Betances addresses diversity, racism, education

Racism is not a laughing matter, but in the hands of speaker Dr. Samuel Betances, diversity is. With his upbeat humor and serious message, Betances entertained and informed the Aquinas Community about racism, diversity and education. His Oct. 13 speech in the Donnelly Center was the first in the Woodrick Institute’s speakers series.

“Over time, you see a member of an ethnic group, sex or age with specific roles,” said Betances. “You become conditioned to believe that’s the nature of things.”

But that’s changing, he said. He spoke of a female doctor delivering her granddaughter and a female crew piloting a recent flight.

“The reason we need diversity training is demographic changes,” he said.

One key area where these changes are becoming evident is in higher education. “We have to educate people who are not ready to learn,” he said. “We can’t fail students for not knowing what they haven’t been taught.”

In his own classrooms, Betances assures his students, “You hired me to teach you, not fail you. Let me help you.” He also encourages his students to help each other through tutoring. “It’s a win-win situation,” he said.

About 50 faculty, staff and students attended the speech.

“Was an eye-opening experience,” said freshman Holly Todd. “He’s a powerful speaker.”

Fall service learning trips include new destination

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

While most students dedicate fall break week to a vacation from the daily routine of rigorous work or academic schedules, others are engrossed in sharing life with mentally handicapped adults, preserving national parks or playing with orphaned children.

Catering to students’ interests in less traditional aspects of collegiate education, service learning is prevalent here at Aquinas. Several week-long service trips are scheduled yearly around the times of fall break, Oct. 18-22, and spring break. Participating in certain service learning programs offers students a chance to experience their education or vocational classes and offers parenting and home economics classes. Students volunteer in the clothes room, helped with public relations and office work, and spent time in the nursery, which is part of the mother and child program offered by the Covenant House. The service trip was funded by the Grand Rapids Dominicans, Parker Engineering, Grand Rapids Scale, Clinton Reality, Aquinas Community Senate, RHA and Programming Board.

New York, Ontario, Maine and northern Michigan were a few of these ambitious students’ destinations this year. Nine adventurers left the crimson Aquinas trees behind and immersed themselves in the Big Apple, New York City, for the week. This trip is a new addition to the service learning trips that Aquinas offers. Advisors Kitty Gilchrist and Ginny Dewey traveled with students Stephanie Izedebi, Lauren Ivy, Elizabeth Wagenschutz, Meredith Lyon, Andrea Prisby, Amy Lawson and Alysha Hayden to the Covenant House, a halfway house for people under 21 years of age. Covenant House provides shelter for these youths and helps them to continue their education or vocational classes and offers parenting and home economics classes. Students volunteered in the clothes room, helped with public relations and office work, and spent time in the nursery, which is part of the mother and child program offered by the Covenant House. The service trip was funded by the Grand Rapids Dominicans, Parker Engineering, Grand Rapids Scale, Clinton Reality, Aquinas Community Senate, RHA and Programming Board.

Lauren Ivory, enjoyed interacting with the residents of Covenant House. “The clothing room was a place where I voluntered at the Covenant House. I worked in the clothes room and got to see the kids and their parents. It was a great experience and I would definitely do it again.”

Fall service learning trips include new destination

by Marquise J. Blakeslee
Times Contributing Writer

Fall service learning trips include new destination

Aquinas to host City Commission debate

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Education Programs offer new opportunities for education majors

by Angela Bergman
Timer Campus News Editor

In their ambition to keep Aquinas a highly competitive liberal arts college, leaders of the college have been steadily expanding and developing its education program. In 1988, Aquinas was the first college in the Grand Rapids Area to introduce the Master in the Art of Teaching (MAT) program. Since then, the Master in Education for initial certification (ME) was added in 1994 and the Master in Science Education (MSE) in 1998. The Aquinas College Midwest Regional Teaching and Learning Center was established in 1991 to disseminate information and research about learning, teaching and brain behavior. The Aquinas Student Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) was formed in 1996, giving education majors the opportunity to participate in a professional organization.

Aquinas is the front runner for two new major initiatives: conductive education and the Reggio Emilia "inspired" approach to learning. Conductive education is a Hungarian-based approach geared towards teaching children and adults with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy or spinal injuries. A program at Aquinas has been instrumental in developing programs both for training conductor-teachers and creating schools where students with disabilities can benefit from conductive education.

Conductive education is a Hungarian-based approach geared towards teaching children and adults with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy or spina bifida. The program at Aquinas has been instrumental in developing programs both for training conductor-teachers and creating schools where students with disabilities can benefit from conductive education. Conductive education teachers training program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2000 and is the first to be implemented in the Americas. A conductive education teacher training program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2000 and is the first to be implemented in the Americas.

"Aquinas is working with a team of local collaborators to design and build what will probably be known as the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center," Dvorak said. "The goal is to enroll students by the fall of 2000."
Voice plays revive Holocaust awareness

by Amanda Smith
Times Contributing Writer

Fifty years ago a culture was brought to the brink of destruction. Millions of people were killed in horrifying ways. Children were buried alive and living people were set on fire. The ashes of these gruesome memories of a nation of people were rekindled in the voice play called "Remnants" performed by the playwright Hank Greenspan, Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan.

This play was held in the ballroom of the Wege Center on Friday, Oct. 8. Greenspan reenacted a series of mini-plays performed with such an incredible passion that it gave the audience the sensation of speaking directly with Holocaust survivors.

Some students who attended commented on how Greenspan's performance helped them to understand the reality of the horror.

Freshman Louanne Godush said, "Everyone talks about the Holocaust, but the way he [Greenspan] narrated it made it real. It was a blow to the head what had happened to the Jewish nation."

It was evident by the reactions of the audience and the style of the performance that the way Greenspan acted out these plays truly made people think, and it made listeners put themselves in the shoes of the Jewish people. One play that Greenspan performed was called "Vanity." It was told by a woman to give an accurate perspective from the eyes of a survivor.

The woman in the play explained how being a survivor was uncomfortable. They were supposed to forget and let life go on. The suggestion of retelling the Jewish roots was ridiculous to her. She explained that yesterday people were silent about their roots and today they were just stupid. There was one memory she told of a little vanity in the corner of the ladies' room in a concentration camp. That seemed to be somewhat paradoxical. She questioned, what did it mean and why was it there? This memory either inspired hope or repulsion for what happened to victims in the concentration camps.

Another play called "Burying a Cemetery" examined how the Nazis destroyed millions of the Jewish people. Greenspan related that when the Nazis wanted to destroy the Jewish population, they wanted to erase the fact that Jews ever existed. They degraded a culture and by way of life when they buried children alive and set living bodies on fire. When the bodies burned, the Nazi's would collect the ashes put on the gravestones. They would grind up bones of the bodies and turn them into powder. They laid grass seed over the ashes and made it look like a meadow and showed no sign that anything had happened.

"Remnants" was the first of several lectures offered this year by the Aquinas Campus Ministry Department. On Thursday, Nov. 4 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Louit Room, Sr. Maureen Geary, O.P. will present "Catholic Social Teaching: The Jubilee Pledge in the New Millennium."

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"He's very creative in his approach."

Betances spent the full day in Grand Rapids, meeting and speaking with city officials and businesses. After his visit to Grand Rapids and Aquinas, Betances is headed to Columbine.

The internationally known motivational speaker on issues of race and diversity received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has written a book called "Ten Steps to the Head of the Class: A Challenge to Students."
DaVinci’s Horse finds home in Grand Rapids

by Laura Wick
Times Contributing Writer

October 27, 1999

Over 500 years ago, the great Renaissance master, Leonardo DaVinci began plans for a sculpture that would eclipse all others. His vision, that of a great horse, Il Cavallo, that would be an embodiment of beauty, power and grandeur. The sculpture would showcase his extraordinary skill and mastery of anatomy and technology.

Il Cavallo was a dream that could have disappeared with the death of DaVinci; he was never able to complete the wooden model. From this model, a team of Taliff craftsmen enlarged the piece to three times its original size. The sculpture was then further refined by a team of artists under the direction of Akamu, and was unveiled to the public in 1998.

Meanwhile, the story of DaVinci’s Horse had gained the attention and support of Frederick Meijer. He agreed to become a major financial backer, under the stipulation that an identical horse would be created for display at the Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. The American horse and the Milan horse were cast at the same foundry. The average size of each section ranged from 4 to 5 feet.

After all the sections were assembled and welded around a stainless steel base, the finished weight of each horse was approximately 15 tons. The sculptures were then cut into seven pieces in order to be shipped to Milan and Grand Rapids. The Milan horse was unveiled in September of 1999, while the American horse debuted on Oct. 7, 1999.

To celebrate the unveiling of this magnificent sculpture, Meijer and his wife, Lena, hosted about 500 guests, including the artist Nina Akamu, and also relatives of the late Charles Dent. The celebration, which took place under a sprawling tent created outside the grandiose sculpture, featured a ceremonial lighting of the horse, as well as an equine demonstration by champion rider Catherine Haddad. The Grand Rapids Sym-phony played selections from Antonio Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons,” and a fireworks display ended the evening.

Now Grand Rapids is the permanent home of a work of art found in only two places in the world, Milan and Michigan. And while visitors in Milan may only view the great horse from a distance, since it has been placed on a pedestal, visitors to the Frederick Meijer Gardens have the opportunity to get close enough to touch it—there are no ropes or bars around this sculpture. Children climb on the massive legs of the horse, and people of all ages can touch the cool bronze and wonder at the work and dedication that has made the dream of Il Cavallo a reality.

Sophomore Holly Rosser viewed Il Cavallo at Frederik Meijer Garden a few days after the unveiling. She was impressed by the sheer size of the statue and how the large scale “perfectly captures the stateliness of the stallion.” The thing that most amazed her however, was the fact that Grand Rapids is now the home of a genuine piece of art done by Leonardo Da Vinci.

And indeed, there is a sense of awe among the crowds who come to view the great horse. Visitors to the Gardens can place their hands on the massive hooves, feel the smooth cool bronze and witness this magnificent tribute to beauty, power and most remarkably, the realization of a dream born more than 500 years ago.

Americans lack knowledge of 2000 Presidential candidates

by Nick Ochcchipinti
Times Local/National Editor

Do you know who is running for President in November 2000? A surprisingly large number of Americans cannot answer this question. Some estimates indicate that less than half of all Americans are able to name one Presidential candidate, even from the political party that they usually vote for.

One might hope that students, staff and faculty in higher education, particularly Aquinas College, would not fall into the sample populous that would spawn such disturbing figures. However, a survey by the Aquinas Times revealed that some Aquinas students and even faculty, may be among the stunning 50 percent of the uninformed masses.

One Aquinas student who preferred to remain anonymous said, “I don’t know who the ___ is running. Don’t ask me.”

The Republican field is much larger than the Democratic field with eight main candidates compared to two democratic candidates. Although some would argue there is only one true Republican candidate because of his dominating lead, George W. Bush leads all candidates into Election 2000 and seems to have an almost insurmountable advantage over his Republican rivals.

Bush also leads Democratic front runner Al Gore 56 to 39 percent. The election is still more than a year away, but the campaigning for most Presidential candidates has been in process for quite some time now.

When Aquinas College student Holly T. Todd was asked who she would vote for in the 2000 election, she responded, “I refuse to vote. All the candidates are garbage.”

Despite the large number of Americans and Aquinas community members who are uninformed about the upcoming Presidential election, there are students who stay informed, are concerned about, and are even active in politics. When made aware that almost half of all Americans could not name a candidate for President, freshman Laura Eilar was disturbed.

“It is immensely sad. One of your duties as an American citizen is to vote responsibly, which means caring enough to vote intelligently by being informed on issues and candidates. As an American citizen you are afforded the right to vote as a privilege that was earned with American lives,” said Eilar.

The 2000 Caucus

People likely to vote for:
Republican Candidates
Bush 66%
Dole 16%
Forbes 9%
McCain 5%
Galey 5%
Buchanan 3%
Boehner 2%
Hatch 2%
Keyes 1%

Democratic Candidates
Gore 64%
Bradley 36%

Additional topics provided by CNN and are available online at:
Russia continues to bomb Chechnya

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

What are the rules of war? Are there any? Chechnya is now in the process of discovering these rules as, day after day, they are being bomed by Russian forces.

Russian leaders claim that these attacks on Chechnya are a justified response to the bombing of residence buildings in Moscow. Islamic militants that are based in Chechnya have been blamed for the Moscow bombings as well as invading the Russian region of Dagastan twice in just a few short months. Another factor fueling this conflict is Chechnya's claim of independence from Russia in 1996, but has yet failed to gain Russian recognition as a sovereign nation.

Air attacks have destroyed the oil refinery in Grozny, capital of Chechnya, causing increased struggle with the economy. The oil refinery was a one of the most significant industries in rebuilding an already endangered economy.

The Russian military's attack is not just focused on destroying the economy of Chechnya. One third of Chechnya's people, north of the Terek River is controlled by Russian forces.

Of course, officials say that the area acts as a security zone preventing the Islamic militants from attacking land in southern Russia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin refuses to negotiate with Chechnya President Aslan Maskhadov, greatly inhibiting the potential for peace. This, however, has not prevented Maskhadov from asking Georgian leader Eduard Shevarnadze to serve as an intermediary in the event that negotiations should take place. Shevarnadze agreed to play this role.

Although the fighting appears to be targeting a militant group, there are a significant number of civilian casualties. The killing has forced many Chechen civilians to become refugees and travel west into Ingushetia. In one tremendous day of exodus, more than 50,000 people were able to enter the country before the borders were closed for the evening. Before refugees can cross the border, they must present identification papers. This gives many an uneasy feeling because those whose identification cards revealed that their only nationality was Chechen were forbidden to enter. In response to the refugees, the Ingush government has appealed to the U.N. High Commissioner for refugee aid.

Much of the fighting is taking place in the north, but Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev could not deny that in the near future ground troops might enter the southern region. If this happens, it will more than likely result in an increase in fatalities.

Russian leaders say that they are doing their best to keep all the attacks in the air. This tactic does not result in as many casualties as a ground attack would yield. Perhaps this is Russia's way of saying that massive numbers of deaths are unacceptable in this type of situation. Certainly through this course of action, as opposed to a ground attack, the lives and homes of the civilians are spared.

Although the conflict is confined to Russia and Chechnya, it has received international attention, especially since the Ingush government's appeal to the United Nations. The conflict has also roused the sympathies of some people here in the United States.

"It is horrible what those innocent people have to go through," said Aquinas freshman Sara Dekilder.

Genetic engineering creates new medical possibilities, questions

Procedures such as cloning human organs for transplant may be in the near future, but at what cost?

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

Science has opened up a whole new world of possibilities with their newest advancement: the cloning and genetic engineering of humans and human organs. This opens new door to our future, but will that door lead to a life-saving avenue or a moral dilemma?

"I think cloning for medical purposes is a great idea. If we could save people's lives without having to wait years for an organ donor, we would have a much higher life expectancy," said Aquinas freshman Chris Koelelsky. "As long as people don't start cloning themselves I think I'll be happy," she said.

Koelelsky said she looks forward to the many opportunities genetic engineering might offer. Even though the process of cloning is still considered a new development, genetic engineering was first put to use by the medical field in 1982. Bacteria was used to make insulin for people with diabetes. Insulin is injected daily by people with certain types of diabetes to regulate their blood sugar levels.

History was made with the cloning of Dolly, the Scottish sheep. If scientists can clone sheep, the natural question is, what about humans and human organs? Why should someone have to die from heart failure if another doctor can replicate a heart that will not only allow the person to continue to live but continue to live a better, more energetic life? Researchers also believe that they have found a way to genetically engineer blood vessels to grow in an area of people's hearts which previously consisted of blocked arteries.

Scientists from the University of Wisconsin have also found that if they have cells from a human organ growing in a culture dish they can then influence the growth of the organ in order to produce the specific type of tissue needed for each individual situation. This procedure can also occur before doctors need to search for a donor. Cells will be able to be altered in order to reduce or even eliminate the chance of rejection, thus, artificially creating universal donors.

However, there are still many questions surrounding such procedures. Scientists are uncertain of the cost of incorporating genetic engineering and cloning into regular medical practices. Individuals wonder if insurance cover the cost of replicating the needed organs or tissues, or if it be an out of pocket expense for the patient? These questions have no answers yet.

A representative from Blue Cross and Blue Shield said, "The [procedures] are too new and not being practiced enough to allow speculation as to what we will cover."

The possibilities genetic engineering has to offer are endless. Aquinas freshman Erika Kornow said, "I've been waiting for years for a 'cure' for asthma. Genetic engineering is probably my best chance, even though it's still so far away."

Coup in Pakistan worries India

In Islamabad, Pakistan, a military coup overthrew the national government. The chief of the Pakistan army took control of the nation by force, and it appears that he will not be letting go any time soon. Apparently he was mad at the old government for backing down in an argument over the land of Kashmir with India. This is a dangerous time for a military coup because of recent tensions between Pakistan and India. These tensions reached an all-time high and received worldwide attention a while ago when Pakistan and India began testing nuclear weapons and sparked an ensuing arms race. The coup has caused India to put its military on full alert and General Pervaiz Mushrraf has warned India not to try anything while Pakistan appears to be keeping the United States by surprise, and officials are keeping a close eye on the situation as it has the potential to become severely dangerous.

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty rejected in Senate

The nuclear test ban treaty was forced to a vote in the Senate. Democrats were no longer willing to make concessions to Republicans in order to pass the bill. The bill went a vote even though it was almost certain to fail to receive the 2/3 majority it needed for ratification. Republicans felt that the worldwide test ban would prevent the United States from maintaining our huge arsenal's safety and reliability. Clinton and the Democrats felt that if we were to fail to pass the treaty it will lose worldwide credibility and open the world back up to the nuclear arms race.

Genetic testing poses discrimination questions

Medical technology has made genetic testing for a predisposition to certain genetic illnesses is more available than ever before. However, according to a study by the American Society of Human Genetics, most Americans worry that taking advantage of the testing poses a great risk of discrimination by insurance companies, HMO's and even employers. Twenty-five percent of the people surveyed said that they would use an alias for the test, and 70 percent said that they would pay for the test themselves so that their insurance company would not have the results. As a result, 28 states have made laws against using genetic information as criteria for medical coverage.
October 27, 1999

Elephant dung Virgin Mary: Summary

Debate about the Brooklyn Art Museum's display of the image of "The Holy Virgin Mary" made using elephant dung has led to the question of whether public funding of the arts is appropriate.

Point

"The Holy Virgin Mary" depicts the Virgin dabbled with clumps of elephant dung. Whether this image offends Catholics and Christians everywhere is not questionable. Whether such offenses are grounds for censorship and an end to public funding of the arts is, however, frighteningly and sadly in question.

"While I admit that this painting does have a great potential to offend... we should not let it destroy or weaken our public commitment, our "flat" to the arts in general."

Counterpoint

"The Holy Virgin Mary" is definitely "sensation." It is time to rethink how moral and how practical this debate between art museums and the government really is. No one wants their tax dollars going to fund art made with elephant dung and no one wants their tax dollars going to fund more conservative works. Freedom in our country does not just entail the freedom to express several viewpoints, but freedom also means that individuals are allowed to make their own decisions about how they spend their money.

"While I admire this gusto, I think that the painting and the artist's intentions should have been more carefully considered before the attack began. Censorship of this kind is a serious suggestion and should not be thrown around carelessly. Whenever mayors, other leaders and other citizens consider censorship of the arts, it is probably a good idea to think in terms of a case-by-case basis. Jumping to extreme conclusions without considering all of the information is not the best idea, and one that, in fact, threatens some very core principles of our Constitution."
Removing regulations jeopardizes children's safety

We've all seen them around campus: the employees of the Aquinas Child Development Center (CDC) walking around campus followed by a procession of toddlers or preschoolers or wagons and strollers of young children. These are the children of the students, staff and faculty as well as many community members. We smile at them as we pass by and maybe wave. We recognize that they are a part of the Aquinas community, and, though we don't often think about it, we believe that there are many people who are responsible for them.

Several days each week, the parents of these children - like the parents of thousands of children across the United States - drop them off into the hands of professional caregivers and drive off to work. Hopefully all parents of children in childcare centers anywhere have taken the time to investigate the details of the facility where their child spends up to ten hours per day. However, even if a parent knows little about a facility, they can have certain expectations of that childcare center if it is licensed by the state. This is because the state currently has regulations regarding safety, sanitation, staff and space allocation of such organizations. These regulations, and their enforcement by the state, help to provide a safe environment for the children and peace of mind for the parents.

This is why the state that the state of Michigan wants to reduce the guidelines and regulations placed on professional childcare facilities is unsettling. Governor Engler's regulators have created a plan to remove specific regulations required for the safety of indoor and outdoor areas, sleep equipment, diaper changing and food handling procedures and to increase the number of children that a single staff member can be responsible for. The idea of decreasing food preparation and diaper changing regulations is mystifying. If the law is already in place, why does the state of Michigan want to change its policies so that it is more likely that Michigan's children will be exposed to unsafe, unsanitary conditions? But the last of the regulation changes is the most disturbing. Presently, regulations permit one staff member to be responsible for up to four children between 23 months and two and half years old.

If the regulations are slackened as proposed, that same staff member could be responsible for as many as eight children from that age group. For those of you who have or have experience caring for children, can you imagine trying to evacuate eight two-year-old children during a fire? How about getting them to shelter during a tornado? Good luck.

The Department of Consumer and Industry Services, which licenses Michigan childcare centers, is in favor of the proposal, claims that Michigan's current requirements are difficult for a childcare business to follow. However, if it is too much to ask of a claim considering that Michigan's restrictions are far more lax than many states. Currently childcare employees are not required to complete any training, and only one employee per shift needs to be trained in first aid and CPR.

Perhaps some of you, the traditional age students who have neither marriage nor children in your immediate future, much less your current life, are wondering if this they take responsibility for the very lives of their children and the consumers' family members. To remove current safety, sanitation and staff training regulations is saying that the government is uninterested in the lives of its citizens.

Governor Engler argues that many childcare centers currently perform above minimum standards. That hardly seems to be a comfort since it will be the facilities ten years from now whose policies will be based on these requirements. It will be our children who will suffer the consequences of this proposal.

The state places strict regulations on businesses and employees in many different fields. Just a few of these are medical health care providers, mental health care providers, assisted living facilities for the elderly, public schools, and childcare employees. The common thread between all of these is that they take responsibility for the very lives of their consumers and the consumers' family members. To remove current safety, sanitation and staff training regulations is saying that the government is uninterested in the lives of its citizens.

And you can quote me on that...

Are sport utility vehicles practical for Grand Rapids?

"I think it's more of a rural thing. They're so huge, it'd be impossible to park downtown. It seems like something you'd take on a two-track somewhere and have fun with it. In the scheme of things, they really aren't that necessary for Grand Rapids. Can you imagine those things parked downtown by Tape or something?" - Tom Shafferly, senior

"I don't believe that those types of vehicles are necessary in Grand Rapids seeing as how everything is within close proximity. However, they're very trendy right now and many people don't think about the environment when they're trying to go with the flow." - Monique Naden, sophomore

"Grand Rapids is a posh community with money, and it's materialistic. Because it's materialistic, [there are] people who want the SUVs. But there are families who want a bigger car for their kids and they don't want a minivan because an SUV is better in the snow. But students driving SUVs is one thing. I'm just wrong. I want one, but do I need one? No." - Amiria Lams, senior

"Are they necessary for Grand Rapids? No, but they're damn cool. We are not an off-road community. There are no dirt roads around Grand Rapids usually clears the streets so it's not a problem for driving during the wintertime. - Wendy Wilson, senior
Now until 12/30 The International Festival of Lights in Battle Creek is taking place. More than a million lights, not to mention outdoor lighting displays, and a nightly Laser Light Show is waiting for you! An extremely popular event that is not to be missed! Call (800)397-2240 or log onto www.ifol.com for more information.

11/30 Molly, Atomic Numbers and Last Girl on Earth play the Intersection. A great way to spend an evening: a packed bar with fun people and great music. This is an 18 and older show.

11/24, 11/27-29 The 20th annual Village Bach Festival occurs in Cass City and Caro. World-renowned musicians present four concerts of J. S. Bach and his contemporaries in a unique rural setting. Call (517)787-3309 for tickets and (517)342-2298 for information.

11/25-11/29 Shipshewana on the Road comes to the Gerald R. Ford Fieldhouse. Hours are Sunday, 5 a.m.-6 p.m.; Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dealers from Shipshewana, Indiana bring arts and crafts, not to mention other merchandise at discounted prices. Admission is $2.50, and children under 12 are free. This could potentially be a hot spot to get some early Christmas shopping accomplished, especially for those on budgets.

It is officially fall! Put away the shorts and tank tops, and yank out those frocks and flannel shirts. In honor of the changing colors, pumpkins, apple cider and all the amenities of fall, spend some time outdoors and enjoy the weather. I have listed a few festivals that sounded fun and inexpensive. Take a road trip, not only will you see Michigan’s true beauty, but you also discover the hidden fun that Michigan has to offer.

11/2 The legend himself, Bob Dylan, plays the Breslin Center at discounted prices. Admission is $2.50, and children under 12 will be admitted for free. The play utilizes rhyme and song to tell the story of a group of mental patients that stage scenes from the French Revolution under de Sade’s direction.

11/4-11/6 The UICA Performance Art Committee will present a production of Maxar/Sade, Peter Weiss’ unusual drama about French author the Marquis de Sade. Tickets are $10 for non-members and $8 for UICA members and students. The play utilizes rhyme and song to tell the story of a group of mental patients that stage scenes from the French Revolution under de Sade’s direction.

11/18 The legend himself, Bob Dylan, plays the Strelzin Center in East Lansing. Also scheduled to appear is Phil Lesh, Call Ticket Master for details.

11/18-19 Wheels pull into the Intersection by Elizabeth Dudek Times Art and Entertainment Editor

The band members really knew how to stir up a crowd. Almost all of the students exploded into giggles when Feist asked if Gurdy was just a Canadian name, and the same thing happened when she pointed out an audience member in the corner who kept making everyone laugh. The band kept the audience enthralled for the entire show with their music and in-between talk. The group impressed many students. Amber Crain, freshman, said, “I thought they were really good. The lead singer sounded a lot like Sarah MacLachlan.” Like Crain, many audience members were entertained with the band’s strong sound and quirky anecdotes in between.

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Blovits art at AMC
by Andrew Wilson and Elizabeth Dudek
Times Contributing Writer and Arts and Entertainment Editor

Walking into the Arts and Music Center, the new art exhibit by Larry Blovits and his daughter Lauri Blovits Friar automatically dominates the senses and holds viewers’ attention with a powerful color scheme and variety of oil and pastel pictures.

This exhibit, including a mixed media piece, focuses on landscape art, still life and portraits. The mixed media piece by Blovits Friar is entitled “Blind Madonna.” It shows a woman in a dark robe holding a bird house in one hand and an eye in the other suggesting, perhaps, that beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder.

One piece by Blovits is of a small girl posing by a piano. The portrait, called “Sarah” will capture attention. The dark blue eyes of a young child stare into the observer’s own eyes making the picture seem very life-like and flawless.

Another portrait by Blovits Friar depicts a green glass vase of flowers. With the delicate color of a Monet, the flowers bend and stretch out of the vase against a pastel background.

The two artists are connected with both the Grand Rapids and Aquinas communities. Blovits Friar is an alumnus of the college, and, in addition to creating works such as those displayed, she is an artist-in-residence for the Franciscan Life Process Center and works as an adjunct instructor for Kendall College.

Blovits, a former faculty member at Aquinas, is also an accomplished artist, having 26 years of teaching in his background. Blovits is now using his lending his expertise to the portrait world.

Pastels and still life paintings comprised a large portion of the Blovits-Blovits Friar art show at the AMC.

Photo by Eric VanderLey

Knee Deep Shag releases CD, live show
by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Knee Deep Shag has made a couple changes that you just may notice. One is their studio collaboration with producer Jon Frazer (Papa Vegas, Verve Pipe) for their third album, “Good Disguise.”

The other is the departure of long-time bassist Troy Stansberry and the departure of long-time third album, “Good Disguise.” The rations with producer Jon Frazer (Papa Vegas, Verve Pipe) for their Times seem very life-like and pastel pictures.

Knee Deep Shag has been one of the most avidly followed bands in Chicago. The band has developed a cult-like following due to their intense live shows and their ability to entertain local bands around.

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The 12-track album is filled with memorable songs such as “Gardener,” “You Belong,” and “The Line.”

Knee Deep Shag has been on the rise recently, and their new album is receiving critical acclaim.

The album features a mix of rock and roll, pop, and soul music, with the band’s signature harmonies and unique sound.

The title track, “Good Disguise,” is a standout song on the album and features emotional lyrics and catchy melodies.

Overall, “Good Disguise” is a captivating album that showcases Knee Deep Shag’s talent and growth as a band.

Photo courtesy of EWOLF

Joydrop
Metasexual
by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who they are: Sara Sloane - vocals, Thomas Payne - guitar, Tom McKay - bass, Tony Rabalao - drums.

Where they’re from: Toronto, Canada

How you know them (current single): “Beautiful”

Lyrics Worth Repeating: “A thousand smiles from a thousand miles away, but when you look into their eyes they’ve got nothing to say. Artificially made like orange cheese and pink lemonade.”

My thoughts on “Metasexual”: I don’t like female-fronted bands. I just don’t. I own a very few CDs by female solo artists. I just have a thing against females who attempt to be big, bad rockers. They usually end up looking silly. When I think of women in music I think of Sarah McLachlan and Tori Amos. Women who play with passion and sing revealing lyrics. They’re definitely talented musicians, but I definitely wouldn’t call them rock musicians. Female-fronted groups are trying to be just that – a rock band. Surprisingly though, they come incredibly close to achieving their goal.

Like so many of today’s artists, Joydrop’s sound can bring to mind several other bands. “Spiders” has a slightly No Doubt feel to it, and, the quick talking/singing of “Dream Today” immediately brings thoughts of Luscious Jackson. In “Breakdown,” lead singer Tara Sloane manipulates her voice to obscene levels throughout the chorus. It is just may be that “Dog Star Radio” offers up an acoustic set for no other reason than to prove that Sloane does in fact have melodic talent in her voice. In less an hour “Metasexual” offers up 14 songs, though the last couple can easily be passed over and could have been left of the disc completely. “Until” uses lyrics like “until the joy drops again it won’t belong” to prove that its not really much of anything except an excuse for the band to include their name in a song. “The Line” grows increasingly tiresome in its five minute length.

Any review of Joydrop that I’ve read has included as much about the look of Sloane as the band’s music. This slightly disturbs me and would bother me a lot more if Joydrop were anything but Joydrop. If Joydrop were anything but Joydrop, I’d never thought of Joydrop as “hot lead singer” then I can’t help you – go quell your hormones with a postcard.

Would I run out and buy “Metasexual?” Nope. Would I change the station if Joydrop came on the radio? No, I’d probably turn up the volume. If you like female-fronted bands you’ll like this one. The future of Joydrop has yet to be determined, and I’d be surprised if they became a “one-hit wonder” – though that would first require a hit single. (“Beautiful” has been getting radio air-play, but not that much).

Visit Joydrop at: www.joydrop.com

Art & Entertainment
Ladies & Gentlemen Joydrop

345-6500 in Kalamazoo with the Mad Butchers and Miles from Maybe.

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John Mies battles for position in a win over Sienna Heights.

Photo by Eric VanderLey

Some professional athletes don't live up to acting professional

In a world that has become obsessed with money, professional sports suffer. Greed has made what used to be a competition between the best of the best, into a competition between players and owners. So who is winning the competition of holdouts, contract negotiations and early retirements? Fans are winning.

Leonard Potechin, a 73-year-old retiree and season ticket holder for the NHL's Ottawa Senators with 44 goals and 50 assists during the 1998-1999 hockey season. He has not led the Senators in the early moments of the 1999 season though, simply because he has not been with the team. Yanshin, like many other professional athletes, decided to holdout on the final year of his six-year, $27.5 million dollar lawsuit against Alexi Yanshin for breaching his promise.

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Yanshin broke a promise, a promise that caused Potchefstroom and 11,000
Aquinas grid-iron set to collide on Oct. 31

October 27, 1999

Women's soccer splits two games during break
Lady Saints look ahead to WHAC conference competition this weekend

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

While the majority of Aquinas students took a mid-term break, Aquinas' Women's Soccer Team was hard at work chasing a W.H.A.C. title last week. They came into the week without a loss in the conference and looked to keep their record alive against a very talentedSienna Heights team. Sienna Heights (10-0-1 in the W.H.A.C. and 15-1-1 overall), for a re-match of a game Aquinas had won back on Sept. 25 in Adrian, Michigan. The game remained scoreless for the first 30 minutes even though the two teams combined for 42 shots on the day including, 23 shots on goal. At 30:07, one of the 42 shots finally made it past Aquinas goal-keeper Kelly McGill. Twelve minutes later, with only 2:30 remaining in the first half, Sienna Heights' Sally Harris struck again, making the score 2-0 in favor of Sienna Heights. After halftime, Sienna Heights needed only ten minutes to find the net, and then once again only a minute later. The two goals put them on top of Aquinas 4-0 with 35 minutes to play. Aquinas finally made it on the scoreboard with a Kim Eager goal in 71:49, assisted by Lori Carbott. Eager's goal raised both teams scoring making the final score Sienna Heights 4 Aquinas 1. After the day, Aquinas did see several outstanding performances. One was from goalkeeper Kelly McGill who was faced with 29 Sienna Heights shots, including 15 on goal. McGill recorded 11 saves on the day. Aquinas' off­ense was Kim Eager who recorded 5 shots, 3 shots on goal, and the lone Aquinas score. Amy Panse was close behind Eager with 3 shots, including 3 shots on goal. The women's soccer team also traveled to Ann Arbor over the weekend to take on Concordia College. Unlike Sienna Heights, Concordia has only one win on the year and proved to be a very easy opponent for the Saints. Amy Panse led the Saints to fast five goals, and an assist. Following Panse was Meghan Luckett who had 3 shots, 2 shots on goal, 2 goals, and an assist. Kim Eager recorded a goal on two shots on goal and Dawn Wierzbinski recorded an assist. With the win the Lady Saints' record improves to 15-2-1 overall and 9-1-1 in the W.H.A.C. The Saints look forward to the W.H.A.C. tournament and a shot conference title beginning this Saturday. Locations and times for these games have not yet been announced.

Junior Omar Flores, one of the X-Factors, added, "It was a lot of fun going out and playing for the love of the game. It was hard for us to keep our records short-handed, but the people who did show up always had a good time." This season also marked the introduction of women's teams for flag football. Four groups made up the two teams combined for 42 shots on the day including, 23 shots on goal. At 30:07, one of the 42 shots finally made it past Aquinas goal-keeper Kelly McGill. Twelve minutes later, with only 2:30 remaining in the first half, Sienna Heights' Sally Harris struck again, making the score 2-0 in favor of Sienna Heights. After halftime, Sienna Heights needed only ten minutes to find the net, and then once again only a minute later. The two goals put them on top of Aquinas 4-0 with 35 minutes to play. Aquinas finally made it on the scoreboard with a Kim Eager goal in 71:49, assisted by Lori Carbott. Eager's goal raised both teams scoring making the final score Sienna Heights 4 Aquinas 1. After the day, Aquinas did see several outstanding performances. One was from goalkeeper Kelly McGill who was faced with 29 Sienna Heights shots, including 15 on goal. McGill recorded 11 saves on the day. Aquinas' offense was Kim Eager who recorded 5 shots, 3 shots on goal, and the lone Aquinas score. Amy Panse was close behind Eager with 3 shots, including 3 shots on goal. The women's soccer team also traveled to Ann Arbor over the weekend to take on Concordia College. Unlike Sienna Heights, Concordia has only one win on the year and proved to be a very easy opponent for the Saints. Amy Panse led the Saints to fast five goals, and an assist. Following Panse was Meghan Luckett who had 3 shots, 2 shots on goal, 2 goals, and an assist. Kim Eager recorded a goal on two shots on goal and Dawn Wierzbinski recorded an assist. With the win the Lady Saints' record improves to 15-2-1 overall and 9-1-1 in the W.H.A.C. The Saints look forward to the W.H.A.C. tournament and a shot conference title beginning this Saturday. Locations and times for these games have not yet been announced.

end of regular season play. Though all teams advance to the playoffs, it seems that some have a clear advantage. At the end of the regular season, there are always some that will finish with a record of 4-1, including Minute Made, A-Team and the X-Factors a step behind at 1-4 and Tons of Help ending up 0-5. "I feel we have a good chance of winning it, but we have some pretty stiff competition and will have to play our best in order to be the champions," said freshman Zoo member Scott Cooley. In the women's division, the Ruf­f Ryders sailed through the season undefeated, while both Las Chicas and the nameless team finished with a record of 2-3, followed by the Beta Girls at 1-4. "I think that we're going to dominate in the playoffs. We're all team players...no one person stands out, and that's what has made us so successful," said freshman Liz Windsor, a member of the Ruff Ryders. Playoffs for the men's and women's flag football teams will be held on Sunday, Oct. 31, starting at noon in Wilcox Park.

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Features

Escape from Reality

Video games offer students fun, fantasy, friendships
by Jessi Cleveland
Times Features Editor

It's 2 a.m. While some sleep, others study. Some scramble to finish off that paper they just remembered, while still others socialize with suitmates over a movie and pizza. Further down the hall, in the distance, a faint glow can be seen from under a door. Inside, all is quiet but for the soft humming of background music, an occasional metallic shooting noise or a groan of defeat. From Doom to Super Mario Brothers to Final Fantasy VIII, there seems to be something on the video game market for everyone. No other activity, it seems, constitutes such a great portion of dorm life as the playing of video games.

So what are they all about? Many students feel that video games are an important aspect of their social life, a way to make friends through common interests and to spend time with other students in a low-key atmosphere. Other students are annoyed with the craze, viewing video games as immature and a waste of resources, including time and money.

Some claim no other activity constitutes such a great portion of expenditures either. With the cost of a video game system ranging from $100 for a Sony PlayStation to $200 for the new Dreamcast, an important aspect of their social life, it seems, constitutes such a great portion of dorm life as the playing of video games.

Money is not the only point of controversy surrounding this practice. Drawn in by the bright lights and special effects, some students find themselves glued to their screen, and subsequently to their couch, unable to perform their normal tasks such as studying. They mean well, really, and they promise to crack a book just as soon as they break the next record. They've got all night—oh, wait, it's already 3:30 a.m., and that test is at 8 a.m.

The grades and social skills of many video game fans seem to suffer, particularly after the purchase of a new and exciting or especially tricky game. Suddenly the score on the screen takes precedence over the score on the papers, and virtual reality takes over as they knew it. Their eyes glaze over, their thumbs twitch, and nothing seems to matter except reaching the next level, no matter who they have to hurt to get there.

These tendencies are in no way universal, however. Many other players find that video games help them focus by giving them a study break, a way to relax and gather their thoughts before going on. They feel that video games offer support the theory that video games, in addition to movies and music, have played a major role in the growing number of youth violence incidents, particularly the school shootings in Colorado and Texas. Others argue that violence cannot be learned from a screen and that values of right vs. wrong and reality vs. fantasy must be entertained.

Unfortunately, for others they can be an addicting habit that consumes long spans of time and large amounts of cash.

Here's what Aquinas students think:

"I think it depends on the way you use video games. If you use them to relax, so be it, but if they become your main focus in college, then it is a problem." -Cheryl Kasprzyk, Junior

"I love them. Video games make me feel fantastic, terrific, great all day long! Every night I look forward to playing video games with Swanson and Gast." -Mike Appel, freshman

"I think video games are detrimental to interpersonal communication. It is very annoying when you're trying to talk to someone and they zone out because they are playing some video games." -Mary Young, sophomore

"Video games are fun, but only in moderation. A lot of people end up playing them instead of doing homework." -Derek Sandahl, sophomore

"I don't think kids should be allowed to have them. I think the killing and oversaturation get into a person's head and has a negative impact on them. Personally I would never let my children play video games." -Ruth Noot, freshman

"We love video games! They enhance our intellect, as well as relax us as we procrastinate through a hard day of classes. Video games are meant to be entertainment, not to be viewed as a way of life. They are good for kids because they teach them skills such as strategy and coordination." -Adam Jauregui and Jersey Maarleveld, juniors

"Some video games are really cute and all, but others are just scary. They teach kids how to sneak around corners and use high-tech weapons. You shouldn't be able to win a prize for ripping someone's heart out or decapitating someone. That's just wrong." -Selena Dorn, freshman

"I think video games are addicting and very time-consuming. If you don't have the willpower to stop yourself playing these games, it can affect your studies and life in general." -Justin Ortik, junior

"I feel that video games are a good stress reliever. Unfortunately, they aren't helping my financial situation at the moment. Also, I find myself wondering if perhaps I should seek professional help to break my self of this habit." -Andrew Vyn, sophomore

"Video games are just something I do when I don't have anything else to do. I still get good grades because I don't play them often or when I have homework that is more important." -Brian Schwank, freshman

"I like video games. They are very a positive influence on my life because they give me something to do in my free time and also are a great way to relieve stress." -Chris Ertman, sophomore

"Video games are meant to be entertainment, not to be viewed as a way of life. They are good for kids because they teach them skills such as strategy and coordination." -Selena Dorn, freshman

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"Quotes compiled by Times Contributing Writers Andrea Covert and Laura Eller. Photos by Chris Waid.

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