Students travel to Middle East
Kasprzyk and Gallagher study Arabic politics and culture
by Seth W. Peters
Times Contributing Writer

Imagine traveling to the wind-swept sands of Arabia, living within a society steeped in Islamic practices and beliefs, and trying not to violate the mores and customs of a place unknown. Cheryl Kasprzyk, a junior interested in comparative international politics, and Mike Gallagher, a continuing-education student with a major in political science, had the unique opportunity of experiencing such cultural immersion.

Both participated in the Model Arab League (M.A.L.), a non-profit college-oriented simulation of the actual Arab league in Washington D.C. Having an avid interest in international studies and the Middle East in particular, Kasprzyk and Gallagher took advantage of an opportunity afforded them by the National Council for U.S.-Arab Relations, an organization that works in conjunction with the M.A.L.

They would follow a very tight schedule, much to Gallagher's chagrin. "You couldn't go anywhere on your own. You couldn't get lost among the people." Gallagher was granted a scholarship in visit Kuwait this past May. Gallagher spent three days in Washington learning the cultural idiosyncrasies of the Middle East before he and ten others embarked for Kuwait University, the sponsor of their 15-day visit. "It gives us a hands-on opportunity of international study," said Gallagher's trip to Kuwait. Bou ArkI assisted the ten U.S. students throughout their trip.

The funding for the boat was provided by the Moreau Center. The Mud Minnow was named the "Mud Minnow" in honor of the first species identified in the Aquatic Field Biology last year. "The boat opens possibilities to study aquatic ecology at many levels, from rivers and streams to lake Michigan," said Bajema. "There's even the possibility of summer research." Students test water samples collected during a study of lake ecology on Aquinas Biology Department's new boat, the Mud Minnow. The water quality tests are part of a lab for the Environmental Biology course.

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And You Can Quote Me... Page 7

Updated network?
ITS works to implement new system
by Eric Vander Ley
Times Contributing Writer

Joyce La Fleur, the Director of Information Technology and Services, recalls a day three and a half years ago when she first asked the question, "What will it take for the school to begin the process of upgrading?" The answer to her question came in two parts, the infamous Y2K issues and a new President, Dr. Harry Knope.

The necessity of installing a brand new system on the Aquinas College campus was realized when a formula for dealing with Y2K issues was formed. The ITS staff realized that proceeding with an upgrade of the old system to solve the Y2K problems would only be patching the hole on a sinking ship. In order to be cost-effective, they decided to implement a plan that would include the installation of a completely new network. This has been no easy task for the ITS staff, who have been working long hours to solve the problems that they encounter.

The Board of Trustees and the President Knope have not only accepted the recommendations of the ITS staff, but have become proactive in the process of updating technology. With their support, installation of the new network systems began. An undertaking of this magnitude requires an amount of understanding between the students and the staff as hardware problems have caused frequent interruptions in network availability. Gary Kieff, the Associate Provost for Academic and Informational Systems, said, "I'm unhappy that we're in the position that we're in, but the whole community has been tremendously tolerant."

Though tolerant, many network users are frustrated by the network's downtime. Associate Professor of Communication Arts Dave Weindany said, "It's been frustrating. I think for the most part we are understanding, but it's still difficult...because we don't know when it [the network] is going to be up and, unfortunately, most of us plan as though it's not."

To raise the level of technology, an entire re-establishment of the infrastructure had to be completed. This required the installation of the new servers and network devices that would allow access to both the dorm rooms and the computer labs. But everything has not progressed according to the plans. "The job that we had envisioned has turned into twice the job," said Kieff.

Besides handling the problems that they have encountered in the computer labs and ResNet, ITS is responsible for the Y2K updates on several other critical servers.
Chicago Metro Center offers semester internships

by Jaymes Pyne
Times Contributing Writer

Some students are attracted by the work experience. Some like the educational opportunities. But for many college students, the greatest appeal of the Chicago Metro Program is simply the chance to live in the city of Chicago for a semester.

"The Chicago Metro Center (CMC) is an internship organization affiliated with Aquinas. Calvin College, Hope College and several colleges and universities in Illinois and Iowa also participate in CMC. Students enrolled in the program have the opportunity to take part in their major course of study set in an urban environment. But why would a student go all the way to Chicago to join such a program?"

"CMC is a chance to get a large-city experience and life experience as well," said Lauretta Simpson, Career Specialist in Aquinas' Career and Counseling Services Department. Simpson has been observing the program for several years and believes that it is a very good way to get students into the working environment.

Possible places of work for students enrolled in the internship include the U.S. Export Assistance Office, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Opera Theatre, WGNTV, Fox Sports in Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium and various hospitals in the area.

Brigid Avery, an Aquinas senior who participated in the program last fall, observed an art therapist at the Jail Place, a group home for abused or neglected boys and taught art classes to elementary school children at St. Agatha's, an inner-city elementary school. "The most rewarding part of the experience was being submerged in a multi-racial neighborhood and learning what it feels like to be the minority," Avery said.

In Chicago the students will not only have to complete the internship, which dominates 32 hours of the week, but also attend two of the three seminars offered by CMC which include a Values and Vocations course, a Fine Arts Course and a Metropolitan course comprised of an introduction to the culture and economy of the Chicago area.

Students are responsible for finding their own housing, but are presented with a recommended housing list within their price range and location.

The first week of the program includes orientation, where students will stay in a hotel and make housing decisions in the meantime. Supervisors are available to answer questions during this period.

On top of housing, students who do not own cars learn various options for getting around the city. "It was stressful because we were in the city and we had to take public transportation everywhere. Now when I come to work at Aquinas and have to park in the Browne Center, the walk just doesn't seem as bad," Avery said.

In order to enter CMC, students must fill out an application and submit a record of demographic and academic standing, extracurricular activities, honors, work experience and foreign languages. The application must include letters of recommendation by faculty or work advisors, 15 copies of the student's resume, official college transcripts, a photograph of the applicant and an application fee of $40. A list of goals and requests is also required. It must be returned to Dolli Lutes by mid-October to be eligible for the spring session. Applications for next fall should be turned in by mid-March.

Enrollees should bring $900 for start up, $300 for general costs and $300 for first month's rent. The average cost of living per month is approximately $800.

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In Correction

In the Sept. 22 issue of the Times the article "New Elevator in Wege Center gives disabled students dignity" (Page 3) incorrectly stated that Peter Wege donated $5 million for accessibility. Although Wege has given generously to improve accessibility, this was not the sole purpose of the $5 million. Posthumously donated in 1996, it was actually in response to a variety of college needs. We at the Times apologize for the error.
Helping Humanity

Aquinas students work with Habitat for Humanity in Baldwin County

by Mindy Smith
Times Contributing Writer

During the weekend of Sept. 24-26, a group of students from Aquinas traveled to Baldwin, Michigan, to work with that chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Baldwin is in the poorest county in Michigan, so there are many residents there who really need help.

According to Kelly Hildebrand, East Area Residence Director, "It was a really organized trip, which made the experience better because you knew you were helping people and not just wasting time."

The Aquinas group stayed at the Joe Fix Volunteer Center while they were there. Joe Fix is a priest in the area who works with Habitat, and he led Mass for the students on Sunday. Many students found this particular Mass to be an exciting experience because most of it was done in song, adding a great deal to the energy level.

"I got to help a county that needs it, and I learned how to drywall..."
-Katie Girard

Students who went on the trip said that they had a great time, and it was good to help people that they could see really needed their help and were grateful for it. Katie Girard, junior, said, "I got to help a county that needs it, and I learned how to drywall and stuff which was lots of fun."
The trip also helped bring members of the Aquinas community together. Madeline Wizgird, freshman, commented, "I got to meet a lot of people that I hadn't really talked to before, which was fun. We had to work together and get along, so we got to be pretty close."

Aquinas student Kerry Lucas hangs drywall on the ceiling at a Habitat for Humanity project in Baldwin County. The program helps to build houses for low income individuals.

Photo courtesy of Campus Ministry

An Evening With DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

Kalamazoo State Theatre
Friday, Oct. 15 1999

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This show will be recorded for the new upcoming DP live album!!!

All-ages welcome
Tickets on sale now at all Michigan Ticketmaster locations

NETWORK
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I'm very pleased with what we are trying to accomplish for the whole development of the core goals and functions of the college," said La Fleur.
To reach the desired goal of an updated network, various steps had to be taken. For example, to provide computer network access to dorms and the apartments, new fiber had to be laid, the wiring in the building had to be improved to allow for the faster transmission of information and the core backbone of the system had to be replaced with a newer, faster connection called Gigabit Ethernet.

Until the beginning of this school year, Aquinas College was running on Fast Ethernet that transmits 100 Mega bits per second. Now that the new backbone is up, the school is transmitting information at ten times the speed.

Despite being understaffed and working against the clock, literally, on several issues, the Aquinas College ITS staff has had the support of the Aquinas College students and faculty.

Lorena Aguayo, a sophomore, said, "This year has been better than last year even though the computers are down a lot. We are able to check our e-mail and do homework at three o'clock in the morning."

"I got to help a county that needs it, and I learned how to drywall..."
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Tobacco lawsuit

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

The Bill of Rights, the Constitu­tion and the Declaration of Inde­pendence are arguably the most important documents this country has. The interpretation of them, however, can and should cause some of America's most talked­ about controversies. It seems as though it is almost impossible to get two people to agree on the amount of involvement the gov­ernment should have in the lives of its citizens. When it comes to tobacco sales and consumption, society will soon have its answer.

On Wednesday, Sept. 29, the Jus­tice Department filed an 86-page lawsuit against the tobacco industry. It stated that the defendants are the industries and that they misled the public about the risks involved in tobacco use. The Justice Depart­ment seeks over $20 billion from the industry to aid in paying the federal Medicare bills personally, and the fed­eral government should not have to pay. No matter the outcome, to­bacco companies face court fees and other related expenses. This expense may not worry the heads of the tobacco industry because it is likely that an increase in cigarette costs will cover most, if not all, of the fees. The United States' expectations for this case contain many parts. They want the Medicare program, Defense Health Programs, Veterans Administration and the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employee Health Benefits plan to recover from previous spending. Also, all information the companies have about smoking and health to be shared with the public. Regarding the lawsuit Aquinas freshman Meghan Chisholm said, "It is not ethical for the tobacco industry to withhold information that can cause potentially deadly diseases to consumers." Vicky Wright, an Aquinas student and nonsmoker said, "I don't feel the tobacco companies should be held responsible because they are not the people responsible for making a person to decide to smoke." The Republican party is gener­ally thought to support the philos­ophy that each person is responsible for himself/herself. In this case, the republican opinion would be that smokers are sick because of their choice to smoke and therefore should have to pay their medi­cal bills personally, and the fed­eral government should not have to pay. No matter the outcome, to­bacco companies face court fees and other related expenses.

The lawsuit against the Justice Department is seeking to be based on the U.S. government's estimates of money that has already been used over the past 40 years due to cigarette smoking. "Smoking is the nation's largest preventable cause of death and dis­ease, and American taxpayers should not have to bear the responsi­bility for the staggering costs," said Attorney General Janet Reno in a quote to the Washington Post. This lawsuit is in response to President Clinton's hint to legal action against the tobacco indus­try in his January 1999 State of the Union address. In a quote to the Washington Post's, Philip Morris's Associate General Counsel Greg Little, "We will not settle this lawsuit." Philip Morris is the nations larg­est tobacco company. The Justice Department is projecting that the legal battle for this case will cost $20 million dollars, and, because the Congress is Republican con­trolled, it is doubtful that the fund­ing will be worked into the con­gressional budget. The Republican party is gener­ally trying to avoid the political issues that have been brought up by the suit. The Justice Department claims that there are already been used over the past 40 years due to cigarette smoking. "Smoking is the nation's largest preventable cause of death and dis­ease, and American taxpayers should not have to bear the responsi­bility for the staggering costs," said Attorney General Janet Reno in a quote to the Washington Post. This lawsuit is in response to President Clinton's hint to legal action against the tobacco indus­try in his January 1999 State of the Union address. In a quote to the Washington Post's, Philip Morris's Associate General Counsel Greg Little, "We will not settle this lawsuit." Philip Morris is the nations larg­est tobacco company. The Justice Department is projecting that the legal battle for this case will cost $20 million dollars, and, because the Congress is Republican con­trolled, it is doubtful that the fund­ing will be worked into the con­gressional budget. The Republican party is gener­ally trying to avoid the political issues that have been brought up by the suit.

Smokers may pay more for cigarettes if the lawsuit against tobacco companies settles in favor of the Justice Department.

Photo by Chris Wald

Computer users get tangled in the Web, addicted to the Internet

by Negar Tekei
Daily Northwestern (Northwestern U.) 09/29/1999

(U-WIRE) EVANSTON, Ill. -- The blue-green glow of one screen illuminated Barrie Rich's face as she stared pensively at the words before her. "A bing?" from the computer broke her concentration; a wel­come sound announcing a message on her Instant Messenger system.

"I use the Internet to talk to my friends and family and check my e-mail," said Rich, a Weinberg freshman. "It's a lot easier and cheaper to keep up with them through the computer." Rich, like many Northwestern students, may be often online to research and com­municate, but she doesn't use the Internet as her only outlet of social activity or to escape the real world. But a recent study says a small portion of Internet users are addicted. The study, conducted by Connecticut psych­ologist David Greenfield, was a col­laborative effort with ABCNEWS.com survey­ing nearly 18,000 Web users. The study concluded the study indicated, that Greenfield's guidelines, 6 percent of Internet users are addicted. These addicts feel out of control while online and have unusually high lev­els of intense intimacy, loss of boundaries and timelessness. Greenfield explained in the study that compulsive Internet use imitates the char­acteristics of an addiction to chemical sub­stances. This compulsiveness is found in people who surf the Web for hours with­out a general purpose and those who use chat rooms, personal ads and e-mail as sig­nificant parts of their social life. The average age surveyed was 33 years old, making it difficult to predict Internet addiction prevalence among college stu­dents. But Senior Residential Consultant Dan Hirt said he is not aware of an Internet addic­tion problem at NU. "Most people at NU just use it [the Internet] for classwork or for fun," Hirt said.

There is, however, a Northwestern ResNet program for students who feel they show symptoms of compulsive Internet use. More information can be found at www.nwu.edu/~resnet/getctrl, the site of Get+Ctrl, where students can find out more about Internet addiction.

Included on the website is a quick quiz that allows users to test for a possible addiction problem at NU. "Most people at NU just use it [the Internet] for classwork or for fun," Hirt said.

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Tobacco lawsuit

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Statistics show Grand Rapids has world's best movie theaters

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

When movie theaters first opened almost 100 years ago there was only one movie playing at a time. Everyone in town went to the theater at the same time and saw the same movie. Now several movies are shown at each theater at any given time. Some movies are even on multiple prints. Each movie patron has the option of seeing different films.

The theaters in Grand Rapids have recently been called the best place in the world to watch a movie. This is because of the atmosphere that G.R. studios offer. Vice President Ron VanTimmeron used many different statistics when he determined that Grand Rapids is the number one place in the world to watch movies. Among the statistics are the movie going audience in far above the world average. Until 1996, Studio 28 was the largest multiplex in the country. This is determined by the number of seats and the number of screens the complex has.

Grand Rapids is able to draw large crowds, in part because of the many colleges in the area. The weather may also be a factor, as gray, cloudy days contribute to an increase in movie patron attendance. Among the most popular theaters in Grand Rapids are Studio 28 and Showcase Cinemas. These, combined with the other theaters in the area, total 48 screens in Grand Rapids, and that number is about to increase. Soon Grand Rapids will have 88 screens. New theaters are being built on East Beltline Avenue, across from the Knapp Corner Meijer. Here Jack Looks Theaters will install 18 to 20 screens in the same style as Grand Rapids' already existing Showcase Cinemas and Lansing and Benton Harbor's Celebration! Cinemas. That's not the only new addition to the area however. The RiverTown Crossings Mall will have a theater of its own. Cinemark USA is in North America's largest theater company and is about to open up business in the Grand Rapids area.

What makes Grand Rapids the number one place in the world to watch a movie? Aquinas students say that there are many factors including seating arrangement. "Showcase Cinemas has the rockin' seats and they are really comfortable," said Aquinas student Alyshna Hayden. Other benefits of the area are the world for atmosphere. "Movie theaters in Grand Rapids have recently been rated number one in the world for atmosphere," says Thomas Egleston.

They also have virtual reality machines that you can ride," Abby Patraka said. The ride and the arcade are excellent ways of passing time while waiting for a show to start or waiting to be picked up after the movie is finished. Even the best has room for improvement. Many student patrons say that the easiest way to make a night at the movies better is to lower the price. Paying $6 or even $7 for a movie is almost unaffordable for many students.

Hurricane Floyd just the start for North Carolina

by Nick Occhipinti
Times Local/National Editor

Usually when a hurricane makes landfall it's a safe assumption that it will be the worst weather residents will receive for a while. Yet this is not the case in North Carolina. Just a short time after Hurricane Floyd ravaged ashore, pounding the Carolinas with wind and rain, the state was once again barraged. This time it isn't wind, but heavy rains that are flooding North Carolina. Up to eight inches of rain fell in two days compounding Hurricane Floyd's 20 inches of damage.

The system also produced tornadoes that damaged trees and homes in an already flooded downtown area. Reverend Jesse Jackson visited North Carolina and talked about an economy overhaul. He said that Hurricane Floyd and the recent storms have forced the state to deal with damage more efficiently. Jackson also called for low interest loans so that North Carolina businesses and residents could rebuild. According to CNN's website Hurricane Floyd left in its wake an estimated $10 billion in damage and 47 deaths. The forecast predicts dry weather that may help relieve flooding.

Minnesota Governor Ventura turns heads with recent comments

In Playboy magazine's upcoming November issue, Jesse Ventura, the famed governor of Minnesota/professional wrestler is quoted saying, "Organized religion is a sham and a cult for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers." The people of Minnesota have become accustomed to Ventura's blunt nature but even they are turning their heads at his latest comments. Also in the article, Ventura blamed the U.S. military for conspiring to kill John F. Kennedy and called the Tailhook scandal not a big deal. Ventura also said about his job as governor, "It's good to be king. The best thing is that there's no one in this state who can tell me what to do."

West Nile Virus spreads in United States

An encephalitis virus has killed five people and 38 others have tested positive with the virus in New York City. Named the West Nile Virus, it originated in Africa and is making its first ever appearance in the western hemisphere. The virus is suspected to travel in birds and is passed on by mosquitoes and other biting insects. The symptoms of the virus include fever and headache, and in the worst cases, it can possibly cause neurological disorders and death. New York and surrounding states are taking the outbreak seriously and are taking measures against it. New York City has been sprayed for mosquitoes twice, heavily reducing its mosquito population. The city is also conducting a study on birds and animals suspected as carriers.

Major nuclear accident in Japan

In Tokaimura, Japan, a Uranium Processing plant suffered a major accident causing the release of radioactive materials. The accident left radiation levels 10,000 times higher than usual around the plant. Several workers were seriously injured and are in the hospital. The surrounding town had to be evacuated and people were advised to stay in their homes. Schools were shut down and business closed. The accident was apparently triggered when seven times the normal amount of uranium was added to a holding tank, according to CNN. "A major accident resulting in a radioactive leak has happened. We apologize from the bottom of our hearts," said JCO President Koji Kitani, bowing deeply at a news conference in Tokyo. President Clinton has promised Japan any help that they will need.
It is disheartening to see the state of public schools today. Not only are teenagers required by state mandate to attend a specific school, they also must submit to infringements on their civil liberties in the name of security.

Schools once were a safe haven for teenagers to explore their individuality, associate with other classmates in a social atmosphere and ask the questions necessary for learning. But in the wake of school shootings, educators, parents and lawmakers are proposing stricter security measures.

Violent crimes have only been reported in about 10 percent of the public schools around the nation, but the ones that have occurred have been truly terrible and very publicized. Schools across the nation have been experimenting with strict dress codes, uniforms, surveillance cameras, clear backpacks, student ID cards visibly worn, metal detectors and armed police hallway patrols. Even in West Michigan, Rockford Public Schools have installed video cameras, Grand Rapids Middle and High Schools have increased the amount of security guards on duty and Kentwood has consulted with a former FBI agent and the Secret Service on warning signs of violent behavior.

There is a dangerous line between providing security and taking away freedom.

"There is a dangerous line between providing security and taking away freedom."

Today's students aren't worrying about their homework assignments as they head off to school. They're not worrying about a schoolyard bully or bad report card. What's got America's students, their parents and grandparents and their teachers concerned is much, much more ominous: death. Is this a reasonable concern? The recent rash of shootings in American schools tells us that fear of death is probably appropriate.

Administrators and local authorities are handling the problem in stride. Schools in this area have made slight changes in policy. In its minimal manifestation, some area students are now required to leave their book bags in their lockers. Some bring only clear bags. Some schools are hiring extra security and installing metal detectors. As soon as this happens, community and national liberté zealots cry loudly, "You're taking kids' rights away!" Is this an appropriate response to added safety measures? I say no.

What we have to do in a situation like this is prioritize. Does the increased threat of murder of American school children not warrant special safety measures? It seems that if the precautions could save even one child's life, they would be worth the minor inconvenience of transparent school bags, school bags left in lockers, security guards and even metal detectors.

It's also important to note that restrictions in schools have always been more rigid than those off school grounds—it's not like we're letting all that much freedom go. Added security is the only way that parents can be assured the safety of their student and the accountability of the institution that their child is required to attend by law.

We can't force children to enter zones of gunfire where unhappy fellow students take both laws and lives into their own hands. The stringent safety measures necessary today are not a breach of students' rights, but, in fact, provide the only promise that America's youth will live long enough to enjoy their liberties as adults.

Americans are traditionally and rightfully proud of their freedoms; we are known to go great lengths to defend any one of those rights that appears threatened. This principle of freedom is one that we hold very proudly, but are we willing to let our children bleed as a sacrifice to that pride? What exactly are our values when the lives of America's youth are considered just a small factor, dwarfed by the fear that our precious liberty might be in jeopardy? Do we want to raise a generation of martyrs? We've got to face it, the Norman Rockwell vision no longer applies to the America we live in (or did it ever?). This is a sad realization and one most of us would like to ignore, but the messages relayed in Littleton, Colorado and Jonesboro, Arkansas must be acknowledged and addressed. They paint, with blood, the ugly truth of today. How many more such messages are we willing to observe before we consider enough is enough?

Resistance in reacting to juvenile violence in schools will only encourage frustrated youth to lash out. They need to see that their communities won't tolerate such inhuman behavior. Endangered and frightened children need to see that their school officials mean to protect them, that the crimes committed against them will not go unnoticed.

It would be nice if we could come up with an immediate solution, which addresses addressing family values and media violence. That's a nice long-term goal. In the mean time, we have to be more present-minded. While we work on those larger goals, we send young, unarmed boys and girls into the gauntlet to face the wrath of young, unarmed boys and girls into the danger zone. On those larger goals, we send young, unarmed boys and girls into the gauntlet to face the wrath of young, unarmed boys and girls into the danger zone. On those larger goals, we send young, unarmed boys and girls into the gauntlet to face the wrath of young, unarmed boys and girls into the danger zone. On those larger goals, we send young, unarmed boys and girls into the gauntlet to face the wrath of young, unarmed boys and girls into the danger zone.

Recent violence in America's schools has caused school authorities to take extra safety precautions. New safety measures lead to the very American concern: safety or freedom first?"
Ah! Aquinas Thursday nights! The end of an arduous work week and the kick-off of a lightning-fast weekend. For those students who are over 21 (or have a pretty damn good fake I.D.) it means patronizing the local Grand Rapids watering holes and perhaps getting foot on a dance floor or two. For those not inclined to tear up the town, Thursdays are also a time for students to pine into someone’s dorm room, watch a movie with suitmates and gossip about that hot soccer guy or that cute chick with the Aquinas Senate T-shirt. But alas! Gossip and dance floors are now abolished on Thursday nights with the onset of the new class schedule. This year students are finding that they have more classes on Friday and a break in the middle of the week. But is this the better route?

Starting this year, Aquinas has changed its format for scheduling due to the fact that students in the past were having trouble fitting in the classes they needed when they needed them. Many classes, especially math, science and language courses, happened all at the same time. For numerous aggrieved students, it was like doing a jigsaw puzzle with some pieces that didn’t fit anywhere; it just didn’t work.

From the faculty’s perspective, there was limited classroom space, and the morning classes, which were the most popular, filled up too quickly. This year, classes are more spread out over the week with the majority of them meeting on Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday. On Wednesdays, students usually have one class or no class at all which allows for clubs and organizations to hold their meetings. Distrubuting the classes this way was an attempt to prevent overlap of class times and free up a day for extra-curricular activities and meetings.

The conditions in state and federal prisons don’t affect most individuals personally, so why should we worry about it? Perhaps part of us even wants to say that the inmates have been sentenced for a reason and, to some degree, deserve whatever abuses are committed against them. Possibly we are simply too distracted by other issues that we have to see or confront on a regular basis. In fact, the only time most of us give prison conditions any thought at all is when the times when some television, radio or newspaper reporter does a hard-hitting story on the prison, which brings the situation to our attention. This is the reason that a recently proposed policy of the Michigan Department of Corrections, which severely limits media access to Michigan prisons, is dangerous to the inmates and to freedom of the press.

In the past few years there have been several reports regarding the terrible abuses in Michigan prisons. News sources have uncovered stories about neglect, unsanitary conditions and physical abuse. Many of these reports would have gone unnoticed, and most likely unchanged, without the media attention that stirs public and government interest.

Prior to the proposal of this new policy, members of media groups could enter Michigan state prisons to interview inmates. Media contact was on a same-gender, same-age basis; that other visitors must follow regarding time limits and security measures. The interviews were agreed upon by the inmate and the reporter and then arranged through the prison staff. Now, reporters will not be allowed to meet with inmates. Media contact with inmates is limited to collect phone calls made by inmates to reporters or media sources. Although prison staff have stated that they may make an exception in a situation where an inmate has information that could help solve a crime, but only wants to reveal that information in the presence of a member of the press.

The Department of Corrections has some understandable concerns about the presence of media in prisons. They state that the attention a high profile inmate receives may cause unnecessary fear among the inmates. There is also the fact that moving inmates that is necessary in some cases to allow for a meeting with the press poses challenges and security risks. But the solution to these concerns is not eliminating the media from prisons. Often the media attention that causes internal problems occurs before the person is sentenced (think Jack Kevorkian). Also, inmates must be less inclined to go to a Friday class than a Wednesday class. The weekly party night, so no real solution was reached.

What do you think of the new class schedule and its effects on Aquinas students?

"It’s just moved party night from Thursday to Tuesday night. I work the front desk at St. Joe, and I see people getting drunk on Tuesday night rather than Thursday in the real world people work five days a week anyway so the fact that we have that one day off doesn’t make a difference."

—Jim Bromley, senior

"I don’t think it cuts down on people going out on Thursday nights. I would be less inclined to go to a Friday class than a Wednesday class. It does keep people on campus, though. More people go to the games and the campus is more active than it used to be."

—Leslie Ervin, senior

"I appreciate the break on Wednesday because we don’t have to feel stressed out on Thursday. I myself see the students are more active on campus more which I think it was intended to do. The term ‘suitcase college’ isn’t applicable like it used to be."

—Jake Filbrandt, junior

"There’s more involvement on campus now that everyone’s staying here. I work at the Moose Café, and I don’t see as many people here on the weekends. I don’t like the classes on Fridays, but it does rejuvenate weekend life on campus."

—Gina Mazzone, senior

"I don’t mind it—I really like being in between classes. The weekends are much more active because more people are on campus, and I know that was one thing it was intended to do, but I don’t think it will stop students from drinking."

—Dan Timmis, senior

"In certain respects it’s better. I like more turn around time between classes... But it doesn’t seem like it serves its purpose... Now no one has Wednesday classes instead of not having Friday classes."

—Michael Cushion, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Should getting into prison be as tough as getting out?

by Heather M. Karal
Times Editor-in-Chief

October 6, 1999

But despite the good intentions of this schedule structure, many students and faculty believe it hasn’t served its purpose. While the new schedule was supposed to cut down on the overcrowding of morning classes, faculty members are still noticing a surge of students entering the campus. This year students are finding that the peak class times between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and fewer students on Fridays.

Many athletes find the new schedule especially burdensome. This semester, they have found that the classes they are taking are not the ones they want to take, per se, but the ones that will fit into their already packed schedules. Some say that their practice and game times collide with the classes they need.

The result of this collision is an unbalanced week, often with most of the classes ending up on Friday; the day when most students are most apt to be unproductive and weary from a long week of practices, games and homework.

In addition, those who are on Senate, Programming Board or other campus organizations are finding their “free day” cramped with meetings—many that meet at the same time or too close together as opposed to last year when meetings were spread throughout the week. Students now have the choice of running from meeting to meeting or not being involved in as many organizations as they would like.

In respect to cost and time, many students plan on graduating in four years and either cannot afford another semester or plan on starting grad school. If the appropriate courses cannot be taken when necessary, some may be forced into another semester or year.

Part of the intention for creating a schedule that had more classes on Fridays was to eliminate the Thursday night “party night” habit and prepare students for the real world of work where there are no three-day weekends. However, a mid-week break isn’t really any more realistic than having Fridays off. As a result of the number of students who do not attend class on Wednesdays, some members of the Residence Life staff claim that Tuesday night has virtually replaced Thursday as the weekday party night, so no real solution was reached.

Is this new schedule the golden solution to everyone’s problems? Not really. Perhaps there are a few more classrooms available and maybe some students enjoy a class-free Wednesday, but we still have a large majority of students—students who are actively involved in the Aquinas community—who are making vain attempts to combine involvement with academics and are finding that it isn’t working.
by Sarah Kommer

*Times Contributing Writer*

"I'm 45 and I still cry," confessed singer/songwriter Lucy Webster, opening up her one-hour set on Sept. 30 at Aquinas' Moone Cafe. This was Webster's second appearance at the Moone, and she admitted she was happy to return to the small, intimate venue. "It's a lot faster than I was here last year!" she acknowledged. "I want to move in!"

Webster, a Tennessee native, was "born into music." She recalled her childhood, playing her 12-key piano and singing along to "Jesus Loves Me." Her mother claimed she was born singing, and Webster has been performing ever since. Webster's current CD, "In My Opinion," contains a collection of what she has coined "new acoustic pop." Lucy hopes her music is encouraging and carries a message to her listeners. She is currently working on another CD and may collaborate with friends Dave Molinari and Mark Lundell who joined her for a few songs at the Moone.

To hear Webster's music is to hear a woman like Webster perform all of her own material.

"Now you know everything about me," she confessed after performing a rather personal song telling of her own wrestling with the dark days of life. Her music is pure and it is obvious to see what she loves what she does just by watching her bright eyes while she sings stories about friends and travels.

"This is a song about Tobago," Lucy spoke with a smile as she began one of her last songs, "I hope you kids know where that is." She persuaded the audience to sing along with the upbeat song, even offering maracas and shakers to eager fans.

Cristina Vendettini, a freshman, agreed that "The audience participation was fun! I wish I had ten to play the maracas though!"

Indeed, Lucy knows how to work a crowd.

On hand for the performance was Aquinas' own Student Activities Director Eric Mullen who also enjoyed the evening. "Lucy was way great," Mullen concluded, "this is the first time I've seen her live. It was an intimate and fun show.

"You [King and Brandow] don't give up. Year after year you stand about friends and issues with his music and actions. "King and Brandow when they performed at the Moone Cafe on Sept. 21 thanks to Social Action Committee (SAC), Programming Board, Campus Ministry and the Multicultural Department. Both activists, King and Brandow travel throughout the United States and the world to protest various issues with his music and actions.

To quote King's lyrics, "Our life is more than our work, and our issues with the dark days of life. Her music is pure and it is obvious to see what she loves what she does just by watching her bright eyes while she sings stories about friends and travels.

In closing, Webster offered some advice to her audience. "Just be yourself, don't be someone else." Her sweet voice and down-to-earth lyrics let the audience know that Webster follows her own trail. Webster's confidence and upbeat personality left the audience appreciating her style and attitude.

Those interested in more information and upcoming performances can visit her website at www.lucywebster.com or e-mail her at lucy@lucywebster.com. Webster has set performances until the end of December and her music is definitely worth checking out.

"You [King and Brandow] don't give up. Year after year you stand about the labor and women's movements in Guatemala, Brandow published "The Sky Never Changes" in 1996. The book is about Guatemalan labor movement. Brandow is fluent in Spanish and brought a twist to several songs by singing in Spanish.

King has nine recordings under his belt, the most recent being his 1995 release "Thatcher's Orphans." He is currently working on two double CD releases of children's material. He is also a columnist for the union newspaper, the "International Musician." His 1984 CD, "Flying Fish," was voted one of the top three CDs of the year. In 1998, King received the War Resisters League Annual Peace Award.

The leaves are changing, and soon the campus will be bathed in the colors of fall. This is a great time of year to be in Grand Rapids (minus the lake effect snow, of course). Drive to Lake Michigan to watch the sunset, organize a game of touch football or wake up your inner child and dive into a pile of leaves. But if these suggestions don't appeal to you, here are some that might:

1. 10/8-11/8 The UICA will present The Tomato Collection, an exhibit of images and sculptures from a children's book written, illustrated, and published by local artist Kevin Kammeraad in the UICA's lower level Sales Gallery, 41 Sheldon Boulevard SE. Created over a four-year period, this collection features poems and drawings that reflect many topics and different styles of art including painting, sculpture, photography and collage.

2. 10/10 The Aquinas College LIT/WRIT Club is sponsoring an open mic night from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Moose Cafe. This fun-filled evening will give new members a chance to hear about upcoming activities the club is sponsoring and will also allow for people to share their poetry and short stories with other literary enthusiasts.

3. 10/12 Echo and the Bunynmen play Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac. This is a once in a lifetime event and is worth the drive to metro Detroit. Call Ticket Master for details.

4. 10/13 Train and 19 Wheels play the Intersection. See two amazing bands under one roof! You've heard Train on 97.9 WGRD and 19 Wheels on 1590 WARG, now see them in person. Contact Ticket Master for details or call the Intersection Lounge.

5. 10/15 DOMESTIC PROBLEMS LIVE AT THE STATE THEATRE IN KALAMAZOO Run to the show! It will be fantastic! Also, the group The String Cheese Incident will be playing at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

6. 10/20-10/21 The Grand Rapids Civic Theatre will be presenting the play "Free To Be ... You and me; A Musical About Finding Your Own Way of Life." By Martha Ullman and friends, this play was adapted for the stage by Douglas Love and Regula Safra. "Free To Be ... You and Me" was created in 1972, first as a record and a companion book, then it was made into a television version and finally, in 1991, it was adapted for the stage. The message of love and self-esteem is simple, but strong: Instead of telling children who they should be, it gives them a chance to see what they can do and be.

7. 10/25 Ad DiFranco, the righteous babe herself, will be playing at the State Theatre in Kalamazoo. Tickets went on sale this past Monday. Call Ticket Master for details. Do not miss this show, it will be incredible.

8. 10/26 Ani DiFranco, the righteous babe herself, will be joining SAC and thousands of others in a protest march through the streets of the city. The protest is about the war in Kosovo and the issues of violence. As Director of Campus Ministry, Mary Clark-Kaiser told both the crowd and the performers, "You [King and Brandow] don't give up. Year after year you stand up for your principles.

After spending eight years working with the labor and women's movements in Guatemala, Brandow published "The Sky Never Changes" in 1996. The book is about Guatemalan labor movement. Brandow is fluent in Spanish and brought a twist to several songs by singing in Spanish.

King has nine recordings under his belt, the most recent being his 1995 release "Inside Out." He is currently working on a double CD release of children's material. He is also a columnist for the union newspaper, the "International Musician." His 1984 CD, "Flying Fish," was voted one of the top three CDs of the year. In 1998, King received the War Resisters League Annual Peace Award.
Jim Daniels shares poetry, wisdom

by Cristina Venditelli
Times Contributing Writer

Poetry lovers of all ages were on hand Sept. 30 in Wege Ballroom to hear Jim Daniels, a renowned poet.

Daniels, former Michigan resident, now lives in Pittsburgh. He has written four books of poetry. All books were soldable to buy after the lecture. Daniels was also on hand to sign them.

Daniels began his discussion with a short story. The story dove into the emotional world of a small boy with many problems in his family and in his life. The story was told from the boy’s point of view.

The crowd reacted as any enthralled listener would, with sighs, gasps and laughter.

He continued with some of his works of poetry. Most of them related to Daniels’ own personal experiences, such as “Chlorine,” about his first time in a hotel. He also shared “Sandy Had the Kind of Laugh” and “Weeds,” a poem about his neighbor’s dog dying; and “Sin Sandwich,” a racy poem about lust.

Daniels’ poems have personal touches to them. As he stated, “I write to try to figure out the world, to look at things more closely. It makes me feel part of the community.”

Daniels also shared some words of advice for aspiring poets. He said, “You must have a persistence of efficiency. Don’t expect a muse to tap you on your shoulder. Doing on your own and not having to ask for help is important.”

Daniels also says accepting failure is a big part in becoming a good poet. “You have to accept failure. We all make a certain number of mistakes, it is the process of evolving.”

The students seemed to enjoy Daniels’ poetry, Danielle Walters, a freshman, said, “Jim Daniels has an amazing sense of humor and an incredible ability to connect with his audience.”

"Titanic: A new musical" anchors at DeVos

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Art and Entertainment Editor

From a blockbuster movie to numerous books and documentaries, the saga of the Titanic has spent decades sailing on the currents of public interest and curiosity. Even though the ship has ceased as they return to the dock on the first day the great ship set sail, is tearful but very touching as the cast sings a reprise of "Godspeed Titanic." The play gives a riveting disaster of the Titanic.

As the cast sings an opulent dining hall of First Class is elegant with ladies in evening gowns and gentleman in coat tails and top hats. This sharply contrasts the simplistic benches and tables of the Third Class passengers.

The scenes in Act One leading up to the fateful cry of "Iceberg, right ahead!" are well done, and when the ship itself actually hits the iceberg, the audience is in for a shocking surprise. Act Two opens with the First and Second Class passengers, both surprised and worried, as they are assembled in the Grand Salon (prompting the appropriate tune "Dressed in Your Pyjamas in the Grand Salon").

There are many characters who steal the show in the performance of "Titanic: A New Musical." Note the performance of William Parry as Captain E.J. Smith, the man who holds the lives of all on board in his hand. Another important character is First Officer William Murdoch (played by David Pitts), who decides to sail his own ship. Lastly, J. Bruce Ismay (played by Adam Heller), the owner of the Titanic, who craves publicity over the safety of the ship.

The play ends with a sad reprise of the song ‘In Every Age’ as each survivor retells the horrors they saw as the R.M.S. Titanic sank to the ocean floor. In the finale, all living cast members join the deceased as they return to the dock, leaving the audience to ponder the events of that fateful day.

Ladies & Gentlemen

You Can't Stop the Bum Rush

by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who they are: Sharon, Burger Pimp, DJ Moves, D-Rock, Drunkless Monster. (What each does in the band, or if they have real names remains a mystery.)

Where they're from: Ontario, Canada

How you know them (current single): "Steal my sunshine"

Lyrics worth repeating: umm... "If you steal my sunshine." - from the song "Steal my sunshine."

My thoughts on "You Can't Stop the Bum Rush": Summer has always, and will continue, to bring bouncy, happy singing anthems that blast out of every open car window. Last summer Smash Mouth was "Walking on the Sun," and Natalie Imbruglia was "Torn." This summer Smash Mouth was back with "All Star" and newcomer Len invaded the airwaves with his pop sugarfest "Steal my Sunshine." Few lyrics appear on "You Can't Stop the Bum Rush" and those that do exist are nothing short of silly, meaningless ramblings, however cute they may try to be. The songs are extremely repetitive in both lyrical content and music and quickly becoming rather annoying. By the eighth song I was ready to start twitching if something requiring half a brain cell to comprehend didn't hit my ears soon. I feel quite confident in deeming Len a "one hit wonder" with "Steal my sunshine." Take a look at their song titles if you think I'm nuts. They actually have songs entitled "Cheekybugger" and "Big Meanie."

I've heard Len referred to as "talent-less," and that seems a little harsh. It must take some sort of talent to create the noise on this CD, though I'm still trying to determine whether or not that talent can be found in a third-grader. Judging from "You can't stop..." Len isn't talent-less, they're just not out to be taken seriously. To help prove that, they use lyrics like: "come to my farm with my friend," and sing them to a tune that would better fit Old McDonald's farm than respectable music.

Len is currently on tour and is making a stop in Detroit. Catch them live at St. Andrew's Hall on Oct. 15. Tickets are through Ticketmaster (616) 456-3333.

Visit Len at: www.lenSite.com

Photo courtesy of Joan Marcus

Directed by Richard Jones, with story by Peter Stone and music and lyrics by Maury Yeston, the Tony Award-winning musical TITANIC is a charming and touching story for all.

The voyage of the Titanic, the White Star Line's most talked about ship, is told through song and dance. For many people, the boat was more than just a sailing vessel; it was a chance to make dreams come true. From the warnings of characters like Third Class passenger Kate McCowan, who sings of a new life as a maid in America to the Second Class passenger Alice Beane, who desires the wealth of high society, the audience is introduced to the lives of many passengers aboard the boat. Within the first act, the audience is swept up in the luxury and power of the Titanic as its architect, Thomas Andrews, marvels over his blue prints, and he sings about the vast greatness in the song "In Every Age." The ship and its wood and steel is overwhelming as people begin to board the "floating metropolis." As the White Star Line crew, the ship's coal stokers, officers, the Third and Second Class passengers, and lastly the prestigious First Class passengers, board the boat every person is taken apart by its greatness.

With songs like "There She Is" and "I Must Get on That Ship," the audience is ushered into the world of the rich, the poor and the working class. A favorite scene is when coal stoker Fred Barrett sneaks into the telegraph room. With the help of Harold Bride, a young telegraph operator, Barrett sends a proposal of marriage to his young love back to England. Unlike Barrett, Bride loves having the world at his fingertips, stating that his small office "is the most important part of his ship."

With lively music in the first act, people might forget to forget the catastrophe that awaits these passengers. The set itself is simple, allowing the audience to imagine their own version of what the ship's interior might have looked like. The opulent dining hall of First Class is elegant with ladies in evening gowns and gentleman in coat tails and top hats. This sharply contrasts the simplistic benches and tables of the Third Class passengers.

The scenes in Act One leading up to the fateful cry of "Iceberg, right ahead!" are well done, and when the ship itself actually hits the iceberg, the audience is in for a shocking surprise. Act Two opens with the First and Second Class passengers, both surprised and worried, as they are assembled in the Grand Salon (prompting the appropriate tune "Dressed in Your Pyjamas in the Grand Salon").

There are many characters who steal the show in the performance of "Titanic: A New Musical." Note the performance of William Parry as Captain E.J. Smith, the man who holds the lives of all on board in his hand. Another important character is First Officer William Murdoch (played by David Pitts) who desires to one day sail his own ship. Lastly, J. Bruce Ismay (played by Adam Heller), the owner of the Titanic, who craves publicity over the safety of the ship.

Most of the characters portrayed in the play are based on real passengers, such as John Jacob Astor and Benjamin Guggenheim.

The play ends with a sad reprise of the song 'In Every Age' as each survivor retells the horrors they saw as the R.M.S. Titanic sank to the ocean floor. In the finale, all living cast members join the deceased as they return to the dock, leaving the audience to ponder the events of that fateful day.

Ticket information can be obtained through any TicketMaster Outlet or can be purchased at Stage Door, located in Breton Village Mall.
Lady Saints first in WHAC soccer

The team maintains perfect record, looks to game against Tri-State

by Damon Bouwkamp
Times Contributing Writer

First place comes with its challenges. Everyone starts to aim for you, trying to knock you off the mountain. The women’s soccer team proved it was up for those challenges last week while continuing their reign over the rest of the WHAC.

The visiting Cardinals of Concordia College were first as the Saints began with a slow start going into halftime with a 1-0 lead on an unassisted goal by junior Ellen Fox. The second half proved to be much more productive with goals by juniors Amy Panse and Kim Eager. The fourth goal was credited as an own goal against Concordia as a Cardinal defender knocked the ball past her own goalkeeper. The Saints outshot the Cardinals, 12-9 as McGill stopped six shots and notched another shutout. Grace Schilden scored the Golden Eagles only goal of the game on a penalty kick in the second half.

The victory runs the Saints’ record to 10-1-1 overall and a perfect 6-0-1 day against Madonna University Saints to return to WHAC action today against Madonna University in Livonia. Golden College travels up to Aquinas College on Thursday, Oct. 7 for a non-league tilt against the Saints. Then the Lady Saints will play at home on Oct. 19 in a WHAC matchup which saw the Saints take a 4-0 victory from the Cardinals. With the win, the Saints continued their reign as the top team in the conference.

Sophomore Melissa Button stopped seven Cardinal shots for her first shutout of the season, replacing the injured sophomore Kelly McGill. The victory did not come without its disappointment when sophomore Andrea Terry went down with an injury to her knee. She hopes to return to action in time for a Saints playoff run.

Junior Kim Eager slides to capture the ball against a Concordia College opponent in a recent WHAC matchup which saw the Saints take a 4-0 victory from the Cardinals. With the win, the Saints continued their reign as the top team in the conference.

A new beginning to a once successful past

Today the stadium at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull is filled with the ghosts of baseball past in a century that made the park so special. Ty Cobb, Kaline and the rest of those 22 years, Kaline held a trophy (1970) and the Hutch Award in a career with a mark of 4,191 hits. Kaline was truly a Tiger at heart, from the sellout crowd at the closing ceremony after the final game marked the last regular season baseball game that will ever be played in Tiger Stadium.

What is in the future for the old ball park? Well, that has yet to be decided. And besides, it is not the future but the stadium’s long history that made the park so special.

"If you build it they will come." Kevin Costner heard it in Field of Dreams. Will the Tigers be so lucky with the new facility? Whether they hear voices or not, they can only hope to be as successful as the thousands of players and numerous teams that played Tiger baseball at the old stadium.

The Tiger’s long history of excellence spans several decades stemming back to the 19th century. Much like in the movie Field of Dreams, Detroit was visited by the ghosts of baseball past in a closing ceremony after the final game. Tigers who in some way left their mark on the stadium jogged, walked or were driven into the stadium through the center field gate.

Here are some of the players, teams, and memories that have made Tiger Stadium such a special park to watch a ball game. Possibly the greatest player ever to wear a Tiger uniform, or any uniform for that matter, was not in attendance at the closing ceremonies, but the memories he produced will live forever. Ty Cobb, came to the Detroit Tigers in 1905, and stayed with the club until the 1926 season. During his time in Tiger Stadium, Cobb recorded a lifetime batting average of .367, winning the American league batting title twelve times. He has the major league record for most hits in a career with a mark of 4,191 and was the first player ever inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Ty Cobb passed away in July, 1961.

One player who did receive a roar from the sellout crowd at the stadium’s closing was Al Kaline. Kaline was truly a Tiger at heart, playing in the outfield for the club for his entire 22 year career. During those 22 years, Kaline held a .297 career batting average and received several awards including 10 golden gloves, the Roberto Clemente Award (1973), the Joe Cronin trophy (1974), Lou Gehrig trophy (1970) and the Hutch Award (1970). Kaline also led a Tiger team to a World Series Title in 1968.

As Al Kaline was crushing the ball in the World Series in 1968, Aquinas students remember the celebration that occurred with the Tigers’ win. Robert Bromely, a freshman at Aquinas in 1968 remembers the scene in St. Joseph Hall here on campus. “After the Tigers won that series our hall was going nuts.” Bromely laughed. “We took everything off from our floors (They weren’t carpeted then), plugged our showers and flooded the second and third floors. We then proceeded to slide down the halls in nothing but our underwear.”

For myself the players from the 1984 team brought back the most memories. When Alan Trammell, Lou Whitaker, Chet Lemon, Jack Morris, Darrell Evans, and Lance Parrish (Just to name a few) jogged onto the field after that final game, I found myself a little emotional. Who could forget the “Bless You Boys,” and their run to a championship against the Padres in 1984?

The Chet Lemon slide into first, Kirk Gibson’s 8th inning home run off Goose Gossage to clinch the series for the Tigers. The win was the Tigers’ first in the World Series since 1984. For myself the players from the 1984 team brought back the most memories. When Alan Trammell, Lou Whitaker, Chet Lemon, Jack Morris, Darrell Evans, and Lance Parrish (Just to name a few) jogged onto the field after that final game, I found myself a little emotional. Who could forget the “Bless You Boys,” and their run to a championship against the Padres in 1984? The Chet Lemon slide into first, Kirk Gibson’s 8th inning home run off Goose Gossage to clinch the series for the Tigers. The win was the Tigers’ first in the World Series since 1984.
Aquinas Men's Golf
looks for success in
spring tournaments
by Brandon Lacie
Times Contributing Writer

For 22 years Coach Tom Gunn has led Aquinas College Men's Golf team through thick and thin. For the last several years though, Coach Gunn has encountered way too much thin, and not enough thick.

Unfortunately for the Saints' golfers, the 1999 fall campaign would not be the season they broke the streak. The men's golf team concluded their fall schedule at E. Kaufman golf course in Wyoming on Friday, finishing second on the day and fourth in the conference, a repeat of last years' performance; a repeat of last years' performance; a repeat of last years' performance.

"My expectations were that we would be stronger because of the quality of the incoming freshman," said Coach Gunn. "It's very difficult."

Despite the inconsistencies the Saints faced this year, there have been some bright spots. Two golfers, Keith Grauch, a freshman from Charlevoix who medaled in the last jamboree hosted by Cornerstone, and Matt Gradzinski were both honorable mention all-league. Several other Aquinas golfers have been around the circuit once and will have the experience of knowing the golf courses so that it will be an advantage for us... our goal next year is to compete for the championship."

Along with these assets, Gunn said that this year's minor players will step up and show their full ability, making the team stronger. "Even though the teams' performance may get frustrating at times, Gunn said that the team knows what it needs to accomplish before it can start winning. "We've got a good bunch of kids and they're trying their best, but it's just a matter of dedicating yourselves to what it takes to do better, and they all know what that is; they need to work on the mental aspect of it more than on the physical aspect," Coach Gunn said.

Men's soccer in battle for first place in WHAC
by Damon Bouwkamp
Times Contributing Writer

Scoring early and often has been the key to the success of the men's soccer team this year. The past few games have been no different as the Saints find themselves in a heated battle for first place in the WHAC.

Last week, the Saints scored four goals in the first ten minutes in a game against Concordia College. And then the Saints proceeded to complete a perfect week by knocking off the Golden Eagles of Cornerstone University by tallying the win in the first 22 minutes. The visiting Cardinals from Concordia provided few obstacles to the Saints as they scored 18 goals and took 62 shots. Three players finished with hat tricks, including senior Andy Williams, senior Paul Legge, and sophomore Chris Kuzara. Sophomore Tom Zink and freshmen John Mies and Andrew Feerman added two goals each. Others scoring goals were freshmen Charles Ovalles and Sean Smith, while junior Aaron Riley scored his first career goal to finish the scoring. Legge tied a school record, held by coach Abraham Steurer, by adding five assists to his collection and finishing with 11 points for the game. Juniors Sean Fishbach and Nate Plum combined to hold Concordia to one goal on five shots. Adding to the disappointment for the Cardinals was a red card given to Ron Baller for fighting. Concordia played one man short for the final three-quarters of the game.

Challenging the Saints next was Cornerstone University, sitting atop the WHAC standings, waiting for the Saints to visit their home field. The challenge was met and the Saints came out victorious as Legge added two more goals and Williams collected a goal and an assist as the Saints won 3-0. The Saints outshot the Golden Eagles 22-8 and Fishbach collected four saves for a shutout. The Saints are now 9-2-1 overall and 5-2 in the WHAC, fighting Sienna Heights University, Madonna University, and Cornerstone University for the finish line in WHAC play. The second half of league play begins today as the Aquinas Saints visit Madonna and Tri-State University visits on Saturday.
Digging deeper in debt

College students susceptible to many financial problems

by Jesi Cleveland
Times Features Editor

Every day on the television and radio and every night with the ringing of a telephone they creep into houses and dorm rooms all across America. Seducing innocent citizens with smooth voices and catch-phrases like "no annual fee," "free cash advances" and "pre-approved platinum," credit card companies know just how to get what they want—college students' money, or, in many cases, lack thereof.

Though many students have watched parents, relatives and friends suffer the nightmare associated with late payments and high interest rates, the "buy now, pay later" option is just a little too tempting for some. There's always that new down vest, those Doc Martens on clearance or the double-disc tribute to Marvin Gaye that cannot be done without. No to mention the very necessary late-night trips to Denny's and snack-attack trips to Meijer. Cash isn't always convenient, and for many, plastic is the payment of choice.

A recent survey reported that 64 percent of college students have a credit card solely in their name, while 78 percent have their own checking account with an ATM/debit card. To some people, these numbers demonstrate an impressive level of financial independence. Others argue with a separate set of figures, this one in the debit column. The average credit limit available to undergraduate college students is $3,683. Figures indicate that median credit card debt thus far this year is at $1,288, up approximately five percent from 1998. While the numbers are going down for loan applicants, those attempting to bail themselves out boast debt in excess of $1,800. It is estimated that the average student will graduate with $17,000 of debt, in student loans alone.

With these statistics in mind and an ever-conscious effort to maintain financial independence, many college students are creating programs to help students manage their money. In addition, credit card branches of many financial groups are creating programs to help students manage their money. CITIBANK, on the forefront of this campaign, recently began a new system using the acronym RESPONSIBLE. For more information, call (800)669-2653. Nellie Mae, a student borrowing group, also offers free consultation, available on their website www.nelliemae.com, or by calling (800)9-TUITION.

Now the question is: will these programs work, or serve only to lure more unsuspecting youth down the road of debt and destruction? Several students, both country-wide and close to home, have felt the pain associated with so-called low interest rates and minimum monthly payments, and warn against the way of delay.

Here's what Aquinas students think:

"Having a credit card could be a good lesson in managing credit and money, and it helps build responsibility. I personally wouldn't want a credit card, but for some people it is important to be able to have money while they are waiting for a paycheck." -Kathy Hardy, sophomore

"I think credit cards are important because now I have a way to fix my broken car." -Karah Heys, freshman

"I don't think it's a good idea because you don't have a regular income. It is much easier to keep track of your money if you see the physical cash flow." -Nikl Warchoa, international student

"Credit cards are good for emergencies, but if you use them too much you're in trouble. Credit cards can be really tempting because you don't have to pay right away." -Jennie Dudas, freshman

"My dad made me get a combination bank/credit card before I came to college. I think it's the best way to go because you can't go too far in debt. It takes the money directly out of my account but it is accepted where debit cards and checks wouldn't be." -Erika Kornow, freshman

"Credit cards are a waste of time. They are not smart because you're spending money you don't have." -Lucien Charboneau, freshman

"They aren't worth the hassle. Credit card companies are gold-diggers. They try to suck students dry and they're good at it." -Bryony Cahoon, junior

"Credit cards are the spawn of Satan." -Nick Patin, sophomore

"I stay away from credit cards because I know if I had one I'd get into trouble. My ATM card is bad enough." -Ellen Fimn, junior

"I love using credit cards. It makes life a lot easier, especially at the mall!" -Amanda Miedel, junior

"I think it's just stupid to get a credit card if you can't pay it off. You could end up like my sister--$10,000 in debt. Well, now it is only $2000. If you can't afford it, you shouldn't be buying it in the first place." -Mark Becker, freshman

"Credit cards come in handy because they're useful, but people have to understand that they should only use credit cards if they truly feel they can control themselves and not get carried away with their spending. That's one thing I have to be conservative about." -Mykol Bartkiw, junior

"Credit cards are a double-disc tribute to Marvin Gaye that cannot be done without. Not that new down vest, those Doc Martens on clearance or the later option is just a little too tempting for some. Figures indicate that median credit card debt thus far this year is at $1,288, up approximately five percent from 1998. While the numbers are going down for loan applicants, those attempting to bail themselves out boast debt in excess of $1,800. It is estimated that the average student will graduate with $17,000 of debt, in student loans alone.

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Far left: With credit cards, mall shoppers can quickly acquire large amounts of debt as well as large quantities of merchandise. LEFT: The convenience of credit cards allows buyers to spend money at almost any store at any time— even when it's money that they don't have to spend. This "buy now, pay later" attitude gets many college students into financial trouble.