Students challenge college stance on birth control

by Chris Epplett  

News Editor

After an Aquinas Times article last year claimed the campus health center prescribes birth control and hands out condoms, many students were outraged. With mounting criticism, the center has attempted to clear its name and clarify its stance on birth control.

"It's a confidential issue between the nurse and patient," Quigg said. "If a student has any health need, we will help them in a confidential, professional manner. We give everyone the proper help. I would never condone someone." 

In its investigation, the Times found that the Aquinas College Health Center does have a limited amount of available items: condoms, safe sex and forms of birth control. Pamphlets are given freely to Aquinas through St. Mary's McCauley Health Clinic. 

Dean of Student Affairs Brad Winkler agrees with the health center's stance. In a recent Associated Press article, Winkler said that Aquinas "protects the integrity of the doctor-patient relationship." 

"As the context of that relationship, a physician can prescribe birth control if requested, through the medical plan," Winkler told the press.

Some students disagree with the policy. "I think it's sad because they're supporting dysfunctional sexuality," senior Mark Postma claims. "They're promoting a total dysfunctional, unhealthy way of life.

Meanwhile, according to Winkler, Aquinas College advocates that unmarried students should abstain from sex. Quigg agrees. "I don't believe in sex before marriage," Quigg commented. "But that's not reality." 

Quigg added that having information available and prescribing birth control is "a prevention of disease." While Postma understands Quigg's point, he does not agree with her reasoning.

"Postma explained, "Yes, it happens, but that doesn't mean it's the way it's supposed to be." 

Sophomore Megan McGrath agrees. "I understand it from the perspective of a health issue," McGrath said. "But we can't confine our beliefs because some people choose to sin. By prescribing birth control and encouraging safe sex, we are aiding in sin.

Still, Quigg says she is "there to meet the need of students, not just the Catholic ones," referring to the 39 percent of the 2,579 Aquinas students who are not Catholic.

The Times contacted four other Catholic colleges in the region. Sources from Dayton University (Dayton, Ohio), Notre Dame University (South Bend, Ind.), St. Mary's College (South Bend, Ind.) and Franciscan University of Steubenville (Steubenville, Ohio), all denied prescription of birth control or availability of condoms.

Both Dayton and Steubenville confirmed that literary material on birth control and safe sexual behavior are prohibited as well.

Still, Quigg believes the health center is providing an important service for students.

"I'm very conscious of what the Church teaches," Quigg responded. "But it is not our place as a medical institution to judge.

Quigg is backed up: campus chaplain, the Reverend Charles Santoro, O.P., who suggested the current policy of the health office does not violate the Church guidelines.

"I find Aquinas' health office in sync with Catholic morality," Santoro said. "I would not necessarily label Aquinas as conservative, but certainly we follow the Catholic teaching on moral issues based on St. Thomas Aquinas' dictum that 'one's conscience must be followed in matters of moral decision-making.'"

Coming Out Day stirs controversy, intent questioned

by Chris Epplett

News Editor

With the intention of creating awareness of discrimination against homosexuals, Aquinas College's participation in "National Coming Out Day" last Friday raised many questions on whether the event was appropriate.

"I support people coming out," senior Dan Fowler said. "But I don't think there needs to be a specific day when we give a visual sign. It needs to be done on a more personal level."

Fowler was among many students who questioned the motives of the Women's Studies Center and the Gender Studies Club who co-hosted the event.

"I wasn't sure if they were supporting the homosexual lifestyle or simply advocating a fight against discrimination," sophomore Kathleen Streng said. "Equality could mean a lot of things, including same-sex marriage, which is against Church teaching."

According to Gender Studies Club president Courtney Johnson, the club never intended to support anything against Catholic teaching. Instead, Johnson said the event's main intent was to congratulate New Hope, Pennsylvania, which recently passed an ordinance that bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"We felt the event would be a good gesture to congratulate New Hope for being so progressive as a small town," Johnson said. "We are supporting the equality of all within the guidelines of the Catholic Church. (This campaign) is about protecting homosexual's rights as human beings."

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, homosexual acts are "contrary to natural law" and "close the sexual act to the gift of life."

"They do not proceed from genuine affective and sexual complementarity," the Catechism states. "Under no circumstances can they be approved."

"One's conscience must be followed in matters of moral decision-making. '" Johnson explained, "Yes, it happens, but that doesn't mean it's the way it's supposed to be."

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(L-R) Jen Flanders, Sarah Mundy, and Courtney Johnson invited students, faculty, and staff to show their support at the National Coming Out Day event by signing postcards. The event was organized to increase awareness of discrimination against homosexuals.

Fowler said, "Denim is widely worn. A flag or sticker would have been a more genuine show of support."

The Women's Studies Center chose denim for that very reason.

"Wearing denim shows that being homophobic is as easy as wearing a pair of jeans," Johnson said. "It's just something you do."

In addition to denim, the club asked students to sign postcards during their 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. campaign in the Academic Building entrance. With over 400 signed, the postcards were addressed to Geri Delvich, the politician who lobbied for the ban.

"We support you in unanimously passing a ban on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation for New Hope, Pa.," the postcards read. "Once again, our praise goes to you.

Johnson believes the day accomplished its target goal — showing support for equality.

Meanwhile, some students still question the event's political agenda, considering it took place on a Catholic campus. Either way, opponents say it will not affect the Church's stance on homosexuality.

"It's a good notion," Junior Charles DiGiovanna said. "But this will change public opinion, not Church policy."
"Of Mice and Men" retained at Grandville High School despite criticism

GRANVILLE — According to the Grand Rapids Press, John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" will stay on the required reading list at Grandville High School.

In a meeting last Monday, the board voted to retain the book, which is a 10th-grade literature requirement. "I believe it was the right decision," said high school Principal Randy Morris. "But I also believe that parents have a right to voice their opinions in a very appropriate and responsible manner."

Monday's decision appeared to be the last step in a process that began in the spring when resident Tom Mowg protested school use of the novel, saying it contains hundreds of profanities.

After the decision, Mowg said he was not sure what action he might take next. "In my opinion, this was decided months ago," he said. "I'd like to know how many board members have read the book.

Board member Steve Zinger said this morning that "Of Mice and Men" is a "classic piece of literature that, in spite of some perceptions, is a good teaching tool about racism."

Board member Randy Renempa — whose son, Dan, taught the English class of Mouw's daughter — said he supported retaining the novel because the "board policy was carried out to the fullest."

Jackson man sentenced to life in prison

JACKSON — The Jackson City Commission has approved a sentence of life in prison for a man convicted in the April stabbing death of a local woman. The man, Anthony Neal, will be carried out to the fullest.

Portage woman charged with robbery

PORTAGE — A 62-year-old Portage woman was charged Monday with robbing a local dry cleaner, according to the Kalamazoo Gazette.

Betty Smukowski was arrested on charges of armed robbery, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, carrying a concealed weapon and identity fraud.

According to police, Smukowski entered the dry cleaner shortly before it opened at 6 a.m. Monday and pointed a gun at the employee, demanding money.

The employee entered a back room and told her to stay there, police reported.

A customer who entered the store shortly after said the store had been robbed and telephone service was poor.

At 6:05 a.m., a Portage Police officer spotted Smukowski, a woman with a shaved head, near the dry cleaner, police said.

Smukowski pulled away, but the car was located by another officer, who stopped the driver without incident.

The weapon, cash and phone card from the store were found inside the woman's vehicle, according to Portage Police.

Sgt. Thomas Palenick said it was unclear why the woman allegedly robbed the dry cleaner, but that she apparently intended to repeat at the second location.

An effort was made to promote the study abroad program and to share his knowledge of Costa Rican history with the staff, faculty and student body of the college.

Fourteen students studied in Costa Rica in the spring of 2000 with Mary Clark-Kaiser and Kurt Kaiser serving as advisors for the trip.

In 2002, thirteen more students headed south to work with Acer and, on January 9, another eleven students will be starting their study abroad experience in Costa Rica.

Centered in Santa Ana, Costa Rica, a small town about 20 miles outside of the country's capital, San Jose, the students live with host families in Santa Ana, receiving full cultural immersion. They have plenty of travel experience throughout the country, as well. In addition to Spanish courses, students take a Culture/History of Costa Rica class and work on a reforestation project. The environmental focus of the program allows students to have hands-on participation in the reforestation process throughout the entire semester.

Acer's trip to Aquinas College was his first ever visit to Michigan. During his week on campus, he talked with various Spanish classes about Costa Rica and spent a lunch hour lecturing on his past with the indigenous cultures of Costa Rica.

An anthropologist, Acer was a professor at the University of Costa Rica when he met Maria Heria Postor, a famous anthropologist and author on the subject of indigenous villages in Costa Rica.

Postor introduced Acer to the society of seven indigenous cultures of the country. Through this connection, Acer started his continuous work with the indigenous.

These communities have fought for hundreds of years to preserve their own culture in Costa Rica. As Acer said, "The indigenous are special in that they have an incredible resistance against losing their identity. Despite low economics and poor education, the indigenous have maintained a traditional way of looking at their world."

One challenge facing the indigenous peoples is the government trying to pay them off for their land. Instead of losing their land, their way of living and their identity, the indigenous are fighting to keep what is theirs. Previously, the indigenous peoples have lost their land to the government one day.

"Of Mice and Men" retained at Grandville High School despite criticism

For the youth, activities such as face painting, pumpkin decorating, cider making and apple races take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This will feature produce from six local farmers as well as demonstrations of how to prepare healthy dishes by area chefs.

Although Grand Rapids already has an extensive farmers market on Fulton Street near Fuller Avenue, it is a long commute from the SECA neighborhood, according to SECA executive director Sarah Smith.

"Research shows that population centers as dense as Grand Rapids are able to support several farm markets," she said. "We thought it made sense to open the city's second market in a neighborhood that could really benefit from it."

In addition to the Farmers Market, participants can help prepare a garlic fest for the winter from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This will feature a variety of activities for people of all ages, stressing the importance of fruits and vegetables in a healthy diet.
Posthumus accused Granholm of attacks were becoming a problem.

"I respect the protestors," Granholm said. "I think that all ads with their images don't represent who I am." Granholm said that the protestors were just an example of different beliefs.

"In a democracy we have to have different ideas." Granholm said.

"There is no law and order business. Those are real people with real feelings." Granholm said.

"I have no intention of raising taxes, but it has to depend on what is shaping up to be a close election," Granholm said.

"I don't think that they are reflective of the majority of Catholics," Granholm said.

"I have no intention of putting any money into scholarships. We want to improve early childhood reading. Our goal is that all students should be able to read by the third grade." Granholm said.

"Observe the integrity of the money," Granholm said.

"The DNR has lost employees to the early retirement program and there is no money available under the current budget to re-hire employees," Granholm said.

"Just 20 days left until elections are held on November 5, both Granholm and Posthumus continue on the campaign trail in what is shaping up to be a close race." A poll commissioned by WOOD-TV by EPIC/MRA the day of the debate showed that Granholm was leading Posthumus by 12 points. "The polls are irrelevant. We are going to continue to fight for early childhood education." Posthumus said.

"Those are real people with real feelings." Granholm said.

"I would be willing to let the law sit," Granholm said.

"I don't think that they are reflective of the majority of Catholics," Granholm said.

"It is hers that is a lie," Granholm said.

"I respect (the protestors') right to do it, but what they're doing is not effective," Granholm said.

"It is my offensive that parents have to make children duck down as they drive in because of those images." Granholm's pro-choice stance on abortion was brought into question in recent weeks because of the apparent difference between her opinion and that of the Roman Catholic Church.

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Russian duo brings music to AQ

by Suzy Thomasma

Contributing Writer

On Tuesday October 1, 2002, the Aquinas College community welcomed two exceptional Russian musicians. Lyutrina Kazachenko and Marianna Vasilyeva performed at 7:30 p.m. in Kretscher Recital Hall in AMC. Some fifty students, faculty and other guests were in attendance.

Vasilyeva is an incredibly talented young violinist. Vasilyeva performed pieces by Bach, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Paganini. Vasilyeva, who is fifteen years old, is on only her second trip to the United States. Vasilyeva’s mother, Alina Komarkova, travels with her as an accompanist.

Vasilyeva began playing the violin when she was five, but struggled in the beginning, it took her three months to perfect one note. Vasilyeva now practices around six or seven hours a day and continues to improve and impress her audiences.

The fall season offers many opportunities for entertainment that just can’t be experienced at any other time of the year: hay rides, apple picking, cornfield mazes, and, of course, haunted houses.

So many of these frightening attractions pop up every October that it can be hard to keep track of all of them, let alone distinguish between the truly thrilling haunts and the mediocre walks through dark houses. So, if you’re trying to find a worthwhile haunted attraction this year, check out Grand Rapids’ The Haunt.

The Haunt sets up a chilling atmosphere right from the beginning. When you step through the door, the haunted house contains some of the best scenery and special effects I’ve ever seen. Halfway through this trip of terror, ghouls are stationed to pass out 3-D glasses, and the rest of the attraction is decorated with 3-D effects.

The line ends at the front door of The Haunt, and they will not hesitate to jump out at you!

One final word of caution: be prepared to see ghosts, zombies, monsters, asylum patients, serial killers, and other horrifying creatures at all times. They are stationed throughout The Haunt and they will not hesitate to jump out at you!

I barely had time to breathe in between scares, so if you have heart problems, you might want to think twice about entering this attraction.

The Haunt is located at 2535 Waldorf Court, one mile south of I-96 at the Walker Avenue exit. The cost is $18 on weekdays and $12 on Fridays and Saturdays. Check out their Web site, www.the-haunt.com, for more information, including driving directions and a schedule of dates.
Theater Review: The Aquinas Players - The Contrast

by Katie Jensen

October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 2002, in the Wege Ballroom, the Aquinas Players performed The Contrast, a musical comedy of manners written by Royall Tyler. Set in post-Revolutionary War America, the play demonstrated the contrast between the Americans and the British, eleven years after the American Revolution.

A glimpse of amusement began in the few scenes with mismatched couples and misunderstandings between characters. Quickly, plot twists emerged leaving the audience wondering what would happen next.

Curtis Burdette portrayed the patriotic American officer, Colonel Manly. Burdette performed heroically as the stoic sword-wielding soldier who shows little interest in women until he mistakenly enters into the wrong apartment and falls in love with Maria, played by Maren Holm.

Holm's portrayal of Maria was fantastic. She kept her composure as the pensive Maria even when bursts of laughter erupted from the audience during comic moments.

Holm and Burdette brought seriousness to the roles of Maria and Manly, a striking contrast to the light-hearted nature of the rest of the characters in the production.

Maria and Manly moved the audience with a beautiful duet when romance between them appeared doomed to fail.

Justin Nardecehia portrayed the hilariously foppish Englishman, Jessamy. The audience roared when Jessamy attempted to teach Jonathan, an "unaltered American" played by Seth Peters, to act in the manner of a gentleman. Nardecehia and Peters, left the audience in stitches.

Late in the second act, Jessamy tried to instruct Jonathan to laugh properly. The dastardly antics of Nardecehia brought howls of laughter during the duet with Peters. The two performed a song about all of the correct ways for a gentleman to laugh.

Jasen Woody brought to life the flirtations Miss Charlotte Manly. After the prologue Charlotte appears on stage displaying her conniving, excitable nature. Woody played the sprightly character with great skill.

Erin Brierty performed the role of Letitia, Charlotte's dearest, with great skill. Letitia's seduction of Colonel Manly early in the show brought wild laughs from the audience. Brierty brought much excitement to the role.

Dimple, portrayed by Wes Creager, carried the haughty air of an arrogant English gentleman. Creager excelled at playing the "odious Dimple" whose snobby behavior eventually leads to catastrophe in the final scene when his schemes are revealed.

Barry Trotter spoofs Pottermania

by Megan Andres

Contribution Writer

How many times have you wanted to bang your head against the wall because of all the hype about Harry Potter? If you’re one of the people that wish that he would just grow up and move on with his life, you are in luck.

Comedian Michael Gerber, who has written for The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal and Saturday Night Live has now set his sights on the Harry Potter franchise with his answer to the madness. Barry Trotter and the Unauthorized Parody takes on an irreverent look at the world of the Hogwash School for Wizards.

Though the story is more tuned to the adult audience, even fans of the Harry Potter stories will love the humor. Gerber has created a light-hearted story to poke fun at the commercialization of the Harry Potter stories.

CD/Band Review: Pete Yorn - Music for the Morning After

by Mark Hofmann

Contribution Writer

Pete Yorn's album Music for the Morning After begins with a scratchy, fabled guitar line that sounds rather antique. Upon listening to the album in its entirety, one will find a true gem in this world of pop/rock music. Yorn has done a great deal of music. He brings to life the music industry through things right.

His songs are catchy enough to be called pop music, yet earthy enough to sound like plain old rock and roll. This is what makes Music for the Morning After such a great album to listen to.

The album, which is Yorn's debut, consists of 14 tracks. Previously, he had worked in Hollywood, recording songs for movie soundtrack. In fact, two of his songs from this album can be found in the Jim Carey movie Me Myself and Irene. This was the method in which Yorn was able to get his name known throughout the music industry.

Upon hearing this fact, I, as a listener, was skeptical. I would never have expected that some one who recorded music strictly for Hollywood movies to be such a good songwriter. During this past summer, I was able to see Yorn in concert at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. As I expected, I did not go home disappointed. My only issue was with the theater setting, which made it difficult to really get into the music.

The show itself was great, and Yorn blistered his way through what seemed like the entire album. In addition to originals, Yorn played several cover songs, most notably "China Girl" by David Bowie and "Parade" by the Smiths.

What really made the concert great was that Yorn uses a lot of different sounds, at the same time creating something that was very noticeable. He, like a true band, playing a cover song in always kind of cool to hear because it gives the listener an idea as to who inspired the performer. Music for the Morning After is a great buy for anyone who likes music as well. The album has just about everything, from acoustic to electric, and drums to piano. One can get a sense of Bruce Springsteen and the Lemonheads when they hear Music for the Morning After.

If there is one flaw on the record, it is that one can tell rather easily that a majority of songs were written off the drumbeats; the drums were Yorn's first instrument and have remained his favorite. In fact, during the recording of this album, Yorn played nearly all the instruments. Even though the drumbeats do lack a variety at some points, I still strongly recommend this album, with "Strange Condition," "Lose You" and "Marry" being some of the strongest tracks.
Still glued to the television set in your room? Why waste countless hours watching the same reruns of sit-coms that some quirky network executive cancelled years ago? Perhaps you’ve been thinking about starting a new hobby, well jump off the couch and get started.

Leaves are falling off the trees and the air gets cooler every day. Start your new hobby now and you’ll create your own adventures. By the time winter arrives, you’ll be able to cast aside those December Blues because you’ll be enthralled with your newest obsession.

There are plenty of ideas for what you can do to add excitement to your life. Why not use your creativity to create a personal gift for a friend? Why not spend your day learning something new, like a foreign language or the arts of the Orient? Indulge yourself by reading a novel and imagine the world through the life of a fictitious character. Or audi-

Find a new hobby and let your imagination run wild. Try a new physical activity, go dancing, go running, go hiking, or go fly a kite. Find pleasure in exercise and being outdoors. You’ll find yourself renewed with energy. You could take in some culture. Visit John Ball Zoo or Frederik Meijer Gardens, go see a concert or a play, visit the symphony, hear a chorus, or sit in a coffee shop and sip a cappuccino. Perhaps today is a day to simply try to stop and smell the...flowers. They’ll be gone sooner than you’d think.

Some new books to consider:

July, July by Tim O’Brien
The Fish of a Thousand Casts by Steven Hutchins
Leadership by Rudolph Giuliani
The Straw Men by Michael Marshall
Leave Your TV Behind

An old friend and talk about the 'ays. Rehash some memories think you were back in time.

Sit and meditate. Slow down your breathing, relax your muscles and savor the simplicity of each slow deep breath.

Entertainment exists in hundreds of capacities, why limit yourself to what is presented to you from the television screen. Make your own adventures and take control of your life. Why let the advertisers and television producers determine what will happen next? Instead of watching television, use that time to enjoy other recreations.

Start a new hobby today and you’ll find loads of new excitement. From skiing to skeet shooting, there’s a new exciting activity just waiting to be explored.

Take a journey from the world of a novel to the flowers of a garden. Let your imagination run wild. Don’t hold yourself back from experiencing new pleasures in life.

List of Activities

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<th>Paint a picture</th>
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<td>Chase butterflies</td>
<td>Color in a coloring book</td>
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<td>Write a poem</td>
<td>Learn how to cook a new dish</td>
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<td>Go to the zoo</td>
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<td>Watch a movie</td>
<td>Write for a newspaper</td>
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<td>Go to the theater</td>
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<td>Sing a song</td>
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<td>Bake a cake</td>
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<td>Fly a kite</td>
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<td>Read a book</td>
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<td>Dance in the rain</td>
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<td>Learn to play an instrument</td>
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<td>Write a letter to a friend</td>
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<td>Put a jigsaw puzzle together</td>
<td>Do a crossword puzzle</td>
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Try your hand at fly fishing. The beauty of nature and the serenity of the river will allow you to escape from the hostilities of the city.

Compiled by Curtis R. Burdette
Editor in Chief
A woman's place is...in college?

by Joe Boomgaard

Assistant Editor

A recent article published by the Grand Rapids Press contained a study that found that women are increasingly outnumbering men on college and university campuses across the state.

According to the study, the Aquinas student population was 66 percent female. This statistic is not out of the ordinary for liberal arts colleges, most of which are usually populated by a majority of women students.

Most technical colleges, on the other hand, usually had more male students. For example, of Michigan Tech's student population, only 16 percent were women.

While that statistic was the extreme case cited, many schools are finding that more women are enrolling than ever before.

The article really brought up two separate issues. What is causing this phenomenon of male students and female students having different preferences in college and why are men not attending college?

The explanation for the differing preferences between boys and girls could simply be a continuation of educational stereotypes perpetuated in high school. These stereotypes, which pigeonhole students into subject areas by their sex, are very harmful to the individuality of each student. Just because boys are thought to prefer math and science does not mean that all think that way.

Likewise, educators also stereotype girls as being better in English or art.

As with all stereotypes, these are not universally true. Some boys enjoy studying the humanities while some girls really like the technical subjects.

As an institution that is fostering the future generations of educators, Aquinas' School of Education has the responsibility to address these gender issues. To some degree, the School of Education is doing its job. It promotes teaching the student, not the perception of the student by society and offers prospective teachers ways to include lessons plans that address different types of student. All this can only help to break down the barriers for students of either sex.

However, the underlying reason male and female students' collegiate choices differ might lie in the power of parental influence.

While schools may have done away with stereotypes, perhaps parents have not. It seems as if most parents want their sons to get technical degrees and attain high-paying jobs, to be the breadwinners within their future families. Girls, on the other hand, are expected to become well-rounded individuals, thus making liberal arts schools attractive for parents.

Could this really be true? The statistics seems to point in that direction.

And, since parents are usually the ones helping to pay for college, they might have the ultimate say in where Surry and Billy go to college.

The second question is more difficult to analyze.

If young men are not going to college, where are they going?

Unfortunately, jail is always a possibility. The populations of correction facilities are made up of a clear majority of males, especially African-Americans. Some men simply were not given a chance in school to succeed based on many intangible factors.

The race for governor...

A War of Words?

"You will not lead this state, Dick Posthumus."

"Jennifer, Jennifer, Jennifer: the lies and deceit continue."
Should Aquinas College distribute contraceptives?

Distribution of birth control at Aquinas College protects the health of students without promoting sexual promiscuity.

by Curtis R. Burdette

There are more than a few conservative Catholics raising eyebrows at the current health policy at Aquinas College. Condoms and birth control pills are readily available for students upon request at the Aquinas College Health Center. Some insist that the distribution of these medical devices is inappropriate for an institution such as Aquinas College that is steeped in Catholic values. However, it is not only appropriate for Aquinas College to distribute birth control to students, but it should be encouraged and should continue. This may be a college in the Dominican tradition, but the primary purpose of this institution is to provide an education, not to force paying students to follow every rule in the Catholic doctrine. The student handbook does not warn unmarried students that Aquinas College requires them to obey a vow of chastity. No student agreed to follow the laws of Catholicism to be accepted to Aquinas College. Students are not required to believe in God to attend classes. So, the Health Office should have contraceptives available to students regardless of the values and traditions of the college.

Should non-Catholic students be punished for disobeying the laws of the Catholic church that they don’t believe in? In return, suffer a higher risk of pregnancy and disease? Should Catholic students who engage in sex endure the same unprotected risks because that behavior contradicts the teaching of the Church?

Opponents believe that Aquinas College transmits the wrong message by distributing birth control on campus. However, if students are requesting birth control pills or condoms from the Health Center, that is a personal choice that should not be overlooked. Banning the on-campus distribution of birth control will not prevent Aquinas students from engaging in sexual activity. Birth control pills are readily available off campus at drugstores and Planned Parenthood offices, and condoms can be purchased at almost any store or gas station.

However, students without money and/or transportation could suffer greatly if the distribution of contraceptives is discontinued. Without birth control, the risks of sexual behavior include pregnancy and disease. Either of these conditions could interfere with a college education. Imagine an honor student who engages in unprotected sex and becomes pregnant. Suddenly, she must choose to give up her child, or postpone her education. Perhaps she doesn’t get pregnant, but prevent that situation, or should we simply chastise and condemn her for her failure to take adequate precautions?

Conservative Catholics want to punish those who are sexually active by making it more difficult to obtain contraceptives. Yet, though contraceptives can be seen as preventing life, they also prevent sickness and death. There is an inherent contradiction concerning the distribution of birth control because contraceptives prevent life, yet refusing to accept that contraceptives are more often employed to protect life. Another argument against the distribution of birth control claims that students who use contraceptives have an excuse to engage in sexual activity. However, no contraceptive can prevent that situation, or should we simply chastise and condemn the distribution of birth control because contraceptives prevent life, yet refusing to accept that contraceptives prevent life, yet refusing to accept that contraceptives are more often employed to protect life. Another argument against the distribution of birth control claims that students who use contraceptives have an excuse to engage in sexual activity. However, no contraceptive can prevent that situation, or should we simply chastise and condemn the

And you can quote me on that

Do you think that Coming Out Day should be promoted at Aquinas?

“It’s one thing not to allow homosexuals equal rights, but it’s another to grant them special privileges. A gay political agenda is dangerous to the Church and to the family. I’m in vain to hate homosexuals, but it is our duty to oppose the homosexual political agenda.”

Dominic McLaughlin, freshman

“I don’t think it should be highly publicized as it is because it has become more of a political agenda. I don’t think denials should be the support color since most college students wear it on a daily basis.”

Megan McGrath, sophomore

“It’s both good and bad. It makes people more aware of discrimination, yet you have to be careful to put in the context of what the Church teaches.”

Jen Courtwright, senior

“Of course I think it’s appropriate. It’s a campus where, as faculty and students, we should have an open mind. We have no right to judge on how others live their lives.”

Jackie Sweeney, staff

October 16, 2002

OPINION

By-lined opinion

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 22 years to produce an informative, entertaining and journalistically-correct student publication. The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Our goal is to continue to produce a forum for the ideas, views and concerns of the Aquinas community. Signed editorials reflect the views of the editor or co-editor and do 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 Wege Center. All letters must be signed. The Aquinas Times reserves the right to edit based on content, length and libel.


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Got an opinion? Share it with us!

We want to hear what you have to say about anything and everything. Send your stuff to The Aquinas Times, 1607 Robinson Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Please sign your article. You must also include a phone number or e-mail address where you can be reached. Printed submissions will be paid. Questions? Give us a call at 616-459-8281, ext. 4106.
Lady Saints score a pair of WHAC victories
by Shaun Markwart
Sports Editor

After losing seven of their first eight games, certainly the expectations for the Aquinas women's soccer team were not overly high heading into conference play in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

However, the Saints visited cross-town rivals Cornerstone on Oct. 5, and came away with a resounding 3-0 victory. Aquinas came out of the gate firing; picking up the first six shots on goal of the game. They got on the board 15 minutes into the game in a nail-biter 30-28. How­ever, Aquinas was not willing to be an easy victim again.

The Lady Sailfish were challenged heavily in the first game. Both teams went back and forth and they put together one of the best matches seen in the Aquinas field house in sometime. After the first game loss 24-30, the AQ Saints battled to a deadlock at 19-19 before Aquinas found their groove and put the game away with a final of 30-21.

Senior captain Tamara Harden was happy with the team's play. She also expects the improvement to continue.

Harden said, "They are happy with the improvement, we are im­proving every game, and our goal is to peak at the end of the season. In which it seems like we are doing. I think the improvement will show through and continue to the sec­ond half of the season."

Facing four times the WHAC in and in the middle of a very tight race.

Aquinas is fighting for third with Spring Arbor and Siena Heights. All three teams are separated by only one game. The team has just finished the first round of conference games and is looking to make their move when they meet up with all their conference foes for the second time.

Also, the WHAC honored senior Stephanie Roberts for her strong play as an honorable men­tion to player of the week. She posted 46 kills and 25 digs in 12 games.

With the Saints standing with one coming to an end, the team will hit the road for their next big conference match-up at Madonna Uni­versity on October 22 where they will be looking for revenge after mid-season loss to the Lady Cru­ders. The Saints then return home for a huge match against cross-town rival Cornerstone Uni­versity, on October 29 at 7 p.m. in the Field House in what is being billed as "Tues­day Night Spikes."

Looking to serve the ball, a member of the volleyball team hopes to ace her shot.

The Saints controlled the majority of the play in the first half, especially in terms of possession in the midfield. Cornerstone rallied late in the half, but the Aquinas de­fense saved the day.

Defender Essi Gresa raced back to pre­vent a potential breakaway and had two huge blocked shots near the AQ goal.

After missing a golden opportunity late in the first half, midfielder Julie Roy pushed the Aquinas lead to 2-0 five minutes into the second half.

Roy placed a shot into the top shelf after receiving Schwarz's header off Kim Ridge's patented flip throw-in. Aquinas maintained control of the game through a majority of the second half.

"We found each other in the midfield and made easy passes, which led to some scoring chances," said Schwarz.

One of those scoring chances came with less than four minutes left in the game, as a Schwarz pass found forward McKenzie Cole all alone with only the keeper to beat.

Cole rocketed a shot into the top left corner of the net to tie the score.

For Cole, who came off the bench, it was her first goal of the season. "I was a beautiful pass from Kalee. For the first time I didn't think about having a breakaway, I just shot it," Cole said.

Goalkeeper Meghan McGahey con­tinued her solid play of late, earning her first shutout of the season. McGahey allowed just two goals while making 25 saves over a three game stretch. The players were understandably happy with their play.

"It was a very solid performance, we dominated the whole game," said Cole.

Aquinas continues their home stand next week with a 1-1 tie with Ferris State two days before the Cornerstone match. Tracey Gunderson picked up the Saints goal, on an assist from Sarah Pennington, late in the first half.

Ferris knotted the score at one early in the second and that is how it would end as the teams battled through two scoreless overtime periods.

The Saints currently post a 2-0-1 record in conference play, with the wins coming against Cornerstone and Concordia (by a 4- 1 score), along with a 6-1 loss to perennial WHAC power Madonna.

Aquinas continues the conference season October 19 at Spring Arbor before returning home to face Indiana Tech on Oc­tober 22.
As summer slowly fades into fall, and the winds of autumn begin to blow, another baseball season is drawing to a close. The idea that best would still be played in September seemed overly optimistic just a month ago, what with the impending labor strife. Certainly fans of the Yankees, Braves and Diamondbacks were happy that their respective teams would get another shot at post-season glory. Fans of the upstart Twins and Angels would have been enraged if their magical seasons were wiped out.

Baseball fans in Detroit, and throughout Michigan, had a reason to follow their team in the last days of the season, in what was another dismal campaign on the field. Legendary Tiger broadcaster Ernie Harwell retired after calling the team's last game on September 29th in Toronto. Harwell's incredible career in baseball broadcast- ing has spanned 55 years, 42 of them with the Tigers. The veteran announcer estimated he has called over 8400 games during his career.

Longtime broadcasters tend to hold a special place in the hearts of baseball fans, and it is no different in Detroit. He is probably the most loved and revered person associated with the Tiger franchise. Following the 1991 season, Harwell was fired by new team president Bo Schembechler. The fans were in such an uproar, that when owner Mike Illitch bought the team in 1992, his first move was to bring back Ernie Harwell as the team's announcer.

No one has been blessed with good health in an understatement. He's missed just two games in his entire 55 year career, one for his brother's funeral, and the other in 1981 on the day he became the first active announcer to inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Even in his last year, Harwell is still spry and sharp as a tack. Invited to throw the ceremonial first pitch in New York earlier this month, the 84 year-old icon sprouted to the pitcher's mound and heaved a toss right down the middle. When he started a recent broadcast, following a ceremony in his honor, Harwell quipped, "Our game started late because they had some old guy out there."

How many broadcasters can say that they were traded for a player? Harwell can, for in 1948 the Brooklyn Dodgers acquired Harwell from the minor league Atlanta Crackers in return for backup catcher Cliff Dapper. Harwell and Dapper met for the first time last week on Ernie Harwell Day at Comerica Park in Detroit.

Harwell's broadcast style has always been simple, painting a picture of the action with his words, while letting the players be the stars of the show. A radio announcer generally has periods of dead time to fill, which Harwell does with remarkable storytelling ability. He remembers just as many gems about journeymen as he does about the legends of the past such as Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and Jackie Robinson.

His signature call of a home run, "Long gone," is simple yet strong. When a fan catches a foul ball, Harwell has been known to say, "A fan from (random city) takes that one home."

Harwell is among the last of his kind. The local radio broadcaster who is connected with one team for decades will never be as popular after the advent of television and the declining health is an understatement. He's missed just

A life-size statue of Harwell was unveiled at Comerica Park last week, ensuring that he'll be a part of Tiger town for years to come. He may be long gone, but he will never be forgotten.

Attention sports fans!
Do you really enjoy following sports?

Why not share your wealth of sports knowledge with the Aquinas community by joining the Aquinas Times sports writing team?

Give us a call at x4106 for more information.

February 16, 2002

Farewell Harwell
by Shaun Markwart Sports Editor

Saints clip Flying Dutchman; fall short against Crusaders

AQ Saints Men's Soccer defeat Hope 1-0, tied by Crusaders 2-1.
by Annie Scott

Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, October 9, the Flying Dutchman of Hope came hoping to add another loss to the Saints two-game losing streak in a non-conference battle. The Dutchmen's quest was forlorn, as the Aquinas Saints prevailed 1-0.

The first place Dutchman of the MIAA, were coming off a 9-0 win over Olivet, while the Saints trying to get back to being first place in the WHAC after being knocked out by Madonna.

The Saints first attempt at the goal came five minutes in, when Jeff White rang a shot off the crossbar. Hope held the advantage with 25 shots, compared to Aquinas's seven shots, but was unable to score.

The game was a defensive battle from the beginning. There were numerous blocked shots by the defensive core of Ryan Fritsammons, Tommy Zink, Eddie Wierzbicki, and Scott Stiles.

The only goal came with 9:42 left in the first half. It transpired on a free kick taken by Zink from his own side of midfield. The kick was then tipped off Steven Dobie's head to Chris Grisham, who took it to the goal and flicked it by the keeper for a 1-0 lead.

The Saints protected their one goal advantage in the second half with tough defense. The play turned quite physical as both teams fought to get a leg up on the other. The Saints were more than happy to escape with a 1-0 victory.

The Saints were defeated 2-1 by the Madonna Crusaders on October 7. After a scoreless first half, Salavore Pisanie opened the scoring for Madonna on a breakaway goal early in the second. They added to their lead midway through the half on a goal by Joe Baumann.

The only Saint goal came late in the second half from Eddie Wierzbicki, on an assist from Tommy Zink. There was little offense for both teams as Aquinas registered ten shots on goal to Madonna's five. Christian Rodriguez had three saves in an emergency start at goalie.

The Saints now find themselves in unfamiliar territory, trailing in the WHAC standings. Madonna leads the way with a 9-0-2 record. Aquinas stands at 1-1 in conference play, their victory a 9-0 lambsing of Concordia on Homecoming weekend.

Aquinas continues their WHAC schedule with a home match against Tri-State on October 16 and a road game with Spring Arbor on October 19.

Sports Calendar

Men's Soccer
October 16, 4:00 p.m. Home vs. Tri-State
October 19, 3:00 p.m. At Spring Arbor

Women's Soccer
October 18, 1:30 p.m. At Spring Arbor
October 22, 4:00 p.m. Home vs. Indiana Tech

Women's Volleyball
October 22, 7:00 p.m. At Madonna
October 25-26 Trinity Christian Tournament

Cross Country

October 19 UW Parkside Inv.
Kenosha, Wis.

ACQUISITIONS TIMES Sports Calendar

October 22, 4:00 p.m.

RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED
HOURS: Sunday-Thursday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

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MAGNIFICI!
The Aquinas Times Literary Corner

Prose

Excerpt from the Unfinished Novel: Orpheus, Song of the Blind Bird
Chapter 2: The Journey of Bravado and Surrender (Part 2)

by Michael N. P. Miller

They slowly made their way down the long and steel-framed hallway. The two men were outfitted with standard Nazi uniforms and equipment. All the necessary precautions were taken. Security officials had enough weaponry for a dozen men escorted them and the two men knew they were now like friends. They approached the blast-proof transparent portion of the hallway. The crowds outside cheered and waved their neon flags as their heroes approached. They exhaled shouts of joy and hope at the white suited men.

They cheered at the first, the captain, a clean-cut smooth shaven man. He was born in Nazi and as he put it "born to fly." He worked his way up from a simple ground control cook in the kitchen. In his space time he gained his pilot license and flew his private aircraft. When he finally graduated from his classes in college he enrolled in the space program. His first assignment was to be the power converter monitor aboard a space station named Nautilus. He was there when the Nautilus was hit by a meteor and the station's power failed. He spent a day in the engine room fixing solar panels knowing they were losing heat fast. Even then he didn't fight the coldness of space. He loved it. He lived for it. He was drawn to the vacuum and the wonder of the nothingness space had to offer. He almost lost a finger to frostbite saving the station. When he came out he realized everyone else had evacuated already. He could have left, but he wouldn't let himself.

The second man, his navigator and technician, was born in The States; Michigan to be exact; the Lower Peninsula to be even more exact. He had never been to space before, but he knew it was an intri- cate game. Its meaning is can be debated among scholars over the department heads at Aquinas. It would be unorthodox for a Catholic college to endorse a game with violent themes such as God- eness, Halo, or Half-Life, in which the player is to shoot, blast, or blow up one's opponents. Some professors would no doubt be upset at teaching such classes, but there is no congruency with these games and the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Others have suggested that Danbo, a game in which the object is to destroy Satan, should be a required course for Theology majors. Critics argue that although well-intentioned, the game be too violent.

The solution: Super Mario Kart, a video game series race against video games. Super Mario Kart is one of the most popular video games with a variety of courses with numerous obstacles. Though mostly non-violent, players can be knocked off course after being hit by a red or green shell. However, whether a character falls into a valley or down a hole to become a pit, they are miraculously unharmed and are fished up and out by a magical turtle-like being on a hovering diamond.

Mario Kart teaches many life skills such as competitiveness, strategy, and projectile physics. The palette of colors and graphics can provide inspiration for Art students, while those in Philosophy can ponder the meaning of Invi­ cibility. Though critics call the game "soft" and "simple minded," proponents for the new major claim Super Mario Kart is an intri­ cate game. Its meaning is can be taken both literally and symboli­ cally.

Eric Johnson, a Mario Kart scholar, with an M.A. in Green Shell Use and a Ph.D. in Kantology discussed the possible curriculum. "There is a lot of depth and levels in which Super Mario Kart can be examined. For example, the academic program would include Mario Kart for Super Nintendo and Mario Kart for Nintendo 64. Debate exists among scholars over which game is better. This debate alone could be the subject for a four-credit class."

While the parents of some students may balk at paying tuition for video games, most will tell them that if one looks in the lounges of Regina and St. Joe Hall, that is what students are doing anyway. Why not let them play video games and learn while doing it?

Five Seconds

Sara Heckman

I just don't get it man. Why don't girls like me?
I'm a real fungus.

Poetry

Untitled
by Larry Petke

The trumpeted amilies
All fall into place.
Quicker, now, quicker,
Pick up the pace.

A noble cause
They think they pursue.
When it is finished
Stand but a few.

And those few march on
To fight yet again.
Nothing is gained,
But we've lost our young men.

Pachell's Canon in D
by Thora Wease

I know not from whence you came, I care not
if you breathe, or rot, in a crypt,
for your soul was hit by a meteor and the station's power failed.
I know not whether they are born,
for Theology majors. Critics argue that although well-intentioned, the game be too violent.

A noble cause
They think they pursue.
When it is finished
Stand but a few.

And those few march on
To fight yet again.
Nothing is gained,
But we've lost our young men.

I am the fruit of your labors, a
shimmering crystals of moonlit
snow, gently
compelled you
on an isle
heavenward and flutes
of foreign tongues with rain that
compelled you
to echo the melancholy of days,
forging
a valley into which you ceased
my soul.
I know not why you spoke my
name,
strong and clear above the din.
I know not of fate or sublime
intent.
I am the fruits of your labors,
a
cold

I'm a real fungii.