Senior Gail Gromaski leads rally for Equal Rights Amendment

By Emily Johnson
Times Writer

Jane Hibbard Idena, Women's Studies Center interns and volunteers spent their afternoons on Sept. 24 and 26 in the entrance of the Academic Building, informing Aquinas students and faculty about the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and declaring that until it is added to U.S. Constitution, women will not be protected from gender discrimination. Along with a display of women's rights issues and stacks of ERA information, the Center also made a petition available for people to sign in support of the amendment.

The Equal Rights Amendment, authored by women's rights activist Alice Paul, was first introduced to the U.S. Congress in 1923. Congress failed to act on the proposed Amendment and it was reintroduced in each session of Congress until 1972, when it was finally passed and sent to the states for ratification. However, the ERA's proposed clause included a seven-year time limit. The clause was extended until June of 1982, but had only been ratified by 35 states at that time, coming up three states short of the 38 state requirement for ratification. It has been continued and reintroduced to Congress with each new session since 1982.

"Most people don't know that women's equality is not guaranteed," said Gail Gromaski, Aquinas senior and intern at the JHI Women's Studies Center. "They are surprised to find out that it's not."

Though it seems like women have equal rights these days, Katie Jensen, Aquinas senior and also an intern with the Center, explained the potential for disparity against women. "There are laws to protect against discrimination, but without constitutional backing there are loopholes, and new laws can be passed that could overstep existing ones," she said.

The Constitution of the United States still does not explicitly guarantee equal rights to all citizens without regard to gender. The only right specifically upholding equality between men and women is the right to vote. The ERA would eliminate the need for women to continually fight for equality and dispel the assumption that males hold rights and females must prove that they hold them.

Some people ask what kind of discrimination women are facing now if they can vote, own property and claim custody of their own children. Equal pay, unemployment benefits and workplace advancement are a few examples of modern-day inequality issues for women. Support for the event was generally positive. Both women and men responded to the issue and signed the petition.

James Wood, a freshman at Aquinas, said, "Women play a pivotal role in society and need to be recognized for their effort."

Only a few nay-sayers were encountered during the event. Some questioned why the ERA was needed. Others thought women were pretty much equal anyway. One pass-by stated that he "didn't like the implications of this."

At the close of the event, 222 signatures were obtained and will be sent to both the Michigan House of Representatives as a show of support and to representatives of states which have not yet ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

In the 107th Congress (2001-2002), New York Democratic representative Carolyn Maloney reintroduced the bill with no deadlocks in its clause. Gail Gromaski stated she is pleased about this, because as long as there are supporters of the ERA, it can continue to be reintroduced into Congress until it finally passes. She said she just hopes that it doesn't take another 60 years.

For more information about the ERA and how you can get involved, contact the Jane Hibbard Idena, Women's Studies Center at Aquinas College at (616) 632-2979 or by e-mail at womencenter@aquinas.edu.

Marjorie Agosin shares views on humanitarism

By Thora Wease
Times Writer

Marjorie Agosin, human rights activist, writer and professor of Spanish at Wellesley College, presented her views on humanitarianism and literature during her Sept. 23rd appearance as Aquinas documentary writer, and a member of the Aquinas Times staff. Agosin is the author of several books of poetry and her latest book, "Beyond Thearpy," is an essay that deals with the implications of the United States' policy toward Latin America.

"There are laws to protect against discrimination, but without constitutional backing there are loopholes, and new laws can be passed that could overstep existing ones," she said.

Agosin stressed the tremendous courage it takes for women living under these regimes to remain hopeful. "Women are cultural," citing rape, murder, infanticide, and widow burnings as examples.

"Human rights are universal and we must enforce them and share them," Agosin said, "Every small act that a person can do makes a difference."

She told the story of the man walking along the beach and tossing starfish back into the sea when a fisherman asked him why he did it since there are so many; he'll never be able to save them all, so his efforts don't really matter. The man picks up a starfish, tosses it back into the sea and repeats, "It matters to that one."

Agosin emphasized that merely being informed, listening to presentations and keeping an open mind are all "actions" that further the cause of human rights.

After her presentation, Agosin read poetry from several different books she has written and all of the poems were filled with the passion she has for human rights and hopes for the human race. Many of the poems dealt with incredibly gruesome topics but did so with elegance, grace and conviction. They demonstrated her own hope for reform, healing and closure as she said earlier.

"Victory is not an eye for an eye, not vengeance and not hatred."
Do-not-call list violates commercial free speech?

On Friday of last week, the Federal Trade Commission appealed the decision and asked for an emergency stay of a federal ruling that would block the wildly popular national do-not-call registry from starting on Oct. 1. In defense of the registry, FTC Chairman Timothy Muris said the agency "will seek every recourse to give American consumers a choice to stop unwanted telemarketing calls.

Since its inception on Jun. 28, over 30 million Americans have signed up for the list, representing one-third of the nation's households. More than 730,000 people registered the first day the list started. If implemented, the do-not-call registry would outlaw most commercial telemarketing calls. However, companies that have done business with a consumer in the last 18 months and charity organizations would still be able to use telemarketing as a business practice.

The first federal ruling against the do-not-call list came early last week, when a judge ordered the FTC to stop enforcement of its legal boundaries to create the registry, and could not legally implement it without Congressional approval. Congress acted swiftly, passing a bill authorizing the registry with a vote of 412-8 in the House of Representatives and 95-0 in the Senate. Then later in the week, a second federal judge ruled that the do-not-call list was a violation of free speech, because, in creating it, the FTC was manipulating consumer choice and favoring charitable organizations over commercial businesses. "The registry creates a burden on one type of speech based solely on its content without logical, coherent privacy-based or prevention-of-abuse-based reason supporting the disparate treatment of different categories of speech," the judge said in his ruling. "It does not materially advance its interest in protecting privacy or curbing abusive telemarketing practices."

The issue of whether the registry violates commercial companies' First Amendment right to free speech has to be resolved in the courts and cannot be addressed with Congressional action. That fact, however, has not stopped many politicians from voicing their support of the registry. "Forty million Americans can't be wrong," U.S. Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-LA) stated, referring to the vast number of people signed up for the list. Tauzin and Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) also released a joint statement saying "Contrary to the court's decision, we firmly believe Congress gave its members to adhere to the do-not-call list, even though it's not mandatory. "We do not want to call people who say they don't want to be called," said the group's president, H. Robert Wiesten. Twenty-seven states also have do-not-call registries, similar to the national list. If the national registry is found unconstitutional, these state lists could also be challenged in the future on constitutional grounds because they also contain exemptions for certain groups such as charities.

Unfortunately, however, this issue is not up to the 30 million people that signed the list, nor is it up to the politicians trying to create a good public image by loudly voicing support for it. It is up to the federal court to decide whether the list violates the First Amendment to the Constitution, the supreme law of the land.
October 1, 2003

By Joay Schaefer
Times Writer

Musical poet Kurtis Lamkin performed to a packed Wege Ballroom at Aquinas College on Wednesday, Sept. 10, as part of the contemporary writer's writing. As he intensified his performance by asking for their vocal participation.

"I would do it all over again / even if she hurt my heart / even if she hurt my heart, Amen." After an emotional break from his poetry, Lamkin revealed his philosophy on language. He explained that one of his brother's poems after his death, and decided to share it with the audience. As he read it, an intense feeling filled the air, as if Lamkin was sharing his brother's spirit inside of himself. As he said, "My soul will sorrow / but you / it's back to yesterday's moon," the kora filled the ballroom with auditory visual of that moment.

Lamkin finished his performance with "Those Crazy Guys," a song that, on one level, describes his daughter and her friends and, on another, its profound tribute to life. The kora began with a fast, soothing compilation of notes that lead nicely into his blissful, repetitious lyrics. He sang, "Shake something / if you shake your arm / Embracing the sea." He concluded his performance by asking the audience to stand up and shake their booties, a final tribute to his good humor and zest for life.

"Bach Girls," along with "The Misfit," is Lamkin's latest CD, "Queens of Carolina." Lamkin grew up in Philadelphia and now lives in Charleston, South Carolina, which accounts for the album's name. In the title song, he sings, "She's the Queen of Carolina / And her grace is the place where the mountains meet the sun / Might be Cherokee or Gullah / But it don't matter what your color / cause your heart is home to the Carolina Queen." These rhyme, alliterative lyrics create a satisfying sound, while the unobtrusive meaning behind them brings intelligence back to music.

The compilation concludes with "Dolly," which showcases the comforting and optimistic side of the kora's sound. With extremely happy, visually stimulating words he declares, "The sun will be my witness / 'Cause I'm just too big to be fought / As I drift to the open sea / 'Cause I need your world / Oh, my baby." The album ends setting on a moment of contentment. A look of compassion and table ambiguity in the listener's mind.

Overall, Lamkin's performance glistened with graceful sounds and thought-provoking lyrics, while the CD is excellent yet lacks the concert's urgency and entertainment. The artist has only proven his true talent and worth if his live show is better than his recorded work. In this case, Lamkin miraculously forced us to realize the beauty and fragility of human existence by unveiling his soulful lyrics and unrelenting passion for the kora.

Review: "The Acquinas Times"

Grand Rapids Symphony
$5.00, All ages, doors at 8:00 - DeVos Hall
Dave Matthews Tribute Band - 8:00, 18+, doors at 8:00-Intersection
Shania Twain $7.50, All ages, doors at 7:30 - Van Andel Arena
Elvin Kurtz - Free comedian, All ages, doors at 7:30 - The Moose
Jet - $10.00, All ages, doors at 8:00 - Crossroads
Cassie Calendar
Travel with S.T.E.A.M, America's #1 Tour Operator, on your 2004 Sping Break. Travel to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas or Florida. Hiring Campus Reps. Call S.T.E.A.M. at 800-648-4849

The Ogghow goes bust, but won't go away

United we stand, divided we take over your TV sets, magazines, and lunch-time discussion. Are we the jaw and rear end that can be seen from Malaysia. The two-headed, mythological Hollywood beast that has been laughing all the way since its birth. We are Bennett, and we're hungry!

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck, are you sick of hearing about these people? Even if you don't watch tabloid television, you still might find yourself getting restless in the fact that their breakup is taking air time that could be better spent on the details of Cher's newest facelift or Madonna's transcension into a children's writer. And in case you're thinking that maybe this paparazzi dream of your nightmare is approaching a long overdue end, think again, for you have only begun to witness the stakehold they have placed on your American media.

It's hard to imagine that the devolving of their infamously opulent estate would be deemed worth¬while by news any media entity, yet breathes programs like "Inside Edition" and "Entertainment Tonight!" have re¬ceived in one night at their main frac¬tional. Not to say that these medias have herefore exalted superficial social journalism in the purist sense of the word, but who would have ever thought that they could have taken this step downward?

For so all of you who had to say that "Gigli" is the "worst film of all ti¬mest" for fear of looking stupid, and who heard the same J-Lo song four times in one night at the auction block. Go ahead, join an Amish com¬munity and spend the rest of your de¬nial-confusion to your family. In the title song, he sings, "She's the Queen of Carolina. " Lamkin grew up in

"Where is the GPS navigation on this thing?"

The ship man points to the North Star.

Here is some advice which, if heeded, may save you from the con¬finement onslaught of this hostile take¬over.

Avoid turning on your television for obvious reasons.

Stay away from supermarket and groceries that sell food or anything that could be mis¬seased, such as diapers or birthday cards.

Cryogenically freeze your¬self and do not have anyone con¬freeze you until the year 2467 - just to be on the safe side.

Join a track where there are radio waves present.

Stay up to date on the latest technology that eliminate the threat of the enemy.

Cryogenic freeze yourself and do not have anyone con freeze you until the year 2467 - just to be on the safe side.
“Anger Management,” starring Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson, is rated PG-13 because it relies on foul language and crude sexual content to maintain any semblance of a plot. The movie starts with an embarrassing incident from Dave’s (Sandler) past, and the incident does not directly tie into the plot, so it seems to make the point that people have been picking on Dave his whole life, but he has never lashed out.

Cut to the present. Dave is a nice guy who’s patient with everyone. Maybe he’s not as assertive as he could be, but he’s content in his existence, has a decent job (though his boss walks on him and takes credit for most of Dave’s ideas) and earns the money he needs to support himself and his friend is still friends with her, but would stop at nothing to get her to leave Dave). And really just tries to get by without making waves.

Things start to go downhill, however, when he is absolved of an airplane for a business trip and a flight attendant is more interested in gossiping with the other flight attendant than fulfilling Dave’s simple request for head-phones.

Dave is scarcely more than whispering, yet is told to stop yelling. Things do not escalate, but the stewardess sees him for the injury to her arm that he had nothing to do with. This could be taken as a commentary on today’s society in which you can sue and win for practically anything under the sun.

Enter Jack Nicholson’s character, Dr. Buddy Rydell. He was on Dave’s flight and coincidentally is assigned by the court as Dave’s anger management therapist.

Dr. Rydell explains that Dave’s anger is “impassive,” that is, Dave turns his anger on himself instead of getting mad at the cause of anger itself. This is probably the most, if not the only, intelligent statement in the entire movie. Otherwise, the plot is dull, slow, and unimpressive. One example of this is when theAnger Management mandy who plays a girl in a bar is dragged out way too long and stops just short of earning the movie an R-rating.

Part of Dave’s mandatory “therapy” to avoid state prison involves confronting his grade-school nemesis who has become a Buddhist monk. Dr. Rydell proceeds to the two of them until they fight.

Dr. Rydell resembles the sadistic child who puts bugs in a jar and shakes it until the only kills the other. Needless to say, this was quite disturbing.

Retro-view: ‘A Passage to India’ depicts cultural collision between British and Indians

By Joy Schaefer

Date written: October 1, 2003

Judson’s Steakhouse makes for tasty treat

By Gabrielle Monaco

Business Editor

My date and I entered Judson’s Steakhouse in the B.O. Chome. The hostess’s stand was blocked by a small crowd admiring the dinner menu. We sat on a table near the bar and ordered a seafood item instead of different sauces on the scallops plate. A visual and delectable sensation. Judson’s fish legs were absolutely amazing. Our server told us that frog legs were not sold frequently in Grand Rapids because of the exotic nature of the dish. I am amazed that the boom here is how much we enjoy frog legs. The appetizer of shrimp, placed on the side, was a hit. The shrimp was medium-rare with a baked potato. My date selected the Judson’s New York, an 18-oz. prime cut. My date and I felt during court as Dave’s anger management therapist.

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The whole point of “therapy” seems to be to turn a nice person into being just as cruel and petty as the rest of society, allowing him to blend in perfectly. OK, Dave’s more assertive whatever, but is what cost? Great, he is as much as we knew he was the rest of us. Wonderful.

However, the novel’s depiction of what is behind this catalysis is more interesting. It is a puzzle left unsolved for the reader. The conclusion is rather disappointing as it doesn’t mend the characters relationships, yet it is a testament of what is beyond oneself, and all for what? Well, the end is a twist. What the twist is, however, I cannot reveal, lest I upset those who hate having movies spoiled for them. The twist ending still fails to justify the crudity used to get there.

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Tell us and even more time before she located an empty table. A menu that sat on a table in the entrance to the kitchen. The kitchen traffic could have been avoided if the booth hadn’t been picking on Dave his whole life, but he has never lashed out.

Cut to the present. Dave is a nice guy who’s patient with everyone. Maybe he’s not as assertive as he could be, but he’s content in his existence, has a decent job (though his boss walks on him and takes credit for most of Dave’s ideas) and earns the money he needs to support himself and his friend is still friends with her, but would stop at nothing to get her to leave Dave). And really just tries to get by without making waves.

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**REVIEW**

**Morcheeba offers little originality in ‘Parts’**

By Aaron Ogg

**Arts Editor**

November 1, 2003

Morcheeba, hailed by many as one of the premier names on the international electronic music scene, fails to impress or stir any feelings of consequence in her disporportionate spiritual endeavor. The hits vaguely entitled "Parts of the Process." The process spoken of here might very well be that painstaking process of reframing depth through abstraction.

The many references to the sea in the first track, creatively labeled "The Sea," only succeed in confusing the listener's senses, for the background noise makes one feel as if they are on an intercity subway with a place no less trivial than the local convenience store. It only gets worse throughout the album appropriately called "The Sea," only to make appearances on the NBC television show "The Beach." The album fails to impress me and excelled in making listening forces insisting on distracting you and pulling you in different directions.

For those of you who care, this compilation album was released in July of this year and features a limited edition bonus DVD of live material from Morcheeba's 2002 appearance at London's Brixton Academy that includes the songs "The Sea," "Trigger Hippie," and "Part of the Process." For those of you who don't, you don't have to hear any more about it.

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** Eric O'Shea performs at the Moose Cafe**

By Aaron Ogg

**Arts Editor**

The Moose Cafe bore a strong resemblance to Chicago's Second City on Thursday night when stand-up comic Eric O'Shea was in town for a gig.

O'Shea, an eighth-year veteran of the stand-up circuit, reminded us of the days of pasty-faced comedians who disciplined him with wooden spoons as well as having eaten their predecessors' color of "windshield-wiper fluid" jokes. He was, however, an ample representation of the classic versus Elvis impersonation for good measure.

The New York native has made appearances on the NBC show "Late Friday" and was nominated for an Emmy for his comedic performance of the year. O'Shea says that was the idea of not really having to work at that time that attracted him to stand-up comedy.

"There is no real job that will let you work," O'Shea said. "The college circuit is great. I feel like I can still relate and I'll continue to do this as long as they'll have me. It helps me keep my youth." O'Shea was a huge success. He managed to fill those awkward silent moments, the true test of any comic's mettle, by picking on a select few members of the crowd, namely "guy guys," "the guy who repeats everything," and the girl with the "psychotic laugh." Audience interaction engaged nearly everyone in the room, but many walked out of the floor so that they wouldn't be the next victim.

O'Shea was out of his set when a hilarious musical montage in which he played the role of the "party four," leaving feeling degjected with only himself and his thoughts of keeping up to company.

Showtime at the Moose Cafe began with the acoustic guitar styling of Aquinas freshmen Ryan Paul and James Wood—a Nevada Drive—who have only been playing together for three years. They showed themselves to be highly skilled and out of tune guitarists so that one might find themselves drinking their Moxie Dew extra quickly so as to seek the relief of a root canal. They were, nonetheless, well received by their loyal faction of Aquinas band connoisseurs with their covers of Ben Folds Five's "Back," and the late, great Johnny Cash's "Folsom Black Veil." For those of you who don't remember their performance came with an unkind and unneeded plate of the laughs to some.

Moose audiences were once entertained by some of Wood's guy-walks into-a-bar jokes after one of Ryan's string-breaking expressions of his set. That wasn't all that went wrong. At one point, Ryan lost the benefit of an amplifiable speaker. This is what happens when handsome lads hold guitars, regardless of whether they can play or not. Their voices were pretty good, though. They managed to highlight their performance with some of the prelude of the laughs to some.

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**Payton's 'Sonice Trance' aims to hypnotize**

By Aaron Ogg

**Arts Editor**

Nicholas Payton's newest album, "Sonice Trance" stimulates parts of the soul that many people don't even know they have. It would be trite to say that this jazz trumpeter/composer's seventh album takes listeners on a journey you'll never forget.

It's more like Payton inviting you into his car, driving you around the city, dropping you off in a place that could either be another space or back yard, depending on how you choose to see it. Wherever you end up, you're feeling cool.

For this cordially temple-scratching genre, Payton has recruited the services of Tim Warfield, tenor and soprano sax, and drummer Adonis Rose, smooth yet unpre-

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**Other Nicholas Payton Records**

- *In a Dream* (1998)

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"Felb" can be heard intermingled in a distinctive, rich manner, as in a watered down, melting pot kind of way. Perhaps the most fascinating and energetic concoction is the clever mix of ragtime rhythms and hip-hop that can be found on the track "Canna Leaf Rag." An unorthodox oxyphtotism arises from the playful bantering and cohesion of these two entities which Payton has chosen to explore in a correlate manner, indeed showing how they are two very unique, yet similar styles.

The most engagingly bizarre track on the album comes in the shape of "Two Miskmates on the Wall," a trident which first features a drunken stagger through Mexico City ("Too Much Tequila"), followed by a disconcerting, impostuous amnesia ("Sleeps Too Long, Pants Too Short"), and is concluded with an unconvincingly reflective Kevin Hays keyboard utterance ("El Guatarronista.")

This three-part testmony paints a vivid picture of down and out, beautiful loser who blindly strikes out at anything close, estranging himself from reality, and eventually ends up wallowing in bitter confusion and remorse.

Payton has managed to incorporate psychedelic "web of wall" effects into this album in a way that does not trivialize the technique. Rather, they come at the climaxes of harmonious ecstasy, and succeed in pushing the listener's imagination over the thresholds of imposed traditions.

In some ways, this production isn't a distant departure from Miles Davis's "Bitches Brew" era, but a sensitive listener who is familiar with this work of Davis's might notice that Payton's album isn't trying to fit into that genre. If any thing, "Sonice Trance" evolves into one of the characteristics more naturally. The album is not structured around them.

If you have thought about purchasing an extra album before, but haven't, or if you haven't been able to venture outside of the store, subtle observations of a Davis or a Coltrane, you won't need to pick up "Sonice Trance."
By Thora Wease
Times Writer

Some Aquinas students have suggested that Continuing Education students should not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities. In order to address this issue, it is necessary to examine the challenges of CE students.

What is a continuing education student? A student qualifying as a continuing education student if more than four years have passed since high school graduation and they haven’t attended college. If they started college, stopped for two years or more, and return, they also qualify. The only time a degree or the student is considered 74 years old—the federal market for financial aid reporting—meaning current income is not considered in determining financial aid. Students who have been working full-time for more than two years with a two-year break in their college education qualify as well. All war veterans and those with a G.E.D. automatically qualify for continuing education status and tuition reduction.

How is the difference in tuition? Per semester, a traditional student pays $8,200 for 12-19 credits and $350 per additional credit hour. A continuing education student pays $310 per credit hour without regard to quantity, which amounts to $3,960 for 12 credits and $6,270 for 19 credits.

In addition, a continuing education student paying $990 for a 3-credit class sits next to an 18-year-old student who pays between $1,296-$2,049, for the same class, depending on the number credits he/she is taking.

Why the difference in tuition? A continuing student is supposed to be the financial playing field. There are books full of scholarships and grants available for traditional age students, but very few for continuing education students. Even though some employers offer tuition reimbursement, the eligibility guidelines limit the opportunities. Often continuing education students need student loans especially since the Michigan Tuition Grant was reduced last year.

It is very difficult to find money for continuing education. While looking for financial aid for non-traditional students at my favorite free resource site—the financial aid aisle of Barnes & Noble—I spent hours in vain looking for someplace, some organization; some club that wanted to help me finish what I had started thirty years earlier.

I thought surely, being a woman, there must be oodles of scholarships available but I was either choosing the wrong career, didn’t still have children at home, or wasn’t clear what various merit criteria—especially since women represent the greatest percentage at the 18-year-old who is paying between $1,296-$2,049, for the same class, depending on the number credits he/she is taking.

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The greatest bonus is the educational experience because of constant interaction with traditional age students.

As for extra-curricular activities, most continuing education students work full-time, have families to care for or commute great distances and, if asked, will say their greatest regret is that they don’t have enough time to avail themselves of the numerous offerings on campus.

Continuing education students get an extra bonus. The greatest bonus is the enhancement of the educational experience because of constant interaction with traditional age students.

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Sara Heckman / Aquinas Times

By Joy Schaefer
Times Writer

When the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 occurred, I was studying at Aquinas College in Rochester, New York. Someone opened the classroom door and told my professor to turn on the TV. I remember clearly. The Most Americans can recall where they were when they found out; this is an education for every American.

As I watched the madness, tears filled my eyes. New York City is the first place that truly lived up to my expectations, so many and destroyed so much, but there were moments we should forget about its own citizens.

After 9-11, President Bush sent troops to Afghanistan in order to find bin Laden and remove the Taliban from power. Then Bush went after Hussein because of Iraq’s supposed weapons of mass destruction and because of the fear that, once again, these weapons could be used by the terrorists who had scarred us on Sept. 11. During his State of the Union address, Bush cited an intelligence report that Iraq had tried to buy raw uranium from Niger. It turned out that the information was actually based on forged documents. What’s more, the UN looked for these weapons of mass destruction more than once, but never found any.

The president has blamed “a recession and war we did not choose” for the return of huge U.S. deficits. A war we did not choose? A war we did not choose for the return of huge U.S. deficits? It is very difficult to find money for continuing education. While looking for financial aid for non-traditional students at my favorite free resource site—the financial aid aisle of Barnes & Noble—I spent hours in vain looking for someplace, some organization; some club that wanted to help me finish what I had started thirty years earlier.

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Freedom of the press prevails in cases against campus media

Students willing to challenge administrators to allow campus newspapers to be free

By Curtis Burdette
Editor in Chief

When students returned to campus for fall semester in 2003, campus newspapers kicked off a new year of delivering stories to readers with the knowledge that a federal court decision upheld the rights of the student press.

College journalists gained an important victory in April 2003 when a three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided in favor of the freedom of the former editors of student press.

Student journalists at Governors State University in Illinois filed a lawsuit in reaction to a move by Dean of Student Affairs Patricia Carter and the University administration to censor the articles printed in "The Innovator," the campus newspaper. The Court upheld the First Amendment rights of the student journalists despite the newspaper's reliance on funding allocated by the administration.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

The Constitution of the United States of America guarantees freedom to the press because social and political progress arises from a free exchange of ideas. When reporters investigate issues about campus policies, the information regarding those policies can be researched and offered in a public format for readers.

Campuses need this forum to allow both sides of an issue to be examined.

Students and faculty depend on the campus press to deliver unbiased news. Interference from the college administration ruins the journalistic integrity of the press.

Federal courts have seen an increase in cases regarding campus press censorship in the past fifteen years since Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier when the U.S. Supreme Court decided in favor of the Hazelwood school district's power to censor.

In the 1988 decision, the Court decided that high school officials can regulate the style and content of school publications as long as that regulation is "reasonably related to legitimate (educational) concerns."
The Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier decision upheld student expression with the exception of when it could interfere with the educational purpose of high school. However, the Supreme Court made no attempt to address college publications in the decision.

The Hosty v. Carter decision reaffirms the desire of the First Amendment to allow campus newspapers the freedom to deliver news without being threatened, intimidated or exerted by college officials.

The relationship between the campus press and college administration is precarious because the administration often allocates the operational budget of the federal courts have denied college administrators the ability to censor or remove funding from school-sponsored publications.

In order to allow student-run media the opportunity to deliver information there must be free rein for the student editors to control the publication.

The campus press is designed to operate in the best interests of the students. When administrators interfere because of concern about the image of the school, then they challenge the journalistic integrity of the campus press.

The Aquinas Times has worked diligently for the past 22 years to produce an informative, entertaining and journalistically-correct student publication. The Aquinas Times is distributed by students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Rd 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 editors reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of The Aquinas Times. "The Times View" represents the view of the editorial board and does not necessarily reflect the views of Aquinas College.

Letters to the Editor may be delivered to The Aquinas Times office, located in the Wege Student Center or via e-mail to: aquinas_editor@aquinas.edu Email is the preferred method. All letters must be signed. The phone number of the writer must be provided for verification. The Aquinas Times reserves the right to edit based on content, length and libel. Letters should not exceed 300 words.


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Questions? Give us a call at 616-632-2975
Sports or drinking: What are we bigger fans of?

By Joe Woodruff

Homecoming Festivities on the campus of Aquinas College were filled with fun, laughter and lots of goals.

The study surveyed 14,000 college students at 119 public and private universities across the country. The study found that 15% more college students are fans of sports than fans of alcohol.

"We know that there are a lot of colleges that are trying to encourage students to drink alcohol, but we also know that there are colleges that are trying to discourage students from drinking alcohol," said Matt Garner, lead author of the study. "Our study found that 38% of college students are more likely to drink alcohol at a sporting event than at a non-sporting event."