A Maiden Voyage: Orientation

By Antoinette C. DelBel

A cruise ship, tropical music, palm trees, bars, and island "excursions" to different islands, and for some, seasickness, were not anything unusual to the incoming freshman class at this summer's orientation 2003.

Cruise to Tomorrow was this year's orientation theme, where the freshmen waved goodbye to their parents for a couple of days (Daemen College) as their "Cruise Directors," (orientation leaders) steered them in the right direction.

"Looks like a lot of smiles," said Dr. Mary Fox, Associate Professor. "The theme idea seems to be engaging them. It'll lock in a lot of good memories."

Good memories are what Kimberly Pagano, Director of Orientation and Transition Services, and her Orientation Committee were hoping to leave the freshman class with when they came up with the theme.

Although, at times some students felt overwhelmed. "In the beginning of the orientation, they were talking a lot about financial aid and the penalties of plagiarism; I felt like I was getting swamped with information," said Kristen Daka, 18.

Eleven different rooms and buildings on campus were designated as "Ports" for exotic islands. The freshman class "cruised the grounds" at different ports, to become familiar with the many student services available to them.

Duns Scotus, Wick Center, Rosary Hall, the Business Building and Schenck Hall were disguised as Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Curaçao, Costa Rica, San Juan, St. Maarten and St. Thomas.

Cruise Directors were assigned each student

Questions Arise, Rise In Tuition

By Brittany Cozad

Although it's an inevitable fact that tuition fluctuates each year at every college, students attending private facilities tend to question changes made to school bills more frequently. Daemen prides itself for their reputation as a small private college that provides close personal attention to its students. While this is something they wouldn't receive at a large university, individuals who attend private institutions don't have the luxury of state funding, and are responsible for paying all the college's expenses.

"I don't mind that tuition is raised, but I don't understand where the extra money goes," said Amber McKenzie, a junior Secondary Education major.

Tuition increased this year from $14,270 to $15,120, and while many may see this as extravagant, it's important to compare our college's expenses to other privately funded schools in the area. Canisius escalated their tuition by 7.2 percent, charging their students $20,193. Students at St. Bonaventure saw a 6.4 percent college fee increase for a total of $17,925 per year. Housing for residents also increased for both freshmen and upperclassmen. A suite in Canavan with the 19 meal plan came to $7,000 and $7,370 to live in the apartment on the 14 meal plan. Daemen's residence charges averaged lower than both Canisius and Niagara University.

We try to keep the percentage increase affordable and between five and six percent to make more room. The shower stalls are also being replaced. The cost of upgrading the upperclassmen apartments has increased with the newly installed wireless Internet connection, and with individual air conditioning and thermostats. "We want to maintain those buildings so they remain in the shape they are in," said Beiswanger. Daemen has been upgrading their entire Internet capability over the past two years, and certain classrooms have been installed with projections that enable laptops to be connected. Degree and program options have also enhanced with the Canadian Scholars and Doctorate program in Physical Therapy.

Having to maintain faculty wages, natural gas, electricity, and work compensation has also caused tuition charges to increase. Daemen's insurance policies that cover liability with the students, trucks, and vans have also become more expensive since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Heating up: Homeless Awareness

By Amanda Moen

On Friday, Sept. 12 the Daemen Community gathered to share their thoughts and experiences concerning homelessness in America. It was an evening where one could create memories with friends of new and old. Representatives from sororities, fraternities and other campus organizations spoke of their involvement with homelessness and encouraged others to do the same. Some of the organizations presented checks in hope of benefiting local foundations.

As the Homeless Awareness ceremony came to a close, Ottis kicked off the night with some live entertainment. Next with the help of the Snyder Fire Department the Daemen campus became aglow with its annual bonfire. Students, faculty and staff indulged in the late night marshmallows, hot dogs and hot chocolate. Others were also entertained by the playful firefighters who took it upon themselves to soak each other. A few brave students decided to join in on this rather wet fight.

Overall as the fire turned into a pile of ashes and the members of Ottis played their final tune, the Daemen Community left with a sense of warmth and fulfillment after an enjoyable evening with friends.
Precious Seconds

By Josh Gallagher

"Assuming all of the estimations of the age of the earth are correct and imagining all of these approximately 4,500 billion years compressed into a single 24 hour day, a very approachable...umm accessible model can be created," hesitating, the spry old man glances through his classroom, his words returned by glassy glasses and slack jaws. "In this model, beginning your day at 12:00 a.m. it would take only 4 hours for the first single celled organism to develop," halting again, Dr. Erden scans the room looking for any signs of life in the classroom but is greeted once again nothing more than the collective muteness of apathy. "Can anyone guess how long in hours it took for the first sea plants to develop?", asks the Doc. He peers around the room eager for involvement.

"When will this guy shut up," wonders Kari. "I'm taking this class because I need a science credit, none of this information will ever benefit me. Next, he's gonna be ranting about oil and gas and how it all my fault because I drive too much and how every time I fill my tank I should have a moment of silence for all the dead soldiers fighting to keep my gas prices low...like I have anything do with that, what a Geezer, he should retire." Kari, scrapes her head, yawns, and glances out the window.

"Yes, Kari," Doc asks, taking her outstretched hand as an invitation. "Uh...I'm not sure" she stammers. Exasperated, Doc breaks the suspense. "16 hours. Kari states, 16 hours just for a sea plant. Now were at about 8:30 pm, the terrible lizards, the dinosaurs come and go between 11:00 and 11:45pm".

Try one minute and 17 seconds, an entire human lifetime would come in go in an eyeblink. Now this relationship, Don't answer, just think he utters. With great weight, he frowns wondering if he should con­tinue.

Looking across the empty room, littered with cups, half empty spring water bottles and the occasional crumpled, bleached notepaper.

"Dee cups, half empty spring water bottles and the occasional crumpled, bleached notepaper," as he gathers his things, Dr. Erden is saddened. Stepping out the front door of Duns Scotus into the wilderness is through default correct.

The Daemen College literary magazine, Step, is now accepting original creative writing for its Fall 3003 edition. Send submissions or questions to StepEntries@hotmail.com.
Mankey: New Dean of Students

By Amanda Whalen

"It's all about learning, being able to listen, being open minded, able to observe, and willing to understand," says new Dean of Students, Dean Richanne Mankey. Dean Mankey is from Ohio Northern University, where she held the position as Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

In a recent interview, I was able to talk with Dean Mankey about her experiences, career, wishes for the future, her first few weeks here at Daemen, and the benefits of a smaller college. Why did she choose Daemen? Among many reasons, but more importantly, it was small and a name-based campus (compared to the bigger schools). Also because it was comfortable, welcoming, and a change of a position. Daemen is friendly, it feels like home, and it has a nice student body," said Dean Mankey.

She is a strong leader, rising quickly through the ranks. She went from being a RA in college, to an entry level position, working with students as a student herself. She wanted to be a mentor for students and she was eager to learn. She was headed to law school, but changed her mind and decided to pursue her masters degree. She really does enjoy her position.

"Being head of so many organizations and events is exciting and invigorating," she said. How does she feel about coming from a school of 3,000 to one of 1,800? Attending a smaller college is a help to many students. "It's less intimidating for students. For me, I made a conscious choice to come," Dean Mankey said. "Daemen has a strong foundation and I want to build on that to help us in the future."

Outstanding Employee Awards

President Martin J. Anisman gave a State of the College Address Thursday, Sept. 11 in Wick Center, Social Room. He awarded three faculty members, who were recommended by their peers of the campus.

Dr. Kathleen C. Boone, Associate Dean of the College, received the "Outstanding Administration" award.

Ms. Brenda Rosen, Secretary of Conference and Events, received the "Outstanding Staff Member" award.

Dr. Keith Taylor, Dean of the Division of Health and Human Services, received the "Outstanding Faculty" award.

Reggaefest

By Amanda Moen

The Daemen dining hall was bouncing to the beats of its 1st annual Reggaefest this past Saturday. Local and Canadian artists traveled to Daemen to display their soulful talents to an enthusiastic crowd. Being as talented as they were and willing to please their fans, the various artists took requests from the audience. Along with the various bands was a reggae vendor. Her eccentric pieces reflected the heart and soul of reggae. As the Reggaefest came to a close its final artist got out into the crowd and got everyone hyped. Students were brought to their feet to dance and sing with this excellent performer. It was a night full of fun and laughter, Daemen was jammin' man!!

One of the bands at the Reggaefest, as the play Bob Marley Songs. (Photo by Laura Beth Witt)

Daemen Welcomes the New Faculty Staff

Ann Casady, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design
Christian Brandjes, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Casey Armour, Assistant Professor of Biology
Matthew Ward, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Penny Messinger, Assistant Professor of History and Government
Joanne Bedard, Assistant Professor of Education
Kirsten Nielsen, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anatomy
Richanne Mankey, Dean of Student Affairs
Leslie Wade, Secretary of the Special Education Research and After School Program.
Laurine Sweeney, Maintenance Department
Joanne Tomczak, Maintenance Department
Barbara Cavallaro, Secretary of the Visual and Performing Arts Center
Elizabeth Burgoyne, Mail Room Clerk

Orientation

(Continued From page 1)

to ease the transition into college, and help them acclimate to the school environment and community.

Tiffany Thomas, Daemen graduate and assistant to Pagano, comforted those who experienced a little seasickness at the orientation.

"I walk up to them, introduce myself and talk to them. I let them know to give Daemen a chance," she said. "It's all about the person and personality. I'm a humorous person who cracks jokes, and make them smile."

Throughout the day, the students engaged in various activities that Dan Schiesser, Director of Residence Life, described as "Organized mass confusion."

They answered trivia questions about Daemen, shook their bon-bon in a conga line, and played a game of hot potato, only it wasn't a potato, and it sure wasn't hot. Instead, the students passed around an ice cube. When the music stopped, the person who was stuck holding the cube had to share something about themselves with the group.

The staff joined in on the fun too.

"I try to get on their level, and let them know that just because we're staff, we'll be down there, dancing with them," Schiesser said. "We're acting like goofs, and having fun, so they're going to have fun."

The partying didn't stop there.

In the evening, the freshman class participated in a murder mystery dinner theater entitled Maritime Mayhem - Dead Man Floating. Later that night, they were invited to a luau and karaoke.

Students from this summer's first orientation session had so much fun at the luau that they wanted to sneak into the second orientation session, said Chris Malik, Director of Student Activities.

Dr. Fox, Associate Professor, explains the importance of Daemen's Orientation Program: "It helps to build a sense of community," she said.

Schiesser assents.

"We want the (new students) to feel like a part of the Daemen family right away," he said.

"We want them to be expected to come here in the fall, and to feel a part of the campus."

Tuition

(Continued From page 1)

However, as tuition and residence fees continue to change, it leaves us with one question. Does financial aid also adjust to meet the difference? Financial Aid is broken down into two categories: merit based scholarships and need based aid. Students who receive money based on their grades from previous schools will continue to obtain the same amount throughout their Daemen career. Financial aid ranging from federal grants, TAP (Tuition Assistance Program), work study, and Stafford loans can change pending on a student's financial standing. A student's year in college can also affect how much financial assistance s/he will acquire. Federal regulations have imposed restrictions to the amount of Stafford loans a student can borrow based on the student's status level. A junior in college can be awarded more in Stafford loans than a freshman in College officials use the FAFSA data and tries to determine what type of aid an individual will receive based on the FAFSA data and tries to form the best financial package to meet the student's circumstances.
Horoscopes

By Laura Beth Witt

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22)
Although you may have been worrying about the skeletons in your closet lately, you have no need to worry. Keep an honest heart and, difficult as it may seem, do not revert from your natural tendencies.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22)
Your photographic nature warms many, but don't follow past mistakes. Although you are not in trouble yet, be wary that your emotions may lead you to forget about your responsibilities.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 22)
This coming week comes on winter winds, so remember it's time to start planning for the cold months to come. You may find yourself feeling vulnerable in the weeks to come, and secrets, may be the cause.

Aries (March 21-April 20)
Your competitive nature will prove very useful in the near future, but now is not that time. Remember, games are entertainment, and are not meant to be stressful. You would be wise to stop and smell the roses, they will not always be in bloom.

Taurus (May 21-June 20)
Drastic changes left you feeling too sure of yourself. You need to plant your feet in firm soil before you are washed away with the comming storms. A new dawn approaches, be on your guard.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
You may find yourself feeling torn between work and play. It may be time to reestablish your priorities. If you do not, it will prove hazardous to your health. Keep in mind what is truly important to you, and not what is important to others.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Empt your trash cans, clean out your closets, and begin anew in your relationships. You have to throw out that which you once held dear, but you cannot let former treasures continue to pile up.

Leo (July 23-Aug 22)
It is time to put your ambitious nature to use! Allow your feelings and intuition guide you as you see the weeks to come. People love you as you love people.

Movie Review

By Nina Zehr

Confidence
Starring: Edward Burns, Dustin Hoffman, Rachel Weisz, Andy Garcia, Paul Giannetti, and Luis Guzman
Directed by: James Foley
Rated R for language, violence, and sexuality/nudity
Running Time: 97 minutes
Lions Gate Films, 2000

Confidence: Nice suit!

On the DVD extra Sundance Channel Presents Anatomy of a Scene, director James Foley describes his new crime caper, Confidence, as "a bit of a con dressed up in a nice suit." Indeed, Confidence dresses up very well, using colorful sets, fast-paced editing, men in designer clothes throwing cash around, women in almost no clothes at all smoking cigarettes, and a script full of witty one-liners to hold the viewers attention. However, scrape away that glossy surface ("the nice suit") and what's left is a formulaic con movie that offers few surprises.

Confidence follows a handsome con artist, Jake Vig (Edward Burns) and his partners as they accidentally swindle a crime lord known as "The King" (Dustin Hoffman) out of $150,000. When the King orders one of Jake's accomplices killed, Jake arranges a meeting with him and agrees to pull another "job," this time in order to pay the King back. Fans of the classic con movie The Sting will find this scenario painfully familiar, and audiences that haven't seen it still won't be too surprised. In fact, the plot is so similar to that of The Sting that deciding whether the film is homage or just plagiarism becomes difficult. What makes the movie stand out is Hoffman's brilliant performance as the gom-poppping, palm-reading, ADHD-afflicted King. Hoffman is irresistibly charming and terrifying at the same time, a combination few other actors can manage to pull off. He truly steals the show here, and the only disappointing element of his role is that it is so small.

Another of the movie's few saving graces is the ironically humorous script, which is peppered with such gems as "He came down with a sudden case of drowning" and "Are you new?" Pure comedy, yes, but for every one of these, there's one we've heard before, such as: "People have tried this before. It's never worked." (Can you say Ocean's Eleven, anyone?)

Of course, a script filled with humor, murder, and big guns must have a little romance thrown in. Enter Lily (Rachel Weisz), a sexy bad girl who pickpockets her way into Jake's heart only to stab him in the back. Weisz relies a bit too heavily on cigarettes and seductive stares to establish her character, but in a film filled with cliches she fits nicely.

The plot concludes with the standard onslaught of twists. Not all of them are expected or obvious, but none of them are particularly shocking, either. Someone should have told Foley: you fool your audience once, shame on you; fool them twice, shame on them; try to fool them three, four, five times, and your plot is going to start getting convoluted and ridiculous.

Charming plot twists and tired story aside, Confidence is entirely too stylish to be boring. Although the movie never manages to break any new cinematic ground, it also never manages to entirely lose your interest. However, Foley seems to have summarized his movie perfectly: it's a slick little con, lacking substance, dressed up in good-looking actors and a pretense of believability that when taken at face value, is worth 97 minutes of your time.

A taste of Daemen - Vendors from all over give free samples of all different kinds of food, and it's free! For some commuter's this is the only time that they eat in the dining hall.

Holiday dinners - this is when food service really shines! They break out the good stuff, which in the past has included crab dishes, cheesecakes, and well, all sorts of stuff you never expected to see in the dining hall on a regular basis.

Mr. & Ms. Daemen Competition - Male and female Daemen students compete in a "Miss America" sort of contest.

Casino night - Be ready to put on your "poker face" students! Wick is transformed into a casino for one night, with black jack, roulette, and other games. Chips can be bought at the door, and prizes can be won at the end of the night.

Exam snacks - residence life provides late night munchies for students as they are presumably studying for their finals.

Grubka: Essay Winner

Gabrielle Grubka, a French major, presently studying at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, has won an international essay competition run by the Canadian Government. The award will fund Gabrielle's return to Quebec this winter to pursue her research into bi-linguality in Canada.