BUSH WINS IN LANDSLIDE VICTORY

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

Actual Poll Results

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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

“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 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 Ragnarok, 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 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 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...
Top Five Halloween Movies You Won’t See On Any Other List

By Mackenzie Lambert

Critc

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 be as 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 disregard. 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 museum 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 Mc 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.”

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 majors read this note.

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 mentioned by 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 thenselvle of Renaissance-like technical skill. Indeed, one of them, John Yerger, with whom I’d spoken upon my original visit to the exhibit and told me he’s involved in master classes in Boston, studying with some of the finest artists in the country. His next venture, he wasexcited to announce, was a series of trompe l’oil works - a French termmeaning “fool the eye.”

Among this artist’s display of miniature marvels was a brilliantsketch of a veiled woman, clearly borrowed from a famous painting by Jan Vermeer of Delft, the revered Dutch master whose works are universally renown 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 Styrkerville” 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 Maasak, Coni Minneeki, and Vicki Vitolle. They all wove 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 artis­like this one, he reasoned, might make more people aware of this excellent artistic space and may lead to longer running exhibitions.

(To 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 go through 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 life. "This 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 freshmen 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 clubbing," 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 not 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 comes 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 stripes.

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. "(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."

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If students may respectfully request not to be placed with
cussed. Students with any questions about studying abroad are asked to contact Dr. Gregg Shotts 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-

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“Daemen Sucks!”

By Julian Reder

COMMENTSARY

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 to you?

I can’t believe 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 know 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.

In America, I had grown up believing that anyone attending Harvard was brilliant. But as I arrived in Cambridge, I noticed the sofreshmen (one of them). Unfortunately, some wastedserved 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 preserved. 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. Unfortunately, on a Wednesday night in Annenberg Hall, I was able to catch someone say, “Daemen sucks!” One par subtracted from the support of the 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 to you?

I can’t believe 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
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 any other people.

"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 freshmen, and current students in attendance had a fantastic time.

"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."

Orientation 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 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.

**Make your Voice Heard.**

Your Vote Counts.