

The Ascent

ATTN: The Ascent will now be printed on a regular, bi-weekly basis

September 2003

A Maiden Voyage: Orientation

By Antoinette C. DelBel

A cruise ship, tropical music, palm trees, leis, luaus, "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 and said aloha to the beginning of their new voyage. Students embarked the "cruise ship," (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.



Orientation Leaders lead they way at the Summer 2003 Orientation

(Photo Courtesy of Chris Malik)

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, Cancun, Cozumel, Jamaica, Miami, San Juan, St. Maarten and St. Thomas.

Cruise Directors were assigned each student

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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 apartments 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 keep the students going here," said Robert Beiswanger, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer.

With the tuition and housing fees increasing, Daemen has improved its campus and resident halls. New stackable furniture has been placed in the triple rooms in Canavan Hall in an effort 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.

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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



Chris Malik Serves up hot dogs during homeless awareness night.

(Photo by Laura Beth Witt)

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.

Opinions and Editorials

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 gazes 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 by 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 war and how its 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, scratches her head, yawns, and glances out the window.

"Yes, Kari," Doc asks, taking her outstretched hand as an invitation.

"Uhh... I'm not sure" she stammers.

Exasperated, Doc breaks the suspense. "16 hours, Kari," he 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"

"Does that mean humans existed for only 15 minutes?," Kari asks batting her lashes in an attempt to save face from her last falter.

"Hah" Doc, exclaims. "15 minutes indeed Kari, try one minute and 17 seconds, an entire human lifetime would come in go in an eyeblink. Now keeping this in mind, class, who needs who in this relationship. Don't answer, just think" he says triumphantly.

Doc grins to himself as the classroom empties hurriedly in response to the coming of the new hour. In the blink of an eye the entire classroom has dissolved leaving nothing but styrofoam coffee cups, half empty spring water bottles and the occasional crumpled, bleached notepaper.

As he gathers his things, Dr. Erden is saddened. Looking across the empty room, littered with debris... he frowns wondering if he should continue supporting an institution too cheap or lazy to even institute a recycling program.

Stepping out the front door of Duns Scotus into the smoke-choked air, his question lost all difficulty.

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.

In Praise of Americanism

S.D. Wright

As this new semester begins, I should mention that I greatly appreciate the opportunity to write for the political opinion page this year. I must admit that I am fairly new to the game; I contributed one piece last year entitled "The Democratic Response," but that was all. As the semester marches past, I plan to address issues of national importance from a liberal/progressive angle. I take great pains to understand other viewpoints, however, and will peruse any comments or criticisms e-mailed to swright@daemen.edu. In lieu of an adversary from the right this time around, I'd like to devote my first column to what I hope is a non-partisan issue.

The most horrific event in the history of our nation occurred, lest we forget, a little more than two years ago. On Sept. 11 2001, 19 men brutalized our country through a savage terrorist act. They killed more than three thousand by hijacking planes and piloting them into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon installation. Dense, devilish smoke wrapped its fist around Manhattan - with Lady Liberty standing not far off - and Americans everywhere strained for breath amidst the shock of this event. The tragedy, for all its enormity, gave way immediately to a new resolve, and the masses were consoled by a fresh sense of unity and a determination to right this wrong.

Some scholars have it that patriotism and nationalism are only natural after an event like this. We were, after all, reminded of our collective identity as Americans. I don't disagree, but a simple generalization diminishes this exceptional moment. I dare not speak for the average American - there is no such thing, really - but I myself felt anguish, fury and pity all at once. Those emotions coalesced, eventually, into a more focused feeling: love of country. This was the to-hell-with-our-enemies patriotism, the growling and spitting patriotism. A storm of anger had overwhelmed the country, and rightfully so. A stark and tragic depiction of what occurred was beamed instantly across the TV waves and Internet channels, with Americans gaping at what they saw and shaking their heads in outrage.

Perhaps this could have led to self-righteousness and an explosion of ethnocentric violence, but it largely did not. One does well remembering the difference between our zealotry and those of the terrorists'. The followers of Osama bin laden, inculcated in a malevolent philosophy, slaughtered thousands. Americanism led men to rush up smoky stairways to rescue innocent people, as others were on their way down. Our kind of zeal motivated airline passengers to march on a hijacked cockpit. Those citizens' singular sacrifice caused the terrorists to die a humiliating, meaningless death, their plot deterred. And when blue-collar Americans later gave of their blood, money, and lives to a shared cause - recovery and reprisal - honorable duty and passion were embodied and exemplified.

Patriotic fervor, you see, cannot be brushed away by intellectuals as mere jingoism or hype. Not in the face of such sacrifice. Those who defend the American ideals of liberty, justice and pluralism by supporting their country cannot justly be derided as simpletons. Such elitist criticism is not just snobbery; it is rank stupidity. The liberal democracy of America is the high-water mark of Western civilization, period. To adore this country makes absolute sense.

Notice that I am not saying that American domestic and foreign policy should be exempt from criticism; you'll see me doing a lot of criti-

cal pieces on the government this year. I am suspect, however, of naive cynicism, and am conscious of those around us who have advanced themselves academically and politically through such empty babble, whether it be directed at Democratic or Republican administrations. The conditionally American impose morally absolutist delusions on government, it seems. Others are destined never to reach any firm conclusion about anything, and whose indecision is shallow-minded and immature. Like red-faced boys forever clustered on the edge of the dance floor at the junior prom, they are politically adolescent. They will never embrace any truths or ideals, even though truth needs to be obtained, just as prom girls need to be entertained.

It is altogether accurate though that great evil has been committed in the name of America. Yet it seems to me that to adopt an absolutely critical view of American policy is just as foolish as adopting a completely positive one. Carl Sandburg once said to "...Beware of the people who let their thinking be done for them and don't know it." Such is often the case in the lower class, surely, but there are many among the highly-educated who simply oppose anything that the majority of men support, believing, of course, that every rasping voice in the wilderness is through default correct.

And yet, for those few precious weeks immediately after the tragedy, no one bemoaned their own identity as Americans; they celebrated it. The flag-waving was splendidly representative of our great American idealism and optimism. We would do well to remember the country immediately after that day. For those weeks, at least, no one arrogantly and pretentiously shied away from celebrating their Americanism.

The Ascent

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The Ascent

Wick Center

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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 position. "Daemen is friendly, it feels like home, and it has a nice stu-

dent 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 chaged her mind and decided to persue 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.

Reggaeefest

By Amanda Moen

The Daemen dining hall was bouncing to the beats of its 1st annual Reggaeefest 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 vender. Her eccentric pieces reflected the heart and soul of reggae. As the Reggaeefest 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 Reggaeefest, as they play Bob Marley songs.

(Photo by Laura Beth Witt)

Da-Mentions

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 Sadler, 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 playing, 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 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 excited 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 "federal formula" 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 students circumstances.

Horoscopes

By Laura Beth Witt

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22)

Although you have been worrying about the skeletons in your closet lately, you have no need to worry. Keep an honest heart and, difficult as a certain someone makes it, you will be rewarded in the long run.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22)

Although it may seem like you do more work than those around you, those 'others' are keeping something else in mind: fun, and remembering that the world isn't as bleak as it seems. Spend this last bit of warm weather outside, and visit new places.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 22)

Your passionate 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.

Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)

Luck has been on your side this past month. Your positive attitude to others has opened doors and new relationships for you. Although things may not always be so fortunate, for the time being, keep up the good work!

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)

Someone from your past has been thinking about you. Now may be a good time to think about catching up with some old friends. Time has resolved past differences. Both old and new friends can bring liberation to your daily routine.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)

Your friends have been there for you when you needed them, however, the lose change in your pockets may not always be there! A penny saved is a penny earned, and that penny may prove more useful in the future.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20)

This coming week comes on winter winds, so remember it's time to start planning for the cold weeks 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 that 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 (April 21-May 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 coming 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)

Empty 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 in the weeks to come. People love you for who you are, do not revert from your natural tendencies.

Movie Review

By Nina Zehr

Confidence

Starring: Edward Burns, Dustin Hoffman, Rachel Weisz, Andy Garcia, Paul Giamatti, and Luis Guzman

Directed by: James Foley

Rated R for language, violence, and sexuality/nudity

Running Time: 97 minutes

Lions Gate Films, 2002

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 gum-popping,

palm-reading, ADHD-afflicted King. Hoffman is irresistibly charming and terrifying at the same time, a combination few other actors are capable of pulling 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 original line, 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 clichés she fits in 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.

Ridiculous 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.

Every year as a daemen student I have heard the freshman class complaining about how there is nothing to do on campus. Hoever, every week there all kinds of events that are going on. After All, they already paid for these programs with their tuition, yet by not going to these events, their money is wasted.

Of all of the events here at Daemen, I know that the names of the events don't describe them well. So, here is a brief listing of events, and what they actually are.

Airband - Airband is a type of contest, where students either singly or in groups (usually groups) lip sync and dance. The winners are announced by a panel of judges.

BOOBAR - BOOBAR is Daemen College's annual Halloween party. Awards are given out to the best costume, both single costume and group costumes. There's dancing, music, food, and other daemenites!

TGIF - TGIF gatherings supply free food (usually chicken fingers, pizza and wings). Either a band performs or it's a karaoke night.

Midnight Madness- a traditional basketball event. Daemen students cheer on our basketball team at its first game of the season and attend the after party!

Movie nights- one of Daemen's clubs/organizations sponsor a movie night when they pick a movie of their choice, and play it on the large screen in Alumni lounge. Popcorn, nachos, and soda are provided, to sate your movie munchies. Signs are put up in wick lobby advertising what movie is to be shown.

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 dinning 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.

-Laura Beth Witt

Grubka: Essay Winner

Gabrielle Grubka, a French major, presently studying at St. Francis Xavier University in 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-lingualism in Canada.