,000 elementary school students, the competition for education is fierce, and there are no considerations made to the disabled. Of those 96,000 students who apply each year for high school, only 6000 are accepted, and only 1000 more can continue on to Malawi's only university. Chiwaya gained acceptance into high school, but because no disabled program exists for the university, he was not considered for further education. Here, he found and will find more programs provided for the purpose of aiding the disabled in their goals of education. His search has helped him find a place at Aquinas College where he has the access he needs. Chiwaya admits that it is difficult to leave his family behind in his journey here, even though he will return. The great distances from those he loves so dearly make his stay here a bit tougher, but he is determined to remain here until he has found the path to helping his people. He has also found the people that he has met to be very encouraging and helpful.

He hopes to further his education by setting up contacts and finding organizations here in the United States that will help him give his home a new start. The support of his family who are proud to have an educated son and the sponsors of Bishop Rose, the Diocese of Grand Rapids and Mr. and Mrs. James Rademacher provide him with the strength he needs to overcome any difficulty during his stay here.

Presently Chiwaya is pursuing his education at Aquinas, and hopes for a major in Community Leadership and Political Science. He feels these two disciplines will be the most helpful in his aid of his country. Through the assistance of Bishop Rose, James Rademacher, President Knopke and a slew of others, his dream of a higher education is being realized.