Johnnie Tuitel kicks off disAbility Awareness Week

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

Laughter was the surface message of Johnnie Tuitel’s talk on April 2 to begin the annual Aquinas disAbility Awareness Week. Beneath his humor, Tuitel instilled a refreshing message of personal and Christian motivation.

Tuitel is the executive director of Alternatives in Motion, an organization that raises money for people without health insurance who need wheelchairs. Tuitel is also the author of the Gun Lake Adventures Series, a children’s series in which the main character is in a wheelchair. His talk was entitled, “Handicapitalism and the Power of the Spirit.” Project Open Heart sponsored Tuitel’s talk, with the Community Senate providing funding.

Karen Broekstra, Project Open Heart’s Advisor, said, “I am so impressed with the caliber of Aquinas students and their willingness to help out and make a difference.” She is surprised by how many new faces she sees helping out with disAbility awareness week every year. “That just makes it all worthwhile,” she said.

“Allowing me to enter your life for a little while,” Tuitel began. Tuitel was born three months premature, at just one pound and four ounces. Although doctors told his parents that he would be entirely dependent on them the rest of his life, Tuitel replied humorously that his Dutch immigrant parents kept him in ignorance about what the doctors told them.

“We are not interested by creation... to be normal,” he said. Tuitel’s mother was determined to get him to walk despite his cerebral palsy.

Tuitel shared his struggle—though he says struggle is overstated—through stories about growing up at East Grand Rapids High School and going to Hope College. “I have a personal sense of destiny that you wouldn’t believe,” he said, and urged the message, “Nothing done, that’s worthwhile, is done by yourself.”

Tuitel says he has learned to “do what you can to take the focus off yourself, and the rest will fall into place.”

Aquinas student Clement Chiwaya, who is the Vice-President of Project Open Heart, benefited from Alternatives in Motion. Chiwaya sincerely thanked Tuitel for all he has done for disabled people at the end of his speech.

“I love him,” senior Xavier Jaramillo said. “I’ve heard him speak various times. He has done for disabled people at the end of his speech.”

Resident Assistant Mark Pittman held a discussion period in the Moose Cafe after the presentation.

Circle Theater building proposal to go before Trustees in May

by Melissa Ann Pline
Times Contributing Writer

From atop a twelve-foot ladder, Dania Fiorito riggs up a special effect for the coming show. Between rehearsing lines, Fiorito and her fellow actors/stage-hands are transforming the Wegner Ballroom into a theater in preparation for their week-end performance of “The Glass Menagerie.” Such temporary transformations might not be necessary in a few years, though.

If the Aquinas College Board of Trustees gives the go-ahead at their May 23 meeting, the College could have a new theater as early as January 2002.

“I’m really excited about the possibility,” said Fiorito, Co-Chair of ACT (Aquinas College Thespians) the theater club on campus.

The proposed theater would be a collaborative effort between Circle Theater and Aquinas. It would allow Aquinas to revive its Theater Program that ended nearly 20 years ago, while providing Circle Theater with a new performance space.

“This is a great opportunity for both Aquinas and Circle Theater,” said Sharon Smith, Aquinas Director of Career and Counseling Services and former President of Circle Theater. “We have incredible visual arts talent here at Aquinas. This blend with Circle Theater will give students a unique opportunity to practice their craft.”

The proposed 400-seat theater would be built on the northwest corner of the Robinson Road Parking Lot. In addition, the Lake Michigan Academy building would be renovated for office space for Circle Theater professionals and Aquinas faculty, and the adjoining classroom building would be renovated for use as classrooms and rehearsal halls.

While parking spaces would be reduced on this corner, the lot would be extended to the east. If the Trustees approve the building proposal, groundbreaking would take place in August. In the meantime, the Theater Program would be scheduled to start in August 2001 and would offer majors in theater and communication studies.

Location named for Aquinas CDC

by Eric Vander Luy
Times Co-Photo Editor

Last Thursday, parents had a chance to visit the newly named site of the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center (GRCDC), Grand Rapids’ most recently chartered elementary school. The school, which is scheduled to open for the 2000-2001 school session, will find a home in St. Adalbert’s School, which will close at the conclusion of this school year.

The informational meeting gave parents an opportunity to discuss the concept with Mr. Cadwell, to go through the building and enhance it for the GRCDC and Child Development Center (CDC), said Susan Jasper Stein, the President of the charter’s school board. “I’m very excited that Aquinas has sought out this charter to continue the Reggio concept into early childhood.”

Mary Ellen Fritz, the facilities director for the GRCDC said, “This building should be great... the environment becomes a teaching tool.”

The Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education combines traditional academics with the Montessori method, while providing a variety of learning materials and natural light into the main corridor through minor renovation,” said Mary Ellen Fritz, Facilities Director for the school.

Jackie Bulman, a session attendee said, “I’m very interested in different approaches to early childhood education. I wanted to see how similar it (Reggio) was to Montessori.” Bulman currently has two children enrolled in a local Montessori program. Her interest in the Reggio Emilia approach and the GRCDC stems from cost factors, because private institutions are...
What’s it Fore? miniature golf fundraiser discontinued

by Angela Bergman
Times Campus News Editor

The annual “What’s it Fore?” tradition is over. “What’s it Fore?” was one of the college’s annual fundraisers, a miniature golf course held in the Aquinas College Fieldhouse during the spring. Student organizations, departments, faculty and staff created miniature golf holes with various themes and competed for awards for the best design. Then, community members and donors paid to play the miniature golf course.

According to Lisa Piatek, Manager of Special Events, Aquinas’ Vice President for Development Julie Ridinour and President Harry Knopke decided that the golf tournament did not have enough attendees and did not raise enough money. Piatek said that last year a majority of supporters were lost to Michigan State University being in the final four of the NCAA basketball tournament, Catholic Central sports and a trip by local country club.

Last year “What’s it Fore?” event raised $29,000 for the college. Piatek estimated that in 1998 the event raised approximately $19,000.

“I felt that it really bought the community together,” Piatek said. “I was disappointed that it was taken away.”

Yet several other responsibilities have demanded Piatek’s attention. “That money has to be made up for now, so we’re looking for other options to replace that,” she added.

Piatek explained that the two options being considered to replace the funds usually raised by “What’s it Fore?” are either replacing it with another fundraising event or dedicating more effort toward increasing attendance at the four existing fundraisers. According to Piatek, these four current fundraisers are Trees and Reeds, Restaurant Hop, the Trustee Award and the Reflection Award. There is also the possibility that the “What’s it Fore” event will be reinstated.

Piatek said that she is in favor of continuing the “What’s it Fore?” event. “I would like to see it come back next year,” said Piatek. However, the event would probably be held in a different venue, she said.

The college still intends to make use of the existing miniature golf holes, Piatek said. Currently City High School uses them, and there is the chance that they will be used as part of next year’s Homecoming festivities at Aquinas.

DISABILITIES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tuttle’s talk. “We discussed the disabilities we encounter every day and how it motivates us to overcome those,” Pittman said. “We all encounter obstacles every day, and we need to overcome those in order to achieve our goals. And I think Johnnie helped to put that in perspective for us.”

“Johnnie Tuttle is an amazing man and speaker who has overcome insurmountable feats to become the success he is today,” said sophomore Danielle Chiasholm.

Tuttle was only one of the several disabilities awareness Week events throughout the week of April 2. Information booths were set up on Tuesday, a wheelchair basketball Game was held between the Grand Rapids Pacers and the Aquinas College Community and the Wheel World Challenge benefited Rosemary Grace Johnson Walker Fund for Accessibility.

THEATER
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with an emphasis in theater for secondary education, and a dual major in theater and music. Aquinas already has a theater minor.

Dr. Gary Konow has been designated to organize the new programs. Konow was originally hired in 1967 to start a Theater Program at the College. Student actors performed in the Carriage House until fire marshalls condemned the building. After this, the program was dropped, and Konow took an administrative position. On May 15, he will step down from his current position as Provost to begin a year-long sabbatical.

During this time, Konow will plan for the new programs and will return as a professor in the Communication Department in August 2001.

To date, a quiet campaign has raised $3.4 million of the $6.4 million needed for the building and endowment of the performance complex. After the Board’s approval, the campaign will go public, with both organizations sharing the fund-raising efforts. Funds will also be solicited for the Theater Program.

White Circle Theater will lease the theater from Aquinas. Konow sees the relationship as collaboration. “Our students will add to their pool of talents and we will gain leadership from their pool of professionals,” he said. “We will work together, including putting on joint productions.”

Circle will have primary use of the facility during their main season from May to September. They currently perform their summer productions at the John Ball Park Zoo Pavilion. The collaboration will afford the group more room for a growing audience, as an opportunity to expand program offerings and a centralized location for their offices, storage and rehearsal spaces.

During the academic year, the facility will provide Aquinas with a professional presentation space, allowing students to both participate in and attend on-campus theater performances.

“The experience the students get from working with people who work in theater for a living will be wonderful,” said Fiorito. Though the theater won’t be a reality until after she graduates, Fiorito has recently obtained an internship with Circle Theater and hopes for the possibility that she will someday direct or produce on Aquinas’ new stage.
Aquinas hosts regional history conference

by Heather M. Karal
Times Editor-in-Chief

Last Saturday, April 8, the Aquinas chapter (Theta Rho) of Phi Alpha Theta, the national historical honors society for graduate and undergraduate students, hosted the Michigan regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference. Despite the inclement weather, students and faculty from six different colleges and universities attended the annual event to present or hear student papers about historical topics in nine different categories. This is the first time in more than 20 years that Aquinas College has hosted the conference.

Dr. Bill Graff, Aquinas' Phi Alpha Theta advisor and History Department Chair organized the conference along with Theta Rho officers Joshua Cochran and Jim Bromley. Several other Aquinas Phi Alpha Theta members served as presiders over presentation sessions.

Graff attributes the fact that Aquinas hosted the conference this year to Cochran and Bromley. "It was really the students who suggested that they wanted to do that. Josh Cochran and Jim Bromley were the driving force and did a lot of the work. It wouldn't have happened without them."

Out of 22 papers presented at the conference, one was written and presented by an Aquinas student. Amy Fowler presented a paper entitled "The Migration of Displaced Persons After World War II" in the category of Post-war World. Other students came from Adrian College, Alms College, Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Hillsdale College and University of Michigan-Flint.

Faculty from each of the schools represented served as judges to the presentations. Awards were presented to four undergraduates and one graduate student. Michelle Donnelly from Eastern Michigan, Kelly Battles and Michael Hashikawa from University of Michigan-Flint were presented with distinguished undergraduate paper awards. Andrew Devaney from Central Michigan was awarded a distinguished graduate paper award.

Richard Norton Smith, Director of the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library in downtown Grand Rapids addressed the conference as the keynote speaker.

Bromley, who introduced Smith at the conference, said he believed Smith was an appropriate speaker for the conference. "He was local and he is nationally known. He is a fascinating individual. He knows a lot about the profession and he is extremely intelligent, but also down to earth."

CDC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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China not likely to invade Taiwan

by Joseph S. Pete
Indiana Daily Student (Indiana U.)
04/03/2000

(U-WIRE) BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- For all of China's saber-rattling and militaristic posturing, an invasion of Taiwan is unlikely.

Since the October Revolution of 1949, China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province. It has never recognized the Republic of China as the legitimate government of all of China. Since 1962, when South Carolina had its centennial commemoration for the Civil War, it has flown the Confederate flag at the Statehouse -- the cause of a long, controversial struggle between history, race and politics.

This flag has been at the Statehouse since 1962, when South Carolina had its centennial commemoration for the Civil War. At that time it was said the flag would remain throughout the year and then be removed.

Pat Hash, programs officer at the South Carolina Historical Society, said the flag was not intended to stay up and had been forgotten about until it angered politicians. Hash said the Historical Society is not taking an official stance on the controversy.

The issue of whether to remove the flag or leave it has been discussed several times in the past 20 years, but until now, there were not enough adamant supporters of either side to really change the situation. This year, the Confederate flag became a topic discussed nationwide.

Several sports teams canceled appearances in the state this year because of their disagreement with the flag. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People staged economic and tourist boycotts of the state, and Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley organized a five-day march starting April 2 from Charleston to Columbia, supporting the flag's removal.

March 29, President Bill Clinton told the audience of a fundraising tribute to Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., that if the war was square, there would be a boundary between the two sides. Clyburn is head of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"As long as the waving symbol of one American's pride is the shameful symbol of another American's pain, we still have bridges to cross," he said.

Supporters of the flag said it should remain because it represents those who died in the Civil War and the state's history. "The flag continues to affect the culture and by having it up there, they're (South Carolinians) saying that this symbolizes a significant event," Hash said. "They want to honor the courage and value of those who fought and remember so that it doesn't happen again."

He said many people misuse the flag by considering it a symbol for racism. "We are determined to safeguard this land."

But Rongji said the principle must be accepted as a condition for diplomatic relations, maintaining intractable differences. China's army outnumbers Taiwan's six to one, it lacks an adequate transport fleet to mount an invasion force.

"There's no way at this moment that Beijing has the weapons in its arsenal in sufficient numbers to undertake and sustain a major, full-scale assault on Taiwan," Jonathan Pollack, a China expert at the Rand Corporation in California, told The New York Times.

A more likely scenario, the one that worries Washington military analysts, is a comprehensive missile campaign such as the one the United Nations has in Kosovo. With direct strikes in commerce-rite cities and shipping lanes, the aim would be to debilitate Taiwan's economic infrastructure and demoralize its people.

But in a globalized economy, it would be running a major risk. After the infamous crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators at Tiananmen Square in 1989, foreign investment dried up. And China's economy, which depends heavily on the export revenue and foreign investment, is ailing.

Any hostile action would almost certainly entail debilitating sanctions from the international community, the weight of which China would not be able to bear.

But the renewed threat of military aggression works tactically, strongly encouraging negotiation with the mainland.
Police arrest 40 for possession of pot at U. Michigan Hash Bash

by David Enders
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan) 04/03/2000

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- It appears that football games aren't the only thing that get students up early on the weekend. Although they were in the minority at Saturday's Hash Bash, some University of Michigan students rolled out of bed to properly prepare for one of Ann Arbor's most notorious festivities.

It's called "wake and bake," said one student as he loaded a water bong with marijuana. He then proceeded with friends to the main event on the Diag, which lasted from "high noon" until 1 p.m.

From high school students to flower child throwbacks, the 29th annual Hash Bash attracted a diverse crowd of between 4,000 to 5,000 people, mostly from out of town. University spokeswoman Diane Brown said the attendance was about half of what organizers expected.

Brown said that Department of Public Safety officers arrested 40 people for possession of marijuana during the day. But if arrests deterred most people from smoking weed in the Diag, it didn't stop them from lighting up before they arrived.

"I smoke everyday," said Ted, a 26-year-old computer technician from Kalamazoo, who asked that his last name not be used. He attended Hash Bash with friends to support the legalization of marijuana.

"I like the way it makes me feel. It relieves stress and helps me with my (Attention Deficit Disorder)."

Speakers at the event urged the crowd to sign a petition supporting the Personal Responsibility Amendment, which would make the use of marijuana in the home legal in Michigan.

Ted said he believes the PRA initiative has a chance of passing "if we can get enough stoners ... registered to vote."

Although DPS officers were often verbally abused by the crowd, there was little interaction between police and hash busters - except for the assault of an Ann Arbor Police Department officer later in the day as he sat in his patrol car on South University Avenue. The suspect was subdued by DPS officers.

Tensions also rose slightly when members of the crowd attempted to block access to the outlet providing power to the amplifier being used by speakers to address the crowd from the steps of Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.

The University only supplies an hour worth of electricity for the event, a consistent complaint of organizers.

The crowd in the Diag began to disperse after the power was cut, but revelers crowded the streets for hours afterward - some retiring to an outdoor party at Dominick's on Monroe Street, others milling the streets surrounding Central Campus, where vending stands were hawking various wares.

Supreme Court says FDA cannot regulate the use of tobacco

by Megan Anton
Times Contributing Writer

The tobacco industry has repeatedly captured headlines first with the ban on billboard advertisements and then with multi-million dollar lawsuits. But now the industry is in the headlines for a completely different reason. On Tuesday, March 21, the Supreme Court ruled that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not have the proper authority to regulate the use of tobacco, specifically through cigarettes.

The nine Justices returned a vote of 5-4 declaring that the FDA does not have the right to regulate tobacco as a drug.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas voted against allowing the FDA to regulate tobacco as a drug. An article written published in the Washington Post on March 22, 2000, quotes O'Connor as writing "By no means do we question the seriousness of the problem that the FDA has sought to address. The agency has aptly demonstrated that tobacco use, particularly among children and adolescents, poses perhaps the single most significant threat to public health in the United States."

The dangers to public health posed by tobacco smoke and use were considered prior to the declaration of the judgment. However, the Court was not asked to rule on whether tobacco products were harmful, rather, it had to rule as to whether or not tobacco should be regulated as a drug.

In fact, the court declared that if the FDA does have the authority to regulate cigarettes, one of the most common tobacco products, then they would have to ban cigarettes. This is because the FDA can only allow safe products on the market. The Washington Post also reports that over 400,000 Americans are killed by diseases caused by tobacco products every year and that almost 80 percent of these people began smoking when they were children.

This fuels the argument that Congress will have to act and ban tobacco sales to anyone under a specific age, the dangers to public health posed by tobacco smoke and use were considered prior to the declaration of the judgment. However, the Court was not asked to rule on whether tobacco products were harmful, rather, it had to rule as to whether or not tobacco should be regulated as a drug.

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Right now most of us are neck high in reading, papers and exams. Meanwhile, our extracurricular activities are demanding. We struggle to keep our nose above the sea of work, yet the “burnout” seems inevitable. The sentiment is that there’s no finding off the slow and painful immersion, so we might as well just give up and, as Al Capone would say, “suck it up.”

Wait a minute! Giving up is not the answer. You won’t drown. Burnout doesn’t just mysteriously happen - it can be avoided through careful thought and planning. Learning to avoid burnout should be the first priority. If a mistake takes result in many diamonds, it also comes right away. It may take several years, doing much of the same thing day after day. Thus, college is a factory that seems to possess a momentum to an irresistible sense of alienation can nearly impossible to harness it into something productive and meaningful. That is nearly impossible, as every day our life is confronted with questions and factors beyond our control.

For those of us who are experiencing burnout, life transforms itself into the plot of a Franz Kafka story where we are trapped in a world beyond our control. Our existence that graces the lines of an Emily Dickinson poem. Cultivating our garden is no longer appealing or even an option, as we are faced with many larger questions that need answers like “Does life intrinsically have meaning, or do we attempt to force meaning upon it?”

This existentialist struggle is what we are left to ponder and examine as we depart the ivy-covered walls of academia, to take jobs in the real world of middle management.

By Angela Bergman
Feature Editor • The Aquinas Times

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This existentialist struggle is what we are left to ponder and examine as we depart the ivy-covered walls of academia, to take jobs in the real world of middle management.
That’s it. It’s done. We’re finished now. Some year, huh? Quite a humdinger if you ask me. Aquinas has never been a school to rock the headlines but we did have a few banner stories of our own. How about a little nostalgia trip over the past nine months?

While most years here at Aquinas begin with the usual buzz of excitement mixed with a touch of anxiety, this year was jolted by grief from the sudden death of Ernie Romine on September 3. But despite such a tragic loss to the Aquinas community, students, staff and faculty were able to look on to see that their campus was quickly evolving and moving forward.

The 1999-2000 year brought with it lots of good things for us all. For the first time, students didn’t think of the Carriage House as “a big empty room where I can play ping pong upstairs” but as the Moose Cafe, thanks to a complete revamping over the summer. Now students, rising as early as 7:15, can get a good head start on their homework for their 8:00 a.m. class and get a nice jolt of caffeine with a little whipped cream on top. That’s it. It’s done. We’re finished now. Some year, huh? Quite a humdinger if you ask me. Aquinas has never been a school to rock the headlines but we did have a few banner stories of our own. How about a little nostalgia trip over the past nine months?

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A different kind of challenge for the seniors

As a senior I have received hundreds of reminders of things to do before graduation. Among the things that Aquinas wants to make sure I remember to do is to pledge money toward the senior challenge gift.

I have mixed feelings when it comes to this. On one hand, I am completely in favor of giving back to the community that fostered my academic and personal development for the past four years. I realize that private college, such as Aquinas, depend on the generosity of their alumni and benefactors, and I believe that the college is a worthwhile cause.

On the other hand, I’ve been here for four years and I have yet to see a senior challenge gift become a reality. Exactly how long does it take for the Aquinas community to see the benefits of the senior challenge money?

In the past three classes years we have chosen to give a bell for the AB, a scholarship for community leaders and an archway for the campus entrance. None of these has become a reality yet. More important, is there a rule stating that the seniors must give something decorative and impractical? Take for example, my class choice of gift: outdoor spaces. The class of 2000 is going to be remembered by park benches and flower gardens. I don’t have anything against flowers or benches, but after spending four years of our life at this school, couldn’t we have come up with something that we believe that the college really needs and would benefit from?

Giving to some larger project would be better. How about putting money toward the library that Aquinas will hopefully have one day? Why not create a fund like – or add to – the Sr. Rosemary Grace Johnson Walker fund to make the college more accessible to disabled people? I’d even settle for being a part of the new fieldhouse project. Anything that would have a real, practical value to the members of the Aquinas community in years to come would be better than a decoration more for the benefit of the alumni’s egos than the community to which they are supposed to be giving back.

“From a sports aspect it was the men’s soccer team and their 360 turn from last year to this year and their exciting conference clencher. The best new addition to campus in my opinion is the Moose Cafe and the services, items and functions it offers the AQ community.”

“...Alyshia Hayden, junior

“...Wishing you all a fantastic summer. Hopefully we won’t have people parking in the wrong spots and so many people getting tickets.”

“...Deanna Robins, senior

Besides renovation, we saw the addition of several structures on campus as many of our juniors and seniors were the very first to move into the brand-spanking new apartments (and also be the first to deal with a few irksome problems here and there). We also welcomed in the Jarecki center, stuffed with a bouquet of technological tools for all – even rooms with chairs like they have in Star Trek!

Of course, the academic year didn’t go without bumps and bruises along the way. The schedule change, originally devised to make student’s lives easier, did just the opposite for many students who now found their classes clumped together and most extra-curricular activity meetings crammed into just one day. What’s worse, as a result of the benefit finding itself in a financial conundrum, many classes were cut – oops, sorry, I mean “consolidated” – as a method of dealing with a hefty budget deficit over $2 million.

However, far more students than in past years were absent from the campus this year thanks to all of the new study abroad programs. Students who just didn’t feel like hanging around Grand Rapids this semester piled on planes heading anywhere from Ireland, Costa Rica, Peru or Spain.

Now here we are, with only a few weeks separating us from a blissful, worry-free summer. Well, except maybe for those seniors who are a few weeks away from engaging in the always easy-going job hunt. And those seniors who did the job-hunt-thing ahead of time and will be entering the “real world” after graduation. Or maybe you’re staying in GR for the summer and are looking forward to planning some summertime shenanigans in your rooms.

Whatever the case, hopefully this year found you in more good times than bad and this coming August finds you revved up for another, shall we say, whirlwind year at 1607 Robinson Road.

The staff has treated the variety of stories it encountered. It is fun and exciting to cover a big media event like the Jarecki open house, or the City Commission debate, but far more students than in past years were absent from the campus this year and their exciting conference clencher. The best new addition to campus in my opinion is the Moose Cafe and the services, items and functions it offers the AQ community. ”

“Amyra Lams, senior

“I’m looking forward to the new parking proposal that will be implemented next year. It’s a good idea to have assigned parking spots for residents so we won’t have people parking in the wrong spots and so many people getting tickets.”

“...Deanna Robins, senior

“The Times will be led next year by Joelle Kwiatkowski, whose student leadership abilities and layout talents promise great things for us. She will be supported by the veteran writer and editor Liz Dudek and this year’s layout assistant Sarah VanHall, who will both be designated as Assistant Editor. Liz for news coverage and Sarah for layout and design. I look forward to working with them and the rest of the staff, and to a year filled with only happy events.

April 12, 2000

Opinion

What was the most important event or new development at Aquinas this year?

“The new buildings like Jarecki and the apartments. They make the campus seem a little bigger, I think we should have more like them.”

- Chris Hekman, Sophomore

“The apartments were a great idea because it enables the upperclassmen to live on campus and stay in contact with the Aquinas College community.”

-Alyshia Hayden, Junior

“From a sports aspect it was the men’s soccer team and their 360 turn from last year to this year and their exciting conference clencher. The best new addition to campus in my opinion is the Moose Cafe and the services, items and functions it offers the AQ community.”

-Amyra Lams, Senior

“I’m looking forward to the new parking proposal that will be implemented next year. It’s a good idea to have assigned parking spots for residents so we won’t have people parking in the wrong spots and so many people getting tickets.”

-Deanna Robins, senior

The annual column from the newspaper advisor aims to reflect on the year’s journalistic accomplishments from the perspective of one responsible for observing, encouraging and supervising a team of student journalists as they do the news. While the results depend to some degree on their ability to report effectively on events, much of what they do is contingent on the events themselves. So a review of their work begins with a glance back on what has happened over the last two semesters at Aquinas.

It has been in many ways a difficult year. While students now have new study abroad opportunities, a facility with great potential in educational technology, and a beautifully cozy place to drink coffee and listen to music, they also face the consequences of a budget deficit that hinders academic, technological and physical improvements to the college, thwarts our aspirations to be innovators in education and obscures the vision of the college’s future.

For me, however, the most difficult obstacle to overcome was the death of Ernie Romine. In fact, I think the college has yet to recover from the shock. It was the lead story of our first issue of the year, and in many ways that event has dictated the tone on campus ever since.

At our last staff meeting I remembered that the room we meet in was until last summer Ernie’s office. This somber reflection, however, subsequently led me back to consider the Times and its coverage of the year’s events. What I’ve been most proud of is the professional manner with which the staff has treated the variety of stories it encountered. It is fun and exciting to cover a big media event like the Jarecki open house, or the City Commission debate, but just as important and a good bit more difficult to report on the budget deficit, let alone the death of a dedicated and popular teacher.

But this staff has never shied away from writing the hard stories and asking the hard questions. These student journalists know their responsibility to report the news and in dealing with controversial issues or events impacting the image of the college, they have demonstrated sound judgment.

This column has also become the tradition of placing tea leaving graduating editors and welcoming those charged with filling their shoes. It is particularly difficult this year to say goodbye to Heathen Kral, Heather Young and Angela Bergman, who have been with the paper since they were freshmen and have directed its course for the last two years. I can’t image the Times without you guys. We will also miss Josh Cochran and Mary Kopchik, who in addition to writing and editing responsibilities, made lessvisible but enormously valuable contributions as initial drafters of our Times View editorial.

The Times will be led next year by Joelle Kwiatkowski, whose student leadership abilities and layout talents promise great things for us. She will be supported by the veteran writer and editor Liz Dudek and this year’s layout assistant Sarah VanHall, who will both be designated as Assistant Editor. Liz for news coverage and Sarah for layout and design. I look forward to working with them and the rest of the staff, and to a year filled with only happy events.
So you're bored...
No Excuses.
On April 6, Jude, a Maverick recording artist, performed at Aquinas to a crowd of 150. The concert, unlike most Aquinas concerts, required tickets that could be purchased from Aquinas' Student Activities Office and TicketPlus, and the performance was sold out in advance. Two thirds of the tickets were actually sold to off-campus fans who traveled from Chicago,Ann Arbor and Mt. Pleasant to see the show.

There were over 20 students from Central Michigan University, most of whom came with Jude fan Matt Zucker. Zucker said he found out about the show online and was successful in buying 18 for himself and his friends. "His music is just really beautiful. I don't know, I can't explain it, it's really pretty. It's beautiful music. I've been really excited for the past week now," Zucker said.

Jude has his song "I Know" on the City of Angels soundtrack, and his songs "I'm Sorry Now" and "Rick James" are occasionally played on the radio.

Jude took the stage at 10:15 p.m. and played for an hour, singing many of his songs as well as a personal interpretation of John Cougar's "Jack and Diane." After he left the stage the audience insisted upon two encores.

Sophomore Heidi Stanley said "The show was astounding. He seemed like a very down-to-earth guy with an amazingly surreal voice. His unique style has gained him some extremely loyal fans, and I know he gained many more after his performance here."

Sophomore Kristen Kaniewski said, "I think Jude proves that we're not at a loss for singer-songwriters, proves that we're way out here," Irving said. "It's not like he's up there and we're way out here," Irving said. "It was spiritual as well as fun," Nelson explained. "It was great and my permission to Nelson's performance style."

The title of your album "No one is really beautiful" comes from the chorus of (Charlie) Bukowski poem in which he says there are no strong men, there are no beautiful women, and he says there is no strange and hidden power. And I like that concept. I really feel that there are so many magazines articles and all. Everything is so airbrushed and dressed up and prettified, that the average person looks in the mirror and must be disgusted with what they see because almost none of us can measure up with these ideals that are more and more put upon us.

Jude performed at the Moose to a crown of 150 Aquinas and off-campus fans.

Nelson concert well-attended despite April snow storm

by Karen Smith

Times Contributing Writer

In jeans, a black sweatshirt and bare feet, musician Drew Nelson set the cozy-casual atmosphere surrounding his performance in the Moose Café at the Carriage House on April 7 at 8 p.m. For two and a half hours, Nelson entertained his audience with songs, conversation and humor while creating a peaceful presence as he strummed his guitar inside the snow-covered café.

The cold weather wasn’t enough to keep music-lovers from coming to see Nelson, and one fan, Elaina Cherpes, summed it up by saying, "Drew rocks."

Another fan, Joie Irving, seconded the motion and her devotion to Nelson's performance style. "It's not like he's up there and we're way out here," Irving said. "He's very personal."

Aquinas senior Aubrey Maronowski also agreed by stating that Nelson is "a very laid-back, personal, down-to-earth singer."

When talking about himself, Nelson joked about growing up in Kent City, Michigan. "Only three people in our graduating class didn’t own a John Deere hat," Nelson said with a smile. "Our class song was 'A Country Boy Can’t Survive'." Aside from the small town influences, Nelson has also traveled abroad to Spain, France, Turkey, Egypt, Greece and Israel with his acoustic guitar at his side. Nelson recently completed a 15-day pub tour through Ireland in April 1999. "It was spiritual as well as fun," Nelson explained. "It was great going to places where I know my ancestors have been."

When talking about his music, Nelson defined his style as "rootsy-acoustic rock music." Nelson writes his own lyrics and music, including the songs in his new CD Recovering Angels. "When I write a song, I want to be honest," Nelson explained. "It's honesty that touches a secret place in all of us."

Collapsis

Dirty Wake

by Katy Moore

Times Art & Entertainment Editor

Who they are: Mike Garrigan - vocals, guitar; Ryan Pickett - guitar, backing vocals; Chris Holloway - bass, backing vocals; Scott Carle - drums

Where they’re from: North Carolina

How you know them (current single): "Automatic"

Lyrics worth repeating: "We always said that we would listen, and never hide what’s on our minds. But, tonight it feels like something’s missing. Is there a ghost that hides in the world behind your eyes?" from the song "Tell Me Everything."

My thoughts on "Dirty Wake": Originality has disappeared. It’s gone and will never be heard from again.

Okay, so maybe that’s a little melodramatic, but could someone please come up with something that at least sounds new? Just as the pop industry has embraced the formula its found to create a successful boy-band, the modern-rock industry has worked up its own formula to mass produce mildly successful alt-rock bands: four guys in their mid-to-early 20s; two on guitars, one on bass, one on drums; one guy singing in a strained, sometimes barely melodic voice, with lyrics about the torture of relationships and life. This formula’s been highly successful in the past few years. Want proof? How about: Splender, Third Eye Blind, Stroke 9, Atheaenum, Harvey Danger, Vertical Horizon and new-comers Collapsis.

Don’t get me wrong, I enjoy these bands, including Collapsis’s "I.O.L. (I’m On-Line)" is written about an on-line lover. Would you recognize them the next time I heard them? No, Would they mess up perfectly into modern-rock radio’s format? You bet.

(Slightly) to their credit, Collapsis tries to venture away from the pack with strong enough differences in several of their songs. However, they’re too rock to be country and close to being too country to be rock. Nice try, but it misses the mark, and the country moments are painfully obvious.

I don’t have to tell you that technology is everywhere. Regardless of whether or not they’re necessary, everyone has a cell phone, pager, lap top, home computer, instant Internet access and four email accounts. My mother always says "no one’s that important" – and she has a point. Technology has become the “cool” thing to embrace. Even on-line romance has become common. You may have seen a commercial for the new IMac computers where they’re promoting creating your own short films on your computer. In one of the commercials they have a garage band playing a song entitled “She’s On Line.” The song’s cute in part because you assume it’s not real – after all, who would actually write a song about being on the Internet? Collapsis would. "I.O.L. (I’m On-Line)" is written about an on-line romance: "Get off the phone. You’re wasting my time. Don’t try to call when I’m on-line. Break my heart and I won’t care, ‘cause I can go anywhere. Plug me into your home page."

Are you kidding me?! It reminds me of a line from "Cruel Intentions": "E-mail is for geeks and pedophiles. Be romantic, write her a letter."

Is the CD worth the price? Nope, mainly because there are probably ten other CDs in your collection that sound like this one and there’s definitely thousands of others that are much more worthy of your hearing and your money. Visit them at: www.collapsis.com

Jude: "Beautiful" comes from the chorus of (Charlie) Bukowski poem in which he says there are no strong men, there are no beautiful women, and he says there is no strange and hidden power. And I like that concept. I really feel that there are so many magazines articles and all. Everything is so airbrushed and dressed up and prettified, that the average person looks in the mirror and must be disgusted with what they see because almost none of us can measure up with these ideals that are more and more put upon us. Jude performed at the Moose to a crown of 150 Aquinas and off-campus fans.
by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

It started as a year thought to be full of questions and gaps in Aquinas' women's softball lineup. The questions have been answered. Coach Ray Shearer fielded a very young team this season that seemed to have some major holes in the lineup. Halfway through the season, no one is asking questions anymore.

Pitching seemed to be the biggest doubt on the table at the season's outset. Enter freshman pitchers Cassi Gragg and Melinda Rose. Gragg and Rose have combined for a 19-9 record filling a void left by the injured Crystal Luberns from a season ago. Rose, has been especially impressive. Just ask the other teams who have a .207 batting average when Rose is on the mound. She has also struck out 72 batters this season compiling a 1.77 ERA. When she is not pitching Rose is hitting leading the Saints in doubles (10) and runs batted in (12).

Gragg on the other hand, has been especially noticeable as of late. Named pitcher of the week last week in the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference, Gragg won 3 of the Saints 8 games, not to mention a no-hitter in the Saints' 4-0 win over Madonna University. Throughout the season Gragg has a 2.24 ERA, 34 strikeouts, and an opponent's batting average of .216.

Gragg's power hitting role for Aquinas. On a 9 game mid season winning streak that improved their record to 23-10 overall and 7-1 in WHAC play. Hitting can be added into the formula as well. In fact, Aquinas has a team batting average of .332, while their opponents own a .209 against Aquinas.

The Saints shooting at winning the conference, but with a first or second place finish Aquinas will qualify for the NAIA Regional tournament that might ask for much else. Great games, history of the school. The men won the -WHAC and women came in second. The cross country teams had both teams finished second in the conference.

During the winter who better was there to write about than the women's basketball team, making their way to the NAIA Regional title in 2000. The men's team who tied for first place in the conference but fell short of the tourney. The total domination of indoor track by Coach Wood's men's and women's track team made an interesting story as well.

And then there is the baseball team who has such a long history at Aquinas with Coach Bocian. Or the softball team who finds themselves in 1st place in the conference despite a very young roster. A sports editor really could not ask for much more. Great games, matches, races and contests will be things I will miss writing about.

The people who make Aquinas athletics great: An Editor's Farewell

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

I think we sometimes take things for granted until we do not have them anymore. This being the last time I will be writing an editorial for the Aquinas Times. I was a little unsure of how to bring closure to my column.

It was not until I was at the women's tennis match against Calvin on Thursday that I realized how much I was going all year long, writing story after story, going to two or three athletic events every week. I headed to Calvin College to watch the Knights in a dual meet scheduled for 3:00 pm. I knew they probably did not actually play at Calvin even though that is where the schedule said they played. But, like all of the other off campus events I would just drive until I found the field. Not until I was at the Knight's gym I saw the Knights playing their game against the Calvin Knights. It was a no-hitter in the Saints' 4-0 win over Madonna University. Throughout the season Gragg has a 2.24 ERA, 34 strikeouts, and an opponent's batting average of .216.

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Even more though I think I will miss actually talking to the coaches and people who make it happen on the field of play.

There are so many people who help make this job easy, maybe the most helpful were the fine people in the sports information office who were always willing to lend stats or pictures for the Times.

The coaches also need to be thanked for their helpfulness and time each took to speak to Times reporters, understanding what we were trying to accomplish. Without the help of the fine people at Aquinas College, writing a sports page would be nearly impossible.

And finally, the athletes. It is the people participating in the sports that give us something to write about, and in the past year there have been so many great stories and achievements by all those who work so hard all year long.

To all those who contributed to these pages throughout the year, I thank you. I will miss writing about all those who have made an impact in the sports world during the 1999-2000 season. It was fun while it lasted, but now I must move on.
Last year's national champs defending titles

by Jason Vogel
Times Sports Editor

After the success in their first outdoor track meet in Huntington, Indiana, Coach Wood and the men's and women's track teams came home to Grand Rapids to host their own invitational at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids. Aquinas received several outstanding performances from both the men's and women's teams, especially in light of the three other schools in attendance at the meet, Grand Valley State, Calvin College and Cornerstone University. No overall team score was recorded for the meet, but Aquinas had several first place finishers from both the men and women's teams.

The men's team has made leaps and bounds since the indoor season with the return of two sport athlete and defending national champion, Jason Carver. Carver sprints to a second place finish in the 200 meter dash, losing the race by .10 seconds. Carver also placed third in the women's triple jump and the javelin throw.

Field events were the story of the day for the women's track team. Defending national champion, in the high jump, junior Kellie Leeuw out jumped the competition as she attempted to find the form that she used to become a national champion last season. Leeuw won the event with her jump of 5'02". Leeuw is trying to keep the pressure off herself as the defending national champion. "I'm trying not to put any expectations on myself because I just came back," said Leeuw. "Right now, I'm just trying to qualify for nationals."

Mary Fournier showed her ability to excel in several different field events. Fournier won the pole vault with her vault of 10'06". Fournier also placed third in the women's triple jump and the javelin throw.

San of the nearest competition by 8 inches. Sandahl continued her success in the long jump as he out jumped the competition in the 3,000 meter run, beating the second place finisher by 11 seconds. Derek Harden in third and fourth place respectively. Liz Koemor finished in third and fourth place in the hammer throw followed by Holly Sizemore, Kim Beechuk, and Kammy Powell in third place through the discus.

Coach Wood was very happy with his team's performance at the invitational. "We have worked a lot of work. We showed we have the ability to compete with Calvin and Grand Valley State,” Jenetta Merritt came away with a first place finish in the 100 meter hurdles with her 16.78 time. Merritt also placed second in the long jump for the Saints. Several other second place finishes were recorded throughout the day by Saints in running events. Melissa Pline placed second in the 5,000 meter run, Cari Blint took second in the 1,500 meter run, and Nichole Gummeere in the 800 meter run.

Aquinas traveled to St. Louis over the weekend to test their skills against more nationally diverse competition. The Saints were excited about the level of competition at the weekend event.

Two women from the Saints finish off a race at last weekend's outdoor track meet in St. Louis, Missouri. The Saints are looking to defend their position from last season broke several Aquinas College records.

Men's Hockey
April 14 4:00 p.m.
@ Cornerstone University

Women's Softball
April 19 4:00 p.m.
Home vs. Hope
April 21 12:00 p.m.
Home vs. Hope
April 26 3:00 p.m.
Home vs. Hope College
April 28-29 12:00 p.m.
@ Cornerstone University

Men's Soccer
April 14 7:00 p.m.
Home vs. Albion

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TEAM! Come support your local team! Cornerstone University at 4 p.m.

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Spring Fever

Students ready for seasonal activities and annual fling

by Jessi Cleveland
Times Feature Editor

With the taste of salt still fresh on their tongues and the bitter sweet remnants of a sunburn still glowing on their fading bronzed skin, many students are caught in that painful middle ground, the long stretch between Spring Break and the last day of Finals Week. The hours are filled with anxiety and an ever-changing atmosphere, the sky alternating between angry clouds and a tease of summer.

For some, these days leading up to the end will mark a new beginning. This upcoming dance will be the final fling and this Easter will mark a new beginning. This upcoming gry clouds and a tease of summer.

Despite these dreary prospects looming in the distance, much like the ever-present clouds indicating the first of April showers, many are caught up in the campus-wide epidemic of spring fever. A bug comparable to, but far stronger than the ‘evil of senioritis.

Though most welcome the onset of summer with bare feet and open arms, others seem reluctant to put away their parkas so soon. As if there weren’t enough group presentations and Controversial Issue Papers to lose sleep worrying over, some prefer drama over suspense, choosing to take their insomnia in the form of play practice. Aquinas College Thespians, better known as A.C.T., have been up late into the night perfecting the lines and lights of their annual multi-act play. On April 6, 7 and 9, Aquinas’ own acting guild, under the direction of Dania Fiorito and Nathan Peck, presented a little taste of Tennessee Williams in The Glass Menagerie.

“The spring semester is a chance for the Aquinas community to come together and share the friendships we’ve created throughout the year.”

-Meghan McGahey, sophomore

Tom (Seth Peters) and Jim (Kevin Rayner) have a conversation on the terrace during a scene in “The Glass Menagerie.” The production was performed in the Wege Ballroom (renamed the McGyver Theater) by ACT.

Winter Fever?

Though Spring Fever is a loosely used term referring to the adrenaline rush many students feel with the nearing of summer and the closing of exams, for some the new energy and enthusiasm may be due to the lifting of draining effects of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), which is a specialized form of depression, was first diagnosed in 1984, although there is still much to learn about the mental illness that grips nearly 10 percent of the American population each winter. Though no exact cause has not been pinpointed, most research points to a lack of light. For this reason, as the days get longer and the sun rises higher, many people get more sun than the symptoms of SAD tend to lessen. Or Raymond W. Lam’s study of the illness is currently experimenting with the use of light therapy and antidepressant drugs to combat the symptoms of oversleeping, sleep disorders and suicidal tendencies during the deepest days of winter.