Black History Month

February 12-19

Sunday, February 12, Gospel Night, 7 to 9 p.m.

Monday, February 13, Career Night, 6 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14, Art History Opening, 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15, Discussion Panel, 7 to 10 p.m.

Thursday, February 16, Talent Night, 8 to 11 p.m.

Friday, February 17, Party! Party! 9 to 1 a.m.

Saturday, February 18, A Taste of Culture, 7 to 10 p.m.

Events sponsored by United Among Us and SA

East German Students Applaud Learning

by Dr. Peter Siedlecki

(Dr. Peter Siedlecki recently mailed the following letter to the Ascent, postmarked January 12, 1989, Jena, German Democratic Republic, where he is spending the academic year as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at Friedrich-Schiller-Universitat-Jena. The letter's proper location would be "Letters to the Editor," but we have chosen to start the letter, as mailed, here on the lead page because of its insightful description of East German students and also because of its acute comparison of those students and us.)

It seems almost bizarre to be not only reading the Ascent, but also replying to an Ascent article from this distance. After all, here I am at the very birthplace of German romanticism, teaching at the school where Hegel taught, the school that gave academic legitimacy to Karl Marx; and I find myself concerned with Daemen's problems.

It is an indication, perhaps, that no matter how much distance there is between us, I still feel connected to Daemen; and maybe all this distance is a requisite for me to be able to commiserate with the president—he and I have not agreed on much over the past several years.

Scott Kauffman's coverage of the President's Forum (Ascent Dec. 88, 5) raises important questions concerning the student's perceptions of what a place like Daemen is all about. I appreciate Mr. Kauffman's incisive approach and generally well-written article—particularly the deconstruction of the rhetoric of cookies and snacks and the strategy of lengthy oratory. But isn't it time that we allowed all of the cold cliches about institutional food to be buried? Isn't it time that we took stock of the reasons for a college's existence and examined the cogency of Dr. Marshall's question: "Do you want us to stand up here and entertain you?"

(See Siedlecki, "Letters to the Editor," page 5)

HAPPY VALENTINE'S.
HAVE A HEART!
60 Hours and Still a Sophomore

by Dave Brothman

I'm confused. Recently my advisor told me that I must apply for upper division status. It seems administration wants its students to stay underclassmen until such a time that the chairman of their departments approve their moves to Junior status. In other words, I might have 60 credit hours, enough to be a junior, but until I apply for upper division status, I'm still recognized only as a sophomore.

This is my fourth year of college, my second here at Daemen. I don't know of any other college that has its students "apply" to become upperclassmen. What I want to know is: if a student forgets to apply for upper division and his or her advisor doesn't say anything, does the student remain a sophomore for eternity? "No," says the Registrar's Office, but the failure to apply for upper division does slow down the paperwork. In other words, if the student hasn't applied, yet he or she has enough credits to be a senior, the Registrar's Office doesn't have the necessary documentation to put the student's name on the senior graduation list.

Some departments, in fact, don't take this process seriously. At most, having a student apply is just a formality. If this is so, why have a student go through the motion at all? Is the college in such a dire need of students that it could force them to stay an extra semester by turning down their applications?

Do away with the policy of having to apply for upper division. When you've gone through two years of college and you've passed your courses, you shouldn't have to apply to that school again.

Chain Letters Appear In Student Lockers

by Michelle Bock

A chain letter is an anonymous letter believed by some to be good luck, provided the receiver promptly mails several exact copies. If someone breaks the chain, bad luck will ensue.

It used to be that chain letters were received only at home. Lately, however, they have somehow found their way into student lockers, an occurrence which, according to Wick Desk employee Amy Miechowich, happens almost yearly.

Ms. Miechowich has been a chain letter recipient. "Stupid," she said of it, promptly throwing it away. "Don't worry," she says confidently, "that a piece of paper could do you harm."

Nor is another chain letter recipient superstitious. "I thought mine was a hoax," Diane Cummings says. "I didn't believe it, but someone who does, should follow their beliefs."

Chris Nigro and Tom Jones are two Daemen students who do in fact believe in the mythology surrounding chain letters. They adhere to the belief that there are many supernatural forces in the world and that chain letters may be one of them. "Failure to comply with the chain letter," says Mr. Nigro, "may bring disaster."

"We sent ours out right away," they said.

Campus Ministry Announcements

Catholic Mass is now on Saturdays at 5:45.
Christian fellowship is on Sundays at 5:30.

LENTEN SERVICES IN WRIGHT CHAPEL

Beginning 2/13, Christian Prayer Service, Mondays at 11:30
Beginning 2/10, Communion Service, Fridays at 11:30

RETREAT DAY

Saturday, February 11, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WEEKLY THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

2/16—"What Is It Like To Live With AIDS?"
2/23—"The Death Penalty"
New SA President Takes Office

by Andre Lillard

(Mr. Lillard is not a member of the Ascent staff. His comments appear as a courtesy so that he can pass on to the student body the business of the SA)

Student Association has had a change in the executive board. This change is a result of Paulette Zagari's resignation, which took effect December 14, 1988. As stated in the Student Association bylaws, there is a line of succession that takes place if anyone should resign.

The line to succession is Vice President of Governing, Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Publication, Secretary, and Treasurer. Since the Vice President of Governance turned down the office because of conflict, and the other officers in line of succession declined, I as Treasurer assumed the presidency.

These changes were put into effect at the last meeting of the Fall semester. Following standard procedure of line of succession, the executive board is now:

Andre J. Lillard, President
Joseph A. Montana, Vice President for Governance
Heather Richardson, Vice President for Publication
Danielle Jensen, Vice President for Programming
Rosemary Giambra, Secretary
Wanda Mitchell, Treasurer

As the President of Student of Association, my objectives will be to strengthen the communication process between clubs and organizations and Student Association. By working closely together we can hope to make a positive change within the college community. Furthermore, it is my intention to leave the Student Association fiscally sound.

If you have any questions or ideas, feel free to contact me. I am here to serve the need and interests of the student body.

Let's Hold Hands And Kiss

by Courtney Reed

Well—it’s a month into a new semester. Winter is finally with us and so are those bills we ran up by buying gifts for people over the holidays.

But wait. Valentine’s Day is almost here, and maybe you have just enough time to scrape up the money to buy your sweetheart something cute and darling.

Some of us don’t have sweethearts, to us Valentine’s Day is just another day, but for others it’s a time to make romantic plans. Mani, a Travel and Tourism major, is going to Niagara Falls with her boyfriend. Charlotte Rawcliffe, an Elementary Education major, is sending a card to her boyfriend.

Regardless of what you do this coming Valentine’s, make your day a hearty good one all the same.

FOUNDin DS 240: Bach’s One and pencil sketch. Claim in DS 241 (Dr. Morace).
The Bottom Line

by Ann Hynes

Anyone who's taken a business class knows the bottom line means that ultimately all activities a business engages in should be concerned with one thing: profit. Businesses don't keep their door open otherwise, no matter how superior their service or how new and improved their goods. Yes, some businesses do it better than others. Some cut back on services, quality of goods, salaries of employees or business hours to increase earnings. Furthermore, if these tactics don't work, efficiency experts, market analysts and other wizards are called in to turn things around. Ultimately though, some enterprises fail.

The bottom line also affects individuals. We've seen our parents, friends or spouses agonizing over the checkbook month after month. When we make any decision, one of the first things we consider is “how much is this going to cost me? Do I have enough money?” If the answer is “I can’t afford it” then we might consider changing jobs, taking out a loan or maybe even getting a second job. Thus we have given in to the bottom line. Where does it end? How much is enough?

Daemen College is a business. We as students are paying for a valuable service delivered by the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty. The business of the College is to provide quality education for approximately 1,500 students. This service is not provided free, because, after all, there is that bottom line. There are bills to pay, salaries to disburse, all at increasing cost.

Our reason for being here is to earn a degree which will increase our earning power. Daemen College even bears the slogan “Western New York’s Career-Oriented Liberal Arts College.” Sure, we’re concentrating on a course of study that is interesting to us, something that will be enjoyable and fulfilling. We all desire the kind of job that will make us happy to get out of bed each morning to face our professional responsibilities.

But when we go out for those first interviews, and if we are lucky enough to get several job offers, the salary proposals will certainly be weighed very carefully. After that, with our steps-up the employment ladder come increases in salary. There’s that new car to buy, that larger house to look at, the VCR’s, CD players, new clothes. And so on. Add to these expenses the effects of the Reagan legacy: debt. His administration has left students who have had to borrow aid money they used to get as grants. Daemen is an expensive college. So now the first several years of our employment will be spent largely trying to pay off those loans.

I’m not advocating a life of poverty. Just suggesting that an evaluation take place. What will make you happy? If it’s big bucks, then, by all means, go for it. Keep in mind though, that money can’t buy happiness. What it can do is offer more choices. And with that piece of paper handed to you on graduation day, you will have the power to choose, perhaps wisely, your own bottom line.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Siedlecki, continued from page 1)

For me, at this stage of my academic career, the questions take on an added poignancy. My students here in Jena applaud at the close of my lectures. Apparently I am entertaining them, and with exhibitions such as “The Development of American Transcendentalism,” “The Foregrounding of Ontology in Postmodernism,” and “The Poetics of the Open Form.” They too can quote Johnny Rotten, but they can also quote Kant. Their pop charts are similar to those in the states, but they also help to sell out a performance of Bach’s Christmas Oratorio. Their 36 hours of classes per week do not give them much time to think about the tediousness of planned activities; and, if they complained, no one in any important position would listen to them. They do, however, complain among themselves about such things as twelve people crammed into one dorm apartment, but also about the political situation in America.

They are not oblivious to the conditions of the life they lead in a so-called planned economy: newspapers exist primarily to propogate party truths, including the “young people’s” newspaper (a university newspaper would be unheard of) and student forums such as the one described by Mr. Kauffman take place only in the wildest of dreams. Their curricula and, consequently, their careers are virtually dictated to them.

One person I know was offered three choices upon entrance to the university: she could become a teacher of French, a dentist, or a teacher of English literature. Whether she had any interest in any of these fields was immaterial; her choices reflected the objectives of the planned economy. Embarking on an academic career in the German Democratic Republic is just one way of readying for a place in the worker’s state, a place in which he should expect to receive no more respect, consideration or remuneration than anyone else receives. He will have to ask permission to cross any border—other than Czechoslovakia’s—and wait a long time for it if it comes at all.

On the subject of waiting, he will also spend a long time on a waiting list for an apartment (private homes exist also only in his wildest dreams) and, currently, those who first entered their names on the list to be eligible for the purchase of an automobile in 1976 can now buy one of the East German models available, that is if they have enough cash to do so.

It is a life in which despair is easy to come by, the one thing you don’t have to wait a long time for. It is a life that doesn’t offer many choices, a life in which becoming a teacher offers no more advantages than becoming a waiter, in which becoming a doctor grants no more privileges than becoming a refrigerator repairman. It is a life in which special favors are available only to those who have access to the right strings. My students know all this and have ready means of dealing with it. Almost intuitively drawing upon Heidegger and Sartre, they seem to feel that consciousness equates with being; and they applaud those who assist them in attaining that consciousness. They are aware that their system encourages their passivity and that in the everyday world of hunting and gathering such passivity is hard to avoid. But in the university classroom they can leave their passivity at the door if they choose to do so. Here they find an opportunity for entertainment, the kind that engages their consciousness. Being in a classroom, involved in the active acquisition of consciousness, may be the last opportunity for many of them to participate collectively in such experience—not because of the institutionalized passivity their system engenders.

I would never suggest to Daemen students that they should simply count their blessings and stop complaining. I myself will continue to complain and perhaps have my complaints belittled by Dr. Marshall. But I am encouraging Daemen students to jealously guard the freedom they have, to become conscious, rather than use their college experience as an excuse to passively immerse themselves in triviality and banality.

To the Editor,

I had a seizure November 13, 1988, on the second floor of Duns Scotus, and two more in my dorm on Tuesday, December 13. The second two were correctly handled by my RA, Izzy Rodriguez, and by the whole population of Dorm 84. Even Ralph the Skinhead.

I especially want to thank Jim Burke and Kim, who took the time to pick me up from E. C. M. C. I would also like to thank the faculty and administration of Daemen, all of whom were very helpful in getting me back on the right track after having been absent for such a long time after my first seizure.

Edwin Guillaume
ENTERTAINMENT

Studio Arena Comes To Life

by Shirley Theisen

After a series of disappointing, disjointed and DULL performances, Studio Arena has a real winner! *The Boy Friend*, Sandy Wilson’s 1952 musical spoof of the aristocratic English 1920’s, is entertainment at its finest. This amusing song-and-dance production is successfully directed by David Frank, Studio Arena’s artistic director.

*The Boy Friend* features pretty young *filles* from Madame Dubonnet’s School for Young Ladies, who pursue the attentions of handsome *garçons*. All of the girls are prepared with gowns and dates for the Carnival Ball in Nice, all of them, that is, except for the shy, lonely, and rich Polly Browne (Jennifer Jay Myers), to whose rescue comes the very British aristocratic Tony (Matthew Wright) disguised as a messenger boy. It’s love at first sight for these two high-spirited young people, and the audience falls a bit in love with them too, especially after their ardent duet “I Could Be Happy With You.”

Polly is upstaged a bit by Maisie, played by Broadway veteran Christine Gradl, whose soprano boop-a-doop and whack-a-do soprano enlivens the production every time she’s on stage. Her lively dance with Bobby (Eric Kaufman) stops the show.

The rest of the *filles* and *garçons* perform other upbeat and energetic numbers, notably “The Riviera.” A highlight of the play is the sensual and exciting tango danced by Dulcie (Leigh-Anne Wencker) and Pierre (Christopher Nilsson).

Madame Dubonnet (Barbara Andres) is a genteel lady who attempts to rekindle an old romance with Percival Browne (Don Perkins), Polly’s daddy. Still a fine specimen of feminine *pulchritude* of a questionable age, Mme. Dubonnet charms and lures the vulnerable Percy, proving she still possesses the stuff it takes to get her man.

The behind-the-scenes activity is almost as hilarious as the play itself. Cutaway wings allow the audience to see the sandbags, ropes, and exhausted stage manger. Even two members of the audience got into the act; they helped to raise the rope of Japanese lanterns!

Perhaps because the French accents sound like they came out of Daemen’s French 101 class, the play was significantly amusing and rewarding on a personal level. I understood the lapses into French—voila!

There’s a lot of talent in this cast, the music is bouncy, the costumes are attractive, the story is fantasy and parody. If anyone needs a panacea for the February blues, *The Boy Friend* is a must-see play.

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ASCENT DEADLINES

2/15 FOR MARCH 1 ISSUE

3/22 FOR APRIL 1 ISSUE

4/19 FOR MAY 1 ISSUE

FORWARD ITEMS TO ANN HYNES, EDITOR, ASCENT, WICK DESK

Staff meetings are Wednesday at 12:30, in the Ascent office, Wick Center.

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United Among Us Promotes Minority Awareness

by Tshana Cooper

“We’re all aware that there’s a lack of activities that are of interest to the minorities on this campus,” says Dahveed Harris, a member of United Among Us (UAU), the only minority organization on campus. Founded in Spring 1988, by Tawana Dennis, Darren Dorm, Vicki King, Adella Guierillo, and Thierry Edme, UAU’s purpose is to heighten minority awareness.

UAU evolved from the break-up of United Student Caucus, another minority student organization. “Even though there have been minority organizations on campus before,” says Ms. King, “UAU is separate from the rest because its intention is to enlighten the student body as a whole.”

According to Mr. Dorm, UAU’s overall intent is to “bring about the unity of minority students. It’s important,” he says, “that minority students come together. We don’t lose touch with our cultural identity.”

And says Ms. Mitchell, another UAU member, as well as SA treasurer, “We want to inform ourselves. We want to promote cohesiveness. UAU is a very important aspect of minority lifestyle here at Daemen.”

Man Puts $500,000 Bite On Student For Ferret Attack

(CPS)—A Virginia Tech student who has already served jail time to save her pet ferret is in trouble again. This time Robert Scheerer is suing Jennifer Au and the pet store at which she works for a total of $500,000. Scheerer claims Au’s ferret bit him while the animal was in a cage at the Docktor Pet Center where Au works. Au’s been through such accusations before. A 5-year-old boy previously was bitten by one of three ferrets—including Au’s pet—caged at the store.

DEADLINE

STEP ASCENDING

Step Ascending, the Daemen College Literary Review, invites students to submit poems and short fiction. Submissions should be made to Ann Hynes, Editor, Step Ascending, Wick Desk. Include a self-addressed-stamped-envelope for notification. Deadline for submissions is Friday, March 3. Mid-April is anticipated publication date.

GREAT WORKS OF LITERATURE ON FILM

William Shakespeare’s Henry V

Commentator: John Masterson, Professor of English, Daemen College

Monday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.
Daemen Little Theatre

Sponsored by the Daemen College Alumni
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The TAP bill you voted for, effective in 1989, has made our college of choice more affordable. Thank you.

The parents and students of Daemen College, Amherst, New York.