Threat of war spurs Aquinas students to action

Many students voiced their concerns about a potential war with Iraq during recent presidential visit to Grand Rapids

by Jackie Hurley

Approximately 30 Aquinas College students and faculty members joined in protest against the impending war with Iraq in downtown Grand Rapids on January 29.

The protest, totaling more than 500 people, started on Michigan Street at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus, where President Bush held a closed meeting on health issues. It then moved to DeVos Hall, where President Bush was speaking inside on Medicare reform to a crowd of 2,500 mostly VIP Republicans.

Among those protesting the war was Aquinas SAC (Social Action Committee) member Ben Burgis.

"You could see that people were frustrated. People finally got the chance to protest. Most marched all the way to the federal building downtown just to get all the frustration out. It was very lively, considering that Bush probably thought that Western Michigan would have a more positive view on his current actions," said Burgis.

Many people at the protest question the motives behind Bush’s reasoning on war with Iraq.

"The lack of understanding for other cultures fuels much of the need to go to war. There are so many issues of justice associated with it. People need to be further educated on the issues they have vested in this threat of war," said Aquinas continuing education student Sloan Johnson.

Numerous Aquinas clubs are uniting to spread awareness of the issues surrounding war with Iraq.

The Gender Studies Club at Aquinas set up tables with information about the war in Iraq.

"We hope that people will be able to unite in being against the war and identify with other people who are also against it," said Gail Gromaski, co-chair for the Gender Studies Club at Aquinas.

Columbia lost on re-entry

by Matthew Crouch

The Pacer (U. Tennessee-Martin) (U-WIRE) MARTIN, Tenn. - The United States’ space program saw its first fatality in over 17 years on Saturday as the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas.

Seven crewmembers were lost in the explosion, which occurred 39 miles over the Earth in the final 16 minutes of its mission. On the crew were Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, William McCool and Ilan Ramon. Ramon was the first astronaut from Israel.

"This is indeed a tragic day for the NASA family, for the families of the astronauts who flew on STS-107, and likewise is tragic for the Nation," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. "In an age when space flight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook the dangers of travel by rocket, and the difficulties of navigating the fierce outer atmosphere of the Earth," said President George W. Bush. "These astronauts knew the dangers, and they faced them willingly, knowing they had a high and noble purpose in life. Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more."

The vehicle broke up while traveling at 12,500 mph at an altitude of 207,135 ft. over East Central Texas resulting in the loss of both vehicle and crew. The shuttle had been in flight for 15 days, 22 hours, 29 minutes and 22 seconds.

The cause of the explosion is thought to have stemmed from a chunk of insulating foam that peeled away from the external fuel tank and some sensor failures and other problems. This was reported to be happening 23 minutes before Columbia was scheduled to touch down. Sixteen minutes before touchdown, it exploded.

"I immediately advocated the President and (see SHUTTLE p. 12)
News Briefs
compiled by Justin Meyers

Proposal to excise teachers' student loans

Up to $15,700 in student loans may be forgiven with a possible budget proposal. College students who go on to teach math, science, or special education in poor schools may be able to have their federal loans paid if the education proposal passes Congress.

“What the taxpayers need to understand is you’re not buying money,” Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said in an MSNBC interview. “People are having the opportunity by having to work five years.”

According to an MSNBC interview, Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy (Mass.) responded, “The good news is President Bush recognizes that these bills consist of $10 billion, which comes to our teacher shortage, especially in the most challenged schools. However, as we saw with similar Republican proposals last year, if there is no real money behind the increase in teacher loan forgiveness, it’s just another empty promise to the nation’s schools, teachers, and students.

The proposal would cost taxpayers $70 million a year if passed.

Convicted ‘shoe dancer’ sentenced to life

Richard Reid, who made headlines after he was arrested for attempting to light explosive devices in his shoes while on an airplane, was given a life sentence in a Boston, Massachusetts courtroom. A self-proclaimed follower of Osama bin Laden, Reid was sentenced to life in prison by a judge William Young.

“So that’s what you’re called? That’s the flag you dropped? That’s the flag that brings you to the country by force, “That flag will be brought down on your head. It will stay right here in West Michigan,” Young said to Reid according to transcripts.

Reid said in reply, as he was being taken from the courtroom by force, “That flag will be brought down on your head.”

Many, Hamilton included, have enjoyed traveling around the world, and also within my own mind. I met a writer a few years ago who had been to all sorts of exotic places, and he said that if he got older, the most relaxing place to travel was inside his own home. I feel the same way sometimes, but still enjoy hitting the road and wandering around with a map and compass. That’s what I’d do intellectually, anywhere where I’ve felt like going.

At: Sacred Time is full of hundreds of fascinating historical tidbits. With a topic as big as eternal time, how would you make the final selections for the book?

Gilda’s Club invites you to gather with cancer survivors and their families and friends.

On February 6, 2003, the Aquinas College Student Senate that a committee be formed to draft a formal resolution of the Senate’s stance on the war, furthermore, the student body to send a delegation to their state where they stand on the war. The proposal was overruled. A previous committee to discuss the war in Iraq was formed, however, due to the disbandment because of a lack of student involvement.

An anti-war rally, organized by the Aquinas Peace Coordinating Committee in opposition to war in Iraq, will take place at Aquinas College on Friday, February 28. The rally will begin at the Wege Mall at 3 p.m. and then proceed to the federal building in downtown Grand Rapids.

“The rally purpose is to make a strong statement that we are not in favor of going to war in Iraq, and that it would be an immoral war,” said Mary Clark-Kaiser, Director of Campus Ministry.

Do you have the time? Gary Eberle listens intently to a question after reading a sample of his new book, Sacred Time, at Schuler’s.

New liquor laws strip lap dances from exotic clubs

Club owners fear they will be out of business if the new laws are enacted by Joe Boogard

The current laws prohibit topless bars in Michigan. The new laws prohibit topless bars on the state’s east side, claiming that the new laws would most likely put him and other topless owners out of business. Hamilton also noted that there will be no such laws ever set by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (LCC) as go into effect in March.

The new laws that descriptors can only perform on a platform and come no closer than three feet from club patron at all times. In essence, the new regulations will eliminate the long-time tradition of tipping strippers during lap dances. However, clubs that do not serve alcoholic beverages are exceptions.

The new laws prohibit sexually simulated sex in strip clubs. Enforcement officers claim that the old law was often left up to the officer’s discretion and was virtually unenforceable. The proposed change to topless clubs is one of 47 other changes recommended by the LCC.

Johnny Lee Hamilton, the owner of Annie’s, on the state side of the state, claimed that the new laws would most likely put him and other topless owners out of business.

“Those 10,000 people off the world. Everyone would be broke,” Hamilton said in an interview with the Detroit Free Press. “Who in the hell wants to go to a business if you can’t come within three feet of a dancer? How are you going to dance when you can’t, if they can’t collect any tips? Hamilton owns bars in Wayne County, which has 43 out of 72 topless bars in Michigan.

Many, Hamilton included, think that club owners are unlikely to change their practices because of the new laws. Officials that fear that the courts could sue the increase in the cost of club owners challenge the enforcement of the new laws.

Another of the proposed changes will allow the lighting of indoor advertising in strip clubs, a practice currently illegal.
Several Grand Rapids area schools face closure given current budget restraints

by Wesley Creager
Contributing Writer

Under a current proposal by the Grand Rapids school board, ten public schools in the Grand Rapids school district are being considered for closing. Schools that might get the axe are Congress School — which was the focus of the recent School Board meetings — Allen, Burton, Grandview, Union, Aberdeen, Dickinson, East ern, Hillcrest, Jefferson, Kensington, Oakland, and Silverton.

The schools are under consideration for closing for myriad reasons — some of the buildings are dilapidated or underused, while some just can’t afford to stay open.

The decision was supposed to happen on February 3, but that was pushed back to February 18. The School Board says it wants more community input and involvement.

Superintendent Bert Beke says teachers make sure to do this right. It is absolutely essential that we have both community input and involvement in the process because these decisions will affect families.

However as of January 31, the School Board once again changed its plans. Oakdale, Kensington, Sigsbee and East Leonard Elementary, which all originally on the list of ten schools to be closed, have now been spared, at least for the moment.

Although those schools are now no longer in danger of being closed several new schools — West Leonard Elementary, North Park, Riverside and Fountain Elementary — have been added to the list of potential closures. However, this new plan is just a recommendation and is subject to change.

A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 4, during which school board officials are hoping to gain community input and public feelings on the subject.

Regional districts have several thoughts on why these urban schools are in such a poor state. One idea is that charter schools have been taking all of the top students and high-income families away from urban schools, leaving only the poorer families in urban areas. Another theory conjectures that the migration of people to rural and suburban areas has caused the funding and student base for these schools to be diminished. Most involved in the schools feel that a combination of these factors is what has led to the current state of decline.

The many city closing these schools could have a negative impact on the surrounding communities. People will have to find ways to commute to or transport their children to schools that are farther away from their homes and communities. According to some Grand Rapids residents, moving the schools out of the city would contribute to further problems in the schools and community.

Bush expresses health priorities at Spectrum Health before giving speech at DeVos Hall

President George W. Bush

by Justin Meyers

Last Wednesday, January 29, President Bush visited Grand Rapids to gain support for his Medicare reform proposal, only one day after delivering the State of the Union address.

Bush began his visit to Grand Rapids with a closed door meeting at the Butterworth Health Campus.

Attending the meeting were a business owner, senators, and medical professionals.

Outside the hospital, hundreds of anti-war protesters gathered.

News Editor

Bush began his speech with domestic issues. From the economy to health care reform, Bush presented many proposals to address the problems.

Beginning with the issue of strengthening the economy Bush said, “We are creating when the economy grows. The economy grows when Americans have more money to spend and invest. And the best and fastest way to make sure Americans have that money is not to tax it away in the first place.”

This drew great applause from the Republicans, while Democrats showed very little reaction.

The president then went on to say that stock dividends should not be taxed. While Republicans say this is one of the best ways to stimulate a lagging economy, Democrats believe the wealthy will receive the most benefit from the plan.

Bush also called for increased Medicare spending. Bush presented Medicare as a two-front war. The first was a battle against the actuarial liabilities and the second was the need to insulate the over 40 million Americans without health insurance.

The President also focused on the possible war with Iraq. “We’re having an honest debate in this country, and we should, about peace and how to achieve the peace. It should be clear to you now, that in my judgment you can’t contain Saddam Hussein.”

He also reaffirmed his administration’s ideology, “The doctrine says that either you’re with us or you’re with the enemy — that still exists.”

Bush also talked about the various efforts he has made to address the threat of war. “I went to the United Nations for a reason. One, I wanted the United Nations to be something other than an empty debating society...but should they not choose to continue to pressure Saddam, and should he continue to defy the world, for the sake of our peace, for the sake of the security, this country will lead a coalition of other willing nations and we will disarm Saddam Hussein.”

Bush pushes health and environmental reforms, case against Iraq in State of the Union Address

by Justin Meyers

On Tuesday, January 28, President George W. Bush outlined his plans for the next legislative year in his State of the Union address.

This was the third State of the Union Bush has given since taking office. Bush began his speech with domestic issues.

Bush said, “I ask the Congress to commit $15 billion over the next five years, including nearly $10 billion in new money, to turn the tide against AIDS in the most afflicted nations of Africa and the Caribbean,” said Bush to the applause of all gathered.

The President then turned to his foreign agenda. He wanted no time in discussing the continued threat that the “Axis of Evil” poses, however he went short of using the now famous term.

Much of the remainder of his speech pertains to the Iraq situation.

“The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa,” Bush said.

Our intelligence sources tell us that he has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum from the Manhattan Project. Saddam Hussein has much to hide.”

Bush went on to say, “Imagine those 19 hijackers with other weapons and other plans, funded in the United States and trained in this country. An attack of this nature would have been a catastrophe.”

Locke also accused the administration of failing short on education and homeland security allocations.

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Tired of the winter blues? Here are some great events to check out in February!

by Patrick Hurley

As an individual who listens to all sorts of music, there is nothing worse in my opinion, then when I find myself in a musical rut. I get a feeling of boredom with the CD's I own, and constantly look for new sounds. I find myself within one of these earlier this fall. My luck soon changed, when my brother sent me the new Beck CD entitled Sea Changes. I have been a fan of Beck for quite some time, but had never listened to this album. It is an album that every music lover should listen to. He has written the music score or soundtrack to every single one. This event is a personal favorite that I am making sure that I attend.

The Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA) has tons of things going on throughout the month of February. A writer groups meet at the UICA on February 3, 12, 19, and 28.

On February 15 and 16, the UICA will host a Dance Showcase featuring some of the best dancers and choreographers from all over Michigan. On February 17, the group Dead Cat Bone will be performing at the UICA. Don't let the name scare you, this band is the landing Phoenix Best Music Poll in 2001 and is an awesome group that plays great jazz, rock, and world music.

On February 25; the UICA will host one of its many poetry slams.

Another way to get on the floor is to try out some of the great events happening on campus. If you don't have a car and can't get off campus, well, there's always bowling. Make your way to the Aquinas College Bookstore to host a book signing for Gary Eberle's new book Sacred Time and Search for Meaning. This event is on February 6 from 12:30 to 3 pm. If you have questions about the book or want an autographed copy, come on down. Also on February 6, the Aquinas Music Department students will be performing a Broadway Revue of different Broadway musicals at the Moore Cafeteria in the Aquinas Center. All of these events are free and open to the public.

Finally, we all know that Valentine's Day is coming up. For me, this is my little brother's birthday. On Valentine's Day, I have found that the music of Erasure is the perfect mood setter. The album is smooth from start to finish. The music itself is a big combination of cool antacids melodies, layered over some of the classic, electron sound. The vocals are slower and a bit more technical, a big departure from some of his more dancey sounds from previous albums.

Beck returns strong with Sea Change

by Dave Williams

Beck has been making music since the mid-80s, and his latest album, Sea Changes, is his best one yet. The album is a mix of indie rock and folk, with a little bit of country thrown in for good measure. The title track, "Sea Changes," is a perfect example of what makes this album so great. It's a song that's both catchy and introspective, with Beck's signature voice and quirky lyrics.

One of the standout tracks on the album is "The Love of Money," which features a powerful drum beat and Beck's signature howl. "The Love of Money" is a mournful tale of a man who has lost everything and is now at the bottom of the heap. It's a powerful song that will stay with you long after you've finished listening.

Another highlight is "Real Estate," a song that's both catchy and introspective, with Beck's signature voice and quirky lyrics. The song is about a man who's tired of living in a world that's constantly on the move. It's a song that will resonate with anyone who's ever felt like they're trapped in a rut.

Overall, Sea Changes is a fantastic album that deserves to be heard. It's a mix of the old and the new, with Beck's signature voice and quirky lyrics. If you're a fan of Beck, or just looking for something new to listen to, Sea Changes is definitely worth checking out.

Faculty Recital delivers great music

by Gabrielle Monaco

As an individual who listens to all sorts of music, there is nothing worse in my opinion, then when I find myself in a musical rut. I get a feeling of boredom with the CD's I own, and constantly look for new sounds. I find myself within one of these earlier this fall. My luck soon changed, when my brother sent me the new Beck CD entitled Sea Changes. I have been a fan of Beck for quite some time, but had never listened to this album. He has written the music score or soundtrack to every single one. This event is a personal favorite that I am making sure that I attend.

The Aquinas College Music Dept. entertained the audience with invigorating music by composers from Bach to Van Hoven. The music was played on different organs by the students. After that, the group on the grand Rapids Art Museum where three new exhibits will be opening up on the Van Gogh exhibit and the Impressionist exhibit. Each of these exhibits showcases 25 French Impressionist paintings from the collection Martin Ryerson, and a Vietnam photo exhibition from different photographers. One thought, that whole Vietnam thing might kill the mood, but the other two may be fun.

Anyhow, I hope that these suggestions help you to find activities to provide entertainment until summer returns.
Local band Venkman discovered by writer's mistake

Sarah Kommer
Contributing Writer

I stumbled upon the band Venkman more than two years ago by pure accident. Thinking I was set to continue my groupie ways and hear the now defunct Mission Orange, I was looingly complaining to a nearby set of ears. I had come only to see the hippie band that apparently wasn't to take the stage. The guy next to me listened patiently but then kindly explained that he was certain I'd like the next act.

I had serious doubts and after explaining to the poor guy the merits of Mission Orange for a good five minutes, he introduced himself as the Kyles Douglas, drummer of "the next act." I promptly removed my foot from my mouth and decided that I'd better just stay and listen to what his hand was to say.

Venkman, a rock band from west Michigan, has been performing together since 1999. The group was formed when the destined-to-rock lead singer/guitarist Rory Miller and always-on-beat drummer Kyle Douglass joined musical forces with childhood buddy Derek Foltz and local boy Joel Helder. With Foltz' amazing bass skills and Fielder's guitar playing expertise, the combination of the guys was a sure thing.

With one album, I Think I'll Walk From Here, already out and adored by the masses, the guys are ready and waiting to prove their musical skills to the test again. Their sophomore release, due out in the fall of 2003, is promised to include more instrumental beats with sounds and melodies that Miller says "push past our current limits."

Venkman is a band that works for their fans. Playing gigs throughout Michigan, Illinois, and New York, the guys wisely understand that first steps to success are being heard and seen. In just a short amount of time, the Venkman word has spread from being the small opening act at Stooges, to the headline of last week's Grand Opening of the "new" Intersection.

Playing frequently with other great bands like Miles to Mars, Molly, Dry, and the Outer Vibe, Venkman has really found their dominating niche in the Who's-Who of the GR music scene. Local fans volunteer their time to do Venkman promotions around town and their Grand Valley State roots shine as bands of college kids follow the band to every show. Favorite venues of Venkman and their entourage include The Blind Pig, Club C Note, Smith Walbridge Music Clinic, the GVSU field house, and obviously the Intersection. In fact they are booked to play there Feb. 27th with Bliss 66. Look for ticket information on their website.

If their first release is any indication of smooth sounds to come, put me on top of the Fan List. The quartet has a very unique sound that doesn't come around too often in this town.

With song titles like "Sacagawea was an Indian Guide," listeners are guaranteed something extraordinary. The melodic beats and insightful lyrics are proudly borne grown by the band members. Frontman Miller always puts his soul into his lyrics and gives ideas for guitar and vocal melodies.

Like any successful band, Venkman works together to form the collective Venkman Experience. With musical influences from The Beatles to Coldplay, and back to Radiohead, Venkman brings to the local music scene a taste of something better than West Michigan has sampled in years. Coined "melodic rock," the guys certainly know just how to take their own melody and turn it into a musical masterpiece.

For more information on some of my favorite local rock stars, check out their very post website at www.venkmamusic.com. You can download songs, read about the beautiful band, and check out upcoming shows.

A new website is due out with the new album release but, until then, this site is certainly the way to go. Take a look, take a listen, and don't be too disappointed if you don't hear the band you thought you came to see. I can assure you that you won't be let down.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY! In honor of St. Thomas Aquinas’ birthday Campus Ministry provided birthday cake in the Academic Building.

Telling Tales Students involved with Campus Ministry donned costumes to entertain the dinner crowd in the Wege Ballroom during the banquet.

Medieval Banquet

Over a hundred Aquinas students turned out to enjoy a medieval dinner sponsored by Campus Ministry in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas Week. Campus Ministry staff served the food to the tables. Students enjoyed soup, meat, carrots, and bread, but ate without the modern luxury of silverware.

Campus Ministry also provided the entertainment for the evening. Students involved with Campus Ministry juggled, told stories, sang, and acted. Students dined with the king and queen, noble lord, peasants, and even a court jester.

Great Food and Fun Students were given a taste of medieval dining.

Saintly Photo Opportunity Nelson, the Aquinas College
Pep Rally and the Wacky Olympics 2003

Root for the Home Team  A large group of students attended the pep rally and followed the team to the game at Cornerstone.

Let's Go Saints  Aquinas cheerleaders rallied the fans prior to the match at Cornerstone.

Let the Wacky Games Begin  Nelson opened the AQ Wacky Olympics by carrying the torch and leading a small entourage through the Fieldhouse.

The Promenade  Aquinas students demonstrated enthusiasm for the Wacky Olympics by carrying signs as they walked across the gym floor.

Hula Time  One event required participants to keep the hula-hoop in motion until the finish.
February 5, 2003

OPINION
You’ve got to be f***ing joking!

Americans cling to the Osbournes as role models

The self-proclaimed “Prince of Darkness” Ozzy and family serve up a twisted dose of 21st century family values with hit MTV show.

by Tracy Lindsey

Contributing Writer

With every episode of the MTV’s highest rated reality show, the Osbournes invite viewers to witness family dysfunction. Papa and Momma Osbourne need to teach a little more to their children and tell them to shut up when spoken to.

Approximately 4.5 million people tune on Tuesday nights for a look into Hollywood’s family of misfits. The 12-34 year-old group is said to watch the show. Examining the high ratings and age variations of viewers, it seems America’s quality of interest has hit rock bottom.

The only member of the Osbourne family that seems to have a bit of sense is Aline, 19, the oldest, who opted not to participate in the reality show because of privacy issues. The division of this family is not that they bear their children, deprive them of food and shelter, but rather it’s Sharon and Ozzy’s permissive parenting and lack of structure, they fail to enforce on Kelly, now 18, who was 16 when the show started and Jack, 17.

It’s no secret that Ozzy is a perfect model for the anti-drug campaign. Decades of alcohol and drug abuse has resulted in a shamble walk, trembling hands, difficulty finishing simple tasks without assistance and even the inability to complete a sentence.

I don’t understand America’s fascination of Papa Osbourne. Ozzy has hit the bed off a dive during a meeting with Columbia Records executives in 1981 and a bat onstage in 1982. He assented a line of cocaine, an arm of drug and alcohol induced black out, smeared feces on the wall of a hotel room, arrested in a dress for urinating on the Allison and his limited vocabulary narrowed down by the habitual word “f***”. I thought in England they said bloody.

America rewards this behavior by a star on Hollywood Boulevard, guest of honor at the White House Correspondent Dinner and performing Black Sabbath’s “Paranoid” for Queen Elizabeth II at the Jubilee concert in London.

Sharon Osbourne is the enabler of the family. The word “f***” is frequently heard out of her mouth too. She is aware of Jack’s pot smoking, underage drinking and late night parties during the week, but doesn’t put her foot down and put restrictions on him. In the show, when Sharon suggests to Jack that he go to bed early, his response was “No” and stated he hasn’t gone to bed early since the third grade. Sharon did hire a personal trainer to helpunky Jack lose a few pounds, but the trainer seems to spend more time outside of Jack’s door knocking, trying wake him up from a night of partying.

Sharon and Kelly have been known to go on expensive shopping sprees. In one episode, Kelly had misplaced Ozzy’s credit card which he was unaware that she had taken out and used it. Sharon covered for Kelly until Kelly found the card and gave it back. Sharon’s response was only in America can you use your parent’s credit card and get away with it.

Sharon is also aware of Kelly’s underhanded drinking. The camera has followed Kelly to parties where she has become so intoxicated, it resulted in puking through an interview on the phone next day. Sharon’s permissive parenting approach to the situation is to spouting off undesired food combinations that would make anyone puke on the spot, instead of condemning her behavior.

Sharon’s permissive parenting taught Kelly and Jack that if you have a problem with your next door neighbors, just throw food over the fence at them and that will resolve the problem.

Don’t get me wrong, Sharon does show much affection to her children. This is evident especially since her unfortunate bout with colon cancer the family, after which they seemed to become closer, and perhaps less dysfunctional.

As a result of the first show, Kelly landed a record contract, a dream that millions of people work hard for years to achieve was given to her on a silver platter. Her high quality lyrics of “Shut Up” and Madonna’s remake of “Papa Don’t Preach” will be booked up artifically for decades to come.

It seems from an outside reader that your opinion article may have learned the truth. I would reveal more but that’s not my job. Funny thing is... I thought it was yours.

Jennifer Lee

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
AQ alum finds too much opinion in opinion article

Dear Mr. Burdette and the Aquinas Times,

To say I was shocked when I read you opinion article in the January 22 edition of the Times would be an understatement. Flabbergasted, enraged and perhaps a few four letter words would be closer to the mark. It seems from an outside reader that your opinion article was based purely on your feelings and not on any type of collection of facts. I do respect the expression of your opinion though it may be an ignorant one.

What I don’t respect is you using your position as editor and the paper as a forum to be able to whine about a bad experience I had in High School and students and that includes the careful listening of whining about teachers, administration, etc. I many times have to weed through bruised egos and many rumors to get to the truth. It is then that I ask them what they are going to do about it. You seem to have skipped the step as to learning the truth of why the bookstore hired a security guard or why the prices are the way they are. Did you ever think it was your job with the time to investigate more and have a full fledge article about it or were you working on a deadline that required you to hand in an editorial the next day?

I ask these things as an Aquinas Alumn (1998), a soon to be grad in the M. Ed. program and a person who has worked at the bookstore for about 4 years. I have been on both sides of the bookstore counter and I know why the bookstore probably hired a security guard...most likely to free up more workers to help students like yourself find the books you need. I know the breakdown of how the bookstore prices things including the amount of your purchase that goes back to Aquinas College itself. If the time was taken to investigate this you may have learned the truth. I would reveal more but that’s not my job. Funny thing is... I thought it was yours.

Jennifer Lee

How did we forget?

America reminded of the dangers of space travel

by Curtis R. Burdette

Editor in Chief

In reaction to the blitz of media coverage, I question why seven astronauts who died risking their lives for the advancement of science are hardly newsworthy during the first two weeks of the mission, when the astronauts are alive. The American press mostly ignored the story of the Columbia’s 29th voyage into space, until the shuttle exploded 79 miles over Texas and killed all seven astronauts.

Don’t get me wrong, I appreciate the dedication to science that astronauts make. I appreciate the risks they take to bring new discoveries to the worlds of science and technology. What appalls me in this American is that we are so uncomfortable to the positive merits of this voyage before the fatal accident. Even now, most Americans seem preoccupied with the grisly details of the accident and mourning as a nation. Rather than honoring the seven late crewmembers and their willingness to risk death to make advances in science and space travel.

These pioneers of space resemble the legendary explorers of the past. The fourteen astronauts from the Columbia and the Challenger could one day occupy space in trekkobooks next to Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Richard E. Byrd, Henry Hudson, Magellan, Christopher Columbus, and other legends. Perhaps the reason these martyrs of science aren’t in those texts is because outer space is still unfathomable to the average citizen.

The American arts portrayal of outer space tends to avoid the realism of the figures of being an astronaut. Instead, American media portrays television and other media focus on aliens, astronauts, intergalactic battles, and everything but mundane.

Those seven astronauts one week ago were mere footnotes in the annals of human space travel. They were six minutes before touchdown of how the bookstore prices things including the amount of your purchase that goes back to Aquinas College itself. If the time was taken to investigate this you may have learned the truth. I would reveal more but that’s not my job. Funny thing is... I thought it was yours.

Jennifer Lee

Bringing the future to America... in your denied to show.

As for Sharon, hopefully her life and death experience with cancer may put things more into perspective and realize she sold her soul for an estimated $5 million in America’s dollar. I believe the Osbournes, tuning in after week after week. We can only hope that in the future, America can view the show as guide of what not to become.
What is patriotism in a time of potential military action?

by Joe Boomgaard
Assistant Editor

Can a person disagree with their government and still be patriotic? I've been thinking of that very question lately as the debate continues on the military action that President Bush is calling for against Iraq. This is especially warranted after hearing people accusing those protesting the war of being unpatriotic.

People on both sides of the issue feel very passionately that the action they support is right and believe themselves the champions of a patriotic message.

Anyone who makes a stand for what they believe in is being patriotic, and those who make their voice heard should be given credit for doing so. Our founding fathers designed this country so that people of divergent opinions can express their thoughts openly and freely without feeling threatened by the government. People have the right and the ability to speak out, whether being supportive or critical of the leadership.

Those that are protesting call Bush a warmonger or are demanding more information about what is known about Iraq. According to Bush in his State of the Union address, Colin Powell will present whatever secrets the US knows to the UN on February 5 in a hearing that will demand that further action be taken against Saddam Hussein. It would seem clear that any action would be taken after this hearing, regardless of whether the UN goes along with the US agenda or not, as evidenced by the message Bush has been portraying in his speeches leading up to now.

People arguing that military action be taken have valid points as well. To give Bush credit, he is trying to combat an evil dictator in Saddam Hussein. The guy is simply a bad person. If Hussein does not think twice about killing his own people, it's quite obvious that he does not agree all of the time - how am I supposed to believe what he says when he doesn't seem to understand what he is saying? The country needs a political leader who makes us believe him, even when he's lying. Sound familiar?

Regardless of what happens, there will always be disagreements between factions of people in the US whether the argument is over abortion, war, taxes, capital punishment, etc. But therein lies the beauty of this great nation. Just because everyone does not agree all of the time does not stop any one American. To exercise one's right to speak honestly and freely is honorable.

The longer occurs when complacency sets in. The latest developments in the Iraq ordeal find the Saudi Arabian searching for a place where they would accept an exiled Hussein and grant him immunity. This might be the best option discussed thus far because it allows for the best of both worlds - the US gets what it wants by removing Hussein from power, but the loss of American lives and Hussein gets to live, should anything happen to him in exile, oh well. Existing atrocious leaders has been accomplished in the past, with Idi Amin of Uganda being one prime example. At least bloodshed could be averted in a case like this - everyone benefits.

As the threat or war looms ever closer, we must all realize that a difference of opinion does not make a person a traitor to his or her country. We can all sleep well as Americans knowing that, regardless of our opinions, each of us are still equally important parts in the greatest political experiment of all time - democracy.

Could it be that Bush is simply doing this as a means of intimidation? I think that is a highly likely scenario. It's one thing to threaten Hussein with the possibility of an attack, but it adds more weight to the equation if there are thousands of troops already at his doorstep.

Of course, the people that are on the short end of this whole deal are our servicemen and women. They are the ones that who will be put in immediate harm if the attack does happen. People are rightfully reluctant to place America's sons and daughters in harm's way. No one wants to have any loss of life, but that is pretty much a given in any combat situation.

The other thing that many Americans fear is the talk of reinstating the draft. We are not that far removed from the Vietnam conflict to know what kinds of sentiments a draft brings with it. Personally, I wouldn't like the idea of being forced to fight. However, I would be hypocritical if I didn't fight for the freedoms that I enjoy. That is a fine line I'm sure many people are walking.

What is the best way to act as an American in this situation - do we follow what the government says or do we make an individual stand against a possible attack?

In this post-September 11 world, we all have a responsibility to remember the past and what turning a blind eye to threats can lead to. As a result, we, as a nation, must do what it takes to root out terrorism. But, we must not resort to terrorism to do so.

In reality, I feel that this situation would be much easier to deal with if we actually had a leader who could rally us behind him. Bush is not of the caliber of the likes of FDR, Lincoln, or even Clinton, for that matter. He lacks the ability to inspire and to make people trust what he is doing is best. The guy cannot eloquently communicate his ideas most of the time - how am I supposed to believe what he says when he doesn't seem to understand what he is saying?

TheAquinasTimes.com has worked diligently for the past 22 years to produce an informative, entertaining and journalistically-correct student publication. TheAquinasTimesis 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 voices of the Aquinas community.

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Golden Eagles topple AQ Saints
89-81 in WHAC conference play

By Shaun Markwart

The Golden Eagles of Cornerstone University get 23 points from Brian Bolick and 19 from Chris Jelatin as they defeated the Aquinas men's basketball team 89-81 on Jan. 29.

The result left the two teams tied for second place, at 4-3, in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference as the first half of the conference season came to an end.

Cornerstone pushed a one-point halftime lead to seven in the opening minutes of the second half, and they maintained the lead for the remainder of the game.

Aquinas twice got within three points, but the Eagles always had an answer. Cornerstone shot 7-of-14 from three-point range in the second half, many of them coming at clutch times.

Cornerstone's lead reached 14 points before Aquinas made a run of three-pointers by Derek Weaver and Mike Blicher, who combined for 15 points in the second half.

David Bush cut the deficit to five with a free throw with less than five minutes to play. However, Bolick nailed another three-pointer to put the game out of reach for Aquinas.

Millin announced last month that head coach Marty Momhinweg would return to take a chance. He knows how bad it looked to fire a man who a month earlier was assured of his job for next season. But Millin also had to work with a roster that was anything but dripping with talent. In two years, the veteran coaches disappear from the team.

Momhinweg also was forced into going with a rookie quarterback, albeit a talented rookie quarterback in Joey Harrington. But you don't win in the NFL with a rookie signal caller. Momhinweg's complicated West Coast offense showed signs of breaking out of the box, but it also showed signs of futility. The plodding James Stewart seemed to be the exact opposite of the type of running back needed for this offense.

Millin and Momhinweg, or M&M as they had been termed, were thought to be the inseparable duo. They seemed to break apart this middle season when Millen called one of the players a "cowardly lion" on a radio show. It was Momhinweg who administered Millen saying the remark was wrong and not indicative of the players on that squad.

In the end, this marriage was bound to fail. Each man was a rogue at their respective job. Momhinweg may one day become successful at quarterback, but he was just given the opportunity much too soon. When your general manager and coach are both underperforming on the job, it's a recipe for disaster.

Most everyone believes that former coach Steve Mariucci was the Lions' best shot to finally turn the Lions around. Now Mariucci's assistant, Momhinweg. Now Millin and Mariucci, or M&M as they had been termed, were thought to be the inseparable duo. They seemed to break apart this middle season when Millin called one of the players a "cowardly lion" on a radio show. It was Momhinweg who administered Millen saying the remark was wrong and not indicative of the players on that squad.

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Rival Cornerstone
University edges past
Aquinas in a close match

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San Francisco family of coaches, both run native turns the Lions down, they will be

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**P GA Tour Preview**

**Can Woods make it three consecutive Masters?**

by Shaun Markwart

Sports Editor

The question heading into the 2003 golf season is the same as in previous years. Can anyone catch Tiger Woods? With Woods, the dominant player of his era and maybe of all-time, out until mid-February with a knee injury, the contenders may have their best shot in years.

Erni Els was the first to step up to the challenge by winning the year's first two tournaments. Els, a 33-year-old South African, has long had the game to be one of the golf's top players. His victory in last year's British Open and a victory in the Masters has been a tremendous experience for the up-and-coming golfer to watch the three other major titles.

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Els started to pull away from a large group of Aquinas fans to cheer Cornerstone Golden Eagles on Jan. 29.

During the second half the Eagles cruised to a 36-25 victory. The Saints traveled up the Wolverines-Hoosier Athletic Conference, and to an overall mark of 14-14.

The championship for Tampa Bay came in Coach Jan Nevelle's first season, the team. Gruden had been the Raiders' boss the previous four seasons. Gruden ownership had paid the Raiders $16 million and four draft picks for Gruden. On Super Sunday, the price was right.

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**Golden Eagles whip Saints 78-47**

by Shaun Markwart

Sports Editor

The Aquinas Saints women's basketball team headed the first round of conference play with three games against the Concordia Cardinals, the Spring Arbor Cougars and the Cornerstone Golden Eagles.

The Saints traveled up the first half to take on Cornerstone in the opener on Jan. 29. The team was accompanied by a large group of Aquinas fans to cheer on the lady Saints basketball players.

The Golden Eagles took the lead early, but it remained a close contest for most of the first half. Cornerstone started to pull away late in the half, heading into the locker room the score was 30-25.

During the second half the Saints were unable to contain the Golden Eagle offense, while having a tough time scoring themselves. Their first basket would come three minutes into the second half, and by that time the component of many months on controversy regarding Augusta National's all-male membership policy. Martha Burk, the president of the National Organization of Women, and Hooiser Johnson, the chairman of the golf club that hosts the Masters, had a very public and bitter battle over the issue.

Another storyline that has become an annual topic is the question of if and when Mickelson will win his first major title. The 32-year-old left-hander has amassed 17 top tens in majors and a stunning seven top three finishes without a victory. The pressure will only continue to mount until the man who has spent much of the past two years as the world's number-two golfer takes on the game's most hallowed titles.

Another thing to look for in the potential emergence at some of golf's young guns. Charles Howell III came strong at the end of last season and looks primed for a breakout campaign. The 23-year-old Georgian notched his first tour win in October. Jonathon Byrd, Luke Donald and Aaron Baddeley could be other up-and-comers to keep an eye on.

Along with the Masters, much attention will be on the three other major championships. The U.S. Open will be held at Augusta National in Georgia from April 6-9. The British Open will take place at Royal St. George's in England this July. Rich Beem will defend his PGA Championship at Oak Hill in Rochester, N.Y.

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SHUTTLE, from p. 1

the Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, at the point after landing was due to have occurred at 9:16 a.m., and spoke to them very briefly to advise them that we had lost contact with the Shuttle orbiter, Columbia, and the STS-107 crew," said O'Keefe. "They offered, the President specifically offered, full and immediate support to determine the appropriate steps to be taken."

The shuttle had been carrying out a variety of tests and experiments, but the largest of its jobs was part of the continual work on the International Space Station. Terrorism has been ruled out as a possible cause of the explosion. At 207,135 feet, the shuttle was out of range of any surface-to-air missile.

"A Mishap Investigation Team" has been assembled to investigate the specific cause of the accident. The team is an independent group that is external from NASA.

The individuals are mostly from other branches of the Federal government. They come from the Air Force, Navy, Department of Transportation and several other agencies.

"We'll be conducting both the internal activity as well as the external review immediately to ascertain the causes and circumstances under which this tragedy occurred," said O'Keefe.

The explosion was so large that the Federal Aviation Administration issued a notice to airmen because the National Weather Service radar picked up a debris cloud that was 95 miles long and was 13 to 22 miles wide.

Debris has been found throughout Texas and in parts of Louisiana. Human remains, as well as various other forms of debris, have been identified.

This was the 28th flight by Columbia, which has been in NASA's rotation for over 22 years. The shuttle was built in 1981 for a cost of about $1 billion.

In the past week, NASA observed the anniversary of its only two other space tragedies: the Challenger disaster on Jan. 28, 1986, and the Apollo 1 spacecraft fire that killed three on Jan. 27, 1967. Seven astronauts were lost in the Challenger explosion, which was caused by a leak in the seals of one of its right booster rockets.

Concern arises because following the explosion of the Challenger, the United States' space program took a two-and-a-half-year moratorium on launches.

Saturday's accident could possibly delay laying some large projects that NASA is undertaking and leave part of the construction of the International Space Station at a standstill.

Six space shuttle flights were planned for 2003, with five of them going to the space station. The next launch was scheduled for March 1.

"We as humans put a lot of faith into our own intelligence and in what we can do as the highest level of rational thinkers and for so long we have considered our space program the icing on the cake of our intellect and when this happens, when the creation of supposedly the greatest human minds is destroyed, people begin to doubt their own intelligence because if the greatest minds can make such a tragic error then obviously we are capable of much more serious accidents," said Dotty Dean, a sophomore political science major from Huntington.

"Of course, that is why we get so upset, because subconsciously we are observing an all too apparent error in the human psyche and that unsetts us. NASA meticulously plans for everything, checks and re-checks, and then this," said Dean.

Columbia was the first space shuttle in NASA's program and took its first flight on April 12, 1981. "We trust the prayers of the nation will be with them and with their families. A more courageous group of people you could not have hoped to know," said O'Keefe.

**Aquinas Rumors**

by Patrick Hurley

Entertainment Editor

Please Note: The following article is intended for humor. This entire piece (well, nearly all of it) contains outrageous lies. Anyone who believes them, or believes that I am being serious does not deserve to read this. In other words, the following article does not represent the views of The Aquinas Times. Aquinas College, or even the writer himself.

Lately I have been hearing some strange rumors around campus about the changes that may be occurring next year. What with the new Circle Theater, and possible a new library and gymnasium in the future, it stands to reason that students will be speculating as to what is going on "behind the scenes" at Aquinas College. Here are some of the rumors I've heard so far and what I believe about them.

**#1.** The Moose Cafe is actually a front for an ultra-secret Moose-worshiping cult. Although I guess it would be cool to be able to kick open a door, scream and when this happens, when the cult is founded, people begin to doubt their own intelligence because if the greatest minds can make such a tragic error then obviously we are capable of much more serious accidents," said Dotty Dean, a sophomore political science major from Huntington. "Of course, that is why we get so upset, because subconsciously we are observing an all too apparent error in the human psyche and that unsetts us. NASA meticulously plans for everything, checks and re-checks, and then this," said Dean.

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