

The

Ascent

October 2002

Daemen Revives the Teach-In

By Joelle Schelhaus

On Monday, September 30, Daemen College faculty and students gathered for a teach-in to discuss President Bush's policies on Iraq. Teach-ins are meetings or debates on a topic that is usually political and controversial. They were common during the Vietnam War era.

The afternoon allowed people to share information and personal views about the current trend towards war with Iraq.

Several professors addressed the group, offering opinions and facts about America's relations with the Middle East.

One point raised by Dr. Peter Siedlecki was that Halliburton Industries had been selling a variety of oil field equipment to Iraq between the Gulf War and 2000; Vice President Dick Cheney is a former CEO of Halliburton. Another thought raised by Dr. James Moran

was what constitutes a weapon of mass destruction.

The majority of the afternoon was spent in an



Photo By Joelle Schelhaus

open-floor discussion. All those present were invited to share their thoughts.

Approximately ten professors and twenty-five students participated in the teach-in.

Dr. Edward Cuddy was one of the presenters at the teach-in. He thought the event was a success. "It was regrettable that more people didn't come, but those that did come did have a lot to say," said Cuddy. "Ironically, a large majority of Americans support President Bush, but almost everyone at the teach-in who had an opinion was anti-war."

Dr. Peter Siedlecki also addressed the attendance issue. "I wish there had been more male students since they're the ones who'll be engaged, should war occur and the draft be reinstated."

Student Toby Beahan enjoyed the spirit of the teach-in. He said it was "a thought provoking discussion which brought up many interesting and diverse points regarding the possibility of the forthcoming war on Iraq."

Experience Italy

By Antoinette DelBel

Daemen students reunited on September 24 in Oddy Lounge to share their experiences and memories of the trip they took to Florence, Italy, through Daemen's Summer Study Abroad Program. The program allows students to travel to a specific country, take courses and earn transferable credits.

Eleven students had the opportunity to visit some of Italy's most fascinating and historical cities this past summer. Program Director Francesco Convertini organized excursions to Siena, Pisa and Rome.

"The main point of the program is that students are the center of the program," said Convertini. Students do not have to be in any specific major to participate in the Study Abroad Program.

"We have all sorts of different programs for different majors," said Daemen Spanish professor Dr. Denise Mills. "Studying abroad can be a way to enrich your major."

Participants can select either the four-week session or the six-week session.

The cost of the four-week program is estimated at \$4,200; an additional two weeks is about \$1,800 more. Plus, all participants are eligible to receive an \$800 Daemen College grant, which is deducted off the price.

This cost includes tuition, room and board, breakfast and dinner Monday through Friday, museum and attraction fees, and excursions to Pisa and Siena. Although the cost of the trip does not include airfare, insurance, a three-day excursion to Rome, textbooks, class materials and personal expenses, "the payback is well worth the experience," said Mills.

In the four-week session, students take two 3-credit courses. Students must take a class in Italian language and an elective. Electives include Art History of the Italian Renaissance, Italian film, Roots of Capitalism, Florentine & Tuscan Culture, and Site Drawing & Watercolor in Florence. In the additional two-week session, students must take one 3-credit course in Experimental Learning: Contemporary Florence. Attending both sessions allows students to complete their BA foreign language proficiency requirement.

Studying abroad can help individuals sharpen their language skills, adapt to other cultures, accept cultural diversity, keep long-distance relationships and become more mature.

"I learned a lot, not only about culture, but

(Continued on Page 6)

IND 101: Part of First Year Experience

By Michelle L. Smith

Upperclassmen, think back to your freshman year. Remember taking a Liberal Arts Colloquium? This year, the old LAC has been replaced with IND 101, Interdisciplinary Studies: Critical Relationships. The course, to be taken by all students in their first semester at Daemen, serves many purposes; it introduces students to the college and its core competencies (like critical thinking and civic responsibility) while encouraging the development of those competencies.

Each year, the course will focus on a central theme. This fall's theme is sustainability.

The idea of IND 101 came out of the First Year Experience (FYE) Committee. This committee, composed of faculty and administra-

tors, develops and implements options for the first year experience. Last year, the committee recommended the creation of a single course that would be taken by all freshmen. Over the fall, spring and summer, the committee and other interested faculty members shaped the format, content and policies of the course. The goals for IND 101 are numerous. The course seeks to challenge students intellectually, to instruct them in Daemen's core curriculum and competencies, to introduce them to support services on campus, and to generate a sense of community at Daemen.

Professor Joseph Kukella, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, is acting as the IND Course Coordinator. He said, "Too often when freshmen come in, it's very hard to get them to feel a part of the campus community. I think [with this course] we'll be successful getting them in."

Kukella stated that the course will serve as a retention tool. "I can't stress enough the retention factor," he said, "how the course binds students to the college."

Nineteen faculty members are involved in either teaching or overseeing the course. In fact, the initial faculty interest was so great that the number had to be pared down to nineteen. "We have a committed group of faculty," said Kukella.

IND 101 meets two times a week, once in a large group session and once in a small group.

The large group session takes the form of a lecture covering a variety of topics, such as environmental concerns and a multidisciplinary look at the novel *The Color Purple*. While the topics are diverse, the course tries to show that

(Continued on Page 4)

A Problem of Size

By Joelle Schelhaus

First things first: even though I am now writing in the same space as Darcy used to, that does NOT make me Darcy Junior!

One of the benefits of attending a small school like Daemen is that you get to know everyone. In my years here, I have developed relationships with most of my professors, especially those in my major, almost all of the administrators, and students from freshmen to seniors. It is great to know all the faces around you. There are many benefits, which I could elaborate on, but not today.

Attending a small school can also pose a problem. On a small campus, the same group of students always ends up running all of the campus activities. Those of you who have been here a while know what I mean. The same people end up on the Student Association board year after year.

But that is not the point of this editorial. I find nothing wrong with dedicated students being a part of campus life. In fact, I applaud them for their commitment to the betterment of Daemen for all of us.

The point of this editorial is that you can eliminate the problem of so few students having so much say about what goes on here at Daemen. All you need to do is to join campus activities. More people becoming involved equals more change in leadership. Having new people with new ideas running campus activities will only improve our college experience.

I don't know how many of you took part in last month's class elections. For those of you who voted, did you notice the same trend that I did?

There were very few people running for sophomore and junior class presidents. In fact, they were uncontested elections. What does that show? Not many sophomores and juniors care very much about their college experience. Now I know that the class presidents really do not have a huge role to play...I speak from experience as sophomore class president two years ago. However, they COULD have a large role IF people would become involved. I mean, most schools have more class officers than just a president. We do not, and if we did, we most likely would never have enough people interested in running for those positions.

In college, you have the BEST chance at shaping your experience. You choose your classes (well, to some extent), you choose your professor (when possible), you choose a lot of other things. But most of you opt to have no choice in your campus activities. Why not become involved? You would be surprised at how much you will benefit from it, not just while you are in college, but afterwards as well. It is absurd that so many people do not take advantage of the opportunities given to them.

This year's freshman class seems to be full of people who do want to be involved. There were four or five people running for class president, they showed up to join clubs, and we even have freshman interest in the Ascent. Good for you! All of you who are involved in campus activities, you took the best step towards a positive and fulfilling college career. I congratulate you. I also urge you to remain involved.

Anyone out there who is not already involved (and those of you who wish to do more, too), I have a suggestion. There are opportunities still out

there for you.

You can still join any of the campus clubs. These clubs will allow you to meet other students with similar interests and to make friends with the faculty advisors and students ranging from freshmen to seniors.

The Student Association is still looking for students to be representatives on campus committees. Serving on a committee is a valuable experience for many reasons. First, you get to help decide the college's policies for now and the future. You will also make lasting relationships with college faculty, administration and staff. This is very important because you never know when you may need some help from any of these people. Also, being on a college committee will be looked at favorably by future employers. In those meetings, you will learn a lot about personal dynamics and politics that you will not learn in a book.

Your help is also needed in the direct planning of on-campus activities. The year's first Student Activities Programming (SAP) board meeting was non-existent because no students showed up. Recent attendance has improved, but it can be better. The SAP board meets Thursdays at noon in Wick. Make your opinion known and help bring activities to campus that you, the students, want! Do not let other people make your choices for you!

College should be about you and what you want...but YOU need to make that happen. Sitting idly in your dorm room or going home as soon as classes are over will NOT benefit you or this college.

(Continued on Page 7)

Knowing Who's Who and What's What At D.C.

A Letter to the Editor

By Allen Kusani

Let me begin by answering the question many will be asking after reading this letter. That question is, why is he writing this stuff now at almost midsemester. Well, the answer is one everyone can relate to: I am damn busy!

Anyway, I am writing this letter primarily for freshmen but it applies to everyone. It occurred to me one day recently while studying (something I just discovered after 4 years here) that if I had known some/any of the things as a freshman that I now know regarding the goings-on at Daemen, I would have saved myself much grief.

Who's Who, What's What

Even though we are so far into the semester, one invaluable piece of advice I have for everyone is to meet (that involves introducing yourself to) your professors. Help them put your name to a face. It may seem pointless, but they are people, and they have feelings. What does this mean to you? Well, going to meet them is the first step in what often proves to be a useful experience. By this I mean that they aren't always the people you believe them to be based on classroom lectures (i.e. boring, mean, too smart to approach). In short, it always pays to know your professors.

Before I go any further, I have to let everyone know why I am qualified to write this letter on this topic. The story goes something like this: I was once a freshman terror (some say the terror to end all), and I made many a poor decision regarding academics and extra-curricular activities. (I can't elaborate.) Anyway, to make a long story short, my antics included (but were not limited to)

poor academic performance/absent academic performance, dorm trouble, and general disregard for the many policies of our college.

So you're asking yourselves, what is he still doing here? Well, I am very lucky. Don't think I got away with my antics; I was dismissed from Daemen and for good reason too. I got what I deserved.

So, there I was one month into a fall semester kicked off campus, then kicked out at the end of the semester. What to do, where to go? After a year of being a bum (still in Buffalo), I saw our school's fine President in Williamsville and briefly presented my situation to him. Well, he must have taken pity because through him and our Dean of the College, Dr. Clausen, I was given another chance.

Are you still asking, why is he writing about this, who cares? OK, I'll tell you. The point is we all make mistakes. However, there are many here at Daemen to help us rebound or avoid these mistakes to begin with, namely, Dr. Blake Thurman, Heather Fisher and the rest of the Academic Advisement (and advisement is the key word) office. Also, Dean Clausen and Associate Dean Boone's offices are always open to (and sometimes full of) students. Dean Boone assists students with special needs ("special" needs/problems are more prevalent than you think). And let's not forget our departmental advisors.

In any case, use what the college puts out there for you (it's what we pay for), and remember, meet your professors!

Until the next time,
Allen Kusani

The Ascent

re-established by Beth Seilberger and Amanda Poreda ©1998

editor... Michelle L. Smith
assistant editor... Derek Bigelow
assistant editor... Joelle Schelhaus

graphic design... Jason M. Snug
layout artist... Laura Beth Witt

cartoonists
Wayne Brown
Adam DeRose

writers
Wayne Brown
Brittany Cozad
Antoinette DelBel
Allen Kusani
Joelle Schelhaus
Michelle Smith
Chance Soda
Jennifer A. Swan
Nina Zehr

photography
Marcie Peterson
Joelle Schelhaus
Michelle Smith
Laura Beth Witt

Special thanks to Dr. Peter Siedlecki and Mrs. Gloria Wise for their counsel and advice.

The Ascent
Wick Center
Email ascent@daemen.edu

Opinions and Editorials

Disclaimer: All opinions expressed on this page are those solely of the writers. They do not reflect the opinions of the staff or advisors of this newspaper or the college as a whole.

Political Waynetoon



Middle East Madman Cannot Be Ignored

By Wayne Brown

Someone fetch Kofi Annan and the political global community one giant collective doggie treat. It is almost embarrassing to watch these apparent global thinkers play the role of Saddam Hussein's trained lapdog, leaping and bounding with apparently blind affection at his beck and call.

For those who may not have heard, Hussein agreed to let weapons inspectors back into Iraq, and they can have unlimited access to everything in the Iraqi infrastructure. Well, except for hospitals, schools, private residences, and palace property. So where can the UN have unfettered access? Military bases. Because of this achievement, the world thinks that they just scored a victory of unparalleled proportions. Attack of a military base would not phase anyone; military installations are "fair" targets in war. So it is probably safe to say that there are no unconventional weapons just sitting around!

Let's say you are growing cannabis, also known as marijuana, in your dorm room. Acting on a tip from your roommate, the Amherst Police ask to search your dorm room. You say, "no problem, dude!" because you are a good citizen and contribute to the policemen's ball every year. "Dude, just don't look in the aquarium cuz that would be, like, so unrighteous." Guess where the police are going to get a search warrant to look? Well, the "World Community" is apparently far less deft than local police agencies because they were bragging about Hussein's letter as if it meant the end to the War on Terror.

According to Laurie Mylroie of the journal "Middle East Review of International Affairs," the

"unconventional agents Iraq possesses are extraordinarily lethal." She goes on to explain that while a substantial portion of Iraq's arsenal is 50 years old, biological and chemical weapons like the hydrogen bomb are still very much in play with men like Hussein. Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

So do you think that Iraq is still a shell of its pre-Gulf War self? Mylroie maintains that "Iraq's most lethal agents had survived the Gulf War and Baghdad had managed to conceal that from UNSCOM (United Nations Special Commission)," a UN group set up as a condition to the end of the Gulf War that executed the provisions of the resolution related to Iraq's nuclear disarmament.

And what is at the root of Hussein's venom? Once again, Israel. The only difference between what is happening now and what happened during the Gulf War in 1991 is Israel's desire to protect itself. Ariel Sharon has already promised President Bush that if struck, Israel will strike back, unlike during the Gulf War when George H.W. Bush kept Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Shamir from defending his country with any real seriousness. Through the Gulf War, Israel was tagged 39 times with Scud Missiles from Saddam Hussein with no retaliation offered from Israel. Children went to school with gas masks because even then the world feared Hussein's chemical warfare ability, but Israel did as the United States asked and let them "protect" Israel's interests.

Donald Rumsfeld, current Secretary of Defense, is asking Israel once again to be dovish in this most recent attack. Meanwhile, Hussein and

the other Arab nations have Israel securely in their crosshairs.

At this point, Israel does need the United States; there is no question of it. However, let's not forget that the US needs Israel, possibly just as much or more. As the ONLY true democratic government in the Middle East, Israel remains our only flower in a substantial desert. If Israel ever disappeared, we would have no political footholds in the Middle East and, with one fell swoop, have severely limited military strength in a volatile part of the world.

Why does the world hate us? Who cares right now! When you are in the middle of a street fight, you do not stop and ask your opponent why he is trying to hurt you. You just try to hurt him worse and pick up the pieces later. Does that sound crude and barbaric? Because that is your enemy's objective. Only this time, the goal of the enemy is annihilation of our good friend and us. Sometimes communication is essential, sometimes talking is a waste of time.

The League of Nations collapsed in large part because the US did not participate. As Mr. Bush said at the UN on September 11th, "We created the United Nations Security Council so that, unlike the League of Nations, our deliberations would be more than talk."

Neville Chamberlain and the League of Nations could not stop Adolph Hitler, and essentially, they really did not try. It is time we stop waiting for the UN to do what they are afraid, unwilling, or unable to do. Take out a documented madman. Or do we only take action after 12 million innocent people meet their demise?

IND Experience

(Continued from Page 1)

knowledge of one topic complements knowledge of another. Different professors speak each week. There are two meeting times for the large group session; each session contains one-half of the freshman class.

Kukella noted that he has heard complaints that Daemen talks about being a small school, but then places freshmen in such a large lecture class. He stresses that this was intentional. "This creates a common experience," he said.

Ashley Frederickson, a freshman Spanish major, said, "I don't think the large group is a problem. It provides different perspectives. The course is well-balanced because of the small group."

Seventeen small group sessions, each overseen by one faculty member, provide a more intimate environment for discussion of topics covered in lecture or general concerns students may have. A student peer mentor is also assigned to each small group session.

Dr. Blake Thurman, Executive Director of Academic Support Services, noted that he was not happy with the effectiveness of the old peer mentor program. By linking peer mentors with the interdisciplinary course, freshmen still have an opportunity to connect with older students, plus there are additional advantages: "All freshmen have a peer mentor, and [the small group session] provides a place where mentors can get to know mentees," said Thurman.

Thurman sees the class as an extended orientation. He said, "It reaches all freshmen in their first semester and unifies the class."

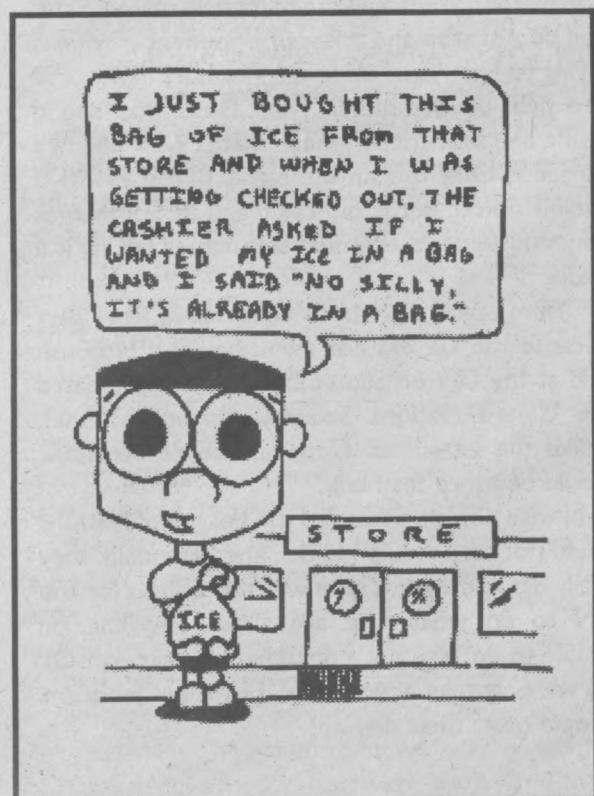
While IND 101 is still in an early stage, Kukella said he has had a good response from faculty and students so far.

Freshman Business Administration major Alicia DiPietro said, "I think [the course] is going good. It's well-organized. People can get a lot from it."

"College and high school are very different," said Kukella. "[The course] introduces students to studying in college and gives them real skills they will use throughout their time here."

Adamtoon

by Adam DeRose



Daemen Faculty Profile Series: Jeremy Hall

By Brittany Cozad

Despite the small size of Daemen, starting a new school year can be overwhelming for anyone. While most of us are greeting old friends and catching up on how we spent our summers, the rest – whether they are freshmen, transfer students or new faculty – are getting used to their new "home away from home." One of the newest additions to the Daemen community is Professor Jeremy Hall who joins the Math Department as the new Math Coordinator.

Hall is from the Western New York area. He has previously taught at Fredonia, ECC, and Emory College in Atlanta where he also received his Master of Science degree in Mathematics. Besides teaching six classes, as Math Coordinator, Hall is responsible for the appropriate placement of new students in math classes based on their previous work in high school or other colleges.

When he's not teaching, you can find Professor Hall playing guitar or writing music for his band, "The Greenhouse Effect," which plays a mixture of folk and rock music. He also enjoys spending his free time playing Discgolf (which he describes

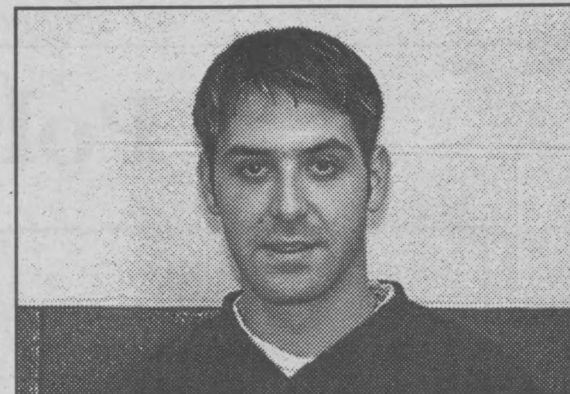


Photo by Laura Beth Witt

as Frisbee golf), traveling, hiking and camping.

And what does he think of Daemen so far? "It's pretty small and everyone knows everyone. Classes are small so the student-teacher ratios are good." Hall also likes the diversity Daemen has despite its size. While he is still not too familiar with Daemen's extracurricular clubs, Hall is interested in getting involved since he is at school so much.

Professor Hall seems to be enjoying his new Daemen experience with an open mind, positive attitude and only one complaint so far: the bees that seem to always find a way into his office!

Need some advice? In future issues, The Ascent will feature an advice column. If you would like to ask a question, send an email with "advice" in the subject line to ascent@daemen.edu.

Homeless Awareness Night

By Jen Swan

On Friday, September 13th, the Daemen community held its annual Homeless Awareness Night. Homeless Awareness Night is a time when student and local organizations encourage students to get involved in the community. A bonfire follows the ceremony.

Representatives from area organizations came to speak about how helping a community can make a big difference in someone's life. Reverend Ron Colontra from Hearts for the Homeless spoke about the chronic homeless in downtown Buffalo and how his organization gives a little of their time each week to feed the homeless in the downtown area. Reverend Colontra encourages students to give a few hours once a week and help feed the homeless. Colontra said, "Never give up on giving a helping hand to the less fortunate."

Darren Strickland has been the director of Friends for the Night People for 12 years. His organization has continued to grow over the years because students and other individuals give their time to volunteer. Strickland wants to thank everyone who has helped make Friends of the Night People a success and he "hopes his organization will continue to grow in the future."

Many student organizations also spoke at homeless awareness night. Scott Wilbert, the president of Phi Beta Gamma fraternity, talked about how the terrorist attacks of 9/11 have changed everyone's mind set and how we live our lives. Wilbert also spoke about the bombings last



Photo Taken by Laura Witt

year and how hundreds of people overseas are now deprived of food. Wilbert also encouraged people to volunteer at places like St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen and Friends of the Night People.

Nancy Rumble spoke on behalf of Lambda Chi Iota sorority. Rumble stated an interesting and frightening fact: today one million children in the United States are homeless and uneducated. Most people today make the assumption that only adults are homeless but the statement above proves that this is not true.

Other organizations that spoke at this event and encouraged students to get involved were Resident Council, Multi Cultural Association, Students Without Borders and the Student Association. Others who participated were: Delta Phi Mu, Sigma Omega Chi, and Psi Xi Omicron.

Who's Who at Daemen College

Compiled by Joelle Schelhaus and Chance Soda



Name: Martin J. Anisman
Title: President
Office location: Duns Scotus 107
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: I enjoy it when students stop by to say hello.
Advice for Daemen students: Remember why you are here, but have fun as well.
Favorite Daemen activity or moment: * Convocation
 * Baccalaureate
 * any student activity



Name: Derek Bigelow
Title: Student Association President
Office location: Wick
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: Students should come see me if they have any problems with the way administration is doing things or with the way student clubs are doing things.
Advice for Daemen students: * Get involved.
 * Enjoy what you do or else you aren't going to want to do it.
 * Learn to organize your time.
Favorite Daemen activity or moment: During and after the White Out (big snow storm) my freshman year, we had snowball wars between buildings, which were a lot of fun. We also got to watch the snowplows get stuck on Campus Drive!



Name: Kathleen Boone
Title: Associate Dean of the College
Office location: Duns Scotus 102
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: Students are welcome and encouraged to come see me about whatever is on their minds. I like to keep in touch with what is going on. Drop by and tell me how things are going. Both I and my staff are very interested in first-year students who may be having trouble adjusting. I invite and implore you to come in and talk to us. We can help with bumps on the road.
Advice for Daemen students: * Get to know your faculty! All kinds of research shows that the most important factor in a college student's success is a close working relationship with faculty. * Get involved! It is very important to look at all things in the college environment. Outside the classroom is a vital part of your educational experience. Those experiences can integrate classroom learning, such as teamwork and leadership, as well as making you feel bonded to the institution. You will have a better time in college if you are involved in college life...and you do have time for it!
Favorite Daemen activity or moment: Intervention into problematic student behaviors is not usually welcomed, but often the students and I come out of the situation with a great relationship. It makes me feel like I'm contributing a little bit to someone's development.



Name: Ed Clausen
Title: Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College
Office location: Duns Scotus 106
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: I hope you come to see me for the same reason as you would go see all of the administrators – to get to know us! The college prides itself on its small size, so you can get to know all the people on campus. Feel free to stop in just to say hi. That makes me happy. As head of Academic Affairs, everything I do is focused on the students. It is easier for me to deal with concerns if I know the students better.
Advice for Daemen students: * Really get to know your faculty well. Go to their offices, talk with them and meet with them outside of class.

* Find a balance between working hard and really having a good time.
 * Explore every intellectual route you can. This is the one time in your life where you can do this uninterrupted and unimpeded.
Favorite Daemen activity or moment: * last year when the new core curriculum was passed by the faculty
 * when Julian Bond spoke to the campus – he was a hero of mine for years and I finally got to meet him
 * helping a particular student who was struggling in school to turn his life around



Name: Maria Dillard
Title: Dean of Students
Office location: Wick
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: Students can come to me with any non-academic concern. They can also come in to say hello!
Advice for Daemen students: Be pro-active in your education. Develop your support network to help you achieve your goals.
Favorite Daemen activity or moment: * Orientation/Welcome Back Week – I get to see all the new students moving in.
 * Academic Festival and Senior Presentations
 * Baccalaureate – families coming together in celebration



Name: Chris Malik
Title: Director of Student Activities
Office location: Wick
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: Students mainly come see me if they are involved in student organizations. I can help with room reservations, advertising, contacting vendors, staging, and be a liaison to other Daemen College offices.
Advice for Daemen students: Get to know the administration and faculty. Don't be afraid to ask us questions. Stop by and see us. Get to know us. We are here to help you.
Favorite Daemen activity or moment: * A few years ago at Boobar, we were worried about matching up students in costumes with their ID pictures. Two students fixed that problem for us: they came dressed as pumpkins and had put pumpkin stickers over their faces on their IDs!
 * The Night Cross-Country Ski Trips – It's a lot of fun. Everybody gets to know each other at dinner and then we all go skiing. Most times, it is the first time many of the students have ever gone skiing.



Name: Nancy Marck
Title: Director, Daemen College Honors Program
Office location: Curtis Hall Great Room
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: The Honors Program offers opportunities for individualized learning. We can match student interests with faculty and resources available on campus. Students can come see me to find out information about the Honors Program, as well as fellowship opportunities.
Advice for Daemen students: Go visit your professors. Our faculty welcome questions and will be happy to discuss coursework with you.
Favorite Daemen activity or moment: It has to be the Chaucer Banquet! It's a unique event that brings students, faculty and administrators together to celebrate medieval culture. This year's Chaucer Banquet is April 5, 2003.

(Continued on Page 6)

Who's Who



Name: Carol McPhillips

Title: Coordinator, The Learning Center

Office location: Canavan

Why might a student want or need to come see you?: Students can come to The Learning Center for three reasons: 1) if they are looking for assistance in understanding course content, 2) for information on study skills and learning styles, and 3) to set up academic services and assistance for students with disabilities. The Learning Center is a place where smart students with good strategies go, not a place where stupid students go!

Advice for Daemen students: Learn as much as you can about yourself, both as a person and as a learner.

Favorite Daemen activity or moment: * I always love interacting with students.

* Convocation – it's a great way to begin the academic year. Faculty, staff and students can all benefit from inspiring words, and that's what we heard.

Name: Dan Schiesser

Title: Director of Residence Life

Office location: Canavan



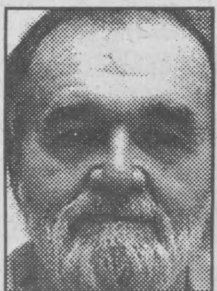
Why might a student want or need to come see you?: Students can come to me with housing-related conflicts and concerns. They can also come see me just to talk or to find resources. Plus, I also work with Resident Council to improve campus life.

Advice for Daemen students: Take full advantage of campus life. Get involved and get to know people. It goes fast and if you don't, you will miss out!

Favorite Daemen activity or moment: * orientation - I get to know all of the new students.

* walking the halls and talking to students

* sports and sporting events



Name: Peter Siedlecki

Title: Dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences

Office location: Duns Scotus 230

Why might a student want or need to come see you?: I prefer that all students deal directly with their department chairperson...but if they have difficulties with that, they could come to me. Students can also come to me to inquire about IND possibilities.

Advice for Daemen students: Enjoy and explore your curiosity.

Favorite Daemen activity or moment: teaching any class



Name: Keith Taylor

Title: Dean of the Division of Health and Human Services

Office location: Schenck 102

Why might a student want or need to come see you?: Students usually come when they have a problem with courses, faculty members or policies. I'd rather they come to ask questions about the program they are in or others that interest them – or the possibility of blending or creating a dual major, all so they can enjoy more and learn more from what they are doing.

Advice for Daemen students: * Get engaged in campus life. Be involved.

* Take charge of your own social and academic life. The two should go hand-in-hand. College is much more enjoyable if you are having fun while learning, not just going to class.

Favorite Daemen activity or moment: * bringing my kids to Springfest

* Academic Festival – talking to students about their work

Throughout the year, The Ascent will be reviewing businesses in the Snyder area in an effort to introduce students to the wide variety of establishments around campus. Be sure to check them out for yourself!

Bistro Vite

About three blocks from Daemen, going east on Main Street, is a relatively new eatery called Bistro Vite. The bistro serves a variety of delicious, ready-made breakfast and lunch items.

Breakfast items are available all day. Selections include muffins, scones, cinnamon sweet rolls, and sticky buns, all priced under \$2.00. Try a bagel or an egg sandwich, and complete your breakfast with fresh-squeezed juice.

At first glance, the lunch selections might seem rather ordinary: soups, salads and sandwiches. However, a closer look at the menu, and a taste of the selections, proves that the food is quite extraordinary.

Order a salad and select what kind of lettuce you would like (either romaine, mixed field greens, or spinach); then choose four ingredients from among a variety of vegetables, meats, fish, cheeses, nuts and legumes.

The sandwiches are also special. Get a wrap for between \$5.50 and \$5.95. Look for the Cha Cha Chicken wrap made with grilled chicken, lettuce, tomatoes, avocado and sundried tomato pesto. The less adventurous may want to stick with the Classic BLT wrap. There are about a dozen different artisan bread sandwiches made on hearth baked artisan breads and served either cold or heated on a panini grill. Try the Oven Roasted Turkey sandwich – turkey breast, swiss cheese, sliced green apples and honey mustard dressing. These sandwiches are priced from \$4.95 to \$6.25.

Each day, various personal-sized pizzas and soups are also available. Complement your meal with a beverage; choose from a variety of coffees, cappuccinos, lattes, teas, soft drinks, beers or wine.

When you enter Bistro Vite, place your order at the counter and seat yourself. There is indoor and outdoor seating. You may also get your order to go. Service is quick since the food is ready-made!

Bistro Vite is located at 4548 Main Street in Snyder. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday, 6:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Saturday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Experience Italy

(Continued from Page 1)

about history, language, art, making new friends and keeping long-distance relationships," said Carrie Ann Spinelli, a senior Humanities major.

"There was so much history, every corner you turned had some important monument or building," said Kristen Hy, an Art Education major. "Everything you saw was in textbooks."

Maryjane Morgan, the secretary of Daemen's Learning Center, also went to Italy this past summer. "Rome was the cradle of civilization. Our laws are based on the beauty, history, mystique and cuisine. You can't starve there, food is all over. It's so incredible."

The participants in the Study Abroad Program enjoyed eating the delicious food and sampling Italy's national drink, wine! "Wine is like vegetables, Italians have to have it," Hy said. Business major Kathryn Rehak said, "I gained eight pounds in four weeks, and loved every ounce of them!"

Dr. Mills advises students interested in the program to start saving money now and to get information from her and Financial Aid, which can help spread loans over summer. Most importantly, she advises students to have an open mind. Future plans include establishing programs in Northern Ireland, Africa and China. "The Study Abroad Program brings something that a classroom can not. It's the most fun you'll have in school," said Mills. "The experience changes you for the rest of your life!"

Daemen College Poetry Series

On Wednesday evening, October 16, the Daemen College Poetry Series continues with a reading devoted to three women poets--Karen Lewis, Dr. Gunilla Kester, and Marlyn Martinez-Saroff.

Karen Lewis is a contributing editor for *Traffic East* magazine and teaches creative writing for just buffalo literary center, where she recently held a workshop on "Developing Writers Groups." Widely published in Western New York, her work will be shown at the Third Interpoetry Exhibition in Brazil this October. Lewis's recent poetry will appear in the Canadian publication, *The Current*.

Gunilla Kester is a teacher, writer, and guitarist, who came from Sweden to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar in 1982. She completed her Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her scholarly book on the maturation story is out in second edition. Dr. Kester has published many poems both in English and in Swedish, including in *Bonniers Littarara Magasin*, Sweden's most prestigious literary magazine. This year her poems have won the Gival Press Tri-Language Competition. Dr. Kester has been a finalist in the Glimmer Train Poetry Open, and her work has been published in *The Buffalo News*, *Step*, *Oberon*, and *Radiance*. She will judge the Gival Press Tri-Language Competition this fall. A recipient of the year 2000 and 2002 Who's Who Among America's Teachers Award, Dr. Kester currently teaches English at Daemen College and classical guitar at The Amherst School of Music. She also serves as Vice President of The Buffalo Guitar Society and Co-

Director of the annual Rantucci International Guitar Festival and Competition. Marlyn Martinez-Saroff was born in Brooklyn, but lived in the Dominican Republic until the revolution. She holds four degrees, one in Spanish literature. She says, "My writing gives me the ability to express my concerns for both social and political issues, in a literary form. Inspiration comes to me from reflective thought, music, theater; I am often asked if I am a reporter as I sit and write at a concert." She has been published in anthologies, on websites, and in the *Artvoice*, and she is presently seeking a publisher for her manuscript, *Collusions*.

The reading begins at 7 pm in Alumni Lounge. Refreshments will be served, and there will be an open mike following the reading for anyone who wishes to read poetry.

Daemen College Poetry Series

September 18: Dr. Peter Siedlecki

October 16: Karen Lewis, Dr. Gunilla Kester, and Marlyn Martinez-Saroff

November 20: Student poetry

December 11: Fred Barry Levenson



Upcoming poets (clockwise from top left): Marlyn Martinez-Saroff, Karen Lewis, Fred Barry Levenson, Dr. Gunilla Kester

Photos Courtesy of Dr. Marck

Murder by Numbers: An Unexpected Comedy

By Nina Zehr

Murder by Numbers

Running Time: 120 minutes

Rated R

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Ryan Gosling, Michael Pitt, and Ben Chaplin

Directed by Barbet Schroeder

Castle Rock Entertainment, 2002

I suppose since I'm a twenty-one year old female who is supposed to look up to popular female stars, I should love Sandra Bullock...but I don't. I suppose that since I usually love detective stories, I should have loved her new movie, *Murder by Numbers*...but I didn't. And I suppose that since the movie is about a pair of disturbed high school kids (Ryan Gosling and Michael Pitt) who meticulously plan and carry out a grisly murder, it's not supposed to be funny...but sometimes it is.

When detective partners Cassie Mayweather (Sandra Bullock) and Sam Kennedy (Ben Chaplin), are called to the "dumping site" of a murdered body, we can instantly see their steel-trap minds at work. Sam has to walk carefully in Sandra's footprints (oops, I mean, Cassie's) in order not to disturb any potential evidence. This of course, makes perfect sense...until we see the detectives gingerly wading through a creek. After wandering around in this comical fashion for a little while, Cassie abruptly stops, scoops something up, and holds it up to Sam's nose. "What's this smell like to you?" Sam's brow furrows. "It smells like vomit." Cassie nods triumphantly. "That's what I thought."

Obviously, these people are geniuses.

Granted, there are some scenes that are genuinely disturbing. (A couple of the scenes were so gross that I had to watch *Monsters, Inc.* before I went to bed to get them out of my head.) However, there just aren't enough of them to make up for all of the unintentional comedy. One of the murderers looks like a sleep-deprived, greasy-haired version of Leonardo DiCaprio, which makes it really hard to think he is scary. The other one, while being questioned by police, notices Cassie's jacket and asks, "Is that, like, a pleather?" Add to this the fact that the biggest "boo" moment comes courtesy of a screaming baboon, and you can see why it's all a little hard to swallow.

What's most ridiculous about this movie is the dialogue. When it's NOT funny, it's recycled spouting so predictable that it's easy to figure out what the characters are going to say before they open their mouths. In fact, the writers have done such a poor job, even the actors don't look like they believe it. "I don't have any feeling left...except for you" and "You only get one life" are obviously supposed to be profound statements. Too bad we've heard them all before.

Okay, I admit that my opinion is biased. I didn't really expect, or even want, to like this movie. I just needed a recent release on video and DVD. And I guess that since you've read this article, it means there's a possibility that you won't want to spend your hard-earned money on the rental of the movie. Sorry, Sandra.

A Problem of Size

(Continued from page 2)

We need to make our own choices and be a part of our campus. No, I not suggesting that we make campus involvement our lives... trust me, that doesn't work either. But is it too much to ask for you to make some new friends while having fun? Yes, campus involvement can be FUN! I've got many examples, most of which are not fit to print... but find me on campus and I will tell you!

It is never too late to make campus activities a part of your life. Just go to a Student Association meeting, Tuesdays at 11:30 in Wick 113-115. Contact faculty in your department to see when your major's club is meeting. See what the SAP board is all about. Contact Andy Wheeler if you want to be on a campus committee.

I've done all I can to make my case. I know how the system works here at Daemen. I've sat on several committees. I've been a part of too many campus clubs to count. I've done my share to make the past 3 years (and this one) the best that they can be for me and for my friends and classmates. But this is the end... I am graduating in May. I hope that if nothing else, my experience can be shared with those who want it. If that is you, great. If not, well, I can't make you do anything you don't want to do, and I'm not even going to try.

It's really all up to you. But do you really want to go to a school where you have no say in what happens...where only a handful of students run everything?

Think about it.

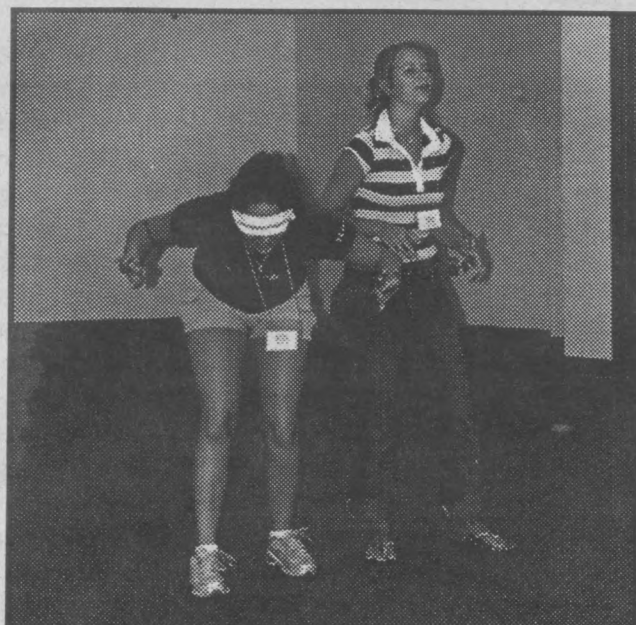
If you want to express your opinion about this editorial, feel free to write a letter to the editor and leave it in the Ascent mailbox behind Wick desk or drop it in the campus mail slot for mailbox 159.

Even that would be campus involvement!

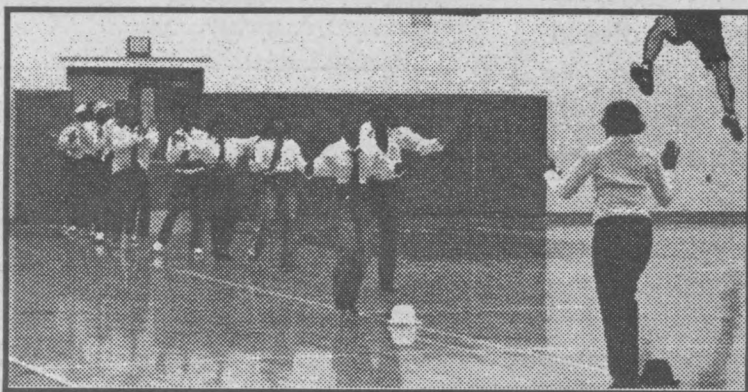
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



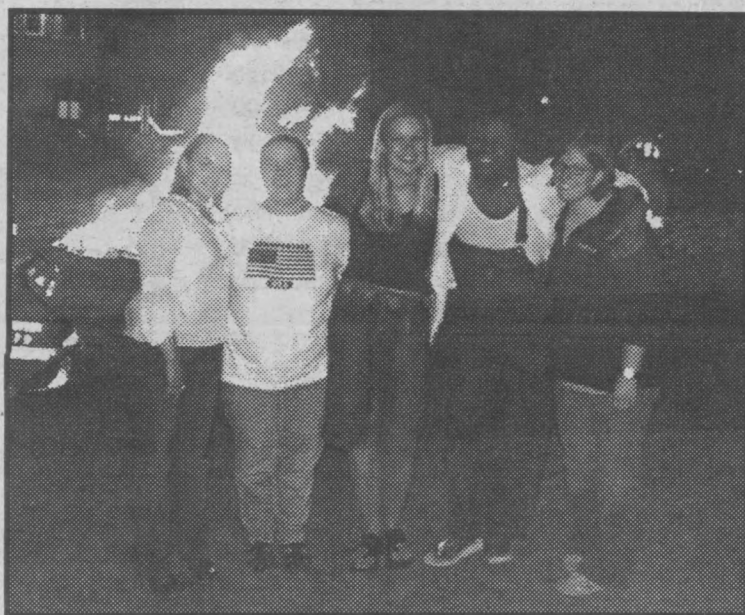
Orientation Leaders welcome back students in the summer and fall.



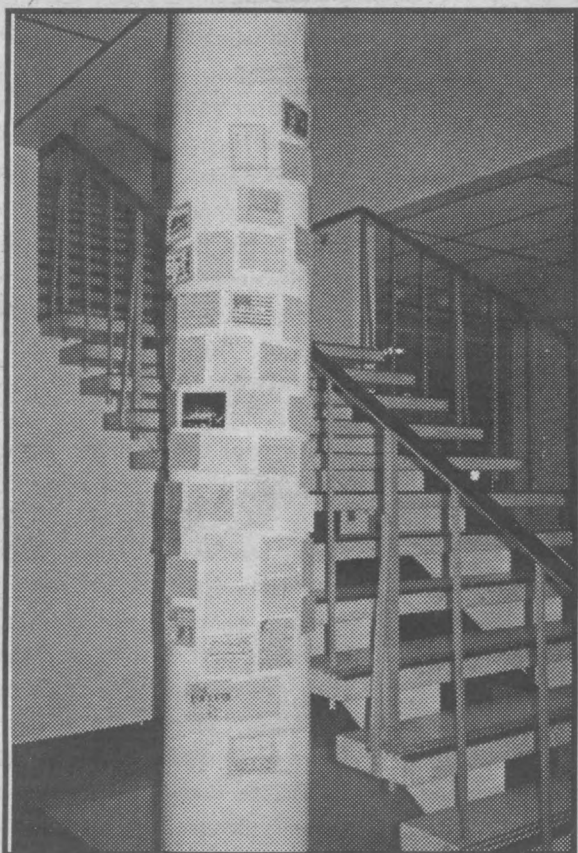
Freshman students play one of the games during Summer Orientation.



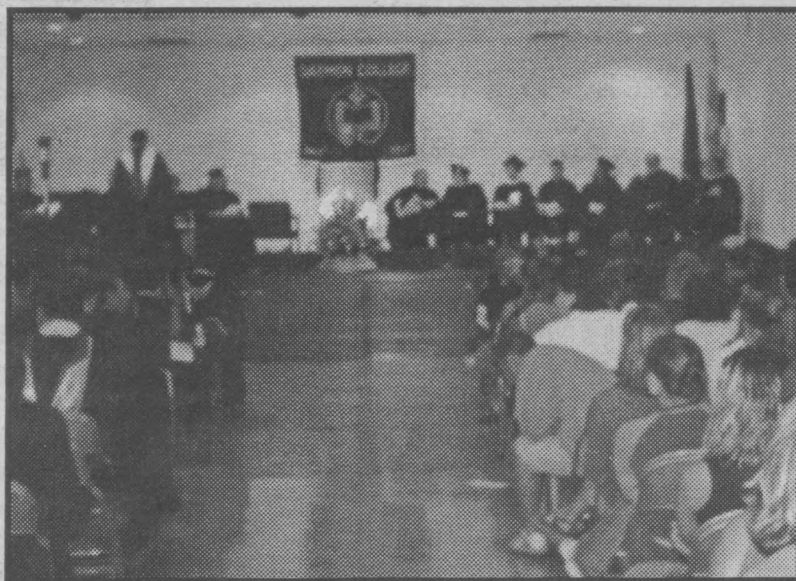
The Daemen Step Team at Midnight Madness.



Daemen students enjoy the roaring fire at Homeless Awareness Night.



Students filled out blue card to commemorate 9-11.



Freshmen are introduced to faculty and administrators at Convocation 2002.