by Mandy Schneider
Times Contributing Writer

It's the time of year again to select the leaders of our student body. Though this year, selection really isn't possible.

The Aquinas College Senate elections for the 1999-2000 school year will take place on Feb. 25, 1999. Full-time, traditional aged students may vote in the lobby of the Academic Building or in Wege Student Center during lunchtime.

The three positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary have only one person per position vying for the office. The three positions will comprise the voting members of the Senate Executive Board.

The only way Mickey Chichester, Amanda Spitzley and Elly Gusmano won't become the next Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary is if a write-in candidate de-feats them. Eligible voting students may write in a candidate who is a full time traditional student with at least a 2.5 grade point average and who has been on Senate for at least one year or a committee chairperson for at least one semester.

Two of the candidates, Spitzley and Gusmano, were present at the candidate informational forum on Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the Louit Room to answer questions. Chichester joined the discussion from Spain via speakerphone.

Chichester, the candidate for Chairperson, is a junior who is currently studying abroad in Seville, Spain. He has been a member of the Aquinas Senate since he was a freshman. Chichester has held leadership positions since his freshman year when he was asked to take over the Public Relations committee. The following year he acted as Chair of the Promotions committee and decided to be a regular senator this year because he was going to be studying abroad.

Chichester said, "I feel that it will be my mission to articulate the needs of the current Aquinas student body and to be a catalyst for action. My job will be focused on change and improvement that can occur in the present to help mold Aquinas into an environment where current students grow, learn, enjoy and become a community." Chichester also plans to focus attention on the needs of students now, the parking issue and improving the college computer system technology.

Amanda Spitzley, candidate for Vice Chairperson, is a junior with three years' senator experience behind her. Spitzley has been a member of the Promotions committee, Secretary of the Senate, member of the Budget committee and is currently the acting Vice Chairperson.

Spitzley feels the best tool to make things happen in Senate is communication. She wants to listen to the student body and be able to take their needs and concerns to the administration. Spitzley also wants to see more upperclassman leadership. Her main concern is with Career Services. She feels the Career Services Department needs to be taken up a level to be on the same plane as the rest of Aquinas.

Spitzley is very troubled by the lack of attendance at events this year. She stated, "I don't know why it [attendance] is so low, but it needs to be addressed." She also said, "Because all of us are friends [Elly, Mickey, and herself] I feel we can work best by establishing a respect among ourselves so we can disagree and still be able to listen to one another."

Elly Gusmano, candidate for Secretary, is a junior in her second year on Senate. She has been a member of the Political Affairs committee for the past two years.

Gusmano became interested in running for office after being in charge of the elections last year. Gusmano also has a vision for Senate. "First of all, I think that students need to become more informed—even if messages are being sent out, people are still not hearing about events going on here. People need to learn to use all their resources, such as the Student Activities office noticeboard, which contains a lot of helpful information. Also, I would like to see a larger project that Senate could undertake, and that is something that the Executive committee can disagree and still be able to listen to one another."

See "Candidates" Page 3

Sala Cinderella Entertains Students, Families During Sibs Weekend

by Heather M. Karal
Times Editor-in-Chief

Although there was no pumpkin that turned into a coach and no fairy godmother, the African tale Sala Cinderella definitely bore resemblance to the Grimm version of the Cinderella story. Then again, Sala Cinderella, the Aquinas Black History Month Play, which was sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Department and performed in the Cook Carriage House on Feb. 19, 21, was not the typical fairytale in many aspects.

The stage was set with rocks, flowers and palm trees rather than the traditional castles of medieval Europe. Some of the songs which the cast sang added to the effect of the performance with the words in South African tribal language and the strong rhythm and intense voices of the cast.

The main character, Sala (played by Cynthia Offutt), is a young woman struggling to like herself and be liked by others as well. She endures the scorn of her stepisters and stepmother (Karen Ramos, Michelle Vera and Yahvisca Settles) as they prepare to make themselves presentable for the eligible men at the festival of love. She finds friends in imagined creatures such as a talking tree, elephant and boat (Nikesha Griffin, Schianti Dixon and Brigid Avery).

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Survey Evaluates Community Senate Representation

by Janelle Burden
Times Contributing Writer

Do you feel well informed about what is going on in the Aquinas Community Senate? Do you feel that you are accurately represented? Do you know who your senators are? The Student Representation Committee of Community Senate has recently begun work on a project to answer these and other important questions about the organization's effectiveness.

One prerequisite to becoming a student senator is the process of selecting fifteen constituents whom the individual will represent on the Senate. The Student Representation project consists of surveying these members of the Aquinas community to determine whether or not their representative is maintaining an effective level of communication.

Tom Ferratt, head of the Student Representation Committee, shared that the survey came about following a request by the Cabinet and Executive Board to determine how well Senate is upholding its mission. In addition, it is also one method of addressing the recent concern shared at a Student Senate meeting that constituents are not fairly represented in Student Senate. Although results have been tallied, the committee reported that it had difficulty getting in touch with all of the constituents. Ferratt did report that most senators ranked well on the performance scale. There were some exceptions, but the committee is hopeful that the survey may be used to improve the connection between senators and their constituents. The Cabinet and Executive Board have not yet determined how they will use the results and have not done any individualized follow up with the senators. However, plans to do both are in the works.

An outcome of the survey program that was not anticipated is the increased accountability of student senators. One student noted, "I shouldn't be a survey, but if knowing they'll be checked up on will motivate some senators to be better at communicating with the community, I'm all for it."

In discussing the general role of a student senator, it was brought up that there are some senators who do a wonderful job on committee work and following through on various tasks, but they are not fulfilling all of their responsibilities. Ferratt noted, "First and foremost a senator's job is to represent his or her constituents."

Sophomore Tim Stafford noted that he has been impressed with his senator's level of communication, but the survey is a good tool to gather other input. He shared that, "I am well-informed about campus events, but I would like to know more about what goes on in the Senate meetings. It would be nice to see the minutes posted or sent out to each constituent."

For those constituents who have not been contacted regarding their input, please contact Tom Ferratt or a member of the Student Representation Committee. For those who are not constituents, but would like to become so in order to be more connected to Community Senate, please contact any member of the Senate.

The minutes of each Senate meeting are posted on the Student Senate website that can be accessed by all students.

"Women and Power" Panel Coming to AQ

by Nick Orcichnin
Times Contributing Writer

Courageous African-American women dared to shatter the glass ceiling. Were they successful? How did they do it? Answers will be part of the upcoming panel discussion.

Three powerful African-American women are coming to Aquinas on Thursday, Feb. 25. The presentation will commence at Wege Student Center in the Louie room at 12:30 p.m. The event is jointly hosted by the Women’s Studies Center, the Multicultural Center and the Political Affairs Committee.

The panel of Women will answer questions from the audience regarding their rise to the top, institutional racism and the effects of empowerment.

The women represent three different sectors of the Greater Grand Rapids community. All are very successful and influential in their field. Fayel Richardson is a CEO at Steelcase who works in Desk Plant Manufacturing Operations. The second guest is Ingrid Scott-Weekley, director of Grand Rapids Equal Opportunity Employment Department. Rev. Linda Hollies, the final panelist, is the Director of the United Methodist Church outreach post.

Although the highlight for the players was obviously the performance itself, some reported the composition of the cast and the opportunity to participate in such a unique activity as the best part of their experience.

"Honestly, it's a different experience for me to be a part of an African-American event," Vera said. "It's good to see so many different people coming together to do this. We were really open to everyone."

Junior and actress Brigid Avery stated that performing in the play was an opportunity that she is glad she seized. "The best part of being in the play is that it broadened my horizons, broke my comfort zones and allowed me to work with people who I don't usually hang out with," Avery said.

The story carried very positive messages about the value of personal strength and women's issues. And, like any good FairyTale, Sala got her happily ever after ending, and the wicked stepmother and stepisters, who refused to see the error of their ways, got just what they deserved.

"Cinderella" continued from Page 1

Of course, her stepfamily tells Sala that she is not to go to the Festival. However, after a strange and imaginative journey to self-discovery, Sala finds value in being herself and the courage to attend the Festival.

In the end, Sala chooses for her husband a prince (Mark Pittman), who loves and accepts her for her personal strength and women's issues. Although the highlight for the players was obviously the performance itself, some reported the composition of the cast and the opportunity to participate in such a unique activity as the best part of their experience.

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"Candidates" Continued from Page 1

would have to work on together. Mainly I would like to see more people interested in Senate and the goings-on of Aquinas," she said. The candidates were all concerned that they had no one to run against. Chichester said, "I do wish that there was another party to bring in some other perspectives. If you look at the leadership in the Aquinas student body, you will find many wonderful leaders all with their own gifts and talents, as well as biases. There is not a lack of exceptional leaders, or an abundance of apathy, it just happened that others were aspiring to their own goals."

Spitzley commented, "It concerns me that more people did not express interest in these positions. I believe Senate is fun and exciting and I want to see more people get involved." Gusmano shared some of the same sentiments. "I think that it is a terrible loss for the student body not to have a choice. I think that one of the main reasons there is no competition is due to the fact that the Senate is so young—a good portion of the senators this year are freshmen, and I can only hope that next year the students will step forward with big ideas for Senate."

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the Student Senate elections, students should contact Angela Bergman, Chairperson of Political Affairs, at ext. 4205.

by Mindy Smith
Timers Contributing Writer

Voices in the Crowd

Question: What do you think about the uncontested Senate elections?

Wade O'Boyle, senior
"I feel it may be a reflection of the students' view of Senate."

Dane Flak, sophomore
"What's the point of an election? I guess that says something about how much people care about Senate."

Elizabeth Martin, junior
"I like the people who are running and I think they would win anyway."

Susan Webster, sophomore
"It would be nice to have more choices. It makes you wonder if there is another reason why other people aren't running."

Tim Ryan, sophomore
"I think it would be better if more people were running, but you have to take what you get."

Abby Goura, freshman
"Maybe people aren't aware of the positions or even the election."

Students Voice Concerns at Student Input Night

by Monique Nadon
Times Contributing Writer

You are getting sleepy, very sleepy; you are falling into a hypnotic trance. Thirty students of Aquinas were hypnotized to see if they could act like dreamlike state when hypnotist Michael Anthony used his mind manipulating talent to tumor with their subconscious.

On Feb. 12, the second semi-annual 'Dinner Night Club' was once again a huge success. With the dedication of Marjorie Prince, chair of the Language Department, the large number of students in attendance and the mystifying talent of Anthony, the night was truly amazing.

The evening began at 7 p.m. with a candlelight dinner served by faculty and staff in Wege Ballroom. Meanwhile, students anxiously ate their food in the anticipation of the evening's main attraction.

After dinner and dessert, Anthony shared some of the evening's main attraction. "I was waltzing with a broom," junior Dave Flak said.

Approximately 30 Aquinas students were entranced to believe they could not open their eyes or pull their hands apart.

Then the real "magic" occurred. Anthony began to do what many hypnotists are known for, which is to make people to do things they wouldn't normally do.

"I walked in thinking hypnosis seemed to be the real thing. All in all the night seemed to exceed the expectations of most, even for some skeptics, this hypnosis seemed to be the real thing. I walked in thinking hypnosis was a joke, but it wasn't long until I was walking with a broom," freshman Nick Morgan said.

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Campus News

February 24, 1999

Dinner Night Club Gets "Out-of-Control"

Jake Filbrandt and Ray Gaiser drift into a state of hypnosis at Dinner Night Club on Friday, Feb. 12.

photo by Elizabeth Martin

by Mindy Smith
Times Contributing Writer

Aquinas is a small school. However, this doesn't mean that the students here have small concerns. The Aquinas Student Senate sponsored a Student Input Night in the Cook Carriage House on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 10:30 p.m. A panel made up of representatives from Campus Safety, Student Activities, Career Services and the Foreign Language Department was present to answer students' questions.

Students voiced many concerns dealing with the Careers Services department. Many of those were related to internships. Students were interested in learning where Career Services intends to go in the future regarding online research into career possibilities.

Sharon Smith and Dolfi Lattey represented the Career Service Department. They stated that the department is currently working with college computing to allow students the ability to find internships and job opportunities online. This should be fully accessible by fall of 2000.

Career Services is also moving into offering more international internships. One problem is not the lack of available internships, but the lack of students filling them, they said. Many students simply do not take advantage of the opportunities available to them.

Marjorie Prince, chair of the Language Department, addressed student concerns with the requirement. Many students believe that they are required to take three semesters of a foreign language when, actually, they are required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language through the 201 level, she explained. Incoming students have difficulty deciding which level they belong in, so this fall, all incoming freshmen will be required to take the Wisconsin Placement Test. This test will be available in all languages and will allow freshman to take courses at the level appropriate for them.

Another concern voiced was that some special needs students have a difficult time learning a second language. A test is being developed that will determine which students are unable to learn a foreign language and those students will be required to take courses in an English class.

Many students were curious as to what is being done to promote the use of the CCH. Student Activities Director, Eric Mullen, is working to organize students and others into a cross-college group that will work to find a solution by next fall. Currently they intend to continue offering popcorn and are looking into providing coffee as well. A concert panelists present could not address.

One student raised the concern about the amount of students who leave on the weekends and the lack of weekend activities. According to Mullen, it is hoped that the revitalization of the CCH will cause more students to stay and get involved in weekend activities.

Students are still bothered by the lack of parking on campus and are concerned that it will only grow worse next fall when the apartments are completed. Mark McCann, representing Campus Safety said that the development of more parking is one of their highest concerns, and options for next year are still being considered by the college.

Lighting is also a problem around campus, and Campus Safety is working with a lighting company to decide where lights should be placed to make the campus a safer place at night.

Students also raised concerns about computer access and long distance rates that the particular publication present could not address. The Senate took note of these and plans to look into them at upcoming meetings. The minutes of the Student Input Night are available on the Student ST1 h: drive under the Senate folder.
Local Colleges Confront Student Drug Use

by Joshua D. Cochran
Times/Local/Editorial

In 1996, the University of Michigan released a study of American high school students that revealed that the number of high school seniors who had used drugs in the last year had dropped to 50 percent, up from 20 percent in 1992. Now these high school students have infiltrated the college ranks, leaving America's colleges and universities to deal with the problem of drug use.

Many students have taken on student use of drugs full force, such as last spring when Clemson University in South Carolina arrested 42 people, 31 of them students, in a sting that was conducted over a year and a half. At the University of Arkansas two students were also arrested in undercover operations last spring as were three students at the University of New Hampshire.

Although many college staff members admit that drug usage is prevalent among college students, statistics of drug offenses at area colleges and universities do not confirm this. Aquinas College reported only one drug arrest in 1997 and two in 1994. Calvin College had one drug "incident" in 1998 and one drug arrest in 1997. Grand Valley had three arrests in 1997 and 53 in 1998.

However, some believe that those reports do not accurately reflect the reality of student drug use. According to one Aquinas College recreational marijuana user, "I know there are a lot more students out there who use drugs than the number of arrests indicates. Some just [use marijuana] recreationally, while others are hard core partiers."

According to Grand Valley Public Safety Sergeant Brandon Dehan, the difference between GVSC and the area private schools is a result of the composition of the Grand Valley force and the number of students his unit is responsible for.

"Grand Valley has ten sworn officers of the law that patrol the campus. These officers have a duty to uphold the law in all cases, so when drugs are reported they must turn it over to the proper authorities," said Dehan.

"We are responsible for 28,000-student campus, which is significantly larger than most private schools." Calvin College Campus Safety Operations Manager Dan Gordon agrees that because smaller, private colleges generally employ civilians who are not sworn officers of the law they have more options.

"I think private colleges, because they aren't sworn officers, see themselves as having more leeway in determining how to handle drug cases," said Gordon.

"At Calvin we use discretion on when to call in authorities. For minor infractions, such as possession of an ounce or less, we turn those over to the dean. If the amount is more than that, or involves the distribution of drugs, we have the Grand Rapids Police Department involved," said Gordon.

At Aquinas there is no clear line as to when the GRPD is to be called to assist with a drug bust. According to Mark McCann, Co-Director of Aquinas College Campus Safety, cases are handled on an individual basis, and it depends on if the case is worth the time of the GRPD.

"In dealing with Grand Rapids Police Department in drug cases, they need specific information in order to deal with a drug case, such as who, when and where the offense was committed. And it's often hard to actually catch someone in possession of drugs, mostly it's just paraphernalia," said McCann.

The Aquinas drug source recalls things differently, he remembers from his freshman year, campus safety caught a couple of guys with marijuana and nothing happened to them, except they had their pipes confiscated," said the Aquinas student.

When they do take action, private colleges, such as Aquinas and Calvin, usually turn minor offenses over to the Dean of Students. Although they have turned cases over to the GRPD's vice squad, that course of action is rarely taken.

"We aren't called in as often on college campuses. Colleges tend to deal with drug problems on their own through the dean and other officials. We are occasionally brought out to deal with drug problems, illegal consumption of alcohol and fake IDs," said Sergeant Dan Mills of the Grand Rapids Police Department's Vice Squad.

Some believe that the numbers reported do not represent of actual drug usage for other reasons.

"Those who use drugs in the dorm get smart about how to hide it after a while," said the Aquinas recreational marijuana user. "All of the guys I marketed pot with eventually divided it up among us to ensure we didn't have that much on us, or we kept it in our cars or something like that. Those who use it become very familiar with the law and know the policies and how to get around them."

Although small colleges rarely use methods such as stings, Officer McGann stated that there was a sting at Aquinas' St. Joseph Hall several years back. Little information is available about this event.

Once a case is referred to the dean, different penalties can be imposed. At Calvin and GVSC, students may go through the campus judicial process and may face penalties ranging from a fine to expulsion from school.

At Aquinas, the new residence hall policies require immediate expulsion from the residence halls and possibly even expulsion from Aquinas for anyone caught with drugs on Aquinas' campus.

While these policies have stricter penalties, some doubt it will deter students from using drugs.

"If they do begin coming down harder on students, students will just find other ways around it," said the Aquinas drug source.

"What we used to do was just go to Wilcox Park, or into the woods and smoke down."

Graphic Abortion Image at MSU Leaves Some Bothered

by Sonya Bordeau
The State News (Michigan State U.)

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich. -- The use of a graphic image of an aborted fetus by a pro-life demonstrator near Wells Hall has disgusted some MSU students -- even those who are pro-life. The sign features a disembodied 21-week-old fetus named Malachi, said Saginaw resident Cal Zastrow, who was holding the sign. Reactions to the sign varied but it definitely caused a reaction. "I think the way to get through to people is to shock them," said Mary Grace Palazzolo, an advertising junior. "And students see the sign as shocking." Many students made their disapproval known with disgusted looks and comments. Jenni Julien, a dietetics freshman, was one of those students.

"I'm offended. I think it's pretty repellent," she said. "I don't think that they should have their views (displayed) like that." Zastrow said it shows the truth about abortion.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," he said. "The pro-choice argument is based on one lie -- that it's not a child." Lansing resident Cindy Alwood, who is a member of the National Organization for Women, said the campaign may have been triggered by a growing pro-life political climate in Michigan. "Choice in this state is in danger," she said. "I don't think people know that," she said.

Zastrow said MSU police threatened his free-speech rights. "(The police) told us we had to leave, and it was a big hairy deal," he said.

The police were acting under a state that prohibits groups from selling and advertising on campus, Zastrow said.

"We were supposed to go and register (with the police) so they could tell us the rules," he said. "I told them we were allowed free speech." Police left without issuing a citation.

The picture goes beyond free speech for some students.

"I think it's disgusting," said Elizabeth Zeko, an elementary education sophomore. "I'm pro-life, but they go about it the wrong way." Monica Beard, president of the Christian group University Christian Outreach, said although her group was pro-life they would never use such a graphic poster. "(The tactics) are pretty ineffectual," the general business advertising junior said. "I would choose to emphasize other aspects of the pro-life message."
Michigan Forum Confronts Y2K Issues for Businesses

by Andrew Benore & Daniel Duggan
The State News (Michigan State U.)

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich. — Lansing and East Lansing residents gathered Tuesday Feb. 16 to discuss legal, social and economic issues related to the Y2K bug. The Y2K bug is a problem in which computers will recognize the double-zero date as 1900 rather than 2000.

The forum was sponsored by U.S. Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, and featured speakers with expertise in many areas associated with the bug.

"Public forums and seminars concerning the problem will help provide more information and allow businesses to better ease into the new century," Stabenow said.

Andrew Rose, associate lawer at Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith, P.C. in Farmington Hills, Mich., said businesses should begin to address planning issues to avoid being liable for Y2K problems.

"It's not just a computer problem," Rice said. "It's really a business problem, too."

Rose said businesses should be ready for anything. Planning should include creating an action team, preserving systems, correcting problems and preparing contingency plans. Social reactions revolving around this problem are just as important as the actual bug, said Adrian Bass, a software and quality training specialist.

Bass said people need to request information from larger companies and organizations in the area and develop their own contingency plans.

"We need to raise our awareness in our communities, and be prepared," she said.

Tuesday's forum was open so questions from members of the community. The panel of speakers addressed many of the concerns residents have, ranging from "What do we do on a local level?" to "What testing agencies can we rely on?"

Stabenow said that in many cases there are no real answers to Y2K bug questions.

"There are lots of concerns," Stabenow said. "People are also desires for assurances about the problems we might see. The more information we have, the more we can be prepared."

Stabenow also said the U.S. government is ahead of many other countries, but not "where we want to be."

The Y2K problem may be the largest dilemma currently facing small businesses," she said. "A temporary increase in Y2K-related expenses could help ensure small businesses remain operating in January 2000."

She also said legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives could help alleviate problems facing small businesses as they struggle to become Y2K compliant. The Business Undergoing the Y2K Act, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Karen Thurman, D-Fla, would offer small businesses a $400,000 deduction in 1999 for the purchase, and installation of Y2K hardware.

The BUG Act would also allow businesses benefits for Y2K-compliance equipment purchased in 1997 and 1998.

But Stabenow said many are concerned with the problem in taking longer than expected because computer code is complex, and many systems depend on each other.

"I think the public needs to be made aware of the problems we might see," he said. "We need to make sure that small businesses aren't paying more than they need to."

"There is still a lot of work to be done, but the improved scores are a convincing sign," according to Paula Meehan, Dean of Admissions at Aquinian College. She believes the emphasis on reading, especially in the elementary school, will continue to make our students better readers.

Although this news brings hope that education in America is improving, the situation is far from ideal. The 1998 test results showed that 23 percent of twelfth graders proving, the situation is far from ideal. The 1998 test results showed that 23 percent of twelfth graders could read at a basic level. And too many younger students scored lower than average than other students. Also, children who spend more time reading with their families and less in watching television scored higher than other students.

There is still a lot of work to be done, but the improved scores are a "very encouraging sign," according to Paula Meehan, Dean of Admissions at Aquinian College. She believes the emphasis on reading, especially in the elementary school, will continue to make our students better readers.

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"We need to raise our awareness in our communities, and be prepared," she said.

There were so many different factors behind the scores. For example, students from poor central-city school districts as well as minority children scored lower on average than other students. Also, children who spend more time reading with their families and less in watching television scored higher than other students.

There is still a lot of work to be done, but the improved scores are a "very encouraging sign," according to Paula Meehan, Dean of Admissions at Aquinian College. She believes the emphasis on reading, especially in the elementary school, will continue to make our students better readers.
Conservative-Liberal Romance: Is There a Chance?

**Point**

by Angela Bergman

Campus News Editor

Logically it follows that in politics, they expect government to impose that personal morality on those governed. Conservatives generally advocate greater economic freedom and prefer a higher degree of autonomy. Liberals, on the other hand, are more concerned with creating social equality. They take a more compassionate approach to solving social problems and tend to agree that if the government can provide better economic opportunity, that is something it ought to do. Liberals are much more community-oriented.

Another factor to consider is the development of a family. In "Moral Politics: What Conservatives Know That Librals Don't," author George Lakoff illustrates the "Strict Father" versus the "Nurturant Parent" models. The "Strict Father" model exemplifies conservatives that are more likely to recognize absolute truths and tough discipline. The "Nurturant Parent" model refers to liberals who teach their children to be more empathetic and caring towards other people. When one parent is a strong conservative and the other a flaming liberal, there's bound to be parenting conflicts.

A romantic relationship that is based on mutual principles and values will, like all romantic relationships, endure occasional trials and challenges. Minor differences, however, can be reconciled much more easily if both individuals agree on the foundation. When there is no foundation or structure of similar beliefs, the relationship will crumble if there's a crack.

Conservative-Liberal Romance: Is There a Chance?

**Counterpoint**

by Heather Young

Times Assistant Editor

Let's set up a little scenario. Girl is extremely conservative. She is not only a registered Republican, but a member of the NRA and a golfer. Now boy is a flaming liberal. He wears a generous amount of hemp and wants to "save" everything—including every program established during the New Deal. Is there any chance they could work his magic with this odd couple? I'd say there's a big one.

One common reason that relationships fail is that "the excitement is gone," The spice is gone and with that goes the chemistry. A liberal/conservative relationship is a chance to always have sparking conversation and debate as well as keeping the fires of passion cooking. No one can deny that often the passion involved with a friendly debate is the same that inspires romantic interest. There is something to the notion of opposites attracting. Who wants to date themselves? Worms reproduce asexually. Humans are lucky enough, so why not our political spectrum can only inflict so much discord in our lives, and the part of us that is human and the part that is love is so much bigger than that.

For those people concerned with populating the world with children raised with their own political beliefs, a liberal/conservative relationship may not be the best choice. But, among those of us who have better goals to aim for, love is bipartisan.

The political spectrum is a wonderful way that people can be various in their relationships, yet remain similar enough to be compatible. Both partners could have an interest in politics and even be both very active since that activism, that concern for nation, is something significant to share in common.

There are areas, like spirituality, that are more important for couples to share common beliefs. The problem with saying that a certain "type" of relationship doesn't work is that there are always examples of people making it work because they've found that they love each other. Think of other relationships in our lives. I love my parents, but I don't have to feel the same way that they do about guns, taxes or healthcare to do so. Certainly we have more choice in selecting a mate than a family member, but we should eventually be able to love that person as unconditionally as family—so much that partisan lines shouldn't come between us.

We usually cannot control our hearts. We don't normally have a prospective girlfriend or boyfriend fill out a political questionnaire. We just meet and like or dislike that person. If both partners in a liberal/conservative relationship feel strongly enough about each other, and both are mature enough to respect the other's view without agreeing completely, there should be no problem.

Summary:

How does American political culture and ideology effect our romantic relationships? Americans were fascinated with "All's Fair: Love, War, and Running for President" by married couple Mary Matalin, chief strategist for the 1992 Bush campaign and James Carville, consultant for the winning Clinton campaign.
Times View: An Editorial Comment

"I may disagree with what you say, but I'll defend to my death your right to say it." -- Voltaire

Your luggage has been checked in, your flight number has just been called, and you're ready to board the plane. You find your seat, buckle up, (seat and tray tables are in their full, upright and locked position) and wait for the flight attendant's safety instructions. Two hours later, the plane hasn't moved from the terminal, and the pilot has just reassured you for the 50th time that, "This little delay will be cleared up in 20 minutes tops, folks." An hour later, the flight has been cancelled and you're standing in a line that spans the length of the airport. When you finally get to the counter, you receive a refund that wouldn't cover your cab fare home. Unfortunately, this scenario is one that many travelers, including many college students, have experienced. With spring break coming up, students will be traveling by air both home and to various vacation destinations. Wouldn't it be nice to know that your hard-earned dollars spent for air travel would be refunded to you two-fold if your plane gets delayed?

On Feb. 10, 1999, a bill entitled the "Airline Passengers Bill of Rights Act" was introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill outlines and describes the responsibilities airline carriers have to their customers. If passed, this bill would require all air carriers to be held liable for delays of arrivals and departures. For delays of more than two hours but less than three hours, the airline is liable for 200 percent of the price paid for the passenger's ticket. Delays that exceed three hours require the airline to be held accountable for reimbursing 200 percent of the price paid for the ticket plus an additional 100 percent multiplied by the number of hours exceeding three.

According to the bill, a delay in departure begins from the moment the door of the airplane closes and ends when the aircraft takes off from the airport. A delayed arrival is defined from the time the airplane touches down, until the time the door is opened for passengers to deplane. In other words, patrons could still spend long periods of time waiting inside the airport terminal without compensation for the delay. The Airline Passenger Protection act also outlines stipulations for lost luggage, unaccompanied children under 12, pricing policies, cancellations and security screening.

It's about time someone took action to protect airline consumers. But this bill only covers a portion of what airline carriers should be held responsible for. Each airline should be required to provide aid for the elderly and parents traveling with small children while standing in long rebooking and refund lines. Afterall, sometimes travelers stand in line over an hour without moving forward. Would it be too much trouble for airline personnel to provide chairs to those who need them? Also, extra agents should be made available to expedite the rebooking process and minimize waits.

As the world becomes more of a global village, air travel plays an increasingly vital role in consumers' lives. The prices for tickets are outrageously expensive, especially for college students on a limited budget. An investment of that magnitude needs to be protected. The Airline Passengers Bill of Rights Act is a needed step in the right direction. It sets into motion precedents that will act as a catalyst for further change.

Every vote counts! So, don't forget to vote for Senate Executive Board Representatives on Thursday, Feb 25. If of course even though your vote counts, you won't have much choice. There are exactly three positions to be filled on the Executive Board. Conveniently, there is one person running for each position.

I don't mean to say that the candidates who are running are not qualified. Certainly they all have the experience and skills that we expect of candidates. However, it is sad that there are not more Senators who are interested in assuming leadership positions in the Senate. It seems to me that a large part of the problem is that the majority of the student body is content to allow a very few active student leaders. Look at the most visible leaders on campus. Most of them are actively involved in several different organizations. As a college of 1100 traditional age students, the campus leadership should not have to be an oligarchy.

Senate is not the only student organization that is struggling to keep their membership active and find students who want to dedicate time and energy to leadership positions. This is a commentary of the state of Senate. I am addressing the apathy of the student body. Every so often someone from our generation stands up to protest the apathetic reputation given to us as "Generation X." (see the Nov. 11, Times View). The protests are silenced, though, when an opportunity for action arises and the number of volunteers can be counted on your fingers.

By Heather M. Karal

Every so often someone from our generation stands up to...
**Film in Review...**

**Simply Irresistible is Simply Awful**

by Elizabeth Dudek  
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

With Valentine's Day over as fast as it came, gone are the candlelight dinners, flowers, and heartfelt boxes of chocolates and shining pink and red Valentine's cards. Unfortunately Cupid left behind him a barrage of romantic movies. One especially that should have been returned with the little dart-shooting sprite in "Simply Irresistible."

Released on Feb. 5 rather than its original release date of Feb. 12, "Simply Irresistible" stuck into theaters and has remained in the cinema shadows. Stars Sarah Michelle Gellar as the owner of a failing New York bistro, a character who knows as little about cooking as a five year old knows about driving a car. Suddenly gaining the power to cook, thanks to a magical crab (yes, a magical crustacean—gee, where’s the Disney theme music?), Gellar becomes a hit in the restaurant business. The only thing that really makes the movie worth watching is the fact that Gellar wears fashions by designer Todd Oldham, so females in the audience at least get to walk out with some excellent fashion tips.

Farther banding co-star Sean Patrick Flanery, whose character finds himself trying to resist Gellar’s cooking and enchanting charms. His character and lines might leave the audience asking, "I paid how much for this film?"

With moments of cheesy dialogue frequent enough to make the audience lactose intolerant, Gellar and Flanery are swiped up in a whirlwind romance. The movie does boast some amusing, almost appealing moments, such as delicious food and scenes of New York City, but that’s about all. It is entertaining to ponder the rules of the magical crab (or why that particular organism was even chosen), but perhaps this is best pondered through video rental.

Gellar should stick to being the bombshell on WB’s Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and Flanery, well, he probably shouldn’t quit his day job.

**Faculty Recital Brings Forth Talent**

by Elizabeth Dudek  
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

With love in the air, Feb. 14 brought the Aquinas College Faculty Recital entitled "Music to Inspire Love and Romance." Taking place at the Art and Music Center, numerous members of the faculty happily performed a variety of musical pieces for the audience’s enjoyment.

The program began with Carlos de la Barrera playing guitar, filling the air with the sweet strains of the instrument. His fingers picked and strummed as he played "De la Raiz a la Copa," his obvious passion for playing was evident as he bent his head in concentration. Barrera is a classical guitarist, and since 1995 he has been teaching classical guitar and giving annual lecture recitals in Latin-American and Flamenco music at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

Following Barrera was Gordon Proulx who sang two songs by R. Vaughan Williams from William’s "Songs of Travel."

"These songs are very interesting because of the high frame of mind that is present in the beginning and towards the end. There is a meditative feel," said Proulx.

In a rolling boom, he sang, "Wither Cupid’s dart-shooting sprite has found a knee, Wither Hurd lets her hands roll across the keys as if under water. At present, Hurd is teaching piano pedagogy, piano literature, music appreciation and applied piano. The most intriguing performance visualized the ocean waves crashing onto a beach, Hurd lets her hands roll across the keys as if underwater. At present, Hurd is teaching piano pedagogy, piano literature, music appreciation and applied piano. The most intriguing performance...

The recital ended dramatically with William McCargar singing from "Zueignung" with a strong voice coming almost from his toes, Biser stunned the audience with his dramatic appearance. Biser teaches voice, choral conducting and music history.

Karen Betz-Griewahn played the flute and alto-flute, both sounding light and fanciful. Betz-Griewahn played a song called "Lullaby for Alexandra." Freshman Mary-Jo McCabe was amazed at the recital. "I was impressed with all of the performers. It was amazing to realize all of the performers were on staff at Aquinas," she said.

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By: Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who they are:
Gregg Alexander - lead vocals, guitar, songwriter, producer; Rusty Anderson - guitar; Paul Bushnell - bass; Paul Gordon - piano; Stuart Johnson - drums; Josh Freese - drums; Danielle Brisebois - backing vocals

How you know them (current single):
"You get what you give"

Lyrics worth repeating:
"I was dancing with your shadow slow down memories hall. I said wait, have I been seduced and forgotten. You said baby, haven't we"

My thoughts on "Maybe...":
It pleasantly surprised me with it’s lack of similarities between the songs. However, the New Radicals have a tendency to mimic the great bands of years past. The first track, "Mother we just can’t get enough," reminds me of old Jackson 5. The high vocal ranges of Gregg Alexander on songs such as "Gotta stay high" are easily reminiscent of classic Queen hits. The pop feel of "You get what you give" is surprisingly absent throughout the majority of the album, with "Flowers" being the only other song with a pop/rock feel.

MCA Records has placed New Radicals in the same category as Semisonic, Sublime, and Blink 182, though the only common thread linking these bands seems to be that they’re all signed to MCA Records. "Maybe you’ve been brainwashed too" currently sits at number 41 on Billboard’s Top 200 album chart, thirteen weeks after it’s release. After peaking at number 36, "You get what you give" has settled at number 47 on Billboard’s Hot 100 singles chart.

Visit them at: www.newradicals.com

Century Media Believes Death Metal Lives

Joe Theurkauf
Times Contributing Writer

Imagine the possibilities if death metal were ever to become the next big pop phenomenon, Black Sabbath is back and touring once again (which means a bridge over certain generation gap), and the bands who fell into the shadows of Metallica and Megadeth before either band decided radio was much more comfortable are still on the road and even coming to OOR Town. So, when a compilation of metal bands is sent out for review, it’s an opportunity to comment on how much music has missed the soul-sellers and evil demonic musicians.

Just when most people thought heavy metal had been expunged from every music label, Century Media gives us a kick in the necessary places. At one extreme, feel the bone-crushing bass/kick-drum assaults like Arch Enemy’s “Beast of Man,” where the actual lyrics become a moan point in the midst of growing vocals and 200bpm machine-gunning rhythms. On the other extreme, unfortunately, suffer the most un-intense examples of boring KISS clones available (e.g. Lacuna Coil “No Need To Explain”). Sorry fans, but KISS is boring even on their upbeat songs, and the ballads are musical co-deine.

With hands like Turmilo, Emperor and Exodus (do not confuse with the Michael W. Smith fellows) on the disc, it’s clear that the darkest days of metal are not over. But it’s always a toss-up as to who will actually possess that certain something. All true metal-heads obsessively seek the ability of a band to make said metal-head want to rip his/her own skull off its spinal column and throw it onstage, at the CD-player, etc. It’s a hard thing to come across, but an alarming number of these gems exist here.

There are a lot of veteran bands on the disc, including Rotting Christ, Emperor and Exodus. Unfamiliar bands carrying their own weight include the aforementioned Arch Enemy, Subzero and Turmoil (who were reminiscent of the late-80s/early-90s hardcore punk underground). In fact, the only track really begging for the circular file was Lacuna Coil, for their far-too-straightforward cheese-rock sound and “stand strong, be yourself” lyrics. Nonturnal Rites comes in for a close second with a tune that is one part Queen and two parts Iron Maiden for a result of bad vocals and sipid guitar riffs.

The sum total is favorable, leaning about 80 percent in favor of heavy metal’s survival in light of cancerous alternative/vrap/rock/novel-gazer bands of late. And it gets better with each listen, as dormant nerves that use thrash on fast, bloodcurdling paces and ear-piercing vocals are reanimated and ready for a whipping.

If sitting through the carnival of good and bad bands at the record store isn’t fun to you, pick up the albums by any of the above “good” bands. Be wary, though; the bands, the record label and this newspaper are in no way liable for injuries resulting from listening to this music.
Loomis, Brown Lead Saints in Farewell Victory

by Jason Vogel
Times Contributing Writer

The Lady Saints were in high spirits Wednesday night, Feb. 17 as they bid farewell to two seniors playing in their last home game in Aquinas uniforms.

Jolene Loomis and Carmen Brown embraced teammates and parents before the game, receiving plaques and blankets from a tear-filled Coach Linda Nash. After the game the two seniors were still all smiles, celebrating their victory over the visiting Cardinals of Concordia by a final score of 64-49. Loomis and Brown had good reason to smile, since they both turned in strong performances to leave AQ in high-style. Loomis, a 5'5" guard from Grand Rapids, scored nine points and grabbed four rebounds while she directed traffic for the Lady Saints. Brown, a 5'9" forward from Clarksville also contributed nine points and two steals to the Saints' effort. If this performance from Clarksville also contributed to leaving AQ in high-style.

The closest Concordia came to taking the lead was when they got within six points, at 36-30. Following that the Saints went on a 14-3 run to an early lead in the first half. Brown was not behind long, receiving a big three-point bucket from Loomis. Once Aquinas tied the score at 11 early in the first half, the Lady Saints never looked back.

The Lady Saints were in high spirits the entire game. Brown said after the game, "It was sad," both Loomis and Brown said after the game. "We will always remember the friends we have made here.

Nash gave high praise to her two seniors. "They were ready to go for this game." Nash said. "Each of them comes from a very interesting past." In the game, the Lady Saints (5-8 WHAC, 10-16 overall) simply overwhelmed the visiting Cardinals (6-9, 15-14). Concordia jumped out to an early lead in the first half hitting a couple of 3-point shots, but Aquinas was not behind long, receiving a big three-point bucket from Loomis. Once Aquinas tied the score at 11 early in the first half, the Lady Saints never looked back.

The closest Concordia came to threatening AQ's lead came with 16:13 to play in the second half when they got within six points, at 36-30. Following that the Saints held around a ten point lead until the Cardinals were forced to foul to stop the clock. Aquinas refused to let Concordia back into the game, making their free throws and putting the game away.

The seniors were not the only two who put in good performances. There were also several Saints who showed that the future is bright for the women's basketball program. Leading the way was sophomore Mary Bond, scoring 10 points, as well as grabbing 10 rebounds. Another freshman, Lindsay Simmons, also scored 10 points and pulled down four rebounds. Sophomore Ronda Bolitho hit a couple of key buckets near the end of the game to give her 9 points which were complemented by eight rebounds, three assists and two steals. Nash said that she was happy with the team's performance after the game.

"We played a smart game out there tonight," Nash said. "We played a good game both offensively and defensively."

The Lady Saints look forward to the WHAC tournament this weekend. "We are going into the tournament as the spoilers," Nash said.

"We have nothing to lose, we are just going to take it one game at a time."

As the Aquinas College men's basketball team went into the locker room at halftime with a lead over the nation's top ranked team, Concordia College, the fans packing the stands focused their attention on the AQ dance team.

"It was awesome," junior Elizabeth Martin said. "Did you see the stands this full? I have never seen these stands this full.

In their last home game of the year, the dance team finished off the season, dancing to 'Pretty Fly For a White Guy,' by Offspring.

"I think we did really good. We are really proud of ourselves," sophomore Heidi Marks said.

The girls may appear worth of hard workpay off in the end of this season and are looking for it to keep going through next year.

"It was one of our best performances this year," freshman Monique Nadon said. "Tonight was the result of our hard work and dedication to the AQ team and it gives us great expectations of next year's team."

A View from the Bench
Waiting for Some Action

by Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

As I flip through the sports section of one of my many newspapers each day, looking for something to do, the hockey season is out of shape. Take the Detroit Pistons for example, they started the season out with a 5-game winning streak but fatigue has kicked in and they sit with a 5-game losing streak. A lot more like a Detroit Pistons team if you ask me.

Even though football is over for awhile, the most exciting sports news is brought to us by the National Football League. Ex-Lion Mike Utley went down with a devasting injury leaving him with no feeling in most of his body. His goal is to walk from the 50 yard line to the endzone in the Silverdome with no help.

With the sports world in a seasonal low, I am looking for other sports fans to help sports fans like myself occupy ourselves between baseball and football.

Those Girls Can Move!

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With the sports world in a seasonal low, I am looking for other sports fans to help sports fans like myself occupy ourselves between baseball and football.
The stage had been set and the gym was alive on Saturday at the Aquinas College Field House. Possibly the last game the seniors would ever suit up for in their home locker rooms, and who comes to visit? Only the number one team in the nation and heated rival, Cornerstone College. The electricity in the air must have affected the Saints, especially Senior Mike Norman, averaging 16.4 points a game, and is tied with Norman, averaging 16.4 points per game, for the scoring leadership of the team. Bernard Varnesdeel added 10 points and 4 rebounds, Shane Hankle finished with 2 points and 4 rebounds, and Chris Kreitner scored 6 points. Mike Jackson, a four-year player, moved into 6th place on Saturday in the all-time rebounding list while averaging 8.4 rebounds per game on the year. Against Cornerstone, Jackson scored 6 points including a perfect 4-4 from the free-throw line, pulled down 6 boards and led the Saints with 4 assists.

At the conclusion of the game, each senior was given the microphone for one last chance to address Aquinas' home crowd. Each of the players thanked the fans, family, and the coaches who have supported them while they played for the Saints. Hickman was quick to remind the crowd that Aquinas is not done, for next week on Thursday, Feb. 26, the Saints will travel to Indiana Tech. for the first round of the W.H.A.C. tournament.

"It's not over with yet. We're going to remind the crowd that Aquinas is not done, for next week on Thursday, Feb. 26, the Saints will travel to Indiana Tech. for the first round of the W.H.A.C. tournament," said Coach Albro.

The Lady Saints also found that the key to the league sweep came from the coaches. "I was pleased with the double team win. Although it was a total team effort, we owe a great deal of our success to our coaching staff," said sophomore Sarah Carter. When the team was on their way back from Siena with their conference champion trophy, the team realized why they had worked so hard up to that point. "It was the most exciting meet I have ever taken part in. All the hard work of the past few months really paid off," said freshman KentBaginski.

The team leaves tomorrow for NAIA Indoor Championships in Lincoln, NE. Representing the AQ women's team are senior Heather Monie, sophomores Remsberg, Sackett, Carter, Carli Blind and Holly Sizemore and freshmen Allixon Turnbull and Nicole Gunmere. The AQmen consist of senior Greg Mileski, junior Kevin Smith and Baginski, sophomores Adam Jauregui, Robert Hann and Todd Froeze and freshman Derek Sandahl.

Senior's Home Finale Spoiled By Nation's Number One Team

The Saints could not hold it. With 8:46 left, the Golden Eagles came to take the score 55-55. For the last eight minutes, the game was a back-and-forth battle between Aquinas and Cornerstone, with each team swapping the lead several times. With under a minute to play and the Golden Eagles on top by a score of 69-68, Aquinas tough defense forced Cornerstone's Brad Tillman to shoot a three-pointer with the shot clock winding down. His shot was off the mark, but he was fouled and had a chance to shoot three free-throws. Tillman managed to only make one of the three, leaving Aquinas with the ball and 13.8 seconds remaining on the clock and down by two points, 70-68. Senior guard, Bernard Varnesdeel, received the ball with under ten seconds, tried to drive and shoot, but his shot was just off the mark at the sound of the horn.

Aquinas, who ends the regular season 13-16-overall and 5-9 in the W.H.A.C. conference reflected on the tough season and the heart-breaking loss with the words of Coach Albro.

"It seems to be the way the seasons has gone, with that last shot not falling. We kept coming back though, which shows the tremendous heart these men have," Albro said. "It's not over with yet. We're going to remind the crowd that Aquinas is not done, for next week on Thursday, Feb. 26, the Saints will travel to Indiana Tech. for the first round of the W.H.A.C. tournament," said Coach Albro.

The Saints were paced by junior forward Courtney Norman, who also leads the Saints in scoring, averaging 16-4 points a game, and is second on the team in rebounds with 8.0 boards per game. Saturday, Norman scored 19 points and pulled down 9 rebounds leading Aquinas in both categories. Junior Ross Willick, tossed in 8 points, 6 of which came from his perfect day from beyond three-point arc. Leading the seniors in playing their last home game was NaShune Hickman who scored 12 points and is tied with Norman, averaging 16.4 points per game, for the scoring leadership of the team. Bernard Varnesdeel added 10 points and 4 rebounds, Shane Hankle finished with 2 points and 4 rebounds, and Chris Kreitner scored 6 points. Mike Jackson, a four-year player, moved into 6th place on Saturday at the all-time rebounding list while averaging 8.4 rebounds per game on the year. Against Cornerstone, Jackson scored 6 points including a perfect 4-4 from the free-throw line, pulled down 6 boards and led the Saints with 4 assists.

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"It's not over with yet. We're going to be there, Cornerstone. We will see you in the championship game," Hickman said.

Coach Albro, when asked of the upcoming tournament, replied, "We are going to be a tough out."
We Shall Overcome

Five Hundred Years of Struggle

by Jennifer Perry
Times Contributing Writer

This Christmas while West Michigan was filled with gifts, cookies and "Storm 98" repercussions, six Grand Rapidsians and myself were flocking barefoot in the Zapatista village, Oventic, in the mountains of Chiapas.

Zapatista villages are home to indigenous communities and therefore not inhabited by indigenous Zapata median People (indigenous Zapata median supporting villages). Here Tzotzil, Chol and other Mayan Indians spend their days trying to stop pestering U.S. helicopters and threatening tanks operated by the Mexican military. The "offense" of these indigenous individuals forming autonomous communities and therefore not paying taxes to the dictator-like government which has denied them land, work and basic human rights has continued for hundreds of years.

New Year's in Oventic was a day of food, music and dancing as neighboring villages came to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Zapatista uprising.

On Jan. 1, 1994, a group of indigenous peasants, women and men, took up arms due to their lack of response from 500 years of verbal plea to the government. The Zapatistas' strike was 1st of 11 essential rights: work, land, shelter, health, education, democracy, liberty, peace, independence and justice.

The government has thus far failed to react to the Zapatista's demands and has repeatedly ignored the San Andres Accord, a document drawn up by the EZLN (Zapatista National Liberation Army), and agreed upon by the Mexican Federal Government. Although the government has continued to push aside the indigenous individuals' demands for rights, there is a strong feeling of hope prevailing among them.

On New Year's Eve, representatives were called upon to read letters from the EZLN in both Spanish and Tzotzil. At one point all the tired faces and quiet children included one man silently weeping as he heard the words of hope and dedication from the indigenous army; none could help but join him. The group later danced with masked men and women to a marimba band until the early hours of the morning.

The Grand Rapids group lived with other international observers from various countries—Italy, Sweden, Denmark and the U.S., as well as others from Mexico City. Days were spent simply "living"—reading, writing, cooking, gathering firewood and documenting the military planes and helicopters that circle the village 2-7 times per day.

Residents of Chiapas, Mexico struggle to live simple, independent lives although they are under constant military surveillance by the Mexican government.

The most difficult aspect of Oventic is the daily militarization of the town. The delegation spent one afternoon with a group of young boys who were painting pictures of their village. One boy had put the finishing touches on his paper; the scene was complete with mountains, sun, river and blue sky.

A short moment later a Huey helicopter (a gift from the U.S. to fight the "drug war" in Chiapas) flew over the children at a threateningly low distance. The boy muttered something to himself in Tzotzil, retrieved the painting, and added in the helicopter. This scene might cause U.S. citizens to question how tax dollars are spent, especially money to pay for the military. It might also lead us to ask why military aircraft need to police a people simply want to retain their culture.

The question then remains, why are U.S. aircraft sent to monitor Mayan Indians that won't even allow drugs or alcohol in their villages while their own government does nothing for them?

The group of seven Grand Rapidsians that journeyed to the Chiapas has given multi-media presentations to various community groups as well as classes. If you are interested in raising awareness about this issue, please call Jennifer Perry at 459-8423.

A History of Action

One hundred female students from Regina Hall marched to the Academic Building office of then-president of Aquinas College, Dr. Norbert Hruby. There, the entire history of on-campus demonstration at Aquinas can be described in 30 words or less.

In the long Aquinas tradition of activism the emphasis has always been on actually working toward change in the community rather than demonstrating.

The first seeds of community work began with Monsignor Bukowski during 1930's and 1940's. During these years he maintained a home on Grandville Ave. and one on Logan St. (Augustine House), which were primarily African-American communities. Here, Aquinas students could interact with African-Americans who frequented both homes.

Professor Louis Klingman formerly of the History Department, with his wife and child, even moved into the Augustine House for a year to most likely immerse themselves into the local culture. Monsignor Bukowski further encouraged cultural awareness by accompanying students to Guatemalan. He also encouraged 19 students to spend eight weeks in Bogota, Columbia working on various relief efforts and conducting sociological surveys.

Overseas efforts aside, Aquinas students' greatest efforts have been right in the neighborhood. After seeing too many local homes in the Eastown area go up for sale, president Dr. Norbert Hruby brought the issue of urban renewal to the Aquinas Community. In 1972 he began a long process of sorting through the problems of the area. He consulted city officials and experts, then he turned to Geography Chair Tom Edgin to generate solutions. The result was the establishment of the Eastown Community Association. These efforts also led to a $130,000 grant from the W.D. Kellogg Foundation to improve the Eastown district.

During the 1980's Aquinas students spent much of their time at the "Yacht Club" which once occupied the commercial area where the intersection is now located. The club refused African-American customers service consistently. Angered by the club's obvious discrimination, students protested and boycotted the club until it finally opted to change its segregated philosophy.

During the 1980's, it was the students' turn to make a difference. On April 21, 1984 students and faculty along with community members marched from college 6.6 miles to Eastern Drive to plea for the end of nuclear warfare.

Students also organized a three-legged race to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Aquinas alumni Bill Hoogterp, coordinator and assisted in several national service programs during the early and mid 1990's. On April 6, 1986 his work brought about Project Show. This was an effort made by all local colleges in a day-long volunteer and outreach effort.

On Feb. 6, 1986, Hoogterp along with Joe Malkein coordinated a nationwide effort to cleanup neighborhoods. Colleges and high schools from across the country participated. Today the event is known as Project P.R.I.D.E.

Hoogetr's Hunger Clean-Up was also a success. By 1991 this project had raised $200,000 nationally to combat hunger.

As then senate chair-person Jeanine Jacoress remarked in a 1986 interview, "Maybe in the 1987's the way to get things done is to work more with the people and to be more diplomatic." Her efforts in combating hunger illustrate her message.

As for the 100 Regina residents marching to President Hruby's office, they brought their request for "no hours" (no curfew). They took their signs (one read, "give me no hours or give me death") before Dr. Hruby. He ultimately granted their request and removed the Regina Hall curfew. Now residents know who to thank for the freedom to make those 4 a.m. trips to Meijer.