A Holiday Poem

by Caryl Mazzi

'Tis the week before finals and all through the school everyone's studying while the teachers play pool.

It's the Holiday time and the students all know that their cash funds have become exceedingly low.

The clarion's ringing as we can all hear—it distracts us to memories of Brunners and beer.

When it's quiet in the Wick you are sure to see those late night hours pay off with coffee and tea.

Decorating the halls will add delight and lots of color to brighten the sight.

The holiday will be great and the season we know will be more wonderful with lots of snow.

I’ll Have a Blue, Blue Xmas, Without You

by Courtney Reed

If it's the holidays it must be a time of joy, of giving, and student depression. Yes—depression, with a capital D. And add to it loneliness and despair. Why, you might ask, do these sad feelings visit us at this time of the year when we're supposed to be elated about going home where we can spend a few weeks with our parents? It's that being at college changes our outlook on the holiday.

You know you'll miss the new friends you made at college when it comes time for you to go home, and you feel bad that you can't even buy them a simple holiday card because it costs more money than you have. And once you get home, you get emotionally down when you can't call them because the phone bill would be so high your parents might take back all the gifts they bought you so they can pay the telephone company. You feel bad you have to choose between gifts and friends.

Once you get home, you don't hear from your friends (conveniently forgotten, of course, is the fact that long distance calls cost money, money that neither you nor your friends have) and you begin to wonder whether the people you knew just a few weeks ago are still friends or cold-hearted beings who no longer want to talk to you.

The thought of writing is silly. With all the cards and letters currently going through the mail, you know your small insignificant letter wouldn't be delivered until the spring. So you wait and wonder why it is your recent friends no longer care for you. You think life's not fair, that it's cruel, you wish you had spent the holiday on campus with your friends, that all of you had stayed and had a New Year's party.

When you get back to campus you want to see your one-time friends but only to confront them with their callous forgetfulness. When you see them, however, your anger melts like the snow and you remember that even though there was no contact with them during the holiday you still missed them, even thought about them.

And that's one thing Christmas is all about.
Caring for your friends.
The Everlasting Light . . .  
by Dave Brothman

Chanukah, a Jewish holiday around the same time as Christmas, started when the Romans destroyed the second temple in Jerusalem and the Hebrews needed light to read the Torah. All they had was a lamp and some oil to last them a day, but the light burned for eight days and eight nights.

Chanukah is the celebration of the “everlasting light.” On this holiday, for eight nights, the family lights a candle on the Menorah, a nine piece candelabrum, with a shaman, the ninth candle of the candelabrum.

Like Christmas, Chanukah has become somewhat commercial. Children receive gifts, the most traditional being geldt, chocolate coins wrapped in gold tinfoil. Though these gifts have become a part of Chanukah, most families still light the Menorah and say the required prayers.

And Xmas in Other Lands  
by Link Klabo

How do ethnic Daemen students Celebrate Christmas? Rohan Banton, who hails from Jamaica, says “Yeah—of course we have Christmas and trees and everything but snow. But most Jamaicans don’t have chimneys.” Rho Won Suk, says “Koreans celebrate Christmas much like people in the U.S. We watch Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman specials. The only difference is that the shows are dubbed in Korean.”

The Ascent Staff Joins in Wishing the Daemen Community a Joyous Holiday and a Prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes from Student Activities

The Student Activities Office wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Successful New Year. We’re finishing a semester that was filled with many activities, and we’d like to thank all of you who devoted so much time and effort to planning, implementing, supporting, and participating. You are the “student life” of the campus. For those of you who did not get too involved in student activities this past semester, we invite you to join us in 1989 in making the most of your college experience. Remember—your participation in student activities is what makes them great. Have a good one!

CLARIFICATION

Statements can be wrested from context to make them mean whatever one would like. Such is a possibility in “Marian Library Scheduled For Renovation” (Ascent Dec. ’88, 6). Though we believe the context of where the renovation money will come from is enough to clarify the meaning of the sentence “Tuition will not be raised”—that is, it will not be increased in order to raise the funds needed to complete the library project—we would like to clarify further that whether or not tuition will in fact be hiked for other purposes is an issue to be decided by the Board of Trustees this spring.

Ascent
SA Off To Busy Start

by Heather Richardson, Vice-President for Publications

(Editor's Note: Ms. Richardson is not a member of the Ascent staff. Her comments appear as a courtesy so that she can pass on to the student body the business of the SA.

Now that the Executive Board members of the Student Association have finally settled down in their new positions, many jobs are getting done and many ideas are surfacing.

For instance, at the November 16 SA meeting we approved a budget for the purchase of a permanent lighting system to be used for dances and other social events.

We also approved the funding for a Xerox machine. This copying machine will be located in the Student Association office, and will be available free of charge to officially recognized student organizations during Executive Board office hours and on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SA meetings are held every Wednesday night at 9:00. These meetings are open to the student body, but visitors are required to leave whenever the Executive Board is voting on some matter.

The student body's input on school matters is very important to the SA. Input can be made through the mail (boxes are located next to the Wick Desk) or in person to Executive Board officers, whose office hours are posted on the SA office door.

Have a happy holiday, and next year become involved and let the SA work for you.

Students Fan Out To Alma Maters to Spread The Gospel According to Daemen

By Caryl Mazzi

For the last ten holiday seasons, Daemen's Admission Office has been sponsoring a program wherein Daemen Students visit their high school alma maters to promote the College. So far, according to Admission's counselor Brenda LaDuca, the program has been "very successful."

Many Daemen students have donated a part of the holiday to work in the visitation program, which enables high school students to ask questions about what Daemen College life is really like and how the College can prepare them for professional careers.

To be ready to answer such questions, Daemen students, before visiting their alma maters, are given a packet of assorted information, including applications for admission and brochures, as well as a card of an official Daemen counselor, whom high school students can contact should they have specific questions that the volunteer recruiter can't answer.

Daemen students have visited a variety of high schools, ranging from Adlai Stevenson in New York City through Utica Free Academy to Frontier High in Hamburg. Each visit lasts about 45 minutes. Daemen Admission's Office welcomes the volunteer time of anyone who would like to become involved in the program.

CONFIDENTIAL

To the anonymous proofreader of the Ascent who faithfully submits a copy of each issue, thoroughly emended, within two or three days of publication: Your corrections are usually right on. An exception is "busses," which is one of two correct spellings. We prefer the rule that says to keep the vowel short you must double the final consonant. Nevertheless, please identify yourself. We could use a good proofreader like you BEFORE we go to press. All we ask of you is an hour or two around the middle of each month. There'll be no pay, unless you'll accept gratitude as an adequate salary.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Executive Board welcomes the following newly elected class officers to the Student Association:

Senior Class President—Amy B. Miechowicz
Junior Class President—Traci McCrann
Junior Class Vice-President—Michael DeFrancesco
Sophomore Class President—Jim Wright
Freshman Class President—Richard Albanese

The purpose of these officers is to represent their perspective classes in the Student Association.
Bah, Humbug!

by Dr. Richard Long

It was the end of my last Fall semester as an honor’s English major that I had the misconceived notion of teacher as Scrooge. I had just completed my final “Oral Interpretation” exam, a dramatic reenactment of Wallace Stevens’ poem “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird.” I knew I hadn’t done too well: my tongue had tripped spasmodically over the words, my ears never indicated they heard the just-after of the blackbird singing, nowhere could I see its one eye moving among the twenty snowy mountains. My performance had certainly earned no more than a C+. Yet I thought the teacher would give me a B. After all, she was a friend of mine, we played racquetball together (sometimes I won) and earlier in the semester I had even volunteered for a bit part in one of her Reader’s Theater productions. And it was almost Christmas. What better present could she give me than a B. Cut me a little slack, be generous, I thought.

She gave me a C-, the Scrooge!

That grade was discomforting in that it made me realize that the grading ritual of academia contrasts so distinctly with the year-ending ambience of generosity. The holiday season implied that people were supposed to act in ways of good will, they were supposed to give others the benefit of the doubt, and they were to show their altruism in the manner of gifts. The reality, however, at least in academia, was that teachers would rather play Scrooge than Santa Claus. Their bags weren’t stuffed with brightly wrapped gifts. The only things teachers gave were grades that could ruin a student’s holiday.

How many of you are now thinking like I once did? It’s the end of the semester, it’s time for final exams, for some it’s do-or-die. It’s also the end of the year, a time when everyone likes good tidings and no-one likes bad news. Unfortunately, it’s a coincidence that, for some, the academic and holiday calendars lack harmony, that shortly after you get home you’ll find in your mail a Daemen grade report, and maybe you’ll think your teachers could have cut you some slack. Maybe you’ll think, like I once did, that your teachers are Scrooges.

I began this piece by referring to a “misconceived notion.” I had it, let’s see—exactly ten years ago. Since then, I’ve become a teacher, now I’m required to give grades, and I’ve learned it’s not easy. Sometimes, particularly at this time of the year, I want to give a gift, a grade better than the grade earned.

My “Oral Interpretation” in fact gave me a gift: the knowledge that I could do better. Ten years ago she gave me a C-. Today she’d give me (maybe) a B+. 
Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Chris Nigro's article "The Temptation to Ban Christ" (Ascent Nov. '88, 5). I agree that considerable controversy has surrounded the film The Last Temptation of Christ, and yes—everyone's entitled to a personal opinion. But please, how about printing, creating, or directing some truths.

Mr. Nigro says "Temptation humanizes Jesus Christ." How is he able to draw this conclusion and at the same time make the statement sound filthy? It is as though he takes God himself and makes him slop pigs. Well—Mr. Nigro does the second best thing and makes Jesus human.

As for Scorsese attempting (good word) to add realism to the story of Christ—Mr. Nigro says that passions and uncertainties are realistic of Christ. Excuse me, but what cheap drugs was he on when he says that "Christ reluctantly accepted his role as the Messiah." Jesus Christ was, and is, God's son. He would never defy the Lord God. But yet Mr. Nigro states that Jesus was reluctant about becoming the Messiah. Why? Was Jesus afraid of the pain? He had God behind him, helping him all the way. Jesus died for our sins, for us. He didn't have to do anything, but he did. He did because he was obedient to his father's will.

Where does Mr. Nigro get the so-called fact that Christ had to earn divinity? Jesus Christ is one out of three persons of the Holy Trinity. He was born/created with this divinity, he doesn't need to accept it, as though he never accepted it before.

When Mr. Nigro states "Christ is finally identifiable when his sinlessness is stripped away because then in a way he's like us," is he implying that we are unable to identify with Christ in any way if he hasn't become "one of us"? Can Mr. Nigro specify what he means by "one of us"? The only way Christ was ever like us was in body. He took our basic form, spoke a coherent language, and had to die. Christ was like us in all ways but sin. Look that one up in the Bible—or maybe Mr. Nigro thinks that book lies?

Humans will never strive for divinity. Humans will not now, or ever, be god-like, perfect, magnificent, or superhuman. Even though Christ was a man, he was God-man, holier than any other human walking the face of the earth. For this reason, it is "blasphemous to imagine him being subject to tumultuous aspects of human experience." Scorsese deserves a kick in the ass instead of a round of applause for this piece of filth that he, as well as Mr. Nigro, calls a good movie. The "unthinking public" really showed what they thought of Scorsese's picture by standing up for what they believed in and protesting. Mr. Nigro is oblivious to the fact that there were a lot more people in the "unthinking public" than there were in the thinking public.

Sincerely,
Terri Papaj

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Dear Editor,

In response to Scott Kauffman's article "The President's Forum" (Ascent Dec. 88, 5) I would like to disagree on several points.

Mr. Kauffman mentions a table set for refreshments "to placate the student body." I don't think the table distracted anyone since, as Mr. Kauffman says, "the questions asked were very direct, very pointed, and, in some cases, downright nasty." Of course, not all students could attend the forum. When does Mr. Kauffman want such a meeting held? 10:00 p.m.? Knowing that the forum lasted two-and-a-half hours, I suppose he wants to leave Wick at 12:30 a.m.

The questions asked by the students were indeed forthright. No question was ignored. Dr. Marshall couldn't answer all questions. That's why all department heads of all departments were in attendance. If we don't have resources for adequate health care or training grounds for the Olympics, why press it?

In conclusion, the forum itself was an excellent way for students to talk to the President of Daemen College, Dr. Marshall, face-to-face. Mr. Kauffman is wrong to state the opposite.

Sincerely,
James B. Johnson
Daemen Wishes . . .

by Michelle Bock

As the yuletide nears, Daemen students are beginning to wish for the one thing to make them happy for the rest of their lives.

For some the wish is whimsical, as in the case of Kamela Richardson, a sophomore, who is wishing for the man of her dreams. Cherisse Killian wants to go cruising with her boyfriend in a new black Lamborghini. Frank Pazzuto, a junior majoring in marketing, is wishing for “an enchanted evening with actress Kelly Lebrot,” an actress better known as Lisa in the motion picture *Weird Science*.

Others—Theresa Bauer, for instance—are wishing for money. Joanne Woloszyn would like to win the State Lottery.

Some students have the welfare of others in mind. Lisa Hazel, a sister of Sigma Omega Chi, wishes for everyone’s wish to come true. Nanette Piccarreto says “I’d wish for all the wishes in the world, then give some to Lisa.”

Perhaps Sister Linda Macaluso, the Associate Director of Daemen’s Campus Ministry, best sums up the traditional holiday idea of peace and goodwill with her wish that “All people will be accepted for whom they are.”

Funk Shopping Only

by Courtney Reed

Looking for a unique and slightly inexpensive gift? If you are, shop the Elmwood strip and Allentown district in Buffalo.

If you’re looking for old clothes, Red Balloons, located on 42 Allen Street, might be the place. The vintage clothing’s expensive, but the $4 box has some interesting stuff.

Around the Allen Street and Elmwood intersection is an array of stores that carry anything from mainstream to avant-garde. But at 587 Potomac, on the corner of Elmwood, there’s Second Glance, where you can find anything from the ‘50’s and ‘60’s, just as you can at Zoot Suit City, at 1115 Elmwood, which also carries clothing and accessories from the ‘80’s. All of it’s worth checking out.

Another hot funk shop is at 1695 Elmwood, near Hertel. South Pacific Clothing, Inc., has vintage and military clothing from all over the world, with prices ranging from 99¢ and up.

Shopping for a record? Then check out Home of the Hits at 1105 Elmwood. It has old records, new records, New Wave and Hard Core, Rock and Heavy Metal. All at low prices.

And Resolutions

by Link Klabo

Like everyone else around the country, Daemen students are planning to make New Year’s resolutions. The most obvious would be to make more money, perhaps better grades, but on campus students are resolving other things.

Except for one student, Tommy Basciano, who wants to “quit smoking Marlboros,” the resolutions heard around campus seem said with tongue in cheek. “I promise to quit telling stupid jokes,” says Sue Andi. “I have to start going to work on a regular basis,” says Chris Page.

Some students seemed concerned about how much they drink, either too much or too little. “I’m going to stop drinking for a long time,” says Bob Collette. “Just to shock people,” he adds. Gary Moran resolves “to funnel more beers in ’89.”

At least one student has safety (and maybe finances) in mind. “My New Year’s resolution, or should I say wish,” says Alan Garten, “is to stop getting in car accidents.”

All these resolutions are fine and dandy, but the big question is: Who will adhere to their resolutions and who will cheat?

WHO’S WHO?

Congratulations to eight Daemen students nominated by Daemen College for WHO’S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES. All eight were subsequently approved for membership by the organization’s national office. The students are:

- Kim Marie Battistoni
- Mary Beth DeJohn
- Daren Dorm
- Ann Hynes
- Amy Miechowicz
- Gretchen Nagelschmidt
- Randall North
- Susan Spellman

These new Who’s Who members were nominated and accepted because of their QPA (3.0 or above), involvement in Daemen organizations/committees, community service, leadership ability, and future potential.
He Know’s If You’re Sleeping

by Christine Mustico

Look at what entertainment has tried doing to Santa Claus. Sometimes he’s depicted as a drunken Salvation Army solicitor, sloshed on the corner. Another image is the Santa who invades homes on Christmas Eve and uses his axe to slash little kids’ dreams. And there’s the less violent Santa who just robs gayly decorated houses, leaving nothing under the tree and nothing on the cookie tray and nary a drop of milk in the glass.

Is this image of jolly old Saint Nick that comes to mind when Daemen students think of the plump man in the red suit?

Jada Robertson imagines “a happy older man in a red velvet suit with a stuffed sack, black books, and a red nose.” To that image Karen Shavers adds “a big belly and a white beard.”

“I think of Christmas when I hear Santa’s name,” says Trina Reed. “And presents,” she adds. Other students think of snow, cookies, sleigh bells, carols and lights.

Although there may be the negative images of Santa as a murderer, a drunkard, and a thief, all of whom take advantage of people, here at Daemen he’s still a happy, jolly, giving kind of guy. He’s a universal symbol of the holidays.

Here We Go A-Caroling

by Christine Mustico

It’s the holiday season, and gifts and families are what the fortunate usually think of. Many people, however, aren’t able to enjoy this time of year. They live in hospitals, in nursing homes, some live on the streets. A way to alleviate the sadness of the season is to go to these places and spend time with the people who are less fortunate than we are.

The third floor of Canavan recently did just that. The girls met in the lounge and went in a College van to Sisters’ Hospital, where they caroled for the patients. “I love caroling for these people because they enjoy it and can’t get out themselves,” said Melissa Neagle. This sentiment is also expressed by Donna Meo: “It’s a nice feeling to do something for someone who appreciates it so much.”

Why did these girls take time out of their busy schedules to go caroling? “Christmas is a season of giving, which has been instilled in all of us,” says Kathy Ihnot, “and we want to share ourselves with others.” Another third floor resident, Renee Baker, says “When you make others happy, they make you happy.”

Shopping at the Bookstore

by Don Clark

What are Daemen students buying for one another this year? “All kinds of things,” says Laurie Grandits, manager of the Daemen Bookstore.

“It’s kind of interesting,” she says. “Sweatshirts and stuffed animals are going, as well as tree ornaments and other curios. We’ve got quite a selection.”

A lot of students seemingly find the Bookstore convenient. It’s certainly closer than any nearby mall, and rather than fighting traffic, students just walk down the hall. “I really don’t have the time to travel to Eastern Hills or Niagara Falls,” says Melinda Manville, a freshman P. T. major. “I finished a good portion of my shopping list here.”

Ms. Grandits says those students who are shopping at the Bookstore aren’t necessarily playing Scrooge. In fact, quite the opposite. “Whenever the students are buying something for someone they love,” she says, “they squeeze to find the money. Surprisingly, the higher priced items seem to sell better than lower priced gifts.”
How do many Daemen students spend their holiday break? They spend it skiing. Some flock to New England to have their fun, usually to Vermont, the hottest spot for the Daemen skier who wants to ski in the afternoon and party all night. Other skiers check out the slopes closer to Buffalo.

Vermont resorts like Killington and Sugarbush sponsor College Skifest, an event where several hundred colleges from across the country compete as well as party with each other. This week of events costs around five hundred dollars for lifts, lodging, and food and drink.

But what if the urge to ski comes on like a blizzard and the cash flow is no more than a snow dusting? There are several ski areas within two-and-a-half hours of Buffalo. The best resorts are Swain Mountain, just outside of Rochester, and Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, just an hour away from the Queen City. At these resorts you can rent a hotel room or condo from sixty to eighty dollars and always be within five minutes of the slopes. Lift tickets range from twenty two to thirty dollars a day, depending on the type of package you get. There are also several nearby bars that are frequented by the ski bums and bunnies.

Kissing Bridge, Peak N’ Peak, and Tamarack are the best bets for a day ski trip. The slopes are small and not usually that crowded. Lift tickets for these resorts run as high as twenty four dollars for an eight hour ski day but the price is well worth it. There’s always a bar in the ski lodges if you need a break to warm up.

Wherever you go, be sure to take care of all the necessities like extra blankets and money just in case you’re in for a snow bashing. Also, be sure to take a designated driver. Sometimes the bars are more inviting than the slopes, and getting stranded after closing can be pretty cold. Take it from one who knows.

Enjoy your vacation on the slopes. Rip downhill a few times, but watch out for those stumps and bumps. You don’t want to find yourself alone in front of a lodge fire, savoring a hot buttered rum, or buddies comforting a broken leg.

And there’ll be stairs to climb come the January, when, to our regret, every good thing must come to an end and we all wander back to (it’s so like) Daemen.

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**Daemen Warrior Holiday B-Ball**

A lot of people, of course, prefer the finer sport of basketball to skiing. So—for those of you who would rather relax in the excited confines of a gymnasium rather than risk a limb on a cold hill, here’s the Daemen Warrior holiday schedule:

Thursday, December 29, at Point Park;
Thursday and Friday, December 29-30, Walsh Tournament;
7:00, Saturday, January 7, at Cortland;
7:30, Wednesday, January 18, at Westminster;
5:00, Saturday, January 21, Buffalo State, at Buffalo.

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