"Personal Oppression"
Alumni Rob VanderZee Speaks Out

The four people who called misconceptions to VanderZee at the beginning joined him on stage after a short break. These four people stood with VanderZee and they each briefly spoke about an aspect of homosexuality.

"I'm gay. It's taking me four years to say that out loud," said Joanne Catania, a student from Grand Valley State. "For now, I'm going to work on loving myself and accepting myself..."

Aquinas Sophomore Jessica Kalmewicki also spoke.
"I'm judged by who I love, not who I am. How can my loving someone be considered wrong?" Kalmewicki asked.

These five, which also included Senior Michael Six and alum Kim Yeager, joined hands and hoped for justice, compassion, education, and acceptance.

According to Six, it is important to participate, as well as attend, speeches such as VanderZee's.

"It's important to participate because, regardless of personal feelings, both sides of the issue should be heard in order to be educated, and to create understanding of how people feel who are gay, and how it effects everyone's life—not just gay people," said Six.

Sophomore Amanda Boes also attended on Nov. 5.
"I came in support of my friends," said Boes. "The talk was very well-researched and comprehensive, and Rob was very sincere. He didn't appear uncomfortable at all."

Rob was being very careful not to force his views on people," commented Robin Lynn Grinnell, who was once Regina Hall's Resident Director. "It was just an honest portrayal of his views, and he is very sensitive to people's own views."

"I absolutely have no shame standing here before you, telling you I am gay. If this is the way my God created me, then this is the way I will live," said VanderZee. "I care about my fellow human beings, and I care about the truth. We are in every walk of life, we are 8% of you (the population). Every ounce of effort you give to stop this oppression will be greatly appreciated. It's only you, only all of us, on an individual level, that can make that kind of difference."
Express Yourself
Youth Rally In Fieldhouse A Success

By Melissa Wysocki
News Contributing Writer

A place of gathering, cheering, and support, the field house is host to a variety of campus-wide events each year. Whether it's a rousing team split at a basketball game, providing a dance floor for the masses to groove to the latest tunes, or working up a sweat while pumping iron, the field house is only one means by which students can express themselves at Aquinas. It wasn't Aquinas students, however, who were expressing themselves a few weekends ago, but students from parishes within the Grand Rapids diocese.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, the Aquinas field house housed about 600 students who had gathered to celebrate the fourth annual Youth Rally. With the theme, "Express Yourself," students from the Grand Rapids diocese joined together to learn and share this message which encouraged them to be themselves.

"The emphasis of Youth Rally '94 was to stress the fact that it is okay to be different, and that they, the participants, can rely on God and their God-given talents to express themselves without having to succumb to peer pressure," explained Sophomore Annette Levasseur, one of twelve members of the youth rally planning committee.

At this year's youth rally, the students participated in ice-breakers and heard a keynote speaker in the morning, then participated in the workshops in the afternoon. One such workshop involved decorating T-shirts with markers. The decorators were encouraged to openly express themselves while drawing on their shirts. Sessions offered topics including family, prayer, conflict and self-esteem.

Differing from youth rallies in the past, this year's offered more freedom to its participants.

"When I came to the youth rally, I spent the whole day with one group of people. This year, there's more freedom—I think that's better," commented volunteer and past participant Sean Cramer.

The students who participated were not the only ones expressing themselves at the youth rally. Aquinas faculty members and students volunteered their time to assist with the rally.

In particular, 12 Aquinas students, who started planning in March, coordinated the event.

"At times it seemed overwhelming. We didn't think it would ever come, and we began wondering if the effort we put in would pay off," commented Levasseur. "It did."

Bible Dedicated From Local Businessman

By Melissa Wysocki
News Contributing Writer

Unique in many ways, Aquinas College is like a collection of rare finds. Serving as an educational facility for about 2500 unique students, what other college has 77 different varieties of trees, 38 varieties of shrubs, a new observatory and soon to be completed student union all within 107 acres? Just recently Aquinas College added another find to its rare collection. This time it was not the addition of a new building, or the planting of a new species of tree, but a book.

On Nov. 1, a rare bible was dedicated to Aquinas College by local businessman, Ralph Hauenstein, as part of an All Saint's Day mass. This bible will remain on display inside the lobby of the Academic Building.

As a lay auditor, Ralph Hauenstein attended the Council of Vatican II, where he was presented with the bible by Cardinal Staffa as a gift.

"I had worked with Cardinal Staffa in world efforts regarding the vocations," said Hauenstein. "He was a true product of Seminaries and Universities, a man of great talents and value to the world."

Hauenstein also mentioned Cardinal Staffa's compostion of "Aquinas: A Place of Gathering, Cheering, and Support," a book which encouraged them to be themselves.

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"At times it seemed overwhelming. We didn't think it would ever come, and we began wondering if the effort we put in would pay off," commented Levasseur. "It did."

The Programming Board's Comedy Entertainment series was a complete success, with the comedy presentation of Lynn Trefzger. Lynn is a self-taught ventriloquist, who brought a bit of "voice thrown hilarity" to our campus during lunch on November 2. Her sidekicks included: Simon, Camelot (pictured above), Emily, Judd Wapner, and a plethora of Aquinas student "dummies." Be on the lookout for more comedy on the second Wednesday of each month, from your AQ Programming Board.
International Student Union Speaks Out

By Josh Newman
Times Contributing Writer

The issue of student retention is being tackled by colleges and universities across the country. Meanwhile, Aquinas is trying to answer their own questions in regards to the dilemma of retaining students while improving their retention rate of 45%, the national average. To accomplish this, a Student Retention Committee has been formed.

During the '92-'93 school year, a task force comprised of faculty, staff and students researched the issue of retention and recommended the formation of a Student Retention Committee. This task force also researched plans and ideas for the new committee.

Recently, President Nelson appointed five faculty and staff members to be the committee: Associate Dean of Admissions John Baird, Director of Student Activities Tami Hough, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Beth Banta, Associate Professor of Communication Arts Dave Weinandy and Director of Housekeeping/Physical Services Doug Greenslate.

This dedicated group meets weekly to discuss ways to improve the Aquinas student's experience. Their goal statement reads: "To develop a retention plan that will be proactive, systematic, and implemented with relative ease." This plan is based on retaining cohort students, those who come to Aquinas as freshmen and stay until the successful completion of graduation requirements.

The Student Retention Committee is trying to develop a systematic approach to initially informing and integrating all new students with the programs and services that Aquinas has to offer. We are trying to make this system so that students will have the opportunity to develop a career path and a set of goals as early as possible; therefore, enhancing their experience at Aquinas College in the most advantageous way," said Baird, the committee's chairperson.

In November and December, the group plans to start a program called "The Lunch Bunch," which will be a forum for students to voice their questions, comments and concerns to Aquinas officials. This will allow for immediate feedback and better communication for students.

Also coming up, the committee will have a student question box on display in the Academic Building. Within a week or two of dropping in a question, the questions will be published with answers from the committee. This will allow the group to recognize student concerns while keeping them informed.

Other projects on the agenda include surveys for Aquinas students who have left. Another plan is to develop departmental retention plans, which will help educate departments within the realm of student needs, and give each department some retention goals.

Another major concern deals with student-parent relationships. "Often," said Baird, "when a student makes the decision for an education through Aquinas, their parents also have made a decision. So we are trying to address the questions and concerns of the parents as well."

Through Banta, the committee will create a close relationship with parents. Steps include a survey sent to parents of Aquinas freshmen dealing with concerns about their child, and a 1-800 number which can be called.

Students or parents with questions for the Student Retention Committee are encouraged to contact any committee members.

"We're becoming a global society, and in order for that to take place we have to know each other," said Maher.

"It is very nice all year round, not very cold," said Mendez. "I go to the beach, I study, and I always talk about the night life. Here, the bars close at 2 a.m. There, we go out at 1 a.m. and come back at 8 or 10 in the morning."

One student from a Lake Michigan Academy class asked Mendez if the crime level increased at such late hours. "No, drinking age may effect the crime, but we don't use guns," she answered. "We don't have guns. If somebody is drunk and wants to hurt someone, he will use a knife."

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November 16, 1994

Grand Rapids New Museum Opening
Soon For Public Viewing

Out with the old, and in with the new. Thanks to the VanAndels.

By Sarah Mieras
Times Contributing Writer

For 137 years, the Grand Rapids Museum was a large stone building on the corner of Jefferson and Washington. However, 13 years ago plans started to take root about building a new museum. In May of 1991, Amway corporation co-founders Betty and Jay VanAndel made this dream possible by donating 3 million dollars to the project. Since that day, 1,400 volunteers, 125 contractors and many donations later, Grand Rapids is only days away from the opening of the VanAndel museum.

Located on the river front in the downtown area, the museum will feature many familiar exhibits from the old museum, such as the whale skeleton. Now refurbished, it will be hung in its own gallery overlooking the river.

However, most of the museum’s exhibits will be new, or at least they will appear to be. A replica of Grand Rapids in the 1890’s will replace the Gaslight village of the 1900’s. Museum employee Diane Harwood explained the differences in the exhibits.

“There were more people here in the 1890’s - it was the height of the Victorian era. It is really a much cooler time period to work with. It’s shops are more interesting, and it has an upper level too,” said Harwood.

“A lot of pain has gone into making it possible, a lot of details,” she said.

“The Kent Scientific Institute will be a familiar sight to some since it is a replica of the old, 19th century museum. In it will be a collection of items about Grand Rapids during that era, as well as replica of the museum’s old artifacts, such as a fiberglass mastodon skeleton.

Some other new additions to the museum will be the famous, fully operational, restored carousel which will take visitors on a musical ride for only fifty cents. There will also be a comprehensive furniture store, displaying the traditions of the Grand Rapids furniture industry.

The Planetarium has also been updated with new seats for 145 visitors set up like a movie theater. This is an obvious improvement over the old planetarium, which seated only 81 people in a circular style.

Other improvements include the dome size, which has been enlarged by 20 feet. 60 slide projectors and four video projectors have also been installed and the entire planetarium is now computer controlled.

Production Manager Mark Perkins commented on how all the technical improvements would affect visitors.

“We now have the ability to do different programs, but they are harder to do, and will take more time to produce,” said Perkins.

Museum officials are expecting 4,000 visitors to view the new facility each day of its first week open to the public.

Harwood says although the crowds will be overwhelming for staff and volunteers, "The museum is a wonderful source of information, especially on Grand Rapids history. Since there are four floors, and the exhibits are spaced out, hopefully all of our visitors will get in-- and have a great time!" Despite all the improvements, the admission will remain low at only $1 per show.

Risque Continued

to attract customers on a long-term basis.

“They're basically supporting it.” she said. A student doing an internship to Grand Rapids.

Krista Kahle, an AQ student who made its to the meeting to sup­port the Women’s Center, said, “It’s a sad thing in the 90’s that this is happening. Should we invite the Red Barn and the Velvet Touch also?”

Comparing the suc­cesses of Traverse City and Holland, Michigan, Kelly wonders why the DMBI hasn’t found out why the two cities made a turnaround and apply it to Grand Rapids.

Krista Kahle, an AQ student doing an inter­ship at the women’s Center, would like to see the City Commis­sioners and the DMBI take a stand against such businesses.

“If they aren’t taking a stand against it, then they’re basically supporting it,” she said.

In a fact sheet supplied by the DMBI, they cite specifically that they “…did not recruit to Grand Rapids. They’re basically supporting it.” she said.

Naughton and Green said that they deliber­ately targeted the Monroe Mall because any other property in the city wouldn’t get the desired spotlight and publicity they could get downtown.

Salon owner Bruce Rillena, of Perot Hair Design in Ludington, Michigan, brings to the meeting to sup­port the Women’s Center to force the DMBI to take to the streets like this salon,” he said and added, “It doesn’t put this salon.” he said and added, “It doesn’t put

Karen Free, owner of Alpine Hair Design in Grand Rapids agrees. “It’s very degrading to women. What is this all about except money? Money isn’t at the top of my list. It’s good ser­vice that’s number one at our salon.” she said.

Free also reported that feedback from her clients about Risque were negative and that some women were worried about sending their husbands to a place that offered live lingerie shows.

Hair salons that feature women in lingerie or even nude are legal in the U.S. and Kelly doesn’t have a problem with that. In fact she believes that prostitution should be made legal to protect the women from exploitation and disease.

Their main concern is that it doesn’t belong in the heart of the arts center downtown.

“It had opened anything else, say an arts theatre or something that complemented that part of the downtown area, we would stand behind them,” said Kelly.

But suggestions of the sort were met with vague glances between Green and her business partner Naughton as they all stood outside of Steketees on the windy Monroe Mall during lunch hour.

Walsh believes that, “It seems to benefit them as opposed to the community. They did this to create their own publicity.”

“We believe that they badly underes­timated the people of this community and our standards,” said Walsh. “Their real failing is that they are applying a per­sonal ethic instead of what Grand Rapids really stands for.”

A petition is being drawn up by the Aquinas Women’s Center to force the DMBI to take responsibility for what kinds of businesses open up on Monroe Wall.

“We believe that they badly underesti­mated the people of this community and our standards,” said Walsh. “Their real failing is that they are applying a personal ethic instead of what Grand Rapids really stands for.”

Money isn’t at the top of my list. It’s good ser­vice that’s number one at our salon.” she said.
Clinton's In Hot Water and the Republicans Are Cooking

Had enough of the '94 elections? President Clinton has. His democratic comrades in Congress have been replaced by republican foes, leaving Clinton as lonely as a pickets-holding environmentalist in the middle of an Oregon logging camp.

If Clinton holds his leftist sign higher, it might as well have his 1996 walking papers attached. Retaining his liberal ideals will inevitably lead to more stalemate and gridlock in a newly conservative Congress. His inability to create effective public policy will further alienate his quickly depleting potential 1996 electorate.

Clinton could also lower his highly-held liberal ideals, jump on the bandwagon heading down the middle of the political road, and surrender his leftist loyalty in an effort to "work together for the American good." But selling out to become an effective moderate will only intensify the scorn of the masses who saw a strict democratic President go into office and will see loose clay-like liberal, molded by Bob Dole & Co., complete the term.

Perhaps Clinton's best alternative is to scrap his domestic agenda of universal health care and the likes, and instead polish his pearly whites and strengthen his handshake. Investment in the U.S. might be the only way Clinton can hold onto his strong ideals, with less government, less taxes, and more domestic jobs in the end.

If '96, if republicans do retain the majority in Congress and Dole does win the Presidency, we might see (and we'll demand) one of the most effective sessions of policymaking in our nation's history.

Rich vs. Poor

During the past few months, everyone has heard about the O.J. Simpson case. Whether it be in the tabloids, the newspapers or on the nighttime news, it seems the public is constantly bombarded with the latest legal junk from this courtroom. Although most have dismissed it as another piece of irrelevant tabloid trash, the case does bring up one interesting topic: Do rich and famous people get a fair trial?

Many sincerely believe that with unlimited financial resources, the rich can afford the best and brightest attorneys on the market. Simpson was not only able to hire one of the best lawyers on the West Coast—he hired more than one. This scenario would be unheard of in the case of an average, middle-income defendant.

In a scenario similar to the Simpson case, with costs adjusted for Michigan law, accessible law firms in the downtown area consider $145 to $195 an hour to be a fair price for a defense attorney.

For the middle-income to adequately defend themselves in such circumstances would represent a major financial blow. And one must realize that G.R.'s downtown lawyers must be cheap compared to Simpson's attorney, Robert Shapiro.

Wish this in mind, isn't it clear that the rich have the advantage? Senior Megan Appleyard seems to think so.

"Wealthy and famous people tend to have the advantage in the courtroom, not only because of excess financial resources, but also because the legal system seems transfixed on providing a fair and impartial jury. I don't think this would happen if the defendant was a poor or middle-class person," said Appleyard.

Senior George Bogdan agrees with Appleyard's opinion.

"I think rich people have the advantage in the courtroom, hands down. The advantages they have cannot be compared to the average citizen," said Bogdan.

"While most of us hire mediocre lawyers, or in some cases have attorneys appointed to us, the super-rich are able to hire the best money can buy."

Yet the possibility remains that wealth can also be a hindrance for defendants.

"I don't think famous people get a fair trial because there tends to be more exposure and therefore less impartiality," said John Miklajczyk, senior. "Also I believe the legal system puts more effort into prosecuting wealthy individuals than it does the middle-class or poor."

The prevailing public opinion seems to believe rich people have a definite advantage in the courtroom. What is not so easily explained, however, is a potential solution to the problem. But as more trials like the O.J. Simpson case and the Menendez trial arise, more and more focus will be put on this issue, and possibly some solutions will be attained.
Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the Poop Scoop letter from the editor, printed in the issue that came out November 2. On the whole we found that the content of the article was insulting and slandering. The Aquinas Times is not the appropriate place to take out private quarrels or a personal slam. Most Letters to the Editor contain discussions on current political issues, moral debates, or social justice issues. Why was nothing mentioned of the November 8 elections or any other current issues? In our opinion, these personal vendettas against his roomate’s friends is not a place in any publication that would like to consider itself a serious news journal. The main motivation behind our writing this letter is to request for quality writing.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Reiser and Jessica Swenson

The Academic Achievement Center give a warm thank you to the following students:

David Acevedo, Heather Macrezewski, Megan Zimmerman, Sue Barr, Becky Siegel, Patty Geary, Kathy Grey, Tonya Cornel, Sandra Brown, Kristina Hengesbach, Nancy Lampman and all other students who are taking notes for disABLED Students.
For Play

During the course of attending college, it is important to question once in a while exactly what you’re doing in order to get a perspective on life. With all the decision-making that goes into planning a career choice for your future, shouldn’t you really evaluate often to make sure you’re choosing what’s best for you?

I guess I was lucky. That’s what I’m told anyway. I’ve known since at least fourth grade that I wanted to be a teacher when I grew up. I never questioned it. I still haven’t.

Some people have been here for years and still don’t really know what they want to do. That’s not a bad thing by any means, you’re just exploring your options and living life.

And what about those of you that are in a certain program here because it’s popular, or because you’ll earn the most money after you get out of school, or your parents or friends or significant other has pressured you to go into a particular field because of the money? And you hate it. What are you going to do the rest of your life? The people pressuring you are thinking only of themselves, not of you. You are the one that is going to have to live with the decision.

I was lucky. I grew up. I never questioned it. I still haven’t.

I can’t picture myself in any other job than teaching. It’s not that easy. Sometimes we just need to take the decision. When you love what you’re doing with your life, that’s when happiness occurs. I know happiness is different for everyone, but if getting up every morning and going to work is a pleasant experience rather than a burden, doesn’t that contribute a lot to happiness as a whole? The experts say people usually have more than one career in their life. Isn’t it easier to pick the right one to begin with rather than to start all over? People are in jobs that they hate, and it affects their marriage, their kids, and their self-esteem and pride. Why go through that when you can make sure now you are doing what is right for you?

Sometimes in a brief fleeting moment when I’m particularly broke, I wonder if I’ve chosen the right thing. After all, no one gets rich on a teacher’s salary. But then I think of my kids smiling faces and the enjoyment I have everyday, and I know I’ve made the right decision. Sometimes we just need to take stock in ourselves and make sure we are preparing for a life of happiness, not a life of labor.

It's time to be a part of the family...

The Aquinas Times will be taken on Tuesday November 22, at 12:15 on the steps of the AB Building.

H ave yo u B ought YOUR Yearbook?

1993-94 yearbooks can still be purchased in the student activities office.

For only $20.

THE Crossword

ACROSS
1. Mimosas
2. Cuffs
3. Wrench
4. “Kiss Me — ”
5. Revise
6. Warm
7. “ — plenty of — “
8. Ice cream —
9. Frier
10. Threaten
11. Implica
12. Mellow
13. Melancholy
14. Mere of a parasite
15. Literary work of a kind
16. Literary initials
17. “To — and to hold”
18. Commerce
19. Haley novel
20. Offer
21. Adore of old times
22. Important period
23. Quickly
24. Long time
25. But

DOWN
1. Actress Meryl
2. Cheap whiskey
3. Kicks out
4. Wounded with firearms
5. Cuban city to Havana
6. Stage group
7. Stage group
8. Cuban city to Cuba
9. Wounded with arrows

We would like to formally apologize for an editing error in the lead cover story for the November 2 issue. The portion of the article left out should have read:

The celebration's Master of Ceremonies James Ypma, mentioned on stage that Calvin and Cornerstone College did not let him speak there, as well as a mentioned disclaimer for Aquinas College Board of Trustees at the end of the evening.

This preceded the quote, "It's obvious that Calvin's whole theology is: 'We're all saved and the rest of you are damned to hell..."

We would like to apologize for any remarks that, out of context, may have seemed offensive due to our faulty editing.

By Holly S. Kent
Times Assistant Editor
Holocaust Survivor Zev Kedem to Speak At AQ

By Cara Williams
Times Contributing Writer

Once again the time has come to clear your Friday night and get ready for the 5th Annual J.A.M.M.I.N. Fashion Show. J.A.M.M.I.N. (Joint Association for Multicultural Involve ment Now!) is holding the show on Friday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Kretchmer Auditorium. Hot new styles, including provocative leather and Aquinas apparel, as well as a diverse variety of music will make up only a small part of what will be happening.

The 1994 edition of the fashion show will be composed of nine scenes, including some with Aquinas College models showing off the latest fashions. Junior Cicely Bridges, one of the show’s fashion coordinators, is excited about the event. “I’m looking forward to it because it’s another fun thing to do on campus,” she said.

Along with the modeling there will be a variety of other acts, ranging from the singing voice of Michael Travis, Assistant Multicultural Director, to a dramatic reading performed by Freeman Colleen Gilginas. Another performer will be transfer student Joel McNair, who will be rapping. And the show’s finale, will be a dance number featuring Aquinas models in leather wear from stores in the Woodland Mall.

Admission to the J.A.M.M.I.N. Fashion Show is $4.00 with a canned good or $5.00 without. Tickets can be picked up at the Students Activities Office, located in Lower Wege. Los Mentores will be collecting the cans for the Grand Rapids Hispanic Center, which will use them to fill its annual Thanksgiving Basket drive. Proceeds from the show will go to benefit six local families.

Sophomore TayNinh Miller, one of the show’s models, summed up her feelings on the show, “I’m really excited to participate in something to benefit a worthy cause.”

 ensuing is the outline of the plot:

- **Introduction:**
  - Brief background on Zev Kedem’s life.
  - Setting the scene in Poland before World War II.

- **His Family’s Journey:**
  - How Zev’s family was targeted and taken to a concentration camp.
  - The family’s harrowing experiences in the camp, including the separation of parents from children.

- **Zev’s Early Life:**
  - His experiences in a British orphanage.
  - His education and spiritual development.

- **Work in the United States:**
  - Zev’s work with victims of the Holocaust.
  - His role in raising awareness about the importance of education and self-sufficiency.

- **Return to Israel:**
  - Zev’s decision to return to his homeland.
  - His efforts to help fellow survivors build a better life.

- **Current Focus:**
  - Zev’s ongoing commitment to education and self-sufficiency.
  - His work with the Holocaust Survivors’ Association.

- **Conclusion:**
  - Reflection on Zev’s life and legacy.
  - The importance of remembering and educating future generations.

By Chelsea Davis
Times Contributing Writer

Igna cio David Acevedo Polakovich, also known as David Acevedo, is one of Aquinas’s newest and most interesting freshmen.

On the week end of November 18, Acevedo went home for the first time. Where is home some of you might ask? It is Puebla City, Mexico. Acevedo was born and raised in Puebla, which is about an hour’s drive southeast of Mexico City.

All of Acevedo’s immediate family resides in Mexico. This includes his mother, father, and two younger brothers. His mother is an American originally from Grand Rapids. Is this how David eventually found himself at Aquinas? Well, not really.

Acevedo applied to many schools in the states. His final decision came down to Franciscan University in Ohio and Aquinas College. It was important for Acevedo to attend a small college with a Catholic background because he is very serious about his religion. He finally chose Aquinas because he felt that this institution was more liberal and would be able to give him a quality education along with helping him to fulfill his spiritual needs. Acevedo is currently pursuing a degree in psychology in the hopes of becoming a clinical psychologist.

He is a linguist, fluent in English and Spanish, who enjoys being a member of such organizations as the Retreat Team, Los Mentores, and Aquinas’ tennis team. Acevedo also finds great pleasure in volunteering his talents, like the year he spent in Veracruz, Mexico’s poorest state.

Acevedo’s hobbies include art, music, playing the piano, and sports, such as basketball and soccer.

Christmas Break...In Kenya?

By Elma de La Cruz
Times Contributing Writer

With Thanksgiving approaching and plans finalized for break, many of us are looking at Christmas Break and wondering what to do for three weeks. For five Aquinas students, Kristin Akins, Angela Acosta, Pauline Burgireno, Matt Perry, Penny Towns and advisor Karen Vischer, the dilemma has been solved.

For nearly two months these students have been working to raise $15,000 to send them to Kenya for nearly two months. Out of the $15,000, $1,800 will be contributed to the cost of materials for the two houses which they will be building.

Anyone interested about learning more about Kenya, please contact Karen Vischer.
Those of you who know me also know that I’m a CD junkie. I can barely go a week without buying some new disc to add to my collection (or maybe I just like the shiny silver stuff they’re made out of...). As a result, I’ve got a stack of oddball (read: most of you probably haven’t heard of) albums that I’d like to review, so here goes.

I’ve got to start with a death metal release, and what defines death better than Obituary’s “World Domination” (Roadrunner Records)? Yes, the Tampa, Florida boys are back with their fourth album of gut-churning, downtuned mayhem. Vocalist (I hesitate to call him a “singer”) John Tardy still grows like a monster trapped under a bucket, and the grotesque guitar riffs have picked up a newly-discovered groove. “Final Thoughts” and “Don’t Care” are the standouts. There is none heavier than the Obites...

One of the founders of the industrial/metal crossover scene (a la Ministry) is Killing Joke, whose “Pandemonium” (Zoo) shows an impressive comeback for these veterans. Their repetitious, but never boring, guitar riffs perfectly mesh with the electronic sampling to form a slick, heavy-handed katana. “Millennium” is my personal favorite...

Veteran trash metallers (you know, trash, like Megadeth and Metallica used to play) Testament have returned with “Low” (Atlantic), a throwback to their hardcore roots. Bludgeoning tunes like “Dog Faced Gods” and the title track ooze with power, and production wise, but the subject matter is the screwed-up-relationship theme that somehow remain in control...

Low is the focal point of Testament’s six-album career. Lou Barlow has pretty much severed his ties with Dinosaur Jr. (he is J Mascis’ ex-partner/bassist), and his band Sebadoh’s “Bake Sale” (SubPop) simultaneously distances and equates him with his ex-band. Barlow’s songs are catchy and stripped-down production wise, but the subject matter is the screwed-up-up-relationship theme that Dinosaur Jr. has pretty much beaten to death. But this disc is impressive, in an “indy” sense; check out “Together or Alone” and “Careful”...

One step below Obituary on the scale of heaviness is Godflesh, whose sound consists of relentless, pounding industrial drums, grinding bass, and battlehip-sinking guitar riffs. Selfless (Earache/Columbia) writes like a two-ton earthworm battling Godzilla. Songs like “Anything is Mine” and “Bigot” are intense, but the tracks tend to sound alike after 45 minutes or so...

The Jesus Lizard is a unique quartet whose “Down” (Touch & Go) hits a groove that’s both bizarre and catchy. I have just been turned on to this band, and I wish I had discovered them earlier, since they go careening over the edge with surrealism, yet somehow remain in control. Down is still growing on me, and it takes a lot of time to sink in...

Well, I’m not even near the bottom of the stack of discs that I have an opinion about, but this stuff should be checked out by those with either bizarre taste or a desire to expand their musical horizons (and to not want to do that is a travesty)... until next time.
CONCERT REVIEW

Dinosaur JR.

By John Serba
Times Entertainment Editor

J Mascis ambles on stage, straps on his beat-to-hell Fender Jazzmaster, mumbles something practically unintelligible, and kicks into a song that’s excessively loud, but somehow mellow. His seven, count ’em, seven stacks of vintage Marshall amplifiers are intimidating, and maybe even a bit excessive, but who really cares? Actually, Dinosaur Jr’s live act is pretty much the J Mascis show, as well it should be, and it doesn’t have were any of the more precious collectibles. There was nothing a Suede addict could bite his or her teeth into except their new LP. There was nothing older, and no singles, but twenty copies of their latest album were available for about two dollars more than I had seen it elsewhere. And their comprehensive computer could kick illuminating photographs of Janet Jackson’s "Let’s Wait Awhile" and "Shake Your Body (When You Do That)". The first music store I will comment on is Best Buy. As I walked through Best Buy, I found plenty of retro and even some British rock. They seemed to have the scene down according to a careless eye. But what they didn’t have were any of the more precious collectibles. There was nothing a Suede addict could bite his or her teeth into except their new LP. There was nothing older, and no singles, but twenty copies of their latest album were available for about two dollars more than I had seen it elsewhere. And their comprehensive computer could kick illuminating photographs of Janet Jackson’s "Let’s Wait Awhile" and "Shake Your Body (When You Do That)".

As music listeners in Grand Rapids, your options are limited. We don’t have a great concert schedule. We don’t have a diverse radio network and this leaves us with the responsibility of finding new music ourselves. As a result, it becomes very important to know the Grand Rapids area music stores in order to aid in your quest.

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My overall appraisal of Best Buy is that they do have some new releases for about two dollars less than other places. Don’t follow them wholeheartedly, though, because they are not a comprehensive music distributor. Next on the list is Vinyl Solution. Many have said that they have gone down hill in the last few years. Nevertheless, they are, without contest, the most comprehensive distributor in Grand Rapids. Everything from Metal to Reggae to Jazz to Progressive art rock—it’s all under one roof. They also have a great used CD selection, something that Best Buy could never bring themselves to do. Their prices are better than Best Buy in some respects, like the independent and minor labels, but worse in the top forty area. There is one flaw to the Vinyl Solution empire, however. Sometimes they have very impersonal people working the counter who obviously would rather be doing something else than ordering you a CD or trying to answer your questions.

Speaking of service, the folks down at Music Expresso are the nicest group of the industry. They will ask you if you want a special order, you don’t even have to ask. They know what they can and cannot get, and they always have a smile on their face. They feature local music which again is something that Best Buy doesn’t do, and you can browse the entire store with a cup of Mocha in your hand. Their selection isn’t anywhere near Vinyl Solution, but they haven’t been around as long either.

A close comparison to Music Expresso is Harmony House. Both of these establishments can be described as miniature Vinyl Solutions, but with better overall service. Harmony House, however, does not have a coffee shop inside of it. Another establishment, Radio Kilroy (on 44th St. near Division), specializes in collectibles and hard-to-find punk. They are small even in comparison to Harmony House and Music Expresso. Advantages other than the fact that they have the best selection of bootleg in the area is their used CD selection. This selection comes in second only to Vinyl, and even that conclusion is debatable. They are very selective when purchasing your used CDs, but they do pay in cash rather than in store credit.

Since Kilroy is so small, their used CD rotation is slow so if you show up every week, nothing is going to change. If you show up every month, it is worth your while.

The music stores in the mall tend to be expensive, even for the top forty staff. I would suggest Vinyl Solution if you are currently a mall shopper.

I may catch some flak for not mentioning the East Town distributors, but they are very expensive and although you can walk there, it’s cheaper to go somewhere else, even if you pay your friend a buck or two for gas. Even the malls are cheaper. Well, here’s a fairly comprehensive view of the music distributors in the Grand Rapids area. These places locations vary from 28th Street to just down Fulton near the library. Be a smart consumer and tailor your music store to your music needs.
The people's participation in this year's intramural sport season is just beginning, according to Intramural Director Eric Bridge. The intramural program has been packed with events for all. Leaving the soccer season behind, new sports Co-ed Volleyball and Co-ed Bowling are beginning while the football season continues.

So far there has been a show of "competency, sportsmanship, and good attitudes," commented Bridge. The volleyball court will be hot with 12 teams participating on the roster beginning the week of November 13. Taking one captain of a participating team, Brooke Davis, believes "our team is optimistic...we feel we can sweep the tournament." Volleyball has been one of the events most participated in since the intramural program began.

The faculty and staff have even cobbled together a group to play the other teams in the volleyball tournament. With the team they have, they believe they need an excellent shot to go to the finals. Volleyball is looked upon highly because it is the "ideal sport."
The team used its quickness and tenacious defense to thwart the Cardinals, and that set up a one game showdown for the automatic berth to Regionals. "The crowd was a big boost for us tonight," said junior forward James Rumsey. "It really bothered me more than anything else this week, that is fan participation and attendance. I may step on some toes here, but I do that sometimes."

This week the men's basketball team opened the season against Grace Bible College. "The crowd was a big boost for us tonight, it felt great seeing so many people in our corner," commented Hennink.

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