Student Office Deflates Movie Inflation

Student Activities is selling discount movie vouchers to AMC and General Cinema theaters.

A designated number of tickets are made available for sale each Friday beginning at 12 noon for Daemen students only.

At 2:00 p.m., however, any remaining tickets are made available for sale to Daemen faculty and staff.

Tickets can be bought from the Student Activities desk in Wick Center. Buyers should keep the following items in mind:

- Each ticket costs $2.
- No one can buy more than two tickets.
- Tickets are sold on a first come, first serve basis.

Student Activities says this discount-ticket program illustrates that the focus of their efforts remains on serving the Daemen student body.

Substance Abusers Risk Financial Aid, Even Employment

by Tracey Tricoli

Daemen College students must now march to the beat of a new federal anti-drug campaign. One measure requires that all Pell Grant recipients sign the federal 1988 anti-drug abuse act certification.

According to Helen Lukasik, Daemen’s Director of Financial Aid, Pell Grant recipients who are convicted of illegally manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using a controlled substance “must be reported to the office of the Inspector General or to an appropriate law enforcement agency.”

The process of denying benefits to convicted students has not yet been issued. The denial of benefits, however, will most likely be the jurisdiction of a federal judge. Ms. Lukasik says her understanding is that “all forms of federal aid will be affected.”

Another measure that could possibly affect students, especially students employed by the College, is Daemen’s designation as a drug free workplace. Such a designation, says Ms. Lukasik, could result in a student’s immediate loss of employment if he or she is convicted of substance abuse. As of now, she adds, it is unclear whether Daemen’s status as a drug free workplace is linked to the 1988 anti-drug abuse act.

In essence, a student must be caught red-handed by an employee of the school and subsequently found to be in violation of federal substance abuse laws. However, says Ms. Lukasik, “I’m not out to play cops and robbers.” Furthermore, it seems by her comments that she is content to let the proper law enforcement agencies police the student body. “I’m wearing shades and blinders,” she says, stressing that her energies are directed towards helping and aiding students overcome drug abuse problems.

As of now, the measures taken to rid Daemen of substance abuse seem ambiguous and without immediate consequence. The measures seemingly have a big bark but a little bite.

(See “Law Awaits” and related stories on page 5)
Freshmen, Call Home

by Terri Papaj

Daemen’s Freshmen have mixed feelings about being away from home. Some of them enjoy being here; others are dying to leave.

“During the first few days here, I was depressed and frustrated because I wasn’t adjusting,” says Lena Esposito, from near Syracuse. “I would cry, look at pictures of home, and remember the good times I’ve had there. Even now,” she says, “my feelings still haven’t changed.”

Cary Hennessey, from Boonville, New York, feels the same way. “My first few days were awful. All I wanted was to be back home. Even now I wish mom would come and get me and take me home.”

Other freshmen are perfectly happy being right where they’re at. “I enjoy the freedom of doing whatever I want,” says Jason Sword, of Poughkeepsie, New York. “I like my surroundings here at Daemen a hell of a lot better than home. I love my family,” he says, “but they bitch too much.”

Whether they are homesick or not, most Freshmen miss at least one thing from back home. “I miss my dog, Tobywan Kanobi,” says Mike McKeen from Kent, Ohio. “The only reason I want to go home is to see him. He’s a really great dog.”

Another student misses her boyfriend most: “I’ve been away from my parents before, but I’ve never been away from Neil.”

Denise Kitto misses her little sister. “I wish I could be home to watch her grow up,” she says.

Some students have nipped homesickness in the bud by listening to music, writing or calling home, by working, or talking with friends. Others are still quite lonely, uncomfortable, and depressed.

One thing is agreed upon, though, and that’s that the people here at Daemen are friendly. The Freshmen were warmly welcomed upon their arrival, and soon after they made many friends. Each one, however, misses “a piece of home.”

Ascent Information

The Ascent staff, which meets every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Ascent office located in Wick Center, is actively seeking accurate, thorough, and responsible writers. Student organizations who want to publicize information should forward items to the Ascent office by the fifteenth of each month. Address correspondence to:

ANN HYNES, EDITOR, ASCENT, WICK

Younger Scholar Awards

The Younger Scholar Awards support high school and undergraduate students who are conducting research and writing in the humanities during the summer. Recipients are supervised by a scholar in the humanities, to whom a portion of the award is designated. No academic credit is given for this work. Application deadline is November 1, 1989.

CONTACT SHARON ZEITLER IN DS 110.
Canavan Ghost Full Of Spirit

by Steve Field

Halloween is the time of the year to conjure images of ghosts, goblins, and things that go bump in the night. It’s the one day to merge the unreal with the real. Ghosts, however, and their ilk don’t exist. Or do they?

Daemen’s history of eerie events ranges from Rosary Hill students searching for the relics of Saint Michael (after futilely searching for the archangel’s bones, students were given feathers) to a one time philosophy professor who, in a Faustian fashion, supposedly bargained his soul in a deal with the devil.

The creepiest story concerns a Canavan ghost. Legend has it that the ghost is female, supposedly the wandering spirit of a nun who committed suicide after being involved in some sort of skullduggery when the College was first established.

Soon after, certain people, students and staff members alike, reported seeing the figure of a nun roaming Canavan Hall. When the figure was approached, it would vanish into air. The sightings of the ghost continued well into the late 1960’s, when the ghost suddenly disappeared.

Several years ago, the ghost seemingly returned to haunt Canavan once again, but the incident was revealed to be a prank played by mischievous upperclassmen who were dying to scare some freshmen.

Ask some of the staff members if they have ever heard this ghost story, and they will greet you with a skeptical smile. Perhaps they’ll even laugh. Many of them will tell you that this story of the ghostly nun is a myth, conceived by students to scare other students. The story is like a rumor, they say, that becomes more absurd with each telling until the creditability is shot.

So—is there a ghost at Daemen, floating through the halls and up and down elevator shafts and stairwells? Probably not. If there’s a ghost, it most likely originated in the mind of a bored student under the influence of spirits. The drinking kind, of course.

Mark Your Calendar

The Career Development Office will be offering the following workshops for Daemen Students. Each hour-long workshop will be held in DS 352.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Time and Stress Management</td>
<td>9:30 A.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Communication Skills and Assertiveness Training</td>
<td>9:30 A.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Tuesday</td>
<td>Resume Writing</td>
<td>11:30 A.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Wednesday</td>
<td>Resume Critique</td>
<td>1:30 P.M.</td>
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For Further Information Contact The Career Development Office

October 1989
Drugs, Money, Racism, And Strife . . .

by Ann Hynes

. . . are the headlines and topics covered in this year's first issue of the Ascent. These topics affect all of us, as you can see, not only on an international and national level, but also right here on campus. Thus, this issue of Ascent attempts to focus and localize general topics for your information and understanding.

Assumed is the fact that all of us have been exposed to these issues. Some of us have certainly been victims, and maybe some of us have been the perpetrators.

Assumed also is the fact that as students at Daemen, we are grown-ups now, on our own, making our own decisions. No longer do we have parents lecturing, punishing, and/or guiding us. We make our own decisions now.

Do we use drugs, and risk our financial aid?

Do we judge our fellow students by skin color? And write about it on bathroom walls?

How seriously we take these issues will determine how we manage our college years. The reporters and writers who have featured these topics in this issue have indeed taken them very seriously, enough to consider them, to write about them, and to present them here for your consideration.

But all is not serious or controversial. For relief we will feature updates, schedules of events, information on free stuff, sporting events, informal surveys, in fact, whatever is of interest to students. We want, even need, your input.

What would you like to read about in the Ascent? Just let us know, and we’ll cover it accurately, thoroughly, and objectively. If you don’t like or agree with what you read here, tell us, or write a counterpoint, and we’ll print your side of the issue, as long as what you write is responsible, thorough, and objective.

Since this is the first issue of the Ascent, there are no letters to the editor. We will provide space for such a column if a controversy, disagreement, or point-of-view provokes someone to write us. However, we draw the line at slanderous and libelous statements and articles. We will not print what is inaccurate, irresponsible, and incomplete.

Finally, we need staff and writers. Think of how good it’ll look on your resume.
Law Awaits Specifics From Congress

(continued from page 1)

The future, however, is clear: the College can look for further specific direction from Congress. As Ms. Lukasik says, “Congress is cutting a big swath through a big problem.”

Although Ms. Lukasik feels the new measures are perhaps meant more for inner city schools than for suburban schools like Daemen, one thing is evident: the anti-drug campaign has a new weapon.

Plans To Renovate Library Gather Dust, Plans For Health Science Building Discussed

by Michelle Bock

Plans to renovate Daemen’s Marian Library are possibly being scrapped in order to use the funds to construct a new Health Sciences building.

Last December it was reported Marian Library was to be renovated sometime in 1989, because the current facility, said Dr. Robert Marshall, President of Daemen, would be inadequate within ten years. Of the expectant two million dollar cost, nine hundred thousand at that time was in the till.

One reason for the absence of hard hats and the clamor of jack hammers is that the cost of the renovation has risen to at least $2,500,000.

A second reason is that the College has learned Health Science facilities also need modernization.

As a result, the $900,000 Schenck inheritance originally earmarked for the library renovation may instead be applied toward the construction costs of a new Health Science building.

According to Dr. Ellen Banks, the Board of Trustees is currently trying to decide which new construction has priority.

No matter how the Board decides, renovation of the library remains a College priority, sources say.

Students Who Smoke Say It’s Okay To Catch “A Buzz”

by Terri Papaj

Despite federal laws linking the illegal use of drugs to student financial aid, there are still some Daemen students who, for a variety of reasons, risk their financial aid by smoking pot on campus.

“I get high mostly to relax after a hard week of school,” says one student, “but sometimes it’s because everyone else is doing it.” Students like this one smoke pot because it makes them feel good and helps them blend into their social environment.

Other students blame their drug use on a society that pressures them to do drugs. “Society glorifies drugs,” says a student from this group. “The laws prohibiting the use of drugs cause people to want them even more. The challenge, excitement, and danger is greater when things are prohibited.”

According to some Daemen students, getting high is not that different from drinking. As long as they only catch “a buzz,” getting high is okay. Yet when they oversmoke, like when they overdrink, they lose perception, lose control, and feel woozy.

These Daemen students don’t think of themselves as party people. It’s just that they like to get together with friends, relax, and have a good time, they say. “It’s not like we smoke pot every day or use it as a crutch,” says one student.

At the same time, these Daemen students realize the possibility of expanding the context in which they smoke pot. In fact, while pot is now confined mostly to social activities, a few students say they have occasionally smoked pot before going to class. “It makes class more interesting,” they say. “It’s easier for us to learn when we’re stoned.”

Daemen students who want pot say it’s easy to find, as long as they know the right people. Mostly, they get their pot from a close friend, or they bring their pot from home. No one buys it from a stranger.

As a whole, those members of the student body discussed here see nothing wrong with occasionally smoking pot. As long as they keep their priorities in perspective, and as long as they maintain control, they believe they aren’t hurting anyone.

October 1989
Racism Said To Be On The Rise In America

by Tshana Cooper

Early in September, NBC aired a special program which focussed on race relations in the United States. It's purpose was to give the American people an idea of what their neighbors think by asking a series of questions designed to evoke an honest perception of race relations.

Conducted by Bryant Gumbel, the test was intended to inform Americans of how much they knew about racism. Unlike other shows of this sort, the race test sought to involve a viewing audience of over thirteen million. Being able to take the test in the privacy of one's home supposedly made for a more honest approach to answering the questions.

The program's panel of celebrity guests included writer Maya Angelou, Kitty Dukakis, movie director Spike Lee, and Donald Trump.

The discord among the panel was surprising. Donald Trump said “the black man is the most fortunate man in today's work force.” Given the opportunity, Trump said he would want to be reborn a “well-educated black man.”

Spike Lee, director of Do the Right Thing, said he couldn't believe Mr. Trump's “garbage.” Lee, like many other blacks, believes blacks still have to work twice as hard just to get half as far as whites.

Kitty Dukakis stated racism is not mono-colored. “Once my children entered high school,” she said, “the black children they grew up with didn’t want anything to do with them.” For years, the issue has been white vs black. If America is to be honest with itself, however, and if the country is to alleviate its racial problem, then it must admit to the possible existence of reverse discrimination.

At the end of the program, Ron Takaki, from the University of California at Berkeley, said he felt many of the test questions did not apply to races other than blacks and whites. “All other minorities,” said Takaki, “have been left out.”

Daemen Students Speak Out On Racism

by Tshana Cooper

“Racism’s going to always be here,” says Tarsha Williams. “We have to learn how to control it.”

But can racist graffiti in Daemen bathrooms be controlled? “Free South Africa”; “Yeah—send them to the Bronx”; “I thought they were already there”; so goes a typical Daemen bathroom wall dialogue. Who out there can control that kind of ignorance?

Ray Owen, a business major, feels that “racism is a by-product of hate and ignorance.”

“Fuck racism!” exclaims a student. This attitude is not limited to that person alone. A lot of students are simply tired of what's going on. Chris Lewis, a TTM major, feels that “a lot of people agitate racism.” Like a lot of others, he feels that “people should stop worrying about color and concentrate on character.” If enough people did so, he says, racism would be the least of our problems.

Like some of the residents in Forsyth, a county in Georgia, where no blacks have lived since the 1920's, “there are some people here who have never seen blacks,” says Kim Smith, a psychology major. “It's like culture shock,” she says.

A few students, like Mike Jordan, a business major, feel that racism is everywhere. In places it's not blatant, like here at Daemen, where, they say, it's more sophisticated. For example, is it just a coincidence that most of the black basketball players live in one dorm, while the white players live in another?

“How can we as African-Americans get along with whites when they have this unshakable misconception about us?” asks Maurice Jordan. Where did this misconception come from, he wonders? Are black students doing something so abnormal at Daemen that misconceptions are justified?
Racist Graffiti Slanders Student Body

by Steve Field

Go into almost any restroom and the chances are, if it hasn’t been removed, you’ll see racist graffiti scrawled on the wall. Most of it appears on the walls of the men’s restroom near the humanities wing, as well as on the walls of the men’s restroom in the periodical room of the library. Some of the graffiti includes: “No blacks”; “Niggers should hang”; and “No ZOGs.” ZOG is an acronym for Zionist Occupational Group, an alleged conspiracy of Jewish businessmen who manipulate world events.

Daemen students are divided over the seriousness of this matter. One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, says such graffiti is funny. Another student, Scott Kauffman, an English major, feels otherwise. “I’m disgusted,” he says. “I hope we would have gotten over such denigration.”

Some of Daemen’s black students are divided over this issue, as well, but for different reasons. Several students say they dislike the graffiti but feel nothing can be done to prevent people from writing it in the future. Darren Dorm, a history major and former Unity Among Us president, feels that students who write such things are the more audacious of racist students at Daemen. “They should be thrown off campus,” he says.

Eric Zinnerstrom, Assistant Dean for Academic Services, says he doesn’t know what is “in the heart and mind” of students who write racist graffiti. He also says, “I’m not certain there’s hatred on this campus, but I see racial perceptions being expressed.”

Zinnerstrom is disturbed by what he calls “derogative terms” and he professes that “the issue of human dignity should never take a backseat to the use of slanderous terms.”

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Bruce Marzahn is also concerned with this problem. He feels that there are short term solutions, such as removing the graffiti, something the janitorial service is under contract to do whenever they spot graffiti while cleaning the bathrooms. Dealing with the guilty student, however, is a long term solution, one that has no easy answer.

Marzahn is now entertaining the concept of an awareness program or forum in race relations.

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Bookstore Robbed

by Michelle Bock

Around 9:00 p.m., Monday, September 25, the Daemen Bookstore was robbed. At 8:00, the following morning, Bookstore manager Lori Grandits discovered that twenty of the store’s newest and most expensive sweatshirts were missing. Assorted snacks also turned up missing.

Ms. Grandits immediately called security, who notified the Amherst police department. It is unknown at this time if any Daemen Residents were involved. However, Jim Burke, Director of Housing, has begun a search for the missing sweatshirts.

According to Ms. Grandits, the Bookstore will not raise prices to cover its loss.
Stories Left Hanging From Last Year

Here are some questions and musings left over from last year’s issues of Ascent.

Student Association officials were indeed elected in late April of last Spring semester. But does anyone, except officials, know who among us are officials? And does anyone know what the political agenda of the SA might be?

In the Spring we received a letter from Dr. Peter Siedlecki, who was spending the academic year in Jena, East Germany. He wrote of students there “who are not oblivious to the conditions of the life they lead.” We wonder whether Dr. Siedlecki, who is now back at Daemen, knows if any of his former students have recently vacationed in Hungary.

In a special December issue, Tommy Basciano resolved “to quit smoking Marlboros,” Sue Andi “to quit telling stupid jokes,” and Chris Page “to start going to work on a daily basis.” Well—?

In the Guest Lecture Series, Kurt Vonnegut, renowned writer, declared: “It’s all over.” Should we write to tell him it’s still going on?

Remember Furman French, the father of a student evicted from Daemen housing last October? For a week Mr. French picketed the college, asking rhetorically, “Why hit on my Robbie?” We assume (and hope) that Mr. French returned home to Illinois.

RA’s And Residents At Strife

by Edwin Guillaume

Daemen residents have recently asked how much authority is invested in Resident Assistants (RA’s). Residents complain that RA’s are overstepping the boundaries of their authority, whereas RA’s insist they’re simply doing a job.

“I don’t like RA’s,” says an anonymous student. “They use their personal feelings against you. If they don’t like you, they’ll take their dislike out on you. And that hurts,” says the student.

Some Daemen residents are convinced that RA’s are on a power trip in which preverse pleasure comes from bossing people around and acting as the resident halls are their personal domains. Some residents complain that RA’s are worse than mothers back home. “RA’s act like they own the resident halls,” says a student.

In fact, a lot of residents think that RA’s should be no more than caretakers.

RA’s, however, think of themselves as being misunderstood. “I’d like people to understand I’m an employee of the school,” says RA John Bartle. “I have to follow the school’s regulations. Since this is a small campus,” he says, “I’m bound to have personality conflicts with people in the dorm.”

Darren Dorm, another RA, also thinks RA’s are misunderstood. “We’re not on a power trip,” he says. “In fact, we often try to help residents out when they’re in trouble. We ought to be treated fairly.”

RA Tina Kennedy says of her job: “It’s a hard position to discipline your peers, but we’re students and we need the respect to perform our job.”

Entertainment Coupon Books Available

Each $25 book contains coupons good for all types of entertainment.
Contact Marc Freda, Sigma Phi Epsilon Social Chairman or Dr. Jim O’Leary, Philosophy Department

SIGMA PHI EPSILON WANTS YOU TO ENJOY YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE