FORMER DAEMEN STUDENT PROVIDES WRITING SERVICE

(This feature presents the Ascent's investigation of what we think is a serious problem in academia. It also contains opinion based on our research and conversations with Eileen M. Newman.)

by Casey J. Ronas

Bear Mountain Enterprises, 247 Tremont St., North Tonawanda, NY, solicits part of its business from unscrupulous, dishonest students. Bear Mountain Enterprises is on the one hand a legitimate company providing a writing service for pay and on the other hand a paper mill preparing sample academic papers for students who can then choose to submit them as their own work in order to fulfill a writing assignment. Thus, Bear Mountain Enterprises partially operates on the premise that some students would rather cheat than work.

Moreover, Bear Mountain Enterprises, whose President is Eileen M. Newman, a former Daemen English major, advertised its service, in violation of Daemen policy, in full view not only of Daemen students who may be tempted to cheat but also of students, and faculty and administration who advocate honesty in academia. Twice this semester Bear Mountain Enterprises posted advertisements on campus without having them stamped by Student Services, a formality for anyone or any group seeking to promote Daemen related activities.

Bear Mountain Enterprises advertises that it is "In business to help you 'make the grade,'" by doing students' "Research, Typing and Editing." "Term Papers," another advertisement says, "No problem." And Ms. Newman's business card, one of which had been posted on the English Department's bulletin board, states that the services of Bear Mountain Enterprises are "Professional Quality—Reasonable Rates," whereas a computerized advertisement refers to "Reasonable and Speedy" service.

With this self-promotion, Bear Mountain Enterprises advertises a service that does no one but Bear Mountain any good. At the first of this semester, the Ascent decided to investigate Bear Mountain Enterprises. Via the phone.

(See Bear Mountain on page 6)
WHO'S PLAYING BACK IN THOSE WOODS

by Kim Sweet

You’ve heard of the Daemen Little Theatre, right? But have you been there? Inside? Have you watched a play there? If you haven’t, get with it. The Daemen Little Theatre is one of the best kept secrets on campus. The other is Rosalind Cramer—an educator, an actress, a playwright and director.

Maybe you’ve seen or heard her in one of her twelve commercials or in My Dark Lady.

Or maybe you’ve taken one of her courses: Methods of Creative Play in the Classroom (an Education requirement) or Communication through Speech (a Business requirement) or Introduction to Theatre. Or maybe you’ll go see Piano Player Entertains, a dinner/theatre production she co-wrote with Joey Giambra, which begins May 2 at Santora’s Cafe Pasta.

Ms. Cramer’s credentials are impressive: B.F.A. from Boston University, M.A. from Columbia University, and post graduate studies at SUNY-Buffalo. She has worked in New York City, New Jersey, and with the Summer Stock production in Boston, where she was an original founder of the Charles Playhouse Theatre. She is presently playing the star role in Mother Hicks for the T.O.Y. Company, where she was Artistic Director for 13 years. Her admission that “theatre is a time consuming commitment” is an understatement. Yet she believes that drama and the arts are essential “for the survival of the humanities.”

Ms. Cramer is also enthusiastic about Daemen’s resident theatre company, Olympia, which is comprised of many Daemen alumni, including Syrene Espisito, Theresa DiMario, Joanne McClane, Diane O’Neill, and Greg Belter. Another alumnus is Paul Michael, the Artistic Director.

Olympia is subsidized by the College and supported also by ImageMakers, the campus Drama club.

All in all, Ms. Cramer says that the Daemen community has been supportive but recent turnouts have been “spotty.” She would like to see more involvement, either in the form of actual participation or in attendance.

This summer Ms. Cramer plans to travel.

UPSTAGE NEW YORK
SEEKS SUPPORTIVE STAFF FOR
THE 1988 ISLAND PARK
SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE.
SOME PAID POSITIONS.
APPRENTICE AND INTERN
POSITIONS SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS.

UPSTAGE NEW YORK
182 LE BRUN CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NY 14226

HAVE A MOCK INTERVIEW

Career Development and Cooperative Education provide a vital service for students and alumni. That service is the “mock interview.”

Students are filmed during the process of a mock interview. By means of the critique, a student is able to eliminate distracting habits from a real interview. Responses are also evaluated.

Students are asked to come dressed as if they were truly being interviewed for a job. Interviewees are then critiqued on how they look. They are told whether their make-up, dress, or jewelry could possibly project an undesirable image.

Anyone is welcomed. All students need to do to schedule a mock interview is call the Career Development Office at ext. 234.

It could mean you get a job.
NEW ORGANIZATION SEEKS TO HIGHLIGHT MINORITY CULTURES

by Clarisse Saxon

Former members of the defunct United Student Caucus are now seeking to form United Among Us (UAU) which, according to Thierry Edme, will be “a whole new organization.”

Former Executive Board members say that the United Student Caucus (USC) was poorly organized and was not in a good state. Everything was going down the tubes, so much so that the organization gradually began realizing that it would be best to disband.

These members say that while Earl Leslie was President the situation improved somewhat; however, when he resigned and Andre Austin became president, the organization’s situation once again deteriorated, primarily because Mr. Austin communicated poorly with the group’s members.

The Executive Board also says that this communication problem was compounded by too many members who regularly skipped meetings and therefore never became too involved. In other words, group involvement became nonexistent and the group finally disbanded.

The new UAU hopes to be a better organized and a more active addition to campus life. Its purpose is to make Daemen students more aware of minority student cultures by sponsoring activities that highlight minority cultures.

But the UAU must first be officially recognized as a valid student organization. Board members, however, are optimistic that the approval of their organization will move smoothly and quickly, first to Dean Marzahn, then to Dean Reedy, and finally to the desk of President Marshall.

If the UAU is officially recognized, the organization plans to have parties and educational activities that will enable students and faculty to grow spiritually and mentally.

Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to contact President Daren Dorm, Vice President Twana Dennis, Secretary Adela Guillermo, Treasurer Thierry Edme, or Sergeant-at-Arms Patrick Dorvil.

UAU hopes that its members will soon be able to highlight minority cultures.

AN OPEN LETTER TO DAEMEN

Dear Daemen College,

I am here in prison because of a stupid, non-violent crime. Could you possibly run in your paper a brief note requesting correspondence from anyone who goes Daemen? This small favor would be a great help to me. Man, it gets beat in here!

I am 25 and have about nine months to go before I go to the parole board. I am looking for people who want to be friends. Everybody who writes will get an answer right away. So give me a shot; I’m not a terrible person.

Robert McAvoy #85A-6156
Box 149
Attica, NY 14011

1988 INTERNSHIPS:

NEW YORK METRO AREA.

SIS OFFERS LISTINGS OF SUMMER INTERNSHIPS IN MAJOR FIELDS.

SOME ARE SALARIED,

OTHERS OFFER STIPENDS.

WRITE FOR INFORMATION:

STUDENT INTERNSHIP SERVICE
P. O. BOX 1053
KINGS PARK, NY 11754
A recent sorority event here at Daemen raised three important questions:

- How are college announcements, campus activities, and public service announcements officially approved?
- What is the role of moderators in student organizations?
- And how alert are student organizations and their moderators to the obvious nuances of language?

In February, Lambda Chi Iota sponsored a social activity entitled “Academy Awards.” Prior to the event, sorority members distributed a ballot which had been officially approved by Student Activities.

The ballot contained numerous “best” categories, and students were to vote in each category for their peer whom they thought was the best. Most of the categories on the ballot were compliments, such as “best dressed.”

A few, however, were derogatory and could have been slanderous to the winners. These categories included “best airhead,” “best ta-ta’s,” and “best in bed.”

Bruce Marzahn, Dean of Student Activities, became aware of the officially stamped ballot when Lambda Chi Iota began distributing it. He then met with the sorority, and, according to Dean Marzahn, they concluded that certain categories were degrading and unprofessional and had to be eliminated.

They were.

This incident raises the question of who at the Student Activities desk stamps material relating to Daemen activities. Dean Marzahn and Chris Malik, Director of Student Activities, say that they meet with recognized groups in order to discuss potential campus activities which they then allow or disallow. If allowed, any material promoting an activity is stamped, and the material can then be posted or distributed.

The original ballot for the “Academy Awards” had indeed been stamped and was therefore an official event. Neither Dean Marzahn or Mr. Malik, however, know how the ballot had been approved; they say that they didn’t stamp it, and a sister of Lambda Chi Iota, who wishes to remain unidentified, says that none of her sisters stamped the ballot.

The incident also raises the question of how moderators input their advice when student groups are planning activities either for themselves or for the campus at large. According to the Student Handbook, “Moderators are expected to provide mature and rational advice concerning organizational goals and activities.”
However, Susan Allen, Secretary of Student Activities and Lambda Chi Iota’s moderator, says that she was never asked her advice concerning the ballot and that in fact she never saw it until after it was stamped and distributed.

The third question raised by “Academy Awards” is this: How alert are student organizations and their moderators to even the most obvious nuances of language? We all know, for instance, that “best in bed” means the person, whether male or female, who is sexually most outstanding.

Both Ms. Allen and a sorority sister, however, claim that “best in bed” could be interpreted in many ways, for instance, they say, “as someone who sleeps soundly.” Of course it could, it could even mean the man-on-the-moon, if you wish, but neither of those meanings is the interpretation that automatically comes to mind.

According to the Student Handbook, on page 11, “The programming undertaken with the cooperation of the Student Activities office ought to aspire towards the goals of personal dignity and social enrichment.” Dean Marzahn encourages students to aspire toward this goal, even though they may err when doing so. Dean Marzahn says Lambda Chi Iota’s parody of the Academy Awards was a good concept but didn’t show dignity in its original form.

He also says that this particular event was “mismanaged” and that the entire process of stamping activities is being reviewed.

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DAEMEN COLLEGE ALUMNI PRESENTS

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

APRIL 25, 7:30 P.M.

At the Little Theatre. Free admission.

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RESUME WORKSHOPS

RESUME WRITING
DS 352
TUESDAYS 11:30 TO 12:30

RESUME CRITIQUE
DS 352
THURSDAYS 11:30 TO 12:30

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

REMEMBER COMMENCEMENT—
SUNDAY, MAY 14
KLEINHANS MUSIC HALL!

SIGMA PHI EPSILON PRESENTS ITS 1988 SPRING
AIR BAND ON APRIL 9.
GET YOUR BAND REGISTERED.

For more info contact JW.
January 28

“Eileen Newman, please.”
“Speaking.”
“Eileen—I got your business card at Daemen. I need some research, editing, and typing done.”
“All three?”
“Yea. I work full time and my company will pay the cost of the course I’m taking at night providing I get an A or B. We’re reading Absalom, Absalom! by William Faulkner and I can’t make heads or tails of the book.”
“I take it you want me to do the paper for you.”
“That’s what I had in mind.”
“I can provide you with a sample paper of the required length.”
“Sample paper?”
“Yes—it would just be a sample because I don’t want to get into any trouble.”
“Now I’ve got to get a good grade on this or the company won’t pay and there’s no way I can afford to pay the tuition. Can you assure me I’ll get a good grade?”
“I never got less than an A- on any paper I ever did for English while at Daemen. What course is it and who’s the instructor? You see, I’ve had all the English teachers there and I know what kind of papers they like.”
“It’s LIT 337, and Dr. Long’s teaching it.”
“I’m familiar with the course, but not with Dr. Long. When’s the paper due?”
“March 11, but I’d like it as soon as possible so I can familiarize myself with it.”
“I’ll have to see how much work is going to be involved. It’ll take a few days. Call back and I’ll be able to give you a price and tell you how long it’ll take.”
“Alright, I’ll do that. Thanks.”

February 1

“Eileen Newman, please.”
“Speaking.”
“Hi Eileen. I spoke with you last Thursday about doing a paper for me.”
“Oh yes—I can give you the paper for $45 and have it ready by the 19th.”
“Okay. Go ahead and do it. Now this’ll be an A paper, right?”
“Like I told you, I never got less than an A-.”
“Now if this paper is marked sample, I’m going to have to re-type it. How much extra would you charge to do that?”
“There’s no extra charge to put your name on it. The paper itself won’t be marked sample.”
“You’re a life saver. I’ll see you on the 19th.”

February 20

I called Bear Mountain Enterprises at least two dozen times on February 19 and 20. On the 20th, Ms. Newman called me.
“I’ve got some questions. Have you been discussing the book in class?”
“Yes.”
“What has Dr. Long said about the contrast between the aristocracy and the middle class?”
I made something up based on what I recalled from actually having taken the class.
“Good! That’s exactly the direction the paper’s going. I’ll have it ready for you on Monday.”

February 22

Three days later than had been originally promised, I went to pick up my paper. Eileen Newman came to the door, took my $45, and handed me a paper which had been done on a word processor. She asked that I call her back and let her know how I did on the paper.
I assured her I’d be back in touch with her, and on February 28, I called Ms. Newman to tell her that I was writing an article about Bear Mountain.

Ms. Newman’s Point-of-View

“I started Bear Mountain Enterprises approximately six months ago when I was unable to get a job
which utilized my penchant for writing. I have always wanted to be an author, so at Bear Mountain I write academic papers for students so I can make money and continue writing. Bear Mountain is the first job I’ve ever had that I enjoy.

“I’m positive, even proud, about what I’m doing, and I’m convinced that what students do with the papers once they get them from me after I’ve written them is their own business.

"I state up front that any paper I write is merely a sample, so I don’t think I’m doing anything wrong. I’m just supplying a service that’s in demand.

"Yet I’d prefer that my services not be too widely publicized because I have several close friends who teach at Daemen and I wouldn’t want them to have a bad impression of me.

“Business at Bear Mountain” (at the time of this writing) “is a little slow, but I expect a substantial upturn around mid-terms and finals.

"When someone asks me for a paper, I write it to order by compiling all the information I can find on the requested subject. I don’t store papers on a computer file, though sometimes I’ll borrow information from one paper to use in another.

“A computerized record that I keep ensures no two customers ever receive the same paper. The computerized records also provide me with a complete list of my customers, who so far have mostly been Daemen students.”

Conclusion

Ms. Newman must be commended for the professionalism inherent in the format of her product. That level of professionalism, however, may tip off the professor to the fact that the paper is not the student’s own work.

Moreover, an attentive professor would most likely notice a stark difference in a student’s previous writing and Ms. Newman’s work. The professor could then ask the student questions concerning either particular points brought forth in the paper or sources used in preparing the paper. A student who hasn’t written the paper would have a difficult time answering such questions and would most likely be accused of plagiarism.

In other words, a student who hires Bear Mountain is playing Russian Roulette.

The important concern, however, is with the ethics of Bear Mountain Enterprises and the students who use its services.

Ms. Newman must certainly be aware that her papers are more than samples; she did at least in this one instance. She therefore willingly profits from students who also know that her papers are more than samples.

The real shame, however, is on the shoulders of students who go to Bear Mountain. They cheat not only other students who struggle writing, but also themselves, for education is actually the process of learning to assimilate old information into new forms, and those students who submit “sample” papers have learned nothing more than how to circumvent hard, honest work.

Maybe students who use Bear Mountain will get their A- (the paper on Absalom! Absalom! was graded B+ by Dr. Robert Morace) and maybe they will think nothing of how they made the grade: there are certainly some students who expect something for nothing, or they expect to be able to buy it. Unfortunately, a few students may find the service worth their money.

What could happen, however, down the road? When your boss tells you he wants a report on his desk in the morning, are you going to call Ms. Newman?

On the other hand, get caught submitting a sample and you’re up the creek. Without an oar.

FLUTIST CAROL WINCENC

APPEARS IN-CONCERT,

APRIL 15, 8:00 P.M.,

IN WICK CENTER

FREE ADMISSION
BOOGA FOR MDA

On Saturday, April 16, Daemen College’s third annual MDA Superdance Marathon will swing in the Wick Social Room. The marathon, worked by booga booga Beta, will run from 12:00 pm to 12:00 am. At different hours the dance will have themes such as toga hour, pajama hour, and beach hour. WHTT will provide the music.

Anyone who wishes to dance must have obtained at least $35 in pledges. A grand prize $200 travel voucher, donated in part by the Student Association and Muscular Dystrophy Association, will be awarded to the dancer who collects the most money in donations over $350. All proceeds from the Superdance go to MDA.

The MDA assists people who are afflicted with any number of over 40 different muscle diseases. Not only does MDA look for cures. It also buys wheelchairs, helps adapt homes, sends children to summer camps, and provides support groups for those afflicted with MD and for their families.

Last year the Marathon raised close to $3000, which this year booga booga Beta hopes to surpass. To do so, booga booga Beta requests that students, faculty, and staff dance or pledge. Sponsor sheets and dance packets can be picked up at Wick Desk.

GET A JOB

What are you doing April 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.? Invest in your future and attend Daemen’s annual Career Day in the Wick Center Social Room.

Career Day is an opportunity to investigate career alternatives, develop valuable contacts, receive professional advice, and discover academic and employment requirements for entry-level professionals. Over 50 representatives from various professions, organizations, and businesses will be on hand to answer questions and share information concerning their careers and organizations.

Career Day is for all students interested in their career. Students who attend receive a handout which suggests questions to ask a potential employer, and students will more than likely receive brochures which announce the kind of employee that a particular company is seeking. Students ought to have a resume prepared to give to an employer. In return they may get a business card so that they can call and make an appointment for an interview.

Employers often go to huge schools but prefer smaller schools like Daemen because of the quality students. Student participation will insure these employers continue recruiting Daemen graduates.

DAEMEN COLLEGE CAREER DAY

APRIL 13, 1988

11:30-1:30

WICK CENTER

Over 50 employers attending.

Sponsored by the Career Development Center.