Model Arab League a Lesson in Diplomacy
by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

For the second year in a row, Aquinas sent delegates to the Michigan Arab League at Grand Valley State University from Feb. 25-27. This year, though, participation increased so dramatically that Aquinas represented five nations, three more than last year. Although several area colleges also sent delegations, none sent more than two nations.

The Egyptian delegation was chaired by Bob Hintsley and included Laurie Noall, Tim Lowe, Tracy Major and Cheryl Kasprzyk. The delegation was awarded honorable mention and Kasprzyk, on the Social Affairs Committee, was named outstanding delegate. Lowe also won honorable mention.

The Saudi delegation included Bethy Cleveland. Marquise Blakesley, Tony Squires, Lisa Bush, Rob Dodde and was chaired by Aaron Caccamo. Cleveland and Squires were awarded honorable mention.

Mike Gallagher, a continuing education student, chaired the delegation representing Morocco. Gallagher also will be traveling to Kuwait with the National Council on U.S.-Arab relations (NCUSAR). The delegation included Bob Sheffler, Nathan Peck, Nate Jonjevic and Suncia Reljic. Both Gallagher and Jonjevic were returning from last year.

Oman was represented by Kaile Stouffer, Tim Porn, Heather Brown, David Vincent, Chris Wessely and chaired by Chris Hekman. Brown, Vincent and Wessely were all awarded honorable mention.

Elisabeth Martin, Brett Jellison, Eric Chisholm, Jason Guiliano and R.J. Klemenski represented Jordan while Jennifer Gregorski chaired the delegation. The increase in participation and achievement in the Model Arab League program can be attributed to an enthusiastic Dr. Roger Blakeslee, who now offers PS 391, International Organizations: Arab League and Middle East Politics.

AQ Tries Acting Improv Style
by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

The evening began with the audience members filling out four slips of paper. Exchanging phone numbers, perhaps? No, rather filling the slips out with phrases such as the ever-popular “Yo Quiero Taco Bell” and “May the Force be with you.” This intimate audience was about to see an Improv show of “Whose Line is it Anyways?” sponsored by Student Activities at the Cook Carriage house on Feb. 28.

Hosted by Eric Mullen, Student Activities Director, and Dr. David Weinandy, Aquinas Communication Arts Professor, the show boasted quite a few interesting games that made the audience and participants smile and laugh out loud. “Improv Night was fun and a good time. It is a tough thing to be on stage in front of others, but everyone gave it their all!” said Mullen.

Nikesha Griffin, Cynthia Offutt, Travis Harding and Xavier Jaramillo play “Sit, Stand, Kneel and Lay down” at Improv Night. photo by Chris Waid

four people, must have a situation and participants must be sitting, standing, kneeling, and lying down, but no two participants can be doing the same thing at the same time. Mullen gave each team a scenario that they had to follow while playing the game. For instance, one team pretended to be intellectual snobs waiting for a bus. This skit allowed the audience to both see and hear Mark Pittman perform a bit of Shakespeare on stage.

Another interesting scenario allowed Travis Harding and his teammates to “improv” eating dinner in a laundromat. Harding’s proclamation of, “There is lint in my mealfox!” was met by loud laughter from both the hosts and the audience members.

Cynthia Offutt, along with Harding, had to improvise eating dinner in a laundromat. Offutt found Improv night to be fun. “I found it silly at times.”

See “Improv” Page 9

Regina Hall Fundraiser Heats Up the Night
by Mandy Schneider
Times Contributing Writer

What were a bunch of people doing in a hot tub outside of Regina Hall on Thursday, Feb. 25? Relaxing from the stress of upcoming midterms?

Well, maybe. But there was a greater purpose to this relaxation. The proceeds from renting the hot tub went to a local charity.

The Residence Hall Council (RHC) of Regina Hall sponsored a “Hot-Tubathon.” The idea was similar to an event that was previously held at Xavier University. The “Hot-Tubathon” was altered from a money making event to a charity event by Regina’s RHC president freshman Bridget Clark.

All of the money raised at this event went to Liz’s House, a shelter for battered women and children. It is a secretive house where women can go to get back on their feet, send their children to school and find themselves jobs.

The steam began rising at 7:00 p.m., Thursday night, and continued until 7:00 a.m., Friday morning. The tub was located just outside the workout room in Regina’s basement.

The atmosphere was festive. Lamps and candles circled the tub. Lively music blared from the basement. The night air was cold, but the tub was hot. When they were not in the tub, participants entertained themselves by dancing and indulging in refreshments.

The tub was almost consistently filled throughout the entire night. The event was made possible due in large part to the contributions of many on campus organizations. Community Senate, President Knopke, The Women’s Studies Center, RHA, Hurby Hall and Regina Hall all helped with event by making monetary donations.

The Regina Hall Council expresses their gratitude to these organizations for their contributions.

Another large reason this project was successful is due to Regina Hall RHC and especially its president. Clark developed this idea to help an extremely worthy cause. Over $100 was raised from hot tubbers and on-site donations.

While this event was innovative and for a good cause, it wasn’t expected to cause as much of a community wide reaction as did Pools Plus. Plus does not generally rent out hot tubs, but they did this time because it was going for a charitable cause.

The “Hot-Tubathon” was covered by Channel 8 and Channel 13.

See "Hot Tub" Page 2

by Hosted by Travis Harding and Xavier Jaramillo play “Sit, Stand, Kneel and Lay down” at Improv Night. photo by Chris Waid

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

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Continued from Page 1

about a country that you've never visited before and try and make an experience for me," said Bush. "I try and learn everything you can in general. It takes a lot of patience. We all worked well together as the entire event and they reran the segment somehow involved with the delegates from Aquinas was that countries have such similar attributes."

The general feeling among the delegates from Aquinas was that the experience was worth the time and effort spent in preparation for the MAL. Most of the delegates were sophomores or freshman and are somehow involved with the POLIS political studies club.

J ellison commented, "It was a wonderful learning experience and we all worked well together as the country of Jordan."

"Model Arab League was a great experience for me," said Bush. "I learned a lot about the Middle East in general. It takes a lot of patience to try and learn everything you can about a country that you've never visited before and try and make decisions that will help them out. I also had a great time debating some of the issues with other countries. This was a great learning experience for me."

"We all had a great time researching our countries," said David Vincent. "I think everyone did an excellent job. Even some of the freshmen got outstanding delegategradable."

Nathaniel Peck, freshman and political science major, said, "I have to say the one thing I gained from participating in the Model Arab League was a very real understanding of how international governmental organizations function."

Elizabeth Martin commented, "The Arab League was a very powerful opportunity to role play countries closely tied by culture and location, yet forever in conflict with each other and Israel." Not all of the participants were political science majors. Robert Doddle said, "The biggest asset for me was being immersed and educated in a culture far different than what I am familiar with. This experience is a wonderful opportunity for anyone, political science major or not, to gain a good understanding of the important issues of the Middle East." Wessely said, "We came, we saw, and we conquered—in other words, we cleaned up the town."

Hot Tub

Continued from Page 1

News and by the Grand Rapids Press. These news teams shot live or not, to gain a good understanding of the important issues of the Middle East." Wessley said, "We came, we saw, and we conquered—in other words, we cleaned up the town."

liked to express thanks to Pools Plus and the media for their interest in and help with this event. This event helped raise community awareness particularly when it appeared on two local news stations. Both stations received calls asking more about Liz's House and how they could make a donation. This event served its purpose. It raised money from people lounging in a hot tub and having a good time. For more information on Liz's House call 454-9390.

March 17, 1999

Sixth Annual Monsignor Popell Lecture

The deep chasm between Roman Catholic and Orthodox, perhaps the most significant historical division within the Catholic Church before the separation began by Martin Luther, will potentially be rekindled in the at Aquinas College. Not in terms of formal doctrine, but in the form of promoting a deeper understanding.

Eastern Orthodox priest Reverend Doctor Anthony Ugolnik will speak to the topic "Image and Icon: The Body in Eastern and Western Christian Thought" on March 21 at 3 p.m. in Wege Ballroom. Aquinas prides itself on its ecumenical outlook towards religious traditions. The family of the late Monsignor Popell has established an endowment fund that sponsors an annual ecumenical speaker to Aquinas, along with the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE).

Reverend Doctor Anthony Ugolnik will present an ecumenical lecture on March 21 in the Wege Ballroom. Ugolnik is the Elijah Krege Professor of Humanities at Franklin and Marshall College and is Chair consultant in Eastern Europe. The focus of Ugolnik's study is on sexuality, spirituality and the construction of gender, particularly for men entering marriage. He is working on "Living in Skin: Sex, Gender, and Sacrament." Ugolnik is involved in athletics as well as his studies in theology. He formerly coached college ice hockey and is a Vietnam veteran, which interested him in the formation of young men in the areas of sports, war and physical training.

Director of Campus Ministry Mary Clark-Kaiser said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for the Aquinas Community to be enriched by the insights of a respected speaker from the Orthodox community." She added, "I am especially excited about the addition this year of small table dialogues over a delicious dessert." Sister Anna Fabbera, Chair of the Theology Department, stated, "It will be interesting to learn how the Eastern Orthodox view the body and Christianity... I really think we need it!"

The annual Popell lectures are free and open to all.

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Speaker Brings Home Consequences of Drunk Driving

by Nick Occhipinti
Times Contributing Writer

Sharon Johnson, a member of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Board of Directors, spoke about her real life experiences with a drunk driving accident on March 2 at 12:30 p.m. in the Wege Ballroom. The event was held as a part of “Alcohol Awareness Week” sponsored by the Student Activities Office and Student Athletic Advisory Board.

Johnson’s son, Scott, left the house on a Saturday afternoon in 1988 to ride his dirt-bike. He headed to some dirt trails a little way from his house with his friend, Greg. A truck flew from out of view and hit Scott head on. He was thrown violently from his bike into the ground. Greg rushed to Scott’s side and screamed for help. The truck stayed momentarily and then took off.

The driver was found later at a bar, and, when he was asked why he fled the scene, he replied that he didn’t think it was any big deal.

“Somebody just happened to be on the ground with a crowd of strangers around him,” Johnson said. “That miracle never happened.” Scott was taken off in an ambulance and pronounced dead later that night.

The speaker also brought some disturbing facts with her. Johnson said that one-third of all college students drink with the intention of getting drunk. The speaker also said students spend $55.5 billion on alcohol which adds up to more than $446 per student per year.

Linda Nash, Women’s Basketball Coach and Athletic Director, stated that even though the week was short due to spring break, hopefully it would give students something to think about. She was pleased with the turnout of about 25 people.

Nash commented, “It was a touching story to share. You always think it’s not going to happen to you, but Carol had an ordinary family, her son just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.” Nash added, “She has a powerful message and she can carry on her work in her son’s name.”

AQ Students Spend Spring Break Serving Others

As most of us were relaxing and taking it easy this spring break, some students sacrificed their time to help others around the world. Aquinas students took off this break for service learning trips to help those in need.

Three different groups went to Biloxi, Mississippi, the Appalachia and Haiti. Each group had their own unique experiences and life-long memories.

“The Biloxi, Mississippi service trip was a wonderful trip and I can’t wait till next year,” freshman Laurel Myers said.

There where 19 Aquinas students and three advisors, Eric Bridge, East Area Resident Director, Kelly Hildebrand, St. Joseph Hall and High Hall Resident Director and her husband, that traveled the 22 hour bus ride to Mississippi. When they arrived, it was time to put on their work clothes.

“It was a lot of manual labor which is much different than I am used to. There wasn’t as much community interaction as I first planned, but it wasn’t any less fulfilling in any way,” said senior Carlus Henry.

According to Kelly Hildebrand, the group did a lot of work for a church that was in the process of putting up a women’s shelter until the hurricane swept through Mississippi and put those plans on hold. The church used its shelter funds for the hurricane relief. To get the plans for the shelter moving Aquinas students cleared the lot that will be used for the shelter.

The group also did a lot of painting and cleaning a church that had felt the wrath of a hurricane. And at the end of the trip the students had a chance to visit New Orleans for some shopping and sight seeing.

The other two groups that went to Haiti and Appalachians had many unique experiences as well and helped many people.

“Service Learning trips are a great way to meet new people, get to know fellow students better, and to serve those who are in need,” said senior and Mississippi traveler, Wade O’Boyle.

Working Out Stress

The latest fitness rage, kickboxing, has hit Regina Hall. Fitness fanatics are anxious to become tougher, fiercer and, of course, healthier.

The Regina Hall Residence Hall Council (RHC) recently purchased a punching bag as an addition to the fitness center in the basement of Regina Hall. The decision to buy a punching bag was put into action when students requested a piece of workout equipment to relieve the stress and feelings of aggression caused by college life.

On Friday, Feb. 25, the RHC brought in Frank Lopez, kickboxing fitness guru, to teach a kickboxing workshop that demonstrated techniques for using the punching bag. Ten ambitious students attended the workshop where they learned how to throw straight punches, hooks and uppercuts along with combination punches.

Lopez taught the students many different techniques and gave them several pointers on the most effective ways to use the bag.

After attending the workshop Ryan Carriere said, “I thought it was great, and it’s really great that Regina has this here now. Now RHC just needs to purchase some gloves that could be checked out at the desk.”

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Dates
Session I: Thursdays, 6-10 pm, April 15, 22, 29, May 6
Session II: Saturdays, 8 am-noon, April 17, 24, May 1, 8

Location
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415 E. Fulton, Grand Rapids

For more information or to register, call 616-732-1128, or click MBA at www.davenport.edu

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Aquinas Alum Ray Voet Appointed Judge

by Heather M. Karal
Times Editor-in-Chief

The last time Aquinas alumnus Ray Voet made the papers, the entire nation read about his case against Jack Kevorkian. Now, his accomplishment is more locally known and personally satisfying. After 11 years as the Ionia County Prosecutor, Aquinas alumnus Ray Voet has been appointed to a position of judge in the Ionia District Court.

"It's a different role," said Voet of his new position. "I'm not an advocate now; I'm the one who makes the decisions."

Best known for his efforts in prosecuting Jack Kevorkian in 1997, Voet has seen both high-profile and low-profile cases in Ionia County. In an interview with the Times, he stated that, although he enjoyed his role as a prosecutor, he is very eager to experience this new position in the judicial system. He applied for the position as soon as it opened in November of 1998. He was selected as the most qualified of the five candidates who applied. Voet believes that past few years as prosecutor have helped to prepare him for this role by giving him the opportunity to learn the details of courtroom proceedings and politics.

"I've been a prosecutor for 11 years now, and no one spends more time in a court room, besides a judge, so I can't say that I'm unfamiliar with the courtroom process," Voet said.

Voet obtained his law degree from the University of Detroit in 1984 with an English major. Although his undergraduate studies are not related to his current career, he speaks highly of his Aquinas education and the skills that it taught him.

"Aquinas is more than just a degree factory," said Voet. "I have the kind of job that requires me to think on my feet, and it requires abstract thinking... Aquinas helped a lot with that." Voet began his duties as District Court Judge of Ionia County on Monday, March 8. He replaced Judge David Hoort who served as the Ionia County District Court Judge for the past seven years.

Bridgewater May Add Second Tower

by Cari Hartman
Times Contributing Writer

Soon there may another building gracing the skyline of downtown Grand Rapids. Current plans are being proposed to add a second Bridgewater Place Tower in the ever-expanding downtown Grand Rapids area. The proposed project is the brainchild of Grooters Development Company. Robert Grooters, President of the company, said in a Grand Rapids Press article there is a 95 percent chance that Grooters will become a reality.

The second tower will be located between the first tower at 333 Bridge St. NW, and the existing parking deck, Olga Hallstedt, a Grooters spokesperson said. Unlike the original Bridgewater, which houses office spaces, the plans for the 22-story Bridgewater II include a first-class 250-room hotel, 20 corporate suites and 30 high-end condos. A hotel has not yet been linked with the project, but according to a Grand Rapids Press Article, there are two hotels vying for the location. Rob Grooters was unavailable to verify this information.

"This project is driven by the Van Andel [Institute for Education and Medical Research]" Hallstedt said.

If Bridgewater II goes through, the same architect from Bridgewater I, Winklemann Associates, will be used, Hallstedt elaborated. The Grand Rapids Press indicates that the Grand Rapids Press that the completed complex will be worth over $100 million.
Details of U-M Murder Continue to Emerge

by Jaimie Winkler
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)
March 9, 1999

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Days after the sudden and tragic deaths of a University of Michigan student and alum, those who knew the victims are still trying to make sense of the tragedy and come to terms with the consequences.

A friend discovered the bodies of 19-year-old Shabana Qureshi and her boyfriend, Christopher Groesbeck, a recent U-M graduate, Friday afternoon, March 5, at Groesbeck's apartment on East Kingsley Street. Both died early Friday morning as a result of gunshot wounds.

An autopsy performed by the Washtenaw County Medical Ex­aminer revealed that Qureshi "alized her -OVER shirt ("Groesbeck") three times then shot herself in the head," said Ann Ar­bor Police Department Sgt. Michael Logghe, adding that the bullets that killed Groesbeck went through his -lung and two other shots penetrated his neck and chest.

"Qureshi and Groesbeck had been dating off and on for a year and a half, Logghe said, but police were not involved in previous disputes. "The two lived in the same apartment building. Similiar Valentine's Day stickers still hung in both of their apartment windows on the day the bodies were found."

Student尔斯ort Khatari, a Qureshi family friend, said the -immediate family was unaware of her relationship with Groesbeck and in disbelief about the events of the weekend, offering other theo­ries of the event surrounding their daughter's death. "She had excellent grades and was going to law school some­where in New York, in the fall," Khatari said.

Ann Arbor Police Department interviews with Qureshi's family indicated Qureshi kept the relationship a secret. "She never told anyone they were dating," Logghe said, adding that the investigation proves Qureshi's responsibility for the deaths and leaves little room for other theories. Qureshi's family declined to comment.

Laracey remembered Qureshi as an attentive student who was con­­tinuously interested in the course material. She was "someone who made in­elligent comments in class," Laracey said, "a student who particip­ated regularly in class discussion."

Internet Shopping is Almost Too Easy

by Laura Wick
Times Contributing Writer

- Do you cringe at the thought of crowded malls, long checkout lines and endless hours of search for exactly what you came to buy? Well, now modern technology has a solution for you - Internet pur­chasing. The Internet makes it pos­sible to purchase almost anything you could possibly want without ever leaving the comfort of your own home. Web sites sell everything from clothing, music and books to flowers, Beanie Babies and even groceries. As long as you have a credit card, you can most likely buy it over the Internet.

The best way to ensure that your information will be kept confiden­tial is to make sure that the web site is secure. Netscape, the browser used by Aquinas College, has a display that tells the user whether or not the site is secure. A secure site will encrypt credit card and personal information, such as your address.

According to Vedders, the en­­cyrping system is almost foolproof. "It's estimated that it would take something like 40 years to break up, working non-stop," Vedders explained.

However, even if the site isn't secure, you're probably okay. "Someone would have to intercept your credit card information at the exact moment you send it. The chances of this happening are very slim," said Vedders.

According to Vedders, Internet shopping is a great way to shop without having to drive to the store or mall. "You can shop whenever you want, and it comes right to your door."

So the next time you're in de­sperate need of new CD, pair of jeans or just about anything else, boot up your computer and have your credit card ready. Just be care­ful not to overspend. This is almost too easy.

Contract Talks Stall
Michigan Grad Students May Strike

by Kelly Hildebrand
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)
March 12, 1999

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- Graduate assistants at the Uni­versity of Michigan staged a walk-out for all of Wednesday and Thursday morning as negoti­ations, started in October, reached a standoff.

Administrative officials and union representatives are at a stale­mate on issues regarding graduate assistant appointments and wage increases. Throughout the week­end they will be negotiating, said Rachel Gabara, a Michigan union member.

Sunday night, union members will vote on whether to accept the con­tract negotiated during the week­end. The union and the university negotiate a new contract every three years. If contract negotiations fail through, union members will strike on Monday.

The University of Michigan union has existed since 1975 and only represents teaching assistants. In 1975, the union went on strike for one month and since then has only had seven days of work stoppage. "We use a strike as a last resort," Gabara said, adding that they rec­ognize the adverse effect a strike has on students.

At the University of Minnesota, the Graduate Students Organizing Congress is currently driving for a union. An election is expected to occur in April or May. The possibility of a strike if a union is elected is a concern for some graduate assistants at the University.

"Work stoppage is common," said Paul Enever, a member of Gradu­ate Students Against Unionization. He cited the recent Michigan walk-out as an example. Enever said a work stoppage can have ad­verse effects on both graduate as­sistants as well as undergraduates.

"Nobody wants to go on strike," said Melinda Jackson, a GradSOC member. However, when a strike occurs, it is usually regarding big issues like wages and compens­ation.

Unlike the recent strikes in the University of California system, where administrators wouldn't rec­ognize the graduate assistant union, Michigan's long-recognized union is negotiating a new contract.

Compiled by Jennie Lenzen
Times Contributing Writer

Single Hair Could Allow Test for Cancer

New high-tech X-ray studies conducted on a single hair may reveal whether a woman has breast cancer and could even help doctors diagnose other cancers, new research suggests. The link between breast cancer and microscopic changes in hair structure remains unexplained, but appears to be highly accurate. Hairs from breast cancer patients generate unusual X-ray images when they are exposed to high-intensity radiation beams. Cancer patients' hairs produce a ring-shaped shadow indicating a certain type of breakdown in the protein structure of hair. It has been tested on too few women thus far, but, upon confirmation could be done for a few dollars on hairs received by mail.

Homosexuality Speaker Causes Controversy

The Hope College Students Congress is trying to bring a noted gay minister to speak this month, in response to the chapel staff's lecture series that includes an Illinois minister who says God gave him the power to overcome homosexuality. Marco Bittner is speaking in chapel and at the college's eyebrows center as part of their human sexuality series, "Setting Love in Order." This series is an effort to expose students to many viewpoints as possible.

However, the student government leaders have received numerous phone calls, as students are concerned that Bittner would rein­force beliefs that homosexuals can change if they want to. College officials state that they simply want to ensure that all views are equally represented.

Politicians Experience Food Stamp Budget

Fifty-five Michigan lawmakers will soon learn firsthand what it's like to live on assistance. Thirty-seven Democrats and 18 Repub­licans have agreed to feed their families during March on a food stamp budget. This plan is part of the "Walk a Mile" project, which educates lawmakers on the lives of the poor. The projects sponsors believe that a better understanding of welfare recipients and how they live will help legislators in making related decisions. Michigan is the 24th state to participate in the "Walk a Mile" project, which started at the University of Washington. Most participants feel that it will be an enlightening experience.

Founders of Rogers Department Store Dies

Hyman Berkowitz, founder of the Rogers Department Store died last week of pancreatic cancer at the age of 88. The Rogers stores have become a Grand Rapids area landmark and has stood on 28th Street in Wyoming since 1960. The store has been credited in the business development of the Wyoming area, as numerous businesses grew up around the store after its founding. Berkowitz, a Grand Rapids native, was also involved with numerous charitable causes and philanthropy activities within the Grand Rapids community. He was also very active in the Grand Rapids Jewish community. Berkowitz also served on the Kent State University Board of Trustees. He also was named the person of the year by the Grand Rapids Economic Club in 1993 and received the Aquinas College Emeri­titus Award in 1999.

West Michigan Population Increasing

According to estimates the U.S. Census Bureau released last week, West Michigan has been one of the fastest growing areas of the state during the 1990's. Several counties such as Lake, Newaygo and Ottawa counties experienced about a 20 percent increase from 1990. The trend according to the Census Bureau is that people are moving out from larger cities such as Grand Rapids, Detroit and Lansing and into suburbs and surrounding counties. The state of Michigan's population was estimated to have increased 5.6 percent between 1990 and 1998, up to 9.82 million people.
Sometimes a cup of hot mint herbal tea helps me to feel better if I have a headache or stomach ache. On the other hand, sometimes it doesn’t. I know that the tea is safe for me to drink, but I’m taking a risk on how effective it will be for my particular ailment. Naturally, I weigh the risks and possible benefits in my mind before I decide whether to drink the tea or not.

If the FDA knew that once I made the decision to drink hot tea for a headache and it wasn’t effective, they would probably take hot tea off the market. This example may appear somewhat extreme, but it illustrates the mentality of the federal Food and Drug Administration. Instead of focusing on product safety, the FDA has expanded its jurisdiction to dictate what drugs or medical devices Americans will be allowed to try. If the effectiveness (not safety) isn’t proven to be high enough among most Americans, the drug will be completely illegal.

The FDA found that the new flu drug, zanamivir, didn’t provide significant efficacy. In U.S. studies, people who took the drug felt better in five days as compared to two and a half days earlier. Is this the only reason zanamivir is now an illegal drug to market? Yes. The requirement for efficacy was imposed after the 1962 thalidomide scare. Since then, the system has been detrimental to consumers and costly. Product development has been slow which causes the costs of drugs to skyrocket. Consequently, the costs of the efficacy requirement can be measured in human lives. According to Robert Goldberg of Brandeis University, who commented to Doug Brandow of the CATO Institute, the safety and efficacy standards here in the United States have cost the lives of at least 200,000 Americans over the past 30 years. The FDA has denied Alzheimer’s, AIDS patients, and people suffering from cardiac conditions and kidney ailments safe medicines.

The private medical community requested for them. Americans and the medical community of educated physicians aren’t being given the choices that the rest of the developed world gets to make. About 61% of 150 new drugs and vaccines approved by the FDA between 1990 and 1994 were first available and were curing people overseas. Obviously, in more complex situations than whether or not to take mint tea for a headache or zanamivir for the flu, the average person cannot make decisions on their own. The entire medical community of doctors, nurses, and other health-care professionals can help us make the decisions of whether to use a particular drug by explaining to us the risks and benefits. Ultimately, every individual should be allowed the freedom to make informed decisions regarding their own life and health—not the FDA.

Freedom from the Flu Denied:

The Symptom of a Bigger Problem?

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

The flu is here, and it is ravaging our villages, scouring us of health and depleting orange juice supplies around the nation. By the power of modern science—wizards, we have a miracle serum that, with a couple quick snorts a day, can rid us of this plague and salvage our spring season... if it were not for that maniacal consumer protection agency of ours, the FDA.

Let’s get real here. The flu is not the plague. The Food and Drug Administration is not preventing people from salvation from ravishing disease. With its rejection of experimental flu drug, zanamivir, the FDA is doing its job: protecting the American people from getting harmed and getting ripped off.

The FDA’s advisory committee denied use of the drug with a vote of 13 to 4, which is convincing enough for me. In this particular case, the committee was not concerned so much about the safety of the drug, but its less than convincing “effectiveness.”

The problem is that drug can provide relief from influenza symptoms anywhere from half a day to two and a half days earlier than normal recovery time. This, for anyone who’s had the flu, might be worth the extra expense to spend our money and overmedicate ourselves for minimal results?

People who get all caught up in worrying that the FDA is keeping them from miracle cures should all take deep breaths. First of all, the flu does not kill. Second, if we worry that the FDA is keeping us from a miracle cure, we are missing the point. It isn’t the recovery time itself that is being questioned but the product itself. New experiments made by the drug, which is currently on the market.

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Remember the good old days when kids were content to climb trees, ride bikes, and play house? Now, children (and adults) sit zoned in front of computers and video games for hours at a time. Remember when the place to meet and fraternize with members of the opposite sex was at large social gatherings like dances or mixers? Now Internet addicts surf the net for chat rooms to hook up with that special someone.

As we near the turn of the century, predications of Armageddon and Apocalypse scream from tabloid headlines. The discovery of the Y2K millennium bug has resulted in a lot of media hype and hysteria, but it also raises some important questions: Are we too dependent on computers? Is there a tendency tearing away at the fragile fabric of the family and social structures?

Don't get us wrong. Technology definitely has its upsides. Technology can be a huge time saver and can be fairly easy and convenient to use, when it wants to be. How did we ever live before e-mail, fax machines, and spell check? But one thing is missing, even in e-mail, which allows you to respond in seconds... basic human interaction.

As warm-blooded Homo sapiens we have to fulfill our needs of inclusion, acceptance and love through socialization with other living, breathing human beings. Can the cold, blank stare of a computer fulfill these elemental and essential needs? Besides, when's the last time you tried to hug your computer? It's more likely that the last strong feeling you had toward your PC was a desire to use it for last time you tried to hug your computer? It's more likely that the last strong feeling you had toward your PC was a desire to use it for target practice?

On a given night, in most any American home, the family unit can be seen gathered around the dinner table sharing a meal and pleasant conversation — maybe, if your last name happens to be Cleaver. Unfortunately, a more typical scenario depicts Mom obsessively playing solitaire on her laptop. Dad zoned out in front of the big screen. Junior killing alien invaders on his Gameboy and little Jane is online, unsupervised, sending e-mail to "friends" whom she has never actually seen. According to the Georgia Institute of Technology, 19 million people under 18 have access to computers and 11 million people over 18.

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How many times a day do you brush your teeth? Approximately how many pairs of shoes do you own? Who would you die for? Are you planning to donate your organs when you die? There are many more questions like these in Penelope Frohardt's new book, The Book of Fabulous Questions.

The book is small enough to be put in a pocket, yet has enough questions (600 to be exact) to last for hours. Frohardt's book is guaranteed to be the hit anywhere there are people who are willing to talk. Some of the questions are those people might easily ask on their own, such as "When were you born?" but other questions are well, of course, some are more personal than others, which is why I organized the book the way I did. However, everyone seems to skip to the back, which is more personal," she said. Frohardt intends to write more books and added, "I am going to keep my books light-hearted and fun and probably a little romantic," she said.

Inspiration for The Book of Fabulous Questions came from a good friend who gave support and the push to do the project on her own. "All of my family and friends have been great and very supportive, plus they let me test market the book on them, everyone loved it!" said Frohardt. Frohardt was born in Iowa, but has lived in Oregon and Michigan and currently resides in Minnesota. She attended Grand Valley State University.

"I originally went to school for physical therapy, but after nearly failing my biology class, I decided to stay away from anything involving science. After wandering through many subjects, I discovered that I loved writing," said Frohardt. She earned a bachelor's degree in advertising and public relations with an emphasis in marketing and journalism. Past writing experience includes research and promotion of a cookbook called "Say I Love You in 99 Different Languages." Her background in public relations has allowed Frohardt to write articles and press releases for Grand Valley State University.

As for her most recent book, Frohardt certainly has a hit on her hands; there's no question about that.

Student Art Exhibit Adds Excitement to AMC

The Annual Student Art Show at the Art & Music Center brings out the best crop of works from each year's art students. As is true every year, a diverse range of talent and media is exposed to the public in this exhibit. From beginners learning to develop their skills, in changing what they see (in eye or in mind) into a physical expression to advanced levels where students are fine-tuning their abilities and expressing themselves more liberally and with greater ease. Pieces like "The Mysterious Drape #1 & 2" by Brian Loffelman give us an almost new outlook on a project done in the Basic Drawing classes. It's no surprise just "Drapes Project #1 & 2," it's always nice to see thoughtful titles on pieces that provoke contemplation.

Many of the paintings on display caught attention as well. "Still Life with Glass" by Robin Van Wezel and "Spud" by Linda-Ann Fleming, "Chaudy' Froot" by Jeff McCrystal is particularly fascinating not only for the paintwork, but the artist's seeming compulsion to surround the work with poetry and cross out the painting with strings. One can stare for quite a long time deciphering the words, but meaning comes easily, as is true every year, the most difficult and complex pieces to analyze. "Broken Cheerios" by Wendy Wilder McCrystal and "Steel Effort" by Alex Nudd break this cycle and give the viewer something to think about, rather than just stare at.

The photography classes had their share of excellence as well. "Doors" (series) by Tim Carpenter gives a unique re-examination of otherwise unnoticed objects in our lives. "Candlelight Evening" by Chris Waid is exactly what you'd expect it to be: sensuous, romantic and intimate.

The ceramics pieces were all well crafted and appealing (even "Doudbloom" with its anatomical likeness) to stare at of course. If you haven’t yet looked over the exhibit, make an effort just to walk through. See if you don’t surprise yourself and lose an hour or more.
DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

Saturday, April 10
Kalamazoo State Theatre

with special guests KNEE DEEP SHAG and JOHNNY SOCKO

Tickets are going very quickly, but are still available for just $10.50 at the State Theatre box office or through any Michigan Ticketmaster outlet!

A Few Grammy Winners

For those who missed the Grammy Awards, here is a list of some of the winners. For more information, check the homepage at http://www.gramm.org.

Record of the Year: "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion
Album of the Year: "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" by Lauryn Hill
Song of the Year: "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion

Best Pop Album: "Ray of Light" by Madonna
Best Dance Recording: "Live At Carnegie Hall: The 50th Anniversary Concert" by Fatboy Slim

Best Rock Song: "Uninvited" by Alanis Morissette
Best Hard Rock Performance: "Most High" by Jimmy Page and Robert Plant
Best Pop Performance By a Group with Vocal: "Jump, Jive An' Wail" by The Brian Setzer Orchestra
Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance: "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion
Best Pop Performance By a Group with Vocal: "Jump Jive An' Wail" by The Brian Setzer Orchestra

March 17, 1999

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ladies & Gentlemen
Fatboy Slim
You've Come a Long Way, Baby

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who he is: Norman Cook

Where he's from: Brighton, England

How you know him (current single): "The Rockafeller Skank" and "Praise You."

Lyrics worth repeating: "We've come a long, long way together, through the hard times and the good. I have to celebrate you baby. I want to praise you like I should" — from the song "Praise You."

My thoughts on "You've Come a Long Way"

Fatboy Slim brings back the club scene of techno and synthesizers with a vengeance. "You've Come a Long Way, Baby" is nothing but pure, danceable mixes of vocals and noise. Meaningful lyrics go out the window as each song gives way to the repetition of a few select sentences. There's little to be said for the disc. If you love the techno/disco dance music of the club scene, then this is one for you. The rest of us will leave it on the shelves in favor of something with a little more substance.

Fatboy Slim's first release, "Rockafeller Skank," has inundated music, television and movie world. The song was featured on "Friends," Coca-Cola's Surge campaign, the box-office hit "She's All That," as well as in the previews for the new movie "Office Space." "You've Come a Long Way, Baby" currently sits at number 58 on Billboard's Top 200 after only 10 weeks on the charts. Look for Fatboy Slim to continue his success in the states with his latest release "Praise You."

Visit him at: www.caroline.com/astraIwerks/fbs/

"Improv" Continued from Page 1

first, but once I became used to it I thought it was a lot of fun," she said.

Other games included "Freeze," where teams found themselves improvising silly situations in a moment's notice.

Ryan Mullen, a team member with Pittman, found the freeze game amusing. "I enjoyed the Freeze game. You could make the most fun out of the game by being someone else," he said.

Another popular game from "Whose Line" is "Any More?" where the Quote Game. Teams were giving a role to play as a famous celebrity or character (such as Austin Powers) and each had to have a conversation while tying in the quotes. Participant Nikeshas Griffin thought that the improv night provided good times and also a challenge. "It is a lot harder than people would expect. You always have to keep the conversation going," she said.

At the end of the show, the audience members not only voted on the best team (who each received gift certificates for a pizza), but they were also invited on stage for a taste of improv acting. The participants who did not win "Best Team" still received a free movie pass for playing. Winners of the movie passes to Studio 28 were: Cynthia Offit, Xavier Jaramillo, Nikeshas Griffin, Travis Hardin, Terri Auston, Schianti Dixon, Moniek Mungai, Michelle Vera, Mario Camilla, Lynne Gates and Lupita Garza-Grande. Winners of the Dominos $10 gift certificates were Lorena Aguayo, Ryan Mullen, Mark Pittman and Shannon Otenweller.

Dr. Wenanday enjoyed hosting the show. He summed the evening up as being a way for Aquinas students to showcase their talents. "It was wonderful! It is great to see such talent on campus. This is one reason why we are bringing theater back to the Aquinas campus," he said.

Look for more exciting activities in the Cook Carriage house sponsored by Student Activities. For more information call Eric Mullen at ext. 4126.
Rematch of Neighborhood Rivals

by Jason Vogel
Times Contributing Writer

Saturday, Feb. 27 brought spring-like weather to West Michigan even though the season is weeks away.
The warm, overcast weather was certainlv an indication of the "March Madness" officially kicked off with the men's WHAC semi-final basketball game between number one ranked Cornerstone College Golden Eagles and their neighboring rivals, the Aquinas College Saints.

Madness is one way to describe the scene which consisted of fans decked out in waves of red, white, navy blue and gold, all coming out to pack a tiny gymnasium past capacity levels 30 minutes before tip-off. Emotions and intensity ran high between the two teams who had already met twice during this season, Cornerstone winning both contests, including a two-point thriller just a week prior.

The first half proved to be well worth the wait in the sweltering gym. Aquinas jumped to an early lead in the first six minutes, 13-7. The Saints were not relinquishing the lead again for the rest of the contest.

The Saints played close with the Golden Eagles in the first half staying within seven points of Cornerstone at all times. For every run that Cornerstone would counter with one of their own. One of the highlights of the first half for AQ came on a fast break with 2:22 left on the clock. Senior Chris Kreiner stole the ball and dished it to junior forward Courtney Norman who took the ball and two-handed it over a Cornerstone defender. Two minutes later, Aquinas went to the locker room down by a score of 42-33.

In the second half Cornerstone came out and executed their offense to perfection jumping out to a 12 point lead less than three minutes into the second half. Aquinas also made their runs at Cornerstone's double-digit lead in the second half. Aquinas, however, was not successful in catching up with the Golden Eagles. Cornerstone advanced to the WHAC tournament championship and a trip to Idaho for the national tournament after the 93-76 win over the visiting Saints.

Following the game, Aquinas Coach Rick Albro reflected on the lost. "On the defensive end we did a terrible job," Albro said. "Seventy-six points had to be won here today." Albro also praised Cornerstone. "They have tremendous balance, they make the extra pass, and they are on a mission." Aquinas had several players turn in outstanding performances in the context. Leading the way for the Saints was junior forward Courtney Norman with 17 points, 11 rebounds and two monster blocks on the day. Not far behind was senior guard NaShune Hickman who tossed in 16 points and had 7 assists. Another senior, Mike Jackson, also suited up for the Saints for the last time and scored 12 points and grabbed 9 rebounds. Kreiner, Ross Willick and Kyle Verlin all contributed 8 points to the Saints' effort.

Senior NaShune Hickman summed up the feelings of the Saints. "It has been a hard season. We just couldn't pull it out." Along with Hickman, seniors, Varnedoe, Kreiner, Jackson and Hinke played their last game in Aquinas jerseys at Cornerstone.

A View from the Bench
Politics of March Madness

by Nate Thomas
Times Sports Editor

College basketball brings to mind March Madness, politics and awards. March Madness places 64 politically picked teams in a tournament. A group of people get together and pick their favorite teams to play in the NCAA tournament. They may try to pick evenly, but everyone knows that there is always some sort of influence in why each team gets picked and how they get placed, and it is not the team's record.

For those who have not been keeping up, the 64 teams are placed into four sub-tournaments of 16. The sub-tournaments are the South, the West, the Midwest and the East. Each team is given a ranking between one and 16 for place in their respective sub-tournament. This is where the politics come in.

It was obvious that the top four teams in the nation, Auburn, Michigan State, Duke and Connecticut, were going to receive the number one seed in each region, but as the Huskies have been asking, why do they get sent to the west while the other top teams get to stay at home?

The answer is an easy one, politics. Since Auburn was the only top four school from the south and Michigan State the only one from the midwest, those two were no-brainers, but the committee ran into a problem having both Duke and UConn in the east. Their easy answer to a tough problem, send UConn because Duke is the best team in the nation.

That was just a little part of the politics involved in the setting of the brackets. Many people including myself wonder why a team with a 28-2 record gets seeded below a team with a 22-6 record?

But who can complain about politics? If it is a tournament that is specially picked each team should be proud just to make it in. If a team feels they have been seeded lower than they deserve they can play like they usually do and come out on top and prove everyone wrong.

Politics are all over in basketball especially when it comes to the end of the season in tournaments and awards. People watching the games will see the sportscasters comment on who should get player of the year. This, although a good idea, also brings in many politics. The player of the year should be someone who single-handedly took his team to the top.

Tony Jerry from the University of Arizona has had his name come up in many conversations about the top player in the nation. How did his highly-ranked Wildcats fare in this year's tournament? That is right, fourth-seeded Arizona lost in the first round to 13th-seeded Oklahoma. I am not saying Oklahoma is bad, they did beat fifth-seeded University of North Carolina Charlotte, but if you and your team are so good you should make it past the first round. This brings me to the player who most deserves for player of the year. He comes from a small school in Ohio that has never won two-consecutive games in a NCAA tournament, but this year managed a 10th seed and knocked off seventh-seeded Washington 59-58 in the first round and then defeated second-seeded Utah 66-58. Most of the time, close games come down to a final play. The Miami of Ohio-Washington game was no different.

Wally Szczerski, hopefully this season's player of the year, blocked the Huskies' game-winning shot at the buzzer to cap off a great night. Szczerski's end of the game heroics complimented his 43 point effort during the game. 43 points is quite an accomplishment if you think that the east's fifth seed, Wisconsin, could only manage 32 points in their first round loss.

Szczerski also made an impact on the second game as well as Miami went into the locker room at halftime down by three with Szczerski scoring only with three seconds left. He came out in the second half and hit six of his last six free-throws in the game's final minute and a half. Politics are becoming far too important in sports today. Something needs to be done to give the teams that were not picked for the field of 64 and the players like Szczerski the credit they deserve.
Lady Saints Stomp Indiana Tech, but Lose in WHAC Finals

by Jason Vogel
Times Contributing Writer

Aquinas' women's basketball team needed only one more win to play for the WHAC tournament championship game. The only thing that stood between the Lady Saints and a trip to Spring Arbor was a visiting Indiana Tech squad who had just come off a big upset, beating the first place team in the conference, Tri-State relay of freshmen.

The women's basketball team has played in WHAC championship games out of the last six years, so they know how to take care of business when it comes to tournament time.

The game began with a scoreless tie three minutes into the first half. Aquinas and Indiana Tech traded the lead throughout the first half. An Aquinas half-time buzzer sounded, Aquinas and Indiana Tech were deadlocked at 31 points a piece. Whatever coach Linda Nash said in the Lady Saints locker room at halftime was very effective because Aquinas came out gunning in the second half.

Just over three minutes into the second half, the Saints jumped out to a slight advantage, 43-38. Aquinas never looked back, running away with the game and leading by as many as 18 points. When the game was finished Indiana Tech's upset bid had been denied, losing 76-59.

Aquinas now had a berth in the WHAC championship game on Monday, March 6 against nationally ranked Spring Arbor.

At the conclusion of the game, Nash was happy with her team's performance so far in the tournament and optimistic about the next step.

"I can always count on them to play hard and stay focused," she said. "We have been doing a good job getting after it defensively."

The Lady Saints had several outstanding performances in their win over Indiana Tech. Leading the way for the Saints was sophomore guard Julie Murray who scored 18 points including a perfect seven of seven from the free throw line, grabbed eight rebounds, and dished off six assists. Not far behind was red-shirt freshman Mary Bond who contributed 15 points and five rebounds. Her numbers earned her the recognition of being named WHAC player of the week as she averaged 16.5 points per game and 4.5 rebounds.

Coach Nash had special praise for her sophomore guard Ronda Boltho, who scored 14 points, had four rebounds and five assists.

"Ronda Boltho was doing an excellent job out there. In the previous game against Cornerstone, she tore her ankle, and today she came back to turn in an excellent performance," Nash said.

She also commended senior guard Jolene Loomis for her play.

"Loomis did an excellent job with pressure on Indiana Tech's Jan Johnson, who scored 34 points in an earlier meeting and she also played a smart floor game adding a few key shots for us," Nash said.

The Lady Saints were also very optimistic of themselves of the upcoming match-up against Spring Arbor. Sophomore Julie Murray said, "It would be nice to play them at home, but we have them at a good time because we are playing together as a team."

"I can always count on them to play hard and stay focused," she said. "We have been doing a good job getting after it defensively."
Images Without Substance

by Molly Huber
Times Contributing Writer

Self-acceptance and self-love are difficult tasks facing all women in our culture. How can a woman measure up to the ideals of a culture that is focused on her appearance?

Women's History Month provides Aquinas with the occasion to recognize the most critical component contributing to the degradation, discrimination and discontent of women: the media and particularly music videos.

Many people believe that music television is a big reason for the limited, negative image of women. Music television commits assaults against women almost every hour of every day. An analysis of music videos done by the Media Education Foundation of Massachusetts reveals the "deliberate and conscious creations" of video makers: to depict a woman as parts separate from a whole, without feeling, intellect or thoughts.

Dr. Michaelene Kelly of the Aquinas Philosophy Department said about MTV, "Commercial's (and MTV) portrayal of women is very limiting, even dangerous. Most often a woman in this form of media is reduced to only one part of her body: her breasts, a thigh, her back. Not only are women denied subjectivity, they are interchangeable as man in music videos seem to say one woman is just as good as another.

Music videos have been described as man's 'stream world.' Men write 90 percent of music videos and a man most likely films the 10 percent written by females. There is no doubt whose story isn't being told here. The market demands sex, regardless of who it exploits.

Mainly high school and college age viewers watch music television. It is not surprising that 1 in 8 college women is a victim of rape or that 1 in 4 are victims of an attempted rape given the underlying messages in the popular source of entertainment.

Images violating the female body are not exclusive to male artists, but are created by female artists as well. Madonna and Janet will continue to shed their clothes as long as their albums sell.

Also, in order to maximize profit, Latin Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and whites alike are targeted audiences. The images of women of these different races are transformed into beliefs that a woman's purpose in life is to be watched, desperate and dependent on a man. These images are significant in our culture because men and women use them to understand the real world.

Women fight every day to diet and groom themselves to fit the ideal body weight and size dictated by the media. Only 5 percent of women are born with such an ideal. These standards exclude 95 percent of all other women.

Music videos enhance this unnatural representation of women. These skewed values diminish the possibility of true femininity and encourage violent behavior towards women.

"As Dr. Kelly put it, "We're silenced, looked at as sex objects whose interests, values and natures don't matter. It's just how we'll fit into adolescent male fantasies." For more information on this topic or to get involved with this issue, contact Dr. Michaelene Kelly at ext. 4115 or Jeff Smith at 459-4788 ext. 122.

A Q Speaks on Disfiguring Images

by Chris Manning
Times Features Editor

Lead-eyed, frighteningly thin and always rager seems to be the female preference of the media. But is this portrayal real?

Aquinas students and faculty naturally had an opinion and rather than fill space with still more facts, the Aquinas Times went out and asked what they thought.

Some, like junior Xaviar Jaramillo, thought the media was unfair. "The media show their own image of a woman. The media needs to fairly portray women in the things they commercialize."

Senior Sara Holt saw women as a sex symbol. Men are portrayed as the saviors to most problems. Women do more in society today than men and deserve more credit," noted an anonymous student.

According to studies those most effected by the media are adolescents. Continuing education student Susan Stevens remarked, "Young girls (women) are especially vulnerable (because) they buy into the hype believing material possessions or a thin body can buy happiness often at a cost of their emotional and physical health."

Some quotes took a very different angle on the media and women. Sophomore Danna Florio turned the question back to the individual. "It doesn't matter what the portrayal of women or men is in the media... people see what they want to see, assume what they want to assume and draw conclusions to their liking."

Still the question remains, "What do the audience see and how does it affect us all?"