Future of Michigan Tuition Grant in question

Governor's budget proposal would cut grant for students at private colleges

By Lisa Gast
News Editor

"Painful" is the word Governor Granholm used to describe the tough funding decisions in her state budget proposal, in which she had to make up a $1.3 billion shortfall. If her budget passes the state legislature, many Aquinas students will also feel that pain.

Granholm's budget, unveiled Thursday Feb. 12, would eliminate the Michigan Tuition Grant, a grant program for students attending private colleges who demonstrate financial need. Currently students may receive up to $2,000 under the program.

Approximately 40,000 students in Michigan receive the tuition grant, including over 1,000 at Aquinas. Since the program started in 1966, about 700,000 students benefited from the grant.

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan released the following statement: "We are deeply disappointed and disturbed by the Governor's proposal which balances the budget on the backs of needy students. The impact on needy Michigan independent college students would be brutal."

According to the governor, eliminating the grant program would save the state $64.8 million. However, not everyone is in agreement with that number. According to AICUM, after accounting for state aid, private colleges and universities in Michigan actually save the state over $340 million. They say the savings is made possible by the tuition grant.

AICUM also pointed out that Michigan's private colleges and universities have a large economic impact on the state, exceeding $5.4 billion each year. If the tuition grant is eliminated and students decide to transfer to state schools, not only would they be a greater cost to the state, AICUM believes they would also put private colleges and universities in jeopardy with losses due to declining enrollment.

Many current and prospective students didn't agree with Granholm's idea. "I think it's bad...if Granholm takes the [tuition grant] money away she's kind of restricting our choices on what kind of schools we're able to go to," said freshman Bryan Moule.

Prospective student Aeshly Perin of Allendale, who was visiting the campus for the Spectrum Scholarship Competition on Saturday, echoed that sentiment. "Why would you deny them [students] the choice to go to a private college? Two thousand dollars is a lot of money; for some students it may be the deciding factor whether to go to a private school or state one," she said.

Granholm's budget must meet the approval of the state legislature to pass—the same Republican-controlled legislature that defeated her proposal to eliminate the grant last year. Even students who don't receive the Michigan Tuition Grant may face higher costs under Granholm's budget; she has also proposed a 75 cent increase in the cigarette tax and an increase in the liquor tax from 65 percent to 74 percent of the wholesale price.

The increase in the cigarette tax would bring the tax to $2.00 per pack, the second-highest among the states. For the pack-a-day smoker, this means $274 more per year.

Granholm said the cigarette tax increase is necessary because smoking leads to increased health costs for the state, and increasing the tax will decrease the number of smokers. She said the tax will result in a $295 million increase in revenue for the state and encourage better health among citizens.

The proposed tax increase on liquor would not affect beer or wine, but it would affect liquor stores, bars and restaurants in Michigan. These businesses are worried about decreases in sales, mostly that people will decide to buy less expensive liquor from nearby states such as Wisconsin. Indiana and Illinois. Granholm said this tax would generate $30 million in revenue for the state.

Nader attempts to “level the playing field” with bid for presidency

Nader’s platform, or just want a feel-good vote and, once the campaign website, http://www.votenader.org. for him “for whoever wins, Nader may be the candidate for you. party finds exceedingly important. Nader is running on the idea and that TV makes raising children more difficult.

Nader also believes that the fact that he has sued various Republicans and Democrats. He’s running as the alternative, for other issues aren’t quite as well known. “Ralph Nader is supported the legalization of marijuana. He is against

“I love the Moose on the Loose...don’t stop the Moose on the loose,” exclaimed Nanette Clatterbuck as she wrapped up a purchase, Clatterbuck teaches Interior and Expression and school of education classes. According to Land, the program has been a success, with sales of about 50 items per night, and about 30 to 40 students and faculty making purchases. Although expressers are known for the menu, they do offer tea, bottled drinks, brownies, cookies, and other “stuff that will get you through your quad,” said sophomore Dave Young, who works at the Moose on the Loose station two of the four nights it is offered. Young said it usually gets about 100 people in to prepare the coffee and other items that are then brought to the Academic

Students learn business wardrobe basics

Sassy pants, tongue studs and flame; these are all items sure to make a bad impression at a business interview. A Quinnipiac student was asked for insight on how to “dress to impress” in today’s professional world when Sarah Hecker, executive assistant at Joseph Banks men’s wear store, presented “Wardrobe Basics for the New Business Professional,” Thursday Feb. 19.

Hecker offered many tips for the aspiring business professional. Her presentation included great advice for college students, such as a recommendation of the five most important start-up pieces for a business wardrobe for both men and women. According to Hecker, men should own, at the very least, a dark suit, a white shirt, a light blue or yellow shirt, and two ties. Women should own a dark suit, a white blouse, a colored blouse, a blazer, and a business-appropriate skirt. The cost of each wardrobe, she said, is approximately $500.

She also offered advice on dress details sometimes overlooked by college students. For example, for men, pants should not sag, ties should always fall to the center of the belt, shoes should always be polished, and they should get a haircut a week before an interview. For women, Hecker said jewelry and makeup should be understated and skirts should be knee length or longer. Also, any piercings (excluding traditional ear-piercings) should be removed before an interview.

Hecker also had advice on how to prepare for a business interview. She said students should do research on the company before the interview and find out if the company is good for them. Cell phones should not be brought to interviews, but a pen and paper and pre-questions for the interviewer should.

Once hired, Hecker recommends that you work with and dressing to fit their model. “You don’t want to dress like the president of the company because people will think there’s something wrong with you,” she said. She did recommend however, looking at the people who work at the same level as you, and dressing two levels up. As you advance within the company, your level of dress should then advance too. But she reminded students to stay within the dress code and style of their company. “Everyone likes to be unique, but this isn’t a time to express your individuality,” she said.

Hecker recommended buying good-quality clothing because it lasts longer and will save money in the end. She also recommended buying worsed wool suit because it can be worn year-round (unlike wool and cashmere) and don’t wrinkle (unlike linen); for dress shirts, she recommends wrinkle-resistant, 100 percent cotton.

At the end of Hecker’s presentation, a drawing was held for two Joseph Banks gift certificates, and all students that attended received their choice of a first-banker shoe shine to help prepare them for their future in the business world.

Featured Faculty

How long have you been at Aquinas? 25 years

What’s one thing students don’t know about you? I’m a big Notre Dame football fan.

Library feature students should take advantage of more: I don’t think students use the music CDs because I don’t think people know what a nice collection we have, or that we even have them.

Favorite book: “A Painted House” by John Grisham

Three things every AQ student should do before they graduate: 1. They should use the library 2. They should see Lake Michigan 3. They should join the alumni association

Campus Safety Dispatch Log

February 25, 2004

On 02/14/04 @ 5:23 p.m. Multiple staff members from several departments reported a suspicious person in the Academic Building and Waccamaw Center. Officer located individual and escorted the individual off campus.

On 02/12/04 @ 9:04 a.m. The dispatcher received a false alarm signal for Regina Hall. Officers determined the source of the alarm was a lost food. GFRD Engine 11 arrived and ventilated the affected hallway and rooms.

On 02/08/04 @ 7:44 p.m. A Regina Hall resident reported receiving harassing phone calls. A report was taken and the information was passed on to Information Services.

On 02/04/04 @ 9:08 a.m. Office reported that a resident in Regina Hall was approached by a man near the dorm.

On 02/03/04 @ 12:55 a.m. An officer observed a vehicle parked suspiciously in the Bullock Lot. The vehicle occupants were engaged in a sexual act. Officer identified the occupants as students and detained both students were willing participants in the act.
Aquinans celebrates Black History Month
By Curtis R. Burdette
Editor in Chief

On Monday Feb. 16 and Wednesday Feb. 18 the Aquinas College Multicultural Office sponsored a Jim Crow Exhibit in the lobby of the Art and Music Center. Items from the exhibit were on loan from Ferris State University's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. The exhibit included paintings that depicted life in the South and the oppression of blacks.

The term "Jim Crow" refers to the practice of discriminating against blacks and often specifically indicates the prejudice in the South after the period of Reconstruction that followed the Civil War.

The museum has collected thousands of artifacts including toys, masks, postcards, dolls and other items that showcase anti-black sentiments. The exhibit included a viewing of the documentary "Ethnic Notions" which was followed by a discussion of the film. The film traces the history of racial prejudice against African Americans.

The Multicultural Office also sponsored a talk entitled "The Black Family and Spirituality" Tuesday Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. upstairs in the Moose. Pastor Cory Jackson '93 from Maranatha Bible Fellowship discussed the importance of spirituality.

Black History Month started in 1926 as Negro History Week. Dr. Carter G. Woodson began promoting Negro History Week during the second week of February to celebrate the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1976, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History expanded the celebration, which then Black History Month.

Inclining to three score
Sir John Falstaff
Reveler, roisterer, thief, consort of princes

Harvard, UCLA, Aquinas. What do these educational institutions have in common? Each has a residency requirement for undergraduate students.

Aquinas campus residency policy requires that all full-time undergraduate students live in the residence halls unless they meet one of several requirements. Students who are living at home, married, veterans, or have achieved at least junior status are exempt from living on campus.

Each year, incoming freshmen and returning sophomores are placed in Regina, St. Joseph, or Hurley Hall. Any student who wishes to seek an alternate housing, including the Ravine Apartments on campus or off campus options, must fill out an application to break their housing contract.

Residence Life Director Randy MacGeorge is the face in front of the committee that decides whether a student will be allowed to break the housing contract.

"When students come to me that I know have been having problems, I will sit down with them and help them with the application, make sure that they have the right answers and documentation. But I also try to discover the cause of the problems. Was it a bad roommate situation? Do they need to be in a different building? Sometimes all it takes is an adjustment to make the experience better," he said.

For students that simply want to get out of Regina or St. Joe's, there are several on-campus housing options such as the Ravine Apartments, Dominican Hall and the Program Houses. MacGeorge encourages students to form Resitential Service Volunteer Program groups and apply to live in either Dominican or one of the houses.

"It doesn't have to be an official student organization to get a house. In fact, some of our current recognized groups like C Volleyball started out as an RSVP group." There are obviously many factors that can lead to a student having a less than desirable experience in the dorms. But how easy is it for students to get out of the residency requirement?

"We won't keep a student who has a legitimate reason but we always ask them to explore the other options available," said MacGeorge.

"We have a group in St. Joe's who are sophomores and are planning on coming back as juniors. They love it and I think they'll be there until the last day of the semester. But other students live in the dorms their freshman year and they've had enough." Sophomore Janea Woody is living in the Ravine Apartments this semester. One of the residents is studying abroad this semester and needed someone to fill her space. "I had to apply," said Woody, "but it wasn't difficult. I'm a good student and I went on a service learning trip. If I hadn't been a good student I wouldn't have made it. I also haven't been written up and that helped." Another option available to local students and students with a blood relative in the area is to live at home. Many freshmen and sophomores take advantage of the chance to live rent-free with their parents.

Some students use the cost of living on campus as their justification for breaking residency. The cost of room for the dorms this year was $2,510. This only covers the nine months that school is in session and does not include Christmas or mid-term breaks. A student paying $250 a month for an off campus apartment would spend $2,250 for the same nine month period and would have the freedom to stay at the apartment when school was not in session.

"We try to maintain our integrity about the condition of anonymity, admitted to the Times Writer Randy MacGeorge is the face in front of the committee that decides whether a student will be allowed to break the housing contract.

"I feel that it should be easy to get out of the current policy very easily," he said.

"I feel that it should be changed...to allow students to have the opportunity to live on their own and not be stuck on campus," Allis said. "It can be a burden for some that Grand Rapids has to offer, and to see what it is truly like in the real world, and not the sheltered lifestyle of the dorms."
Everyone should hate the Yankees

I hate the Yankees. My parents hate the Yankees. My parent’s parents hate the Yankees. And I’d say if my great-grandparents were around, they’d hate the Yankees too.

I know many of you share my hate for those cocky little pinstripes too. And if you don’t hate them yet, maybe you will by the end of this editorial.

So why the hate for the Yankees? Aren’t they a symbol of American pride, of the glory and honor of this hallowed American sport? Maybe, but I still hate them.

The Yankees now too.

In all seriousness, should we consider baseball the most disgusting purchase of them all: A-Rod. Alex Rodriguez has essentially broken down the moral fiber of America, that baseball was supposed to instill in kids, like team-work, dedication and commitment, and he tells his dad Don Mattingly was a great player. Whitey Ford was one of the greats, the Sultans of Swat, Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio. You can’t even like Derek Jeter, Jorge Posada, Mariano Rivera and Bernie Williams, but recently they’ve bought every star player they can get their greedy little Yankee fingers on.

This off season they added Javier Vazquez, Gary Sheffield, Kevin Brown, and Kenny Lofton and of course the almighty A-Rod. Alex Rodriguez’s recent move to the Big Apple has spawned my most recent wave of distaste for the Yankees.

By adding Rodriquez, the Yankee’s have an all-star at every position but second base. Why not just replace the Tigers spent a big chunk of that into having one, yes $200 million payroll and Detroit has a fourth of that. The Yankees starting infield makes $51-36, but Aquinas had 16 steals in the second half and drove underneath to score two points for the Saints at 12-56. Junior Craig. Rehanman grabbed a steal and made an easy lay up with 12:30 left to play.

The Aquinas scored six more points in the next two minutes of play to bring the score to 61-36. The Cardinals rallied for three 3-point goals and tied the 18-18 Aquinas offense continued to outmatch the Cardinals for the rest of the game.

Turnovers played a significant factor in the Saints victory. Aquinas had 16 steals in the second half of the game while the Cardinals totaled 26 turnovers and shot 36 percent for the game.

The Saints were led by freshman Jeff Jayson who scored 18 points. Junior Kevin Murphy and sophomore Damien/Mayo added 14 points and 12 points respectively.

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Soriano is one of the most exciting young talents in the game but had fallen out of grace with the Yankees after a disappointing post-season. However, Soriano hit .290 this past year with 38 homers, 91 RBIs and 35 stolen bases after posting numbers of .300, 39, 102 in 2002. Soriano will possibly move to center field for the Rangers and will join the young nucleus of players including All-Star third baseman Hank Blalock, Michael Young, Laynce Nix and Mark Teixeria. The Rodriguez deal gives the Rangers more firepower as well. Rodriguez was due to make over $20 million dollars each of the next seven years. The Rangers can now use that money to help rebuild their team.

While a lot of American League teams are going to be pretty upset about facing the Yankees lineup this year, one will be more upset than the Red Sox. The Red Sox almost had Rodriguez earlier in the winter in a deal that would have sent Manny Ramirez to the Rangers. The fact that the Yankees then got him will bring more bad blood to the already bitter Yankees/Red Sox rivalry.

If you would like to catch the Yankees this, you take on the Detroit Tigers, who added a Rodriguez of their own in Ivan Rodriguez, July 15, 16, 17 and 18 at Comerica Park in Detroit.
Building Excellence

Women's Softball returns strong this year after clinching last year's conference title. The sophomores are the largest class, making this year's team young but experienced. "We have a young staff and a young team," said coach Ronda Varnesdeel. "I think in some ways it's a real advantage to us."

This year's two returning seniors are Lindsey Schab and Bonnie Spiegelberg. Schab is the oldest veteran of Aquinas Softball team and will play the majority of her time in the outfield and may see some time as backup catcher.

Bonnie Spiegelberg will also be a force in the Saint's outfield, and will lead the team as captain this season. "It's our last season," she said. "We really want to be successful."

Aquinas Softball will also see another Spiegelberg join the team this spring. Barb Spiegelberg, a junior transfer from Kalamazoo College, will join her sister in the outfield.

Transfer Jacyln Saltzwered form Grand Rapids Community College and sophomore Erica Emelander will round out the outfield and will both be assets right away this season.

Sophomore Tarin Foster and junior captain Kirsten Hulst will lead the pitching staff. Foster was named to the 2003 WHAC All Conference and the NAIA All Region VIII teams. Foster and Hulst will be supported by sophomore pitchers Lorna Bratton and Marisa Poelman, both who return with experience in the program.

The infield will be led primarily by younger half of this year's team. Sophomores Kristen Jager and Casey Sweitzer lead the middle infield. Jager will return to shortstop and Sweitzer will take second. Freshman Jodi Dieterle will start the year at the hot corner and freshman McCall Kleinlein will be taking over as first base position this season. Sophomore Sarah Metiva will complete the battery this year as the Saint's primary catcher.

Kathy Williams will be invaluable as a utility player this season. "We hang out together and work well together." This will help the Saints overcome some of their more difficult opponents this year. "We all get along," said Hulst. "We need to have chemistry in order to win games." This will help the Saints overcome some of their more difficult opponents this year.

Everyone in the conference looks to be strong this year and the Saints are looking to secure their fourth conference title in five years, they will be taking nobody lightly. Madografia is looking to slip into the number one spot in the conference as well as our crosstown rival Cornerstone.

Joining this year's coaching staff is last year's WHAC player of the year Cassi Gragg. "[Gragg] knows the girls and the program," said Varnesdeel. "She has already helped a lot."

Returning to the coaching staff is Aaran Bush as assistant coach, and Co-head Coach Ray Sheler, who is in his eight year with the Aquinas Softball program. "We hang out together and work well together." This will help the Saints overcome some of their more difficult opponents this year. "This year the team is taking no games lightly. "We really expect to win every game. When we go on the field there will be a lot of chemistry," said captain Shaun Hambelton. "We want to go out with bang." Renbarger will see more innings this year along with senior captain Dan Boglitsch. "We'll show them how to do it. We've been through the wars," said captain Shaun Hambleton.

Junior right-hander Kyle Finch will be provide a lot a depth in this year's pitching staff. Arik Schoeborn, who pitched in last year's World Series for GRCC. Sophomore Kleinfelt and along with transfer Rob Feeley and junior Jake Steffic will also continue to see some innings on the mound along with a will begin to make an impact on the pitching staff. With center and left field in good hands, right field remains the only outfield spot up for grabs. "Anybody on this team can make an impact and contribute this year," said senior captain Matt Bocian. Sophomores Tim Muma and Craig Antekeier as well as Dennis Bertoia will make the strongest plays for this position this spring. Transfer Ryan Walters from Concordia and freshman Chris Graczsky, an All-state outfielder from Wayland will add depth to the outfield.

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The Senior captain Dan Boglitsch is a force on the mound. The seniors and other veterans will be the binding force behind the success of the Saints this season. "We'll show them how to do it. We've been through the wars," said captain Shaun Hambleton.

Returning this year is All-American outfielder Brett Cagney. Cagney is the team’s strongest outfielder as well as catcher. With his intense athleticism, he will see the majority of his time in the infield. All-American outfielder Lindsey Schab covers the outfield.

All-American Jeremy Frost will also return for his final season. Frost has a .329 AVG and will cover left field for the Saints. "It's our last year," said Hambelton. "We want to go out with bang." Renbarger will see more innings this year along with senior captain Dan Boglitsch. "We'll show them how to do it. We've been through the wars," said captain Shaun Hambleton.

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The Seniors

Senior Dan Boglitsch

Captain Shaun Hambleton

Senior Lindsey Schab covers the outfield

All-American Jeremy Frost

All-American Brett Cagney

Jon Renbarger

Stories by Leah Herland

Building Traditions, Continuing Traditions...
A classic Irish export: The Pogues’ *Rum, Sodomy & the Lash*

By Joy Schaefer
Times Writer

The Pogues, an Irish, punk-induced folk band that formed in 1982, continue to make music without the toothlessness of former frontman Shane MacGowan, while MacGowan currently tours England heaving up his new band, the Popes. Things could be worse for MacGowan, considering his band members kicked him out of the Pogues in 1991 because he drank too much. But no matter how well the original members of the Pogues do separately, their musical attempts will never beat the 1985 colliclasm known as *Rum, Sodomy & the Lash*. The Pogues were originally known as Pogue Mahone—Gaelig for “kiss my ass”—a fitting name, since the lyrics in "Rum" form a scatter; melancholy bliss filled with innumerable references to alcoholic beverages. However, the album doesn’t much concern the drunken broodings of men like Colin Farrell—it abounds serious social and political concerns. The Elivs Costello-produced album’s highpoint is "Waltzing Matilda," a poignantly lyrical song about an old soldier of the Boer War. The album's folk backbone is clear, yet its arrangements are more contemporary, with Irish instruments such as the accordion and banjo back up these sorrowful lyrics. Other instruments flauted in this punk-feral genre are the tin whistle, mandolin, mandolin, upright piano and Celtic flute. The last of which is heard in "Dirty Old Town," a slow-paced blues tune about a hometown full of youthful memories that has become as boring and rotten as an "old dead tree."

If you’re not accustomed to these typically Irish instruments, your first instinct on this classic will give you a hint of instrumental perfection. The CD is a definitive, albeit slightly odd, collection of songs that will make your drouid. The service was a little shabby. You’ll have to find something that will make you drouid. The service was a little shabby. You’ll have to find something that will make you drouid. The service was a little shabby. You’ll have to find something that will make you drouid.
The buzz about Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ” has been taking over the media with interviews, newspaper columns, reports from different Jewish, Catholic and Christian sects as well as through the thousands of web sites discussing the film. Gibson has invested millions of dollars of his own money in this project and he has worked the film.

The movie opens Wednesday Feb. 25 in most theathers, but the sneak previews shown in the past few weeks have not been much of a success. Easter has called it anti-Semitic. Others have praised the baldness and beauty of the story. Most admit that the film is controversial and nearly all commented on the amount of violence.

What makes “The Passion of the Christ” such a controversial film? Many Christian churches are offering free trips to the movie as a tool for evangelization.

Catherine Emmerich, an Augustian nun who lived in Germany between 1774 and 1824. Emmerich’s writing on the Passion plays are performed in Christian churches.

Scholars have also suggested that using a literal interpretation of the Bible without considering evidence of how they interpret “The Passion.” Carroll suggests that using a literal interpretation of the Bible is among scholars who have come to develop a religious controversy where none existed.

One of the biggest claims about the film is that it might evoke attacks against the Jewish community because “The Passion” depicts the Jews urging Pontius Pilate to execute Jesus. The claims imply that Christians might grow so upset after seeing the film that they feel compelled to race out the door and burn down the nearest Jewish synagogue. It is never angry at Easter.

Since when does a Hollywood film offer more religious intensity than a Christian church?

Josh Wilford

Creeping through the dimly-lit portions of the theatre, a rapt audience is captivated by the tale of the crucifixion. The howls of the Roman centurions, the tears of Mary, the Gasps of the crowd at the crucifixion.

“The Passion” tells the story of Jesus’ crucifixion in a way that no other film has ever attempted.

Experts theorize that they need to differentiate their story if they wish for the Christian message, giving parents a reason to make that special trip to Toys “R” Us. They have already posed by the toy aisle in Wal-Mart or Target. Will it work? There’s no way to know for sure, but there’s been several reasons why we should hope so.

Wal-Mart is a fine place to buy laundry detergent and vitamins, but one-stop shopping can go too far. It is not hard to envision a future where each Wal-Mart store takes up several blocks and you can buy literally anything.

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France bans religious clothing in schools
Joy Schafer
Times Writer
In an effort to promote secularism, the French government has taken one large step toward destroying a vital practice in which free
soldiers affect our lives
as pointless
and science degrees...
graduating with math
universities has decreased
last twelve years. In
issued by colleges and
shuddering right now, you
bore you? If you are
February 25. 2004
prompting many Jewish
were planned.
where demonstrations
On Feb. 14, an
large Christian crosses,
estimated 2,600 Muslims
openly against the new
law. On Feb. 14, an
law. On Feb. 10, the lower
Many of France’s 5
million Muslims are
opposed to the new
law.

The French government, or the
state, wants to ban a student from
wearing an article that symbolizes
his faith, or his church.

favor the ban are correct
in separation of church
and state. It did not take
away the state’s right to
force students to pray.
Away a student’s right to
wear an article
that symbolizes his faith,
or his church.
The atheist does not
believe in a certain
expression and, in doing
so, has supported
the combination of church
and state.
A student wears a
headscarf or cross to
show that he or she
believes in a certain
religion or philosophy.
These items are
an extension of his or her
true self. Students should not
be denied the basic
human right to be who
they desire to be and to
represent who they are
by wearing symbolic
clothing or jewelry.
This issue is easily
relatable to a controversial,
ongoing argument in
prayer in a public school.
He imposes on the
students who do not wish
to pray.
French leaders who
back the ban desire to
control the most
representative
expression that young
people have—how
they dress, which often
represents what they
believe. The French
government, or the state,
needs a student from
wearing an article
that symbolizes his faith,
or his church.

When the U.S. Su-
preme court ruled
Engel v. Vitale in 1962
prohibiting state-man-
dated prayer in public
schools, it did not take
away a student’s right
to represent their
religion on their
body, it merely
away the state’s right
to force students to pray.
When the French
government banned
religious symbols in
public schools, it did
not make a statement in favor
of separation of church
and state—it made a
strong statement against
it.

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To Our Readers
The Aquinas Times has worked diligently
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tive, entertaining and journalism-focused
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to provide a forum for the ideas, views and
concerns of the Aquinas community.
The Aquinas Times is distributed by
students at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Rd
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The Aquinas Times is also available online
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Gender Corner
Valentine’s Day: Is it worthwhile?
The Male View
Valentine’s Day just halfirked its favorite holiday. What a
wonderful day for giving cards, chocolate and stupid little
stuffed bears. The day when you can honestly say that if
you see one more stupid box shaped like an anatomically
anatomically incorrect heart you will vomit. This is the
cheesiest excuse for a holiday all year. It’s a holiday supposedly
about love, warmth yet it happens at one of the coldest
of the times of the year! Valentine’s Day probably came about when chocolate
companies and greeting cards companies alike realized that it
would be nice to make a bit of extra cash between Christmas
and Easter. Valentine’s Day adds one more aggravation to
everyone’s stress level. After all, nothing says “I love you”
like a card with little red hearts and some lame Saturday
morning cartoon character. Incidentally, if you feel you must
buy cards with cheesy cartoon characters, I recommend the
Tennis Match Ninja Turtles.
We celebrate several lame holidays in this country but
Valentine’s Day succeeds in being the least interesting
and most aggravating. For example, Halloween may not get
person work out of school; in fact, it likely results in
millions of very happy children. St. Patrick’s Day is another
simple celebration, but results in a lot of happy bartenders.
However, Valentine’s Day, simply lifts gift and women
spend a ridiculous amount of money in expressing that
they don’t know how to communicate in verbal form.
I am aware that Valentine’s Day is supposed to be about
showing someone that you care, but why should there
be just one day for that? Why does caring for someone have to
have hand-in-hand with giving them a stupid little stuffed bear?
You like me this “holiday” is completely overrated and
main purpose offers nothing but irritating and stupid
marketing meaningless tokens of commercialized love.

The Female View
It is Feb. 14 and the evening of Valentine’s Day has
arrived. So, you’re getting ready for a night of blissful
romance with the person you love, right? Maybe. But during
my short 21 years of life, I’ve realized that Valentine’s Day
festivities do not always go as smoothly as planned.
If you have a significant other on February 14, you will probably
be getting ready to go on a special date with that person, and you will still
put a great deal of pressure on yourself to look stunning for your sweetheart when you face
the restaurant crowds. You will panic about your hair, your hair, you wash, your
shoe. You will also worry about the gift that you have chosen to give your sweetheart, or you will
frantically look for those required items at the last minute.
On the other hand, if you are single, you will probably
in your living room eating chips and writing sad poetry,
or you will call up all your single friends to have a
girls’ night and rant about how Stupid and pointless men and
relationships are. The situation does not sound like
much fun, does it? My boyfriend sees Valentine’s Day as an excuse to
be romantic and sweet, and I am not going to turn that down on
any day of the year. But in my opinion, everyone would probably be better off without Valentine’s Day. We have
birthdays, anniversaries, and other holidays that offer
opportunities for us to show our love interests how much
we care about them, not to mention the fact that this is
something we should be doing every day of the
year. Valentine’s Day just throws a lot of pressure, crowds, and low self-
estem issues into the mix. So, is Valentine’s Day worth it?
My answer would be no.

by Katie Jensen

Corrections
The article “Ovaltine: ul-le-
mented musical engineers” published in the Feb.
issue of The Aquinas Times had the
wrong writer. Ovaltine per-
fected the product.
The Aquinas Times
continues to make news reports
fair and accurate. If you have
a question or comment about news
coverage, call: 616-612-
2975.
Silent Bob's cinema speaks volumes

His humor is sophomoric at best, using sexual innuendos and fart jokes as staples. His characters are so stupid that they deserve to be shot. His plots are more asinine than bottled water.

Carrey and Adam Sandler were funny, but they couldn't approximate the paradigm shift. Movie-goers were still saying that Jim knew that they were witnessing the beginning of a savior; a destroyer of the respective rubber-face and Hanukah Song.” At any rate, comedy was in need of a genuine fear of chastisement. An icon was born.

Kevin Smith is a pudgy ball of bearded coolness. His humor is sophomoric at best, using sexual innuendos and fart jokes as stilts. His characters are so stupid that they deserve respect for its shortcomings. As is depicted by the title, “(Rebuild! Restore! Reconsider!),” the chiding is meant to instill common sense back into an out-of-control city.

In the middle section of “Michigan” are two lush and captivating instrumentals, both featuring orchestra bells. “Dakota” sounds like pitched drops of water falling into a pool of song, accurately depicting a waterfall’s visage. The shorter “Alanson, Crooked River” starts with a trickle of piano melody that would be a confusing listen. If I tried alone.”

The playful horns and drum pattern deeply engulfing the lyrics. The lyrics depict a childhood in Michigan with some musical projects ever released a film version of “The Green Hornet,” which he is working on. Given his track record of quality, no one would expect anything less than a gem the caliber of Tim Burton’s “Batman.” Given his track record of quality, no one would expect anything less than a gem the caliber of Tim Burton’s “Batman.” Given his track record of quality, no one would expect anything less than a gem the caliber of Tim Burton’s “Batman.”

By Tim Krauss
Times Writer

Sufjan Stevens was born and raised in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, the land infamous for tourist traps, snow and idiosyncrasy. He enrolled in Hope College in Holland, Michigan where he studied graphic design and music, and released two LPs garnering him a small following in West in Michigan, Nashville and New York City.

Now he is embarking on one of the most ambitious musical projects ever undertaken; to personally compose an album for each of the United States. Stevens has begun his project with “Greetings from Michigan: The Great Lakes State.”

This young songwriter’s zany approach to music is not only written all over his flawless diction and articulation of an Olivier. His humor is sophomoric at best, using sexual innuendos and fart jokes as stilts. His characters are so stupid that they deserve respect for its shortcomings. As is depicted by the title, “(Rebuild! Restore! Reconsider!),” the chiding is meant to instill common sense back into an out-of-control city.

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By Wes Creager
Times Writer

“No One in Particular” is indeed a well-named group, for it is evident who in particular would want to own their CD. This CD features three musicians playing a fairly unique style of jazz, those musicians being Billy Martin (percussion), Grant Calvin Weston (piano and trumpet) and DJ Logue (turntables).

For jazz aficionados this CD will be a confusing listen. It centers mostly around percussion and has a bit of trumpet and some samples put in via the group’s DJ, perhaps pushing the envelope of eclecticism.

This album does serve respect for its creative and bold concept, if nothing else. However, one may have to re- minded that this is a bumper sticker that “Just because no one understands it, that doesn’t mean it’s not important.” To call it “For One” is somewhat of a stretch. While someone with slightly better musical ears might, for some reason, appreciate the odd time signatures and strange rhythms, most will simply hear it as a mass of drums and noise. The tracks “Flashing Swords” and “Hustling Rain” are the most captivating, but they are still a little bewildering.

Most of the album is a sort of indulgent nonsense. The three musicians simply seem to be playing totally for themselves most of the time rather than paying any attention to what listeners might be desiring. Though the album is lively, as is most of the songs are full of studio overdubs. One can assume that most of the over-rating mass of sounds is either created by multi-tasking percussionists on samples and sounds and the group’s DJ. This CD is an experiment gone awry. The album notes refer to it as “avant jazz.” Its explorations in rhythm and melody are lacking in coherence and interest. Listening to this album is like trying to solve a rubik’s cube that changes color every 30 seconds. Jarring, confusing and maddening, “For No One In Particular” is most assuredly not for me.
By Curtis R. Burdette
Editor in Chief

"Hall Mary, full of grace and thy son, John..." On Monday, Feb. 16 in Keetscher Recital Hall, the Aquinas College Percussion Group performed along with guest violinist Christina Fong. The group performed "15 Mysteries of the Rosary" by Bob Shemin. The piece was a fifteen-minute adaptation of the story behind the mysteries of the Catholic rosary prior to Pope John Paul II and was loosely based on Heinrich Biber's violin sonatas on the same theme.

Members of the percussion group include Dave Baylin, Uriah Lange, Gabrielle Monaco, Patrick Ryan and Kelli Tilley. Each of the movements featured Fong on violin with percussionists covering a range of instruments including vibraphone, marimba, chimes, toms, woodblocks, gongs, and more.

Fong and member and associate concertmaster for the Grand Rapids Symphony, displayed her talent on a custom-made 5-string electric violin/viola. The Aquinas Percussion Group, under the direction of Rupert Kettle, was conducted by senior Kelli Tilley. Before each movement, Sister Catherine Williams provided a short introduction that explained the mystery from the Annunciation to the Coronation. Each statement set the mood for the audience and gave the percussionists enough time to set up for the next movement.

During the first movement, "The Carrying of the Cross," members of the percussion group had one of few opportunities to either play or roll the keyboard instruments or reinforcing the beat on the percussion instruments. Most of the percussive parts were repetitive and the group never got a chance to shine. During the second movement, "The Carrying of the Cross," members of the percussion group had one of few opportunities to either play or roll the keyboard instruments or reinforcing the beat on the percussion instruments. Most of the percussive parts were repetitive and the group never got a chance to shine.

After that song, the mood of the two actors — from Mama's house after her death to the room where she was being stricken with a life-threatening disease — from Mama's still having to make their own decisions, Mama uses the music, the mood, and the rhythm to create a compelling image that explained the desperation and sadness of the moment. The music department sponsored the event. Multitudes of students and faculty members showed up to Miss Fong's performance. The song by sitting on the lap of Associate Professor Larry Harwood's stellar performance of "This Place is Mine" from "Phantom of the Opera." Ending the first half, was soprano Nolan MacNaughton performing "This is the Moment" from "Phantom." Her performance was superb, ending on a very high-energy note.

For a little more levity, check out "You in a Good Mood" from "Hair," which will be directed by Anthony Guest and will show April 1-4, courtesy of the AQT.

AQ Percussion Group

Broadway Revue at the Moose

By Janet Moery

On Thursday, Feb. 12 in the Moose Cafeteria, AQT students produced a refreshing Broadway revue consisting of musical selections from 10 different musicals.

The music department sponsored the event. Multitudes of students and faculty members showed up to Miss Fong's performance. The song by sitting on the lap of Associate Professor Larry Harwood's stellar performance of "This Place is Mine" from "Phantom." Her performance was superb, ending on a very high-energy note.

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AQ Percussion Group

Broadway Revi...
Sibs Weekend

Siblings had a blast during Aquinas’ annual Siblings Weekend, Feb. 20-22. They enjoyed games in the Fieldhouse on Saturday, ranging from toilet bowl racing to root beer chugging. Many of them experienced everyday life at Aquinas, eating at Wege, staying in the dorms and attending basketball games.