Pumpkin’s Like A Weight on The Mind

by Tshana Cooper

What would you’ve done had you won the food service’s guess-the-weight-of-the-pumpkin contest?

"Had I won the pumpkin," said Von Oliver, "I’d have given it right back."

Creative students like Cynthia Lui and Shanti Suarez were thinking more along the lines of pumpkin seeds and pumpkin pies.

One student saw the pumpkin as a means of profit. "Had I won," said Barton Scotland, "I would’ve cooked dishes to sell and would’ve made money."

Yulanda Kent, Diane Cummings, and James Jones liked the idea of donating the pumpkin to Children’s Hospital in Buffalo.

"I’d use it as a bodyguard," said Thaddeus Jackson.

Laverne Ogieste would have preserved it in wax. "And I’d have put it in my living room as an antique," she said.

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East German Students Work Hard

School Week Is 40 to 50 Hours Long

by Steve Field

East German students are not much different from students in the West, says Daemen English professor Dr. Peter Siedlecki, who recently returned from Jena, East Germany, where he spent last year teaching on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Dr. Siedlecki taught at Friedrich Schiller University at Jena, where Karl Marx received his doctorate. Dr. Siedlecki taught American literature, poetics, and post modernism. He taught in English, which his East German students knew. At first, "there was a barrier between teacher and students," Siedlecki notes, but it disappeared once his students sensed he would allow them to express their opinions.

Dr. Siedlecki says the East German educational system is very rigid. Students must chose their careers by the end of middle school. Students are then evaluated by one of their teachers and placed in a pre-college program. Then they are sent to one of six universities, where the day begins at 8:00 a.m. and goes to 5:00 p.m. East German students spend roughly 36 to 40 hours per week in class, Siedlecki estimates, and class time is devoted exclusively to listening to lectures. Student participation in East Germany is a no-no.

East German students are politically aware, and although glasnost is largely ignored by the government, students privately hope that the policy will work, says Siedlecki. The only union that the students belong to is the Free German Youth, an organization that promotes the prolongation of communism.

East German students work hard at education because it is their only chance for the good life in their country. They also camp, hike, attend concerts, and watch MTV and West German television. Half the programs are American, the most popular being Dallas and Dynasty.

Only a few East German students might have gone to West Germany during the recent exodus from the country. Most students feel, says Dr. Siedlecki, that their education will bring them a sense of security in their native country.
Former Drug Abusers Warn of Dangers

by Tracy Tricoli

Don’t follow in our footsteps, said Richard Hatfield and Bill Bly, two former drug abusers, in a Daemen lecture on chemical dependency.

“Chemical addiction’s a disease in which a person continues to use chemicals in spite of the negative consequences,” said Mr. Hatfield, who is the facility director of Bry-Lyn Hospital in Buffalo.

Anyone may become dependant. Some people start by having a few drinks at parties and then realizing they can’t have fun without drinking. Others try cocaine and gradually become addicted.

“Those people who think they won’t become alcoholic or drug dependant most likely will,” said Mr. Hatfield.

Mr. Bly, a counselor at Bry-Lyn, told the Daemen audience that he wishes he could reach out to the chemically dependant and tell them they don’t have to live a life addicted to and controlled by drugs. A recovering alcoholic for the last 15 years, Mr. Bly knows the process of becoming addicted. “I started with alcohol, then moved to heavier drugs,” said Mr. Bly. “I know how it feels to hit bottom.”

Mr. Bly also emphasized the importance of facing the truth. It’s better to catch yourself before you get out of hand, he said, but if family members accuse you of being dependent upon a drug, it’s best to realize that they are trying to help you.

Though attendance was mandatory for staff and students working in college offices under government contract, the lecture seemed to have been worthwhile. “It helped me clear up some misconceptions,” said Diane Menichelli.

“Those who get drunk every weekend better change their habits,” said another student.

Students Observe Faith The “Wright” Way

by Tshana Cooper

“It’s not what I’m used to,” says Gianna Ruddock, “but as long as I’m praising God, it’s all right.”

Ms. Ruddock is just one of a number of students who attend church services held by Dr. Larry Wright every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in Schenck Lounge.

Dr. Wright, who began his non-denominational church services in 1984, says that his main purpose is “to help students come closer to Christ.” He attempts to accomplish his goal in a unique way. During his programs, there are no ministers pressing their beliefs upon others, there are no ministers calling their audience sinners, and best of all, from a poor student’s point-of-view, there are no ushers asking for money, before or after the services.

Instead, a typical service consists of singing, group hugs, readings by selected students, inspirational stories told by Dr. Wright, and an occasional guest entertainer from a neighboring church. Past entertainers have included, for example, Rev. Robert Sanders and singer Lee Ann Grace. Scheduled for the future are the Rev. Karen Lipinczyk and singer Heather Thompson.

Pamela Frank likes Dr. Wright’s services because he doesn’t use religion as a weapon. “He uses religion to get people to think more positively about school,” she says.

A lot of students like the Christian Fellowship Services because there is no pressure put on them to conform to any particular faith. They can just attend the services for inspiration and guidance.

“Being away from home makes it hard for us to attend church,” says a student. “Dr. Wright makes it easy for us to continue our relationship with God.”

Dr. Wright’s concern for students doesn’t end once his services are over. At least once a week, students receive letters of inspiration from him.

“He’s a very kind and caring man who’s always there when you need him,” says Kelly Lustyik.

Ascent
Campus Said to Be Safe and Secure  

by Steve Field

According to the October issue of Reader’s Digest, crime and violence are grim facts of life on college campuses. Daemen housing and security offices say Daemen is no exception, though the levels of crime and violence aren’t that high.

James Burke, Director of Student Housing, says that Daemen, unlike other schools, immediately evicts resident students who break the law. Since the beginning of school, in fact, three students have been evicted for alleged assault.

Mr. Burke feels that students are primarily the cause of safety problems. For instance, students leave their doors open. Otherwise, security is adequate. Improved lighting on Campus drive, increased security patrols, a panic button which allows RAs to contact the Amherst police, and new door locks provide Daemen students with a safe environment, Burke feels.

Grover Coleman, head of Daemen Security and Fire Safety, also feels the campus is safe and secure. Students can further enhance a safe environment by reporting suspicious behavior to security personnel.

Crime can be prevented, says Mr. Coleman, if students know who lives in their dorms, if they follow visiting policies and are responsible for visitors, if they travel in pairs at night, and most important, if they stay alert to their surroundings.

Mr. Coleman is also interested in student patrols. Three years ago, female students were being harassed by flashers. The problem was solved when fraternity brothers began escorting the coeds.

Students seem ambivalent about campus safety. One anonymous student states that no matter what is done, there will always be a crime committed.

Psychology Club Kills To Benefit HOSPICE  

by Terri Papaj

Mikey, a body builder, after being stabbed with a steak knife, was pushed into the elevator of the first floor of Duns Scotus, that is, of his apartment building. Red masking tape (it was supposed to be blood) was everywhere.

A “Who—Done—It?” was sponsored by the Psychology Club, October 13, at 7:30 p.m. The board game Clue was the basis of play, with Duns Scotus being the murder site.

Admission for the game was a dollar, with the proceeds going to benefit the Buffalo HOSPICE.

Groups of no more than six gathered in Oddy Lounge to get their clues: eight suspects with their own ties to the deceased, a list of weapons, and the time of the murder. Each group also was given an individual clue.

Then off the groups ran to uncover the rest of the clues needed to solve the crime. Various clues led to other clues in different rooms, and each new clue eliminated one of the suspects on the list.

“The game started getting old,” said Pat Thomas, the winner, “when everyone got together, shared evidence, but still didn’t know the answer.”

The initial inability to solve the mystery had two causes: students in rooms had tampered with clues, and the janitorial service had erased other clues from chalk boards or had locked the rooms.

As a result, everyone had to meet back at Oddy to receive one last vital clue: “Small space with door—301.” In less than two minutes, Pat Thomas and Melissa Hotzler were fighting one another for the entrance to Oddy. During the struggle, Mr. Thomas blurted out the killer’s name, and was therefore declared the winner.

Nancy Jozwiak came in third. The winner, as well as the two runners-up, was given two AMC movie tickets.

Plans for next year’s crime are being discussed.
In Memorium—Anthony Williams

by Ann Hynes

Anthony Williams, a twenty year old Daemen freshman, was shot in the back of the head, allegedly by an off-duty police officer early Sunday morning, October 22. Anthony died of head injuries Tuesday, October 24, at the Erie County Medical Center.

The media has led us to believe that Anthony Williams was just another young, drunk, wreckless kid mouthing off to cops. This was certainly not the Anthony we knew.

Some of us met Anthony, really got to know him, when he came to Daemen this summer in the H.E.O.P summer program to get a head start on his studies. He made friends fast. His fellow students liked him, admired him. They looked up to him.

Before the final Comp. exam, Anthony asked for extra tutoring to review the material. During this session, he told me about his hopes, dreams, and ambitions, and about his plans to make something of himself, to be a doctor, to help out his family, to make them proud. He was driven by the desire to learn, to soak up as much as he could in his college years. He told me, grinning all the while, about the kind of father he’d be, how he’d make his soon-to-be-born son or daughter proud. I left Anthony that day feeling inspired by his confidence and positive outlook. I believed without a doubt that he’d reach his goals.

The week the program ended, I met Anthony in the Communication Skills Center where he was working on his resume. He said he wanted to use his last free weeks of summer to work, to earn some extra money, gain a little experience before classes started.

This is the Anthony we all came to know these last few months: outgoing, friendly, self-assured.

Daemen students responded to his death with a feeling of disbelief, followed by a great sense of loss. Though stunned, his friends, classmates, even those who didn’t know Anthony, met Wednesday and Friday following his death to console each other, and to organize assistance for Anthony's daughter. Response to the efforts of Unity Among Us, and friends, has been overwhelming. Donations so far have reached over $900, a figure to be matched by Daemen administration.

A Service of Remembrance was held Saturday morning, October 28, at the Jordan Grove Baptist Church. Among the survivors present were Anthony's parents, his close friend Debrina, his daughter Shiheda Jana, his brothers and sisters, and his friends. Anthony was buried at Concordia Cemetery.
Dear Editor,

Our sympathies to the family and friends of Anthony Williams. His sudden and tragic death saddens the entire college community.

All too often tragedies like this bring people together. We are proud to be members of a community that has demonstrated so much support in care and contributions to the memory of Mr. Williams.

The Student Affairs Staff

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Dear Editor,

I very much like the RAs-and-residents article in the last *Ascent*. It gave a balanced view of a concern to both RAs and residents.

"Power tripping" can in fact be a problem. I was much older than the usual college student when I understood that one of the most effective uses of power is the decision not to use it occasionally.

In their training, RAs learn about the effective use of power; however, the balance is not always an easily reached goal. Most of the training is spent on how RAs can assist their fellow residents, as expressed by RA Darren Dorm in Mr. Guillaume’s effective article.

I am very proud that the RAs, “as caretakers,” are taking care of all residents, including the anonymous ones.

Bruce Marzahn, Associate Dean for Student Affairs

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Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article “Canavan Ghost Full of Spirit,” which appeared in the October issue of *Ascent*.

Some weeks back, a rumor circulated through Canavan that a group of girls had witnessed not one but two nuns running from the stairwell into their third floor lounge. Two girls screamed loud enough to awake their RA, who immediately enforced quiet hours. However, many girls remained frightened that night, and some even slept elsewhere.

The next day, stories circulated about two brave girls who chased the nuns to the rooftop, where the nuns disappeared.

It was my suitemate and I who had dressed up like nuns. We had been bored and had simply wanted to scare someone. It wasn’t the nuns “under the influence of spirits.” It was the people who screamed, as well as those heroic girls who purportedly chased us to the roof.

The Flying Nun

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November 1989
English Department Awards Scholarship

by Terri Papaj

On October 19, at the Eagle House restaurant in Williamsville, an English senior received the John T. Masterson Scholarship at the English Department’s fourth annual award’s dinner.

“I’m really honored,” said Patricia Zappia, who received the $1000 scholarship. “I can’t thank everyone enough. My mom has supported me through my four years here at Daemen, so I know she’ll be thrilled.”

Eligibility is based on academic achievement, with grades being B or higher, and on appraisal letters from two English professors. Moreover, the student must attend Daemen full-time, be of upper English division status, and have at least a 3.0 QPA.

Established by appreciative students and admiring colleagues of Mr. Masterson, who has taught at Daemen for 42 years, the scholarship recognizes the superior work of English students.

“We’re all looking for knowledge that will somehow enrich our lives,” said Mr. Masterson, “and I guess that’s the only reason we gather in a meeting like this: to enrich ourselves in a meaningful kind of experience.”

Also present were two inductees into Lambda Iota Tau, a literary honor society. Shirley Theisen and Ms. Zappia were the new members.

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Daemen College Lecture Series

“A Year in Jena: Reflections on Life and Learning in the German Democratic Republic”

Professor Peter Siedlecki
English Department

Professor Siedlecki was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Jena during the last academic year.

Thursday, November 9, 11:30 a.m., D.S. 240

“Health Care in China: Some Personal Reflections”

Professor Virginia Kotlarz
Medical Technology Department

Professor Kotlarz toured China last May, prior to the tumultuous events in June.

Thursday, November 30, 11:30 a.m., D.S. 240
Mid-Semester Blues Pile Up Like Dead Leaves

by Terri Papaj

The mid-semester blues are here, and even the live­liest Daemen students now become depressed, mourning the replacement of warm weather and colored leaves with cold weather, exams, and financial worries.

Autumn by itself is enough to depress anyone. Dead trees, fallen leaves, sharp winds, rain, and shorter days all forebode a coming winter.

Another major depressant is school. Now is mid-term time, homework is piling up like a lot of dead leaves, and perhaps some students have realized that if they in fact want to pass this semester they best start preparing now for finals.

“The professors throw so much homework and so many tests at us—all at one time—that there isn’t enough time to do it all,” says Jada Robertson, a History and Government major. “I just can’t budget my time when there’s so much to do.”

Mary Izydorczak, an Elementary Education major, also feels the pressing matter of too much to do. “Maybe I could get more of my work done if it weren’t so noisy on my floor,” she says. “God knows I have so much work to do, too.”

Financial worries are also getting students down. There are school bills to pay, and there aren’t that many days left until the holidays, which translates into presents.

“I feel like I work all week and all my money goes to pay off my school and my car,” says Accounting major Joe Rizzo.

Amid such futility, some students maintain a sunny disposition. One student is hoping to win the lottery, another is looking for a better paying job, and a third hopes to win a KISS 98.5 contest.

And there’s not much time left until the holiday break. But even then it’s likely to be cold and snowy.

Students Tell Why They Chose Daemen

by Tashana Cooper

Have you ever wondered just what is was that prompted your fellow schoolmates to attend Daemen?

The one thing that attracted Schennella Lane to Daemen was the student-teacher ratio, which is 14:1. This ratio is maintained because smaller classes create an environment conducive to the interchange of ideas. Such classes enhance the quality of education.

Laverne Ogieste of Staten Island and Jennifer Wagner of Long Island liked the smallness of Daemen. In 1988, there were less than 1700 full time and part time students attending Daemen, and less than half of them lived on campus.

“The P.T. program convinced me to come to Daemen,” says Melinda Merritt of the Catskills. The Physical Therapy program is one of the most popular majors on campus.

Another student likened Daemen to a savior. “If I hadn’t been accepted,” he said, “I probably would have ended up dealing drugs.”

Edwin Guillaume, an English major, was bitter about why he came to Daemen. “I was blinded by the bourgeois Airband function which I thought would occur every weekend. I was wrong,” he groused.

Other students, like Rasaks Williams, feel there is nothing particularly special about Daemen. He says he came here simply because Daemen offered the area of business that he wanted to specialize in.

“It was a last resort,” said Maurice Jordan. “I was on the waiting list for all of the other schools that I had applied to. I didn’t want to wait around another semester, so I came to Daemen.”
Time For Class and Nowhere to Park

Parking crunch to continue until Amherst okays new lot

by Tracey Tricoli

It's a daily ritual: driving frantically through the Daemen parking lot, searching for a parking space. One student says she keeps an eye on pedestrians, hoping that they're walking to their cars and leaving campus. Pat Lucariello, Director of the Physical Plant, says some students resort to parking on the grass, regardless of warnings.

In other words, Daemen has a serious parking problem. There are 1280 cars registered at Daemen for approximately 447 parking spaces available on campus. Another 25 spaces are along Main Street.

The only group profiting from the parking problem is the Amherst police department, who writes the tickets for parking violations. None of the revenue generated from tickets goes to Daemen. All of it goes to the Amherst police.

"Why can't all the students in Canavan Hall park behind the theater," says a Daemen commuter. "These students leave their cars in the same spot for weeks at a time, and they only have to walk from building to building."

"I feel it's Daemen's responsibility to provide enough parking," says another student.

Mr. Lucariello says that Daemen is in fact trying to ease the parking crunch. The College is now awaiting approval from the Amherst Town Board to continue working on a new parking lot located in the rear of the campus.

Mr. Lucariello is unable to give an approximate finish date.

When you've done as much as you can... 

...join the Human Services Club

Wednesdays, at 12:00
D.S. 237
Social Work Office

Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. The Night of the Mary Kay Commandos, by Berke Breathed (Little, Brown. $7.95). More Bloom County cartoons.
2. Trefayne, by Robert Ludlum (Bantam. $5.95). The probing of an American secret agent.
3. The Cardinal of the Kremlin, by Tom Clancy (Berkley. $5.95). The rescue of a hidden government within the Government.
7. Breathing Lessons, by Anne Tyler (Berkley. $5.95). An ordinary married couple discovers how extraordinary their lives really are.