Students record local immigrants’ stories

by Toony Schaefer

In the first partnership of its kind, a class of Aquinas students will work with the Grand Rapids Local History Department to produce a series of recorded interviews that detail the life experiences of local immigrants.

Several members of Latin American History II, taught by Assistant Professor of History Anna Bates, will tape record interviews with Latin American immigrants and their children. Upon the project’s completion, the tapes will be placed in the Grand Rapids Public Library’s Local History collection for use by historians and the general public.

The collaboration is a result of a partnership forged between Bates and City Historian Gordon Olsen when she stopped at Aquinas earlier in the school year to deliver a talk on the Vietnamese experience in Grand Rapids.

“Professor Bates was in the audience and later told me that she was teaching a class in modern Latin American history and wanted her students to do some interviewing,” said Olsen. “She decided to provide it to her class as an option, between either doing an oral history interview and doing the research and wanted her students to do some interviewing,” said Olsen. “She decided to provide it to her class as an option, between either doing an oral history interview and doing the research.”

That’s our biggest problem right now,” said Francine Paolini, Media Coordinator and Reference Librarian. “We need space for conveniences like study or conference centers.

“You would like to provide such things as more study space, more individual rooms for groups to meet where you can get together and do work without disturbing anyone else,” said Pam Luebke, Public Service Librarian.

The current library was remodeled to its present state in 1978, at which time the renovation allowed for a space increase of 6,000 square feet.

Aquinas had plans to establish a new library in the mid-1980s, but could not build because the school was broke.

By normal standards, with our enrollment and distribution, we should have at least 50,000 square feet."

Kalman could not estimate how many students have been affected by the error that resulted in incorrect grades being placed on report cards, but reassured correct grades on transcripts.

"I can’t even venture a guess, but we’ve reviewed grade reports as we became aware of the problems we simply didn’t catch in the process," Kalman said.

Several faculty members reported that their students were surprised when they received their report cards, that the grade on the report card was not what the teacher had given them,” said Luebke. "My concern is that students are aware of the situation so that they can bring the matter to the attention of their instructor.

Registrar reports fall semester grade mishaps

by Toony Schaefer

A series of errors, in which report cards included incorrect grades for classes taken in the fall term, can apparently be traced back to problems with a new computer system used by the registrar’s office.

"In July 2000 we converted from an older version of the administrative system to a version that had important changes in the registrar’s module," Registrar Lois Kalman said. "There was a process in the earlier version that permitted us to track students who had not yet enrolled, but who were ‘intending’ to enroll at a later date. When the conversion occurred in July, a September date was unintentionally dropped into the tracking screen.

"The result — students were registered, billed, appeared on the class rosters, even on the grade rosters that went out to the instructors. It was not until we were manually entering grades that students who had tracking codes and ‘the date’ (listed in their account) did not appear on the grading screen. So if only one name was not appearing, and the lack of entry not visually noticed, it three grades off by one."

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"I can’t even venture a guess, but we’ve reviewed grade reports as we became aware of the problems we simply didn’t catch in the process," Kalman said.

Head of the English Department Gary Eberle was one professor who expressed concern about the grading errors and who attended a department chairpersons meeting at which the issue was brought up.

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...
**NEWS**

**Mass. takes a stab at tattooing after 38-year ban**

by Katie Schwartz

(U-WIRE) WALTHAM, Mass. — Ronald Balcius was finally able to ink his legal tattoo in Massachusetts on Wednesday.

Balcius has been fighting the progress of legislation to overturn the state's 38-year-old ban on tattooing for more than a year and a half. It took it out of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), however, to make his dreams come true.

Tattooing has been banned in Massachusetts since 1962, when the state was struck by a hepatitis epidemic.

Last spring, the ACLU of Massachusetts filed a suit that argued the ban was a violation of First Amendment free speech rights.

On Oct. 23 of last year, Supreme Judicial Court Judge Barbara Rouse agreed.

"It was kept under the table," Balcius said. "I've tattooed cops, firemen, prison guards."

"If someone wants a tattoo, they can get it either way," Zeif Fernandes, an artist who manages the U.S. branch at the Brandeis bookstore, said. Fernandes has four tattoos which she got in Massachusetts in the years 1993 and 1994.

Fernandes said getting the tattoo was easy.

"I knew him from hanging out with him," she said of the artist who made her tattoo, "so I just called him up and made an appointment. It was hard to get an appointment though — (he was) busy, busy, busy.

Fernandes did not get her tattoo at a party. She said people were often disappointed at what they chose to get tattooed on them when they were drunk.

"It's a little nerveous at first, but I saw that he was using disposable needles," Fernandes said.

"He opened the package right in front of me."

"I was more nervous about the pain than anything else," she said.

Legislation to overturn the tattoo ban has been circulating around Beacon Hill for a year and a half. Balcius said he was well-received by all state officials he has approached since his vigil began, but he said he was frustrated by the state's reluctance to act for a 90-day stay in order to draft tattooing regulations.

"The state has had this bill for a year and a half. This should have been worked on before," he said.

City officials, however, are very grateful for the time to establish regulations. Robert Logan, a city councilman in Waltham, said the city prepared for Feb. 2, when Rouse's stay ends.

"There (are) basically going to be two things," he said. "The Board of Health will adopt regulations similar to state guidelines, and (we are) considering possible adoption of zoning regulations."

Those regulations will either limit tattoo parlors exclusively to industrial zones or to industrial, business and commercial zones. In Waltham, tattoo parlors would also need a special permit.

The state recently issued model tattooing regulations.

Sweder, the Public Health Director, said, "We'll ask questions about where they came from and why," said soyophomore class member Doreen Zerfas, who will interview a coworker from Mexico to fulfill the requirements of her assignment.

"We'll also ask them about their experiences once they got here and if they stopped anywhere before arriving," Olsen said.

"I don't think that anyone is opposed to the legalization of tattooing, but more concerned with the establishment of tattoo parlors," Logan said. "They do not project the kind of image that is conducive to building a quality downtown area.

He compared tattoo parlors to pawn shops and pool halls in terms of the image they project.

Counties are reacting to the legalization in different ways. For example, the town of Kingston, Mass. has limited the parlors to business zones only, according to The Boston Globe.

"The intent was to regulate these businesses in the same fashion as we do adult entertainment," Holbrook, Mass. Town Administrator Philip Warren Jr. told The Boston Globe on Dec. 3. That policy would disallow tattoo parlors within 500 feet of any school, playground, church or library and within 20 feet of any property line.

If tattoos were still so common and are legal in almost every state, it may seem perplexing that the ban survived for so long.

"Nobody ever took it to court and challenged it," Logan said. "If it were our first court decision, I don't think the legislation would be revoked.

Tattoo artists may experience some nostalgia for the days when tattooing was less respectable in the Bay State.

"It will turn into the category of 'Remember the good old days,'" he said.

He emphasized, however, that underground tattooing is likely to persist. Customers have already established relationships with artists who may not want to go into the Bay State full time; the price of illegal tattoos will also be lower.

Business costs, income taxes and other fees are the price of legitimacy. Balcius acknowledged. Tattooing services at his parlor will start at about $100 per hour.

He said the underground scene is very clean and nicely self-regulated.

As in most states, the legal age for tattooing will be 18. It will be illegal for a tattoo artist to serve anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Massachusetts was one of only three states to ban tattooing.

History

transcribing it and writing a research paper.

Approximately 12 students opted for the interview and have been participating in a series of weekly classes to help them prepare for the assignment.

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Students troubled by some program housing conditions

by Tetra Schuler

Junior Erin Williams recites the problems as matter-of-factly as she would a grocery list.

"The walls are crumbling in my bathroom, my bathtub drain gets clogged, our vacuum doesn’t work," said Williams, who shares Knape Hall with several members of the group SAVE (Students Against Violation of the Environment). "We also have problems with our phones and the toilet in our public restroom doesn’t flush."

Next door, participants in the Casa Hogar program express similar concerns about their place of residence, Meijer Hall.

"We’ve had problems with plumbing, where the sewer line was clogged when we got back from fall break," said sophomore Carla Johnson. "Also, there’s been leaking in the walls upstairs where the snow built up and then melted. One girl’s bed got wet and another had books that were damaged on her bookshelf."

Such complaints are familiar refrains as inhabitants of both on-campus houses express frustration over the list of maintenance difficulties they have contended with over the course of the school year.

However, Director of Physical Plant Tom Summers believes that, in the case of Meijer Hall, the problems may lie not so much with deficient building construction, but instead with incorrect application of the work-process requests.

"They don’t use work requests regularly and they don’t really follow through," said Summers. "In the past 20 months we’ve done 144 work requests in Meijer Hall. It’s not like they’re being ignored. Only one outstanding request, to remove ice on the roof, hasn’t been completed, and I don’t think that’s probably gone by the wayside." Summers believes that stricter adherence to procedure would bring about more favorable results for residents of Meijer Hall.

"They can use the maintenance work request on the e-mail system; we monitor them all day long and issue them to workers when they come in," Summers said. "If they really have a problem, they can pick up the phone and call us."

Meijer Hall and Knape Hall, as well as nearby Woodcock Hall, comprise a trio of 1960s-era structures on the east side of campus that the school purchased in 1969 for student residential use. Each houses members of a club or organization who went through a special application process with the Residence Hall Association (RHA) for the opportunity to live there.

"We know that some of the repairs being done to the buildings are short-term fixes and will not solve what may be bigger underlying problems."

"Maintenance has been good about fixing things when they happen, but my biggest concern is that it’s not long term. They just patch things up, and it’s hard to fix the problems when they’re allowed to progress," said Johnson.

However, Summers states that, right now, this method might be more beneficial to the college and its residents.

"If you have a blown fuse in the furnace, you don’t go in and remove the fuse, you fix what’s wrong. You do the best you can initially to get by before the walls of Meijer Hall’s basement. Along with residents of Knape Hall, some students living in Meijer Hall have voiced concerns about the condition of the homes.

McCain hits road to sell campaign reform

by Alex Kingbury

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON - Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) is a frontrunner in the side of the new Bush administration in a new grassroots campaign to support the proposed bipartisan campaign finance reform bill.

McCain has been traveling the country on a quest to bring reforms to the campaign finance system, a program for which the Bush administration has shown lukewarm support. Bush and McCain met in late January to discuss the issue of campaign finance reform.

In a briefing, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the president is willing to listen. "The president is more than willing to listen to any proposal that would bring reform to the campaign finance system, a program that a lot of people think is really long overdue, and that needs to be addressed," said Fleischer.

Fleischer stressed the importance of reform before the next election.

"After one of the closest elections in our nation’s history, there’s no denying the American people are aware about - they want their government back," McCain told reporters.

"No one believes this procedure would ban soft money, the unlimited contributions to the political parties, from corporate and union spending on ads that mention federal candidates within 60 days of an election and requires disclosure of spending on those ads and the large individual donors who pay for them."

Concern by supporters of the bill was eased when McCain met in late January to discuss the issue with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) agreed to support the McCain would hope.

"After one of the closest elections in our nation’s history, there’s no denying the American people are aware about - they want their government back," McCain said. "I look forward to working out the re-

McCain decided to wait to bring the issue of campaign finance reform to the public attention until after the inauguration of George W. Bush. But it appears the hiatus is not at an end, as McCain has jumped up the political pressure on the new president to address the issue in a public forum.

Now McCain is using his increased name recognition and public attention to challenge what he called an "explosion of independent attack ads and the record-shattering level of soft money that infiltrated campaigns."

McCain is crossing a broad base of public support for his legislation. But a new report by the Cato Institute says that public opinion is not as strong as McCain would hope.

"Yes, citizens' trust in government is low, and yes, campaign spending has been increasing at a rapid pace," said David M. Primo, of Stanford University, wrote in Opinion and Campaign Finance. "However, if we examine the relationship between trust in government and overall spending, no relationship exists."

Primo warned legislators about placing the campaign finance reform issue at the head of their legislative agenda.

"In poll after poll, campaign finance is near the bottom of the list of important issues alongside world peace and homelessness," Primo said.

McCain will face a battle for the campaign finance reform legislation in late March when Senate leaders have agreed to discuss the matter.

Grades

The faculty and remedy the problem.

Sophomore Seth Peters is one student affected by this situation. Because of the winter end break was approaching and he had not yet received his report card, Peters telephoned the registrar's office over the weekend and learned that he had received A- in Physical Geography. The next day he received his report card and found that it indicated he had received a B.

"As soon as I got back to campus, I heard my professor mention that a student had reported that they hadn't had the right grade. I thought to myself, 'If it happened to other people, maybe it happened to me.' I asked them to verify what the grade was, and in the computer and the books the professor had turned in, I had an A-

The piece of paper said I had a B."

Peters later learned that he had, in fact, received a B.

"I think if I hadn't talked to the registrar's office over the phone, I might have been a bigger deal for me. I wouldn't even have thought to think over anything. It wouldn't have occurred to me to challenge that, and if I had found out differently later, it really would have bothered me, Peter said.

Kalman states that the office is working to rectify the situation.

"Our intent is to run a grade a run and return the validated grades to the students so that we can be as fair as possible," said Kalman.

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Weighing the need for Inquiry and Expression

The general education course, Inquiry and Expression, is currently undergoing a program review process. The class, which consists of lecture, reading, class discussion and the traditional thesis paper, stresses the expression of ideas and the pursuit of knowledge. Some students value this course's development of research strategies and writing skills. However, others see Inquiry and Expression as a mere refresher course of topics already learned in high school. Should this class be included as part of the traditional student's curriculum?

Assistant Editor, Content Contributing Writer

February 7, 2001

No. By the time most students come to college, they should have the skills necessary to be able to read, research and analyze a piece of literature, a scholarly journal or other educational resources.

High school curriculums are constantly changing to accommodate their students' needs. Such areas of modification include research skills and technology enhancements in order to keep up with constant demands. A survey conducted by Grunwald Associates in 2000 found that "both parents and children say that kids spend more Net time on learning activities than anything else." We know that more students are using the Internet as a learning tool, and we can assume that they will continue to apply this knowledge in college.

Also, many incoming students have experienced Advanced Placement or honors classes that stress critical-thinking, researching, speaking and writing skills. As the number of students with previous enrollment in such upper-level courses increases, the number of students needing Inquiry and Expression will decline.

According to the College Board Web site, Advanced Placement courses are offered by 13,000 secondary schools around the world; in 2000, 1.2 million exams were taken by 750,000 students. Such classes are widespread and have already begun to prepare students to handle rigorous college courses. For students of these classes, the curriculum of Aquinas' Inquiry and Expression program is merely a regeneration of lessons already learned.

Students who have taken such higher-level classes should at least be given the opportunity to test out of the course. If these students are already capable of writing at a sophisticated level and have demonstrated their abilities by passing the Advanced Placement exams, why should Aquinas delay the progress of their education?

If anything, perhaps Inquiry and Expression could be a seminar or review session for those students who feel that they only need a refresher course in such imperative skills.

Assistant Editor, Content Contributing Writer

February 7, 2001

Yes. Many students do not plan on continuing the direct study of American pluralism throughout their college career. Still, it is the skills that a student can learn to use along with the increased understanding and sensitivity toward these crucial issues that is of utmost importance to all students, regardless of their area of study.

Every discipline requires its students to be able to present a well-written paper, and Inquiry and Expression provides students with the opportunity to learn how to do just that. Almost all college students could use some additional practice in writing and speaking as well as an opportunity to discuss significant issues with their writing skills. Even if they have written a research paper before, it would still be very beneficial for them to do it again.

According to Durham, "Inquiry and Expression is important to all majors because of the specific aspects of writing such as articulating a thesis, organizing a paper, doing research, and presenting a quality draft. The critical skills learned in the first semester can be transferred to any discipline."

The importance of practicing one's writing skills is real. And college graduates are expected to be able not only to write, but to write well.
Week of celebration means more than just free cake

St. Thomas Aquinas Week has come and gone, leaving behind memories of grabbing a slice of birthday cake in the Academic Building or being part of the traditional Aquinas family photograph. Still one has to wonder if the activities planned for this important week, in which we celebrate our patron saint, are enough. Does the student body understand the purpose of this special time?

St. Thomas Aquinas Week originally began as Academic Day in 1943, shortly after the college became a four-year institution. The feast of St. Thomas Aquinas at that time was on March 7 and was celebrated with a solemn high Mass. There were 175 students from Aquinas as well as the senior classes from three local Catholic high schools — Marywood Academy, Mount Mercy Academy and Catholic Central — in attendance for this celebration at Marywood's chapel. After the Mass, students had the rest of the day free from classes.

Academic Day was slowly expanded to a three- or four-day celebration and then eventually became what we now know as St. Thomas Aquinas Week. This week of celebration is scheduled in accordance with the move of St. Thomas' feast day, which was changed to Jan. 28 after Vatican II. The date is the anniversary of the installation of St. Thomas' relics in the Church of the Jacobins in Toulouse, France.

Many traditions have been kept during the evolution of this celebration. Such activities include the Mass, guest speakers and lectures. The Labyrinth Walk and Steve Allen video are recent additions to the week. Yet with all of these planned activities, it has been interesting to note the lack of participation on the part of students. This is especially true this year as opposed to the past. While the traditional Quiz Bowl in the Cook Carriage House was a successful activity, this year's medieval banquet did not see as many guests as in previous years.

Is this lack of participation due to poor communication on the part of the school? Perhaps not enough students are informed about the week's activities, or maybe some just don't care.

But, the student body should always rally during on-campus activities, especially at this time of year. Students do not band together as they once did, eagerly encouraging one another to attend St. Thomas Aquinas Week activities. Instead, students have chosen to remain focused more on personal endeavors. It's obvious that the same students who work hard to promote this week constitute the majority of individuals attending its scheduled events. However, we should all have at least a sliver of school pride and a basic understanding of our college's namesake. And celebrating St. Thomas Aquinas Week achieves both of these objectives.

The week encompasses community, caring and embracing the spirit of our patron saint's teachings. We should know what he stood for and how his philosophies shaped this institution, rather than just going through the motion for free cake.

OPINION

And you can Quote me on that

Is St. Thomas Aquinas Week an adequate way to celebrate our patron saint?

"As long as people are working together to become more of a community and becoming more of a close-knit family, then the purpose of celebrating St. Thomas Aquinas Week has been accomplished."

-DENVN Neimeister, freshman

"Yes. Since 1943, I have seen the celebration of the feast of St. Thomas grow from one day to three or four days and more recently to a full week. I think that the variety of activities have given everyone the opportunity to participate."

-Sister Jean Milhaupt, Archivist

"Yes, I personally feel that this year students were provided with many activities and lectures that allowed us to become more knowledgeable about our college namesake St. Thomas Aquinas."

-Josh Friederichs, sophomore

"Yes, and no. The activities and special events during the week are a nice chance to show school spirit and learn more about our Dominican heritage. However, I think that the week should include more events that appeal to a greater number of students. Also, more effective publicity would encourage more students to attend events, especially our off-campus students."

-Laura Wick, junior

"Yes, I feel that St. Thomas Aquinas Week is a great way to make the Aquinas community aware and more appreciative of St. Thomas. Having a variety of activities ranging from Mass and prayer sessions to a pep rally gave every student the opportunity to get involved in his or her own way."

-Lisa Schipper, senior

C'mon, Get with The Times.
Jessica Simpson declared it. Britney Spears proclaimed it.

These female pop stars are proud of their abstinence. Yet, where are the male virgins in the media? As today's society tends to associate virginity with the female gender, males have been less likely to proclaim their sexual status.

"I usually don't talk about what I do with my girlfriends, no kiss and tell," junior Billy* said. "If the topic (of sex) comes up, I tell the truth. I don't hide it and I don't shout it out."

When he does discuss his sexuality, Billy's friends develop a variety of reactions.

"Most of the time, people are surprised that I am a virgin," Billy said. "I just haven't found a person that I really love that I can share that gift with yet, whether it be in marriage or not."

Marriage may not be an issue with Billy, but premarital sex is against sophomore Mark Hombacher's beliefs. "I believe that sex is something that unifies a man and a woman," he said. "Its major purpose is to have kids, and having a child is something that requires the people involved to stay together, like in marriage. They make a pledge to (stay together) before the community and God."

Because of his religious beliefs and upbringing, Hombacher is waiting until he gets married to have sex. He also believes that the media is permeating American culture with thoughts that virginity is "not cool." Hombacher feels that it is difficult in today's society to be a virgin because he says the world around him believes the other way.

"I feel that (being a virgin) is a minority position," Hombacher said. "Another reason why males are less accepted as virgins may be because of the male ego and the reputation that we must obtain." In his opinion, society and the media may have developed this reputation.

The media have increased the amount of premarital sexual content in movies and on television shows for all eyes to see. Another sophomore, Mike Appel, added that the media portrays virginity in two completely different ways.

"If you're a man, it's not really thought of if you have sex or with how many people you sleep with. But for women, if you have sex with multiple partners, you're considered easy," Appel said. He deems that sexually active males are praised, while male virgins are frowned upon.

From a female's perspective, freshman Michelle Borek agrees that male virgins are unacceptable in today's society. "I think that it's good that a male is a virgin, even though society doesn't," she said. "I am more likely to date one than anyone else."

Despite their observations that society portrays male virginity as negative, these Aquinas males have chosen abstinence.

"There are a lot more (virgins) out there than you think," Billy said.

*Name has been changed.
Abstinence at Aquinas

We polled 118 Aquinas students, 70 females and 48 males, to discover not only how many are virgins, but also their reasons for waiting, which range from religious beliefs to fear of pregnancy.

Virginity on campus...

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<td>10% of males</td>
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<tr>
<td>0% of females</td>
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Four percent of students (10 percent of males and zero percent of females) declined to state.

Of those who were virgins, these are their reasons (some chose more than one reason):

- Religious reasons:
  - 63% of males
  - 56% of females

- Scared of getting an STD or pregnant:
  - 25% of males
  - 38% of females

- Waiting for the right person:
  - 75% of males
  - 67% of females

Women of chaste convictions

St. Maria Goretti

St. Maria Goretti is the youngest officially-recognized saint by the Roman Catholic Church and is remembered for her virginity. St. Maria was made a martyr on July 6, 1902 after being stabbed 14 times by Alessandro Serenelli. He harassed her on numerous occasions, making sexual advances that she refused. On June 24, 1950, 50 years after her martyrdom, Pope Pius XII announced her a saint of the Catholic Church.

Source: mariagoretti.org

Jessica Simpson

At age 12, Simpson vowed to abstain from sex until marriage. "My virginity is something I stand strong in," says Simpson, a devoted Christian who neither smokes nor drinks. And her boyfriend Nick Lachey stands with her. "It's not always easy," he says. "But I do respect it. Virginity can be cool and sexy."

Source: jessica-simpson.org

Britney Spears

Though often criticized for her provocative style, Britney Spears is a strong supporter of abstaining from sex until marriage. Last December, a British Christian magazine used Spears as its "poster child" to promote virginity. In defense of the photographs that often portray a scantily-clad Spears, she says that she was not brought up to be ashamed of her body.

Source: foxnews.com
February 7-10
Friday: Check out Frank Sinatra Jr. as he joins forces with the Grand Rapids Symphony at DeVos Hall. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $22-50 through Ticketmaster. Call 456-3333 for more info or visit gryphon symphony.org.
Saturday: Local music is alive at the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, 272 Pearl St. N.W. As part of its Grand River Folk Arts Society, Lucy Webster, Rainier Bowles, and The Jimmie Stagger Band will perform at 8 p.m. Admission is $7 for students and $8 for the general public; call 534-7404 for more info.

February 11-17
Friday: Sponge will make a stop with local band Molotov at the new all-ages Pop Cafe, located next to the intersection, at 7 p.m. Tickets are $12 through Ticketmaster. Call 456-3333 for tickets and info.

February 18-26:
Thursday: Celebrate 40 at the Annual 40-Media, Juried Student Art Show at the AMC. The opening reception is from 5-7 p.m., and the exhibit will run through March 30. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, and 2-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
Saturday-Sunday: Observe Black History Month at Aquinas with the 11th-annual play in its honor. The play, about a conversation between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, is called "The Meeting" and will be performed in the Moose Cafe at 7 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday.
Friday: Deadline for submitting to Aquinas’ annual literary publication, "Sampler III." All poems submitted are considered for a $100 prize from the Academy of American Poets. Call 459-1764 or see Professor Miriam Pederson for info.

Ongoing:
Until Friday: View the oil and watercolor paintings of Tim Kennedy at the AMC. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, and 2-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Upcoming and exciting:
March 6: Listen to some rock ‘n’ roll when rock veteran Don Henley stops at the Van Andel Arena with special guest All Sons. The show will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $45-59.50 through Ticketmaster. Call 456-3333 for more info.
March 9: Eve 6 comes back to Grand Rapids with a show at the Orbit Room at 8 p.m. Tickets went on sale Feb. 2 through Ticketmaster. Call 456-3333 for tickets and info.
Contact The Aquinas Times, by mail at The Aquinas Times, 1607 Robinson Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cupid goes culinary

Don’t know where to eat for Valentine’s Day? Contributing Writer Katey Miller narrows the options down to five.

Number five

The Sierra Room
Located at 25 Towne Ave. S.W., The Sierra Room is a hip restaurant with an upscale atmosphere and unique food. Asian, French, Southwestern and classic American dishes each lend their individual taste to diversify the menu. A Sierra Room employee informed me that the chef is putting together a special Valentine’s Day menu. However, at press time the staff did not know the official list. I found The Sierra Room to be a bit pricey — around $50 for a dinner for two plus tip, which is why it is fifth place on my list. Reservations can be made for Feb. 14 by calling 459-1764.

Number four

Rose’s
Located at 550 Lakeside Dr. S.E., Rose’s was built on the historical site of Rose’s Popcorn Shop and was also part of the now defunct Ramona Amusement Park. The inside decor is modern and features pictures of the old Ramona Park as well as comfortable booths and tables and a warm fireplace. There are rumors of a steak and lobster or a steak and shrimp special for Valentine’s Day. Rose’s other menu items have a Mediterranean flavor, and their wood-fired pizzas are definitely my favorite since they lend the ability to design one’s own pizza. The only downside to the restaurant is that they do not accept reservations, so in order to call 458-8368.

Number three

Vitale’s
Located at 834 Leonard St. N.E., Vitale’s originally opened in a converted garage in 1966. Now reminiscent of old-world Italy, this restaurant has turned from a garage into a respectable establishment with small booths and tables throughout. The lighting is dim, and grape vines dangle down from the ceiling. The service is always great, the dishes are completely authentic, and it does not cause a big dent into your pocket. For dinner for two, expect to pay around $30 including a tip. The Valentine’s Day special is, unfortunately, not Italian. It will be a prime rib special. For reservations, call 458-8368.

Number two

Pietro’s
Just off 28th Street at 2780 Birchcrest Dr. S.E., Pietro’s is a fabulous restaurant that has the potential to make your Valentine’s Day perfect. Although families come here for dinner, it can also be a romantic getaway for two. Classic of an Italian restaurant are the low lights, stucco walls, secluded booths and, of course, a hearty meal. My last visit was in January, and I was definitely satisfied with the meal and atmosphere. My date and I had an appetizer, each had a pasta dish, and shared a piece of cheesecake all for around $33, not including a tip. The wait staff was good, and they definitely didn’t rush dinner. Our waiter told us to relax and order whenever we were ready. I was impressed, as was my date. For Valentine’s Day, Pietro’s is offering three specials: Chicken Milaneso, Veal Limone, and Grilled Tenderloin Marsalla, all of which include a soup and salad. Prices range on these specials from $12.95-16.95. Unfortunately, Pietro’s doesn’t accept reservations, but they do have call-ahead seating. Call 452-3228 about 1.5 minutes before you leave and get your name on the list.

Your kitchen
That’s right — cook a romantic dinner at home. It can be done in the dorm kitchens, but make sure pesky roommates take a hike before your date arrives. Pasta and a good bottle of sparkling grape juice are definitely possibilities for a good dinner. Don’t forget to grab some rolls. And since garlic breath may put a damper on that “thank you for cooking me such a delicious dinner” kiss, be sure to have some after-dinner mints on hand. For those who lack cooking talent, this is a dinner that can’t be messed up. Just head on over to D&W or Meijer, grab some pasta, marinara sauce and rolls, and you are on your way for around $10. Everyone loves a home-cooked meal, and this will definitely win your loved one’s heart.
the paintings are self-portraits focused in front of a mirror, some only reflecting a hand or an arm.

According to Pederson, Kennedy also employs the use of contrasting color to display different moods. His "Day and Night" painting from 1997 uses dark colors and contains objects that could be recognized as a symbol of night, darkness and death. The rest of the piece contains figures that could be seen as symbols of day, light and life.

Pederson summarized Kennedy's exhibit, pointing out his use of classic devices to build unified and interesting compositions, such as diagonals, that give the viewer direction signals and visual entry into the painting," he said. "I think the paintings are good on several levels, including successful 2-D design, convincing illusionistic space, and interesting associative content."

Kennedy is a professor at the University of Indiana, and was an assistant professor of foundation design at Grand Valley State University from 1998 until 2000. He has won several awards for his artwork, including the Charles G. Shaw Painting Award in 1983 and the Individual Artist Grant in 1990, 1994 and 1997.

The survey results will be used to aid the student activities office in planning future programs. Mullen wanted to discover what weekend activities the student body enjoyed, and at the same time, evaluate why some students leave campus during the weekend.

"I was hoping to find that people were sticking around on weekends and that we could find out what activities they enjoyed doing and provide some of those opportunities," said Mullen. "If people were definitely leaving a lot, then we could look at some of the reasons why they were leaving."

The results also indicated students' specific areas of interest. Among their requests, students stated they would like activities aimed toward athletics and fitness. "In some way we would like to meet that need, perhaps with more outdoor activities," Mullen said.

"We also would like to try to build support around our athletic teams."

Mullen also mentioned the student activities office would like to have future programs that can be a "suitcase campus." The survey's results dismiss the idea that Aquinas is a "suitcase campus."

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"If people were definitely leaving a lot, then we could look at some of the reasons why." -Eric Mullen, Student Activities Director

"We want to know if we can challenge students. We want to know if we can challenge students. The survey is a step in this direction." -Eric Mullen, Student Activities Director

ENTERTAINMENT

Student activities survey results released

compiled by Staff

The student activities office found that more than half of the student body (57.2 percent) stays on campus for at least two weekends out of every month.

These results came from a direct-mail survey of 257 on-campus residents initiated by Eric Mullen, Director of Student Activities.

Mullen feels that the survey's results dismiss the idea that Aquinas is a "suitcase campus."

"If people were definitely leaving a lot, then we could look at some of the reasons why." -Eric Mullen, Student Activities Director

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"If people were definitely leaving a lot, then we could look at some of the reasons why." -Eric Mullen, Student Activities Director

Snatch: Movie Soundtrack

by Andrew Wilson

Contributing Writer

Soundtracks are one of two things: great songs by artists not known to the public or songs by the same Top-40 bands that play on the radio all the time. But Snatch: Movie Soundtrack is different.

The soundtrack has strength and charm. Some of the tracks included on the disc bring to life heavy hitters like Madonna, who contributes the song "Lucky Star" to the disc. The soundtrack also boasts Oasis, who released new material specifically for the disc.

However, the disc has an entirely different sound outside of the aforementioned artists. There are groups on the soundtrack that are lesser known than the usual MTV music video hits. An example is the band Klint, which has an automatic hit with the song "Supermoves." This track mixes rawy bass sounds with techno music.

Another lesser-known musical group on the CD is The Smugglers. This band brings a harpsichord version of an old English folk song "Golden Brown" to the disc, adding to the soundtrack's eclectic sound.

Also impressive is the band The Herbaliser with its song "Sensual Woman." Comprised of eclectic lyrics and sound clips from lounge hits spliced together, this is one of the sexiest songs I have ever heard.

British bands and Jamaican reggae groups that are not "typical" to audiences in the United States constitute the CD. This diversifies the disc from standard soundtracks produced from mainstream radio hits.

The soundtrack also includes sound clips from the movie, these phrases and lines tie the movie and CD more closely together. The dialogue is included on the disc because film director Guy Ritchie wanted the soundtrack to be as diverse as the film's characters.

As a whole, the soundtrack flows with complete continuity and gives listeners a sample of great music by some lesser-known bands.
Southern Illinois U. grad finds ‘Survivor’ time tainted by beef jerky

by Burke Speaker

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale alum finds new Web phenomenon

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale grad, Calif. - The tithe desire for people to know how they would rate a photo of a scale of attractiveness has made a Web site created by two University of California-Berkeley alumni one of the hottest sites on the Internet.

"Am I hot or not?" is the question visi tors to amihotornot.com - a Web site created by 2001 UC Berkeley electrical engineering alums James Hong and Hong's roommate Jim Young - hope to get answered.

By submitting their pictures, people have finally found a way to anonymously discover how well they would rate on a scale of one to 10, where 10 is hot and one is not.

In addition to quantifying their personal appearance, the site can rate the thousands of other photographs posted on the site.

When Hong and Young decided three months ago that it would be entertaining to post a picture on the Internet for people to rate http://amihotornot.com for developers.

February 7, 2001

Southern Illinois U. grad finds ‘Survivor’ time tainted by beef jerky

by Bernice Ng

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Are you hot or not? Two UC-Berkeley alums start new Web phenomenon

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AQ Dance: Is it a sport?
by Dave Williams
Guest Columnist
The buzzer goes off conveying to the students that it is halftime at the Aquinas basketball game. Two teams leave the court while a third team ventures upon it. The Aquinas Dance Team prepares to perform a halftime show set to the song “Higher Ground” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The ladies’ dance moves show how much they love this game. It is their time to do this activity. The dance routines call for the muscles to be flexible, strong and enduring. Despite these physical exertions, the dance team members wear smiles on their face, showing their excitement for the performance. How can you not be excited about this activity? They love it and deserve to be labeled a collegiate sport.

Sophomore Ross Weddle stated that a sport to him would have some sort of competition, “I think that (the dance team is a sport) because we work as hard as everyone else, and we put much effort into the moves we have learned.”

Junior and Co-Captain Monique Atwood said, “We do just as much physical activity as every other sport. There is a lot of training, self-discipline and technique that goes into dancing,” said senior and Co-Captain Schianti Dioso. “It takes a certain amount of skill for seven people to move in consecutive movements.

The Aquinas Dance Team has the same basic rules to follow as any other sports team. Members must show up for practice, listen to their coach, and be well-dressed when performing.

The dance team may not have traveling, face-mask, or roughing-the-kicker penalties, but its members must follow the guidelines that their coach establishes for the routines. If one of the members is not disciplined and does not follow the coach’s instructions, it could result in incidental tripping that could cause injuries.

On the subject of the dance team being a sport, sophomore Aubrey Marunowski said, “I think that (the dance team is a sport) because we work as hard as everyone else, and we put much time and effort into the moves we have learned.”

The ladies of the dance team would like to be associated with this.

“Now we just want to do what it takes to win,” said sophomore forward Shandy Atwood.

“We’re going to do what it takes, especially during tournament play,” Atwood said. “We want to get to Nationals because that is what we were last year.”

Sophomore Angie Strom added, “I don’t think (the dance team) is a sport because they are not competing. They were given the budget to compete, then it would be a sport.”

The ladies of the dance team would like to compete, but they lack the funding to participate in tournaments.

Despite the lack of a competitive component, dance team members still enjoy what they are doing because of the “rush” received when performing in front of audiences.

Although the team may not qualify to be a sport at Aquinas, they still deserve the same amount of support and respect received by other teams.

The student athletes of the dance team possess another quality of sports—the encouragement of fellow athletes. They stay and cheer for the basketball team throughout the entire game. Junior and Co-Captain Monique Naden stated, “Not only do we work as hard as every other team at Aquinas, but we also support other teams on campus.

Clearly, the elements of physical activity, discipline, and the encouragement of other teams more than qualifies the dance team as being a sport.

A loss places Saints sixth in WHAC
by Mark Postma Contributing Writer
Aquinas’ women’s basketball suffered a 75-72 loss to the Spring Arbor Cougars Saturday. This loss put the Saints in seventh place in the WHAC standings.

With the regular season coming to an end Feb. 17, the women’s basketball team is staging optimistic attitudes about the prospects of tournament play.

“Right now we just want to do what it takes to win,” said sophomore forward Shandy Atwood.

“We’re going to do what it takes, especially during tournament play,” Atwood said. “We want to get to Nationals because that is what we were last year.”

She also stated that the team is not letting its overall record of 11-13 affect its hopes of getting to Nationals.

“Right now we’re in the right place to (go to Nationals) because everyone has counted us out,” Atwood said.

She also believes that this year’s team has had a tough schedule, a schedule which she hopes will lend Aquinas the opportunity to surprise future opponents.

In recent play, Spring Arbor and Aquinas started the game with matching conference records. However, Aquinas could not contend with Spring Arbor’s speed. The Cougars beat the Saints down the floor numerous times, enabling Spring Arbor to make full-court passes for many two-point baskets. Along with the fast speed of Spring Arbor, the Cougars made quick passes around the perimeter and under the basket. These passes made it possible for the Cougars to create open shots.

Aquinas led 4-0 during the first minute of play. The Cougars then controlled the rest of the first half and led by as many as 14 points. Although Aquinas pressed down the court, they could not match the Cougars’ quick passes and were forced to take many outside shots. Unsuccessful with these shots, the Saints were also unable to get ball inside to junior Mary Bond because she was double teamed the entire game.

At the start of the second half, the Saints came agressively with full-court defense and grabbed many rebounds. Aquinas started to put together a scoring drive, but its outside shooting did not improve.

Spring Arbor remained on course and increased its lead to as much as 20 points with four minutes remaining in the game. However, Aquinas did not give up. The Saints continued to battle against the Cougars, with a couple of quick three-point shots decreasing Spring Arbor’s lead to a 12-point margin. This was not enough, however, as Spring Arbor walked off the court with the win.

XFL, Ventura debut over weekend amid lawmaker’s concerns
by Sam Kern
(MINNEAPOLIS) The opening scene was bright and larger than life: Professional wrestler The Rock leaped onto a gigantic screen to 30,000 Los, Vegas Outlaw fans.

Snarling, The Rock said he was “gerked” about the opening of the XFL. Jersey-clad fans answered with screams.

It’s just the image the XFL, America’s newest professional football league, has been cultivating.

Minnesota governor and the game’s color commentator, Jesse Ventura, could hardly contain himself.

Ventura and play-by-play partner Matt Vasgersian made a subdued debut Saturday night on television analysts for the start-up league, during the Las Vegas Outlaws-New York-New Jersey Hitmen game. The XFL is a rival to the collegiate athletic programs in Minnesota instead of making the 12-week commitment.

Ventura has defended his actions, saying that being Minnesota’s governor does not preclude him from pursuing outside interests. He also points out the XFL covers transportation and releases him from broadcast duties should state business call.

Yet criticism surrounds Ventura and his affiliation with the newly-founded and controversial league.

While Sen. John Marty, DFL-Roseville, has applauded the governor’s talks to teenagers about responsibility, after watching the broadcast full of “pre-teen humor,” he questioned whether association with the league will send conflicting messages “The XFL is beneath the dignity of the office,” he said.

Marty admitted that Ventura’s “boisterous tough-talk” is perfect for the league. However, Marty deems this a problem. He sees Ventura as a valuable asset to promoting the league, and questioned how much money the league pays him and whether this outside salary is a conflict of interest. Ventura has refused to disclose his XFL salary and maintenance.

Ventura will be on the air again next week in Los Angeles, covering the L.A. Xtreme-Chicago Command game.

Benedict the fireworks, there was an actual football game Saturday. Las Vegas shut out NV/NJ 19-0.
Junior Nate Kaiser leads the 5,000-meter race at Friday's six-team meet. His time of 15:29.70 earned him first place in the event.

Indoor track claims four meet records, looks to Conference competition

by Sean M. Schmidt

As of Friday's meet, the indoor track season has extended for two Aquinas runners. Both freshman Val Kunde and junior Adam Jaregui qualified for the NAIA Nationals, which will be held March 1-3 in Johnson City, Tenn.

Kunde, who took second place in the 5,000-meter race at Friday's competition hosted by Saginaw Valley State University, also set a new school record with a 18:22 finish. Jaregui took home first place in the 200-meter race, qualifying for Nationals with a meet record time of 22.3.

The men's and women's teams placed second and fourth, respectively. According to Head Coach Dave Wood, many Saints had solid performances that contributed to Friday's finishes.

"There is a pretty solid team effort all the way through. We aren't depending on any one star."

—Dave Wood, Head Coach

Freshman Val Kunde pulls ahead of an opponent from Saginaw Valley in Friday's competition. Kunde set the Aquinas record for the 5,000 in a time of 18:22.

WHAC Attack: Conference enters final weeks of regular-season play

compiled by Staff

The Aquinas Times

With just two weeks of league play remaining in the regular season, a dead heat for first place has ensued for both the women's and men's basketball teams in the WHAC.

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

After defeating Madonna (7-19) in Wednesday's 111-89 overtime win, Concordia College (14-13) missed the opportunity to move within one game of Cornerstone University (22-6) and Tri-State University by losing to the nation's fourth-ranked Siena Heights (23-4) Saturday 99-82. The loss drops Concordia to 1-4 in the WHAC, moving Siena Heights into a three-way tie for first place with Cornerstone and Tri-State, all at 8-2.

Leading the way for Concordia was WHAC Player of the Week Dave Behnke, a senior guard from Park City, Utah. Behnke helped the Cardinals to a 2-1 week by averaging 31 points and 9.3 rebounds per game. Behnke scored 35 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and five steals in the overtime win over Madonna. In the matchup with Siena Heights, he poured in 35 points and 10 rebounds in the losing effort. Behnke also connected on 46 percent of his shots from the field, in addition to 54 percent (15-28) from the three-point range.

Other noteworthy performances came from Indiana Tech's Tyus Smith, who averaged 29.3 points and five rebounds in two games, and Dan Kortunia of Madonna University, who averaged 22.3 points and 5.3 assists over three games.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

Although they may not have the best overall record, Madonna University (13-10) grabbed two league wins last week over Concordia (12-7) and Tri-State (16-10). This has given the Crusaders a one-game lead in the WHAC over Cornerstone College (20-4).

Leading Madonna's way is Kristi Fiorenzi, the standout senior forward from Plymouth, Mich. Fiorenzi averaged 19 points and seven rebounds in Madonna's two victories last week. In the 74-57 victory over Concordia, Fiorenzi scored 15 points and eight rebounds. She then claimed 23 points and six rebounds in an 84-78 win over Tri-state. For the week, Fiorenzi hit 68 percent of her shots.

Playing well for Cornerstone is Julie Vogelsang, whose 15 points and 11 rebounds in two games helped lead the Golden Eagles to a 1-1 week.