The automated teller machine in lower-level Wege was unavailable for use on Dec. 1 following an attempted robbery of the machine.
Montana travelers return, program to be delayed until fall 2001

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Contributing Writer

They slept in teepees, washed in streams and climbed mountains. As part of the second Montana Program, 15 Aquisana students spent the first half of the fall semester living and learning on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation near Glacier National Park.

"I loved sleeping by the warmth of the fire in the teepee and waking up to the mountains in the morning," said sophomore Bridie Kent. "Though it was nothing like I'd ever done before, I knew I'd learn something no matter what." The trip's formal learning included Environmental Philosophy, taught by Advisor Dr. Mike Denty, and Geology and Paleontology of Montana. The sophomores took Humanities. But learning took place outside of the classroom as well, from living without electricity to interacting with the local people.

Students also had opportunities to volunteer for service learning projects. They helped to reintroduce the extinguished swift fox to the reservation and taught soccer and personal safety courses to students at a Boys and Girls Club.

Sophomore Molly Bricker also planted trees after a forest fire. The students' home base was about 35 miles from the nearest hand pump their water. Bathroom facilities included an outhouse with a composting toilet and a galvanized bucket that had to be hand filled with boiling water. With supplies from town, the students took turns cooking for each other two meals a day. They slept in teepees and used the log cabin built last year for eating, class meetings and nighttime entertainment.

Living in the midst of Glacier National Park, students went on several camping trips and mountain climbing adventures.

"We climbed Divide Mountain one evening," said Bricker. "It was a difficult climb, but when we got to the top, we got to see the sunset. Then, after spending the night on the peak, we watched the sun come up in the morning."

After a rough start last year the Montana Program appears to have taken a step forward.

"It was more positive than last year, from the physical facilities to the quality of instruction," said Denty. Denty, however, expressed that there are still kinks to be worked out. "My fear is it's an accident waiting to happen, from the possibility of grizzly attacks to the abuse of alcohol," Denty added.

As a result Denty, Assistant Dean of International and Cultural Studies Dr. Keri Lou and Aquisana President Harry Knopke have decided to postpone the program.

"As a result of a number of factors we have reached the decision to delay the program until fall 2001," said Lou. One of these factors is the $10 million lawsuit filed last year by Harold E. Gray, the former Co-director of the Montana Program, is still pending. In the suit, Gray states that Aquisana lays claim to over $90,000 of property belonging to him, as well as seriously jeopardizing his health by putting him through stress and hardship. Other factors, according to Lou, include safety issues, logistical issues surrounding the vehicles used at the site and student behavior that is "inappropriate to the site and program."

Professor Gary Eberle's talk digs up the past

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

The words that fill this page of newprint embed impressions in the minds of readers. The words that are used in everyday conversation are actually derived by a blending of cultures throughout history. Their meanings and origins are both complex and fascinating, the knowledge of which can be found in the study of etymology. The words that cultures give birth to provide insight into ancient values. Today it is meaningful, as well as amusing, to know the origins of one's family name.

Gary Eberle, Associate Professor of English, taught faculty and a few students about the history of the English language in his lecture "The Sutton Hoo Burial Ship: A Window on Anglo-Saxon Culture," on Nov. 30.

Eberle amused the crowd with the origin of his own name, "baby boar," or "piglet." This was not to be confused with "bore," he joked.

At one point during the lecture, Eberle donned a horned helmet and demonstrated why the warriors would not have worn it to battle as the horns would have allowed swords to penetrate the skull easily. The lecture concluded with the audience learning to play Halatulf, an Anglo-Saxon board game while learning to "transliterate" a modern expression, "that sucks!," into Anglo-Saxon.

The discussion intertwined the history of a warring culture, the linguistics of the many words given to weapons, the intricate artistic design on battle gear and the status of men and women. Eberle engaged the audience by reading excerpts from "Beowulf" in Old English. Eberle explained that in 1939, a tremendous discovery was made. A 90 foot long ship, dating back to 660 A.D. was found nestled under a mound near the coast of Great Britain. The ship was called "Sutton Hoo."

"It's amazing to me how much history is found in the archeological strata," Eberle explained.

The mounds also contained high status burial grounds that had been looted, burial sites of executed prisoners, a medieval path and a trench dug in WW II. "The fact that they were able to discover this treasure hoard [Sutton Hoo] in 39 is really astounding," Eberle said.

The nature of the violent culture did not favor feminism. However, "women and men shared a lot of tasks equally," Eberle said. He added that when the French took control, women lost status. The Anglo-Saxons honored "Eostre," the goddess of April. When they became Christianized, the name of this goddess was incorporated into the word "Easter." This was one example, Eberle said, of how people tended to "baptize pagan culture."

Sophomore Lindsay Weber attended the lecture for her public speaking class. "He's a knowledgeable professor," she said. "It was cool how he spoke in Old English." She liked Eberle's sense of humor.

This lecture was sponsored by the Aquisana Lecture Series, which are well-attended by faculty, but less attended by the student body. The lectures are open to all of the Aquisana Community.
Christkindelmarkt celebrates tradition

by Amanda Smith and Angela Bergman

Campus News Editor

Christkindelmarkt is still celebrated in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The tradition began in the late Middle Ages, according to Durham, current Model U.N. member. "It is a time for students to devote their abilities and talents to help other people... that was our motivating goal."

"This was where we got the idea to have Christkindelmarkt here at Aquinas," said Gross. "It is a time for students to devote their abilities and talents to help other people... that was our motivating goal."

On Dec. 2, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, the Aquinas Culture Club, the Multicultural Department and the International Students' Union brought the Christkindelmarkt tradition to the Wege Ballroom. Booths included the French, Spanish, German and Japanese Language Departments and the Haitian and Oaxacan service learning trips.

Several of the booths had authentic food to sample, such as Japanese fortune cookies and Russian pastries. The Spanish table featured food purchased from Moctezuma, a Mexican store located at Bridge Street. The booth served pan dulce, a Mexican sweet bread and horchata, a flavored Mexican beverage.

Aquinas faculty and students, as well as community members, displayed their talents. Lisa Bush performed an Irish Dance and Jon Snyder amused his audience with magic tricks. German students Anne Cox, John Desiderio and Adam Hilte performed a German skit. Japanese students Janette Pierce and Megan Doolley and French students Carissa Jackson, Alison Hembnisky and Kelli Santler also showcased their talents. The program ended with the choir Coro del Sol, the Grand Rapids Cantata Choir led by Suzanne Tiemstra, singing Spanish folk and Christmas songs.

"It was interesting to hear people talk about and to learn about the Japanese program," said senior Xavier Jaramillo. "I had an exposure to the Japanese culture that I never had before." The event yielded over $500, $300 of which will be donated to a Grand Rapids family. This family will also receive gifts certificates of $40 that was donated by Toys R Us. The additional money will be allocated to the Oaxaca and Haitian service learning trips to fund supplies that the local communities there can use.

"The idea is to give money to the people in need of it at this time," said Marjorie Prince, assistant professor of Spanish. Area high school students, such as those from Lowell High School, attended the event to learn about language programs and other opportunities that Aquinas offers.

"We want to start connecting to high schools and show them the opportunities here at Aquinas," said Prince. Pat Hurley, a freshman at Aquinas and a first year Spanish student, said, "I think it's great that they figured out a way to combine helping out the needy, Christmas shopping and multicultural learning."
Peter Secchia purchases vacant Mackie's World

by Scott Jones
Times Contributing Writer

You can stop reading if you’ve heard this one before: What do you get when you cross an out-of-business children’s mall, 21 million dollars and a former U.S. ambassador to Italy? Give up? You get the new headquarters of the Kent County Family Independence Agency. All right, it doesn’t make a very good joke, but that’s just as well because this is something that Peter Secchia, former U.S. ambassador, Aquinas graduate and chairman of Universal Forest Products, is taking very seriously.

Through his family corporation, Sibsco, Secchia is purchasing Mackie’s World, America’s first children’s mall which closed its doors in September after 13 months in business. He hopes to lease the now vacant Monroe Mall space to the FIA and six other state offices bringing 800 new employees downtown.

“The FIA and the other state agencies represent the best use I can think of for the Mackie’s World site,” Secchia said. “Our hope is that some of the these workers will choose to live downtown and in the surrounding neighborhoods.” To bring the state agencies into the building, Secchia would have to secure a lease from the state through the Department of Management and Budget, the department that handles building issues for each state agency. He is currently just one of many bidders submitting a proposal for the new FIA headquarters from around the state. The DMB has set a Dec. 20 deadline for submitting proposals for the headquarters. A final decision is expected by late January or early February.

Secchia has estimated that the cost of buying and converting the site will be more than $21 million. He also knows that he’s taking a risky route by buying the site before he knows for certain that he is going to receive the lease from the state.

“It’s a lot of a gamble. This is a big risk,” said Secchia. One eager supporter of the plan is Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie.

“New enterprises that bring new workers and jobs to downtown are something the city likes,” said Logie. “We might easily find ourselves with 500 to 1000 shoppers downtown.”

The FIA says they want a building with 200,000 square feet in Grand Rapids, and they want it near bus service. The Mackie’s World site has more than 500,000 square feet, is close to bus service and has a parking ramp right across the street, so it meets all of the state’s requirements. Secchia hopes to close on the building by New Year’s Eve, start construction this winter and have the FIA moved in by the summer of 2001.

Student reaction around campus has been bittersweet. “I’m sorry to see Mackie’s World go. My two sons loved going to the Teddy Bear Factory. However, it’s good to see that they are going to use the space for good instead of evil,” said freshman Jon Garlough.

Economic sanctions on Iraq debated within the United Nations

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

The economic sanctions on Iraq are now being debated within the United Nations. The sanctions are a result of Iraq’s attack on Kuwait in 1990. A few years ago the United Nations agreed to allow Iraq to sell products, is taking very seriously.

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Iraq is permitted to sell $5 billion of oil every six months to raise money for these purposes. Two-thirds of the revenue goes to Kuwait to compensate for the attacks nine years ago. Many believe that it is time for the United Nations to review these sanctions and decide whether or not they should be lifted or revised. The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council have already begun their negotiations.

The United States, Great Britain, China, France and Russia have all entered the negotiations with different views and objectives. The U.S. and Great Britain do not feel that the sanctions should change in any way until Iraq has proven that it has fully complied with all terms of the cease fire agreement made at the end of the gulf war. In a quote to the New York Times, Bill Richardson, a former U.S. delegate to the United Nations said, “Sanctions are going to stay forever . . . However, Russia and France don’t agree to this view and wish to see the limitations lifted.”

The Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhanned Rashid has asked Saudi Arabian officials to reduce their daily oil output by 1.5 million barrels. The thought supporting this is that if the quantity available is reduced, then the prices will rise. This would significantly affect the United States, because of its dependency on oil and other fossil fuels from the Middle East.

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SAC protests the School of Americas

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

Junior Martha Krzyzewski believes in something so strongly that she’s willing to meet with Congressmen and participate in peaceful demonstrations. That takes guts.

Krzyzewski, along with 14 others, traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia from Nov. 19-21. She was accompanied by Aquinas alumni Rob Dodde and Jennifer Perry; community member Jeff Smith; sophomores Josephine Kaiser, Kathryn Hardy and Bridie Kent; freshmen Melissa Gomez; junior Alysha Hayden and senior Sarah Mitchell.

The activists hope that protests will close the School of Americas, a U.S. military school that trains Latin American soldiers. While some believe that the school is a legitimate military school and others argue that it teaches torture and psychological warfare.

"The School claims to be teaching them democracy and American family values," Krzyzewski said, referring to 60,000 Latin American soldiers trained. "But many of the graduates have been responsible for rape, murder and massacres in Latin America."

This was the 10th Anniversary of the protest. The 25 initial protestors in the first year have grown to about 12,000 this year, Krzyzewski explained.

The demonstration was "peaceful and led by those trained in civil disobedience," Krzyzewski said.

Nov. 21, about 5,000 people chose to cross a white line on the property, where they were then taken to buses by guards at the School of Americas and had their names recorded. The first violation results in a warning, the second, a more serious warning and their names recorded. The first violation results in a warning, the second, a more serious warning and their names recorded. The first violation results in a warning, the second, a more serious warning and their names recorded. The first violation results in a warning, the second, a more serious warning and their names recorded. The first violation results in a warning, the second, a more serious warning and their names recorded.

The protest motivated her and five others to go to the Federal Building in Grand Rapids on Dec. 2 to hand-deliver letters to Third District Congressmen Vern Ehlers and Michigan State Senator Carl Levin.

"Stop the WTO," protesters shouted as they blocked at least half a dozen streets leading to the center. They confronted police and shattered store windows. Seattle police officers, reinforced by state and suburban police and FBI agents, fought back with clouds of tear gas, pepper spray and rubber-like pellets fired from rifles.

"We were successful in our objectives for the first day by effectively shutting down the opening ceremonies."

Northern Ireland turned over

In Dublin, Ireland, British Prime Minister Bertie Ahern declared his state’s commitment to drop its territorial claim on the British-linked north. The British government was scheduled to formally transfer powers to a new Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland at midnight (7 p.m. ET) Dec. 1.

Ireland has been rocked over the years by violence and warfare springing from bitter Protestant-Catholic relations. Ahern also asked the IRA to dismantle its arsenal immediately, adding that it was, "a necessary contribution to the consolidation of peace and democracy, and to the creation of trust."

Suspected mass graves being investigated

Mass graves in Mexico are now being dug up and investigated. FBI officials were led to the graves by an informant, and already they have found the bone fragments and skulls of five people. There have been complaints that up to 100 people missing in the from the border area near Ciudad Juarez including some 22 Americans. The FBI says that this is a likely spot for their burial because of its proximity to the US.

Assistant FBI Director Thomas Pickard said in Washington that these people "were killed for their knowledge of or for being witnesses to drug trafficking."

Some 68 law enforcement officers were working at the site which is believed to be about three years old, forming during the height of the Juarez cartel’s power in the mid-1990s, when kidnappings of suspected informants, drug rival or civilian bystanders. It is suspected that police officers were paid off by the cartel.

The search of the area continues, but, as of Monday, no more bodies have been located.

First human chromosome mapped

The Human Genome Project has successfully mapped - within 97 percent of completion – the first human chromosome.

"For the first time we can see the entire landscape of a human chromosome, the basic unit of human inheritance, how the genes are organized, how they’re laid out on the chromosome," said Dr. Francis Collins, chair of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

The scientists mapped out chromosome 22 because it was one of the most densely packed and is associated with diseases like leukemia and Alzheimer's.
Is debate dead?
The 2 1/2 year Point/Counterpoint tradition comes to a close

Point

My esteemed colleague, Counterpoint, and I have been writing this column now for two and a half years. Our intent has been to spark controversy and to reasonably argue opposite sides of an issue. We highly value engaging in debate outside our daily coursework. Aristotle, a famous champion of debate, advocated critical thinking. Debaters are compelled to discern both sides of a case to make a judgement and to defend it.

It is my belief that not only debaters, but all individuals are responsible for the judgements they make. They must seek out the highest knowledge that they are capable of, confront course argument and defend their position.

Before Counterpoint and I began writing, issues were tackled in this column and by previous Aquinas Times intellectuals. Mindi Evans, Maris Branchau, Curt Woniak and Andy Pieper have left a legacy in Point/Counterpoint. I fear that this legacy is dying. How often do we, at Aquinas, challenge ourselves to see an issue through different lenses? When we make a judgement on an issue, can we defend it?

These questions haunt me when I reflect on my writing for the Times. With Counterpoint and me building on a legacy, I would love to see the column survive when we are gone.

Realistically, I’m pessimistic. Point/Counterpoint may have a few dedicated readers—but definitely not the majority of my fellow students. They will be the ones to go up against the world to make decisions and changes after graduation.

Students no longer engage in debate with friends in the lobby of the Academic Building before classes. On the rare occasion when an issue arises, onlookers think the same. Recently in the Student Senate, the vote was unanimous with little debate to support a parking proposal that will assign students to lots based on their housing location.

Several of my fellow students are simply too busy with college life to have much interest in issues such as “hate crimes,” censorship in artistic expression, or whether Aquinas should build a field house or a library. The main excuse is that they are too busy with the required reading and writing for their courses, and that they don’t have time to read anything but the sports section of the paper.

I can understand why the lack of time would be a reason for disen-gagement in debate. My greatest fear is that this column’s demise will be due to indifference.

There are serious con-sequences when every-one begins to think the same on an issue and falls in the am-biguous middle. New ideas and so-lutions do not develop, and there is no challenge to the plausibility of proposed solutions.

I fear that the legacy of the Point/Counterpoint column will assuredly die, given the level at which my fellow students value debate on this campus.

"I fear that the legacy of the Point/Counterpoint column will assuredly die, given the level at which my fellow students value debate on this campus."

Counterpoint

It’s easy to become jaded, to think that there are no more great arguments to debate and to assume that readers of Bergman-Young debate the same tired column, regurgitat-ing the same messages issue after issue. It’s easy to think that way, but is it right? Heck no. The debate must go on—especially Point/Counterpoint.

Perhaps the two-and-a-half year reign of Bergman-Young debate will never quite be duplicated, but that’s not to say this duo is the end. The debate will assuredly come to Aquinas. Just ask the writers of our college course book. Nearly every course objectives list includes the goal of creating “critical thinkers.” It is impossible to think a debate column would not be the favorite feature of the college newspaper at such a school teeming with critical thinkers. With all of these critical thinkers roaming the hallways, it becomes necessary to provide Point/Counterpoint as a common cause, a rallying point. I sometimes wonder why there aren’t more under-ground publications to vent the bubbling opinions that can and will arise among thinking, college-age individuals wherever they congregate.

To say that thoughtful, clever students are becoming extinct is neither very thoughtful nor clever. A whole group of such students just returned last week from their Model United Nations competition. Debating, thinking individuals are not even limited to the political science club’s activities. Can anyone remember last year’s Community Senate consideration of the Social Action Committee’s proposal to end U.S. sanctions in Iraq? Does anyone’s memory extend for enough to remember student input nights in the Carriage House that lasted until past midnight? We cannot assess the future impact of Point/Counterpoint’s demise on the Community Senate’s recent unani-mous vote to improve the parking situation. Should some of the senators have, instead, voted in favor of the dire parking situation in order to prove their debating virility? I hope not.

To be sure, there are some signs that students neglect to think out side the demands of their class requirements, and may inadvertently underappreciate the likes of Point/Counterpoint. I sat in far too many classrooms and lectures where every statement made by the speaker is received as undisputed fact. Seas of nodding students give their ascension to the lecture rather than think and form unique, progress-building opinions. But let’s not get carried away and say that this just Aquinas College’s problem. We live in a world of moderates. Our national elections are filled with liberal republicans and conservative democrats. Today we are driven more and more to be diverse in outward appearances yet homogeneous in mind. We focus on conflict resolution and forget to learn the valuable lessons that debate and conflict can teach us.

To help combat mental lethargy, Aquinas has Point/Counterpoint. It is a time-honored tradition among Aquinas students, faculty and staff. Loving Point/Counterpoint will remain in vogue with anyone who feels that taking sides on an issue is important. Point/Counterpoint will survive because it tickles that part of our brains that has been allowed, no, encouraged to go numb.

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D e c e m b e r 8 , 1999

O p i n i o n

Should smoking be permitted in the front of the Academic Building?

"I try not to smoke in front of the building. It's a courtesy factor for people who don't smoke plus there are a lot of people who are allergic to smoke as well. Therefore, I try to make an attempt to be civil to the rest of the Aquinas community." 

-Evelyn Harburn, senior

"I think smoking should be banned completely from the campus or it should only be allowed in the parking lots. I think we should be promoting health on campus." 

-Evelyn Derseney, sophomore

Will Y2K be an apocolypse or inconvenience?

So, what are your plans for this New Year's Eve? Actually, I'm more interested in what you think of Y2K. What are your predictions for the effects that the clocks changing to 12:00 a.m. 01-01-00 will have? In other words, what's your current Y2K theory?

Everyone seems to have some theory about what will happen as the clocks and calendars first register the year 2000. The hype surrounding the Y2K bug has many people wondering what sort of computer malfunctions we will have to face. Others believe that the effects will be quite drastic.

There are a few individuals - I'm sure we've all at least heard of them - who claim that the world is going to end. Some believe that this is the sort of thing that would lead to a doomsday scenario. However, I believe that it is much more likely that humanity will overcome the problem and the world will continue just as it has before.

One interesting theory is that the Y2K bug will cause a lack of computers and utilities. This could lead to a major loss of productivity and a decrease in the ability to control the environment. However, I believe that this is highly unlikely.

Another theory is that the Y2K bug will cause a widespread and devastating natural disaster. This could lead to massive destruction and loss of life. However, I believe that this is also highly unlikely.

Regardless of what happens, I believe that the world is going to continue as it has before. We will have to adapt to the changes and continue to live our lives. I do not believe that the world is going to end.
**Arts & Entertainment**

**DECEMBER 8, 1999**

**Jill Jack appears at the Moose**

*by Elizabeth Dudek*

*Times Art & Entertainment Editor*

What can be said about Detroit’s own Diva of Rock, Jill Jack? Here are a few thoughts that came to mind: Winner of six Detroit Music Awards in 1997, a voice that is a force to be reckoned with and a musician who can drive a bones in her heels. I liked the style because each of her songs was unique. Jill’s fun and charismatic personality drew the audience into the performance. There is a lot of raw emotion in her music,” said Carla Johnson, freshman.

The musicians made a stop at WAQU for an interview and live musical preview on AQ-stic. The band also discussed their upcoming concert. Jill Jack and Billy Brandt, with additional bass playing from Jason Fisher, also played numerous songs from “Live from Billy’s Basement.”

**Persevering Group combines talents in AMC performance**

*by Katy Moore*

*Times Contributing Writer*

Turn the word “percussion” over in your mind, and your brain tends to focus on drums. Aquinas’s own Percussion Group demonstrated that percussion is much more than that on Thursday, Dec. 2 during their annual concert. The Percussion Group is comprised of Schianni Dixon, David Dunst, Andrew Fleser, Nate Lareau, Matt Militzki and Jose Wirt. Tim Hileman accompanied the group Thursday night on bass.

For a solid hour, a thunder of percussion descended, turning the word “percussion” over in your mind, and your brain tends to focus on drums. Jill Jack and Billy Brandt, with additional bass playing from Jason Fisher, also played numerous songs from “Live from Billy’s Basement.”

The admiration is mutual as Jack told how she got involved with Drum Dancer Records. “Drum Dancer is an independent record label. We have a good fan base.”


**The Vault**

*Compiled by Elizabeth Dudek*

*Times Art & Entertainment Editor*

Only a few more Christmas shopping days left. Remember it’s not the price you pay for the gift, it is the thoughtfulness that counts. I hope that all the faculty, students, and staff have a restful and enjoyable holiday season. If you don’t want to spend your time in front of a cozy fire sipping on some eggnog (what exactly is this holiday beverage anyway?), then bundle up in your coat, gloves, long johns, ski cap, and scarf and partake in your version of holiday cheer. On another note, I would like to wish the staff of the magnificent AQ Times a fond farewell and a Merry Christmas. It has been an eventful year as I decided it was time to go solo. I wanted to team up with Billy because he was a go-getter. He had a lot of confidence in me. We have played so much together in the last three years and have received a positive reception from the press. We also have a good fan base,” said Jack.

Musically, Jack is influenced by musicians like Neil Young and musical genres such as R&B. The band also discussed their latest release “Live from Billy’s Basement.” Literally recorded in Brandt’s basement, this third release features a raw sound that is both haunting and sonorous. Jack also played songs from her sophomore release “Too Close to the Sun” and “Watch Over Me.”

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**Detroit music diva Jill Jack and musical partner Billy Brandt entertained an audience at Aquinas’ Moose Café on Dec. 3 after an interview on WAQU.**

**Photo by Eric VanderLey**

**Percussion Group combines talents in AMC performance**

*by Katy Moore*

*Times Contributing Writer*

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*Compiled by Elizabeth Dudek*

*Times Art & Entertainment Editor*

Only a few more Christmas shopping days left. Remember it’s not the price you pay for the gift, it is the thoughtfulness that counts. I hope that all the faculty, students, and staff have a restful and enjoyable holiday season. If you don’t want to spend your time in front of a cozy fire sipping on some eggnog (what exactly is this holiday beverage anyway?), then bundle up in your coat, gloves, long johns, ski cap, and scarf and partake in your version of holiday cheer. On another note, I would like to wish the staff of the magnificent AQ Times a fond farewell and a Merry Christmas. It has been an eventful year as I decided it was time to go solo. I wanted to team up with Billy because he was a go-getter. He had a lot of confidence in me. We have played so much together in the last three years and have received a positive reception from the press. We also have a good fan base,” said Jack.

Musically, Jack is influenced by musicians like Neil Young and musical genres such as R&B. The band also discussed their latest release “Live from Billy’s Basement.” Literally recorded in Brandt’s basement, this third release features a raw sound that is both haunting and sonorous. Jack also played songs from her sophomore release “Too Close to the Sun” and “Watch Over Me.”

The musicians made a stop at WAQU for an interview and live musical preview on AQ-stic. The band also discussed their upcoming concert. Jill Jack and Billy Brandt, with additional bass playing from Jason Fisher, also played numerous songs from “Live from Billy’s Basement.”

A SNOWY, STARRY NIGHT

On Friday, Dec. 3 the Aquinas Residential Housing Association (RHA) hosted the 15th annual Winter Dance in the Donnelly Center from 8 p.m.-midnight.

The theme of the night was "A Snowy, Starry Night." Decorations included an icesculpture of a snowman and white Christmas lights. Those who attended also received photo key chains with the theme printed on them.

Approximately 210 people attended this year's event, about the same number as last year, according to sophomore Jennifer Brown, Chair of the Winter Dance Committee as well as RHA Vice Chair and Treasurer.

"I was very impressed at how it [the dance] went over. I thought it was a good turnout. The effort was well worth it," Brown said.

Ladies & Gentlemen

Caroline's Spine
Attention Please
by Katy Moore
Times Contributing Writer

Who they are: Jimmy Newquist - vocals, guitar; Mark Haugh - guitar; Jason Gilardi - drums; Scott Jones - bass
Where they're from: Arizona
How you know them (current single): "Attention Please"
Lyrics worth repeating: "I wonder how I look inside your mind. Tell me how I scored with your panel of judges tonight," from "Inside Your Mind."
My thoughts on "Attention Please": "I take my faxes to be copied, grab a donut, grab some coffee," are the monotone lyrics of "Work Song." I'm going out on a limb here and question Caroline's Spine's ability to judge the corporate workplace. After all, they launched into touring fresh out of school. How well can they understand the corporate lifestyle? I'm thinking not very. "I won't pretend to know what it is inside that makes me stand beside you when they open fire," sings Jimmy Newquist in "Open Fire." Newquist knows how to create lyrics that actually have meaning — a breath of fresh air considering the meaningless "Yeah, whatever makes you happy" lyrics of radio's reigning kings (think Splendor). Thick guitars, pounding drums, driving bass, scratchy vocals - same old, same old. Caroline's Spine offers up a blender full of 12 songs that mush together to create less than 38 minutes of music. Is this worth the price of the CD? You be the judge on that one, but I'm not running out to buy it.

Visit them at: www.carolinespine.com

LIVE

The New Album by
DOMESTIC PROBLEMS
In Stores December 14!

Buy it at the Intersection Saturday December 11 at the DP CD Release Show!

Ages 18 and up
Tickets on sale now at all Michigan Ticketmaster locations
Aquinas Women take runner-up honors in Press Tourney

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

For 19 years, Thanksgiving break has meant something other than just turkey to the Aquinas College women's basketball team. For the last 19 years, Aquinas has hosted the Grand Rapids Press Tournament in the Aquinas College Fieldhouse.

This year's Grand Rapids Press Tournament featured teams from Grand Rapids and as far away as Indiana. Aquinas met one of those teams, I.U. Southbend, in the first round of their White Division play on Friday night. The Saints had no problems with I.U. Southbend beating them, 68-54. The win guaranteed Aquinas a spot in Saturday night's final game against the Lakers from Grand Valley State University.

The Lakers came into the game 2-1 beating I.U. Southbend, in the first round of their White division play on Friday night's action to put them in the White Division finals.

Grand Valley State jumped out to a huge lead to start the game. In fact, 3:11 into the game the Lakers had already jumped out to a 17-2 and then a 29-7 advantage ten minutes later at 13:10.

Coach Linda Nash thought that her team may have been intimidated by Grand Valley State and the fact that they are a much bigger school (Division II). "I really felt we came out and played scared," said Nash. "It was not pretty, but we made some adjustments and our mental focus switched, then we felt we could play with them." The adjustments helped as Aquinas pro-

coed to go on a 14 to 2 run which cut the Grand Valley State's 22 point lead in half. Carrying this momentum into halftime, Aquinas trailed 38-25.

In the first six minutes of the second half, Aquinas dropped to 22 a point deficit as Grand Valley out-scored the Saints 18-8. The Saints would not give in, though, as the Lakers saw their lead diminish to 13 points at one point. In the end, Aquinas finished second in tournament by a final score of 76-62.

The Saints were led by junior Ronda Bolitho who scored 20 points and grabbed 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Junior Julie Murray also scored 13 points and grabbing 6 rebounds. Renee Bolitho added 10 points while Elizabeth Gena and Chris Koelansky scored 7 and 6 respectively.

The greatest athlete of the 20th century? Decide for yourself

With the time winding down before we say goodbye to another hundred years and enter into the unknown of the 21st century, people are desperately shuffling through the history books to find defining moments. Especially in the sporting world. One countdown in particular comes from the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network or ESPN. ESPN has been counting down the 50 greatest athletes of all time. For those who have not had chance to catch the countdown, ESPN runs a 30 minute documentary on each athlete's life including either pictures or video footage of the athlete in action as well as accounts from those who watched him/her perform.

How did they compile their list of greatest athletes? Well, from what I understand, a 48 member panel of distinguished journalists and observers were voted on the issue. I myself felt overlooked in the this process, but I suppose I not distinguished enough to have a say.

After the voters were compiled, the panel was told to vote for the best athletes, not necessarily the best athletes who had great impact on society, but the best athletes of the century. Keep this in mind. After 40 athletes have been named, only ten remain. The names of those final ten have been disclosed to the public and the rank of the athletes in the number nine spot, Jack Nicklaus, and ten spot, Babe Didrikson have been announced. But the order of athletes one through eight is the mystery that makes this century's closing countdown such an exciting one. The final eight in alphabetical order are Muhammed Ali, Jim Brown, Wayne Gretzky, Michael Jordan, Willie Mays, Jesse Owens, Babe Ruth and Jim Thorpe.

I myself would put these eight in the following order: 1) Michael Jordan, 2) Jim Brown 3) Wayne Gretzky, 4) Muhammed Ali, 5) Jesse Owens, 6) Willie Mays, 7) Jim Thorpe, 8) Babe Didrikson. Why? Jordan would have to be my first pick because, well, is there anyone that has made such an impact on the sports world on and off the court? I don't think so, but then again, I grew up watching Jordan play, whereas I can only read about everyone else in the top ten except for Gretzky and Nicklaus. With six NBA championships and five MVP awards, and not to mention his game-winning shot in the 1982 NCAA finals, no one has compiled numbers like this against competition so good. Jim Brown would probably hold every NFL rushing record if he had not walked away from the game as early as he did. Gretzky gets the three spot because he may be the single reason that hockey is what it is today. Since his arrival into the league in the '80s, the NHL has made giant leaps and bounds, including the addition of teams to the league located so far South that the only one encountered before hockey came was in cubes that kept drinks cold. If the voters were really just going on athletic ability then why was Bo Jackson not one of the top fifty? Or if Secretariat is one of the top 50 athletes then how could it not be number one? This horse ran 1 1/2 miles in 2:24, a world record that may never broken. If ESPN is really judging the century's greatest athletes by athletic ability alone, then they made a few mistakes. Babe Ruth, was played in a movie by John Goodman, he is in the top ten, need I say more? What do you think? To find out here is what we will do. Beginning today, Wednesday Dec. 8, there will be ballots outside of the Aquinas Times Office in lower Wege for you to vote for whom you believe is the best athlete of the 20th century. ESPN's top ten will be on the ballots as well as a few blank spots to add your own athletes where the experts have not included. Drop your ballot into the box outside of the office. When we return in January I will reveal the results of the poll and who you, the Aquinas Community picked as the century's greatest athlete.

A few notables that were not included in the top ten, or so I thought, were Will Chamberlin, Jackie Robinson, Magic Johnson, Jackie Joyner Kerson, Red Grange, Lou Gehrig and Carl Lewis just to give you a few examples. Or maybe a decathlete, or Bo Jackson.

So drop off your ballots in the Times Office this week to vote for the top ten athletes of the century in your mind.
AQ men's basketball falls to Calvin, finishes second in Old Kent Classic

by Joshua D. Cochran
Times Contributing Writer

All good things must end, but after Tim Wasilk scored 29 points and Courtney Norman pulled down seven rebounds, the Spartans breathed a sigh of relief, knowing that they had secured their spot on the second-place podium. The game against Calvin was a tense battle, but with a final score of 73-63, the Saints were denied a victory. The overall season layout was a testament to the team's hard work and dedication, securing them a spot as Runners-up in the Old Kent Classic.

Intramural Volleyball season proves to be exciting

by Jessi Cleveland
Times Features Editor

The Intramural Volleyball season kicked off with a bang, as teams from all over the university battled it out in the Van Andel Arena. With a mix of fun and friendly competition, the season was a victory for all involved. The Women's Basketball team, captained by Lindsi Barta, led the pack with a record of 6-2, followed closely by the Men's Basketball team, captained by Kyle Verlin, with a record of 5-3. The season was a testament to the skills and teamwork of the participants, who all contributed to making it a success.
The Shuvits are one of many local bands whose members live and play at Aquinas College.

Local bands are part of the culture of Aquinas campus.

Boys with Guitars

Students find entertainment, employment with Aquinas bands

by Jessi Cleveland

Several nights a week, they spend grueling hours at practice, knowing that practice makes perfect, and only the perfect can make it big anywhere. With contorted faces and sweat dripping from their foreheads, they push on. This could be the time, they tell themselves...the big time.

Unlike student athletes, however, this unique group, college music majors, has a little different type of challenge. They come in with talent but little, if any, scholarship money to show for it. And, as they'll be eager to tell you, getting a gig is a little harder than reserving the fieldhouse.

Unlike student athletes, however, this unique group, college music majors, has a little different type of challenge. They come in with talent but little, if any, scholarship money to show for it. And, as they'll be eager to tell you, getting a gig is a little harder than reserving the fieldhouse.

This year, more than ever, it seems, college bands are coming out of the woodwork at Aquinas and finding their way to the threshold of hearing, exposing their sound through WAQU, talent shows, the Moose Café, local shows and, lastly, the basement of St. Joseph Hall.

Rob Rice and Jacob Caleca, lead vocalists/guitarists and percussionists for The 13th Element, experienced the band atmosphere in their hometown of Grand Blanc, and have felt both the excitement and frustration of starting over. Their gigs in the area have included the Aquinas Talent Show, the Moose Café, Lugo's Café in Grandville, the Intersection and the Lexicon Club. The band, which also features freshman bassist Tony Caruso, plans to play a free show in the St. Joe Lounge early next semester.

"We understand if they [the students] don't want to pay $5 to see us because they haven't even had the chance to hear our sound, so now we're going to bring the music to them," said Rice, a freshman.

At one of band's gigs, the JAMMIN Fashion Show, Caleca was presented with the challenge of a new instrument: the conga drums.

"My drums were at the Intersection, so I had to improvise with congas. I felt that since this was my first time with the instrument, I was really able to demonstrate my versatility as a musician," Caleca said.

Another band, The Shuvits, experienced a similar hurdle, but on a much greater scale.

Sophomore Eric Essick explained, "I came to college knowing how to play guitar and I met John [Young] in my Biology class last year. He played guitar too, so I decided to teach myself to play drums. We got together with his friend from work [Jason Palmer], who then taught himself to play bass. It was kind of crazy, because when we started out, John was the only one who really knew how to play his instrument."

The Shuvits have gained publicity by wearing homemade t-shirts and decorating the campus with stickers reading "The Shuvits: What You Crave." Essick hopes that the use of promotional devices, as well as adding a different twist to their performances will attract a crowd, though he admits his band isn't for everyone.

"Sometimes we have Brendan Earl dance onstage wearing a big Ronald McDonald head. We feel that gimmicks might make up for our lack of talent...no, really, right now we are trying to have a sound that is unlike any other here at Aquinas. We like to bring our style of music to the brink of good taste. People will either love us or beat us up. If you like punk rock, The Shuvits is what you'll crave. Most of our songs are really just us whining about how girls are so unattractive to us," Essick said.

While The Shuvits have a hard sound, the band Contemplating Jane sticks to something a little more mellow and mainstream, though vocalist/guitarist Andy Hollander admits that his style, too, is far from mainstream.

"I've studied a lot of local bands such as The Verge Pipe, Domestic Problems, 19 Wheels and Papa Vegas; and I've had the chance to hang out with the guys and experience their sound. I also draw a lot from classic rock groups such as [Led Zeppelin and Black Crowes. I have eclectic taste and I'm constantly writing stuff for us to try out," Hollander said.

Hollander and his percussionist Christian Van Antwerp started Contemplating Jane after playing together in Ponch, a band many on campus remember from last year. In need of a bassist, they found Caruso, whom Hollander describes as "an awesome addition," and soon the band will be growing with the return of their former bassist.

"We'll be coming in to play rhythm guitar, which will allow me to drop off of guitar a little and become the front man for the band. We're hoping for a bigger sound once he comes back. This spring I'll be graduating, and I think I might take some time off so we can get things going on our music. Hopefully, we can cut a CD with River City Studios," Hollander said.

In the meantime, Contemplating Jane, a band that has performed various times at the Intersection, will be helping to lessen last-minute semester stress by putting on a free show Friday, Dec. 10 at 9 p.m. in Knape Hall.

"I think they make a contribution to entertainment, but it is not significant unless their music is widely distributed and accepted. I have seen several local bands, but the only ones people talk about are the ones who have "make it," such as Domestic Problems and The Verge Pipe."

"I think they definitely contribute to entertainment at both on and off campus events. In my short-lived career [with the 13th Element] I had a great time participating in events such as the school talent show."

"I don't really know that much about local bands, but I do think they make significant contributions to entertainment. Everyone has to start somewhere!"

"College bands rock! As a matter of fact, I'm looking for one to play at my party next Friday in my room!"

"I think college bands have great impact and can make contributions - just look at Domestic Problems."

"My experience with local bands is extensive. I have been the manager for the band Ponch last year and have been asked to help with the booking of Contemplating Jane. I think local bands are good for school spirit and for Grand Rapids."

-Justin Oettle, senior

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