Fifty Cent, Aka Curtis Jackson

(You can go to http://gxpsmall.biz land.com/mug_shots.htm for more famous mug shots.)

Smart Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

-A Student’s Perspective-

By Erin Wilbert

A few months ago, I took the first plane trip of my life, shocking, I know, for a twenty-year-old college student. While the plane trip itself was a momentous occasion in my life, the reason for the trip was even more exciting. Most college students don’t get excited over the thought of the Honors program, but for closet nerds like me, the opportunity to represent the Daemen College Honors Program at the National Honors Conference in St. Louis was, well, thrilling.

Accompanying me to the conference were seasoned flyers (thank goodness!), and fellow Honors Program members Ashley Quong (President), Larissa Gramza (Secretary), Kimberley Fox, Andrea Hubbard, and Dr. Nancy Marck of the English Department. Our mission at the conference: to present two workshops. That, and stealthily gather information for our program. The presentation itself was an adventure, since I hate, hate, HATE giving presentations. But, not knowing what to expect and not knowing anyone besides my five companions, I was less worried about the huge presentation than My First Plane Trip Ever.

When we got to the airport, I was feeling a bit like Corky Romano on crack. I was so afraid I wouldn’t get through security (they made me take my shoes off, for Pete’s sake!). And can I just say, waiting in the line to board My First Plane Ever was torture? It was like waiting to run downstairs to open presents Christmas morning when Mom and Dad said we had to stay in bed until at least 7 am.

But FINALLY we boarded the plane, and after several minutes of watching people struggle to find a seat and shove luggage into the overhead, we took off. As we lifted, my first question was, “Are we going to be going up forever?” Dr. Marck, a seasoned flyer, found this extremely funny.

We stayed in the Renaissance Hotel, which, for those of you who don’t know, is a magnificent hotel anyone can stay in for a mere $500 a night. That’s right - $500. A night. To give you an image, the hotel was actually two separate buildings, connected by an underground hallway (which took me about two days to realize). I’m not sure how tall the hotel was, but our two rooms were on the 17th floor, with many floors above us. And the rooms, well, they rocked. The beds were covered with down mattress covers and down comforters. Mine and Larissa’s first task was some serious bed jumping. We had to break them in, obviously. Since we were on the 17th floor, we had to take the elevators and escalators down all the time. The motion sick group.

We presented two workshops during our four-day stint at the Conference. About thirty people attended our first workshop, which was about the importance of bed jumping. We had to break them in, obviously. Since we were on the 17th floor, we had to take the elevators and escalators everywhere, all day long. Aside from Kim, who has an elevator obsession, we were one very motion sick group.

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the past three years we Juniors have been working to build this program from twenty people to fifty-five. Each girl took a turn, with the help of Power Point, presenting and answering questions. We were received very well, with many questions from the audience, and a very pleased Dr. Marck at the end. So, with our first workshop successful and out of the way, we launched into attending other student workshops and poster presentations. While our group went to present at the Conference, we also went to learn new ways of building and flourishing our program. Each workshop/presentation provided interesting and helpful information, and we were also able to meet students from all over the country (And, I might add, the Western New Yorkers among us received several comments on our Western New York accents.) Kim Fox said, “It was amazing to see so many honors students from around the country all in one place helping each other’s programs to grow and develop.” Kim was particularly interested in learning about the different Honors Curricula at other colleges in the country.

“After comparing the other programs to ours, I really like what we’re doing,” says Kim. “I would like to return next year to share some more of the qualities that makes the Daemen program successful and learn more about how to improve it.”

Ashley Quong and Andrea Hubbard agreed that the conference was amazing, fostering excellent opportunities to meet and get to know other Honors students. And, as Ashley points out, “The presentations offered insights that conspiracy by the Catholic Church, or at least the Diocese of Buffalo, to try to draft or recruit more members.

First of all, the parishes hold a weekend-long family oriented festivity where they expose our young and innocent children to alcohol and gambling, and pretty much the seven deadly sins, which is a little ironic.

So after the little tyke wins a gold fish at the carnival game, he runs over to the beer tent to show daddy his new gold fish. But daddy is too drunk and thinks it’s some sort of new drink, kind of like tequila and the worm, so daddy pounds down the baggie; fish, water, and all. The little tyke is so disturbed that he runs over to the casino tent to cry to mommy, but mommy is cussing up a storm because she just lost her paycheck on the roulette wheel. Soon, the little tyke is frightened from all the ‘g.d.’ bombs coming out of mommy’s mouth, so the little tyke runs to find grandpa. He soon finds grandpa inside the cafeteria and he is just pounding down beef on wecks left and right. Grandpa can’t hear the little tyke because he left his hearing aid at home. The little tyke tries to find Nana, and eventually finds her talking to her ceramics friends and can’t get a word in edgewise. Feeling lonely, the little tyke finds his two sisters and they are throwing themselves around because they wasted all their money at the carnival and did not win a thing.

Now since daddy is a drunk, he can go to the AA meetings in the basement of the church every Wednesday night at 7:30pm.

Now since mommy is addicted to gambling, she can go to gambling addiction meetings in the basement of the church every Thursday night at 6pm.

Since the little tyke’s two sisters are loose cannons and can’t behave, the two girls can accompany each other to behavior management classes on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 3pm in the basement of the church.

What’s our little tyke going to do while everyone is in counseling provided by the church that created all of the family’s problems? Well, the little tyke could talk to somebody provided by the church to talk about his problems, or he could go with Nana and facilitate a gambling problem by going to bingo or he could go with grandpa to a Knights of Columbus meeting and venture on the merry road of alcoholism. Ahh, what a wonderful childhood I had.

that the six of us rode up the St. Louis Arch in a 5x5 pod. “I can’t believe we are fitting five adults in a 5x5 pod,” said Ashley at the time. It was a unique experience none of us will forget for a long while (I know Dr. Marck won’t, as she is an avid anti-roller coaster person!) I also should point out that Ashley and Andrea presented a workshop by themselves on Preventing Honors Burnout. They won the crowd over, of course, with their fantastic charm. I think Ashley summed the trip up best when she said, “It was not an experience that everyone gets, to go with five peers on a travel off campus to see a totally different city. You make relationships that will never be the same as they were before.”
Victims of “Love”: The Truth about Domestic Violence

By Shunmia Waters

“"All I did was say, no, I cannot do it, and he hit me. I needed four stitches on my upper left eye," Tolley, a victim of domestic violence, told me. (Her last name is omitted here, for obvious reasons.)

It has been said before, but it will be re-iterated throughout this article: Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, rich, poor, old, young, married, single, black, white, Asian, Native-American, professional, unemployed, and even celebrities.

Though both men and women can be a victim, the vast majority of victims are women. For women aged 15 to 44, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury, according to the Domestic Violence website: www.domesticviolence.com.

Children living in homes where the mother is abused are also more likely to receive mistreatment or neglect by the abuser. Children who witness abuse are victims as well. You cannot identify one typical profile of domestic violence victims except that they are usually female.

Domestic violence starts with an abuser. Anyone can be an abuser. Abusers may appear to be good providers, loving partners and good law-abiding citizens. But their abusive behavior towards their victim can lead to severe injury and even to murder. Although both men and women can be abusers, approximately 97% of all abusers are men, according to the Domestic Violence website.

Abuse, experts say, is often a learned behavior. The tendency to use abuse as a control tactic is aggravated by the use of drugs and alcohol. Just as drug and alcohol problems can be overcome with proper treatment and counseling, abusive behavior can often be overcome with proper treatment and counseling.

The person who uses any form of violence to control or manipulate a partner often has low self-esteem. In addition, the perpetrator may refuse to accept responsibility for the violence, and may believe that the violence is justified, the website says. Often the abuser will attempt to rationalize or excuse the behavior, or blame the victim for causing it. There is no excuse, clearly, for this violent behavior. Violence is against the law.

High Culture

February 26th: The Department of Theatre & Dance at UB will present the Zodiaque Dance Company in the Wonder of Dance, at 2 pm in the Drama Theatre in the Center for the Arts, North Campus. Tickets ($16 general, $8 students) are available at Tickemaster.com and the Center Box Office (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm.)

February 26th: The Buffalo Chamber Music Society will feature the prize-winning Jupiter String Quartet in the Mary Seaton Room of Kleinhan’s Music Hall in a FREE CONCERT, beginning at 3 pm.

March 24th: UB Center for the Arts presents Elisa Monte Dance, at the Mainstage Theatre at the Center for the Arts, UB North Campus, at 8 pm. The dance is comprised of talented players from across the world, and celebrates diversity and excellence in dance. Tickets are $18 general, $10 students, available at the CFO box office and Ticketmaster locations.

Know of a high culture event in our area? Send your press releases to ascent@daemen.edu.
Daemen Sports Need More Attention, Funding

By Mallory Petrus

It's an open secret that the sports facilities of Daemen College are not up to par with other colleges, and not just those colleges that are significantly larger. As home to seven men and women's varsity collegiate sports, Daemen students demonstrate a substantial interest in athletic effort, but not in the buildings and facilities wherein that effort can find fullest expression. Overall, Daemen College could use a huge increase in funding and attention for its athletic programs.

It is true, college should not center around sports, contrary to the example set forth by certain state universities. Yet it is obvious that a quality athletics program is an asset that would attract a prospective student. To a sizable degree, an athletics program depends upon the contribution a college makes in the way of cement and mortar, room use and yard space. It is my contention that Daemen is deficient in this regard.

The weight room could use new equipment, for instance. The soccer fields could use a touch-up, and there could be more of them. That is to say, Daemen could create an official field on campus.

Amen.

It is not as if other areas of Daemen College couldn't use improvement, especially the Wick Center. But honestly one cannot deny the fact that sports unites us as no other thing can, and that through such unification we are better able to relate to each other on campus.

Take an easy example. Thesoo-called "home games" for the men and women's soccer teams are held at West Seneca, which requires an estimated (and estimable) fifteen-minute drive. It is no wonder that the fan section is so small.

It is my belief that Daemen should emphasize its athletics to a greater degree than it does or has in the past. Many here feel that athletics is pushed to the side and ignored. Consequently, players can only sit and wonder when a student marvels aloud, "Geez, I didn't know we had a golf team."

As a fan of the opposite sex, I believe increasing the number of males on campus should be a priority, and the best way to do this is through expanding athletics. A baseball team would help. But this extends far beyond my narrow interests. All of Daemen could benefit if there was a more diverse sampling of athletic programs; with more options it becomes easier to get involved. We have track and rugby clubs at Daemen, and it would be excellent if we could add more to that list.

In discussing the issue of athletics at Daemen with our college's athletic trainer, Jeff Sage, it was brought to my attention that a new weight room may have some promise in the near future. But there is no guarantee. There are many sub-committee meetings on the Daemen campus that come together to discuss the college's future in regards to issues such as this. Mr. Sage sits in on the "Site Improvement" sub-committee, where he is currently working on drafting a survey that lists many suggestions for athletic site improvement.

With an eye towards change, the athletic department at Daemen has been working with the Town of Amherst on user rights to Campus Park on Campus Drive as a practice site for the men and women's soccer teams.

Mr. Sage agrees that athletic events have always seemed to bring people together, especially in such a small campus as ours. "Athletic programs do attract prospective students to attend Daemen, but you cannot have athletics without sound academics."

Student-athletes in search of colleges look for superior academics as well as the opportunity to participate on athletic teams, the results of their participation often an improvement in time-management skills and discipline. It is true that our outstanding academic reputation in areas such as physical therapy and education have attracted potential students. But wouldn't Daemen be even more sellable with superior athletic programs as well?

My hope is that Daemen will start paying more attention to its athletes, and that everyone - yes, everyone - can benefit thereby.

Mallory Petrus is a freshman at Daemen College, and Freshman Class President.

Write about sports events at Daemen.
Contact the editor at swright@daemen.edu.

- Women's Basketball Team