Aquinas seeks grants to fund new server
A new T-1 line and server would improve online service speed and allow for off-campus Webmail access
by Tonya Schafer

Students to travel to El Salvador despite recent earthquake
by Tonya Schafer

WAQU returns to airwaves
by Liz Duder
Assistant Editor, Content

Students to travel to El Salvador despite recent earthquake
by Tonya Schafer

Despite the devastation wrought by an earthquake that recently assaulted El Salvador, a group of Aquinas students is planning to visit the country in conjunction with a spring break trip sponsored by the college’s Service Learning Office.

“We’re keeping an eye out as to what the earthquake’s going to mean for the trip,” said Coordinator of Service Learning Eric Bridge. “At this point we’re still going, but if there’s any adversity, we’ll have to cancel the trip.”

Approximately 700 people have died and 120,000 homes have been destroyed by the 7.6 magnitude quake that occurred Jan. 13, with a series of aftershocks resulting from heavy rains potentially raising these numbers even further, according to Salvadoran officials referenced by Reuters. Millions of dollars are pouring in from governments and agencies around the world to purchase food, medicine and other necessities for the 19,000 people left homeless.

Students participating in the Aquinas trip are doing so under the supervision of Christians for Peace in El Salvador (CRISPAZ), an organization that increases awareness of the country’s culture and social framework.

While there, they will learn about such topics as ecology, women’s issues, economics, education and non-violence by potentially working with youth groups and visiting religious sites.

“The earthquake may close off some places that we would have gone to, but it may also give us an opportunity to go to other areas where we could help deliver supplies,” said Bridge. “We might do some relief work, but it depends on what the need is and whether we will be helpful or just another group to deal with.”

While in El Salvador, the students will stay in a series of guest houses that have been associated with CRISPAZ for several years. Technology Trainer Glenna Decker, who, along with Bridge, is leading the trip, stresses that safety is a primary concern for all involved.

“CRISPAZ has not had any incidents where somebody has been injured, even during (the political unrest of) the 80’s, and that’s an incredible record. They’ll have a driver and interpreter with us, and that’ll make it as safe as possible,” Decker said.

Participants express excitement at the opportunity to travel to El Salvador with the CRISPAZ excursion.

“I want to learn about the culture first-hand. I am familiar with it only through reading, but this is not the first time I have traveled out of the country,” freshman Morgan Monti said.

“I am excited because it will give me an opportunity to do some volunteerism,” added freshman Megan Alford.

Contributions for earthquake relief services will be collected from the Aquinas community.

Persons interested in donating money can contact Bridge for more information.

Junior Tim Porn graps a microphone as sophomore Drew Wilson shuffles through music in the station. The newly-reorganized WAQU will be back on the air tonight.

WAQU returns to airwaves
by Liz Duder
Assistant Editor, Content

After a semester-long hiatus, Aquinas’ campus radio station 1590 AM WAQU will return to the airwaves tonight at 7 p.m. with a new staff and a new slogan. This year’s first appearance will occur at the Aquinas Fieldhouse during the women’s basketball game against Cornerstone University.

Using the slogan “Naked Radio: Expose Yourself to New Music,” WAQU staff hopes to introduce the campus to new music and new show formats. Eric Mullen, Director of Student Activities and advisor to WAQU, likes the new slogan and finds the station to be an alternative to other radio stations in the area.

“They have a really creative ad campaign and slogan ‘Naked Radio: Expose Yourself to New Music’ and by being in the Fieldhouse I think that allows them more exposure,” Mullen said. “I think that they have the opportunity to play music and promote programming that is not influenced by commercialism.”

Andrew Wilson, sophomore and Co-Station Manager with senior Jennifer Beers, hopes that the new format goes over well with the campus.

“We are using our new slogan, ‘Naked Radio’ as a means to expose the college to new music. Our main focus is to broaden our new listening base and offer different types of music,” Wilson said. “We want to introduce the campus to other types of music other than popular songs, such as hip-hop, R&B, and electronic music.”

Wilson also revealed why the

“we wanted to give the listeners something more than what they were being given before.”

Andrew Wilson, Co-Station Manager

Students to travel to El Salvador despite recent earthquake
by Tonya Schafer

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U.S. Government owes Holocaust victims reparations

Members of the Clinton-appointed Commission of Holo­caust Assets in the United States said Jan. 18 that the government has not paid Jewish Holocaust survivors full reparations for the money they had invested in U.S. banks before and during World War II. According to the Commission, full reparations may not have been made to the extent that it is possible the government had placed a general freeze on the assets in order to keep them out of Nazi hands. The government had also used some of the money to pay off war-related claims made by American citizens and companies. The Commission is recommend­ ing that the U.S. government be deemed appropriate for details about the shooting were St. Johnawort may will take over his father's presi­ dency for medical those assets were never repaired by the government.

Kabila assassinated

Democratic Republic of Congo's President Laurent Kabila died Jan. 18 after being shot by one of his soldiers in the capital city of Kinshasa two days ear­ lier. The assassin is now dead and several Congolese soldiers have been arrested in connection with the assassination. Kabila had been taken to Hospital Motenvi, where he was treated for medical treatment, although Congolese officials did not give any further details about his condition. Kabila's son Joseph will take over his father's president­ ial duties in accordance with a government appointment. Kabila's body was transferred to Kinshasa Jan. 21, where a mili­ tary memorial service was held for the slain president. No further de­ tails about the shooting were available at press time.

Eighth grade

Scientists from the Duke University Medical Center have concluded that the herbal supple­ ment St. Johnswort may some­ day be kept on the shelf due to its use as a clinical treatment for depres­ sion. Studies conducted from 1960 through 2000, the supplement appeared to be more effec­ tive than a placebo in alleviating the symptoms of depression. St. Johnswort was even found to be as effective as the common anti-depressants in doing the same thing.

The scientists caution that further research needs to be done, however, and state that St. Johnswort can interfere with the effectiveness of some medi­ cations, including birth control pills and those that treat condi­ tions as heart disease, depression, seizures and cancer.

A change in mission statement is in the works for Aquinas College. As part of the school's effort to typify in one sen­ tence the principles it function under, administrators have drafted a new statement that will be brought for approval before the Board of Trustees March 20.

"A number of individuals felt the current mission statement seemed more like an 'Equal Opportunity Employment' statement than a true mission statement. Mission statements should give a sense of the nature and values of the institution," said Professor of Psych­ ology Lorraine Straw, who sat on a planning com­ mittee that helped edit the statement.

The process of revision began last summer when Aquinas President Harry Kropek asked members of the theology department to draft a new statement that could committee would want to work on this. We have to take this very carefully from a philosophical standpoint," said Straw. Once the department had drafted a statement, college administrators presented it to a December meeting of the Session of the Community Senate, the Board of Trust­ ees, and the Academic Assembly for further evaluation.

A change in mission statement will be revamped

Aquinas mission statement to be revamped

by Tonya Schafer

Current Mission Statement: The mission of Aquinas College is to provide a liberal arts education with a moral and religious foundation. We want to keep the college from witnessing the destruction. St. Johnswort will take over his father's presidency in the capital city of Kinshasa two days ear­ lier. The assassin is now dead and several Congolese soldiers have been arrested in connection with the assassination.

U. of Miss. students not attending class could be forced to repaid federal aid

Inaugural festivities overtook Washington on Jan. 18 as Vice President Dick Cheney and Doctoral James E. Walker Bush recited the oath of office to become the nation's 43rd President.

Rainier wheat did not deter thou­ sands of spectators from witnessing the new president's hand on the fronce steps of the Capitol. Following his oath, Bush delivered an insa­ nge speech about our democratic system to "The Washington Post," he pledged to "advance (his) convictions with vi­ cing to the public interest with courage; to speak for greater jus­ tice and compassion; to call for re­ sponsibility and try to live it as well."

Deputy President Clinton and Vice President Gore sat down to hand shake with Bush, who defended the latter in a bitingly re­ markable statement. Gore never repaid the money.

Clinton spent his final hours in office at home with his half-brother Roger and his former business partner Susan Myrick. Clinton is now New York's Governor Island as a national monument.

However, President Bush, as one of his first acts of office, signed an executive order that postponed many of Clinton's 11th-hour actions, in­ cluding the implementation of new Medicare guidelines and environ­ mental protection efforts. It was not until the new administration could review them. Clinton's pardon will not affect by Bush.

Thousands spectators gathered around the inaugural site to stage demonstrations. The demonstrations were largely peaceful and eas­ ily contained by police officers.

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by Julie Finley

Director of Financial Aid Larry Ridgeway said roughly 100 students might have to pay money back.

Financial aid is distributed through the university at the begin­ ning of each semester, but students who are not going to class will be asked to pay it back, Ridgeway said.

The university is required to au­ dit all federal aid students. Students must have "sufficiently withdrawn" from all of their classes before they will be asked to pay money back. As long as one professor or instructor can prove that students attended class or took the final exam, they meet the requirements.

U. of Miss. students not attending class could be forced to repaid federal aid

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Genetically-altered mosquito may help halt certain diseases

by Cudler Etherton

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich.- In some parts of the world, a mosquito bite can lead to more than just a pesky itch; it can lead to any number of fatal diseases.

Alex Raikhel, a Michigan State University professor of entomology and genetics, was the lead researcher in discovering and creating the world’s first transgenic — or genetically-altered — mosquito.

The aim of the research is to limit the ability of a mosquito to transmit a disease by boosting the insect’s immune system.

“Mosquitoes need the blood (from organisms like humans and other vertebrates) because they use it as food and nourishment for their eggs,” Raikhel, who has worked on the project since the fall of 1999, said. “Basically the technique makes the mosquitoes’ immune system able to kill the pathogens within the ingested blood.”

A pathogen, which is a specific cause of a disease, can be either a bacteria or a virus. Raikhel’s research led him to attach an organism called defensin to the pathogens inside mosquitos to kill them. “One of the things that is different is that students who have been on these programs have now been around a while and can hopefully spread the word better,” Lou said.

“With Peru, we are also making a stronger push in the education department and are trying to be more aggressive and visible in our marketing.”

Members of the Peru study abroad program serve as teachers’ assistants in elementary schools and will next year stay with local families.

Costa Rica participants live with families and focus on a study regimen that includes the Spanish language and ecology, while members of the Montana program live on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation and study topics related to the environment and Native American culture.

Approximately 15 applications have been submitted for participation in the Montana program, which is slated to occur during Fall Semester 2001 and will be led by Professor of Philosophy Michael Detry.

Recruitment for the Costa Rica and Peru programs, to be held Winter Semester 2002, will begin later this semester.

Applications for the Spain, France, Ireland and Germany study abroad programs, all of which either were or will be held this school year, are also being accepted.

According to Lou, the process of applying for all the aforementioned programs follows a general pattern.

“There is a general application, a supplemental application, a question and answer portion about each specific program, recommendations from professors and employers, and an interview,” Lou said.

“If the program is competitive and there are more students interested than there are spots available, then we will consider it on a seniority basis and give greater weight to someone who is further along in their schooling.”

Lou states that, as of this point, the Ireland program, whose 2001 participants are currently spending the semester in the town of Tully Cross, has been the only one with more students interested than spaces available. This is a fact he attributes to the program’s longevity as compared to the Germany program, which will send its third group over this Spring Semester, and the France program, which was held for the first time last semester.

“Ireland is really well-known and because of that, many students have had it in mind ever since they came here,” said Lou.
Learning or Earning: Should students work during the school year?

Most people would agree that school should be the priority of college students. However, it can be debated whether students benefit from working and earning money or whether they should use the academic year to concentrate solely on their classes. Does having a job during the school year strengthen students' work ethic and concept of the working world or simply deter from their academic potential?

The benefits of having a job during the academic year do outweigh the downsides. Students with jobs are busier during the week (and the weekend) since they must balance a class load of varying credits, schedule time for studying, and somehow manage to fit social activity into the equation. However, they also must have the ability to budget their time wisely. By having this ability, students know exactly how many tasks they can take on and when they have to say "no." By working and making money, students are learning the value of having a strong work ethic that can carry over into whatever position they will find themselves in after graduation. Future employers will know that these students can complete their tasks because the employers will see that they are using their time wisely. Working can give students the satisfaction that they are planning for their future. It can also instill pride knowing that the money they are making comes from hard work not Mom or Dad.

Does working during the school year cause more stress for students?

Working during the school year should not cause stress for students because most people who have commitments outside of the classroom are usually quite organized and know how to use their time wisely. Those people who know what their priorities are will be the ones who will try and organize their school and work schedule so that both will have equal merit. I understand that there are times when schedules change or students have unexpected deadlines or assignments that can cause the stress. However, if a student keeps a level head and understands that these unexpected tasks need to be evaluated one at a time, that person will be successful. Sometimes dealing with unexpected problems can cause students to miss out on fun, but at the same time they are simply preparing themselves for the real world, where nothing ever runs smoothly and stress is often inevitable.

Does a job outside of classes strengthen one's work ethic?

Yes, it most certainly does. A person needs to have the tenacity and desire to want to do well at both jobs. We can see school as a job. It is a student's job to go to class, though we may not always want to, and to gain knowledge that professors want to bestow upon us. Sometimes students have to work outside of the classroom because they pay for their college tuition and incidentals themselves. Often these are the individuals who go the extra mile academically because they know where their paycheck is going. By having a job outside of attending class, students are also able to increasing their "office skills" in addition to earning a paycheck. These skills can include communication with others, technological knowledge, and secretarial duties. This is also a chance to prepare for the real world. Regardless of what type of work students do when they are not in class, they are inclined to working hard because of a strong work ethic.

Clearly not. Correct me if I am wrong, but the underlying purpose behind going to college is to get an education, right? I tend to get a little confused as I hear my peers speak about how they work 35-40 hours a week and still somehow wonder why their grades are not as high as they want them to be. Think of it this way: Right now, college is your job. Just thinking about this should bring a smile to all of your faces. Don't worry about flipping burgers or working on a line all day, but instead put that same time and energy into your schoolwork and get ready for some remarkable results. I'm sure you have heard at one time or another the old adage that "You have your whole life to work." But, just think about that for a moment. With the average retirement age being 62.5 years old, you have approximately 40 years of working ahead of you. That is about 105,000 hours of work that is waiting for you when you step off that graduation stage. So sit back in your favorite chair, pull out a book, and enjoy your time in college.

Twelve-page papers, clubs, studying, debt and sports equal no stress, right? Not in my book. Students are bombarded each day with stressful activities and situations. For some students, the stress may come from adjusting to college life. For others, it may be the academic course load. Many times students simply take on much more than they can handle. According to a survey of 462 colleges and universities done by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, 38.5 percent of college students felt overwhelmed and stressed by their workload. (In 1985 the percentage was half as much.) Students don't need more stress than they are facing already. Trying to balance a job on top of a typical class load is not only tough on the students' grades, but more importantly it is tough on the students' health.

No. With having a job outside of the classroom, students are often forced to prioritize between their academics or their job. And often times it is the academic side that falls short. Strengthening one's work ethic? Hardly. Hurting one's study habits? Definitely. One of the most common forms of studying on a college campus is cramming, memorizing information at the last minute in order to get through a test. But why do people cram? Some may enjoy painful all-nighters, but I sense that a majority of people who cram are those who do not have the time to spend studying throughout the semester. Considering the fact that 67 percent of all college students hold either a part-time or full-time job, most students likely face this dilemma. The balance between working and school may be difficult to find, but just remember those 105,000 hours waiting for you and take my advice: Have fun with school, and worry about the rest later.
MTV mixes morality with music videos

Certainly pop culture magnet MTV manages to bring forth ideals that we might want to ignore, such as concentrating on material gain, rather than a sense of moral responsibility and respect. But for once this media powerhouse has stumbled onto something that will tug at the hearts of millions of viewers, young and old, will want to and should examine. No, it’s not about the Backstreet Boys’ latest release or the announcement of U2’s forthcoming world tour. What this popular cable channel is doing is bringing up two issues that have been commonly scrutinized and debated since violent tragedies like Columbine occurred in 1999. These issues are hate and discrimination.

The network has taken the opportunity to introduce an online and television campaign “Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Discrimination.” Geared toward educating the public, this campaign hopes to take action against the bias and hate that plague this country and the world as a whole.

The network, joining numerous organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League in order to emphasize this plea, aired 17- and 90-hour hours of information relating to hate crimes. Names of people afflicated by hate crimes scrolled across the television screen, narrated by various MTV DJs. Though it only aired once, this was an attempt to educate the American public. The Web site mtv.com is extensive and lists various ways young people can stamp out crime and become active in their own community.

Why MTV? After all, they are taking a large financial step to get their point across. The commercial-free programming to not air videos that go against the principles of the “Fight for Your Rights” campaign.

Should MTV be responsible for the morality of its viewers? Hasn’t in the past and why should this network start now?

In theory the idea should be saluted since the topic should continue to be violated and discriminated in some way because of their personal beliefs. MTV could better express its point by making an attempt to not air videos that go against the principles of the “Fight for Your Rights” campaign.

Certainly MTV is taking a crucial step in trying to educate its viewers, but at the same time is demonstrating hypocrisy by continuing to show videos that contain such negativity and social ills. This a veritable slap in the face after hearing about how normal people were and continue to be violated and discriminated against by those not of their personal beliefs.

Perhaps MTV should stop focusing on commercialism and concentrate on important issues. In the song “Kill You.”

Media and material assistance to women with unexpected pregnancies. Its Web site can be reached at dioceseofgrandrapids.org. By selecting “Agencies/Programs” under the “Social Justice” category, unwed mothers-to-be can find valuable assistance and information for dealing with their pregnancy.

The Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids sponsors HELP Pregnancy Crisis Aid. This is a 24-hour help line that can be reached at 616-459-9139. The contact people are Margaret Vickery and Judith VanderLaan. HELP provides education, financial support, guidance and material assistance to women with unexpected pregnancies. Its Web site can be reached at dioceseofgrandrapids.org. By selecting “Agencies/Programs” under the “Social Justice” category, unwed mothers-to-be can find valuable assistance and information for dealing with their pregnancy.

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 19 years to provide an informative, entertaining and journalistically correct student publication. The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Our goal is to continue to provide a forum for the issues, views and concerns of the Aquinas community. Signed editorials reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of the Aquinas Times. "The Times View" represents the view of the Editorial Board and does not necessarily reflect the views of Aquinas College.

Letters to the Editor are accepted Thursdays by noon in the Aquinas Times office, located in lower Wetzel Center. All letters must be signed. The Aquinas Times reserves the right to edit letters for length and libel. The Aquinas Times template was created by Jocelle Krawiecki and Sarah Van Hall. The Aquinas Times is printed by News Web Printing Services.
Internet provides alternative tool for students planning mid-semester trips

by Andrea Prisby
Contributing Writer

Her brown eyes stare blankly at the computer screen as she contemplates the amount of money she and her friends are willing to pay this spring break. "These flights were way too much for college students," sophomore Ann Deja said.

By offering several prices of plane tickets, the Internet provides a wide range of spring break travel information that is easily accessible to college students. Like Deja, these students are choosing to plan their trips for spring break via the Internet. Deja has utilized various sites such as priceline.com and travelocity.com in search of plane tickets in planning her trip to the Virgin Islands.

After realizing that the cost of tickets was too expensive, Deja and her friends decided to change their plans. "My parents have a time-share condo (membership which can be used) anywhere, so we can stay for cheap. The only problem is the high cost of plane tickets," she said. "So instead of the Virgin Islands, we all decided to drive to South Carolina and stay on Hilton Head Island for much less."

As part of their low-cost plans, Deja and her friends needed driving directions to Hilton Head Island. They used sites such as mapquest.com, mapsonus.com and mapblast.com to retrieve driving directions and maps. If students are members of the American Automobile Association, the Web site AAA.com provides directions and information about construction along the way.

For students who are unsure of where they will be vacationing this March, ideas for different trips to hot spots such as the Bahamas, Cancun or Panama City can be found at Web sites like aboutspringbreak.com, springbreak4u.com or springbreaktravel.com. Another option is to do a search for a city one may have in mind for break.

For a more general site, the travel section of yahoo.com contains an online travel planner helping students with airfare, hotels, directions and vacations. Similar sites include iexplore.com, expedia.com, away.com, excite.com and go.com.

In taking advantage of her accessibility to the Internet, Deja found one last problem in planning her trip: the weather. "Because it's not as far south as Florida or the Virgin Islands, the temperature might be a little chilly," she said. In this case, she ventured to Web sites like weatherchannel.com and cnn.com/weather/ which provide forecasts for all over the world.

When surfing the Internet for travel information, students should explore various sites to get a broad range of prices. This is the main reason why Deja chose the Internet. "When we first started planning our trip to the Virgin Islands, the Internet made it easier for me to look various places for airfare," she said. "But now that we are going someplace cheaper, it still helps me with directions and weather. You never realize all that you can do right at your fingertips."

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Photo by A. Prisby

Sophomore Ann Deja uses her roommate's laptop to search for Internet resources to plan her spring break travel.

Here is what 93 Aquinas students had to say about their upcoming spring break.

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Will you be leaving your state for spring break?

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Students share their most memorable spring break experiences.

**A trip back in time**

"(During) my junior year of high school, I went with the band to Orlando, Fla. As we were marching in the Disney parade in Epcot Center, a fellow band member, who was playing the bass drum, was not looking and accidentally hit a little boy in the head because his head was sticking out too far from the crowd. We spent the rest of break together."

Angie Strom, sophomore

"Instead of going some place warm for break, I went to Glacier National Park with some friends and went snowshoeing and skiing on Big Mountain. We camped outside also. I went to school up there, so I knew the area."

John Ebers, sophomore

"(During) my senior year in high school, I went with some friends to Panama City. It was my first time in Florida. We had a blast. We went snorkeling, scuba diving, parasailing and bungee jumping. We met people from all over and partied a lot."

Jessie Jackson, freshman

"I went to Cancun last year and fell in love with a boy named Omar. We met at a club and then stayed up to five in the morning talking, swimming, etc. We even watched the sun come up. I didn't see him at all the next day, and then he came to my room and gave me a coconut. We spent the rest of break together."

Angie Strom, sophomore

"I went to West Palm Beach in Florida and my friend and I were swimming in the ocean, and two old ladies walking by flagged us down. They told us that they had spotted three huge sharks about two miles away. We had to get everyone out of the water in time."

Cristina Vendettelli, sophomore

"(During) my junior year of high school, I went with the band to Orlando, Fla. As we were marching in the Disney parade in Epcot Center, a fellow band member, who was playing the bass drum, was not looking and accidentally hit a little boy in the head because his head was sticking out too far from the crowd. I will never forget it."

Angie Strom, sophomore

"If you're dying to get away from the dreary Michigan weather and the piles of snow that still cover the grass but can't decide on a destination, let studentadvantage.com help you out. Here are ten spring break destinations according to this site."

1. Cancun
2. Panama City
3. Destin
4. Panama
5. South Padre Island
6. Orlando
7. Jamaica
8. New York City
9. Myrtle Beach
10. New Orleans

Jessica Adams, sophomore

Council Travel is a student travel agency that offers deals on U.S. domestic flights as well as overseas flights. The departure or arrival airport must be in the United States. They have a new spring break section containing information about vacation deals for college students.

STA Travel claims itself to be the biggest student travel agency in the world. They have local offices in the following continents or countries: USA, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Japan and Asia. Like Council Travel, STA's airfare query only works with flights originating in the United States.

Travelscape is another online travel agency query that works with U.S. domestic flights and some international flights. If you have a tight budget then this site can help you out. Besides airfare, Travelscape also offers inexpensive lodging.

Priceline.com is a popular Web site where you simply name your price for the tickets you want, and Priceline will find out if that price is possible. It offers round-trip tickets only; the tickets are non-changeable and non-returnable. Be careful to read the instructions in the "FAQ" section before you proceed to make any requests. While many have had success with this site, others find it limiting and are afraid to use it because you cannot return the tickets if they're not exactly what you wanted.
As the weather stays well below tolerable temperatures, stay warm and happy and check out these events.

January 24-27

Through Jan. 27: The Grand Rapids Civic Theater presents "Sylvia," a comedy about the effect of a dog on a marriage, tonight at 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, and 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are $5-22 and can be purchased through Tickets Plus by calling 222-4000.

Friday-Saturday: "Saturn Returns: Songs of Yearning and Aspiration," will be performed at GVSU's Louis Armstrong Theatre at 7:30 p.m. as part of its Opera Theatre. Tickets are $2-7 and can be purchased by calling the GVSU box office at 895-2300. The show will also be presented at 3 p.m. Jan. 28 and Feb. 4 as well as 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1-3.

January 28-February 3

Thursday-Saturday: Check out the latest in the LUCA Film Series: "Goya in Bordeaux," the biography of artist Francisco Goya, starring Francisco Rabal. Show times are 7 and 9 p.m. Tickets are $6 and available at UICA, 44 Sheldon Blvd. Call 454-7000 for more info.

Thursday-Friday: Travel a few steps down the East Beltline to Cornerstone University and check out its play "Tomb with a View," a murder mystery/comedy at 10 p.m. Tickets are $5 at the door or through Family Christian Bookstores.

February 4-10

Wednesday: Celebrate Black History Month at 7 p.m. at the UICA with two films highlighting significant African-Americans. "Against the Odds" tells of the Harlem renaissance, and "Emma Amos: Action Lines" is the biography of a black artist. They will have the opportunity to write the descriptive cards to be displayed next to 12 of Rodin's sculptures.

Sophomore Katie Yenglin, a student in Becherer's class, said, "Rodin was a true pioneer. It was amazing to see his works up close. It was amazing to have such a great example of art right here in Grand Rapids."

"Eve" will be on display in the sculpture collection of the Frederik Meijer Gardens until Feb. 15, when it will be moved to its permanent location in the Grace Jarecki Greenhouse inside the facility.

Ongoing:

Through Feb. 16: Head over to the AMC to view the oil paintings of Tim Kennedy. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, and 2-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Upcoming and exciting:

February 13: Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals play Calvin College's Fine Arts Center at 8 p.m. Tickets are $18 with a student I.D. or $26 for the general public and go on sale Feb. 2. Call 957-6282 for more info.

February 18: Sponge will make a stop with local band Molly at the new all-ages Pop Café, located next to the Intersection, at 7 p.m. Tickets are $12 and available through Ticketmaster by calling 456-3333.

Contact Jacqueline Flory, Entertainment Editor, by mail at the Aquinas Times, 1607 Robinson Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506.
The state of "The Simpsons": Where exactly is Springfield?

by Shane Hostetter

The Simpsons' Springfield has a ranging climate, from snow to extreme heat. In one episode, the Simpson family is huddled around the kitchen radio to see if school is canceled due to snow. In another episode, the summer causes heat stroke in Springfield which Homer fixes by making a homemade air conditioner with his refrigerator.

States with constant warm or cold climates are eliminated, leaving California, Massachusetts, Maine, Oregon, North Carolina and South Dakota as the only possibilities. Although there is no true Springfield to be discovered, this phenomenon of multiple locations in origin, a town which Groening originally shaped his thoughts around. That town is Springfield, Oregon.

The deciding factor is the nuclear plant where Homer works. Creator Matt Groening grew up in Portland, Ore.

His first job was in a new-age treatment plant close to a nuclear power plant located in Rainier, Ore. To the west, a smaller town is rumored to hold the qualities found in the Simpsons cartoon. Saying it's lukewarm green color and creates three-eyed fish, locals have long believed this plant to be Groening's inspiration.

David Vosper, a 9-year-old resident of Rainier who often fishes for rainbow trout in the lake in front of the plant stated that he heard "rumors of eight-legged frogs and tree-armed turtles in the marshland." Although there are characteristics that suggest that Groening's Springfield, the Simpsons' Springfield, these are petty compared to the one major factor: the Oregon nuclear plant.

The Simpsons are a fictional family with a fictional past, but this future, this family has a real origin, the inspiring town of Springfield, Ore.

Restaurant Review

Yesterdog

1505 Wealthy St. S.E.

by Katty Miller

Co-writing: Writer

Yesterdog has been an Eastown fixture for the past 25 years, surrounded by other hamburger, bar and restaurants. Known for their vintage decor and delicious food, this restaurant serves up the best hot dogs outside of Chicago. To find this great little cozy spot, just look across the street from the Intersection and the Yesterdog sign is there in big, bubby letters.

Upon walking in the door, which is usually crowded, the first thing that is extremely noticeable is the chaos that ensues behind the old, wooden counter. The staff at Yesterdog has a good reputation for making good food and delivering it quickly.

About the Food

Yesterdog is not exactly friendly, but it does not cross the line of being rude. The person who takes the order is immediately shooting at other customers to order. And by all means be ready. The staff doesn't expect to sit there waiting for you to make an educated decision. During a slow time at the restaurant, it is obvious as unique as the restaurant. I had the opportunity to speak with Nino Torres, a manager that has been with Yesterdog for three and-half years. I was curious as to what makes Yesterdog a special place to work.

Torres said, "It's fun. We get a mix of unique people that come through here. It's thrill when you see them. There's no time to think - just make hot dogs.

I bet you all have seen the movie "American Pie." The film, which was based on East Grand Rapids High School, spoofed Yesterdog with its own hot dog place-Dog Years. I asked Torres about this and he answered, "It didn't look anything like this place, but it was definitely cool to see where I work (on-screen)." Not only has Yesterdog made its debut in the theater the world wide, it also plays an upcoming role in the independent film "Feeding the Machines," which was filming in Eastown last August.

Would you like to know a little about what Yesterdog is really about? The food comes fast, fresh and piping hot. On my most recent visit to this fine establishment, I enjoyed one Yesterdog with mustard and a lemonade. It cost me around $3, a good price for a poor college kid. Prices range from $1.35 for the basic Yesterdog (homemade chili, ketchup, mustard, onion and pickle) up to $6.60 for the cheddar cheese topped dog piled high with ketchup, mustard, onion, pickle and chili. There is also a homemade dog for vegetarians. This "Veggedog" has cheese, pickles, ketchup, mustard and onion on a bun. One of this variety is around $1.50.

The ironic thing about the beverage choices is that they are Pepsi products, the restaurant is mostly decorated in Coca-Cola advertising circa 1940. Does anybody else find this odd?

Specials on Monday nights, known as Three Dog Nights, run from 9 to 10 p.m. Three Yesterdog cost only $3.50, 3 Krandings $4.10, and 3 Cheddarogs $4.40. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays, 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 10:30 a.m. to closed Sundays. Whether you are coming home late from the Interaction or just don't feel like cooking, check out Yesterdog with some friends.

Movie Review

Snatch

Directed by Guy Ritchie

by Brent Buckalew

UWIRE/LA. LOS ANGELES

Grievous, I am willing to accept a crime comedy that features one thug character with superhuman invincibility, constructed to gain laugh from his ridiculously implausible refusal to die, A la the Black Knight in "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," but I fail to see the added humor in featuring two such characters in the same movie.

Nonetheless, writer-director Guy Ritchie has plotted both Bud and Toast Tony (Vincent Jones) and Boris the Blade (Rade Serbedza), criminals who emerge from car collisions and gunsights shockingly unscathed, into his rambunctious, flashy new caper, "Snatch." The film acts as a showcase for Ritchie's penchant for a dexterous double-breasted detail that will be an embarrassment to viewers. Apparently, though, he has given up on finding variation even within the sillily caricatures with which he populates his film.

His plot has grown similarly lazy, with the insatiable, twisty logic of previous films replaced by a convoluted tangle of allegiances. The he-men, boxing manager Turkish (Jason Statham) and his naive assistant, Tommy (Stephen Graham) are recruited by an intimidating gambler, Brick Top (Alan Ford), to rig the outcome of a fight. Brick Top, in the meantime, concurrently gets on his hands on a diamond stolen by Franky Four Fingers (Rory Keenan). Brick Top is, however, more interested in the Yesterdog made its debut in the the...
While some students prefer to chill inside during the winter, there are still plenty of cool things to do outdoors in Michigan.

by Jacqueline Flory
Entertainment Editor

Along with the chills and flu that come with the season, this year’s early winter storms may cause students to be infected with a cabin fever that seems incurable. While the urge to curl up with a psychology textbook and a cup of hot cocoa might seem like the only option this winter, Michigan really has a plethora of outdoor activities to offer, and The Aquinas Times has your guide to winter fun.

Grab a sled
Johnson Park (Walker)

If you’re looking for a fun, free activity requiring no previous experience, head to Johnson Park in Walker for some sledding. Located on Wilson Avenue, this unlit park is full of hills that challenge every tobogganer. The park is open every day until dark and also hosts public restrooms and a picnic area.

Still too cold?
Check out new TV

These new reality-based TV shows may scorch your winter blues:

“Survivor-The Australian Outback”: Sixteen Americans have been stranded in the northeastern tropical state of Queensland— who will survive? Check out the TV phenomenon after the Super Bowl on Jan. 28, then tune in Thursdays at 8 p.m. on CBS to see the latest episode of the saga.

“Temptation Island”: How well do you really know your significant other? Four couples will find out when they travel to Belize and are separated from their partners for the duration of their trip, only to be tempted by sexy singles. The show airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on FOX.

Try snowshoeing on for size
Pigeon Creek (West Olive)

Home to 10 miles of cross-country ski trails, Pigeon Creek is also quite well-known for its “Snowshoe Day” held in mid-January which offers free snowshoe rental and instructions. Pigeon Creek is also known for its $5 cross-country ski clinics held throughout winter. The park is open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily. There is no entry fee, but equipment rentals are only available on weekends. Call (616) 728-4810 for more information.

Happy trails
Pando Ski Resort (Rockford)

Although it is also home to a downhill skiing resort, Pando also features a cross-country ski trail and snow tubing lifts and rentals. Located inside a “wooded bowl” in Rockford, hours are 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. Costs for snow tubing are $10 on weekends, $15 on weekdays, and $12 for a three-hour ticket. Call (616) 874-8343 for more information.

Hit the slopes
Cannonsburg Ski Area (Belmont)

Hosting 10 runs for novice, intermediate and expert skiers (the longest is over 1800 feet), Cannonsburg also features lessons and group discount rates. Located 10 miles out of Grand Rapids, hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Lift tickets are $20 on weekdays and $30 on weekends. Ski rentals are $16 on weekdays and $18 on weekends. Call (616) 874-6711 for more info.

West Michigan’s icy inclinations:

Ice is nice
Southside Community Ice Center (Byron Center)

Home to both high school hockey and a figure skating club, Southside (located at 500 100th St.) features two NHL-sized rinks. Join in open hockey weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for $5. Call 878-4567 for more info.

Snow on board
Crystal Mountain (Traverse City)

Skiing not scary enough for you? Jump into the latest winter trend: snowboarding. Drive up north to Crystal Mountain Resort, where all 34 runs allow for snowboarding. Crystal Mountain is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Rates are $40 on weekends and $30 on weekdays. Snowboard rentals are $36. Call 1-800-YOUR-MTN for more information.

Try snowshoeing on for size
Pigeon Creek (West Olive)

Home to 10 miles of cross-country ski trails, Pigeon Creek is also quite well-known for its “Snowshoe Day” held in mid-January which offers free snowshoe rental and instructions. Pigeon Creek is also known for its $5 cross-country ski clinics held throughout winter. The park is open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily. There is no entry fee, but equipment rentals are only available on weekends. Call (616) 728-4810 for more information.

Beyond this chainlink fence (temporarily in place for construction) is the Monroe Center Ice Rink, which is located downtown GR. The rink has free skating and rental from noon to 9 p.m. every Mon.-Sat. and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.
MSU football continues off-season recruiting

By Tom Midwest

The State News

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich. - In the first few weeks of the new year, Michigan State football has made a push to boost its 2001 recruiting class.

News of their most recent addition came Jan. 16 when Robert Strickland, a four-star wide receiver out of Detroit's Denby High School, verbally committed to the Spartans. Strickland, a 6-foot-4, 205-pound senior is ranked the 29th-wide receiver in high school football by popular recruiting publications rivals.com.

"He's got great talent," said Bill Korlic, the Web site's analysts. "He's got good size, he's fast, he's tall."

"Size wise he be like David Terrell, maybe more like David Boston who played for Ohio State and who is now with the Arizona Cardinals." The only question remaining is whether Strickland will qualify academically. As it stands, he has yet to do so.

MSU Associate Athletics Director Demetrious Marlowe also said Strickland is not being recruited by the Spartans as an academically ineligible recruit.

"We recruit those athletes who have a chance to play football at MSU and that we feel have an excellent opportunity to receive an education from Michigan State," Marlowe said.

One player MSU doesn't have to worry about qualifying academically is defensive back Eric Smith.

Smith, a senior at Grover Cleveland Madison High School in Grover, Ohio, tours a 3.9 grade point average and was looked at by Yale and Harvard before verbally committing to MSU Jan. 14.

"(Myself and coach flam) talked to (Eric), and my ad
service to him and his parents was that (Eric) felt he had never had a chance to play on Sun days, he should go to Yale or Harvard," Groverton Madis
son Athletic Director Don Charlton said. "He believes in himself well enough to believe he can play in the Big Ten."

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound Smith admitted he had been recruited by Grover Cleveland Madison but was recruited by MSU to play safety.

Smith was not ranked by the site.

"He just wasn't that highly recruited," Korlic said.

"He had a good senior season and ranked (had seven intercep tions), but he wasn't one of the most highly recruited guys in the state." MSU football personnel are restricted from commenting on recruits until they sign a national letter of intent.

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Saints’ defense dominates first half, can’t hold on to win

by Mark Postma

Aquinas Men’s Basketball faced off with the Cornerstone Golden Eagles Saturday, a game which ended in a 81-66 loss for the Saints. Aquinas began the day with a 1-4 record in conference play, while the Golden Eagles started with a 3-2 record.

The Saints lost the jump ball between Cornerstone’s Mark Zichterman and Aquinas sophomore Andy Steketee, a loss of little significance. Aquinas came out with a dominating defensive attack around the perimeter and under the net. The Saints began by forcing many turnovers and capitalized on almost every one. Within the first few minutes of the game, Aquinas had a 13-4 lead over the Golden Eagles. Aquinas led by as much as 11 points during the first half.

The Saints knew that shutting the Golden Eagles down with a defensive attack was important because of the high-scoring reputation of Cornerstone’s Mark Zichterman and Brian Robinson, who both reached the 1000-point club earlier this year.

Along with a strong defense, the Saints were getting help from the Golden Eagles, as Cornerstone missed three consecutive shots from under the net. Aquinas junior Kyle Verlin’s ball handling made a contribution to the Saints’ offensive attack, as he was able to make quick passes and work the ball inside to Steketee for a quick two points. Steketee ended the day with 16 points and six rebounds.

The Saints kept their lead for more than 10 minutes of the first half, but Cornerstone slowly started to put its game together and catch up. The bench was back and forth for the last few minutes of the half, leaving the Saints with a one-point lead at halftime.

The level of play in the second half almost mirrored the first with the difference being that the team dominating the game was no longer the Saints. The Golden Eagles began the half by forcing many turnovers, which they capitalized on with a short series of dunks. At this point the half-filled athletic center at Cornerstone was ringing with noise from the crowd as the Golden Eagles began the massive scoring drive that would take them to a 12-point lead.

Due to the offensive rebounding of Aquinas freshman T.J. Shimek, junior Pete Brachy and Steketee, the Saints were able to put together some scoring drives. However, Cornerstone kept the game’s momentum on its side by continuing to force turnovers.

In the last six minutes of play, Shimek and Steketee fouled out of the game, and Cornerstone took advantage of its height and dominated the boards. The loss left the Saints at the bottom of the league with a 1-5 record.

WHAC Attack: Conference standings as of Jan. 22

compiled by Staff

Even though the year has just started, there has already been much going on in the WHAC. The men’s and women’s basketball teams are now in the heat of battle for conference championships. While it is too early to declare a winner, the race is on. No team can be counted out just yet.

MEN’S BASKETBALL:

After defeating seventh-ranked Cornerstone (18-4) in a nail-biting 104-98 overtime win Wednesday, Sienna Heights (20-3) went on to finish 3-0 last week, squeaking past Madonna (6-15) in a 89-85 victory. These three wins are Sienna Heights’ silver lining at first place in the WHAC at 5-1, protecting their 4th-place national ranking. Sienna Heights is lead by senior Jeff Gullekson, a forward from Cadillac, Mich. Gullekson averaged 19 points and 17.7 rebounds in last week’s three games, earning Player of the Week honors.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL:

Like the men, two teams are tied for first place in the WHAC. Ninth-ranked Cornerstone University (18-4) and Madonna University (19-9) are leading the league with five wins with only one loss each. Both teams will put their first-place rankings in jeopardy tonight as Cornerstone runs into standout Kristy Bilbie and the rest of the Concordia College Cardinals (16-5) and as Madonna plays our own Aquinas Saints (15-10). The rivalry intensifies with Cornerstone set to face off Madonna, putting their title hopes on the line Saturday afternoon, a game which is shaping up to be pivotal in the WHAC.

Other players in last week’s spotlight were Madonna University’s Kathy Pangans (23.5 ppg), Chris Koelslansky of Aquinas College (18.5 ppg), and Laura Yorkens of Cornerstone University (14.0 ppg).

NBA leaders emerge

compiled by Staff

With three months of the NBA season close to completion, title contenders and division leaders have begun to emerge, making their mark and setting the standard for the remainder of what is turning out to be a competitive season. The Philadelphia 76ers lead the Eastern Conference, posting a 30-10 record. However, the Milwaukee Bucks (25-13) and the Miami Heat (25-18) remain, despite their slow-season starts, within reach of the 76ers.

In the Western Conference, the Portland Trailblazers have the best record at 36-12, closely followed by the Sacramento Kings (27-11), Los Angeles Lakers (26-13) and Utah Jazz (25-14). After almost eliminating the Lakers in the first round of the 2000 playoffs, the Kings have carried their momentum of improvement into this season. Currently, Sacramento is on pace to crush its 1999-2000 record of 44-38. Although Los Angeles is third in the league statistically, many still consider the Lakers the favorites for the Western Conference title due to the outstanding play of the league’s second-leading scorer Kobe Bryant (29.6 ppg) and last year’s scoring champion Shaquille O’Neal (25.6 ppg). Topping off the scoring list is Detroit’s own Jerry Stackhouse with 30.1 points per game.

Leading the NBA in rebounds in Dikembe Mutombo of the Atlanta Hawks with almost 13.9 per game. O’Neal ranks second with 13.0 rebounds and Detroit’s Ben Wallace is third with 12 per game.