

# THE ASCENT

www.ascent@daemen.edu

October 2004

## BUSH WINS IN LANDSLIDE VICTORY



*DUE TO UNEXPLAINED  
RESTRICTIONS IN RECENT  
SCHOOLWIDE POLL, 70% OF KERRY  
VOTES DEEMED INVALID.*

### Actual Poll Results

Bush	48
Kerry	128
Undecided/ Not Voting	4

It really matters how our nation conducts itself, if we are an arrogant nation, they'll resent us, if we are an humble nation they'll respect us.

- George W. Bush, 2000 Presidential debate on foreign policy

Thanks to all who took the time to respond to our election month survey. Many apologies to all those who responded but were unaware of our stringent, complicated polling system, better luck next time.

## “A New Session for Daemen”

By Brittany Cozad  
News Reporter

Winter break of 2005 will mark the start of Daemen's first inter-semester session. The term will last three weeks and run from January 3-21.

Associate Dean Kathleen Boone believes the new term will provide opportunities for students who aren't available during the fall and spring semesters. "The January term will be a different way of learning than what the traditional calendar affords," said Dean Boone.

Boone explained that the new term will benefit those students who need to repeat courses or stay in sequence in order to fulfill graduation requirements. Each class will be worth three credits and students will undergo an intensive learning experience because of the restricted time period. According to Boone, the inter-semester has the same principle as summer sessions: it gives professors a chance to offer courses outside the areas of generalized study.

However, not all classes will be

available during the three-week term. Requests for proposals have been sent to all professors, and decisions will be based on students anticipated needs. "We expect to test the waters and see what works and doesn't work," said Boone.

In an effort to make the January term more affordable, residents won't have to pay a residence fee, and the Cyber Café will remain open during the three-week session. Tuition for the inter-semester will be based on the normal credit hour charge. Dr. Denise Mills of the Spanish Department is also looking forward to the new term. Both she and Dean Boone believe the inter-semester is an opportunity for students to participate in study abroad experiences. "The January term will focus on the internationalization of our academic programs, which is related to the college's mission statement," said Boone.

Dr. Mills explained that throughout the past ten years, shorter study abroad programs have become more popular since students often can't afford travel expenses during summer and

spring vacations due to job commitments. She believes that students would like to study abroad during these times but have to work in order to pay their college tuition. Inter-semester study abroad tuition will differ from on campus inter-semester tuition.

Contrary to popular belief, studying abroad is not just for foreign language students. Courses are available for all majors and many faculty members are interested in traveling with students during the January term. Dr. Brenda Young of the Natural Science Department, is planning a trip to Costa Rica, the Business and Spanish department are going to Mexico, and Students Without Borders will be traveling to Dominican Republic clinics to provide medical care.

"Students will be given a chance to do a study abroad experience that's a real experience," said Mills. "It's not spring break in Costa Rica but rather experiential learning."

Students traveling to Costa Rica will stay in the jungle, have Costa Rican guides, and reside in housing that isn't owned or run by Americans. Future study abroad trips to Ireland, London, and the (continued on page 3) University of Hawaii have also been dis-



# The Tree That Binds The World

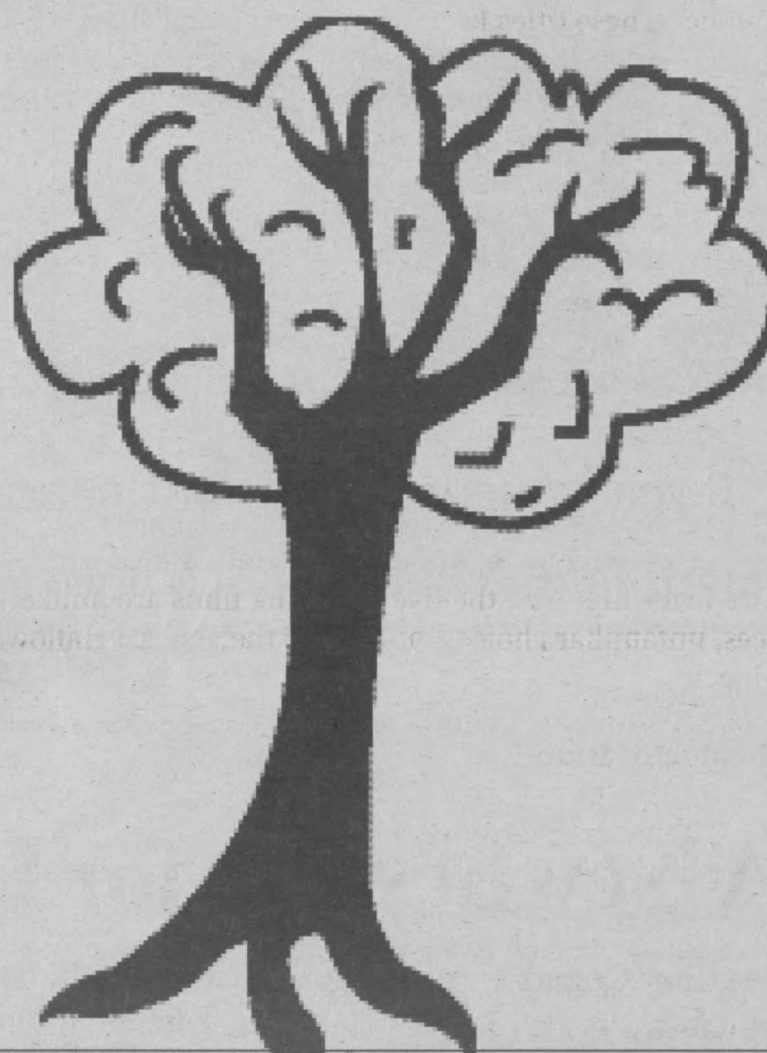
by Dan Crofts  
Columnist

Synopsis of events that have transpired so far: A young man, who has not named himself, crawls into an old tree in his backyard in order to retrieve a tennis ball and is transported from modern times to ancient Scandinavia. During his travels, he experiences much trouble with communication. He comes to a cave, where he wishes that he could understand the people he meets, and that they could understand him. He does not know that this cave is home to a fabled Rock Sprite, who grants his wish on the condition that he embarks on a quest to hinder the onset of Ragnorok, the end of the world. He tells him that he must go to the realm of Asgard and ask Odin, father of the gods, what can be done. He then tells him that there is a sacred object somewhere in Midgard (the realm of men) that he must find in order to get there. The young man drifts off into a dreamless sleep, and when he wakes up he's on a Viking ship. I looked down, and saw that I was dressed in a shirt of sturdy mail, with a comfortable, white tunic underneath. I looked around, and saw that the others were dressing themselves in identical attire. At that point, I had to follow their example. Within ten minutes, we were all at the oars of the ship, breaking our backs under the lash of the taskmaster's cruel barking. I can safely say that up to that point, I had never done anything so physically demanding in my life! Even with the support of over a hundred other men, it was indescribably difficult to keep such a large ship moving through still waters. I learned much during this voyage. First, I learned that, contrary to my previous presumptions, not all Vikings wear those horned caps. Only the leader wore that, and in this case, the leader was a sturdy, fair-haired, bearded, stern man named Olaf. I also learned that after warriors die their souls go to Valhalla, the hall of the Aesir gods. That reminded me of what Bjorn had said of the souls of Valhalla and how they would return one day for a final battle, which made me wonder about the voyage and how it was pertinent to my objective. In order to draw some sort of explanation, I told one of the other oarsmen that I had forgotten why we had come to the high seas. "Our elders speak of a land in the Western Seas," he explained. "A land that has not yet fallen under the Fimbul winter. It is said to be a bountiful land, one of health and prosperity. There is supposed to be an item of great importance under the care of the inhabitants that, if obtained, may relieve our own land of its troubles." Then, I remembered what the Rock Sprite had told me: "There is an object of sanctity somewhere in Midgard, and by way of no other object shall you reach the realm of the gods."

Within a few days, we sighted land. From what I could see, the shores were extremely rocky, and quite forbidding. As we grew closer, I could see a pine forest growing near the coast, stretching as far as the eye could see. At Olaf's command, we anchored about ten feet away from the jagged coast, and made our way to land in dozens of small canoes. The morning was misty, but the sun shined through light clouds above us. This would be a pleasant stay for a trek...if indeed we had come for that. Once we reached the shore, we headed, on foot, toward the thick, forbidding woods. I don't know how far we ventured, but once we entered these thick woods, they were all we saw for miles...in all directions, eventually. The ground was very rocky, but also quite green, which was probably a welcome sight to my Viking companions after so much time spent at sea.

Compared with the frigidity of Scandinavia, the climate here was considerably hot, more so since I was dressed in such terribly heavy clothing. My companions were silent all the

while, but I could sense that they were thinking the same thing. In time, Olaf, who led the expedition, indicated that we should come to a halt. He stood there, amid miles of healthy, full-grown pines, in deep concentration. The rest of us stood silent, straining to hear anything. I could hear nothing...at the moment, at least. Within a couple of minutes, however, we could all hear strange chants in the distance. At this point, we began our slow, steady approach. Once I could hear the music more clearly, I could tell that it was Native American music. I was back on my home continent, but in a completely different environment. Time indeed changes many things.  
TO BE CONTINUED...



## EDITOR-

**Antionette DelBel**

## Assistant Editors-

**Nina Zehr**

**Josh Gallagher**

## Layout Artists-

**Erin Coughlin**

**Sean Dunbar**

## News Reporters-

**Jullian Reder**

**Sam Wright**

**Brittany Cozad**

## Columnist-

**Dan Crofts**

## Critics-

**MacKenzie Lambert**

Email: [ascent@daemen.edu](mailto:ascent@daemen.edu)



# Top Five Halloween Movies You Won't See On Any Other List

By Mackenzie Lambert  
Critic

Entertainment Weekly has one. The Buffalo News has one. I'm sure Good Housekeeping has one too. I'm referring to a brief list of movies that are tops for Halloween viewing. Yet, like many lists of anything, the obvious titles will be given to the public. These titles keep on appearing on list after list after list, year after year after year. These repetitious lists of typical film fare makes me want to follow the immortal words of Howard Beale from 1976's *Network*, in which I am to get up, open a window, and stick my head out and yell, "I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

You can bet as the sure as the sun will rise that any of the following films will be featured on multiple lists: The *Nightmare on Elm Street* series, the *Friday the 13th* series, George Romero's *The Living Dead* trilogy, the *Halloween* series, *The Evil Dead* series, *Psycho*, *The Silence of The Lambs*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Exorcist*, *Carrie*, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (the original, not the horrible remake), etc. Not that any of these titles should be disregarded. By both critics and viewers alike, these films are acclaimed as required viewing. Yet, the five following films are unlikely choices, unfamiliar choices, or both to the general Halloween viewing:

## 1. Theatre of Blood

Legendary actor, Vincent Price (the creepy voice in Michael Jackson's *Thriller*), plays the role of a Shakespearian actor who seeks revenge on the critics that gave him bad reviews and drove him to suicide, along with the help of his daughter (Diana Rigg of *The Avengers*). Each of the deaths of the critics is modeled after an infamous death from one of The Bard's plays. One notable death is when one of the critics is forced in a keg full of wine and is sealed in, a la Richard III. Availability: This movie can be found in any Blockbuster or Hollywood Video horror section.

## 2. Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas

Yes, you read right! I'm referring to the Terry Gilliam (*Twelve Monkeys*) adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's gonzo epic. Think this movie isn't scary? Just watch the scenes with Raoul Duke (Johnny Depp) and Dr. Gonzo (Benicio Del Toro) during their horrific drug trips and not get a little freaked out. Another example of the horror aspects is during the adrenochrome sequence and the transformation of Dr. Gonzo from man to beast. In my opinion, this film is subliminally anti-drug. Availability: Anywhere videos/DVDs are rented out in the comedy section.

## 3. Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein

Even after the *Scary Movie* series, and even after *Evil Dead 2*, the film in which the comedic duo encountered three of the original icons of classic horror remains the king of the horror-comedy. Bud and Lou are shipping clerks who are pushed into delivering two cases to a house of wax (a muse-

um of horror exhibits). Only problem is that the contents of the cases, *Dracula* (reprised by Bela Lugosi) and *Frankenstein's Monster* (Glenn Strange substituting for Boris Karloff), are very much alive. In order to even the odds, Laurence Talbot, the ever-tormented and guilt-ridden Wolf Man, assists Bud and Lou in defeating the monsters. While being tense at times, the film contains classic one-liners and a manic final act. Availability: Under the comedy section of any rental store.

## 4. Zombie

While often viewed as a rip-off of George Romero's *Dawn of the Dead*, Lucio Fulci's classic is able to stand on its own legs. The story surrounds the daughter of a missing scientist (Tisa Farrow) working with a reporter (Ian McEwan) to investigate the point of origin of a mysterious boat. After the two make it to the island, with the help of a sea-faring couple, where the boat came from, they encounter Dr. Menard (Richard Johnson, *The Haunting*) who is trying to solve a mysterious illness that has plagued the island. This movie is often noted for a segment in which a victim's eye is pierced by a wooden splinter. Also note that the actress playing the victim played as Prince's mom in *Purple Rain*. Availability: At any Hollywood Video, under the horror section.

## 5. Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

The Stanley Kubrick masterpiece has a nihilistic sense that can only be outshined by the performances of Peter Sellers, Slim Pickens, and George C. Scott. The film shows the incident of a madman, who started nuclear war on the Soviet Union in the middle of the Cold War, with grand tragicomic panache. With all dark comedies, some will get the humor; others will be scared off by it. In tension-ridden times such as now, the humor of this film may be lost in some audiences as too much to handle, emotionally and mentally. The imbeciles presented in the film may be viewed as all too closely mirroring the people that are in charge now. It presents the scary idea that it's not just the enemies of America that could lead to the destruction of western civilization, but by the very people appointed to protect it. Availability: Under the comedy section of any rental

## Daemen College's new class presidents:

Freshman Class President

Safiya Solomon

Sophomore Class President

Shantelle Songster

Junior Class President

Jeremy Carmichael

Senior Class President

Jessica Elysee

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



# A Non-Review Review; Or, Next Time, Could You Stay Longer?

By Paul Chimera  
Special to The Ascent

Imagine my surprise on a Wednesday morning in late September, when I arrived at the Goldman/Carolyn Greenfield Gallery in Duns Scotus Hall and found the doors locked and the space eerily empty. I'm sure anyone reading my face at that moment thought I was either about to utter an expletive or break into convulsive laughter. The truth is, both possibilities bubbled near the surface.

There I was, pen and notebook in hand, fully expecting to pay my second visit to an exceptionally intriguing art exhibition and write about it exclusively for this newspaper. I was crestfallen.

Which could have been the end of the story. Instead, it's the beginning. And so this, well, non-review review, expressly for The Ascent, is a lesson primarily in art appreciation, but with a sub-text in journalism education as well. In fact, let me address the journalism lesson first. I tell students in my media-writing classes an amusing anecdote. It's about a cub reporter assigned to cover the local school board meeting. But just as the meeting's about to convene, someone runs into the crowded hall and shoots the board chairman.

When, the next morning, the neophyte reporter is questioned by his editor as to why he doesn't have his story about last night's meeting, he naively laments to his boss, "There was no story. The meeting never happened. Someone got shot."

## Often Right Under Our Noses

To miss the obvious story meant, of course, the early demise of our hapless young journalist's ill-fated career. Point being, among others, that there are a million stories out there. Often right under our noses. Even right here, on this intimate college campus. I hope my journalism and media-writing students are taking notes.

But my main reason for occupying this space involves art appreciation. I intended to write a review of a now departed art exhibition that was far too short-lived: it ran just Sept. 10 - 28 (I showed up to review it on the 29th, proving once again that timing really is everything). So I'm at a disadvantage here, having no works to examine (beyond recollections of my first visit to the show, when I hadn't planned to write about it), no artists tarrying in the gallery to interview. Still, this show was too important for the Daemen College newspaper to ignore altogether. Chronicling of the event deserved to be done, and in a small way, this is one attempt.

Hosted by Daemen's Department of Visual & Performing Arts, the exhibition by the Miniature Art Society of Western New York featured some of the best oil paintings I've ever seen in Western New York, and I've seen plenty. As the name suggests, miniaturist was the operative word, proving convincingly that very, very small paintings - just a few inches in either dimension - can make a very, very big impression.

## Painstaking Detail

For those who admire classical conventions of draftsmanship - in this case, razor sharp realism reminiscent of the Old Masters - the miniaturist exhibition was tailor made. I include myself in that category - an art lover who appreciates solid craftsmanship and painstaking detail.

Now, I'm a reasonably open-minded person. I like to think I'm amenable to virtually any expressive art style, so long as the artist has some vision and talent, and respects my intelligence. Show me a canvas painted entirely in black paint, however - and title it "Study in Red" - and you've tried my patience and led me to believe I've been hoodwinked.

Put another way, I just plain don't think much of most abstract art. It has its place, of course. Just not on my walls.

In fact, this reminds me of a humorous story I want to share

with you. Quite a few years ago, I had stripped wallpaper off my kitchen walls, and the resultant, random "design" bore an uncanny resemblance to a painting by internationally known artist Clifford Still.

Huge, wall-sized abstract expressionist canvases by Mr. Still hang in rooms at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, dedicated exclusively to these large-scale works. Ironically, the black and yellow colors that had been predominant in my wallpaper echoed the color scheme of at least one of Mr. Still's massive pictures.

I took a photo of my stripped kitchen wall, and - juxtaposing it with a postcard reproduction of a Clifford Still painting - realized it might actually have taken a trained eye to detect which was the priceless masterwork and which was the stripped-down wall! Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on one's point of view), my attempt to interest The Buffalo News in doing a tongue-in-cheek comparison piece about my ironic observation didn't strike a positive chord with them. I'm sure they were concerned that museum officials - not to mention Mr. Still himself - would have been a tad unnerved.

## Velasquez-like Detail

I've digressed. But my point is this: the recent miniaturist exhibit at Daemen was genius on a small scale, in a big way. More than 80 original oil paintings - so small there was a tray of magnifying glasses available, which gallery-goers were invited to press into service - demonstrated a virtuosity reminiscent of the detail of Velasquez, the jewel-like surfaces of Vermeer, the draftsmanship of Ingres, and the whimsy and slickness of Dali.

It is not hyperbole to raise most of the artists in the exhibit to this level of Renaissance-like technical skill. Indeed, one of them, John Yerger, with whom I'd spoken upon my original visit to the exhibition, told me he's involved in master classes in Boston, studying with some of the finest artistic talents in the country. His next venture, he was excited to announce, was a series of trompe l'oeil works - a French term meaning "fool the eye."

Among this artist's display of miniature marvels was a brilliant portrait of a veiled woman, clearly borrowed from a famous painting by Jan Vermeer of Delft, the revered Dutch master whose works are universally renowned for their jewel-like quality, exacting technique, and inimitable use of light. (I so wished I'd had the \$700 readily available to snatch up this little gem.)

While this show did not intend to evoke the eye fooling sensibilities alluded to earlier, it clearly did intend to force our eyes to see in a different way. Or, more accurately, to look with greater engagement. The magnifying glasses thus were a practical aid in helping viewers' power of discernment, quite literally. By forcing us to come closer to the works - for example, Yerger's delightful, bucolic landscape, "View Toward Strykersville" is 3" x 6" and appeared on promotional literature for the show - we were compelled to become more intimate with the artistic process. More aware of the value of detail. More involved in this uniquely human expression we call art. And, perhaps, closer to the artists' very souls - and our own.

Those artists, in addition to Yerger, included Sean Daley, Joe Eger, Bernadette Franklin, Jose Fuentes, Joan Horn, Richard Kersting, Robert Masak, Coni Minnecki, and Vicki Vitale. They all weaved their individual brand of magic, in miniature, to great effect. But for far too short a time. And for the pleasure of far too few.

Kevin J. Kegler, assistant professor and chair of Daemen's graphic design department, acknowledged that the Goldman/Carolyn Greenfield Gallery is primarily an education-based gallery, but articles like this one, he reasoned, might make more people aware of this excellent artistic space and may lead to longer running exhibitions.

**(Paul Chimera is an adjunct professor in the Daemen English Department, where he teaches journalism, writing for the media, promotional writing, and introduction to public relations.)**



By: Julian Reder  
News Staff Reporter

Despite the rainy weather, Summer Orientation 2004, "Hitting The Trails" was a big success. The orientation committee decided to have an "old western" theme for the incoming freshmen of the class of 2008.

Balloons, stacks of hay and cowboy hats were found all over campus during that week. "They did a good job," said Nicky Sciolino, a physician's assistant major and orientation leader. "Our class didn't have a theme."

Orientation leaders were chosen from a large pool of applicants. They also had to complete a time-consuming training program in order to be ready for the responsibilities and challenges of welcoming new students to Daemen College.

"We look for students with positive attitudes and various experiences," said Director of Orientation & to campus on what was at first a sunny day, but later turned into a rainy one. Many students were impressed to see how nicely the campus looked. Leon Stapleton, an incoming freshman and graphic arts major, on his way to Wick Center, enjoyed the surrounding environment. "The campus is nice," he said. "It's pretty comfortable and relaxing." Several other freshmen also observed that the campus was full of grass and trees, which gives the campus a very nice quality.

Various meetings and presentations took place during the day. To start off, several announcements were made, including Sue Kerner's decision to step down as assistant director of residence life because she missed her family in Erie, Pennsylvania and Mary Parker's promotion to head resident assistant.

One of the more relevant to freshman was the meeting that was conducted by Dan Schiesser, director of residence life. "You're all nervous," he said in a calm, comforting tone. "Every college freshman is nervous. You're all in the same boat. That's what makes it great."

The meeting covered all the essential topics from drugs to roommates. Schiesser made it clear that being a college student meant that there were real responsibilities and consequences. "You're on your own," he said. "You make your own decisions." He made no secret of the fact that drugs and alcohol were going to be available. He made it clear, however, that the use of illegal substances and heavy drinking of alcoholic beverages will definitely lead to disaster. "National trends show that 10 percent of students don't come back sophomore year because of drugs and alcohol," Schiesser said. Schiesser also mentioned

that being homesick was perfectly normal as he reminisced about his own college days in Erie, Pennsylvania. "I went away to college," he said. "I came with the parents and my girlfriend. As soon as they left, I went back to my room and bawled my eyes out. It's ok. It's normal." Several other problems were said to be fairly common such as depression and roommate conflicts. "Tell us you're struggling," said Schiesser. "We'll help you. We've been through it. We know what it's like."

Dean Richanne Mankey, of Student Affairs, came in to introduce herself and greet students. "You've all made a great choice," she said. "I made a great choice when I came here last year." She let everyone know that she's very approachable. "Please come to my office in Wick if you have anything you want to discuss," said Mankey.

Schiesser continued the meeting with encouraging students to get-involved. He mentioned that Daemen College has over 40 clubs and organizations.

The fact that the student body was very diverse was also addressed. "You will all meet new people of different cultures, races, and sexual orientations," said Schiesser. "That's the beauty of college. No racism will be permitted. We will deal with it strictly. There's no need for that here or in the world."

Afterwards, when an incoming freshman asked Schiesser if students may respectfully request not to be placed with homosexuals, Schiesser promptly replied that no such thing will ever be done. He said sexual orientation is not considered at all. He ended his answer by stating that there is absolutely no difference in housing policies between homosexuals and heterosexuals, and homosexuals are no different than anyone else.

Matt Parsons, a history & government major and orientation leader, likes that the school has a different mix of students. "We have a very diverse group," he said. "Everyone seems to be getting along great."

On a lighter note, Schiesser joked that the school has a very specific rule when it came to having pets. "If you can keep it underwater for 15 minutes, keep it," he said as the students laughed.

Students and parents also had to attend meetings in which academics and financial aid were discussed. Several key members of the faculty and administration met with and spoke to students and parents.

"Orientation is a great opportunity for students and parents to meet and interact with the faculty," says Matt Pokigo, accounting major and chief orientation leader, sporting a large, green

cowboy hat with stride.

The meeting ended with inspirational words from Schiesser, director of residence life. "Think about all these things, stay focused, and make plans," he said.

The fun carried on throughout the night. "Dinner & Entertainment with Dave Coleman" was provided and well liked among the freshmen. "The 'dating doctor' was funny," said Tiffany Balch, a physician's assistant major. "It's been a great time."

There was also a hoedown later that night, filled with line dancing and karaoke. Hilarious old-time photos were taken. Orientation leaders, incoming freshman, and current students in attendance had a fantastic time.

"It (orientation) could've been worse because of the weather," says Adam Mika, an undecided major. "The cowboy thing sounded weird, but was pretty cool."

Orientation 2004 ended on a positive note. The freshman class was given all the information needed to attend the college in the fall.

Political Science major, Danielle Volmy, left the orientation with a smile. "It's great," she said. "They did a good job. Orientation prepared us for college."

Schiesser also mentioned that being homesick was perfectly normal as he reminisced about his own college days in Erie, Pennsylvania. "I went away to college," he said. "I came with the parents and my girlfriend. As soon as they left, I went back to my room and bawled my eyes out. It's ok. It's normal." Several other problems were said to be fairly common such as depression and roommate conflicts. "Tell us you're struggling," said Schiesser. "We'll help you. We've been through it. We know what it's like."

Dean Richanne Mankey, of Student Affairs, came in to introduce herself and greet students. "You've all made a great choice," she said. "I made a great choice when I came here last year." She let everyone know that she's very approachable. "Please come to my office in Wick if you have anything you want to discuss," said Mankey.

Schiesser continued the meeting with encouraging students to get-involved. He mentioned that Daemen College has over 40 clubs and organizations.

The fact that the student body was very diverse was also addressed. "You will all meet new people of different cultures, races, and sexual orientations," said Schiesser. "That's the beauty of college. No racism will be permitted. We will deal with it strictly. There's no need for that here or in the world."

if students may respectfully request not to be placed with

continued page 8.



cussed. Students with any questions about studying abroad are asked to contact Dr. Gregg Shutts from the Physician Assistant program, Dr. Brenda Young from the Science department, Dr. Linda Kuechler from Business, or Dr. Denise Mills from the Spanish department.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF POSSIBLE WEB-BASED RADIO

Daemen College is taking the first steps toward the establishment of a Web-based radio station. A committee comprising a number of interested parties from instructional services, academic computing services, distance learning, and various academic disciplines met recently to consider such a possibility. In weeks to come the cost of royalties, the availability of space, and student interest will be researched to determine whether the project should be continued.

# TRUMP SPEAKS ABOUT SUCCESS OF LIFE AND BUSINESS

By Antoinette DelBel  
Editor-in-Chief

As builder of some of the tallest skyscrapers in New York City, owner of numerous hotels, apartment complexes, Atlantic City casinos and even owner of his own airline, he was on top of the world. Then, the year 1990 came. His real estate market plummeted from an estimated \$1.7 billion to \$500 billion. He was in debt and declared bankruptcy. But, he didn't lose all hope. With hard work and perseverance, he made his way back up to the top. As part of the State University of New York at Buffalo's 19th annual distinguished speaker series, billionaire Donald Trump delivered a 30-minute motivational speech of the rise and fall and rise again in the business world and two costly divorces, Thursday night, Sept. 30.

Chosen by UB's student body, Trump attracted 6,000 people to the Alumni Arena on the North Campus.

He walked on-stage to the theme song from his hit reality television show on NBC, "The Apprentice," then started to talk about how to succeed not only in business, but in life as well.

"All my life, I've been successful,"

said Trump. "Then, in 1990, in the truest sense of the word, the you-know-what hit the fan."

He was hundreds of millions of dollars in debt.

It was one day in 1991 when Trump realized he was at his lowest point in his life. He says he was walking down Fifth Avenue with his second ex-wife, Marla Maples, who he said cost him a fortune, when they encountered a beggar sitting outside of the famous Tiffany & Company. After feeling pity for the beggar, Maples told Trump that the beggar was worth more than him if the beggar was worth \$0.

How did he make a come-back?

Through hard work, fighting through adversity and staying focused says Trump.

In 1997, he was reported to be close to \$2 billion.

"Don't lose your focus," he said, relating back to his own life after he lost billions of dollars in the stock market crash of 1989. Trump said one of the things he did was went back to work and refocused. Trump pointed out that he wasn't thinking straight in '89 because he was too busy chasing girls...one of those girls being Maples. Because of his

two expensive divorces from first wife, Ivana Trump and second, Maples, Trump advised the audience to get a prenuptial agreement after marriage. The audience laughed. Among other advice, he told students to be a little paranoid in the business world. He says to keep a guard up because "the world is a vicious place," and people will try to take everything away from you. He also told students to keep a good momentum going and do what you love.

"Without passion, you won't succeed," said Trump.

Another piece of wisdom Trump said was to always get even with someone who does you wrong. "When somebody screws you, get them back 10 times worse!" he said. "Think about me when you're doing it."

Lastly, Trump wanted to leave the students with the fact that in order to be a winner, you always have to think like a winner.

"For me, thinking big always worked!" he said.

For speaking at UB, Trump received \$200,000 - raised through ticket sales and sponsorships - which he intends to donate to charity.

## Spring Break 2005-

Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts.

Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849

or <http://www.ststravel.com>



# “Daemen Sucks!”

By Julian Reder  
COMMENTARY

Since I started attending Daemen College in September of 2003, I can remember many times when I heard someone say, “Daemen sucks!” One particular time was when I was in the computer lab in the Business & Commerce Building checking my e-mail. There was a young woman in her early or mid-20's talking on her cell phone and printing something. It looked like she was under a great deal of pressure. It was clear that she was approaching some deadline or had missed it and was trying to get it done as fast as possible. In the midst of all this, she began to argue with the person on the phone. Enraged that the printer was not working properly, she began using adjectives describing Daemen I simply won't write down in a campus-wide newspaper. For some reason, she centered all her anger toward Daemen. Daemen was responsible for her missing her deadline. Daemen was responsible for her personal problems. And it's funny that even though she was a grown adult, she still threw tantrums when her work wasn't printed the way she wanted. Of course, it's all Daemen's fault.

I love it when people blame all their problems on Daemen. What does Daemen have to do with the fact that someone broke up with his or her significant other? How did Daemen force you to not do your work and fail? What did Daemen do?

It is true that coming to college can cause mild depression. There's no doubt about it. Yet, I'm still confused when people claim that they're depressed because they go to Daemen. How does an academic institution make you depressed? I knew several students who all claimed to be depressed because of Daemen. Life is difficult. The college you go to makes no difference. All these students blamed Daemen College for their problems and transferred. Where is the logic in that?

I knew one student who blamed Daemen for absolutely everything in his life. He was written up several times for inappropriate conduct. He had a substance abuse and alcohol problem. It was no secret to anyone. He decided to sleep all day and go out and have fun all night, every night. He missed all his classes up until late November. He tried to catch up but as any intelligent individual can guess, he didn't have a chance. So he's failing all his classes and he's in terrible standing with the Office of Residence Life. What did he do? You guessed it! He blamed the administration for being “out to get him.” The Office of Residence Life and the Peer Review Board tried to help

him but he simply would not learn from his mistakes. He left Daemen after a few months simply because this academic institution decided to wage a personal vendetta against him. He also believed that “Daemen sucks.” Is that a surprise to anyone?

I also can't understand how students who live carcinogenic lifestyles-blame Daemen for failing their classes or personal problems. Daemen College never made anyone do anything against their will. “You are your own enemy” is exactly what each one of these “model citizens” needs to be told.

I'm always surprised by how some students say that Daemen College is always so boring. Now, if you were busy doing your work during the weekdays, you wouldn't have time to notice whether it was exciting or boring. I, for some reason, don't find it boring. There are always events on campus and quite a few in the city of Buffalo. You have public transportation to get you there, or ask a friend for a ride. The weekends are always filled with parties. If you make an effort, you'll find a lot of things to do to occupy your time.

The summer after I finished the eleventh grade, I went to Harvard University to take summer classes. Now, Harvard has a lot of history and prestige. Harvard is synonymous with intelligence. I was expecting a perfect college. What I found was that Harvard does put a lot of money into the buildings, libraries, and other facilities. However, there were many things that anyone would feel are simply unacceptable.

First of all, many people don't know that Harvard is not in Boston. It's in a small town near Boston called Cambridge. Upon arriving to Cambridge, I noticed homeless drug addicts and modern-day hippies sitting around everywhere giving Harvard Square, the unofficial center of Cambridge, a rather gloomy and nauseating ambiance. The town itself was full of crime and corruption.

During the first floor meeting, students were told that there were many-suspected murderers and rapists in Cambridge. The local police department was unable to catch any of them in the last several years. The male students were particularly warned to be careful because the majority of these suspected rapists allegedly raped young teenage boys.

safest towns in the United States. Crime practically doesn't exist. Drug addicts and modern-day hippies are nowhere to be seen. The town has conserved most of its natural environment. Taking a walk in the woods is really something taken for granted at Daemen. Parts of our campus are completely pre-

served. No one ever notices these things because people are too busy criticizing Daemen instead of seeing what good things it does have.

Fraternities and sororities are a must at any college. Some colleges have banned all fraternities and sororities because it is considered a waste of time. Harvard University is one of them. Daemen College has two fraternities and four sororities. This would not be possible without the support of the faculty and administration. Plus, fraternities and sororities add to the social life of students. We're lucky we have this opportunity.

I lived in Harvard Yard that summer. The dorms were originally built for priests to live in. The dorms are old and poorly lighted. There are no dorms at Harvard that resemble anything of the twentieth century. That may be nice for a few, but the majority would agree it isn't. There were only three showers and two toilets for a whole floor. In Canavan Hall you only have to share a bathroom and shower with four others. The Campus Village apartments lets you have your own sink and share a shower and toilet with one other person. The residence halls at Daemen College are new and superlative when compared to most other colleges. By the way, no air-conditioning allowed at Harvard. They let us have a fan that summer. You can imagine how fun that was.

Of course, as anyone else in America, I had grown up believing that anyone attending Harvard was brilliant. Eating lunch in Annenberg Hall one day, I sat with two upperclassmen taking classes in the summer. We began to discuss the civil rights movement in the 1960's. I asked them what they thought about Malcolm X and his life. Both students sat dumbfounded. Neither knew who Malcolm X was or what he stood for. I found that pathetic!

I am not bashing Harvard University simply because I feel like it. The point I am trying to make is that not all colleges are better than Daemen as most people who believe “Daemen sucks” claim. In fact, Daemen has many advantages over other colleges. They're all pretty obvious.

Reflecting on my freshman year in Canavan, I think about the 50 freshman males on the floor. Many students enjoyed their freshman year by having fun. Some took advantage of Daemen College and succeeded. Some made mistakes and learned from them (me being one of them). Unfortunately, some wasted the whole year by not accomplishing anything and complaining about Daemen. They sat around occupying their time with pointless and dangerous “extracurricular activities.” A few of the-



set transferred believing they won't have problems elsewhere. A few stayed here. Still, they won't learn from their mistakes. That bugs me. Their ignorance is the problem, not Daemen College.

There are students in this group of all levels and concentrations. They simply won't learn from their mistakes. There are students who don't make it a first priority to accomplish something. Some go here and graduate never becoming mature individuals of value. Some, during their time at Daemen, worry about the image they present to others and try to make themselves look better than others. There are students who don't take anything seriously and drink all day, every day. Some leave college just like they started, as complete losers. Some come in freshman year as decent individuals and leave (usually because of grades or conduct) known for being a complete "waste of life." The thought of those morons complaining angers me. Those who are willing to see

## Orientation (cont.)

...homosexuals, Schiesser promptly replied that no such thing will ever be done. He said sexual orientation is not considered at all. He ended his answer by stating that there is absolutely no difference in housing policies between homosexuals and heterosexuals, and homosexuals are no different than anyone else.

Matt Parsons, a history & government major and orientation leader, likes that the school has a different mix of students. "We have a very diverse group," he said. "Everyone seems to be getting along great."

On a lighter note, Schiesser joked that the school has a very specific rule when it came to having pets. "If you can keep it underwater for 15 minutes, keep it," he said as the students laughed.

Students and parents also had to attend meetings in which academics and financial aid were discussed. Several key members of the faculty and administration met with and spoke to students and parents.

"Orientation is a great opportunity for students and parents to meet and interact with the faculty," says Matt Pokigo, accounting major and chief orientation leader, sporting a large, green cowboy hat with stride.

The meeting ended with inspirational words from Schiesser, director of residence life. "Think about all these things, stay focused, and make plans," he said.

The fun carried on throughout the night. "Dinner & Entertainment with Dave Coleman" was provided and well liked among the freshmen. "The 'dating doctor' was funny," said Tiffany Balch, a physician's assistant major. "It's been a

past their ignorance and learn from their mistakes grow as individuals and become adults. That's really the key to success.

For example, I know two current seniors who are on different ends of the "maturity spectrum." One has a serious drinking problem, which has caused this student to act rather unacceptably in public. The other became a Resident Assistant and helps the residents on his/her floor mature and become individuals of value. This student has worked hard and planned well for the future. Which of these two do you think has learned from his/her mistakes and over time, grew into a mature adult and became a leader on campus?

Daemen has produced some great leaders and will continue to do so. These leaders became leaders because they learned from their mistakes. No successful leader, past or present, ever ignored his or her mistakes. Each one of them learned from them so they great time."

There was also a hoedown later that night, filled with line dancing and karaoke. Hilarious old-time photos were taken. Orientation leaders, incoming freshman, and current students in attendance had a fantastic time.

"It (orientation) could've been worse because of the weather," says Adam Mika, an undecided major. "The cowboy thing sounded weird, but was pretty cool."

Orientation 2004 ended on a positive note. The freshman class was given all the information needed to attend the college in the fall.

Political Science major, Danielle Volmy, left the orientation with a smile. "It's great," she said. "They did a good job. Orientation prepared us for college."

could improve themselves.

It's the hardworking, focused students who make college a great experience. Personally, I try to surround myself with such people because they are the ones worth knowing and spending time with. This may sound harsh but the truth was never meant to be pleasant.

The truth is that Daemen College is geared toward the focused students eager to accomplish something. College was not meant for bums. It's the students who want to accomplish something who really count. It's the winners, not the losers who matter.

If the complainers stop being ignorant and learn from their mistakes (and stop the incessant complaining), they'll discover what many successful students have known all along: Daemen College is like its weight room. It's small, has what you need, and will help you accomplish anything only if you're focused.

## Be A Mentor Become a Friend

The friendship of a caring adult can make a big difference in the life of an adult or a child struggling for good mental health. If you are a good listener and are willing to give some of your time (about 1-2 hours a week) you have the qualities it takes to become a mentor. Many people are in need of a friendly voice of encouragement or a caring hand of support. These small contacts can go a long way to enrich a lonely life.

Compeer matches volunteers with children and adults who are striving for good mental health.

For more information  
call us at 883.3331

or visit us at  
[www.compeerinfo.org](http://www.compeerinfo.org)

A volunteer experience for someone who wants to make a difference!



# Make your Voice Heard. Your Vote Counts.