Senate votes NO on censure issue

Motion to censure group for distributing suckers in "poor taste" fails to muster support in Senate.

by Curtis R. Burdette

An attempt to censure the Gender Studies organization was soundly defeated 56-7 in the Aquinas College Student Senate on October 30 at a regular meeting. Eight Senators abstained from the vote.

Sara Heckman, Senator representing Students for Life, proposed the censure vote. Heckman brought a petition with signatures of thirty-seven Aquinas College students. Proponents of the motion to censure stated that the anatomically correct suckers distributed on Clubs and Organizations Day by the Gender Studies group were, as one Senator said, "flat-out offensive." (See SUCKERS, page 2)

Presentation sponsored by Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Center addresses athletics scheduling

by Shaun Markwart

Later this month, the state high school girls basketball tournament will be held. Two years from now, female basketball players in Michigan will likely be preparing for the start of their season at this time.

Title IX and the controversial local case of season scheduling were the topics of the presentation "Should Girls be in Season?" held at Aquinas College on Tuesday, October 30. The event, sponsored by Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Center, featured Dr. Michael Cushion, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Aquinas, and H. Rhett Pinsky, an attorney from the Grand Rapids law firm Pinsky, Smith, Fayette, & Hulswit.

Cushion offered a brief synopsis of what Title IX was and how it has benefited female athletes. Title IX of the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment calls for equal opportunity for males and females in all programs of an educational institution. The biggest impact of Title IX has been on sports.

Pinsky called the growing popularity of sports among females "one of the more quiet and successful revolutions." According to Cushion, one in 27 females participated in high school athletics prior to Title IX; now, one in three participates.

A controversial case involving Title IX has been simmering in Michigan for the last few years.

Last week, the Michigan High School Athletic Association submitted a plan to U.S. District Judge Richard Enslen that would switch the season for girls' basketball and volleyball. Girls' basketball is currently offered in the fall, while volleyball is in the winter; a set-up which is unlike that of 48 other states. Girls' and boys' golf and tennis would also change seasons under the plan. The plan was submitted as Enslen's 90-day deadline expired. Last December, Enslen ruled that the MHSAA discriminates against females by placing several sports in seasons deemed to be disadvantageous.

The lawsuit was originally brought about by Communities for Equality, a Grand Rapids-based organization, in June 1999. Two East Kentwood women, Diane Madsen and Joy Roberts-Eveland, were responsible for filing the suit.

Pinsky, legal counsel for the prosecution of the case, called it the "most ridiculous case I've been involved with in my 30 plus years (as a lawyer)."

Pinsky offered his insight on the details of the case during the presentation. At the heart of the case is the proposed switch of girls' basketball and volleyball. Advocates of the lawsuit claim athletes in the two sports can not receive the same college recruiting efforts as athletes from outside state. Supporters of keeping the sports in their current season say the athletes are possible facility scheduling conflicts and shortage of officials as reasons to keep the status quo.

In this issue...

NEWS

2 Gary Eberle
Shares his spooky stories

ENTERTAINMENT

5 Ace of Diamonds
See a murder-mystery
This weekend ONLY!

FEATURES

6 Trick or Treat
Take a frightful Halloween QUIZ
the Shock, after attending a game at the Palace of Auburn Hills last night. "He stepped on the gun and it went off," Murray said. "At first I didn't know what happened. I got that blinding flash of pain and I sat down. Blood was pumping out of my ankle." After 15 stitches and a night in the hospital, Murray is on course for a complete recovery.

"It was the most bizarre thing that has ever happened to me," he said.

Murray admits there is a certain amount of notoriety that goes along with getting shot by your dog.

"That's the bad part, talking to people, because you feel like such a fool," he said.

**Goddzilla found in California**

**NORWALK, Calif.** — Godzilla was found wandering the streets, according to a recent Associated Press article. The 105-pound African spurred tortoise named after the horror movie was found several blocks from his home Wednesday, three days after he escaped.

"It is not very often we pick up tortoises, especially those over 100 pounds," said Capt. Aaron Reyes, operations manager for Southeast Area Animal Control Authority.

Officers reunited him with his Dumont Avenue owners after a passerby spotted Godzilla and called the Downey, California shelter.

"Godzilla was lucky that he wasn't mistaken for a speed bump," Animal Control Officer Comcast Bradley said after enforcing the help of bystanders in moving the tortoise from the curb to her vehicle.

Chuck and Frances Gil, who have had 55-year-old Godzilla as a pet since the 1970s, said the tortoise apparently burrowed under a fence and then poked his head up if interested in the group. The tortoise was then loaded into the back of their Jeep.

"We're glad to have him back," Chuck Gil said.

**Man leads police to county jail**

**GREEN BAY, Wis.** — Police officers probably wish all car chases were this easy.

A 22-year-old Green Bay man led police on a chase that often moved as slowly as 20 mph and ended in the Brown County Jail's parking lot. The man parked his pickup in the jail's lot, smoked a cigarette, got out of the truck and lay face-down on the ground to be arrested.

He allegedly told the officers he knew he was drugged and was going to be sent to jail, so he just drove himself there.

The man also was arrested for drug possession and an outstanding warrant for a hit-and-run accident.

The chase began around 1 a.m. An officer spotted the truck ignoring red lights and a video was displayed. The man also was arrested for cocaine possession and an outstanding warrant.

"That's the bad part, talking to people, because you feel like such a fool," he said.

**Michigan men charged with felonies in dingo head theft**

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich.** — Some thieves try to hide their stolen goods. Others put on a dingo dingo head and go to the bar.

Ryan McAllister, 27, and James Masterson, 21, allegedly swiped the overpriced costume of Zap, the mascot of the Detroit Pistons' WNBA team, the Shock, after attending a game at the Palace of Auburn Hills last Wednesday, Oct. 24.

"I put on the head, the other guy put on the feet and we went to a bar across the street," McAllister said, according to Damiani.

They were quickly spotted by security at the Palace Grill, and the man was arrested for larceny in a building, and Masterson with receiving and concealing stolen property, both felonies.

This is not Zap's first misadventure. According to his official biography, Zap's costume was once knocked out by Reggie Miller, the All-Star player for the Indiana Pacers basketball team.

**SUCKERS**

According to Heckman, "in poor taste."

The purpose of the Club and Organization Day is to promote group activities on campus by having organizations setup tables in front of the Wege Center. Some groups offer treats to entice students to join. At the Gender Studies table, visitors could sign up if interested in the group, and could choose to take a sucker that resembled a penis or one that resembled a female breast.

Heckman voiced her concern that "the suckers were inappropriate because displaying the penis and breasts is done in a way that degrades human dignity, (which is) central to our existence."

Gail Gromaski, Senator representing Gender Studies, expressed her approval of the decision. "I was very pleased with the outcome," Gromaski said. "Because it shows that the students who represent the student body want to continue to allow Gender Studies to represent gender issues on campus and continue to better our education."

Gromaski explained that the primary purpose of the suckers was to demonstrate "the biological differences between the sexes, because without them, there are no gender issues at the core of what the gender studies group represents."

Wesley Creager, Senator-at-Large, also disagreed with the motion to censure. "It was an overreaction to something meant to gain attention for the Gender Studies organization."

He suggested that the number of signatures on the petition represented a small minority of students.

Creager did not believe that the group committed an act that deserved to be punished by censure. "Censure is a serious step that shouldn't be taken lightly," the freshman Senator stated.

According to rules of the Senate, censure demonstrates strong disapproval of an act committed by a club or organization at Aquinas. A successful vote to censure does not affect the membership or money allocated to the group.

Marie Hahnenberg, a Senior at Aquinas who attended the meeting, was unhappy with the results of the Senate vote. "I was disappointed in the Senate decision on how to define what is offensive," she said.

Hahnenberg felt compelled to speak because of the seriousness of the censure issue. "If they prosecuted or wrote a letter of grievance, that would be one thing," Brewer commented. "But censure was too much."
Uncertainty surrounds U.S. education budget

by Allyson Bird

The Gamecock (U. Southern
c of Carolina, (U-WIRE) COLUMBIA, S.C. — Congress has recessed for election, but the 2003-04 national education budget has not yet been approved.

"It's the only means by which a lot of students are able to attend college," he said. Two of Miller's sons attended USC, and the question remains with other students here and nationwide — will have their financial burdens compounded or alleviated next year.

"I'm sure we will get some questions soon," she said. "I don't believe when we get done we're going to see that increase." Miller said in a telephone interview.

Uncertainty surrounds U.S. education budget

by Jane Woody

Contributing Writer

For years, the rosary has served as a powerful prayer for peace, for families, community and for contemplating the mysteries of Christ's life.

For some, the rosary has a special meaning. Its inclusion of Mary and the Holy Family brings a source of "love and community," according to soprano Emily Matecki.

"The rosary has always seemed like an important family prayer to me," Matecki said. "I am glad to see the additional mysteries of light, especially since it brings light to the life of Jesus." In his document, the pope asked that the "mysteries of light" be recited especially on Thursdays. Mysteries of the rosary — joyful, sorrowful and glorious — have always been dedicated to specific days of the week.

"This definitely brings variety," Chicklon said of the rosary's first change in over 500 years. "That's always good for something you do frequently." The pope said that the addition will give "fresh life" and renewed attention to the rosary, his favorite prayer.

While a smaller percent of Aquinas students pray the rosary regularly, it is still an important part of the life of some students.

The rosary helps me in so many ways," Matecki said. "I like it to use for petition, thanks and reflection. It helps many Catholic grow in and maintain their faith." The Gamecock (U. Southern

Upcoming Events

compiled by Joe Boogaard

Assistant Editor

11/07 The Aquinas Holiday Auction will be held in the Lack Center and Jarecki Plaza.

11/08-11/15 The Aquinas College Thespians will present their rendition of Colorado Tolstol's The Age of Diamonds. The Friday and Saturday performances will begin at 7:30 p.m., while the Sunday performance will start at 3:00 p.m. All performances will be held in the College Ballroom. General Admission is $5. Students and seniors will be admitted for $3.

11/10 The Aquinas College Band directed by Dr. Paul Brewer will perform its fall concert at 4:00 p.m. in the Kretschmer Recital Hall. Admission is free.

11/11-11/15 Aquinas College Students for Life are hosting Pro Life Awareness week. Events are planned for each day. See flyers around campus for details.
News 6 ' 2002

ENTERTAINMENT

CF fundraiser held at Margarita Grill

by Sarah Kommer

Contributing Writer

In spite of their famed jeans, t-shirts, and sparkly guitars, rock stars are people, too. This is a reassuring fact I had the opportunity to experience during fall break when some of Grand Rapids best local talent came out for a fundraiser for cystic fibrosis at the Margarita Grill.

A beautiful local lineup including Cold Cash Machine, Molly, Miles to Mars, and Brian Vender-Ark of the Verra Pipe all donated their evenings strictly for charity. Grand Rapids resident Susan Moredyk headed the fundraiser and is passionate about her cause. Moredyk, whose two-year-old nephew was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis just two months ago, brought the bands together to raise money for research. In an interview, Moredyk stressed that a cure is feasible and hopes that her work will aid in finding treatment for the genetic disease.

Sadly, the median age of survival for someone with cystic fibrosis extends only into their early thirties and is painfully marked by chronic lung infections and digestive problems. Moredyk explained that there are over 30,000 people in the United States affected by the disease, she will do all she can to help the cause.

"I'd like to make this concert an annual thing," Moredyk explained as the venue filled with supporters. An $8 donation was accepted for entry to the shows and raffle tickets were sold with prizes donated from local bars and restaurants. Brian Vender-Ark was also kind enough to donate an autographed guitar. All of the bands, whose members are close friends with Moredyk, gladly gave their time for the fundraiser. The Margarita Grill also offered the venue at no charge and all sound and lighting equipment was donated for the evening.

Moredyk explained that all money raised would go directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation with no overhead costs.

The Margarita Grill, best known for its frat-party ambiance, was well set to house such a size. A large, elevated stage on the dance floor put the musicians in clear view and it was easy to tell that band members enjoyed the eclectic audience of family members, Foundation members, and die-hard local music fans. Although borderline-punk band Molly played a little more low-key show than they normally would have, their set seemed appropriate for the more relaxed crowd. Newcomer Cold Cash Machine held their own with the better-known local bands and Miles to Mars rocked out as always. Brian Vender-Ark, always fabulous, smiled as he sang his acoustic set and made us all want to be Freshman again...

Certainly, it was a great night for Grand Rapids. Not only did great local talent shine but great local people came out for a very worthwhile cause. I appluad Susan Moredyk for believing so strongly in her fight for a cure and I certainly applaud her vigorous effort at putting together such an amazing lineup in such a short period of time. More information on the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is available at www.cf.org and donations are always welcome.

Consequently too, if anyone knows who won the autographed guitar from Brian Vender-Ark, send them my way. I may have to make a donation of my own for a Rock Star ski-string.

Music Review

The Royal Tenenbaums Soundtrack

by Kate Luce

Contributing Writer

Most of you have probably seen, or at least heard of Wes Anderson's recent film The Royal Tenenbaums, which follows the ups and downs of a wealthy family of dysfunctional geniuses. Although you may have seen the movie, you might not be as familiar with the soundtrack. Like the movie's setting of the movie. The jazzy sounds of the Vince Guaraldi Trio paint a picture of a past time, encompassing a wide range of genres. No one can say the musicians in clear view and it was easy to tell that band members enjoyed the eclectic audience of family members, Foundation members, and die-hard local music fans. Although borderline-punk band Molly played a little more low-key show than they normally would have, their set seemed appropriate for the more relaxed crowd. Newcomer Cold Cash Machine held their own with the better-known local bands and Miles to Mars rocked out as always. Brian Vender-Ark, always fabulous, smiled as he sang his acoustic set and made us all want to be Freshman again...

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ACT production of Ace of Diamonds opens this weekend

by Patrick Hurley

Entertainment Editor

When Laura Eilar found out that she was going to be directing Aquinas College Thespians’ production of The Glass Menagerie, she was looking for a play that would challenge actors in the ACT and that would be entertaining for college students,” said Eilar, “but also one that would challenge the audience. Normally I don’t like murder mysteries because of the predictability of the ending, but this play’s ending blew me away.”

Eilar said that the play is a murder mystery in the Agatha Christie style, with some moments of darkly humorous dialogue.

When asked for a summary of the play, Eilar did not want to reveal too much of the plot, but gave this synopsis: “Ace of Diamonds” is a murder mystery which centers around the recent theft of a mysterious ruby called the Bloodstone. It involves six strangers who are brought together by Iago, the mastermind behind the theft. Although the six guests claim to be strangers to one another, past relationships (and past hatreds) are soon revealed.

Now that Iago has the Bloodstone, his plan is to incite the thieves to murder each other so that nothing can be traced back to him. It all appears to work brilliantly as the thieves are murdered one by one. But with stakes this high, even Iago may not hold the Ace...

Eilar said that she liked the characters in this play, that they are neither flat nor one-dimensional. She appreciates the sarcasm and wit of their dialogue.

The students who play them are also an eclectic mix, both age and acting experience.

“This has been a very interesting experience,” said Eilar about the variety of her cast, also adding, “Each is very talented. In fact, this is one of the most talented casts I have ever worked with. Individually and as a whole, they consistently surprise me.”

In fact the cast is so talented that they have been able to produce an entire set on such a limited budget.

The two-act play takes place in one room of a mansion the whole time. Each act is about an hour long. During the intermission there will also be an opportunity for audience participation, in which the audience may attempt to guess at who the murderer actually is and win prizes.

The play opens on Friday, Nov. 8th at 7:30 pm in the Wege Ballroom, also known as the Megayer Theater. It is free admission for students, $3.00 for children, senior citizens, and professors, and $5.00 general admission. Additional show times are Nov. 9th at 7:30 pm and Nov. 10th at 3 pm, both in the Ballroom. For those who wish to have a sampling of the play, there will be an opportunity to watch a preview during lunchtime in the Wege Mall on Nov. 5th and 7th at 12 pm.

Book Review

Assassin’s Apprentice

by Pat Hurley

Entertainment Editor

In a world where the ruling class is named by those who are born to rule, just being born to rule and a royal assassin's parents is not enough. Robin Hobb gives us the story of FitzChivalry Farseer in Assassin’s Apprentice.

The protagonist FitzChivalry, known as Fitz, is the illegitimate son of Prince Chivalry and is trained from childhood to be the royal assassin for the Farseer family. Fitz is blessed with strange magical gifts resulting from his royal heritage.

He can use the Skill, a form of mental telepathy and seeing, and also the Wit, which allows him to talk to and bond with animals. Not only do these abilities help him with his training, it also allows for dogs and other animals to become main characters in the story.

Assassin’s Apprentice is partly a coming of age story. As he grows up, Fitz feels loyalty to his family, yet knows that as a bastard he will forever be an outsider, dwelling in the shadows. It is for this reason that he is chosen to be trained as the royal assassin.

One thing I liked about the book is that nothing in it can be seen as black and white, there are no characters that are clearly good or evil. We see the world from the unique point of view of a political assassin, who traditionally is the bad guy, yet Hobb manages to make us sympathize with and root for him.

Several times, Fitz is confronted with the decision of whether or not to kill. And this debate is completely relevant to a time where our own nation struggles over whether or not violence is a suitable means to an end.

All of these elements and more combine to produce a fun adventure/fantasy story with a slightly darker side to it. While the characters may be slightly one-dimensional, and a little cliché, they are likable and their struggles can be related to.

Hobb combines good description, a flowing style, and a fast paced story that pulls the readers along. This is the type of book that I would recommend someone take with them on a trip or a keep on their desk when they want to relax.

Easy to read and a great way to escape when one needs to.

Overall rating: 8.5 out of 10

Concert Review: A Halloween Happening

by Mark Hofmann

Contributing Writer

On Halloween, I attended a Halloween Happening here at Aquinas College. The show was held at 12:30 pm in the Kreschtmier Recital Hall. The Halloween show showcased the talent of a few students and faculty members. Yes, usually I am more into more rock and roll types of music, but I will never pass up a chance to see something new. Plus, I was able to support my fellow students.

A Halloween Happening was a lot of fun to attend for a variety of reasons. First, it had a variety of performances ranging from poetry and story telling, to music and singing. All of the performances had a "spooky" theme to help set the mood for this time of year.

The show was laid back and fun, with some of the highlights including a piano rendition of "The Hall of the Mountain King." If the name sounds familiar, it was used in the old Disney Halloween special when the mountain turns into a demon. Yes, quite possibly Disney's most feared cartoon, which, I am sure, gave kids nightmares all the time. Other notable performances were a reading of Edgar Allen Poe's poem "The Bells," and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Music of the Night." This short performance was tons of fun and could be enjoyed by all ages. The only thing missing was a bigger audience - next time Aquinas' music department puts on a show, go see it. We have some very talented individuals at our school, and everyone can benefit from something different.
This skeleton of a former student:
A.) Has 206 bones.
B.) Is now part of festive Halloween decorations.
C.) Chose not to eat at Wege and starved.

Eating handfuls of candy:
A.) Increases instances of wild behavior.
B.) Is part of a balanced diet.
C.) Eliminates that pesky salad aftertaste.

The Grim Reaper:
A.) Traded in his scythe for a Harley-Davidson.
B.) Plays tennis at Petoskey.
C.) Starred in *Meet Joe Black* and *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey*.

Wege Pond is alleged to shelter:
A.) Terrifying mermen.
B.) Two-headed fish.

This chalk outline exists because a student:
A.) Was playing a trick on his roommates.
B.) Located a victim of the killer squirrels.
C.) Didn't survive his mid-term exam.
in as Halloween Quiz

Jack O' Lanterns were popularized by:
A.) St. Thomas Aquinas.
B.) The Great Pumpkin.
C.) Some crazy Irish pyromaniac.

This light is used to:
A.) Hypnotize unwilling victims.
B.) Signal an alien invasion.
C.) Help students find inner peace.

Scary Food Service Guy teaches us:
A.) Never let strangers bite your neck.
B.) Beware of anyone with fangs.
C.) Giving blood is an act of charity.

These cobwebs:
A.) Were spun by a giant spider.
B.) Taste like cotton candy.
C.) Hide the Cask of Amontillado.

Compiled by Curtis R. Burdette
Editor in Chief
Coverage of Coming Out Day “unbalanced”
Dear Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Gender Studies Club on its successful event in commemoration of National Coming Out Day. They are to be commended for their creative and positive efforts to promote equality.

It is regrettable that The Aquinas Times provided such unbalanced coverage of the event, which involved sending postcards to New Hope, Pennsylvania, in support of their anti-discrimination ordinance. Both headline and lead express a critical view of the club’s endeavor. It takes the writer, Chris Epplett, until paragraph five to say anything at all about the project itself, which is not fully described until much later in the piece. Mr. Epplett takes care to represent the views of “some students” who were “upset.”

To his credit, he also devotes several lines to the perspective of Gender Studies Club president Courtney Johnson. However, I wonder why the Times chose not to interview any of the approximately 400 community members who showed their endorsement of the project by signing postcards.

Is not objectivity one of the features of good journalism?

Rebecca Coogan, Associate Professor of English

Chaplain speaks out on several topics in last issue
Dear Editor:

Due to the serious nature of various articles in the last issue of The Aquinas Times, I am compelled to disagree with statements made in that publication.

When I quoted St. Thomas Aquinas regarding the primacy of conscience in decision-making for moral behavior in the article “Students challenge College stance on birth control” and this quote was juxtaposed with previous misinformation regarding the Health Office, it implied that condoms are given out freely and that I supported this activity. As a Catholic priest, I am fully aware of the Church’s teaching that abortion is not permissible.

The Coming Out Day event discussed in “Coming Out Day stirs controversy, intent questioned” was organized by students of Aquinas to increase awareness of discrimination of homosexuals. It was stated that some questioned the event’s political agenda. With over 400 signing the postcards supporting the ban on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, my question is, what “controversy” are we talking about? It seems to me that most students understood the significance of wearing denim in support of the ban.

According to the article “Church teaching clear on women in priesthood,” “the issue of infallibility is actually a heresy called fideism which the Church Assumption of Mary fits that category. Church policy regarding Holy Orders is not necessarily “de fide” because we know it can change. To blindly accept this “ex cathedra” to the universal Catholic Church. So far, only the doctrine of the Assumption of Mary has been considered “infallible” by the pope, it must be made clear and definitely given as infallible by the pope, it must be made clear and definitely given “ex cathedra” to the universal Catholic Church. So far, only the doctrine of the Assumption of Mary fits that category. Church policy regarding Holy Orders is not necessarily “de fide” because we know it can change. To blindly accept this doctrine as infallible is actually a heresy called fideism which the Church

Father Charles Santoro, O.R, Campus Chaplain

Commentation without Representation
Dear Editor:

I am writing in regards to the opinion article “Should Aquinas College distribute contraceptives.” Being Catholic myself, I would appreciate it if the other side of the argument was represented.

Kasey Gray

EDITOR’S NOTE: Many variables influence the selection of articles including space limitations and deadline considerations.

Birth control article pushes writer’s agenda
Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my disappointment at the irresponsibility shown in the article “Students challenge College stance on birth control.” How are they challenging it? Are they acting upon their frustrations other than being riled up about it and telling the school paper? Where is the “mounting criticism” coming from?

This “news” article wasn’t timely, relevant, informative, or balanced. It was interesting, but so are The National Enquirer and The Onion. The article showed no diversity of opinion and the selectivity with which it was reported showed a very low form of freedom of expression.

Coming from a Catholic background, I can certainly appreciate the argument of the article, but the tone, the reasoning, and the content left much to be desired.

Mary B. Kent

EDITOR’S NOTE: Birth control use on Catholic and Christian college campuses is on the rise throughout the United States. The Aquinas Times editorial board felt we should address this issue at the campus level. The moral and health concerns of birth control prescription and distribution have been addressed by local and national media. This issue is not exclusive to Aquinas College nor is it a new or passing subject matter.

Distributing birth control “contrary to virtue, revelation”
Dear Editor:

The opinion article “Should Aquinas College distribute contraceptives” deserves to be challenged. The article’s tones take on the alarmist rant of power politics wherein a group of “conservative Catholic students” seek to “punish” and victimize the champions of choice who have an inalienable right to have the college provide them contraceptives simply because they want it. What is surprising is the way the virtue of chastity is transformed into a vice. What is disturbing is that both the Catholic Church and the “conservative Catholic students” are implicated as being responsible for these evils. Freedom without responsibility seems to be the theme of Curtis R. Burdette’s article and this is illustrated by his call for us to “cast aside judgment” and let the Health Center take care of us. Should Aquinas College distribute contraceptives to students who want them? No, because the College becomes complicit in encouraging a choice that neither promotes nor preserves human dignity. It is contrary to virtue, contrary to good, and contrary to revelation. It is not unreasonable for Catholic students to insist that Aquinas College’s policies reflect that tradition that both causes and nurtures its existence. It is unreasonable for students who choose to come to Aquinas, knowing of its Catholic heritage, to insist that the College accommodate their preferences in matters that contradict the very core of its identity.

Dennis Marshall, Associate Professor of Theology

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The Aquinas Times invents controversy regarding birth control
Dear Editor:

The Aquinas Times has managed to cause quite a stir with the article “Students challenge College stance on birth control.” How are they challenging it? Are they acting upon their frustrations other than being riled up about it and telling the school paper? Where is the “mounting criticism” coming from?

This “news” article wasn’t timely, relevant, informative, or balanced. It was interesting, but so are The National Enquirer and The Onion. The article showed no diversity of opinion and the selectivity with which it was reported showed a very low form of freedom of expression.

Coming from a Catholic background, I can certainly appreciate the argument of the article, but the tone, the reasoning, and the content left much to be desired.

Mary B. Kent

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The Aquinas Times always strives to provide the highest level of professional journalism. This has been and always will be our primary concern. The editorial board of The Aquinas Times dedicates much time and effort to deliver impartial stories to our readers. We will continue to produce a professional newspaper based on the decisions of the editorial board, and by the feedback from readers. The editorial board works hard to improve each issue. Your readership and feedback makes this possible.

Thank you.

The Aquinas Times Editorial Board
Don't mess with babies and guns in an election year
by Joe Boomgaard

In Michigan, politicians know better than to mess with babies or guns if they entertain any hopes of being elected.

There are certain issues and strike a chord among voters and are off-limits to any change or tweaking. Guns and children are two such issues.

Think I'm crazy? Why then would special interests like the National Rifle Association (NRA), Right to Life, or Michigan Education Association spend an untold amount of money to campaign for candidates that ascribe to their manifest?

In essence, the special interests like the aforementioned have taken over the election process. These groups do most of the "in-the-trenches" campaigning either by mailings, phone calls, or door-to-door visits. Candidates simply appear every once in a while to reassure voters that they are still in agreement with the special interests who support them.

The governor's race this year is a prime example of this kind of campaigning. Both candidates catered to their supporting special interest groups, rarely, if ever, crossing over to "hostile" territory. Dick Posthumus was always speaking to sportmen's groups or business leagues, while Jennifer Granholm, on the other hand, worked union halls and teachers groups.

Neither candidate has any ounce to leave the comfy confines of their own special interests—it simply does not make sense to do so.

Because of this, voters' only source of information comes in the form of the propaganda that the special interests are dispensing. This makes for a very dangerous situation because people begin to blindly trust the information that is given out by the special interests.

A sportsperson who enjoys hunting is certainly going to be up in arms when the NRA makes the exaggerated claim that a candidate will take away everyone's guns if he or she is elected. The person will likely forget taking the time to investigate the matter for him or herself and just trust what the special interest tells them. Most people trust that the special interest is looking out for the everyday individual, like the one who received the information.

Herein lies the catch: the special interest group is only looking out for their own interest. They provide their information to the masses in the hopes that someone will read it or see it and identify with it.

The people who decide their vote on the basis of this information are giving up their most distinctive act of indepen­dence. In effect, they are taking their one shot at exercising their democratic voice and handing it over to a narrow-minded group. One might be amazed to know how many people carry a sheet supplied by some such group into the voting booth and simply vote according to the list.

Everyone has a responsibili­ty to do some research on the candidates and make a conscious selection of the best candidate. Another problematic effect is that people become "one- issue" voters, thus ignoring a candidate's positions on other, equally important issues.

There is no problem in believing in a cause and voting accordingly. However, ignoring all other issues for the sake of one is not healthy. A voter has the responsibility to weigh candidates' pros and cons on the whole—only then will the best candidate be chosen.

One-issue voting sets a hazardous precedent: potentially, bad people could be elected to office simply because they are in agreement with a dominant special interest. This is bound to occur eventually, if it has not happened already.

Voters' emotions are vulnerable targets the special interests know how to access. As voters, our responsibility is to take these groups' information for what it is—a biased take on a particular candidate or issue. The veracity of the said information may be questionable and should not be trusted wholeheartedly.

After all, special interests should not decide the outcomes of elections; that must be left up to the educated voter to determine in order to preserve the very heart and soul of the democratic process.

The Aquinas Times is currently looking for someone familiar with campus, local, and national areas to fill the News Editor position. This is a paid position.

WE'RE HIRING!

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 22 years to produce an informative, entertaining and jour­nalisitically-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 provide a forum for the ideas, views and concerns of the Aquinas community.

Signed editorials reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily those of The Aquinas Times. "The Times View" represents the view of the editorial board and does not necessarily reflect the views of Aquinas College.

Letters to the Editor are accepted Thursdays by noon in The Aquinas Times office, located in lower Wege Center or via e-mail to aquinas.editor@aquinas.edu. The phone number of the writer must be provided. The Aquinas Times reserves the right to edit based on content, length and libel. Letters may not exceed 300 words.

**Men’s soccer reaps victory**

by Annie Scott

The Aquinas men’s soccer team exacted some payback on Indiana Tech and advanced into the second round of the WHAC tournament on Saturday.

In the first round game, the Saints faced Indiana Tech, looking for payback for a double-overs time defeat earlier in the week. The Saints were able to end Indiana Tech’s season with a 4-0 victory. The Saints will be hosting the second round game as they play number six seeded Spring Arbor on November 6.

In the final week and a half of the regular season, the men’s soccer team faced some tough opponents, getting them ready for the WHAC tournament.

On October 23, the Saints faced Indiana Tech, at home. The Saints were defeated 2-1. The goal came from Joe Mies, off an assist from Jeff White. Goalkeeper Zach Fales had seven saves during the game.

Coming off the loss, the Saints traveled to Adrian to face the Eagles. Both Aquinas and Cornerstone came into the big cross-town showdown feeling that they had something to prove after a stretch of games that saw both teams go winless.

Cornerstone came into the match after a week in which they lost a tough five-game match after a week in which they were winless.

The Saints were defeated 30-14. The only goal scored in the game came off a penalty kick 8:49 into the game by Van Lier. The rest of the game was a defensive battle between the teams. Fales had eight saves in goal for the shutout.

As the regular season ended, the Saints found themselves ranked second in the WHAC with a conference record of 5-2. Their overall record stands at 14-4-0.

**Saints struggle on V-ball court**

After losing several key matches, Lady Saints attempt to regain ground in conference standings

by Jon Bieneman

With just a few days left before the WHAC conference tournament starts, the Saints volleyball team has been aiming to solidify and possibly improve their position in the conference standings.

Also, they are looking to put everything together on the court to head into the tournament in contention to make a big splash and knock off the top teams in the conference, Cornerstone University and Madonna University.

While still struggling with injuries and inconsistent play, Aquinas was looking to get a head start on improving their position in the conference when Cornerstone came to campus on October 29.

Both Aquinas and Cornerstone showed up to the match with the idea in mind that they could provide a stretch of games that saw both teams go winless.

Cornerstone came into the match after a week in which they lost a tough five-game match against Michigan-Dearborn, and lost in three games to Madonna.

Aquinas was coming off a week that saw them lose all three matches, also including a loss to Madonna.

With Cornerstone sitting at 6-3 in the conference and Aquinas at 5-4, the game was a must win for both teams.

The match started out with both teams playing with a sense of urgency.

While the Saints seemed to play consistently and made only a few errors on their side of the net in the first game, they saw themselves fall in a hole early.

With Cornerstone getting all of the breaks, Aquinas dropped the first game 30-14.

In the third game the Golden Eagles seemed to regain their edge and pulled away quickly.

The Saints lost 30-14 and, with that, were beaten in three games. With the loss, the Golden Eagles completed the regular season sweep of the Saints.

The Aquinas Saints are currently sitting in the middle of the WHAC standings.

Only a few games left, they find themselves with a chance to catch Siena Heights and move up to third in the conference heading into the tournament.

With the big win over Cornerstone, Madonna clinched at least share of the WHAC conference title.

After meeting up with two other WHAC foes to complete conference play, the Saints return home for their last game of the season on Thursday, November 8.

The Saints will take on Goshen at the Aquinas Field House at 7 p.m.
Women's soccer struggles late in season

The Aquinas women's soccer team must have been left pondering what might have been after their 1-0 loss to Spring Arbor in the first round of the WHAC tournament.

The fifth seeded Saints fell to the fourth seeded Cougars in the game played Saturday at Spring Arbor.

Aquinas had lost 4-0 at Spring Arbor two weeks previously, a loss that started the Saints' late-season struggles. Thus they were out for revenge on Saturday.

Aquinas started the game strong, but Kalee Schwartz could not convert on a penalty breakaway less than five minutes into the match.

Spring Arbor took advantage of a fortuitous break 17 minutes into the game six of the 1991 World Series. The words were surely a tribute from a son to a father. Jack Buck passed away earlier this year.

Four: Role Call—Whenever a team reaches the verge of a championship, it seems like their role players step up and do things they shouldn't be expected to do. Witness J.T. Snow of the Giants, who nearly lost the game 5-0 and were eight outs away from the title. Batting in the seventh, Scott Spiezio fouled off four straight pitches before lining a three-run homer into the first row of the right field bleachers. Ten years later, the Angels pitch the Angels on top for good with a two-run double on an extra-inning hit. The Giants were never to recover.

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.

 Classified Ads

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The wind blew softly, moving the leaves in the summer breeze. It started at the old willows and oaks long enough for the car, waiting for a song to end on the radio, before I went in to work. The song finished and I had just gotten out of the car when I heard the same voice behind me, humming. I turned around to see someone rather than waiting for the fish to bite the line or bait, was in the middle of a junkyard.

Hunting in nearly one mile to reach a secluded fishing spot on the Sanger Arm, Jim Bob, his brother Jethro Earl Ray, thought that they were listening to the echoes of the woods.

"Hell, we was out in there woods where we figured no sound, but I sure wish I had seen Billy Joe. "I guess I was wrong, though.

For nearly a year, the Ray brothers had traveled to the spot to partake in their 23rd annual "Snag 'em and Bag 'em" contest, which Billy Joe refused to accept that salmon snagging, a practice used to eliminate the small fish that only an occasional beam from the sun could penetrate through, causing the woods to appear dim in some patches and bright in others. The air was cooler under the dark shade, but something else caused the goose bumps on my skin. The only occasional beam from the sun could penetrate through, causing the woods to appear dim in some patches and bright in others. The air was cooler under the dark shade, but something else caused the goose bumps on my skin. The

The Faery Story

"Golly, I sure miss 'em," said the Ray brothers.

"I was just gettin' the dirt out of the fence. I turned around to start climbing down my spine."

I saw a flicker of white vanish before me, not realizing the woods were so difficult to make. I headed to the woods, and gazed out into the woods beyond, wondering if I should just keep observing the garage where we figured no one was there.

As I turned around to head toward the garage, the junkyard to clean things up and keep their junk organized.

That morning I had gotten out of bed hungover, not looking forward to another day. Arching my back and standing in the middle of the willows. As I turned around to see a pretty girl sharing a private joke with someone not there.

Hoping to put an end to...