

# The Ascent

Vol. 33 No. 7

DAEMEN COLLEGE, AMHERST, N.Y.

December 21, 1977

## Season's



It's quite a shame that exams are given so close to that joyous season of Christmas. That familiar spirit will emerge if one will forget for a moment those frustrations and pressures that accompany examination time. Reminiscence is all that is necessary for the feelings of happiness to evolve from the art of giving, receiving and Santa Claus. Yes, Santa Claus - that jolly, old fellow who plops through the chimney and kisses "mommy" underneath the mistletoe.

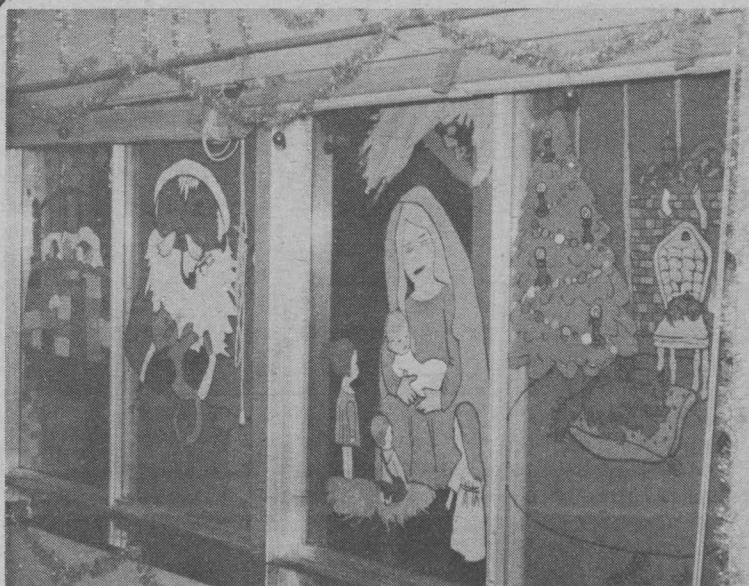
This season is a favorite of children who anticipate the arrival of Santa early Christmas morning. This time of year, though, touches a soft spot in everyone's heart as adults believe in the kind of Santa which evolves out of the joy in giving and receiving. The blinking lights on the tree, the smell of pine, the soft voice of good old Bing, and the ringing of the Salvation Army bell brings forth memories of apprehension, anxiety, and anticipation of bright wrapping paper and big, red ribbons ready to be torn to pieces.

As maturity emerges, though, this joy becomes stifled as the Christmas "rush" generates. The adult's notion of Christmas happiness is disfigured by the frustrations that develop from long cashier lines in stores, lack of spaces in parking lots, and high prices of Yule ornaments. Adults tend only to be concerned with the problem of finishing the Christmas shopping before the "rush" commences. They also complain about the large amounts of gifts they must give because they are probably going to receive one from "such and such a person." Shopping malls are packed with those pushy old ladies who nudge through crowds to buy the cheapest gift possible and screaming brats who are grudgingly yanked by their mothers to hurry along.

People can actually experience the Christmas spirit if they would only stop and think and not worry about the crowds and the "picked-over" stock in stores. Giving should be a self-satisfying experience and it should not take on humble aspirations. People should take pride and feel joy in this action which denies the ancient Christian notion that anonymous charity will open the path to heaven. But people can compromise between the spiritual and the earthly lusts and give themselves freedom to enjoy a worldly passion. William Wordsworth's poem, "The Old Cumberland Beggar," retorts this idea and claims that men should take pride and feel joy in giving to others who are unfortunate.

The Christmas season should be enjoyed and cherished by people of all ages. 'Tis the season to dismiss mature inhibitions and actually exclaim, "Merry Christmas" to strangers who pass by on the streets.

-Nancy J. Balbick



## A Christmas Meditation

A theme of hymn and sermon especially at Christmastime might be called "if only."

If only we had lived then, and could have gone to the crib. If only we could have seen Jesus in the flesh, perhaps later on heard him preach, even become one of his apostles.

If only we were like Martha, privileged to be his hostess, or Mary, to sit at his feet.

The sermon usually goes on to say how privileged were those who lived then.

"If only" we had been among them.

The preacher or hymn writer completely misses two points. The first is that many people who did live then didn't recognize Jesus as anyone out of the ordinary.

By and large they ignored him, living in the flesh, right under their noses.

The second point is that Jesus lives today, in humanity as much as in heaven.

We have just as much opportunity to see him, to hear his word, even to become his followers.

Nor is the divine presence somehow diluted when it exists no longer in the unique bodies and hearts of human beings.

He is present many times over -- in the hungry, the poor, in the teacher of truth, in the one who befriends us, in the artist who gives form to the Spirit, in all those who bring love to the world.

The answer we should make to this presence is not to sing, "O come, let us adore him."

It is rather: Come, let us know him, living in the world, and cherish the earth and its people.

Joseph Thomas Nolan



## Greetings



## Editorial

We Americans are proud of our country's title, "the melting pot of the world." We have been successful in merging large numbers of vastly different ethnic groups into our cultural framework - all united under the English language. Yet, this melting pot attitude has paved the way for a complacency towards learning another language besides English.

The United States is geographically isolated from the multi-lingual influence of Europe. Our founding fathers spoke only English and it was assumed that generations to follow would preserve the mother tongue. However, our English predecessors did not realize that when they established a religious haven here in the United States, they would later open the door for the ethnically persecuted. Those who did seek political, religious, cultural asylum found that acquiring fluency in the English language was necessary for survival.

Unlike Europeans, who are in constant contact with their neighbors who speak other languages, we Americans virtually ignore our neighbors to the south and north who certainly speak languages other than English. Only recently, with the rising separatist movement in Quebec, have we been made aware of the national pride existing in other countries and the sudden effort they are making to preserve their native language.

More and more students find it useful to have some background of a language in preparation for later careers. Consider the case of the woman who reported to the Physical Therapy Department of a Lewiston hospital, obviously in need of treatment. This woman could not speak a word of English, only Italian. It was fortunate that some staff members there had some language background and were able to calm her down and see that she was given the proper attention.

Even if one never gets past a second level high school foreign language course, that student has at least been exposed to a different culture, a different way of life, even a different way of thinking. Unfortunately, when one gets to college and is handed a four-year course outline which includes a set number of electives followed by asterisks implying that your department has more or less determined how you are to spend that block of "open credits" - what option is left for the student who would like to further his studies in a foreign language? Many students have been reportedly discouraged from pursuing further studies in a language in order that they may be totally immersed in their concentration. Can these allotted credit hours truly be called electives? The word elective itself implies a matter of choice. If it has been predetermined how the student is to spend these credit hours, perhaps we should refer to them as "credit hours granted to the intensified study of one's concentration" or some other title to that effect.

We Americans do not even recognize the importance of our own language. We fail to recall the cases in history in which entire countries were culturally undermined and eventually overthrown simply because their language was taken over and replaced by the native tongue of the invading force.

I had a rather rude awakening that dispelled my arrogant assumption that only God and the literate spoke English. While still a senior in high school, I traveled with a group of friends through Quebec City. Visiting Canada was not a new experience for me. I had previously spent some time in Toronto and was aware of the existing bilingual tendencies. I knew that the French language was alive and well, but as a tourist in another country I had been pacified by considerate French people who were willing to communicate in English. Assuming that Quebec was equally cooperative with their tourists, I proceeded to purchase an item in a store with a Traveler's Check. I presented the clerk with the check and could tell immediately from the expression on her face that all was not well. The situation grew worse when I discovered that she either could not or simply refused to speak English. I finally choked out enough high school French and went about my business - trying to untangle the knot that had just formed in my stomach. A friend had a similar experience in a restaurant. The waitress refused to take his order unless he gave it to her in French - informing him that "When you're in my country, you speak my language!" - She then turned to two French Canadian girls sitting behind him and asked them in English for their order, to which they responded in English.

If not merely for the opportunity to expand one's frame of reference and experience a way of life vastly different from one's own, we eventually must realize the significance of attaining something of a working knowledge of a language besides our own. English will not always function as a cultural passport.

-Andrea Ross

## "I Want An Education. I Want To Box."

Although the editorials in this newspaper deal with about as much impact as the Edsel on the automobile industry, I would hope that what follows will just make people think about what they are doing for the betterment of Daemen College.

Some people are trying to make higher education more accessible through opportunity programs. A good number of the people who come to this school do not come simply because of the high degree of academics offered here. They are drawn here by some form of "drawing card," and whether that factor which brings them here is education, a basketball team or a boxing club is not important. What is important is that this "drawing card" brings to college a segment of our society who may not have thought about higher education otherwise. This portion of our society can be very useful, and will probably succeed in our world as professionals because of their sense of "worldliness." This is to say that they were not nurtured in an educational society, but in a real world, where one is more apt to understand the requirements in order to succeed in that world.

Sometimes, though, people locked up in the educational society, "the world of hypothesis," forget that in the real world people need to be consulted and need to feel that they have been a part of the hypothetical plan. This would make the path to realization of this

## Letters To The Editor

Editor:

I have attended Daemen College for the past three semesters. In the two semester periods of last year, I became aware of the dismayed feelings of some of the students about our then almost nil sports program. Many felt that flag-football was "dominating the scene" and further added that it "wasn't much of a sport in the first place!" I thought that since there is no equipment worn, it makes the game a rather physical one. But besides that, I'm writing this article about this year's sports program. In particular, I would like to air my views about the articles published in the December 9th issue of the ASCENT.

In these articles, many facets of hate and underminedness came to light about the members of the Daemen Boxing Club. Having been written by four girls from Daemen (one wrote her own article and three wrote another), I think the articles were filled with false accusations, misleading information, and a bias as well. For example, was the survey taken by these women carried out in Lourdes Hall? Was the percentage of men equal to the percentage of women in the survey? Was it in fact a "random sample" of our population?

The article stated that it was a random sample, but I disagree. Of course, this is my opinion which was another small item these girls found useful to state. They even went so far as to use generalities such as "it makes you want to transfer." I, for one, do not want to transfer. Yet they seem to think the person reading it would, too!

Below I wish to include a statement made by one of Daemen's boxers: "I suppose that the girls who wrote the last front page story would expect

me to say, 'L-L-Look if you don't like boxers den shut ya @7\$#4¢ mou!' But the truth is that this type of thinking only serves to promote an outdated and untrue stereotype. A boxer is a thinking individual, doing what he does, doing it well, and requiring intellectual prowess as well as physical. One should not let an assinine stereotype interfere with their logical judgment of the kind of image another brings to their beloved college. Rather, they should use their judgment to consider ways in which they could promote the image of Daemen. The boxers can only do so much, and have every intention of supporting a positive image of Daemen College."

Another one of these comments included in the article was, "... various persons, who were willing to stick their necks out, were lucky it wasn't discarded in the end." Is Mary Ellen Stern (the author of the article) their mother? The lack of supportive evidence is inexcusable! A sarcastic, unfounded statement such as, "it's obviously a staged shot" was given by one of the girls. Is she that good at photography as to determine such a conclusion? Or was it one of those "thousand words from one picture, two second article?"

How is it that three girls who work with the ASCENT get their article on the front page is beyond me! Why is it that our sports program has to be criticized for 3/4 of a page in our four-page paper I'll never know! It just seemed to me that the authors wanted to fill our reading enjoyment with unjustifiable sarcasm!

-Michael Risman

## Blood Drive Successful

On Monday, December 12, an emergency bloodmobile unit was stationed on campus to compensate for a broken promise made by a company to donate over 800 pints of blood to the Red Cross. Daring Daemen students, faculty and personnel filed into the social room of Wick to help alleviate the disastrous situation. The Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the Sigma Omega Chi Sorority, obtained sixty-six pints of blood from the Daemen community. The participants are to be commended for their efforts in this giving season.

## Babysitters Needed

An on-campus babysitting service is being established for Spring Semester '78 by the Extended Studies Program. If you are interested and available for evening and Saturday babysitting at a campus location, complete an application blank available in the Placement Office (DS111). Projected starting date is January 24, so you should sign up before you leave for the semester break.

## Editorial Response

Dear Mr. Risman:

You are mistaken when you claim that we, the three girls who wrote the front-page article, not the letter to the editor, (please note the difference) made sweeping generalizations and furthered the stereotyped image of the boxing team. There is no case in which we directly imply that a boxer is not a "thinking individual." We directed our attack towards the CE article itself. In fact, the very last paragraph questions the validity of the statement that the CE article shed some light on "an unique situation on campus." Then and only then was there any direct reference to the boxing team itself. How can this be read as a stereotype?

Yes, we too are concerned with Daemen's image. That is the intent of our article. No doubt the boxing team may be one way of offering an incentive for attaining a higher education. Our question: Did the CE article present this alternative in the best manner possible? The authors of the two letters to the editor were also concerned with Daemen's image. Yet, please note, that there is room for opinion in Editorials and Letters to the Editors, not in expository articles. We are just as pleased with Daemen's new sports program as you are and never once did we attack the sports program itself. You are mistaken when you state that the article was criticizing the sports program or even the boxing team for that matter.

We felt that the mere fact that the CE article provoked negative (as well as positive) responses on this campus was enough to write an article presenting the controversy. The "random survey" was taken from faculty, administration and students of both sexes. The article was solely concerned with the controversy that was stimulated. We elaborated on the negative response of the CE article because that's what provoked the controversy. By the way, no, Mary Ellen Stern is not our mother.

-Andrea Ross  
-Denise M. Siuda  
-Barbara A. Thompson

## Rings Rung!

Attention! Anyone who ordered and received a school ring from Art Carved in Austin, Texas, please check to see if the name of the school is spelled correctly. One type of ring may have Daemen spelled "Daeman." If your ring has this error, please return it to the Daemen Scholarship, and they will take care of the problem.

NOTE: The editorial comments which appear in the ASCENT are not necessarily the views of the entire staff. Any comment contrary to these opinions is welcomed.

I want an education.  
I want to box.

-Dave Paschall  
Sports Editor, the ASCENT



# ACTIVE SEMESTER AHEAD

Governing Board, one of the three branches of the Student Association, has had a very active fall semester. Some of its projects will be carrying over into the spring semester, and several new ones will be added.

The ISC Committee of the Governing Board has been very involved at the state and regional levels this semester. Elizabeth van der Meulen is the chairperson of the committee and helped to organize the ISC regional seminar that was held at Daemen on November 19. Marcia Holmes is chairperson of the state membership committee and is on the ISC executive board. Daemen students are represented on all ISC committees. It is this involvement that has made Daemen a statewide reputation in this organization. Representatives have been sent to three meetings in Albany this semester to work on the legislative lobbying platform that will be supported this year. Governing Board intends to send representatives to two more meetings next semester, and involve itself with lobbying efforts at home and in Albany.

Class elections held last fall were organized by the Governing Board. This involved recruiting candidates, where necessary, and taking care of voting. Workers from the Board of Elections came to set the machine, and the Governing Board, with the help of class officers and others,

operated the voting machine during lunch hours. Next semester, class officers, as well as Student Association elections will be conducted, and Governing Board will be involved again. In addition, Governing Board hopes to draw up concrete class election policies to guide future elections.

All clubs that wish to receive funds from the Student Association must submit a constitution and a budget. The constitution is reviewed by the Governing Board, which makes sure the constitution is sound. It then passes along all approved constitutions to the S.A. Senate for funding.

The subject of Judicial and Hearing Boards to handle student grievances has been an important area this semester, and will continue to occupy attention in the spring. Committee members attended a conference held in Troy during November on the topic of the College Student and the Law. The committee has been seeking input from various sources and will continue to work on the development of a viable grievance system.

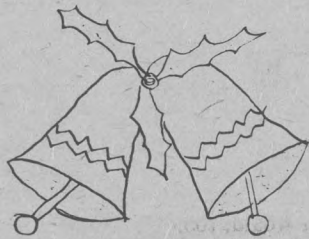
One big project for the Governing Board this semester has been the Student Evaluation of Instructor and Course. The Evaluations committee reworked the form previously used at Daemen. Their goal was to streamline the form; to make it easier to fill out and more to the point.

Faculty, students, and administration were consulted for their opinions on areas the evaluation should cover. The finished form will be administered to all classes at the ends of the fall and spring semesters. Governing Board is coordinating the students who will be administering the evaluation.

The major new project the Governing Board will be working on in the spring semester is the revision of the Student Handbook. A handbook is very important, as it outlines rules, regulations, requirements and procedures involved in a student's career at Daemen. The student handbook was last published in 1976, and is in need of revision, due in part to the change in student government that took effect this fall.

The spring semester promises to be very active for the Governing Board, with these areas occupying its time. As always, the Governing Board will seek to aid where ever there appears to be student interest.

-Kim Davison



## Daemen Students Honored

This year Daemen College has nominated twenty-seven students, two of them alternates, for national recognition in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. The program, instituted in 1934, has over 1,100 institutions of higher learning which nominate candidates annually.

Besides being honored for their academic and community achievements, the candidates receive an award, stating that they are a member of Who's Who, plus other lifetime benefits. These benefits include the right to use a special Reference Placement Service, which can be used in seeking post-graduate employment or fellowships.

At Daemen, students are nominated by their Concentration Chairmen, the Student Personnel Staff, Senior Class Officers or Junior Class Officers. The students are chosen based on the contributions they have made to the college, academically and socially, and on their participation and leadership in campus events and activities.

The following students have received this honor for the 1977-78 academic year:

Kathleen N. Anderson; Maurice A. Cannon; Michael A. Cesar; David L. Cook; Melodee Ann DiRusso; Janet S. Elmer; Michael V. Farley; Rosanna Koddey Gabner; Randy K. Gerlach; Donna M. Giglia; Joyce V. Has-

kell, SSJ; James R. Lash; James F. Lattner; Joann M. Lewandowski; Margaret T. Lynch; Jocelyn A. McCullough; Pamela C. Moore Kathleen Murphy; Ann Marie Risco; Susan Marie Rocco; Linda M. Stone; Bonnie M. Szymoniak; Carleen M. Twomey; Elizabeth A. Van der Meulen; Laurie A. Wolfe.

Alternates: David E. Donlin; Rose M. Marobitt.

Congratulations to all the students, and we hope they find as much success in the rest of their lives as they have here at Daemen.

-Denise M. Siuda

## Sparkling Weekend



Friday night in the Rat

Winter Weekend got off to a big start Thursday, December 1, with a Coffeehouse in Schenck Lounge. Christmas spirit was strong as happy students, taking a break from their studies, listened while various performers filled the air with music. The listeners were treated to free wine and cheese as they enjoyed the fine sounds of Michael Farley, Carleen Twomey, Jim Lash, Nancy Crissy, a folk band from U.B. and others.

Friday night the mood changed when a beer blast was held in the Rathskeller. Free beer and popcorn were offered from nine to ten to a sizable crowd.

Saturday afternoon Daemen held a Superstars competition at the college and across the street at Amherst High School. Events included volleyball, 880 relay race, six pack pitch-in, obstacle course, frisbee throw and a tug-of-war. A light snowfall added a seasonal touch to the proceedings.

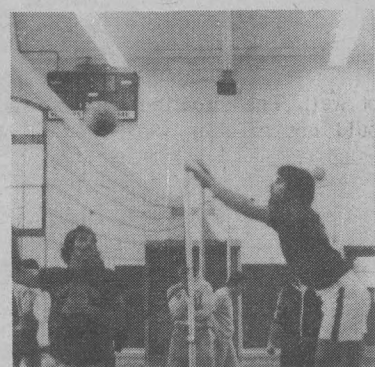
That same evening, the annual Christmas dance was held in Wick Dining Room. The bright Christmas decorations helped to make the event a spirited success. Everyone was all dressed up and ready to glow. Perhaps it was all the Christmas glitter, the tinsel and the twinkle that set the stage for everyone to sparkle.

Providing the entertainment was the New York Transfer Band, with songs ranging from White Christmas to the twisting rock and roll sounds of Elvis Presley and the Beatles.

The main attraction seemed to be Frosty the Snowman dancing his way across the floor into everyone's hearts. Along with Frosty, another attraction though of a different kind, was the open bar, with Randy Gerlach and others. Since the frosty Buffalo air makes appetites ravenous there were hors d'oeuvres for everyone to enjoy. Also, many couples had their pictures snapped under the mistletoe, the tender kisses adding to the joy of the season.

Sunday brought the conclusion of Winter Weekend with a successful skating party at Holiday Twin Rinks. The approximately eight-five people who attended returned to Daemen for free hot chocolate and doughnuts, the traditional perfect ending to a perfect day, and perfect weekend.

-Kristi Guerrero



Superstars competition

## Peer Into Counseling

Dr. Tammy Halpern of the Counseling Office is looking for people who are willing to offer their services to help their fellow students. The Peer Counseling Group needs interested students to help others get acquainted with the school and its surroundings. If you are warm, friendly and can reach out to others, then one-third of the requirements have been met. Other requirements include a three hour seminar in counseling entitled, "Theory and Practice" offered by Dr. Halpern on Thursday from 2:30 to 5:00. Even if you are simply interested in psychology, you are more than welcome to attend the class.

Also, a few interviews are required to become a full counselor. The biggest challenge the counselors meet will be at Freshman Orientation where participants will be needed to help the startled new freshmen. After that, a peer counselor could run across everything from a broken fingernail to a semi-hysterical student who thinks he just cannot cope. In any event, most students just need to talk, and peer counselors can provide sympathetic ears.

If any student joins now they will be able to participate in the Family Symposium on April 15. Between 2:30 and 5:00, the College Community and Buffalo

area residents will be taking part in lectures and workshops concerning today's family and the problems which it faces.

Other things sponsored by the Counseling Department include Sensitivity Groups, Weight Loss Groups and a program called Women and the Decision Making Process.

If any of this sounds good to you just drop into the Counseling Offices and offer your time. It is the most important thing you can give to help others.

-July Wroblewski

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