Community Senate elections take place tomorrow

by Eric Vander Ley
Times Photo Co-Editor

Senate elections will be held tomorrow in the Academic Building and Wege Center. The voting will begin in the Academic Building from 10-11:30 a.m. The polling station will be transferred to Wege Center between 11:30-1:30. After the lunch hour, it will then return to the Academic Building. The polls will close at 5 p.m.

Running uncontested for the position of Vice-Chair is Josh Greenwald, who is currently serving as the Senate’s Budget Director.

Another uncontested seat is that of Secretary. Jessi Cleveland, who served as Senate’s Political Affairs Committee chairperson, is seeking this position.

The only contested elected seat on the Senate Executive Board is that of Chairperson.

Monique Claire Nadon and Jen Brown are running for the Chairperson position. Both have committed to run a “clean campaign” for this seat, in accordance with Senate guidelines on this matter.

Nadon and Brown, who will be juniors next year, joined Senate as freshmen. Brown is currently serving as the Promotion Committee’s chairperson. Nadon chose to serve as a Resident Assistant in Regina Hall this year, which prevents her from taking a role in the Senate cabinet per Residence Life policy.

The first challenge of these candidates’ character came last week at the faculty debate. The faculty panel included Director of Multicultural Services Stella Ferris, Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr. Michael Cushion, Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Roger Durham and Professor In-the-College Nannette Clatterbuck. The candidates fielded questions from these faculty members before an audience of about 20 students.

Questions of diversity, school pride and why more students were not present were issues highlighted in the debate.

Ferris questioned the candidates about how they will promote diversity within the Senate body. Brown responded, “Everyone’s opinion needs to be represented.”

The Candidates

Monique Nadon Jen Brown Jessi Cleveland Josh Greenwald

Aquinas to offer Nursing Program

by Angela Burrows
Times Contributing Writer

In response to a nursing shortage predicted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor for the next ten years, Aquinas will begin a cooperative nursing program with the University of Detroit Mercy and Saint Mary’s Mercy Medical Center, Grand Rapids next fall. The program is expected to begin in Fall 2000 with 20 participants, and then increase to its full capacity of 32 students by the following year. The program will offer students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, with a focus in community nursing, from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Since the University of Detroit Mercy will be the degree granting institution, students will pay University tuition and receive University financial aid. Still, students will have access to Aquinas resources including the option of electing to reside in Aquinas residence life facilities. Both institutions will split the proceeds of this cooperative endeavor.

The admissions department currently has more than 20 applications for the program and has not received any students yet. The program must have 20 students committed to it in order for it to commence this fall.

“Aquinas will benefit from the influence of a new and diverse group of students as well as additional field of study option and additional revenue,” said Paula Meehan, Dean of Admissions.
Math Club receives national recognition

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

National recognition has been gained by one of the new clubs at Aquinas. The Aquinas Math Club's idea for a t-shirt design was published in the February issue of Math Horizons. The Mathematical Association of America publishes the magazine for undergraduate mathematics students. Professor Sue Kennedy of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota made the announcement on Dec. 10, 1999.

The club's advisor, Michael McDaniel, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, said, "It was an idea that the advisors noticed, and the students said it sounded good, so we sent it in, and we won." Joseph Spencer, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, also advises the Math Club. "The exposure in Math Horizons is a benefit to Aquinas," said Julia Mehr, President of the Math Club. "Being published in a national magazine is going to give Aquinas students more notoriety."

The t-shirts proclaim "Calculus Rules!" with various calculus rules such as the product, quotient, L'Hopital's and Simpson's rules. The American Mathematical Society and Mathematical Association of America sold shirts with the Math Club's design at their meeting in Washington, D.C. Soon, students will be wearing some around campus.

The Math Club includes Mehr, Kevin Belanger, Lisa Manders, Tony McCullough, Mike Syrek, Cathy Gross and Andrea Schaub. In their monthly meetings, they have discussed topics such as the topology of clothing, GRE tests and candy arrangements.

One of the Math Club's reasons for establishment was so members could apply for the National Mathematics Honor Society for undergraduates, Pi Mu Epsilon. To become a member of Pi Mu Epsilon, a student must have completed two years of college math with a B average in those classes, be in the top one third of their class, and must belong to a group that meets formally once a year, which has existed for more than a year. Sophomores must have an A average in math and have completed the calculus series. McDaniel also said that upon graduation, math majors belonging to the honor society would wear a cord symbolizing their achievement.

"The goal is also to have fun with math," McDaniel said. The program regarding the topology of clothing was called "You Can Leave Your Hat On" and did not require a background in mathematics.

"They're old time party tricks really," McDaniel said about tying a bow tie, turning a shirt inside out without taking it off, and changing a layer of clothing underneath another layer of clothing. The "tricks" could also be explained mathematically, such as drawing a shirt as a cylinder. Manders, secretary of the Math Club, plans to apply for the Honor Society. She said, "I feel it will be a great accomplishment for me to be in Pi Mu Epsilon." Manders is a junior math major, who plans to take actuarial tests. She said that since they have been formally recognized as a club this year, "We have tried to work in fun and also take care of several business items too." The focus of the club has changed from an informal arrangement of simply doing math problems with M&Ms and donuts, to keeping their official status as a club by fundraising.

"One meeting I found really helpful was when we went through problems on standardized tests, like the GRE and actuarial tests," Manders said. She likes the ability to learn about the many different careers in math. "Math has so many possibilities; it is in every career," she said.

The Community Senate recognized the Math Club as the outstanding club of the month for February. The Math Club's website address is www.aquinas.edu/mathematics/mathclub.html.

Biology major Stacey Valley, said "I know at least two people who left Aquinas to get a degree in nursing." She added, "Sometimes people come here undecided, decide that they would like to be in a nursing program ... and now they won't have to leave." Currently, there is a shortage of nurses, and area schools cannot meet the demand for nursing professionals.

According to Shirley Lewis, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, "The collaboration has a lot of potential for all three institutions, giving each the opportunity to expand its role in the community. Also, this is a service that Aquinas has considered for over 20 years."

The program focuses on community based nursing and provides students with a liberal arts education along side their nursing courses. "Nursing students will complete all liberal arts requirements with the exception of the language requirement," said Lewis.

However, nursing students will have the opportunity to pursue language courses as electives. Language Department Chairperson, Marjorie Prince added, "The language department will support nursing student interests by adding a medical terminology class in Spanish if sufficient student interest exists."

The language class opportunity is important, given that Saint Mary's Hospital operates Clínica Santa María, which serves the Hispanic community of Grand Rapids. There will be an informational session Feb. 23, from 7-9 p.m. at the Peter M. Wege Center for Health and Learning, 300 Lafayette.
Fr. Berrigan cancels visit to Aquinas

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Contributing Writer

Health reasons have once again forced Fr. Daniel Berrigan to cancel his plans to serve as a visiting professor at Aquinas College. In the next two weeks, Berrigan is scheduled to undergo an unexpected spinal surgery. The peace activist was scheduled to teach two classes during fourth quadmester at Aquinas, as well as give a number of lectures to the Grand Rapids community.

"It is a bitter pill to send this letter," Berrigan wrote in his letter to the Aquinas community. "I had hoped to delay the whole matter until after the semester in Grand Rapids, but the consensus is that a three month postponement would risk more injury."

While Berrigan will not be on campus this spring, his message of peace and justice will still be taught in the fourth quad courses EH266 and SR400. Three instructors were recruited to teach the courses that Berrigan was slotted for. Mary Alice Williams, an adjunct instructor, and George Heartwell, Director of the Aquinas Community Leadership Institute, will team-teach "Poets in Trouble Across the World in Our Century." Professor of Theology Dr. Robert Marko, who originally designed and taught the course "War and Peace: Ethical Choices," will teach this class in Berrigan's place.

Illness caused Berrigan to cancel his semester-long visit in the spring of 1996. Though he visited for a week in the fall of 1997, he was looking forward to a longer stay at Aquinas this spring.

Miriam Pederson, Associate Professor of English, helped coordinate this visit, as well as Berrigan's earlier visits. "I see him as such a light. If there's the possibility to bring him back, I'm willing to try again," she said.

Knapp men strut their stuff for charity

On Feb. 10, the men who live in East Area's Knape Hall held a service auction in the Wege cafeteria. Fourteen members of Project PLAY as well as Fr. Dan Davis were auctioned to Aquinas students to do two hours of service such as cleaning bathrooms and doing laundry. The Project PLAY members also made dinner for the buyers.

The auction raised approximately $840, which will be donated to the Camp Manitou-Lin Scholarship Fund. This fund helps provide inner city children with the money to attend YMCA summer camps. The auction was part of Project PLAY's mission help children at the YMCA through volunteerism.

ELECTIONS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When asked for a definition of school pride, the candidates displayed a diverse assortment of answers.

Nadon said, "Priorities are entirely personal."

Brown said, "I feel that pride is your passion...that deep down thing that keeps you here [at Aquinas]."

Responding to the question of why more students were not present at the faculty debate, Greenwald said, "I don't think that commuters feel a part of the group."

The voting commuter will play an important role in the student's election of the candidate for the Chairperson seat.

Cleveland stated, "I would like to work with the General Education and Career Development courses," answering Dr. Cushion's question of what facet of the College the candidates would like to see changed.

After the completion of the 45-minute debate, Durham said, "I think that this process is extremely important. Public discourse is crucial for positive change."

Clatterbuck said, "I was thrilled to be a part of this process...I learned a lot about our student body."

Elly Gusmano, the current Senate Secretary said, "It was great to see all of the candidates in one forum. We have some very qualified candidates. I hope to see everyone cast a vote next Thursday."

Sophomore Sarah Smith said, "You couldn't go wrong with who you vote for because they are all qualified."

Abortion advocates pit women against our children but lack of emotional and financial support are the real enemies.

FEMINISTS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA

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Local/National News

February 23, 2000

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Tuition Tax Cut before Congress

by Nick Occhipinti
Times Local/National Editor

Aquinas College costs about $18,000 a year if you live and eat on campus, and that figure will increase next year by five percent in accordance with changes made by the Aquinas Board of Trustees. For Masters students the price of an Aquinas education will increase by 3.7 percent. These increases are notably higher than recent years as the tuition increases during the past three years has been three percent or less. Such increases in education costs are similar to colleges and universities across the nation. According to the U.S. College Board, "While the average inflation adjusted tuition has more than doubled at both public and private four year institutions, median family income has risen just over 22 percent since 1981."

Many students must work extensive hours at a job while attending college. Freshman James Pyne works at Red Lobster in order to get by. "If I didn't work there is no way I could afford to go here," Pyne said. Students' stories like these are the reason that President Clinton put a plan before Congress Monday, Feb. 14 to try and help relieve some of the costs of a higher education. Clinton proposed the College Opportunity Tax Cut that is expected, when fully phased in, provide up to $2,800 in tax relief for students or their families. According to a Jan. 20 White House press release, "The President's proposal would give families the option of taking a tax deduction or claiming a 28 percent credit for tuition and fees to pay for college and other higher education. The proposal would cover up to $5,000 of educational expenses in 2001 and 2002 and rise to $10,000 of educational expenses from 2003 forward."

The plan is directed to middle and lower income families. According to the press release, "The College Opportunity Tax Cut would phase out for individuals with incomes between $50,000 and $60,000 and married filers with incomes between $100,000 and $120,000." Not everyone feels that the plan is perfect. Republican Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee, wonders if more federal aid might actually drive up college costs. "Some experts," he told CNN, "think that ... the more colleges and universities realize that these students are getting these increasing levels of assistance, that it causes them to raise their prices."

Also, to get the largest tax break possible families have to be paying an amount in taxes greater than or equal to the tax break. This means that some of the lowest income families may be missed by this bill (although there are already some measures in place financially assisting them).

Aquinas student Brian Shwank said, "College costs are way out of control. I hope they can find a way to make educating America cheaper because that is the most important job a country has."

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Middle East border disputes continue

by Megan Anton

Time's Contributing Writer

On Friday, Feb. 11, a meeting was held at a U.N. military base in Naqoura in Southern Lebanon with the purpose of resolving the border conflict, which recently erupted again between Hezbollah guerrillas and Israelis in Southern Lebanon. Officials from Israel, Lebanon, Syria, France and the United States attended. The meeting was called to assist the governments of Lebanon and Israel in keeping their civilians safe. This comes after over eight months of on and off conflict in Southern Lebanon. Both sides have accused the other of attacking civilians. The dead, over the past months include six Israeli soldiers, while at least 15 Lebanese civilians have been injured since the fighting returned to the area in January.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, the twelfth consecutive day of fighting, the Israelis launched air attacks. This resulted in two Hezbollah guerrilla soldiers being wounded. There was also an attack on Nabatiyeh's outskirst and reports indicated that there were no fatalities.

In retaliation, the guerrillas claimed to have attacked Israeli troops who occupy the area of Lebanese land that runs along the southern border of Israel. CNN reported in an article on Feb. 11, "Security sources said a member of the Israel-aided South Lebanon Army militia was wounded by a roadside bomb that exploded near the border with Israel." The current attacks are the bloodiest fighting the region has seen in several months.

The Hezbollah have utilized roadside bombs planted in trees and camouflageed to look like rocks. Use of such bombs has resulted in several Israeli deaths. Since the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1967, Israel has kept an arm station in southern Lebanon. The Hezbollah "is widely seen as having done to Israel what North Vietnamese forces did in Southeast Asia 30 years ago," according to Lee Hockstader of the Washington Post. It is believed that more than 500 full-time fighters make up the Hezbollah although there may be as many as 3,000 soldiers willing to fight on a part time basis. Hockstader also reports "the guerrillas have killed more that 250 Israeli soldiers in combat since 1983... plus another 300-odd Israeli troops for Israel's local proxy force in the area, the South Lebanon Army." It has also been said that the guerrillas are fighting a war with the goal of intimidating the Israel's. U.N. officials have been paroling the area and will continue to do so until the conflict is over.

Students question air travel safety

Alaskan Airlines Flight 261 crashed on Jan. 31, one day after Kenya Airlines Flight 431 also crashed. With spring break swiftly approaching, college students may be more hesitant to travel by air as a result of recent problems. The Alaskan Airlines accident happened over the Pacific Ocean. According to the Flight 261 Special Report website established by Alaskan Airlines, "About 20 miles north of Point Magu, California, Alaskan Airlines Flight 261 entered the water. The plane, carrying 88 people, was scheduled to fly from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico to San Francisco and then on to Seattle, where the company is headquartered.

Alaskan Airlines has honored the memory of all those who died in the accident by retiring the Flight 261.

Just one day before the Alaskan Airlines tragedy, Kenya Airways Flight 431 also had a devastating crash. Only ten of the 179 people on board survived the accident. The plane departed from Abidjan on board the accident. The plane departed from Abidjan and then landed in Lagos, Nigeria. However, shortly after take-off the plane plunged into the Atlantic Ocean.

The cause of this crash has not been determined, but the black box, which records flight data, has been sent to Canada to be decoded and translated. Kenyan airline officials wanted this to be done in a neutral place, free of any influence from countries and organizations.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), over the course of the past few years, has attempted to make air travel safer by laying out some distinct goals. The 1998 FAA Strategic Plan stated, "By 2007, reduce the U.S. aviation fatal accident rate per aircraft departure, as measured by a year moving average, by 80 percent from the year average for 1994-1996." The recent crashes have left some spring breakers a little wary about their own travel. Aquinas student Tony Caruso said, "I don't really want to fly anywhere this spring break. It seems kind of dangerous."

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PLONT/LOCAL/NATIONAL NEWS

MSU to require computers

In fall 2001 all incoming freshmen at Michigan State University will be required to bring a computer with them. MSU officials say the new requirement is part of a growing trend among American colleges and universities. "The move comes as more than 6000 incoming students at MSU each year. To accommodate some students, the university says students may be able to get financial assistance to buy a computer based on need. Students won't be required to bring a computer through the school, but the university will continue to negotiate discounts through the MSU computer store.

Union High School suspensions

Three students from Union High School have been suspended for pointing toy guns at one of the boys' girlfriends following the annual spring dance. Senior Ryan List, 18, said he and some friends bought toy guns with bright orange caps at the end of the barrel as props to their outfits for the school's "Sweetheart Swirl" dance Saturday, Feb. 12. After the dance some of the friends were driving past the school, saw his girlfriend and jokingly pointed one of the guns at her. The girl and her mom reported the incident to school officials thinking that the gun was real. The school later found out that the guns were toys. The boys have been suspended indefinitely pending a hearing to determine a possible expulsion.

Oil prices highest since Gulf War

Gas prices have reached the highest level since the Persian Gulf War in 1991. Many speculate that this recent increase in prices is due to OPEC (Oil Producing and Exporting Countries) producing less and less oil in order to drive prices up. A gallon of unleaded gas has reached $1.50 in many parts of the Michigan and the effect has been similar all over the country. President Clinton addressed the issue in a press conference Wednesday, Feb. 16. In it Clinton sought to relieve federal funds to assist those in the Northeast portion of the country, because many people there still rely on home heating oil, a source of heating no longer used in the rest of the country.

Cyanide spill hurts wildlife in Romania

In Aia Mare, Romania the government reported on the size of a cyanide spill that has destroyed rivers and wildlife throughout Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia. Romania's environment minister stated that this spill has killed millions of fish and caused the pollution of numerous rivers. The poison spread out of a container, a gold mine near northwest Romania on Jan. 30. Since then it has flowed into Hungary and Yugoslavia on the Sazov and Tisza rivers and back into Romania on the Danube. The Australia-based co-owner of the gold mine denies responsibility, though the European Union hinted that the company may be held liable for damages.

John Lennon funded IRA

A London newspaper reported Sunday that former Beatle and peace activist John Lennon funded the militant Irish Republican Army during the 1970s. According to British intelligence files Lennon gave money in support of the anti-British group through his affiliation with the Trotskyist Workers' Revolutionary Party (WRP). Lennon was known to support the Irish in their attempt to expel the British from the North, as he actively participated in anti-British marches and once held a sign proclaiming, "Victory for the IRA against British imperialism."
Unnecessary rights infringement or valid safety precaution?

Point

In this debate over Second Amendment rights, or about common sense in lawmaking? Although I would be happy to argue in the affirmative about the constitutional right to own a gun, this is more about common sense in lawmaking.

Mayor Logie pulled a fake gun at his state of the city address to emphasize his position to fight state legislation, which would ease the process of getting a concealed weapon permit. Logie also proposed new gun control laws aimed at law-abiding citizens, like me, that they all own, how can one and cannot own, it you no longer live in a free society. The truth is that the government already regulates what an individual can and cannot own. It’s not exactly possible to purchase an F-16 or a nuclear warhead. However, contributing to creating a safer society by placing tighter restrictions on guns and who can have them is feasible, and this is what Mayor John Logie is attempting to do by advocating stricter gun control measures for the city of Grand Rapids.

The proposed laws would require trigger locks on all new guns, as well as background checks on all gun purchases, including at gun shows. It includes a measure to outlaw “Saturday Night Specials” and a measure to raise the legal age to buy guns from 18 to 21. Also proposed was ban on the importation of ammunition clips that hold more than ten rounds and holding the gun owner responsible if a child gains access to and uses their gun.

This measure is following suit of larger cities such as New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, who have attempted to make guns tougher to access for kids and safer for all of those who use them. It’s a trend that has resulted from frightening incidents in America’s schools as well as street violence that has gripped major metropolitan areas.

Do these proposals infringe on one's right to own a gun? No, not by any means. A person can still own an instrument designed to kill, if they desire.

Counterpoint

Let’s get one thing straight. Criminals are responsible for gun violence, and the law is responsible for prosecuting them for it. The lawmakers are out of the picture. They have already written thousands of gun laws; now it’s time to enforce them. Writing more laws aimed at people with legal guns defeats the purpose of preventing crime.

For instance, Logie’s idea to have mandatory trigger locks is already outdated. The vast majority of new guns already come with trigger locks, and anyone responsible enough to have a gun is the most likely to have them. One proposed law would punish a person who “used” a gun without trigger locks. “Used” the gun for what? If it were for a crime, the criminal better be prosecuted for more than just failure to use trigger locks. If it were self-defense, it doesn’t make sense to punish the victim. Also, background checks are already done and required at gun shows. How much sense does it make to write a law about not buying from an “unlicensed” gun dealer?

It is extremely unlikely that guns and other weapons will be outlawed completely in our society. Supporters of the National Rifle Association (NRA) are likely to prevent this from ever occurring. However, contributing to creating a safer society by placing tighter restrictions on guns and who can have them is feasible, and this is what Mayor John Logie is attempting to do by advocating stricter gun control measures for the city of Grand Rapids.

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Who wants to marry for money and publicity?

I now feel justified in saying that "There's nothing good on TV." To be honest I don't watch a lot of television. I really just don't find very many programs worthwhile, but as far as I can tell, FOX's recent "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?" brought television entertainment as well as American society's value of marriage to a new, all-time low. I confess that my roommates and I watched about half of it. I think that I was hoping to detect some detail that would convince me that it wasn't real - that despite the hype it was really just a dramatization or maybe that the contest was rigged and that the contestants and their prize already knew one another. If you somehow missed the flagrant display of materialism and vanity, let me recap it for you. Forty women from around the world competed to marry a multimillionaire - anyone who applied to sit in Rockwell's spot on the show. The competition between the contestants was supposed to make it successful. The couple did agree to spend the rest of their marriage with Rockwell's real-estate investor and motivation to that commitment will be. Out of lack of knowledge, they had no presentation that the parents had was one individual on the charter school board who agreed with the move. Although other parents sympathize with the CDC's need for more space, they feel that as the people who have a car, I know that I personally won't work in the field if they move off-campus. It is not worth driving to an off-campus job that doesn't even pay minimum wage.

Charity Schaef er, CDC student worker

"I think that moving it off campus is a good idea. It would free up a lot of much-needed space."

Mike Goodrich, Computer Systems Administrator

"Doesn't that (moving CDC off campus) make it less convenient for the students who work there? Typical Aquinas, they have a plan, but none of the details are filled in."

-Jim Bromley, Senior

"I like the idea of expanding it and making it bigger. I don't like the idea of moving it off campus. It makes it a lot more difficult for parents and students."

-Autumn Haskin, Senior

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E-mail at times_editor@aquinas.edu

What do you think about moving Aquinas’ Child Development Center off campus?

"The campus has been a great place for the CDC. We will miss being here but we are looking forward to new opportunities that will be presented to us."

Susan Gerrity, Director of CDC

February 23, 2000

And you can quote me on that...

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Susan Gerrity, Director of CDC

"To expand the CDC needs a better location with more room. At the same time, they’ll be losing a lot of student workers. A lot of the staff consists of students who don’t have a car. I know that I personally won’t work there in the fall if they move off-campus because it’s not worth driving to an off-campus job that doesn’t even pay minimum wage."

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"The campus has been a great place for the CDC. We will miss being here but we are looking forward to new opportunities that will be presented to us."
Marty Putz brings comic relief to the Aquinas community

by Elizabeth Wagenschutz
Times Contributing Writer

Trying to describe the show that took place in the Wege Ballroom on Thursday, February 10 is difficult. Most people said it was hilarious, strange and disgusting, or they simply asked "What was that?". What, or more precisely who, was Marty Putz and his very physical, off-the-wall comedy to explain it: you put a marshmallow into your mouth and say "chubby bunny." Then you place another marshmallow in and again say "chubby bunny." You’re not allowed to swallow the marshmallows. The point is to put as many marshmallows in your mouth as you can and still be able to say "chubby bunny." Putz was able to fit 11 large marshmallows in his mouth and say "chubby bunny"—it didn’t matter that he was drooling white goo all over his chin and suit, he still fit all 11 in. The show demonstrated that the average student can only fit around five marshmallows in his mouth and say "chubby bunny." Putz was forced to bring out his "marshmallow guns." Even after Putz left the stage the fight continued—though the students, however, didn’t applaud one another and just hold on to it. The students, however, didn’t break to give him a standing ovation. During the course of the performance, Imani dazzled the crowd by singing hits from such artists as Erzka Badu, Lauren Hill and George Clinton. The crowd really got in the spirit of things when Abe Zealer, a visiting sibling, was pulled on stage as the focus of a dramaticized fight during the ladies’ performance of Monica and Brandy’s "The Boy is Mine." The style of Imani helped to draw the crowd as they women paired their dress and faith to their music. Putz brought out such long-forgotten toys as She-ra and Strawberry Shortcake. Putz couldn’t resist asking the audience who would win if the two fought. Mr. Potato Head and Barbie were also brought out of the toy bin. After a couple of other sketches Putz asked how many of the audience did break to give him a standing ovation. "An audience can never compliment one another and move the audience. The women all feel that God is their main audience and are doing their best to please him. The group consists of Dawn Blandford, Tanya Evans and Terri Davis. Blandford and Evans started Imani nine years ago and this past December picked up Davis as the newest member. Together, the three women’s voices both compliment one another and move the audience. The women, all natives of Philadelphia, are currently doing a cross-country college tour. Imani has achieved such accomplishments as opening for Boys II Men and TLC. One of their favorite experiences was being the seven-time returning champions on the competitive television show Star Search. "We feel we have been blessed by God and we show our faith by ministering about Him through our music," said Blandford. The ladies are currently working on a CD, which is due out in the near future.
Ladies Introducing Gentlemen

Vertical Horizon
Everything You Want

by Katy Moore
Times Arts & Entertainment Editor

Who they are: Matt Scannell - vocals, guitar, keyboards; Keith Kane - backing vocals, guitar; Sean Hurley - bass; Ed Toth - drums, percussion.

Where they're from: Boston, MA

How you know them (current singles): "We Are," "Everything You Want"

Lyrics worth repeating: "I need to know if you were real, cause I've been known to get it wrong. When the memory comes, I'll say 'I'm always in the dark,'" from the song "Give You Back." My thoughts on "Everything You Want": Pop quiz - Who's the lead singer of Matchbox 20? Third Eye Blind? No Doubt? Bush? Chances are if you're even a small fan of "modern rock" music, you could answer those questions correctly. So here's one more request: Name even one of the remaining members of these bands. Stumped? Big surprise. I can't do it either. Record companies don't want us to. Why? The record companies market the lead singers of bands as sex objects. And if we think that the lead singer is incredible-looking, regardless of what we think or know of the rest of the group, we will buy their CDs, watch and attend their concerts. Sex and hormones sell - especially in the music industry. Hence why any band being marketed as a band, and not as a lead-singer-with-some-background-people, is rare and wonderful thing.

Meet Vertical Horizon - a band. They've managed to keep their image as a unit in tact while creating songs that contain real meaning. These songs don't really need a video because your mind creates its own as you listen. "Everything You Want" contains powerful, emotion-invoking songs. "Here in the light it burns you up inside. Here in the shell of the sun we echo on," sings Scannell, almost painfully, in the song "You Say." "In Finding Me," the vocals grow seemingly more personal: "I don't think you notice when I can't reach out. I guess you're waiting on somebody else again. So much for talking, it's all been said before. I'm hearing something, but I wish you'd just say more." The sound is a little more rock, a little pop, and mixed with raw emotion. The result is a diverse collection of music that should never stray far from your CD player.

Part of the push behind marketing Vertical Horizon as a band is that its lead singer doesn't have the model-good-looks of, say, Gavin Rossdale (of Bush). The other part is that Vertical Horizon has done things their way. "Everything You Want" is the band's fourth release, though the first off a major record label. Prior to signing, Vertical Horizon sold over 70,000 copies of their three independent discs. They developed a successful career out of touring with really good music. The band didn't want to mess with a formula that was obviously working. They had established a firm fan base, especially in the East Coast. However, who sells music regionally doesn't always work nationally, and Vertical Horizon has found that out the hard way.

In the summer of 1999, the band released their first single, "We Are," and went ... nowhere. Even the push of local radio wasn't enough to endear people to the song. However, within the past couple of months Vertical Horizon has seen its popularity soar. "Everything You Want" was released as a single and the video was placed in heavy rotation, thanks in part to VH1 making the group an "Inside Track" artist. The single, "Everything You Want," currently sits at number eleven on Billboard's Modern Rock Tracks. This is the CD you never knew was missing from your collection. Vertical Horizon's classic blend of bass, guitar, percussion and genuine songwriting is undeniable and their obvious energy is contagious.

Visit them at: www.verticalhorizon.com
Fieldhouse renovations taking shape

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

A cardiovascular area, strength and conditioning area, and new classrooms with a 100 student capacity are causing excitement around the Aquinas Athletic Department this week. After a meeting with A.M.D.G. Architects, Incorporated on Feb. 17, the renovation of Aquinas' fieldhouse is one step closer to becoming a reality.

The renovations will include several areas of interest for coaches, athletes and students. Renovations will begin in the entrance of the fieldhouse with a ticket booth, concession stands and a hall of fame area to meet guests upon entering the building.

In the existing gymnasium, the renovations will focus on the seating, locker rooms and a press-box area. After renovations, a seating goal of 2,500 people (expanded from the current 1,800) with retractable bleachers on three sides of the court is the projected change.

Also, in the plans for renovations are four locker rooms. Two of the current locker rooms will be renovated, and two new multipurpose locker rooms will be added. A press-box, including a hospitality suite and video broadcasting capabilities, is included in the plans.

A multipurpose center including a fitness center, a multipurpose activity center and classrooms will be added. In the fitness center, a cardiovascular area, a strength and conditioning area will provide free weights and machines for up to 20 stations. The fitness center will also include a multipurpose room for aerobics, dance and testing room with mirrors and a sound system.

The multipurpose area will include a six lane track with space inside for tennis, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, soccer and drop down batting cages for baseball and softball.

One classroom to be added will be capable of holding 100 students with a moveable partition to split the classroom into two. A second classroom will be capable of housing up to 50-60 students with video conferencing capabilities. The last classroom will be the health science laboratory and will be for both lab work capable of holding up to 30 students.

A student lounge will be included in the addition allowing students with a potential view overlooking the fitness center outside. Between the existing classrooms the addition will be office space for faculty and coaches.

Aquinas is awaiting the completion of plans for Circle Theatre before the college will move forward with plans for the fieldhouse.

"As for a timeline, I have no answer," Aquinas Athletic Director Terry Bocian said. "They are finalizing the theater right now. We will be able to have them done before we move forward with this."

The addition to the fieldhouse will be on the west side of the existing building where the softball field is located. Aquinas is set to meet with representative from A.M.D.G. Architects again this week to continue work on plans for the fieldhouse renovations.

Dance Team entertains at basketball games

Every year at Aquinas College fans of Saints basketball are treated to the graceful moves and superb choreography of the Aquinas College Dance Team. The 1999-2000 season was no different. The dance team entertained fans all season showing half-time crowds the results that they produced from long hours of practice and rehearsal. The team completed their last routine at the Women's home finale against Tri-State University on Saturday. Following their routine, the group posed together for one last team photo.

Members of the team include: Front Row (Left to Right), Ebony Smith, Schianti Dixon, Vicki Hargenrad, Monique Nadon, Second Row: Shen Zima, Erika Kornow, Katherine Trocki, Emily Downer, Back Row: Amy Ashmore, Aubrey Marunowski, Elizabeth Bamiro, and Amber Crain. Not Pictured: Coach Nicole McCullough and Meghan Cupka.

Let all Aquinas athletic teams share in our rich atmosphere

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

There is something about a small campus like Aquinas College that adds a mysterious atmosphere to every day.

The atmosphere has been alive and well around campus, especially in the last couple of months. For example, a couple a weeks ago Aquinas played host to a great right in a battle for first place in the Wol­verine Houser Athletic Conference. The fieldhouse was full, including a section near courtside packed with "Aquinas Crowdies" (Aquinas College student section).

It was at the game that excitement could be felt with each play. A couple of times the excitement grew to its peak, bringing the fans to their feet. On more than one occasion this excitement was generated by Courtney Norman who is one of the most exciting players in NAIA women's indoor track.

Each time Norman gets the ball I am on the edge of my seat waiting for some unbelievable play to develop.

When Andy Steketee came off the bench to score 11 points, it felt as if everyone in that gymnasium was pull­ing for him. If this is not enough excitement for you, take the last-second shot by Sienna Heights.

That ball hung on the rim for what seemed like an eternity, but I think the atmosphere was too thick, keeping the ball from going in. It is not just the men's basketball team that has this atmosphere surrounding each game. The men's and women's soccer team, for example, had some similar games — games that have sent large crowds home delighted with a last second goal or an overtime shoot-out win. These are the wins that coaches hate and fans love.

Success has also been another reason for excitement. Looking at the men's and women's indoor track results is amazing. The women's track team has broken over half of the school records in this season alone. And to top it off both teams have blown away the competition in the WHAC this winter and are headed to NAIA championship this weekend.

Yet, there is something missing from the track team's success this season. The atmosphere that surrounds home basketball and soccer games just does not surround the indoor track team. Why? Probably because the closest the track team comes to running at home is Grand Valley State University.

Hopefully after the renovations of the fieldhouse, the track teams may be able to host some home meets. Maybe then the atmosphere can surround the track teams as well.

The new fieldhouse should solve some of the problems surrounding the athletic teams around campus and will improve the atmosphere of those that already play here on campus. For instance, maybe the volleyball team will be able to walk up to the game and watch the volleyball team in action, creating much needed interest around some of the less watched teams on campus.

Will fieldhouse renovations solve problems for everyone? Not necessarily. There is one team that I admittedly have never seen play. There is another team that will lose their home to the fieldhouse addition. The men's baseball team, possibly the one sport we have a dominating tradition in, and women's softball will lose their field to a fieldhouse addition.

The softball team is a very fun team to watch in action, especially when all the fans at the game can simply walk up to the field. The men's team on the other hand always plays across town on the west side of Grand Rapids. I admit, I have never seen the men's basketball game. It is not because I do not like to watch basketball. I love watching a good baseball game, and from what I have heard and read, we have a coach here in the baseball hall of fame who has over 1,000 wins at Aquinas College.

While we are renovating the fieldhouse — renovations and additions that are much deserved and needed — maybe we should think about the two teams who deserve a home here on campus. Why not build a couple of nice fields for the baseball and softball teams? It doesn't have to be another Old Kent Park, but I think the baseball and softball teams do deserve a nice field with plenty of seating. Baseball and softball are excellent ways for students to catch another Aquinas game that will create the same atmosphere that we are treated to the first two months of the year. Only at this facility, the "Aquinas Crowdies" will be brought to their feet by home runs not dunks and last second goals.
Track teams dominate WHAC Championships

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

All season long Aquinas' mens' and womens' indoor track team have been running away from the competition. The Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference Championships on Feb. 11 was no different.

Aquinas' women's track team, who has been breaking school records all season, saw a few more records fall. Leading the way for Aquinas was freshman Jeneita Merritt who placed first in all four events she entered. Merritt won the 55 meter dash (7.61), the 55 meter hurdles (8.66), the long jump (17'06") and was a member of the first place 4X200 meter relay team (1:51.76).

Two others from the womens' team were repeat winners on the day. One was Cari Blind who won the 800 meter run (2:18.92), the 1500 meter run (4:42.12) and was a member of the first place 4X400 meter relay team (4:02.46). Blind's 1,500 meter performance was good enough for her to jump into a tie for first place in the 800 meter run (2:07.23) and was a member of the first place 4X400 meter relay team (3:39.88) as well.

The other end of the floor. Six minutes into the contest Cornerstone led the Saints 14-5. Aquinas battled back, though, and took the lead for the first time with three minutes to go in the first half, 26-24. At half-time, the Saints still found themselves on top, building themselves a five point lead, 33-28.

Aquinas Coach Linda Nash spoke of the importance the Saints' defense played in this turnaround after the game. "As the game went on we made some poor choices," Nash said. "We made some adjustments, and then we got into to the flow of the game with our offense. It is our defensive pressure that makes our offense go." The second half saw Aquinas fueled by their first half momentum as they extended their lead to eight points only 2:45 into the second half, 40-32. Aquinas did not relinquish the lead again, keeping the Golden Eagles down ten or more points for the remainder of the game. When the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard saw Aquinas with a 17 point victory and a share of first place with Cornerstone after a 78-61 win on the road.

Leading the way for Aquinas was junior guard Rondia Bolitho. Bolitho scored 24 points on the day including a 2-2 shooting performance from behind the arc and 10-10 from the charity stripe. Renee Bolitho and Ella Giesa also had shooting days scoring 14 points and 12 points respectively.

Senior Nicole Mielke also turned in yet another outstanding performance scoring 15 points, grabbing 12 rebounds and dishing out four assists. More important may have been Mielke's defense on Cornerstone's sophomore center Julie Vogelzang. Also a factor on Vogelzang and the boards for Aquinas, was junior Mary Bond who guarded Cornerstone's 6'1" center while grabbing a team high 13 rebounds on the day.

The Saints wrapped up their regular season with a loss to Concordia and a win over Tri-State. AQ finished 2nd in the WHAC.

Post-season WHAC awards roll in for Saints basketball

by Damon Bouwkamp
Times Contributing Writer

Post-season accolades are rolling in for the Aquinas Saints' basketball team. But the most important one slipped through the Saints' clutches last Saturday.

The Saints finished the regular season with a 10-4 WHAC record and found themselves in a three-way tie for first place in the league after losing to Tri-State 79-78 in overtime last Saturday. Now, the Saints find themselves as the third seed heading into the WHAC post-season tournament, which starts tonight as the Saints host the Walters of Indiana Tech at 7:30 p.m.

The Saints entered last week needing to sweep their two games to take sole possession of the championship. Last Wednesday, the Saints defeated Madonna 86-54 moving one game ahead of both Siena Heights and Tri-State at Siena Heights beat Tri-State. The Saints headed for Tri-State with dreams of a championship. They found themselves ahead, 34-30, at halftime.

But, the Thunder clawed their way back and then sank a three-pointer at the buzzer to send this thriller to overtime. The Saints eventually lost 79-78. Three of the Saints received WHAC awards on the season. Courtney Norman, Ross Willick and Tim Wasilk were named All-WHAC. Norman was also named Co-Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. Wasilk and Willick were both named All-Academic. Wasilk was named the All-Defensive Team and was named Newcomer of the Year.

Women's Basketball Seeded Second in WHAC Tourney

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

Aquinas' womens' basketball team visited Cornerstone University on Feb. 12, with a seven game winning streak and a shot at a two-way tie for first place in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference. Despite going up against the Golden Eagles ranked 24th in the nation at the time, the Saints would not see their seven game losing streak come to a halt on this day.

Aquinas started the game off slow, suffering from several turnovers and in turn uncontested baskets for Cornerstone at the end of the floor. Six minutes into the contest Cornerstone led the Saints 14-5.

Aquinas battled back, though, and took the lead for the first time with three minutes to go in the first half, 26-24. At half-time, the Saints still found themselves on top, building themselves a five point lead, 33-28.

Aquinas Coach Linda Nash spoke of the importance the Saints' defense played in this turnaround after the game. "As the game went on we made some poor choices," Nash said. "We made some adjustments, and then we got into to the flow of the game with our offense. It is our defensive pressure that makes our offense go."
Community Senate elections take place tomorrow

by Eric Vander Ley
Times Photo Co-Editor

Senate elections will be held tomorrow in the Academic Building and Wege Center. The voting will begin in the Academic Building from 10-11:30 a.m. The polling station will be transferred to Wege Center between 11:30-1:30. After the lunch hour, it will then return to the Academic Building. The polls will close at 3 p.m.

Running uncontested for the position of Vice-Chair is Josh Greenwald, who is currently serving as the Senate's Budget Director. Another uncontested seat is that of Secretary. Jessi Cleveland, who served as Senate's Political Affairs Committee chairperson, is seeking this position.

The only contested elected seat on the Senate Executive Board is that of Chairperson. Monique Claire Nadon and Jen Brown are running for the Chairperson position. Both have committed to run a "clean campaign" for this seat, in accordance with Senate guidelines on this matter.

Nadon and Brown, who will be juniors next year, joined Senate as freshmen. Brown is currently serving as the Promotion Committee's chairperson. Nadon chose to serve as a Resident Assistant in Regina Hall this year, which prevents her from taking a role in the Senate cabinet per Residence Life policy.

The first challenge of these candidates' character came last week at the faculty debate. The faculty panel included Director of Multicultural Services Stella Ferris, Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr. Michael Cushion, Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Roger Durham and Professor In-the-College Nannette Clatterbuck. The candidates fielded questions from these faculty members before an audience of about 20 students.

Questions of diversity, school pride and why more students were not present were issues highlighted in the debate. Ferris questioned the candidates about how they will promote diversity within the Senate body. Brown responded, "Everyone's opinion needs to be represented."

Aquinas to offer Nursing Program

by Angela Burrows
Times Contributing Writer

In response to a nursing shortage predicted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor for the next ten years, Aquinas will begin a cooperative nursing program with the University of Detroit Mercy and Saint Mary's Mercy Medical Center, Grand Rapids next fall. The program is expected begin in Fall 2000 with 20 participants, and then increase to its full capacity of 32 students by the following year. The program will offer students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, with a focus in community nursing, from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Since the University of Detroit Mercy will be the degree granting institution, students will pay University tuition and receive University financial aid. Still, students will have access to Aquinas resources including the option of electing to reside in Aquinas residence life facilities. Both institutions will split the proceeds of this cooperative endeavor.

The admissions department currently has more than 20 applications for the program and has not admitted any students yet. The program must have 20 students commit to it in order for it to commence this fall.

"Aquinas will benefit from the influence of a new and diverse group of students as well as additional field of study option and additional revenue," said Paula Meehan, Dean of Admissions.

Proposed library budget cuts eliminated for next year

by Tonya Schafer
Times Contributing Writer

A series of proposed library budget cuts amounting to approximately $60,000 are no longer being planned for the 2000-2001 academic year.

"I met with the library staff and they communicated their needs to me," said Bill Shefferly, Vice President for Finance and Operations. "The college was able to provide the funds based upon those needs."

According to Woodhouse Library Director Larry Zysk, deductions in spending for electronic services, student labor and book and periodical purchases were part of an original budget submitted to the library by the business office. "The first budget was horrendous; there were incredibly big cuts," said Zysk.

Library staff expressed their concerns over the spending deductions to Shefferly in a Feb. 16 meeting, after which the budget was restored to a level they considered acceptable.

"The amount allotted for periodical purchases has been increased by about 11 percent, which will not allow us to purchase new periodicals, but will allow us to maintain the number we purchase now," said Zysk. "Spending on books will be increased by about six percent, student labor will remain at the same level and electronic services will be increased by about $5,000."

Shefferly states that several factors may have contributed to the budget discrepancy. "The college had authorized the spending of 1998 budget lines for the 2000 budget in an effort to reduce the deficit,"

Equality Bake Sale reflects wage discrepancy

On Thursday, Feb. 17 the Aquinas Women's Studies' Center and the Gender Studies Club sponsored an Equality Bake Sale. The sale had cookies, muffins and other baked goods available at two different prices. Women could purchase them at a price 25 percent lower than what a man was charged for the same item. For example, a brownie that cost 75 cents for a woman would cost $1 for a man. This was to make people aware of the reported discrepancy in wages between men and women in this country. According to a national data survey by Cornell University men make 25 percent more than women in the same professions with the same educational background.

The event was organized by Susan Haworth-Hoppen, Director of the Women's Studies Center and Associate Professor of Sociology. The sale raised $180 which will go toward the Women's Resource Center Scholarship Fund.

Knapp Service Auction

Clintom's Tuition Tax break
Recent plane crashes
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