1988-89 SA Budget

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* The Ascent's addition is $69000.

Vonnegut Says “It’s all over.”

by Ann Hynes

On November 15, the Daemen community was honored to hear yet another well-known and admired speaker in the Guest Lecturer Series. Kurt Vonnegut, author, playwright and lecturer drew such a huge crowd that many missed the chance to hear him speak on the somewhat misleading topic “How to get a job like mine.”

Vonnegut’s address was divided into two distinct formats. In the first, he began by delivering a humorous lecture that briefly touched on many topics, such as pollution, discrimination, illiteracy and governmental incompetence, tying them all together by asking how we got into this mess and how we can get out of this mess we’ve gotten ourselves into. He related a brief history of the loss of human rights of the Polish during World War II, then stated that the problems of each country are the problems of the world, and the largest to be solved is the environmental problem. His epitaph for mankind: “It is all over.”

Vonnegut told his audience that written on the Grand Canyon, in large letters explaining what went wrong, should be the message “we probably could have saved ourselves, but we were too damn lazy to try very hard. We were also too damn cheap.” He then delivered several unconventional suggestions as to how to solve our problems that bordered on ice-nine-like theory. This first format, though funny, seemed to be disjointed and at times, too formal and general.

Touching briefly on the stated topic “How to get a job like mine,” Vonnegut said a job like his is very rare, since a beginning writer doesn’t get much support from society. Also some writers are unwilling to put enough time into such a lonely occupation.

Vonnegut was at his best in the second part of his delivery. In this segment, he changed abruptly from lecturer to storyteller. Standing at a large chalkboard, without notes, Vonnegut called upon his anthropological background and drew a graph depicting the ups and downs and even planes of the human condition.

In classic literature, the graph showed, stories build up to a peak, hit a valley when some tragedy occurs, then become resolved in another peak, where everyone lives happily ever after. Life, said Vonnegut, should not be like that. Instead, we should try to maintain an evenness. Our lives should not be mistaken for stories, with a rise and fall. “Lives should be dead level,” he said, adding that this would be the ideal. And so it goes.
Buster Hymen and the Penetrators Lip-Sync to Win Air Band

by Link Klabo

On November 12, Daemen students, as well as high school students on campus for Bus Trip weekend, were on hand to see Buster Hymen and the Penetrators capture first place in Sigma Phi Epsilon’s Fall presentation of Air Band.

Each of the nine competing bands lip-synced two numbers. After the bands performed, judges tallied scores in the categories of appearance, believability, crowd reaction, and instrument playing.

The third place band, Southern Blues, who pulled in a cool $25, performed versions of two classic tunes with an ’80’s flare, “Locomotion” and “All Fired Up” by Pat Benatar.

Something Stupid, the second place band, pocketed a crisp $75 for wild and energetic versions of two Guns -N- Roses songs. During their second round parody of “Sweet Child Of Mine,” the band’s drummer wrecked the platform and took the fans to a noise level beyond description. “I put my foot through the drum stage in all the excitement,” said Brian Gallagher. “Good thing my buddy came over and helped me break it all the way, or I’d have felt like a dick.”

The first place band, who cleaned up with 150 dollars American cash, has a bit of Air Band history behind them. Buster Hymen and the Penetrators consists mostly of graduating seniors who have competed in several Air Band contests over their past semesters. Their two performances were vintage oldies, “The Banana Boat Song” and “I Can Dream About You.” Eric Agosto, a freshman from the Big Apple, as well as the versatile drum and bass player in the winning band, said, “We’ll be back in the spring.”

All three winners also were presented trophies to commemorate their performances.

The other six bands that performed were just as entertaining as the winners. “I thought I was Jim Morrison for 5 minutes,” said Gary Moran, Psychology major and member of The Buttplugs. Steve Rubino, sophomore Business major and member of Vinny Syphilis and the Infections, said that his performance was so electrifying “Three girls pulled me into the audience! I landed on my back, and if I wasn’t so drunk I might have hurt myself!”

Sigma Phi Epsilon will be holding another Air Band contest in the Spring semester. Stay tuned.

Canavan Residents Release Anxieties in Verbal Spats

by Caryl Mazzi

Are residents in Canavan getting edgy with one another? On Monday, October 1, an incident occurred that says some are.

At 2:10 that afternoon a verbal fight occurred on the fifth floor of Canavan. Two coeds were screaming at one another. Then two others joined in. “You’re the liar” was yelled more times than anyone could count. Doors were being slammed as innocent bystanders stood and gossiped. People were complaining of not being able to sleep, while others said their roommates and people sharing the suite were inconsiderate.

Chris Mustico, an R.A. in Canavan, who says, “I don’t think I could ever live with a roommate again,” believes several factors are now contributing to the ill feeling among dorm resident. Having problems with keys, getting locked out if you don’t have your key on you, having to get up early because your roommate has an earlier class than you, having things of yours used, having lights left on, and living with someone who likes to party when you study—these things and more could be creating problems.

Sometimes talking your problems out will help.

What can the Community Service Office do for you? Register with us and we will:

• Record on your transcript the community service hours you’ve completed.
• Track and verify your volunteer hours.
• Develop a personal portfolio that includes your verifiable volunteer service.
• Translate your volunteer experiences into relevant job jargon for your resume.
• Recognize you with a certificate for the valuable services you perform.
• Provide free supplemental liability, accident, and auto insurance.
Admissions Busses High School Seniors to Daemen Campus

by Christen Mustico

Remember being a high school senior and choosing a college crept up? Suddenly you were faced with the decision of which college to look at, let alone which one to attend.

Daemen recently tried to make the decision easier for high school seniors by hosting the College's annual Fall Bus Trip weekend. Future Daemen hopefuls from across the state hopped on buses provided by Daemen and spent the weekend, November 11-13, on campus with resident students.

Admissions had many activities planned for the students, who arrived Friday night at 7:30 p.m. When they stepped off the bus they were greeted by their host or hostess and taken to their rooms to settle in. At 9:00, they were given a pizza dinner. A dance in the Rathskeller followed.

The next day was as busy for the students. At 9:00 a.m., they were given an admissions interview. From 1:00 to 4:00, they participated in an open house, where the students heard presentations from various departments. Afterwards they saw a movie, then went to Airband, an annual lip-syncing contest sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Finally, on Sunday morning, the students boarded the buses at 8:00, toured Niagara Falls, then returned home.

Dave Emhof, admissions counselor, said that around 75 students attended Bus Trip, a number up by 50% from Bus Trip '87. The reason for this, said Mr. Emhof, is that “students need to visit a college to learn more about academic programs and the college environment.”

Many students who now attend Daemen first came on a Bus Trip. Deora Novell, for instance. “I’d never been to Daemen,” said Ms. Novell, “and I wanted to see the campus.” Another student, Susan Andi, “just wanted to see what college life was like.”

A problem is that many students say Daemen doesn’t live up to the social expectation created by Bus Trip weekend. “I expected more out of Daemen socially because of the weekend,” said Mary Friel. Ms. Andi, who also first came to Damen for a Bus Trip Weekend, thought “every weekend would be like Air Band.” This may be why students are mislead to thinking that every weekend is a huge party.

Nevertheless, Bus Trip weekend lets prospective students check the College out.

Birthday Party for Daemen Residents Is No Surprise

by Christen Mustico

During the first two weeks in November a quiet surprise was coming unwrapped in the Daemen dorms. Earlier, in October, Housing Director Jim Burke had mailed a letter to parents, asking them to send a present to their away-from-home children. Mr. Burke was plotting a resident birthday party that took place at 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 9.

Gifts included food, socks, sweaters, stuffed animals, gift certificates, thermal underwear, gloves and other small items. “It was nice to know mom and dad love me,” said Kathy Ihnot.

For some students, the surprise wasn’t so startling. Many, prior to the party, had gotten off the phone with relatives, curious when dad would start asking, “Did you receive your?” and Mom would then get on the phone and ask a million-and-one questions. “Even though I knew about the party,” said Rene Baker, “I was still happy because mom cared enough to send me a box.” Missy Neagle expressed the same sentiment: “Dad spilled the beans, but it was nice to get something.”

Mr. Burke felt that the party was a good idea, especially for the freshmen, because it let them know someone at home cares.

Want Ads: Community Service Volunteers

- Santa’s Helpers needed at Child and Family Services to sponsor a Christmas party for foster children.
- Christmas Carolers needed to bring the gift of song to patients in an inner-city nursing home.
- Literacy volunteers to teach reading skills to young mothers. Brief training session required.
- SABAH (Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped) needs volunteers to help with costuming, prop making and office and clerical helpers.
- Friends of the Night People needs food items, especially hot chocolate and cocoa for the children.
Role Models

by Ann Hynes

In my first Comp. class twenty years ago, our professor presented two novels, and we were to choose which one to read. One of the choices was Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut. The other was Catch 22 by Joseph Heller. Having seen the movie, Catch 22 was my choice. I figured I could discuss the novel and write my paper based on the movie, and not even have to even open the book.

The vote was close, but Vonnegut’s book was chosen by majority. Those of us who lost grumbled and complained to each other about having to “waste” time reading a book over the weekend.

But the weekend was not a waste after all. In that routine class assignment, I was introduced to Vonnegut’s unique style of writing, his outrageous characters, his humor, and his compassion for humanity. I became a Vonnegut fan, reading every book he wrote, as soon as it was published. He became my role model. I wanted to write like him. And my thought after each reading was “I’d like to meet this guy, talk to him, find out where he comes up with these ideas and characters.”

I got that chance when Vonnegut visited the Daemen campus as one of the speakers in the Guest Lecturer Series. It was very difficult not to gush openly like a fan. What I discovered upon meeting Vonnegut was a rather modest, nice guy who just happens to have a unique gift for writing. And it came as a relief to find that although he has enormous celebrity status and is highly respected, he is in fact quite a bit like the rest of us.

We all have role models that we look up to, want to emulate. He or she might be a writer we admire, like Vonnegut, or a musician, artist, singer, athlete, actor or actress. We collect their works, listen to their music, read their words, follow their careers. We might even go to great lengths to be in the company of that person.

There are role models that we have who are easier to approach. Mom and Dad are good examples. But there are also those we find right here at Daemen. He or she may be the statistics professor who was so helpful and open that you almost considered minoring in math, even though it had previously been your least favorite subject. Or the Humanities instructor who was so dynamic that studying the anatomy of the New Testament was actually interesting for the first time.

The persistence of a certain professor may have spurred you on to try just a little harder, and now you can see that this extra effort has paid off in a higher QPA. Could be that someone here at Daemen even made the difference between you staying in school or giving up. Think about it.

All of our role models become symbols for what we can achieve. They are a human link between our goals and the realization of those goals. In the future, out in the real world, working real jobs, we may become that role model who will make a positive impact on someone else.
LETTERS AND THE PRESIDENT’S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Presently, of the 252 students registered as Business majors, only seven are active in the Business Club. With such apathy, how can we, along with our dedicated advisor, Pat Johnson, strengthen the Business Club?

At the beginning of the semester the officers visited the majority of the Business classes, personally inviting everyone to a barbecue. The resulting turnout was pitiful. Our meetings, held every other Thursday, are publicized throughout the College, yet the same few students attend. Numerous students, however, approach the officers to ask about upcoming events, such as trips to Attica State Prison and Toronto, yet where are these people when we are planning our activities?

In order for the Business Club to succeed, we need the interest and help of every Business major.

The Business Club

Recently on campus, a young man had what appeared to be a seizure. Several faculty stood around deciding who should be notified. Rather than calling 911, someone notified a guard.

It seems faculty should be taught guidelines to follow during emergencies. Students are given instruction, but the student body is constantly changing. It seems more realistic to educate the stable population of faculty and staff. Previously, when I needed first aid, there was not a nurse on duty, and no one knew if there was even a box of band-aids available.

If the student had had his seizure at a different time of day, it would have been impossible to get quickly to a phone. All the available phones are in faculty offices. Perhaps free emergency phones should be strategically placed in the halls.

Steps need to be taken before a tragedy occurs.

Janet H. Meyer

The President’s Forum

by Scott Kaufmann

As I walked into Schenk Lounge on Wednesday, November 9, for the meeting between Dr. Robert Marshall and the student body, the first thing I noticed was a table set with cookies, punch, and various other snacks.

If the table had indeed been set to placate the student body, it was an ineffective attempt. The questions asked of Dr. Marshall and of the faculty and administration in general were very direct, very pointed, and, in some cases, downright nasty. This is not to say that the students were acting out-of-line in voicing their concerns, opinions, and questions. On the contrary, the meeting might have been more effective had more students found time in their schedules to attend.

Dr. Marshall opened the meeting by discussing his job. And it was a lengthy oratory that seemed to be taking time away from the students in attendance. After finishing his recitation of positions in the “Daemen Government,” Dr. Marshall let students voice their opinions and ask questions.

There were plenty of opinions ranging from the impression that the cafeteria’s food is sometimes almost inedible or if it is edible there’s not enough, to the general consensus that Daemen’s planned activities are rather tedious.

This subject, student activities, brought the house down. When a student stated that the College’s planned functions were boring, Dr. Marshall turned to her, his complexion turning from a youthful brown to an angry red, and shouted, “These people are the heads of our field. What do you want? Just tell me. Do you want us to stand up here and entertain you? Is that what you want?” The forum had turned in on itself, no longer an interview of Dr. Marshall by students but now an interview of the students by Dr. Marshall.

Other subjects were brought up and shot down. They ranged from Daemen’s health care policies to weight-lifting facilities for potential Olympic bodybuilders. And through it all, Dr. Marshall seemed to belittle those who exercised their free speech while simultaneously correcting their grammar.

Afterwards, in my car going home, I thought of Sex Pistol’s Johnny Rotten, who said, “Have you ever had the feeling you’ve been swindled?”

December 1988
Marian Library Scheduled for Renovation

by Michelle Bock

Due to the inadequate size and contents of Daemen’s Marian Library, plans are being made for a major library expansion-and-renovation project scheduled to begin sometime in 1989.

Exactly when in 1989 is unclear. The date depends on when the College can get the one-and-a-half to two million dollars needed to complete the project. At this time, according to Daemen’s president, Dr. Robert Marshall, approximately 900,000 dollars can be accounted for. A majority of that money came from an inheritance left by the Schenk family, well-known for Schenk Lounge. The rest came from donations from local businesses, said Director of Development and Alumni Affairs David Cyr. Daemen is also relying on private donations and memorial gifts. Tuition will not be raised.

So far there have been only informal meetings regarding the library’s impending face lift. All additions and reconstructions, which overall will double the size of the library, are subject to change at this time.

One preliminary plan is to move the periodicals to a large reading room, containing lounge chairs, so that students may sit and browse more easily.

There may also be a new library instruction room which will hold between twenty-five and thirty students. Classroom type presentations and demonstrations can be given there.

The library also plans to enlarge the audio-visual room. With a larger room, more students will be able to use microfilm and microfiche projectors, view filmstrips and slides, and listen to records.

The current AV room now doubles as the group-study room. Soon, there may be three additional group-study rooms. Each will hold six students or less. There will also be more one-person study tables for students who wish to study alone.

An elevator will be installed so that people with wheelchairs and other mobility aids will have access to all three levels of the library. A new copier will also be added to one of the upper levels.

Mr. Woike hopes to see the library receive enough new sections of shelves so that the number of books and periodicals can be increased by one third. Instead of having 799 sections of shelves, the Library would have 1,280. At present, the library contains approximately 123,000 volumes. Soon the library may be expanded to include 175,000 volumes.

The decision to renovate was made because the library has been too small for the school’s needs for quite some time. Moreover, according to Dr. Marshall, if the library stays the way it is, in ten years the College would start to fall behind. Renovating now would better prepare Daemen for the future.

Student Body Wants Better Parties

by Don Clark

Daemen students have been complaining about the party situation in Wick Center. Two things are particularly upsetting: students don’t like the segregation of drinkers and non-drinkers, and they don’t like being served by bartenders employed by food service. I have compiled a poll asking students what they would like to see at Wick parties. Of 20 poll sheets handed out, 18 were returned. The results are as follows.

The first question: What would you like to see more of at the parties in Wick? 11 preferred a live band, 8 a better variety of dance music, 9 would like to see a guest DJ. None of the students polled said that the entertainment was satisfactory.

The next category in the survey was Food and Beverages. 7 students said they would enjoy a better variety of snacks at the parties, and none of the students polled desired to eliminate food altogether. “Half of the reason I go to the parties is for the soda and snacks, seeing as I don’t drink,” said one student. All of those polled voted for mixed drink sales along with beer. “I don’t like to drink beer, and mixed drinks would draw me to the parties,” stated one of those polled.

The last question: Should parties have door prizes? 14 said prizes would be a welcome addition. 4 did not want them. “I go to drink and have a good time. I don’t need to win anything.”

At the end of the poll, students were invited to recommend ways to make parties in Wick more successful. Here are some of the replies: “Publicize better.” “A little bit more relaxed on the parties—this school is too damn conservative.” “Food service should not control the concessions.”

This poll was only to get ideas on how parties can be improved. Don’t be afraid to take your opinions to the group who is giving the next party.
Believe It or Not!

by David Brothman

It’s a month after Halloween and I’m still here. As you recall, in the last Ascent, I said I was going to an Invocation provided by a Black Magician. Now, before I go on I must say one thing. The events you are going to read about actually occurred.

Picture in your mind a ranch house in East Aurora. The closest house is a mile away. It’s Halloween evening. 11:30 to be exact. Three of my friends and I had just had a spooky forty-five minute ride through the country with no radio or talking. Silence, according to the Medium, cleanses the soul.

As we enter the room where the Invocation is to take place we all see blue and white lit candles, as well as a large pentagram, in the center. The Medium, inside the circle, is dressed in grey, sitting cross-legged, seemingly praying. I look around the room to make sure there are no tricks being played on us. After all, it is Halloween. The room is bare except for a small uncovered table with some candles on it. No tricks such as strategically placed mirrors or strings attached to any movable objects are apparent.

There are eight people involved in our circle, including a “back-up” Medium just in case something goes awry. Everything is quiet and we’re ready to begin. The Medium utters some incomprehensible words, then tells us to sit cross-legged with our hands out in front resting on our upper legs. We join hands. The Medium now declares that “The Watchtower is open,” and a cool breeze wafts across the room, extinguishing the candles where the Watchtower has supposedly opened.

The room gets very cold, and the Medium tells us to concentrate on the two burnt out candles, sit still and be very quiet.

Nothing happens for about five to ten minutes. We are quite skeptical but patient because our Medium tells us we are just getting calm enough for the spirit to enter. The Medium now begins to speak harshly. Suddenly the two unlit candles fall over, and a flashing light moves into the center of the circle. The Medium tells the spirit to talk to us, to prove that he exists. The pentagram moves as if someone is stepping on it.

Later, we discuss how the spirit contacted us. Michelle and I had felt something stepping on our legs, and Kim and Terry Anne felt their hair being pulled. Leslie felt her earings move back and forth. Immediately following, the first three buttons of Lorraine’s blouse popped open. Brock, our stand-in Medium, said that he had felt anger in the room. He had determined this because the candles directly behind him had suddenly become stronger, the flames seemed to merge together. All these signs meant that the spirit had arrived but it was not Alistair Crowley like our Medium had wanted.

After that, something else happened. The room got colder and the breeze in the room tended to go towards the door (not the Watchtower). Our Medium abruptly stopped the Invocation. According to him, the spirit had escaped his grasp and was probably roaming around East Aurora, most likely looking for someone to control. I was told if the spirit was bad, look for evil things to happen in the town. If not, you may hear of miracles occurring. Being somewhat sarcastic I said, “I guess if the spirit finds its way to Rich Stadium, the BILLS could win the SUPERBOWL. If not, our best players might experience freak injuries.” The Medium shook his head and walked away.

Innovative Class Helps Students Study

by Michelle Bock

If you haven’t heard, there’s a class being offered that teaches good study habits. Strategies For Success In College, taught by Eric Zinnerstrom, Assistant Dean of Academic Advisement, meets every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Does this class really help? The consensus among Mr. Zinnerstrom’s class is a resounding yes. The majority say they hardly studied at all in high school but are studying now. They say the change is a result of Mr. Zinnerstrom’s class.

In the class, students learn how to manage time, how to improve their reading skills, and how to memorize. Most of the class benefits from these lessons, and they say Mr. Zinnerstrom makes learning easy because he speaks to them on their level.

There are two things, however, that students don’t like about the class: it interferes with their lunch hour, and the course carries no credit.

In the market for fine gold jewelry? We sell the same gold that all major jewelers sell, but at a much lower price. If interested, call Dorm 66 (ext. 316) and ask for Tom. Or leave name and phone number at Wick Desk.
Studio Arena’s Abingdon Square

by Shirley Theisen

Studio Arena’s Abingdon Square might have been a better theatrical experience if not for the black-outs and pretentious drama. Since this was a stage production, the lighting had to be shut off to provide for thirty-three brief scene changes. As a result, the audience had to continuously adjust to light and dark, and the audience’s anticipation consequently shifted from the play’s content to the stage lighting.

Abingdon Square is a tale of an impressionable young girl, Marion, who marries a father-figure; her husband’s son is just about her age. The marriage is not necessarily doomed, but the flaws in her psyche produce chaos in the union. Marion’s infidelities produce hate and revenge from those who care for her. Eventually, Marion feels remorseful.

While even serious dramas contain humorous scenes, the audience should be able to easily distinguish the humor from the seriousness. Unfortunately, such is not the case in Abingdon Square. In one scene where Marion’s husband threatens both their lives, many people in the audience howled with laughter. Those who didn’t laugh were either confused or asleep. (I was seated between two of the latter.)

Marion’s sexual liaison with a glazier working in her home would not be seen as unusual, given the fact that she is obviously sexually frustrated. The absurdity is that this tryst occurs within two minutes of meeting him! Ridiculous.

Susan Gibney deserves praise for her role as Marion. The role of her husband, Juster, performed by Edwin Owens, is credible. There are no accolades for other members of the cast, whose acting is artificial and non-professional. This Studio Arena production lacked quality in content and acting.

Patrons go to the theater for entertainment and/or education. Abingdon Square provided neither. With more time spent at the typewriter and with more tenable creativity, this drama could have elaborated on a theme and yielded delight and knowledge, rather than boredom and confusion.

Need a Summer Job?

from the Career Development Center

The New York State Thruway Authority is establishing a new list for part-time and summer positions as Toll Collectors. It is necessary for a prospective employee to take a civil service examination. A passing grade will put the applicant on a list of available candidates, where the person’s name will stay for the next four years. The next exam time is January 7, 1989. The Toll Collector’s salary is approximately $7.00/hour, which is excellent pay for a part-time job in the Buffalo area. Applications are available in the Career Development Center.

Hey Writers!

Step Ascending is now soliciting manuscripts for its Spring issue. Students are encouraged to submit poetry, short stories, excerpts from in-progress novels, or literary essays. Submissions should be made to Ann Hynes, Editor, Step Ascending, Daemen College, Amherst, New York. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of your submission.

FORTHCOMING IS THE ASCENTS’S SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE. DUE ON THE NEWSTAND BY DECEMBER 15.