### History of Pranks Has Serious Roots

By Amy Dehn

It's no joke that we Americans love to poke fun. And the fact that there's an entire day in our nation devoted to prank-playing gives the concept even more universal appeal.

But most people don't realize that April Fool's Day actually has a serious origin; it stems from a calendar change in the late 1600s.

Previously, ancient cultures, like the Romans and Hindus, celebrated New Year's Day on April 1st, following the vernal equinox, the celebration of spring. In 1582, however, Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new "Gregorian Calendar" to replace the previous "Julian Calendar," moving New Year's Day to January 1st.

There's no actual date for the first "April Fool's Day," but historians assume it started somewhere in France after the calendar change. Communication being what it was back then, news either didn't travel fast enough, or, for those who knew, they refused to accept the Pope's calendar change, thus continuing to celebrate the New Year on April 1st. These people were labeled "fools," were subject to ridicule, and often sent on "fools errands" or were just simply the butt of practical jokes. The harassment gradually evolved into an annual tradition of prank-playing, and soon spread into England and Scotland in the eighteenth century, and eventually the American colonies.

It's not that everyone's a "fool" at heart, but people, especially in America, have learned how easy it is to be "punk'd," and how fun it is to be the one "punking." April Fool's Day has developed into an international prank-fest at the expense of one's family and friends—and sometimes the general public.

That's right. In the past few decades, Americans have gotten some pretty good pranks played on them, ranging in topics from imaginary sports figures to fast food mergers with national monuments. In a look back at America's history, you can pinpoint some of the greatest jokes ever played on April Fool's Day.

It might be a stretch, but maybe you remember hearing about a baseball player named Sidd Finch planning to play for the Mets back in April of 1985? Well, featured in that month's issue of Sports Illustrated was a story about this rookie pitcher who could throw a baseball at 168 mph, reportedly learned from his time at a Tibetan monastery. Mets fans across the nation rejoiced at the team's blessing—only to find out that he only existed in the imagination of the author of the article, George Plimpton.

Perhaps you can recall the Taco Bell Corporation purchase of the Liberty Bell from the federal government back by Amy Dehn

### April Fool's Day Pranks:

- **1. Place clear tape across the outside of a door from top to bottom.** Frequently the prank will run into it, especially if they are in a hurry.
- **2. Place "Bang-Snaps" (used at Independence Day) in precarious positions on a door so they drop and explode when the door is opened.**
- **3. Fill the showerhead with dry temp-er paint, onion salt, Easter egg pel­lets or the like. Lifesavers are great since they dissolve and then reform on the victim. The victim will feel sticky afterwards. The solution to that is to take another shower.**
- **4. Swipe someone's clothes and towels while they are showering.**
- **5. Glue the lids to people's shampoo bottles.** They get all wet and then realize they can't wash their hair.
- **6. Place clear cellphane over the toilet bowl but under the seat. Works best at parties where most people are intoxicated.**
- **7. Place Vaseline (or other dear gel) on the seat of a toilet at night.**
- **8. Freeze glasses to trays in the cafe­teria. This can be accomplished by heating the bottom of the glass with honey and sticking it firmly to the tray.** Fill the glass with ice, water and salt to lower the temperature. After a few minutes the honey should be frozen to both the tray and the glass.
- **9. Fill a person's room while they are asleep with large amounts of shaving cream too.**
- **10. Superglue several quarters to a wall of a door from top to bottom.** The harass­ment would have been had I running for freedom. Unless a student has the finances to live on their own off campus, the only way to achieve this independence is to dorm. Living on school grounds is also more con­venient for attending morning classes.

### Who Has More Fun?

By Brittany Cozad

After commuting to Daemen for the past two and a half years, I've often wondered how different my college experience would have been had I lived at school. At first, the idea of eat­ing cafeteria food every day or spend­ing all my time on a small campus did­n't appeal to me. But now that I am a senior and I could roll out of bed to take a class. Having close library and com­puter lab access is another benefit of dorming. You've all had those nights that your home computer wasn't working, or you needed to gather last minute research. With a number of these resources available until mid­night on most days, Daemen housing could have resolved many of those academic crises.

I've heard many commuters com­ment on how there is never anything to do on campus. However, after attending Student Association meetings and click­ing on the What's Happening page on the college Web site, I realized there are many activities after school hours. Since residents are constantly surrounded by students throughout the school year, they are able to meet more people and exchange on-campus ideas. Whether it's going to movie nights or concerts like "The Women Who Rock," residents seem to always find a way keep themselves busy, because they organize a majority of these functions. Although I've taken part in some of our college activities, students who dorm are almost always more informed on campus events and are part of the Daemen community more so than non-residents.

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My Stupid Computer

By Darrell Moore, Director of Computer Support Services

During the past 25 years I've received a lot of questions about computers and for the most part, I try to explain to people why computers do or don't do the things they're supposed to without making the explanation too confusing.

To show you how confusing this can be, take computer people for example. We call ourselves all sorts of nifty names like Information Technologists or System Specialists, Network Administrators and so on. The truth is we're just the computer guys or girls. We have always been and always will be just that. As with most vocations, some of us are more knowledgeable than others. Perhaps the most frustrating computer guy doesn't know the answer to your question, they quickly present you with a terrific acrimonious buzz word which usually ends up with a "but" on the end of it and also infer there is a virus involved. Most folks tend to vacantly nod like they know what the computer guy is saying. I'm usually one of those people vacantly nodding, too.

In fact, even after all these years, there's still a lot of things I don't understand about computers.

The mouse for example. If you have more than one, should you call them mice? Do they run in herds? I really don't know. I've also wondered about the monitor. I'm looking at mine right now and it doesn't monitor anything. It looks more like a TV screen. The keyboard doesn't look like the board with the little hooks which I hang my car keys on either. I don't know why we call them keyboards.

My computer is called a CPU which stands for central processing unit. Some folks call it a tower. I don't. I don't even look like a tower. I have a lot of names I've called it when it doesn't work. The little arrow on the screen is called a cursor. I suppose that name came from all the names I've called my computer over the years. For those of us who use the Windows Operating System, we don't really know that it's an Operating System which allows all the programs to be Word, Works, Word Perfect, WinZip, Winamp and WinFax to work. If they like programs which begin with the letter "W" so much they should call themselves "Microsoft".

They tell me I can store the complete works of Dickens, Poe, Wilde and Shakespeare on a single one-point-four megabyte diskette but I can't fit even one Basta Rhymes music file on the diskette. Not that I would either. I assume the computer's hard drive is there. I can't see it but I certainly trust people to tell me that it is. I'm also told that my particular hard drive will hold 80 gigabytes of data which means I could store 58,514 of these little diskettes inside my computer. I'm not sure why I need all of that. I don't nor­mally use more than 86,000 diskettes.

During the past year or so, one of the hottest subjects to hit the internet is called "pop-ups" which, as you know, are the many additional internet browser screens that instantly appear to encourage you to buy their product, like I'm actually going to drop everything and run to the store to buy their product after they've crashed my computer. I enjoy pop-ups almost as much as "spam" e-mails. I have no idea why they call them spam but it seems to fit. Yesterday I received 24 e-mails. Three were from people I know while the rest were from banks and insurance companies who tried to sell me money and insure me. If they really knew me they wouldn't do that.

I don't have an actual count of how many people in the Daemen Community who have called me and started the conversation by saying, "I can't get this stupid computer to work!" but let's just say quite a few! Now listen closely because (Continued on page 5)

Joke's On Him: Dean Taylor Turns 40

By Antoinette DelBel

Despite the many practical jokes and pranks that come in accordance with April Fool's Day, there is one thing that's funny, and it's no joke at all.

Dean Keith Taylor, division of health/human services, turns the big 4-0 on this day dedicated to fools. Although born on April 4, Dean Taylor would say his personality is hardly considered foolish. However, after talking with some of his close friends and wife of 12 years, his life seems to be one big joke — figuratively speaking.

Many of Dean Taylor's interests include shopping, doing some gardening around the house, keeping up with his embroidery skills, and climbing ladders — especially when he can look into the windows of his next-door neighbors. Although, his favorite involves wearing a lot of jewelry out on a Saturday night full of fun and excitement, none of these hobbies can ever surpass the love he has for the four women in his life.

The Dean spends most of his time with his three beautiful daughters and a wife, who he says is the "food Nazi." Surprisingly enough, at age 40, Dean still gets someone to pack his lunch for him...his wife, Mary Jean. By keeping a close eye on what Dean Taylor eats, Mary Jean can be sure he doesn't eat anything that isn't healthy for him. She says, excluding greasy foods and his favorite—chopped liver topped with chocolate syrup— from his diet is difficult for him.

"If he had it his way, he would eat nothing but McDonald's, chicken wings and seafood every day," said Taylor. "He tries to sneak cookies and donuts late at night, but is always caught — red­handed."

Keeping fit is crucial to Dean Taylor right now while attending Boot Camp at the YMCA in Amherst, where Daemen Alumni and physical therapy students engage in vigorous exercises every morning at 6:00.

He loves to golf and bought what his wife can only describe as a "Fred Flintstone club" to improve his golf swing. So far, it's helped him to get the highest score every time he plays! Long­time friend and Chair of the Physical Therapy Department Michael Brogan, however, says Taylor needs to do more than buy a decent golf club to improve his game.

"The thing about Keith is that he doesn't enjoy competition for the fear that he may win," says Brogan. "The truth is he is actually preferring losing."

There is one thing however, that the Dean knows he can never lose at — that is, his articulate woodworking abilities. Growing up as the youngest of six kids, Dean Taylor knew he had an innate talent for woodshop. He loves to do proj­ects around the house. In fact, he takes so much pride in his work that "before turning on any machine, he'll walk around the house for three days, wearing a pencil in his ear and holding a notepad, just measuring things," jokes Taylor. She says listening to hard-core rap is what inspires him when he is down in his workshop chipping away at wood.

Dean of the Arts and Sciences Division Dr. Peter Siedlecki, says Dean Taylor "has a dream of rebuilding Daemen" and is working day after day to make his dream a reality. This explains why Dean Taylor can be referred to as the Energizer Bunny for the simple fact that even at the age of 40, he keeps going and going.

Although April Fool's Day is a day committed to pulling pranks and practical jokes, Dean Taylor says his personality is not like that at all. But, we know otherwise!
Response to Prof. Cuddy

Readers of this newspaper who enjoyed "Lord of the Rings" will appreciate Prof. Cuddy's ability to create a world yet familiar and completely fictional, out of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He accomplishes this by delving just far enough into the facts to make his claims appear true, but no further.

For example, Prof. Cuddy states that the 1947 UN partition of Palestine, which Jews overwhelmingly rejected, unfairly gave 55% of the land to the Jews. This much is true. However, 2/3 of the Jewish population of the New Land, which remains barely habitable today. Much of the rest had been malarial swamps and unusable land that had been drained at the cost of many lives, or restored to fertility by the Jews. Further, the British had earlier given 80% of the Palestine Mandate, that portion east of the Jordan River, to be ruled by a sparse population of Arabs, with Jews completely excluded. The remaining 20% was yet to be divided between Arabs and Jews.

Another example: Prof. Cuddy agrees with condemning the murder of some 1,000 Israelis by Palestinians (not to mention over 6,000 wounded), but suggests I'm "oblivious to 2600 Palestinians, largely civilians, killed by Israeli occupation forces." Again, his numbers are (partly) correct. And again, he stops short of the full truth. Actually, over 80% of Palestinians killed were armed combatants, including suicide bombers, suicide bombers, or fuel embers who detonated prematurely. For every successful Palestinian attack, many more are stopped or otherwise thwarted.

Palestinian attacks are a matter of keeping or restoring peace, the controlled economy, or even the political situation within their communities. The image of a people who operate from the point of view of their enemy's success is very different from the image of a people who believe in peace and use non-violent means to achieve it. The reasons for this image are complex, and the situation is far from simple.

Proposal of 33% Cut in TAP

The New York State Executive Budget proposes a 33% cut to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). While the Legislature has rejected this proposed change in recent years, the state cannot count on the same result this year without fully engaging in advocacy for this vital cause.

The Senate is currently considering the 33% cut to TAP, and we urge all residents of New York State to contact their elected representatives and other important leaders. The system is easy to use and requires just minutes of your time.

Also, you will be able to customize your messages, which provides the chance to call for restorations for programs such as the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) and the College Access and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP). These programs are slated for a proportionally smaller cut of five percent.

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The Tree That Binds the Worlds
(Continued from previous Issues)
by Dan Crofts

My sojourn in this dwelling ended immediately after I broke fast the next morning. Breakfast was somewhat of an improvement from the previous nights' dinner, but still nothing much. Again, I can't tell you what it was. It looked and tasted somewhat like oatmeal, but it was watered down considerably. Prior to my departure, my hosts provided me with heavier, more suitable clothing that all emitted from these new clothes was unpleasant, but that was the least of my worries. Dressed in a fashion identical to that of my former body, I walked out into the frozen tundra with no clear intentions. I hoped to find some means of returning home, even if the odds were against me; the sky was overcast all day, but any snow that could have fallen was held at bay. Because there was no sunlight, I couldn't tell how long I had been traveling when, at last, I came to a large cave near the base of a good-sized mountain. I felt as if I had been traveling for hours, although time seems to move at a much slower pace when one is weary, cold, and hungry. Noting that he figure was a good shelter, I made the short, but still difficult climb to the mouth of this dismal crevice.

Once inside, I concluded I was not trespassing, as there was nothing to indicate that anyone was living there, or even that anyone had lived there at one time. The cave was no more that ten feet wide, nor was it more than ten feet tall. I leaned against the wall of the cave, and slid to the ground. Exhausted, I was indifferent to the fact that I wasn't exactly utilizing the cleanest of accommodations. Apparently, good things come to those who realize that there is never any harm in asking, regardless of the circumstances. I ran my hand along the wall on which I was leaning. The rock was certainly rough, but not jagged.

"I don't know where I am," I said, thinking out loud. "But I wish I could understand everybody, and I wish I could understand me!"

At this point, the strangest thing happened. I tried to remove my hand from the rock, but suddenly found that I could not. My hand stuck to the rock, as if the cave wall and my hand had become one. In my sudden frustration, I withdrew my hand, with a swift, strong jerk, which nearly ripped the skin right off of the palm of my hand. Luckily, no damage had been done. A slight scrape, but nothing more. I decided that I would be better off on my feet.Strangely enough, I had no trouble alleviating myself, despite the fact that I had been leaning right against the wall. No sooner was I on my feet did I see a figure coming into sight. Like my host, this individual was heavily dressed. According to my point of view, he was journeying from east to west, a bundle slung across his left shoulder. I called out to him. After all, my chances of coming by another opportunity to find a decent settlement were probably slim to none. "Hello!" I called. The figure stopped to regard me, looking up at me in surprise. After all, I suppose it is very much an irregularity to find company in such wide desolation. I could see that this was a middle-aged gentleman, clean-shaven, but for several white whiskers on his chin. "Good morning," I called. "Can you take me with you, wherever you're going?" Knowing that he probably wouldn't be able to understand me, I spoke the words slowly and loudly. At this, he delivered a hearty laugh. "You needn't speak to me as though I were half deaf, lad!" said he. I was shocked. Whether this man was an out of place as I was I couldn't tell. What mattered was that he spoke to me in clear English! I didn't know what to say. I struggled to find the words, but before I could the man could surprise me yet again. "Come down!" he beckoned, making it clear that he didn't wish our communication to cease just yet. I did as he bade me do, paying no mind to the rough ground I tread. Once I came to stand before my new acquaintance, I noticed that he had several missing teeth. However, considering that I had finally found some sort of solace in my time of despair, this didn't bother me.

"What do you in so dished an abode, friend?" he asked in a gruff, voice, after glancing up. "I... I struggled for words. "I had nowhere else to go. I'm kind of lost."

The gentleman chuckled. "There are settlements all about, if you fear to look far enough!"

"Really?" I inquired with skepticism. "I guess I haven't been looking too hard, then, because all I see is ice."

"Oh," he said. "It's a sign of the times, I'm afraid. The land has fallen under a long awaited curse. Half of the populace cowers, the other half storms about in an insatiable rage. And now, the elements are taking their hand in our destruction. "What do you mean?" I asked.

"Come," he said, brightening up a bit. "We will have sufficient time to talk while we travel." So wide was the field of ice, snow, and rock across which we traveled that at one point, I began to wonder if this fellow had deceived me. Perhaps there were no settlements, and he was leading me into a trap. I tried not to entertain these notions, however. After all, he seemed congenial enough. Within a short time, he introduced himself to me as Bjorn of Nordsfjord. From this, I concluded that I had somehow ended up in the Scandinavian regions of Europe.

Along the way, he explained the aforementioned curse to me. At the dawn of time, a group of wise spirits known as the Noms declared that there would be, at some point, come an age of destruction known as "Ragnarok." First, men would quarrel needlessly amongst themselves. Then, when mankind had curled itself with inane battle lust and blind fury, a "Fimbul", or "monster" winter would settle upon the world. This would consist of an endless winter which would, if not grip one area of the world, and then spread its' wings over the whole of Midgard. Midgard, by the way, is the word with which this gentleman referred to the earth. Being a fan of mythology, I knew this to be the term with which the ancient Vikings referred to the world.

to be continued

Wow, a Rock the Vote style, politically educating, music having event is coming to Daemen! Volunteers needed. Want to help make it the best it can be? Contact: cwilson@daemen.edu

S.U.N.F.O.R.G.E.D. Be a part of Daemen's first activist based student organization. Interested? Contact: Sunforged@Hotmail.com

Daemen College as a Progressive, Environmentally Friendly Model Institution!

I—or over a decade educational institutions across the globe have been making the pledge to operate with more environmentally sustainable policies. A petition to sign on to the Taloraes Declaration is spreading across campus. Faculty and students alike are invited to read and sign the petition.

Contact: Daemen Environmental Sustainability Initiative Dr. Brenda Young byoung@daemen.edu or DS 314B

An Activist's fate
By Josh Gallagher

Frequently, the message of this column revolves around concepts of perceived injustices and meaningful action. Many times the voice of the column has been mildly insulting and challenging. For this, I must apologize. Sadly, once one becomes exposed to many of the commonly ignored injustices of our society it can easily change one's views towards those who are not similarly enlightened. Distressingly, this attitude is unavoidable and is increasingly powerful as causes erupt. It seems as you learn more about each cause, you become more susceptible to be empathetic towards similar causes. Some very prolific and highly publicized causes that I have been exposed to over the course of my college tenure seem no more than that other causes. Animal cruelty and the American food processing industry. The relationship between sweatshop labor and the products we wear and promote regularly. Worldwide anti-war protests, and worldwide globalization protests. The point being every aspect of American consumer life is connected to blatant injustice; 8 year olds stitching your shoes for pennies a day, animals tortured for your wasteful consumption. natural landscape and ecosystems destroyed for mindless development. nations across the globe menaced and coerced into cooperation by administrations that we approve of. states that we support through taxes, reaping on centuries old treaties with indigenous peoples, the list goes on...

But of course protesting and boycotting any of these industries would most likely result in a malnourished, naked, god-less, nation-less, poor, powerless shell of a sapient. So I guess we have to pick our battles and realize that an activist can only inform and hope that those reached have what it takes to make whatever positive changes suit them best. So, Wake up, reader, you support injustice every day, make an effort to promote positive change as your penance. It's more fun, satisfying, and natural than I make it out to be. In turn, I'll be less insulting.

jgallagh@daemen.edu

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By Josh Gallagher
With reality shows on the rise, the nation has been buzzing about this year's third season of American Idol. Teeny hopes Will has become the every-where-are-you-going-to-be-the-next-Kelly-or-Ruben, fantasizing about having their own groupies labeled something as clever as "Claymates." Who wouldn't want this life? 

Here in Western New York, we too are catching the Idol fever.

Hometown boy, John Stevens, of East Amherst has made it into the final twelve. With frantic telephone dialing becoming part of an evolving routine, WNY is doing its part to support its native. But my question for you now, is that did you know that one of our own Daeminites was a participant on American Idol?

Kasey Jolsten from Orchard Park tried out to be an American Idol in New York City, coincidently with John Stevens. Kasey is a 20 year old Graphic Design major here at Daemen. She transferred to Daemen in 2003 after attending UB for a year.

Now I bet you're all wondering, who is this girl? As a commuter, Kasey seems to have slipped through the cracks. Sure everyone has heard about Daemen's own, Any December and Today's Not Tomorrow, but who's giving the love to Kasey? In her hometown of OP she's the next Britney, minus the "toxic" appeal. Kasey has performed in high school concerts and various performances around OP. Her following may not be large yet, but she's trying to work her way to the top.

So, why didn't KJ make the cut? Unlike her classmates, Kasey never seemed to have the confidence to pursue her dreams. She played jokes to play on people you know, visit www.web-days.com/fools or http://www.marvelcreations.com/aprilfools.html for some great ideas.

Daemen Student Aspires To Be Next American Idol

I'll tell you a little secret and please don't mention it to anyone else. There's no need to be frustrated with your highly cryptic, convoluted, circuitous computer because after all, we're only human! Defeat the aggravation by taking a trip to your local florist and simply smell a fragrant flower! Computers can't do that - yet!

Kasey Jolsten from Orchard Park tried out to be an American Idol in New York City. Only to find out hours later that it was a joke. At least it inspired one person: when White House press secretary Mike McCurry was questioned about the sale, he responded that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold, and was now known as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

Remember Nixon's candidacy for President in 1992? His campaign slogan on Public Radio's Talk of the Nation was, "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again." The station's phone lines were flooded with outraged callers, all of which were attacks on the Nixon impersonator, Rich Little. Little, admitted the gag was on them. For any math majors out there, you might like to know that in April of 1998 Alabama changed the value of Pi from 3.14159... to 3.0. The state legislators claimed that it was a joke. At least it inspired one person: when White House press secretary Mike McCurry was questioned about the sale, he responded that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold, and was now known as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

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REMEMBER NIXON'S CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT IN 1992? HIS CAMPAIGN SLOGAN ON PUBLIC RADIO'S TALK OF THE NATION WAS...
Spike Lee To Speak

Spike Lee - film director, producer, writer, and actor
Will speak at
Daemen College 7:30 p.m.,
Tuesday, April 13, 2004, in the
Athletic Center
on the Daemen campus, 4380
Main Street, in Amherst.

His presentation, "America Through My Lens," is
free and open to the public.
Lee's presentation will be the keynote address for the 2004
Daemen College
Academic Festival, and will be
free and open to the public.

Dr. Cuddy's Reply to Laub

Whew!! Where does one begin with Richard
Laub's expansive epistle. Sorting out the morass
of truths, half truths, falsehoods and dubious
claims is daunting. But I'll give it a shot.

The original 55 % of Arab lands given to
the Jews did contain considerable desert area, as Mr.
Laub claims. But he ignored my major point:
that Israel grabbed another 23 % of Palestinian
lands during the 1967 war and took control of the
remaining 22 % in the 1996 war - bringing 100 %
of lands originally inhabited mostly by Arabs
under Israeli rule.

Israel had no intention of complying with UN
Resolutions calling for her withdrawal from terri-
tories occupied in 1967. That very year she
planted several Jewish settlements in that terri-
tory, launching the relentless expansion that con-
tinues today, whose purpose has been to establish
permanent Israeli control over this last bit of
Palestinian land.

These facts are important because Laub con-
tinues to spout the standard Israeli line blaming
Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat for the violent
conflict these past three years because he reject-
 Israel's peace proposal in July 2000 which,
Laub contends, promised "virtually everything be
demanded of Israel." In fact, that peace offer
promised 94% (many critics say much less) of the
22 % of former Arab lands left for Palestinians -
a sliver of land already shredded by Jewish set-
tlements and still subject to Israel's control over
its water supply.

"No Palestinian leader could have signed that
agreement," declares Rabbi Michael Lerner, a
leading Jewish American peace activist.

Israel is a "vibrant democracy," Laub tells us.
In reality, Israel is a "rigged democracy" - a self-
proclaimed "Jewish state" maintained by policies
geared toward preserving a solid Jewish majority
- including actions forcing hundreds of thou-
sands of Palestinians out of Israel in 1948-49
and barring their return; and immigration policies
welcoming millions of Jews from around the
world into Israel.

The rigged democracy is most glaring in the
occupied territory where 450,000 Jewish settlers
have voting rights, but not the three and a half
million Palestinians. Israel dares not grant
equal voting rights to those Palestinians under her
rule for 37 years because that would pro-
duce a Palestinian majority in a few years. And a
Palestinian majority would spell the end of the
"Jewish state" as we have known it.

After reading Laub's description of the humane
Israeli military forces you'd think they were part of
the Salvation Army. His claims are contradic-
ted by thousands of outsiders who have witnessed
the vile treatment that daily engulfs Palestinian -
like Angie O'Grady, for example, an American
volunteer who helped Palestinian farmers har-
est their olive groves. Within days, her growing
rage made her wonder how much she could
endure "before opting to become a human
bomb:" farmers unable to harvest their olives
for three years because of "gun shots, rock throwing,
injury, death," inflicted by Jewish settlers; work-
ners trying to pass innumerable check points
- some allowed through, others made to wait end-
lessly; an ambulance denied passage; a "very
pregnant" woman emerging from a taxi, stum-
bling 700 yards through piles of rubble to the
next check point, after which she continues
another 700 yards to the next taxi.

Her story is only a slice of the massive testimo-
y provided by many visitors who experienced
similar episodes.

Palestinian schools teach their youth to hate
Israelis and Jews, Laub informs us. But how
could anybody teach Palestinian history without
stirring the embers of hostility: the repeated
waves of conquest, violence and expulsions forc-
ing masses of Palestinians into refugee camps;
the relentless surge of Jewish settlements into
the last remnant of Palestinian lands dreaming
hopes for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and
Gaza Strip: the maintaining obstacle courses of
check points and road blocks which can turn a
25-mile journey into a four-hour trip while
neighboring settlers cruise by on Jewish-only
access roads.

Audio-visuals abound for history students,
their bitter past, starkly visible in the scenes
around them: demolished homes and neighbor-
hoods reduced to rubble by Israeli shelling and
bulldozers; former farmlands and properties,
castigated, and now occupied by settlers;
aguiers underlying the West Bank and siphoned
off for Israelis who consume five times per capita
the water rationed to Palestinians.

Laub is right, however, when he speaks of
Israel's "remarkable record" - flourishing uni-
versities, its medical services available to
Palestinians, the relative freedom that still
thrives amid terrible circumstances. His sharp
criticism of corruption perpetrated by Palestinian
leaders rings true. And, although his numbers
are suspect, who can quibble with Laub's lament
over Palestinian terrorists who, compounded the
misery of Palestinians, have inflicted death and
destruction on innocent Israelis - including some
who sided with Palestinians against the Israeli
government?

Still, I must decline Mr. Laub's invitation to "re-
try to publish it in the next issue.

If anyone would like to join in on this
discussion, please send submissions in
the recent past. I'd try to publish it in the next issue.
Animation of Independents
By Mack Lambert

When people think of animation, various miens transpose to thought: Japanese anime, Disney, Warner Bros., or Hanna-Barbera. In contrast to corporate animation, there are few individuals who can accomplish much on their own in the field of animation. One such individual is Oregon native, New York City resident Bill Plympton. His work can best be described as extremely funny and extremely shocking. As far as comparisons, work-wise, he is often associated with Terry Gilliam, Salvador Dalí, and Robert Crumb.

Before becoming an animator on a professional basis, Plympton started out as an illustrator/sketch artist for various magazines and periodicals. The first magazine he contributed to was Surfers World in 1971. He would go on to contribute to Rolling Stone, Playboy, and National Lampoon.

Plympton, even before working as a cartoonist, wanted to be an animator. His influences are shared amongst animators. He speaks Disney, Tex Avery, and Bob Clampett as his major stimuli.

One of his first works of animation was a short called Lucas, The Rise of Corn in 1977. It was based on one of many "metaphysical stories" for children by Gene GORELL. The method of animation utilized was "paper cutout", which has been also used by Terry Gilliam for Monty Python's Flying Circus, as well as by Terry Parker and Matt Stone for South Park. This film proved to be a favorite among child audiences. This short would also mark the only time he would venture into this type of animation. He would make another child-friendly work with 12 Tiny Christmas Tales for the Cartoon Network in 2002.

A pivotal point in his career was with the short film, Your Face. It can best be described as hand-drawn animation's answer to Peter Gabriel's music videos: "Sledgehammer". It is drawn animation's answer to Peter Gabriel's music video, "Sledgehammer," which used stop-drawn animation's answer to Peter Gabriel's music video, "Sledgehammer". It employed a stop-motion animation. The film depicts a man singing, while all the head transforming into various shapes. Anticipating little or no recognition, the widespread acclaim came as a tremendous shock to him. It came to a head when it garnered an Oscar nomination in 1987.

Plympton explains his reaction to his film's success, "Unworthy. It was too weird for a nominated film."

At the time, he was still working as an illustrator. The achievement of the film made him convert his loyalties fully to animation. His contributions include commercial spots for Geico Auto Insurance, Dairy Queen, and Trivial Pursuit. He also served as animator for a portion of the music video "245 Days" by Peter Himmelman (Bob Dylan's ex-wife).

Aside from the aforementioned contributions, Plympton continued to make a plethora of short works. Some of his thriving works include "How To Kiss", "One of Those Days", and "24 Ways To Quit Smoking." These works obtained him wider appeal by being featured on programs like Liquid Television, Cartoon Sushi, and the short-lived sketch show, The Clerks, with beinfeld's Wayne Knight and Julie Brown. These specific works and more were released into a collection, Plymptoons: the Classic Works of Bill Plympton.

A complimentary release, Bill's Dirty Shorts, which will feature some of his raunchier and more violent works, will be released later this year.

It was only going to be a matter of time before he ventured into the realm of feature-length movies. This would showcase some of his bizarre style and humor. The first movie was The Tune. It told the story of a man in search of the perfect song. It is quite out of the ordinary for a musical. The animated aspect makes it equal to Cold War sci-fi meets Hunter S. Thompson-inspired insanity.

Another animated movie was Mutant Aliens. An astronaut is nearly killed when his space shuttle is sabotaged. With the help of a group of aliens, he'll extract his revenge on the people who wronged him. Like Married, it displayed gruesome and mate-themed antics.

Currently, his next movie, Hair High, is on the festival circuit. It can be categorized as a 1950's-style teen film (i.e. A Rebel Without A Cause, Hair Spray) meets a gothic horror film (i.e. Tod Browning's Freaks). Unlike his previous films, it boasts an impressive cast. The assemblage of actors/actresses includes Ed Begley Jr. (Best In Show), David Carradine (Rung Fu), Beverly D'Angelo (The Vacation films), Simpson creator Matt Groening, Crank Yankers regular Sarah Silverman, Dermot Mulroney (My Best Friend's Wedding), Tom Noonan (Manhunter), and Martha Plimpton (The Goonies). What makes this cast so different besides the credits associated with these actors? "Professional actors are wonderful. They capture the character and the personality immediately.

One can wonder how, not just Plympton, but any artist, can come up with such crazy concepts and ideas. I hear stories from other people. I see stories in the media. I get ideas in my dreams," he explains. "And I write them down.

One quality of his work among audiences is the various, possible reactions that each person in the audience can experience. In the case with Your Face, you faced small study using the said film, while the subjects consisted of a Daemen student and a resident of Albion. The Albion resident didn't really get the humor of it and didn't really understand it. The Daemen student found it interesting in a very sincere sense. What does Mr. Plympton want the audience to feel?

"I want the audience to fall in love with the characters. I want them to feel enthralled."

In an interview with Lloyd Kaufman, president of Troma studios and creator of the Toxic Avenger, he gave his steps for being a successful animator: "No. 1, make the film short. Make the film cheaply. And make the film funny."

It is possible for one person to become an animator in a field dominated by corporations and big-time organizations. For Bill Plympton, it took self-confidence, risky decisions, a bitting sense of humor, and an extreme unusual imagination. If anyone appreciates unorthodox art and films, I recommend you check out his Web site: www.plymptoons.com. The Web site for Hair High, www.haighhigh.com, is also running. His works are available at any on-line outlet (i.e. Amazon, Barnes & Noble, DVD Universe). I strongly recommend anyone to buy his films and books, so as to keep this self-sufficient genius at work on more uncanny films and short features.

New Program Allows Alumni and Graduates to Meet

By Michelle Murphy

The end of the year is a very exciting time. The weather is getting warmer; Springfest is just around the corner and of course there is graduation. Graduation ends a chapter in a student's life and brings about another.

Alumni Association Director Peter Brodie and Co-Op Director Maureen Haber, have recently established Chapter Two, a program that gives new graduating students the chance to meet with Daemen College alumni.

Alumni and graduates will be able to meet with a diverse group of the alumni, who include some that are already distinguished in the field of work. Others members of the alumni group may have just recently graduated and can therefore relate to what seniors are experiencing.

Brodie and Haber have set up the Chapter Two reception during graduation week on May 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge. The reception will be casual and provide a relaxed atmosphere where students can meet alumni.

May graduates of 2004 will be sent an invitation in the mail, along with a reply card and a short questionnaire. The questionnaire will help to make business cards for each student who will be attending the reception.

Students will also be given the option to attend Chapter Two receptions held in May and one in June, that will involve other cities, such as Rochester, Albany, Syracuse and New York City.

Brodie and Haber believe this new program will be an opportunity to build a bridge between existing alumni and new alumni. New grads will have the chance to build relationships and ask questions about the next phase they will be experiencing in their lives.

"Chapter two is a great way to network with people who have had experienced accomplishments and achievements" said Brodie.

The alumni who are involved are very eager and excited to help the new graduates. They realize the difficult transition that the new grad will be experiencing. Having this opportunity puts a graduate a step above other new grads. Haber says with this program, students will have a clearer understanding as to what to expect after graduation. "Chapter Two is a great way to kick off the next phase in a graduate's life," she said.

On Tuesday March 16th, the Math department sponsored Pi-Day. Professors got creameed in the face while students and faculty who participated raised over $200. All proceeds will be donated to the Daemen College Library Fund.

Photo courtesy of Chris Malik
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