Campus Crime Report

by Janelle Burden
Times Contributing Writer

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1999, at 5:50 p.m., a student reported an item missing from the bed of her truck. Were you that student? You could have been. This record appears in the Campus Crime Log, one of the newest additions to the Aquinas Website.

The crime log is a response to amendments in the Higher Education Act of 1965. These amendments are known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. This new legislation is an attempt at educating students and making them aware of the crime that is occurring on their campuses.

The amendments require all college and university security offices to post crime statistics within two days of their occurrence. While some crime notifications were previously available upon request, information about crimes such as arson and manslaughter did not have to be disclosed.

Aquinas Campus Safety Officer Jennifer Bieneman hopes that the log will have a positive impact. She feels that students need to understand that crime does exist, "even at Aquinas." Although there is a great deal of crime that can’t be prevented, there is also a significant amount that can be.

Bieneman said, "too many people leave doors unlocked and items unattended. Students become too trusting; they need to watch out for crime and protect themselves."

This includes personal safety issues as well as those dealing with property. The Campus Safety Office hopes that the crime log will encourage students to utilize resources such as the Campus Safety Escort Program.

In addition to crime that victimizes students, the act also has an impact on certain campus locations. The Campus Safety Office intends to find out what is needed and make the changes. Director of Student Activities Eric Mullen said, "The main purpose for the change is to devise a specific plan of action and a timeline to make the Carriage House a highly used student space."

Concerned by the minimally used space in the Carriage House, Student Activities hope to make changes to the building based on student input.

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

Imprehensibility is in the news... and most people say: they are tired of hearing about it. But not the political science and history buffs that filled the Ballroom for the lecture on Feb. 3, 1999. These students and faculty sought answers from an expert.

Dr. Paul Finkelman, John F. Seiberling Constitutional Law Professor at the University of Akron in Ohio, gave a politically savvy lecture detailing the history and constitutionality of impeachment. A discussion on Thomas Jefferson and how he confronted and justified the issue of slavery followed. Finkelman began by citing the articles of the Constitution that enumerated impeachable offenses of "treason, bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanors."

He differentiated between maladministration from malfeasance by stating, "The electorate has a good way of getting rid of people who don't do their job."

Therefore, Finkelman explained, "An impeachable offense is an offense that is against the political process... or the way we operate in this country."

Finkelman pointed to the Federalist Papers in which Alexander Hamilton said that a violation of the public trust, especially in the electoral process, was grounds for impeachment. As an example, Finkelman stated that former President Nixon essentially violated the public trust in the Watergate scandal.

Halfway into the lecture, the current topic of the day—Clinton’s trial—was raised. ‘I wondered how long it would take for this to be brought up,’ Finkelman said with amusement.

Finkelman quoted Marx by saying, ‘History repeats itself. The first time as a tragedy, the second as a farce.’

He was referring to the Nixon impeachment as a tragedy and the Clinton impeachment as a farce.

Finkelman stated was not illegal and not impeachable. The question of whether Clinton committed perjury arose.

"All bribes are the same because it is selling out the office and all treasons are the same because it is selling out the country... but all perjuries are not the same," Finkelman answered.

Finkelman predicted that if Clinton was impeached, "History repeats itself. The first time as a tragedy, the second as a farce."
"Crime" continued from Page 1

impact on students who are engaging in criminal activity. For example, Aquinas Residence Life must follow a similar reporting program. While the act does not mandate immediate posting of specific incidents, it does require an annual report of all violations that occur.

Director of Residence Life Randy MacGeorge expressed some concerns about this aspect of the Act. While posting crime statistics may make students aware and encourage them to protect themselves, MacGeorge is doubtful that posting residence hall violations will deter students from participating in such activities. He instead sees that the incidents that are dealt with on a case-by-case basis will instead be looked at on a broader level and will reflect negatively to current members and prospective students.

On a positive note, the Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act will most certainly mean greater accountability for all those involved in preventing and reporting crime. Campus Safety and Residence Life will review criminal activity on a more regular basis, and in the process may head officials off to new approaches to crime prevention.

Bieneman expressed an interest in taking advantage of this opportunity to learn more about their surroundings and ways to make Aquinas a safer place to be.

For further information about the Higher Education Amendments, the Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, check out the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) Website at www.iaclea.org or by calling the information line at 1-800-851-3472.

"Finkelman" continued from Page 1

Clinton did in fact commit an impeachable offense; then there would be a "bottom up revolution" by the people—which incidentally hadn't happened given recent public opinion polls.

Several of Finkelman's examples supporting his convictions were amusing and contained political humor with a satirical twist. Some audience members interpreted this style to be partisan, others found Finkelman to be more entertaining than regular professors.

In his second lecture, Dr. Finkelman, who has written a book entitled "Slavery and the Founders," spoke on Thomas Jefferson's views and attitude toward slavery during the founding of the nation. Dr. Finkelman had some harsh words about Jefferson, who he believed set a dangerous precedent for liberty in the early days of the nation. Finkelman states that Jefferson, who was the great proponent of liberty and equality, owned around 175 slaves in his lifetime.

Finkelman called him the first person in America who was "an ardent racist." Finkelman stated at numerous points in Jefferson's life, Jefferson had the opportunity to emancipate them, however did not do so, believing slaves were socially, mentally and biologically inferior.

Finkelman also spoke on the late development in an alleged affair Jefferson had with slave Sally Hemings. Finkelman concurred with the recent DNA study done that proves Jefferson probably had several children with Hemings. Finkelman did state that Jefferson, at the end of his life, freed five slaves—all members of the Hemings family.

Aquinas History professor Dr. Anna Bates, who studied under Finkelman in graduate school, said, "I was very impressed with Dr. Finkelman as a mentor... I thought his lecture was very well received by the students."

Tricia Booma, a senior with a history minor, expected the lecture on impeachment to be more non-partisan. "It was a good lecture, but his political agenda showed through... especially in his satire on the Bush brothers," she commented. "He had some good points on the lack of accountability for special prosecutors though.

Bates, in response to the idea that some students felt the presentation was very partisan, stated, "[Finkelman] takes a very legalistic approach and I feel he was honest... To me, it was a very objective presentation."

Matt Russick, a junior, grinned throughout the lecture. "It was funny, I thought," he said, "it was a great lecture, the speaker and the information was valuable to me. I enjoyed it!"

Finkelman's lecture was co-sponsored by the Phi Alpha Theta history club and multicultural department. He has published several books, including Impeachable Offenses.

Women Share "Hard Cases"

by Nick Occhipinti
Times Contributing Writer

On Feb. 1, nearly 40 people crowded into the Loulit Room to hear three young women share their real-life experiences with adoption and abortion. The crowd listened compassionately as the women discussed the what they lived through.

Tricia Tyler, President of Students for Life at Aquinas, gave a brief history of the pro-life movement and then introduced Christina Gillon, the first panelist. Gillon told the audience that she was very promiscuous and became pregnant at 18. She planned to marry her boyfriend, but as part of "the deal" she would get an abortion. At five months pregnant, five days after she was married, she drove to Lansing to have the first of two parts of her abortion performed and then to another city to have it finished. She was taken to a back room with two other patients. One of the patients was thirteen and the other, an older woman, was in having her fourth or fifth abortion.

Gillon passionately explained, "One of the most haunting memories from that experience was that I would see them (the women) being rushed by crying, then (I would) see a nurse walk out with a trash bag."

On her choice Gillion said, "I never entered my mind that the baby would have to die... I really wanted to get rid of my problem and get married."

Gillon was flooded with grief and guilt after the procedure and resorted to substance abuse. Gillon felt that she had not been the same since the abortion.

She now speaks to others who have had abortions so that she can help them find the "hope and healing that I have." She carries with her a model of a baby at twelve weeks and reminded the group that most abortions do not take place until twelve weeks.

The other two panelists opted to put their babies up for adoption. Heather Schram, a junior in high school, was with her boyfriend for a year when she decided to become sexually active. She discovered that she was pregnant and decided to give the baby up for adoption.

Schram said that it was very emotional leaving her baby at the hospital, but she the opportunity to meet with her baby's adoptive parents which comforted her.

"My adoptive parents are absolutely wonderful," Schram said. The fact that the baby is now caring for her says, "It has been the hardest decision I've ever had to make in my life... but I know I made the best decision for him [the baby]."

The women's stories moved the audience. Sr. Rosemary O'Donnell, almost brought to tears, said, "It was a very powerful experience. They were such strong women."

In general, a feeling of sympathy ran through the audience and questions from the audience related to the women's individual stories.

Tyler commented afterwards, "The goal for the panel discussion was to get people from both sides of the issue to realize what abortion actually is and the reality behind it. Abortion is not just a political issue... it not only affects the unborn, but the women too."
February 10, 1999

Speaker Addresses Spirituality

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

Dr. Robert Marko spoke to the Aquinas community about St. Ignatius of Loyola, photo by Chris Wair

Why do students choose to come to a religiously affiliated college? There are several answers to this question; however, many students feel that the discussion of spirituality is essential. What does spirituality mean? What is God’s will, and how is it accomplished?

Two speakers recently attempted to tackle these complex questions. The first, Sister Mary Catherine Hilker, O.P., Ph.D., and Associate Professor of Theology, Dr. Robert Marko presented reflections on the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola on Feb. 4. Both lectures were well attended, especially by Dominicans from Marywood and faculty of Aquinas.

Is human suffering actually willed by God? Hilker responded that “theology is a matter of asking the right questions, not right answers.” She proceeded to focus on three colleagues, who suffered from Parkinson’s Disease, cancer and lupus. Suffering, Hilker concluded, was not willed by God and could be viewed in two basic ways—practical and non-mystical approach to spirituality.

"Extreme penance did not lead Ignatius toward God, but away from God," Marko explained. The theology professor attributed the drifting away of people from both the Catholic and Protestant churches to the fact that “the focus is on sin and not the love of God.” Through Ignatius’ principles and rules, man can accomplish God’s will, Marko explained.

"God’s will is to face the fact that we are to reverence and praise God. St. Ignatius’ spirituality helps us put our lives into proper perspective... the conversion to love requires that we move from death into life," he said.

Sophomore Susan Webster, an art major, commented after the discussion, “It definitely stimulated me to think about the important issues of spirituality... such as how Satan can find your weakest points, your ‘Achilles’ heel, and use them.” Timothy Ryan, a sophomore studying theology, said, “Marko had a good way of defining certain experiences, tying into the fact that man was created to praise, revere and serve God. I think it all seemed to fit together.”

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Aquinis
Ireland News

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Ireland Correspondent

The 1999 Ireland group spent their good-byes twice. At nine inches of snow fell on Grand Rapids, Jan. 10, closing the Kent County airport, their Sunday departure was delayed until Monday.

"It was worse leaving on Monday," said Jennifer Bradshaw. "Since my boyfriend had to go back to school the next day, we didn’t get to say the traditional goodbye at the airport."

The delay did not dampen Dan Timms' spirits. "I’ve been waiting nine months for this day, so one more day isn’t such a big deal."

The next day, Monday, the 23 students gathered at the airport and repeated their good-byes. Leaving behind prediction of more snow, the group set off for greener lands.

"It’s so beautiful and romantic here," said Jessica Lombardo, "like illustrations from children’s books.

With delicious eyes, the group saw sheep grazing in the rugged pastures and a double rainbow stretching from mountain to mountain.

Finally, after 19 hours of travel, the students were welcomed to Tally Cross with soup and sandwich. After a visit to the pub, the students headed to bed for their first night of sleep in the country.

Now that the group has been in Ireland for a few weeks, they have forgotten figuring out bus schedules and hailng taxis. They just hold out their thumb and they’re on their way.

Timms is a way to travel cheap in Ireland," said Marko Makulske. "The people who pick you up are so generous. They say, ‘that’s what we’re here for.’"

For the 1999 Aquinas Ireland students, hitch-hiking has become a new mode of transportation. It’s also a way to meet Irish people and experience Irish life.

"We rode a tractor 8 miles going 8 mph," said Joe Thomas. "It wasn’t much faster than walking, but we had a good time."

Sitting among hoes, chains and shovels, Thomas and Timms discussed with the driver the expenses of driving in Ireland.

With the costs of fuel, insurance and taxes much higher than in the states, hitching is a common prac­tice in Ireland.

"We have 8 hours to get back to Tally Cross from Galway, [and we’d] walk miles away after our weekend in London," said Susanne Kohut. "Since the buses don’t run that day, we’re counting on some Irish luck to get us back for 6:30 class."
Michigan Legislators' Term Limits May Change

by Joshua D. Cochran
Times Local/National Editor

February 10, 1999

Michigan Legislators' Term Limits May Change

by Joshua D. Cochran
Times Local/National Editor

February 10, 1999

Last month, when the new Legislative session began in Lansing, there were 64 new faces in the State House, thanks to a 1992 state initiative on term limits that took effect this session. The new restrictions limit House members to three two-year terms and senators to two four-year terms.

Term limits will once again be a point of contention this session, as Senator Glenn Steil, a Senator from Grand Rapids and Aquinas graduate, who sponsored the 1992 term limit proposal, has put forth a bill seeking to lengthen the limits placed on terms.

"Senator Steil feels we need to modify the original legislation in order to strike a compromise between fresh ideas and allowing legislators a chance to learn their jobs," stated Mike Murray, the Senator's Communications Director.

This new proposal, will extend the number of years that legislators can serve. The new proposal sponsored by Steil would give all members of the Michigan government, not just legislators but also the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State a twelve year limit. Currently offices in the Executive branch are restricted to two four-year terms.

According to an article in the Grand Rapids Press on Jan. 26, 1999, Steil admitted he was still in favor of term limits, however he believes that the 1992 provision doesn't allow lawmakers to adequately learn their job.

Now Steil is coming under heavy fire due to his hardline stance on limits just seven years earlier. However, those who once fought against his proposal will not offer such a challenge this time around. Groups such as Common Cause of Michigan who were adamantly against Steil's proposal in 1992, will not contest the issue of term limits with this proposal. These groups opposed the initial term limits because they viewed them as removing the power to remove legislators from people.

However, the worse criticism is emanating from many Democrats who are attacking his plan as an example of republicanism. They view Steil as waverling, after realizing the horrible truth about term limits.

"Senator Steil joined the term limits movement after the proposed length had already been determined. He was not entirely happy with the length of the limits at the time, but felt that any term limit legislation is better than none at all," said Murray.

Steil, who took office in 1994 after a special election, has stated that he will leave office in 2002 after his term limit expires. The new resolution will have to be ratified by two-thirds of the Michigan State Senate and house, as it is a joint resolution. In addition, it will have to go before Michigan voters, as it will require a change to the Michigan constitution. This is the same public that narrowly approved the original term limits 49 to 51 percent in 1992.

The new proposal would ease up Michigan's current term limits, which along with Oregon, Arkansas and California are currently the most restrictive of the eighteen states that possess term limit restrictions.

Those looking for a bit of mystery in their city's history would have found just the story in Grand Rapids. An underground room was recently discovered in an alley between the U.S. Post Office building and the Olds Manor Retirement Residence in downtown Grand Rapids. Workers uncovered the mysterious chamber while looking for a leak in an underground water pipe nearby.

The room had a concrete ceiling that arched 18 feet between two stone walls and stood 15 feet from the dirt floor. A brick wall blocked the east end of the room, and the other end was filled in with loose dirt.

In spite of many theories offered by local residents, there are no great tales of secret hiding places or buried treasure to surface here. Gordon Olson, the Grand Rapids historian, offered a more factual answer to this mystery. According to Olson, the room was part of a 19th century flour mill owned by the Valley City Milling Company. Around the 1830's, canals were built along the Grand River to channel water into the city to provide water power for the local industries. The water from the canals would also flow into flumes to be utilized for water power before heading back out into the river.

Olson referred to a map, circa 1895, which showed one such canal directly by the site where the Olds Manor is currently located. This particular canal once had been a flume running underneath the old Valley City flour mill. The room that was recently discovered used to be the area where the water was channeled to power the grinding stones for the mill.

Starting in the early 20th century, these canals were blocked up and abandoned due to the growing use of electricity in industry. Since then, the canals have mostly been forgotten, until the accidental uncovering of the underground room just weeks ago. However, not much more can be studied about this place to gain any other insight. Due to potential hazard of a cave-in, the workers who discovered the room filled the space with gravel soon after fixing the leaking water pipe. Although there was no dramatic outcome to the mystery of this room, the search for an answer was an interesting journey. What started out as an accidental discovery led to a remarkable recovery of some less-known history of the Grand Rapids downtown area.

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Clinton Vote Expected This Week

by Joshua D. Cochran Times Local/National Editor

Within the next two days, United States Senators will cast their votes, for only the second time in American history, to determine the fate of a sitting American President.

The vote, which is expected to come on Friday, will decide whether or not President Clinton can be removed from office regarding perjury and obstruction of justice during the impeachment of Lewinsky affair. However, most have dismissed the vote as a foregone conclusion, that the Senate will not have the necessary two-thirds majority, or the sixty-seven Senators, it will need to remove Clinton from office.

This week’s vote comes at the end of two months of heated debate and testimony before Chief Justice William Rehnquist who presided over the trial, as well as the one hundred Senators who are serving as jurors in the trial. The trial, which was expected to last several months, was hastened due to two key votes which indicated that the Senate would not have the number of votes needed to impeach Clinton.

One of the key votes dealt with the inclusion of witnesses into the proceedings. The vote, which remained close to party lines, allowed for three witnesses—Sydney Blumenthal, Vernon Jordan and Lewinsky herself, to give sworn testimony in the trial. Democrats felt that the witnesses would lengthen the trial unnecessarily, as many had already given sworn depositions in the events prior to the Senate trial.

Once again last week Senators began to consider another plan which would condemn President Clinton instead of finding him guilty. Even before the trial began last month, some Senators were seeking that an alternative, such as censure be considered, to spare the nation of an impeachment trial. The proposal was rejected as many cited the Senate’s constitutional duty to go forth with a trial after the House of Representatives impeaches an official. However, ever since the trial began many prominent members of the Senate, such as Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Orrin Hatch of Utah have put forth plans requesting dismissal of Clinton’s case.

The vote on Friday is expected to follow partisan lines, with most of the fifty-five Republican Senators voting for conviction. Even with the Republican majority, it would take twelve additional Democrats to vote with the majority in order for Clinton to be removed from office. It is doubted that a guilty verdict will be reached, leaving Clinton to finish out the remainder of his term. Clinton will likely be the second President in American history to escape conviction and removal from office by the Senate. President Andrew Johnson was acquitted in the Senate trial by one vote in 1868.

New Bill May Help Students Pay for College, Improve Michigan’s At-risk Schools

by Heather M. Karal Times Editor-in-Chief

It is no secret that Michigan’s at-risk schools are a major concern for those in the education field. Now, Michigan Majority Senate Caucus Leader Glenn Steil (R-Grand Rapids) has introduced a plan which may make college more affordable for students pursuing careers in education and improve the quality of education in Michigan’s at-risk schools.

Steil’s proposed bill (SB208), called the “Future Teachers Program,” would allow students who are Michigan residents studying at Michigan colleges and universities to borrow up to $12,000 over four years from the state if they sign an agreement to teach at an at-risk school upon graduation. To be eligible for the loan, the student must be enrolled in a state-approved teacher education program and have demonstrated potential for superior academic performance in college.

Steil explained that the idea for this bill stemmed from an awareness of the growing shortage of teachers at at-risk Michigan schools. “I visited every school in my community and found that there’s a lack of good teachers in the inner city... Most students graduate college and want to work in comfortable, good paying jobs in [communities like] Forest Hills. This bill will offer incentive for teachers to work in schools that really need them,” Steil said.

Under SB208, the Department of Education will also develop a method to forgive portions of the loan after graduation based on the number of years that the loan recipient works in an at-risk school. “[This bill] gives students who want to become teachers support to go to college, and it encourages those teachers to work at schools where the children need them most,” Steil said. The SB208 is waiting to be approved by the Education Committee and the Appropriations Committee. Then it will be voted on by the Michigan House and the Senate and brought before the governor for approval. If the bill passes, funds are expected to be available for September of 2000.

The full text of the “Future Teachers Program” bill can be found on the Michigan Legislature’s Official Web Site at www.michiganlegislature.org

Cohabitation Does Not Equal Commitment

New AIDS Cases Show Racial Divides

Research in Chicago has shown that there seems to be a growing racial divide in AIDS cases. African-Americans are dying of AIDS for the first time are 25 times more likely than whites to have recently acquired HIV infections. The research team examined blood donors, who are among the least likely of all people to be infected. The analysis showed that about 2 of every 100,000 white donors annually are newly infected, compared to 51 of every 100,000 among blacks. Researchers indicated that AIDS is evolving from being largely an illness of white homosexuals to one of poor blacks who catch it through drug abuse and heterosexual sexual encounters.

Barbie Reaches Out to a New Generation

Barbie, the world’s most famous doll, is turning 40 in March. Although she has been ageless since 1959, Barbie in 1999 will be undergoing quite a few changes. A midlife crisis? Perhaps. Mattel has created a line of dolls dubbed the Generation Girls, which includes a Barbie with a nose ring. Butterfly Art Barbie even has a butterfly tattoo on her stomach. According to Anne Parunuco, Senior Vice President of Barbie Marketing, Barbie will represent a lifestyle for girls, not just a brand of toys. Things certainly have changed over the past 40 years.

Pluto May Not Be a Planet

Pluto’s days as one of our solar system’s nine major planets may be numbered. Two groups within the International Astronomical Union are thinking about reclassifying the planet, either calling it a “minor planet” or placing it within an entirely new class of objects. Some astronomers want to create a new class of objects for icy balls that orbit beyond Neptune. In this class, Pluto would be called “Trans-Neptunian Object Number One.” With a diameter of only 1,440 miles, Pluto is smaller than Earth’s moon.

Translating Mallspeak

The president of Smith College in Massachusetts is trying to end what she calls “mallspeak” out of college students’ vocabularies across the country. “Mallspeak” is the common use of words such as “like,” “you know,” “whatever,” and “I mean,” which are the majority of the speech coming from young people’s mouths. Ruth Simmons is the head of “Speaking Across the Curriculum,” a program demanding students to do more oral presentations. She feels that the removal of mallspeak will improve speaking and presentation skills in students. But, this idea may be really hard for students to, like, get in the habit of.
**Education Spending: Where Should the Money Come From?**

**POINT**

The new public opinion dilemma in Washington is that too many people think the public education system is flabby and is going down the drain. What is our president's brilliant answer? "Let's spend a lot more money!" Republicans, who don't want to be left behind, say, "O.K. Let's spend only a little bit more money!"

We cheer and applaud because they're telling us what we think we want to hear—an easy solution.

The truth is that federal spending for public education may be an easy solution, but it's not the right one. I have several objections to federal governement spending on public education that I believe spending for education is best left to the states and individuals.

First, contrary to what the public (and some elected officials) think the Constitution is not just a bunch of meaningless guidelines that we can follow on a whim. The Constitution enumerates the specific powers of the federal government in Article I, Section 8. Unsurprisingly, the power to fund education is NOT one of them. The Tenth Amendment states that any power not specifically delegated to the federal government is reserved to the states and individuals. So, spending for education has traditionally and historically been a power of the states and individuals.

Education was reserved to the states and individuals because of its fundamental characteristics. Education instills the values of specific individuals and communities into future generations. If the federal government threw money at schools, whose values would that school reflect? To whom would the school be accountable for efficient spending of those funds?

Second, federal spending gradually siphons away individual freedom and intrudes on our liberty. Local schools will no longer be under the control of parents and school boards. The "friends in Washington" will dictate everything—from what books are in the library to what kind of vegetarian sandwich your child is allowed to eat at lunch—because the feds pay for it.

Third, increased spending has done nothing to improve the quality of public education since the War. The federal government controls where the money goes—when they don't even know where the money goes. The federal government is not trying to educate our kids. They are trying to use education as a tool to control the states.

Clinton's program might please the polls, but it has serious ramifications for the children of America.

**COUNTERPOINT**

It's a problem I thought we'd never see—excess money for education. Let's think about that for a moment. Should we consider federal funds a problem? The answer is simple. The answer is no.

First, we should examine our current situation. We've got some states with almost enough funding for their public schools. Then we've got those that almost have enough funding to stop roof leaks from ruining their library books. Opponents to the federal dollars for education worry about government "strings" attached to these gifts, but I think that beggars can't be choosers, and well, let's face it... there is some weight to the right-wingers concern about giving the federal government too much control over what were originally states' rights. "Shouldn't states determine the educative potential of their own children?"... they plea. There is something inherently wrong and bad in that line of thought. Do we really want there to be "bad states" and "good states" as far as places where students have a chance at success? America is a very free-flowing place. There are the states, each with their own little flag and bird and rock, but last I knew it is pretty easy to move from one state to the next. My point here is that we are one people—let's set an educational standard with these extra dollars, one that would support our one American body of children.

Citing that states' rights are being infringed upon is a oversight. How many people with clear heads foresee government agencies taking over the time to regulate every aspect of student life. The number of schools is simply too large. This type of Constitutional paranoia is exactly what we don't need standing between available money and kids getting substandard educations.

**Summary:**

President Clinton announced in his State of the Union address Jan. 19, 1999, that he planned to increase the amount of federal spending for public education. Clinton's plan proposed upping the federal funding for after-school and summer programs from $200 million to $600 million and an additional $200 million to reform failing schools.

Another concern (dealing with reality) is that the money might be better spent bailing out the Social Security Program, especially considering the impending threat of those twitfully aging Baby Boomers. He's no hero, but President Clinton has a point in his quote to the Associated Press that, "Long after I'm gone from the White House... you would have a better future.

I am not promoting that the aging should be abandoned, but if we spent this surplus money on a futureless program only to deny up-coming generations of their future we don't deserve the gifts our children are sure to develop and share.

My final point is that opinion polls have resoundingly reflected the American people's desire to spend their own tax money spent on, finally, something that they know is worthwhile. Not that we should base all our decisions on polls, but there is a merit in the voice of the masses. It would indeed be a crime to shy away from doing something great and let the people's voices fall onto dumb ears. All for what? All for fear of doing something big. The stigma of denying our future the best education can only be topped by the shame of doing that out of fear.

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An Editorial Comment

Rapids instead of Campus Safety. This, like most everything else, these are all wonderful amenities, but how much will students be full—of whom and at what price we’re still not sure.

Perhaps this is a dramatization. They in control is the Administration of Aquinas, not such a nameless, faceless force. However, since even Residence Life staff have been kept uniformed about vital information concerning these prized new edifices, it almost seems like the apartment situation is being controlled by very distant forces.

The majority of Aquinas students weren’t even aware of the sign up date until it passed. Those who did show up on the first day of sign up admit to have, nearly accidentally, “run into” the information that is available. Those lucky applicants also conceded that they really knew very little about what they were signing up for. Were they committing to live in the apartment or just beginning an application process? When would they find out if they were accepted? How much will it cost?

There has been one piece of material available at Residence Life about the apartments, but publication indicating the deadline was limited to a blurb in the Campus Correspondence and the Residence Hall Council Newsletter. Students interested in the apartments had to probe and quiz the people at Residence Life for even limited information concerning these prized new edifices, it almost seems like the apartment situation is being controlled by very distant forces.

The information that has slipped out of Residence Life, we know that the apartments will be furnished with ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers, beds, shelves, desks, tables and chairs and couches as well as services including local telephone service, voicemail, cable television service, electricity, internet and e-mail access, gas, waste and recycling as well as water (good thing). But this information is available at Res. Life in a brochure. A new space, who were less assertive about getting answers. They might have believed that they would hear about it when the chance came up. They were wrong.

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Another interesting tidbit that has leaked down the chain of command is that the apartments may be policed by East Grand Rapids instead of Campus Safety. This, like most everything else, is still up in the air.

There may be more details, but to those waiting and listening for them, good luck. Sometime next year (next year?) interested students might stroll by three matching doll houses, wondering when they'll be finally ready for sign up. Too bad they'll be full—of whom and at what price we’re still not sure.

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V
Flys Buzz the Intersection

February 10, 1999

by Joe Threerkauf
Time's A&E Editor

The interaction was packed to the rafters with people eager to see Cutter, The Flys and Papa Vegas last Thursday. Sadly, Papa Vegas had to cancel due to illness within the band, and needed time off to recuperate for an upcoming show in Detroit with Dovetail Joint. Grand Rapids locals Holly joined the bill in their place, and The Flys headlined.

For once the cigarette smoke and sweat were bearable compared to the temperature outside which was a toasty 15 degrees or so. The cold may have been what spawned the high energy level recognized by all three bands. As the lead singer from Cutter put it, only one town (Chicago) had a more wild crowd in the last two months of their touring.

Holly opened the night with a fun and edgy set of tunes, reminiscent of Foo Fighters, though I probably say that with some faux pas. It’s enjoyable Grand Rapids music with these guys. It’s almost shameful that bands like Verve Pipe make the big time when good-time bands like Holly, DP and Troll For Trout are around. Such is life, as the translation goes.

After the show, Josh, the band’s bassist, said, “Our shows have become less about accuracy and more about just having fun... going up and giving people something energetic to listen to.”

Good idea, and it works. The band has been together for about eight months and is already assembling their favorites for a CD, due out in March or April.

“It’s tough sometimes,” said Josh, “because you just want to snap and have it done. While we’re playing live shows, we keep writing new songs, and the last one on the list tends to get bumped off. We’re just trying to solidify and pick the best one for the record.” It’s all about the energy, it seems.

Cutter was less impressive. Though they tried, they were one of those dime-a-dozen blues-like college rock bands which the music scene is saturated with. This was apparently not noticed by the assemblage of concert-goers, who responded well to the group. So be it.

The Flys introduced themselves in a startling way. I knew they were a big radio hit around here, which set doubts in my mind, and not until they played their single “Got You” did I even recognize them. So I had an chance to observe them without bias.

The band sounds something like Alice In Chains thrown into a Ministry mixing session. Even the single was a bit more intense than it’s recorded counterpart. Dual vocalists sharing equal parts yelling and distortion effects raised the crowd’s zeal to a fervid pitch. They closed with Ozzy Osborne’s “Crazy Train,” and stood around afterward for meet-n-greet.

As one fellow showgoer said, “You gotta like a band that does a cheesy cover of Ozzy.”

"Too Close to the Sun" Burns Up Airwaves

by Elizabeth Dukel
Time's Art and Entertainment Editor

Referred to as “the darling of Detroit,” Jill Jack has worked hard to achieve that title. Over the last two years she has performed her music in Michigan and won success. With an album debut (Watch Over Me) under her belt, Jack is entering the musical ring with her second album, "Too Close to the Sun."

Jack made an appearance on the "AWARE Michigan Compilation" with the sultry song "Sins My Soul." Fans of this tune should try “Too Close to the Sun” on for size. Blessed with a sensual voice that could rival any pop diva, Jack and her members of the band tempt listeners with emotionally riveting lyrics.

In the first song on the CD, "Trav-ch-Oh," Jill Jack sings "I ve lost hope and I’ve lost faith. Through his darkness he’s shown his pain. Through my eyes he’s seen his loss, and the time for us travels on." What a way to pull at heartstrings!

The album itself is equally amazing, with other popular songs such as “Do You Believe It” and “Free-dom." With a gliding musical back up, Jack takes listeners to the deepest parts of their own souls again and again.

Possibly born under a lucky star, Jack has seen her share of success within the last year. Opening for acts including Jethro Tull, Dan Fogelberg and Pat Benatar not to mention snagging six Detroit Music Awards, Jack harnessed a way for herself in the Michigan music scene.

Committed to music, Jack has spent her career winning the hearts of fans. This Huntington Woods native (located on the East side of the state), is going to be around as long as there are songs to sing and listening audiences.

Jill Jack will be performing at the B.O.B. on Feb. 20 at 10 p.m. For more information about Jill Jack, visit her web site at www.jilljack.com.
Award-winning Poet Visits Aquinas

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

The third installment of Aquinas’s Contemporary Writers Series took place Tuesday night, Colette Inez read her award-winning poetry to a crowd of students, faculty and guests in the Wege Ballroom. Inez has published seven books of poetry including For Reasons of Music, Naming the Moons, Getting Underway, New and Selected Poetry, The Woman Who Loved Worms, Clemency, Eight Minutes from the Sun and Alive and Taking Names.

Inez came to the United States from Belgium when she was eight years old. She never knew her father and saw her mother only three times. She was raised in an orphanage in Belgium until she was eight, when she was adopted and taken to the U.S. Inez draws on her past to create large sums of highly autobiographical poetry. “I have an obsession with the past. Out of one obsession, one can make art,” she said.

Nonetheless, Inez does feel that her next collection of poetry will most likely contain work that is not based on an aspect of her past. “English is Ms. Inez’s second language, and it is because of this that she feels she has the ability to play with language.” She became inspired by the great American poets such as Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, along with the contemporary works of Mary Oliver and Sharon Olds.

“One way to become a good poet is to read as much good stuff as you can get your hands on. American poetry now is made very rich by different voices and cultures.”

Inez spent Wednesday afternoon in the library speaking with students and sharing her thoughts and ideas. “You get a better life writing poetry. You’re not living in a blurt all the time, you’re listening, you get tuned into speech. You really have to love language!”

Inez contends that she writes “something every day,” even if it’s only in her journal or simply a letter to a friend. Inez lives in New York City with her husband where she teaches at Columbia University.

Collette Inez shared her poetry, her thoughts and life story with the Aquinas community on Feb. 2 and 3. Inez has published seven different works of Mary Oliver and Sharon Olds.

A Pleasant Evening in the Cook Carriage House

Literally packed like sardines, students were occupying every available space near the stage to hear guitarist Wally Pleasant play during “What the Heck Night” late night on Jan. 28. Chairs, couches, even countertops were prime seats to hear Pleasant croon various songs from his many CDs: House of the Holy Moly, Songs About Stuff, Welcome to Pleasantville, Sasquatch and Wally World.

Pleasant isn’t your average musician, he entertained the Carriage House audience with songs like “Alternate Neu,” a mockery of “alternative” kids everywhere and “Denny’s at 4 a.m.,” a song for everyone who has been to a Denny’s restaurant at odd hours of the night.

Here is just a sampling of what audience members got to hear: “Alternate Neu, you are so beautiful to me with your Nine Inch Nails sticker on your black leather jacket. Alternateme, please take my hand and we can walk together into this month pit of life. People have compared me to Weird Al Yankovic, but he denied the similarity. “All of the material I write and play is my own, I don’t do covers of other people’s work,” he said.

Wally Pleasant entertained Aquinas students in the Cook Carriage House on Thursday, Feb. 4, as one of the “What the Heck Nights” sponsored by Programming Board.

Eagle-Eye Cherry
Desireless

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

How you know him (current single): “Save Tonight”

Where he’s from: Born in Stockholm, Sweden

Lyrics worth repeating: “He’s got that feeling of impending doom, like being trapped in a casket inside a tomb,” from the song “Death defied by will.”

My thoughts on “Desireless”: With his father, Don Cherry, having written the music on the album’s title track, Eagle-Eye Cherry cooks up a calm, soothing disc with heavy pop influence.

“Worried Eyes” is a smooth, beautiful duet with Titiyo Jah. A few of the songs such as “Falling in Love Again” and “Death Defied by Will” have the same acoustic feel of “Save Tonight.” Though others such as “Shooting up in Vain,” “Conversation,” and “Comatose (in the Arms of Slumber),” create a sobering outlook, which is needed to cut down on the pop feel of the album. The title track, “Desireless,” completes the disc and Eagle-Eye Cherry creates a beautiful tribute album for his late father, jazz great, Don Cherry.

“Desireless” sits at number 74 on Billboard’s Top 200 after twenty-five weeks on the charts. His hit single “Save Tonight” rests in the ninth spot on the Hot 100 chart after peaking at number five.

Eagle-Eye Cherry goes on the road with Sheryl Crow in March for a North American tour. Also look for him to appear at the Grammy Awards as he’s nominated for the Best Male Pop Vocal Performance. He’s also been nominated for the Brit Awards (UK) for Best International Male.

Visit Eagle-Eye Cherry at: www.eagle-eyecherry.com

by Elizabeth Dudaic
Times Arts and Entertainment Editor

Awards, faculty and guests in the Wege Ballroom. The woman behind this What the Heck Night Success was Beth Wagenschutz, resident of Hruby Residence Hall and member of the Hruby Residence Hall Council. Wagenschutz first discovered Wally Pleasant in the eighth grade: “I heard him on the Dr. Demento Show which aired from an Ann Arbor station. I had heard him at my high school and thought it would be great if he could come to Aquinas,” she said.

Wagenschutz was surprised at such a large turn out on the night of the show. “The show was funny and many of the people at the show thought so too. Many juniors and seniors said that this was the biggest turnout of students they had ever seen at the Carriage House,” said Wagenschutz.

Pleasant also made the evening a success by bringing out Bingo cards and calling out random numbers of the audience. In between shouts of B-12 or 1-64, he entertained the audience with his comic stage presence. The lucky winner of the Bingo game was Gina Mazzoni, who was invited on stage to help perform a duet with Pleasant. As Pleasant strummed a guitar, Mazzoni tapped on a Fischer-Price Xylophone. Making a stop at WAQU to talk with Calvin Webb, Pleasant said that his songs are about outgoing and ordinary things. “I try and write songs about things that are always in the back of people’s minds. You think about them and think ‘I wonder what it would be like if...’”, said Pleasant.

A rather humble guy off stage, Pleasant tries to shy out of the lime light. When it comes to his music, he’d rather not hear himself on the airwaves since, as he put it, “it is a little weird to hear yourself on the radio.”

Pleasant was eager to come back to Aquinas College and enjoyed performing to such a large turn out on the night of the show. “The show was funny and many of the people at the show thought so too. Many juniors and seniors said that this was the biggest turn out of students they had ever seen at the Carriage House,” said Wagenschutz.

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Wednesday night was looking good for the men's basketball team with 7:48 left in the second half. The Saints' Courtney Norman received the ball, flashed through the lane and dunked it home, bringing Aquinas within two points of their opponents.

It was not just the two points that went into the stat book that were so important, but also the momentum that was now wearing a white AQ jersey that got the team and the fans fired up. Aquinas went on to tie the game with 5:42 remaining, playing neck and neck with the Tri-State Thunder.

"They hit a big shot with the clock running out near the end of the game," head coach Rick Albro said.

This big shot happened to be a fade-away prayer from the three-point line by Tri-State's Mike Kenneally with the shot clock winding down. From this point on, Aquinas fouled to stop the clock and had to rely on the Thunder to miss their free-throws, which they did not, going 14/18 from the line on the night. Aquinas just did not have enough time left, losing the game, with the final score Tri-State (21-6, 7-2), 61 and Aquinas (10-13, 3-6), 54.

Coach Albro voiced a few more concerns about his Saints' performance Wednesday night when he was questioned about the physicality of the opposing team.

"We need to be more aggressive," he said. "We knew that they were an aggressive team."

He was also alluding to the 23 turnovers Aquinas committed and the 23 points that the Thunder scored off these turnovers.

"We need to play forty minutes of basketball," Albro added after taking a quick look at the statistic sheet which showed Tri-State scoring 33 points in the second half.

Despite the many turnovers, Aquinas did have several bright spots in their close game against Tri-State, currently second in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Aquinas out shot the Thunder, shooting 53.2 percent from the field compared to Tri-State's 41.2 percent. Three Saints finished the game shooting perfectly from the field including Ross Willick (4-4, 9 pts.), Mike Jackson (2-2, 4 pts.) and Chris Kreiner (5-5, 10 pts.).

The Saints also dominated the boards, out rebounding the Thunder 34 to 23. Leading AQ in rebounds was 6'5" junior Courtney Norman who had a good night in many areas. Norman scored 12 points, pulled down 8 rebounds and recorded 3 blocked shots. Although heroic, these performances were not enough to stop the visiting Thunder.

Aquinas travels to Spring Arbor tonight. The Saints have lost five out of their last six games but will look for added support from scoring leader Na Shune Hickman (17.4 ppg). "I will probably be back for Saturday's game," Hickman said about the Indiana Tech game last Saturday.

Aquinas showed tonight that they can play with any team in the conference, taking the second-place Thunder right down to the wire. In the end though, Tri-State's physical play and Aquinas' turnovers were too much for the Saints.
Saints Track Teams Prepare for Nationals

by Jessi Cleveland
Times Contributing Writer

Much like any runner, the men’s and women’s indoor track season started slowly, but gained speed down the stretch. Overcoming hurdles early on, the Saints got a second wind, one strong enough to qualify several runners for NAIA National Competition.

“Coach Dave Wood attributes the team’s success to both the quantity and quality. “We have a lot of depth this year. Event with illness and injury, we have a lot of people to step up and fill the spots,” Wood said.

Sophomore Sarah Carter agreed. “Last year’s team had very few seniors, so even though we are a young team, we are deep. We’ve seen huge improvements in everyone. The freshmen are really starting to bring their times down, and we’ve done very well despite people getting sick. Right now we have a really good shot at winning the conference.”

In addition to the relay teams, the women have also seen strong performances by Holly Szymoniec, Julie Salmondson and Kellie Louw. They hope to see times and distances continue to improve through the indoor and outdoor seasons.

“Outdoor is at the end of a long season of running; sometimes leads to a lot of injuries. If we can just stay strong and healthy and keep our focus, we should have continued success,” said Carter.

Freshman Derek Sandahl is also looking forward to the outdoor season, but not before he makes his debut at Indoor Nationals. Sandahl, who also runs the 55-meter hurdles and competes in the triple jump, qualified in the long jump with a leap of 23’ 3 1/2”.

When asked if he felt pressure as a first year qualifier, Sandahl said, “I am just very surprised to see the same kind of success that I had in high school. I see this year as a chance to get my feet in the sand, as well as test the waters of competition.”

“We will probably use this as a tuneup for the conference meet. It will be much more relaxing, since it’s an open meet, which means no scoring,” Wood predicted before the meet.

The WHAC Conference Championships are held Feb. 13 at Adrian, where the Saints hope to get a good read for the outdoor events, as well as continue their winning season.

“We think we can win both the men’s and women’s conference meets if we keep our current level of performance. There will be changes to make before outdoor season, but I think we can come out even stronger after a season like this,” said Wood.

The Saints’ final meet before Nationals is the Saginaw Valley Invitational on Feb. 19.

by Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

Last Wednesday’s, the game started off with a 12-0 Aquinas lead, but a little over a minute into the game the lights went out. After a little break, 15 minutes to be exact, the Saints came back out, but watched as Madonna began to come back pulling to within two points.

“We started out strong, then we played down to their level,” sophomore Mary Bond said.

The Saints went into the game expecting a close finish after narrowly defeating Madonna 104-95 earlier this season. They played competitively and defensively.

“We knew we needed to keep the score down and defend,” coach Linda Nash said. “Even though they hit a wall and haven’t done well in the conference, they are still a big offensive threat.”

Although Madonna started coming back, AQ pulled it together early enough to take a 34-26 lead into halftime. From there the rest of the game was back and forth with the Saints coming out on top 77-69.

“At the end we stepped it up and everyone did their job to get a win,” Bond said.

Sophomore Ronda Bolitho led AQ with 21 points and junior Nicole Mielke added 16 points and 16 rebounds.

“Ronda probably had one of her better games of the year,” Nash said of Bolitho’s performance.

“Nicole played great all around. She had 16 points and 16 rebounds, but it was huge.”

Bond came off the bench to score 15 points on seven of 11 shooting. “I feel I played the best I have all season,” the said. “I’m starting to play to my potential.”

Nash was also happy with Bond’s play.

“Bond came in off the bench and gave us very steady time,” Nash said.

The Saints’ record moves to 8-13 overall and 3-5 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, and they host Spring Arbor tonight.

The win capped off a rather high night for the women’s basketball program. Ex-Saint coach Patti Tibaldi was recognized for her induction into the NAIA Hall-of-Fame, awarded for her coaching career at Aquinas. Many of her former players attended the game and played in the alumni game right after.

“It was a huge day for the program with Patti’s celebration,” Nash said. “There was a lot of pride being felt. It was a very big game.”

Lady Saints’ Steady Pace Pays Off

by Jessi Cleveland
Times Contributing Writer

The Lady Saints’ steady pace paid off as they defeated Madonna 104-95.

“We knew we needed to keep the score down and defend,” coach Linda Nash said. “Even though they hit a wall and haven’t done well in the conference, they are still a big offensive threat.”

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Any-Swing Goes

by Molly Huber
Times Contributing Writer

The hype over swing music and the swing era hasn’t fizzled out completely in Grand Rapids. Swing dancing offers a whimsical style attracting those young at heart, but only those who are willing to put the past behind them.

Senior Shannon Otenweller swings at the B.O.B. every Tuesday. She raves about the rhythm and style of swing, “I like the balance of seriousness and the fun up-beat energy of it. Dancing is an expression of your personality, and you can tell the character of someone by the way they dance.”

Otenweller doesn’t always go with a date either, “We go to meet people, and we all swap partners based on performance level.” To swing in Grand Rapids in a zoot suit or a woman’s best dress is not a requirement. Any old rags will do. The object of the swing is to lose that well-bred, mature, adult that dwells on the outside and awaken the child-like spirit that dwells on the inside.

Mark Pitman, a junior, thinks swing dancing is loads of fun. He says, “It has a lot of energy. It’s cheap, local, fun and a good time to check out your Zoot Suits.” A junior’s best dress is not required and authors like Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg are concerned with the modern rock movement.

The meeting place seems to be the B.O.B. “It was ready for a larger, mainstream place. After finishing a disappointing tour, Benny Goodman’s orchestra played at the Palomar Ballroom in Los Angeles. Their performance caused a sensation with the broadcast of “Let’s Dance” across the country. Soon after the swing and jazz label Decca Records had its first hit by Mike Riley and Eddie Farley entitled, “The Music Goes Round and Around.” Decca records, which still exists today, has such artists as Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday in its list of renowned artists.

For several years the list of popular band leaders grew steadily. “Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman once said that swing, “is as difficult to explain as the Mona Lisa’s smile or the nutty swing, “is as difficult to explain as the Mona Lisa’s smile or the nutty swing, “is as difficult to explain as the Mona Lisa’s smile or the nutty swing.”

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Swingin’ In Your Doc Martens

by Chris Manning
Times Features Editor

Somewhere between the generation gaps we forget that we share one common thread, to relax and “cut loose.” Maybe that’s why every generation loves to dance. Today’s youth are out on the dance floor in their favorite club, at their school dance or “workin’ it” in the living room while their parents are out. Like many generations before them, each preferred the dance that shocked their parents most. Modest pits and “freakin’” certainly haven’t abated the concerns of earlier generations.

At some point, however, generations began to form. The twenty-something crowd slid across the floors of Harlem’s Savoy Ballroom, the Cotton Club in New York and the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, the escalating conflicts in the Pacific and in Europe continued to weigh on the minds of Americans.

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