



*Preserve your college memories...  
Buy a yearbook!*

1998 yearbooks will be on sale in the Daemen College Bookstore, in mid-April, for only \$20.

## TUTORING INFORMATION

Tutoring is available in the Learning Center in most subject areas for ALL Daemen College students. If you want a tutor, you should:

- 1) Go to the Learning Center (next to the Computer Center in Canavan Hall)
- 2) Check the wall to the left, where tutor hours are listed.
- 3) Go to the Learning Center on the day and time your tutor is scheduled to be there. Bring your textbook, notes, handouts, assignments, and questions.

**You do not need to *sign* up for tutors -- Just *show* up!**

If you have questions or concerns, or if you would like to request tutoring in a subject not listed on the wall, please call the Learning Center at 839-8443.

## DAEMEN COLLEGE Community Service Department Named "A Daily Point of Light"

The Community Service Office at Daemen College was named as the February 11, 1998 "Point of Light", a national recognition program which honors different individuals and organizations each weekday for their volunteer service.

The Daemen College program was chosen for its dedication to providing young people an opportunity to better their community through service. Since its inception in 1987, the program has recruited 1,053 student volunteers. In the past year, students served more than 14,000 volunteer hours in more than 1000 placement sites in and out of western New York. Each week, students serve the elderly in nursing homes, the homeless and poor in soup kitchens, and the sick in hospitals. Data collected by the office shows that the program has successfully affected the lives of more than 195,000 people in need.

Both President Bill Clinton and former President George Bush have endorsed the recently revived daily Points of Light Award sending congratulatory letters to each awardee. The program originated during the Bush administration. Beginning on November 22, 1989, until President Bush left the White House on January 20, 1993, 1,020 Daily Points of Light were named.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
Community Service!**

## CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE

### Campus Ministry Office Hours

Reverend John Wetherwax  
Joanne Stiller

Monday - Thursday, 11:30 - 1 PM  
Thursdays, 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
Sundays, 2 - 5:30 PM

The Campus Ministry Office is located in Wick Center, across from the gameroom  
Phone: 839-8237

### Religious Worship

#### Catholic Mass:

Sundays and holy days at 4 pm, in Alumni Lounge

#### Faith Fellowship:

Wednesdays at 4 pm, in Oddy Lounge *Everyone welcome!*



**Student Led  
Bible Study**  
Tuesdays  
7 -8 pm  
Alumni Lounge

The Community Service and  
Student Activities offices invite  
you to participate in the

# ANNUAL FOOD FOR ALL

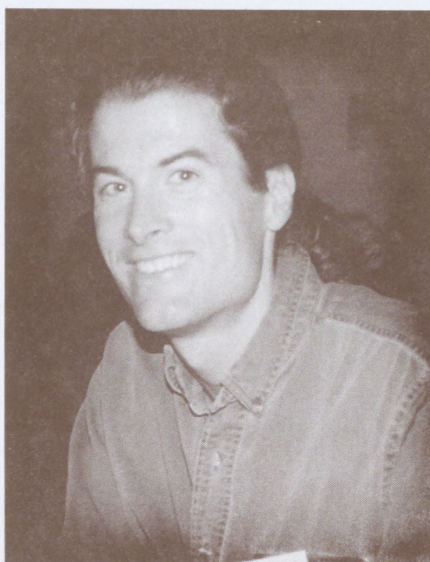
Wednesday, April 15  
11:30 am - 1 pm

Student Organizations  
and Dorms:  
Sign up in the  
Student Activities Office

## Dreams, Stress, and Spiritual Growth

**T**he Daemen College Campus Ministry office is presenting Kelly Bulkeley on "Dreams, Stress, and Spiritual Growth" in Wick Center Alumni Lounge on Monday evening March 9. The presentation will begin promptly at 5:30 pm and will conclude at 7:30 pm with refreshments available until 8:30 pm. Bulkeley is a Religion, Psychology, and Philosophy Scholar who has written six books on dreams including: The Wilderness of Dreams; Exploring the Religious Meanings of Dreams in Modern Western Culture; Spiritual Dreaming: Cross-Cultural and Historical Journeys; The Dream Catcher's Workbook: Understanding Children's Dreams and An Introduction to the Psychology of Dreaming.

Bulkeley's presentation will



*Kelly Bulkeley*

be focused on how dreams provide a surprisingly powerful resource in our efforts to deal with incredible pressures

of modern life. He will describe how dreams give deep insights into our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being, and how even our most terrifying nightmares are actually coming to help us face the many challenges we face in our daily lives. He will also touch upon the amazing spiritual wisdom that can guide us through relationship problems, difficulties with work or school, physical illnesses, and even the death of a loved one. There will be opportunities for questions during the presentation.

Guaranteed seating is limited and is available on a first-come basis by calling 839-8237 or 773-9586 for reservations. Joanne Stiller of the Daemen Campus Ministry Office is the contact person for this event.

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## American Sign Language as a Foreign Language

By Julie Mounce & Linda Willson

What is deafness? It is the inability to hear speech with or without a hearing aid. It is a malfunction of the auditory system that affects more than a person's physical inability to handle sound; it also affects their entire life. If deafness occurs at birth there isn't a foundation for spoken language. If the deafness occurs after the age of three, persons will have some language skills and can often be retaught how to speak, in a deaf voice.

Deafness is more than a condition, it is a culture. Deaf culture is based on the heritage and traditions of the deaf community including a shared language, ASL; shared customs; art forms specific to the culture. The deaf community has its own social, political, business and support organizations. One of the most important aspects of this culture's view is deaf pride.

One way that the deaf communicate is through American Sign Language (ASL). ASL is a fully developed human language, one of the hundreds of naturally occurring signed languages of the world. The recognition and acceptance of signed languages is an idea whose time has come even on the international scale. ASL is often an official language of international conferences.

One of the courses that is offered here at Daemen that hasn't really gotten that much publicity, or recognition in terms of being accepted as meeting the foreign language requirement, is Special Education (SED) 105/106 American Sign Language Level 1 & 11. It is currently offered in the fall and the spring. The instructor is Ms. Pamela Rohring. She is the ASL coordinator at St. Mary's School for the Deaf and has been teaching ASL here at Daemen for about three years. In our opinion, she is an excellent teacher. By the way, Ms. Rohring is also deaf. You will find this course listed in the fall and spring schedule under Special

Education. But note the asterisk that says "This cannot be used to satisfy foreign language requirements for BA/BS degree students. Non tradition teacher cert. students however can satisfy NYS ED language requirements." Does this statement seem odd to you? Many students here at Daemen are confused by the school's current stance regarding ASL not being acceptable as meeting the foreign language requirement. Foreign language study involves learning about the values, worldview, and way of life of a group of people. We have been told that a benefit of studying foreign language is that it will give us a fresh perspective on our own language and culture. There are also the practical and economic reasons for learning a foreign language. Can you name what they would be if Daemen students could sign? The benefits for teachers, social workers, physical therapists, nurses, etc., are obvious. You would be surprised how many deaf and hard of hearing persons there are in Erie County alone. When is Daemen going to join the other 89 colleges and universities including Yale, Harvard, Georgetown, to name a few, and stop discriminating against a culture? What we are really talking about is the need for students to learn a second language versus a foreign language.

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***Taking the ASL course has opened up a whole new world for us, a new culture and a new awareness of how the deaf are treated in our community... Daemen included!***

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It is time to legitimize ASL as a second language here at Daemen College. If anyone is interested in working on this endeavor contact us at Social\_Work@helman.daemen.edu. The time for silence is long past.

The American Red Cross  
and

**Sigma Phi Epsilon**

invite you to

*Give the gift of life...*

**GIVE  
BLOOD**

Thursday, April 16  
in Wick Social Room  
10 am - 3 pm

Sign up in April in  
Wick Lobby

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## ***New Student Affairs Appointments***

Sally Kus, former coach of women's varsity volleyball at Sweet Home High School, has been hired as head coach of the Daemen College women's volleyball team. Among her most impressive achievements is a National Federation of High School record for most consecutive wins - 292 - by a team of any sport, male or female. In 1997, Kus was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, along with former Buffalo Bills' quarterback Jim Kelly.

At her side will be Gretchen Gegenfurtner as the new assistant coach of the Daemen women's volleyball team. Gretchen not only was part of the team coached by Sally Kus ranked number one in the nation by *USA Today* in 1991, she was also selected as a *Volleyball Monthly* High School All-American in 1992.

Joining the Daemen community as the new Director of Residence Life is Carla Krause. Carla joins us from Wesleyan College in West Virginia, SUNY Cortland and SUNY Potsdam, where she has gained years of experience in Judicial Affairs and Residence Life.

Please join us in welcoming these new members of our community.

## SOCIAL WORKERS CELEBRATE PROFESSION'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

By Renee Bowman Daniel

**M**any of the benefits Americans today take for granted came about because social workers, working with families and institutions, spoke out against abuse and neglect. Working on the front lines against poverty and its attendant miseries, social workers were often the first to see social problems, act on them, and inspire others to do the same.

Social work developed in the mid-19th century in response to grievous injustices- the plight of orphans and widows, the despair of homeless and poor people, the neglect of people with mental illness, the mistreatment of prisoners, the infliction of "isms": racism, classism, sexism, ageism, otherism, and out of concern for children laboring in factories and sweatshops. As they tried to help individuals, social workers recognized the need for systemic remedies. They sought social justice for those who had no voice in public policy and eventually gained better conditions in institutions, the workplace, the home, and the community.

Their efforts resulted in child labor laws, humane treatment for people with mental illness and developmental disabilities, unemployment insurance, disability pay, worker's compensation, social security, the 40 hour work week, the minimum wage, child abuse and neglect services, and Medicaid and Medicare.

*For 100 years, social workers have toiled to improve the quality of life in our society.*

They are America's real heroes.

Prepare to join us in the celebration of the Social Work Centennial. Around the nation, social workers will be celebrating 100 years of professional social work. The Social Work Centennial dates from the summer of 1898, with the offering of the first classes in social work.

Social workers continue to see the needs of society bringing our social problems to the public's attention. Today, social workers are the largest group of mental health service providers. They also are responding to the challenges of managed care, economic insecurity, the challenges of welfare reform, and an increasingly multicultural society. They continue working to enhance human well-being and to meet basic human needs, with particular attention to the vulnerable, the oppressed, and the poor.

Social work is a growing profession. U.S. News & World Report, Money Magazine, and Working Woman have listed social work as one of the 25 best jobs for the future.

### Movie Nights

Saturday, March 28  
featuring: *Air Force One*  
8 pm, Alumni Lounge

Saturday, April 11  
featuring: *My Best Friend's Wedding*  
8 pm, Alumni Lounge

Saturday, April 18,  
featuring: *Kiss The Girls*  
9 pm, Alumni Lounge

—————  
*Sponsored by the Student Association and  
the Student Affairs Department.  
Free admission and refreshments.*

### TGIF Parties

March 6 4 - 6 pm  
presented by Psi Xi Omicron

March 27 4:30 - 7 pm  
presented by Delta Phi Mu

April 24 4:30 - 7 pm  
presented by Lambda Chi Iota



*Good tunes, good food, good friends.*

Fridays, 4:30 - 7 pm, in Wick Snackbar  
\$1 Admission

## Co-op & Career Development Office *Spring Calendar of Events!*

- March 2      **Human Services Career Fair**  
Buffalo Convention Center
- March 10     **Dress for Success Fashion Show**  
Wick Snack Bar
- March 25     **Daemen Career Fair**  
Wick Center
- March 28     **Art Portfolio Review**  
Wick Social Room
- April 7       **Job Quest '98**  
Buffalo Convention Center
- April 20, 21   **Teacher Recruitment Days**  
Buffalo Convention Center
- May 1        **Co-op Recognition Reception**  
Wick Center

For additional information, contact our office at 839-8334  
or stop by Canavan Hall.

Upcoming events are also listed on our web page at:  
<http://www.daemen.edu/services/career/home.htm>.

## 50th Anniversary Finale

Highlight this date on your calendar! The annual Semi-Formal will be held this year as part of the college's 50th Anniversary Gala Finale Cabaret, on **Saturday, April 25, 1998**.

The entire Daemen community will be invited to attend this dress-up affair. Tickets will be \$5 (\$3 for Daemen students). Hors d'oeuvres, finger foods, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served, and a cash bar will be available, from 7:30-9:30 pm. The semi-formal Cabaret will consist of a number of events:

7:30 pm - Tom Sartori & his Quartet

9:30 pm - Comedian Reed Rankin

10:30 pm - Fireworks!

11 pm - DJ and dancing till 1 am.

*Join us as we close our 50th anniversary celebration, with this gala event!*

Daemen Dining Service  
and the  
Student Activities Office  
*present an*

## **April Fool's Buffet Dinner**

Wednesday, April 1  
from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
in Wick Dining Room

Commuter students (with Daemen ID)  
pay only: **\$4.25**

All others pay only: **\$5.25**

*featuring*

**Tableside Illusions**

*by*

**Eddie  
Magic**

## **ASCENT** policies

Submissions to the Ascent are due by the 15th day of the month preceding the issue.

Send all submissions to the Student Activities Office.

(Email at: [cmalik@daemen.edu](mailto:cmalik@daemen.edu))

Opinions expressed by writers in the Ascent are not necessarily those of the Ascent or of Daemen College.

Ascent policy is to only print articles which include a byline.

## Come to the Learning Center

**H**aving a hard time writing your papers? Know what you want to say, but don't know how to say it? Have an idea of what the instructor wants, but can't get started? COME TO THE LEARNING CENTER (in Canavan, across from the Academic Computing Center). Let our tutors help you with your academic papers. Here's what our tutors can do for you:

- Look at your writing assignments and help you figure out how to get started.
- Help you organize your thoughts about the assignment.
- Read your paper as you've written it and tell you whether you are on the right track.
- Read your paper after you've written it and make general suggestions about: content, paragraph and sentence organization, word usage, and mechanics.

Don't wait a minute longer. Start getting good grades in your courses NOW. There are several writing tutors available Monday through Thursday. Drop in or call the Learning Center at 839-8443 to make an appointment. Also, we have a professional tutor who is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 until 3:00 PM. We are here to serve YOU!



## Leadership Workshops

Thursday, March 5

***Holding Student Officer Positions***

11:30 am

Alumni Lounge

*Student Organization officers are critical campus leaders. How can you be most effective in your positions, and as role models on campus.*

Tuesday, March 10

***Dress for Success***

11:30 am

Wick SnackBar

*You need to look good for that job interview, but don't have a lot of money to spend. We'll show you how you can look your best, with the tightest of budgets, shopping right here, only minutes from the college. (models needed -- sign up in the Student Activities Office)*

Thursday, March 26

***Women's Ways of Doing***

7 pm

Alumni Lounge

*Come to this reception and meet successful women leaders in our community. Find out the unique insights these women have in meeting the challenges of being a woman in today's society.*

Thursday, April 16

***Student Affairs Leadership Reception***

11:30 am

Alumni Lounge

*It's our chance to recognize your efforts and achievements. Come applaud the efforts of your fellow student leaders.*

## THE SEARCH IS ON...

for dependable, energetic, outgoing students for Daemen's inaugural BRIDGE TO SUCCESS...FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

A number of paid positions are available to students who will have sophomore or junior standing by fall 1998, with a GPA of 2.5 or above. The program begins this summer. Successful candidates will participate with and mentor new Daemen students in such exciting activities as:

***camping  
canoeing  
hiking  
sight seeing***

***visiting museums  
art galleries  
community service projects  
campus life***

***and much more!***

If you've got the the right stuff,  
fill out an application at Admissions (DS124)

# Have a Sun-Safe Spring Break

If you've been thinking of visiting an indoor tanning salon to get a base tan before going somewhere sunny for spring break or to get a tan while you're on break, think again.

No tan is healthy for your skin, whether obtained at the beach or with indoor tanning lamps, says Dr. Rex Amonette, a Memphis, Tenn., dermatologist and a past president of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD). "A tan is a sign of injury. It is the skin's response to an overdose of ultraviolet radiation."

Some people mistakenly think that a base tan will protect them from a sunburn, adds Dr. Amonette. "However, an indoor tan has at best the screening power of a sunscreen with an SPF 4, offering almost no protection from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun."

Tanning with a sunlamp is not safer than suntanning, contrary to what the tanning industry says. Although indoor tanning beds give a smaller amount of burning rays (ultraviolet B light) than the sun, fair-skinned people who do not limit their exposure may still burn. Also, severe burns can occur in people who tan while taking medicines that make them light-sensitive, such as certain antibiotics and acne medications.

Less obvious, however, is the damage that tanning beds and sunlamps can cause years later. "Suntanning, especially indoor tanning, has only negative health consequences, whether they are short-term effects like red, dry and itchy skin or long-term ones like premature wrinkles, sagging skin and skin cancers," comments Dr. Dennis Lynch, a plastic surgeon practicing in Temple, Tex., and president of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (ASPRS).

Such damage is possible because tanning beds and sunlamps provide an intense dose of ultraviolet A (UVA) light that penetrates deep into the skin. "Thirty minutes in an indoor tanning bed is equal to a day at the beach for ultraviolet A exposure," Dr. Amonette says.

Warnings of possible side effects from large doses of UVA radiation are re-

quired at tanning operations in most of the 24 states that regulate indoor tanning facilities. One risk is skin cancer.



## Link to skin cancer

Clinical studies have shown a clear link between UVA exposure from indoor tanning and two types of skin cancer: basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma. Some researchers also believe that UVA radiation, because of its intense concentration in indoor tanning beds, probably accelerates the development of melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer.

"While skin cancers can be found on any part of the body, about 80 percent appear on the face, head or neck, where they can be disfiguring as well as dangerous," says Dr. Lynch.

Skin cancer usually develops many years after exposure to ultraviolet light but can occur in younger people. "I have seen basal cell carcinomas among indoor tanners in their teens and 20s. These tumors are a much more aggressive type than usual, doing more devastating damage to the skin," Dr. Amonette warns.

Some 9,200 Americans are expected to die of skin cancer in 1998. More than 1 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year, making it the most common cancer in this country.

## Protect your skin

"To prevent skin cancer later in life and help keep their skin young-

looking," advises Dr. Lynch, "it makes sense for young people to avoid indoor tanning and protect their skin from the sun."

Although avoidance of the sun is ideal, Dr. Lynch admits it "is somewhat unrealistic to expect young people on spring break to stay out of the sun altogether. I cannot, however, stress enough how critical it is that they wear sunscreen to avoid burning, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's rays are the strongest."

The ASPRS and AAD are both concerned with preventing skin cancer, and recommend these tips for a sun-safe spring break and summer:

- Do not intentionally tan, either outdoors or using indoor tanning beds and sunlamps. If you still choose to use indoor tanning facilities, follow safety guidelines, such as limiting exposure time to 10 or 15 minutes and wearing eye goggles.

- Try to avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

- Thirty minutes before going outside, apply a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. Reapply sunscreen every two hours and after swimming.

- Outdoors, wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and clothes that cover your skin.

- At the beach, where water and sand reflect the sun's rays, take special precautions. Use a waterproof sunblock, which blocks out more rays, and, whenever possible, stay in the shade.

If you want the look of a tan, try using makeup or self-tanning lotions. That's what many models do to achieve a warm glow, according to Elizabeth Brous, beauty director of Seventeen magazine. Says Brous, "We try to hire models who do not have a tan and who recognize the need to protect their skin by using sunscreen and avoiding indoor tanning."

To find a dermatologist or plastic surgeon in your area who can provide information on keeping your skin healthy, call toll free to the AAD, 1-888-462-DERM, or the ASPRS, 1-800-635-0635.

**We hope everyone has a safe and fun Spring Break!**



*Best wishes to those students participating in the Habitat for Humanity trip to New Mexico.*



## Social Work Alliance Sponsors Fourth Annual Penny Harvest

by Ann Wehrman

The Daemen College Social Work Alliance and the Social Work Department will conduct the fourth annual Penny Harvest this year beginning March 2, and ending April 17, 1998. This fund raising activity started in 1995 and was the brain child of Lisa Elibol, a social work major. She was inspired by an Oprah Winfrey show that discussed this innovative fundraising activity.

This year the the Penny Harvest will be an on and off campus collection of pennies to benefit an organization called Hearts for the Homeless. Hearts for the Homeless is a not-for-profit organization that supports a mobile soup kitchen, three thrift stores (all clothing is a dollar), and a new facility in Riverside to which our proceeds will be applied to purchase new kitchen equipment, thus helping the kitchen to get started.

Homelessness in America is no light-weight matter. The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty reports that an estimated 760,000 people are homeless in America on any given night, and 1.2 to 2 million people experience homelessness during one year. Thirty-three percent (33%) of these are families, and the United States experiences increases of 10-30% more homeless each year. In 1996, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that at least 19% of the homeless population were employed, and single men comprised 45% of the homeless population. The National Coalition for the Homeless says there are five reasons why the homeless population is what it is:

1. Loss of affordable housing (a growing shortage of affordable rental housing)
2. Deinstitutionalization
3. Changes in family structure
4. Cutbacks in federal funding (Federal housing programs were cut 70% in the 1980s)
5. Growing poverty (as many as 32 million Americans now live below the poverty line)

So please join with us to assist Hearts for the Homeless as they attempt to provide services to the homeless in Buffalo. Organizations which have benefited from the efforts of the Penny Harvest include, Cornerstone Manor (95), AIDS Alliance of WNY (96). Last year's Penny Harvest proceeds went to Compass House, an emergency shelter for youth. The funds were used to purchase items on the children's "Wish List", a program that enables Compass House residents to enjoy things that would otherwise be impossible to enjoy.

Penny collection containers will be placed at various sites on and off campus, and the participation of the Daemen Community would be greatly appreciated. By just dropping your extra pennies, or coins at our collection sites,

you can help to provide necessities to those who are in great need in our own community.

If you would like to read more about homelessness or obtain detailed information from the sources cited in this article visit the following web sites:

<http://www.claret.org/~salt/stats/homeless/home.html>

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~mbloom/207/statistics.html>



## Become a DAEMEN COLLEGE SAP!



### (Student Activities Programmer)

The Student Activities Office is putting together a committee of "Student Activities Programmers" (or Daemen College SAP's) who will work closely with the Student Activities Office in planning and implementing events on campus. SAPs will be involved in helping to plan various traditional programs like Orientation, Welcome Back Week, Family Weekend, etc., as

well as planning entertainment for coffeehouses, concerts, off-campus excursions, etc. In addition they will work with the office in planning new directions for campus activities. If you would like to get involved, or would like to find out more, come to the interest meeting on **Friday, March 6, at Noon, in Alumni Lounge.**



## DAEMEN BOOKSTORE

### Daemen College Class Rings

Art Carved Class Ring representative will be on campus Monday, March 23, and Tuesday, March 24, 1998, to take orders for Daemen College rings. This year ArtCarved is also offering personalized graduation announcements for sale.

### Spring Break Hours

The Bookstore will be open during Spring Break, Monday, March 16, through Thursday, March 19, from 8 AM to 4 PM. The Bookstore will be closed for inventory on Friday, March 20.

### Special Books Now Available

Books by guest speaker, Rosemarie Garland Thomson, are available in the Bookstore. Her book, Freakery, is currently being used as a textbook by Dr. Shirley Peterson. Another book, Extraordinary Bodies, will be on sale in March.

### Graduation Attire

Academic attire for graduation MUST be ordered by March 13, 1998. This applies to faculty and administrators as well as graduating seniors and masters degree candidates.

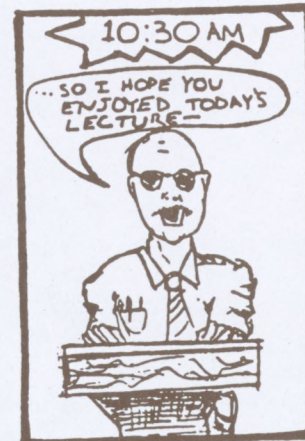


(Information packs about Graduation Week will be distributed in Mid-March.)

# Campus Comics

Created by:  
*John Tighe*

Illustrated by:  
*Matt Casper*



## 50th Anniversary Speaker Series

presents

### Rosemarie Garland Thomson

#### Bending the Rules About Beauty and Bodies

Thursday, March 12, 1998

7:30 pm, Daemen Gym

The words "extraordinary bodies" might easily bring to mind images of sleek, toned, muscular individuals, displayed across glossy magazine pages, in television ads, or perhaps parading on a fashion runway. A commercial definition of beauty. Which, in our media-saturated society, counts for a lot; such displays of bodies help determine our assumptions of what is attractive, unattractive, normal, even deviant.

Rosemarie Garland Thomson, associate professor of English at Howard University, has written extensively on the subject, pointing out how notions of beauty are, in larger context, an important part of how disabilities are represented in cultural forms in our society. Thomson is scheduled to speak at Daemen College March 12, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the College Athletic Center. Her presentation, *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disabilities in American Culture and Literature*, is part of the 50th Anniversary Speakers Series at Daemen, and will be free to the public.

"The display of bodies helps determine which are valued in our society, and beyond this, how people with disabilities are judged and how we view them," Thomson points out. "A lot more attention has been called to this since 1990, when the Americans With Disabilities Act was passed."

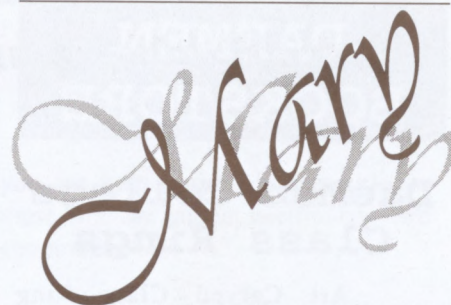
One example of this, Thomson says, is the recent controversy regarding the new Washington, D.C. memorial to former President

Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The final, officially-approved sculpture of Roosevelt, who spent many years in a wheelchair, shows him seated with a blanket over his legs, covering his infirmity.

"Does showing FDR in a wheelchair somehow diminish him?" she asks. "That blanket is a metaphor for how viewing disability is seen in our society."

Thomson's most recent book, *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disabilities in American Culture and Literature*, (Columbia University Press, 1997), attempts to bring disability studies more firmly into the humanities, pointing out "disability is not so much a property of bodies as a product of cultural rules about what bodies should be or do."

Thomson has written extensively on gender, ethnicity, and disability. In 1996, she edited *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body*, (New York University Press.); works in progress include *The Politics of Staring: Disabled Women's Self-Representation and Performance*, and *The Thing to Fear: The Critique of Beauty in The Bluest Eye and The Color Purple*. She is a frequent speaker on college and university campuses around the country, and has addressed audiences at the College of William and Mary, Gettysburg College, the University of Maryland, and the University of Leeds, England. In April, she will speak at the Center for Cultural and Literary Studies at Harvard University.



*Do you know a woman like Mary?  
The kind who embodies Femininity.  
A woman who can only  
be described as  
More melodious than Music.*

*Words can't do her justice -- they  
make her seem Tepid of Pity. No  
she is the girl we all root for --  
The one you want to want you  
wanting Her.*

*She is entrancing. She is angel.  
Her allure reveals God's true  
beauty as is.  
Woman! This inane ode awakens  
my privy to the electricity found in  
an infatuation.*

*For I created a reality around her  
that she could never endure.  
What I crave is not what I see.*

*When I take a drag of her perfume,  
I'm high -- concocting fantastic  
scenes of her wanting me wanting  
her.  
She is not real, nor is this  
substantial.*

*But the reflection is mine  
and I cherish  
this crush in it's essence.  
She is living bliss;  
She is living Blissfully...*

*And we all Route for Her*

By Geoffrey Gatza