

The Ascent

Daemen College

Sept. 2nd, 2008

Election Year Commentary Why the Young Aren't Voting

By Rachel Carroll

It has been almost three years since I turned 18 and could register to vote, which I have never done, and to this day I have yet to set foot in a voting booth. Is it just out of pure laziness or is it possibly due to the fact that I just don't care enough about politics? I care about this country and what happens to its people, yet I'm still left with the feeling that I'm sure many other young adults can agree with: my one vote will not matter, so what's the point?

There are numerous answers to the question of why young adults don't vote. A major problem is the media. The media focuses so much attention on the entertainment industry that it is difficult to see real news anymore. Television is more focused on entertainment programming than educating the country on current events. Another culprit is the fact that this generation of young adults hasn't experienced a large issue like Vietnam, World War II, and the Great Depression to make them want to get involved. Researchers that study the American electorate believe that September 11th was not enough, and statistics show that voting turnout was actually down in the fall of 2001 and in the 2002 primaries compared with previous similar elections. Finally, young adults don't vote simply because the candidates do not appeal to them or address issues that matter to them.

Penn State political scientist Eric Plutzer believes that the single most important factor in young people voting is coming from a politically active family. Says Plutzer, "If your parents are habitual vot-

ers, the chances of you voting before age twenty-five are much higher."

About 35 percent of adults aren't registered to vote. Most young citizens aged eighteen to thirty fall into this unregistered group. So how can political supporters get young people to the polls? Plutzer concludes that people learn about the political world by participating, not reading. You cannot bombard young adults with information about politics. They have to actively participate in the voting process. It is Plutzer's firm belief that if young people get to the polls once, they will likely vote again and again.

One issue that I firmly support and that some of this year's presidential candidates have made a part of their campaigns is the reduction of tuition costs for college education. I have yet to see a president take action on this important issue, and until I do, it is likely that I will remain a part of the 35 percent of adults who are not registered to vote.

Students Invited To Hear People, Inc. Speaker on Sept. 11

The women of Christ United Methodist Church in Amherst have extended an invitation to Daemen College students to a luncheon meeting at noon on Thursday, Sept. 11.

The Guest speaker, Rocann Sorenson of People, Inc., will speak on senior living opportunities.

Located at the corner of Harlem and Saratoga Roads, the Church is active in the community through its United Methodist Women. They will meet in the church's second floor cafe. For more information call Diane Lovejoy, 835-9572.

Daemen Goes Global

Globalization presents ever-shifting challenges to Daemen College, says Edwin Clausen, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college.

"Globalization has been going on for at least 600 years, since the days of colonization," he told alumni during their annual meeting in June. "Today the world is more integrated, and globalization is going to be more and more intense."

Citing the movement toward "egalitarianism," Clausen said that the United States and other leading nations will feel the pull of rising nations for limited resources, such as oil. The emerging new cultural mix will also raise issues above and beyond those of nationalism, as the "vox populi" (voice of the people) comes into conflict with their tradition-bound governments.

At Daemen College, he said, work has steadily progressed in reshaping the core curriculum to meet the chal-



Dr. Edwin Clausen

lenges of globalization. Education must be broadened, he said, because tomorrow's typical graduates will find themselves changing careers (not just jobs) from six to nine times during their lifetime.

Multi-disciplinary approaches must be taken in solving the problems of the new age, he added.

"We will be seeing the global migration of students out of America, as well as those already coming here to study from abroad", Clausen said.

"Will this be a drain on us?"

Clausen stressed that Daemen College must maintain the values of the Franciscan Sisters who founded it as Rosary Hill College in 1948. Those enduring values include spirituality, which he called "a phenomenal force"; courage, risk taking, compassion, social responsibility, hard work, flexibility, as well as rigor of mind, intellect and thought.

The dean also addressed how the curriculum must improve the campus environment by making students care more about people and become involved in the social fabric of the surrounding community. One example is the long-term intervention of Daemen students in Seneca-Babcock neighborhood of South Buffalo.

Liberal arts, along the heart and soul of the curriculum, should be called liberal learning, Clausen said, as teachers turn their attention to "skills and competencies that you can tease out of the humanities."

Changing of the Alumni Guard



The Buffalo Chapter of the Daemen College/Rosary Hill College Alumni Association met at the Siena Restaurant on Aug. 19 and honored outgoing President Joanne Rogers Szejbka, '61, left, and incoming President Brenden Gannon, '83. Seated between them is Judy Weidemann, '58, President of the Alumni Association Board of Governors.

Are We Preparing for the Worst?

Bang! Bang! Bang! The overwhelming noise is coming closer and closer to your classroom. You can hear the heavy footsteps of someone coming down the hall and screams of your classmates muffled behind the door. Your heart rate rises as you hear the door handle turn... what do you do?

That is exactly the question that the students of Virginia Tech were asking on April 26th, 2007 when Seung-Hui Cho went on a killing spree through campus, murdering 33 people. Since this terrible incident, most college campuses have stepped up security measures and devised a plan for dealing with a mass emergency. Rightfully so, increased security procedures are needed more than ever with the most recent attacks at Northern Illinois University, and a bomb threat to the Amherst High school, which sits right across the street from Daemen.

Buffalo State College is setting the pace for other local colleges. A plan is clearly outlined on its website, with advice for students and faculty to follow when dealing with an active shooter in the building. They are constantly conducting fire drills, active shooter drills, hostage situation drills, and more, to make sure that first responders are prepared to handle emergency situations on campus.

Upon report of an incident on campus all students, staff, and faculty will immediately be sent an e-mail. It will also be broadcast on the campus news channel. RA's will immediately be notified and instructed to spread the message through word of mouth. Community Emergency Response Teams will be set in place to spread the word, and radio and television stations will also be alerted. Buffalo State also has a new system that will allow a text message or voice mail to be sent out to all students. They are in the process of trying to get a grant to install a siren or horn type device above every doorway to alert the entire student body at once.

Much like Buffalo State College, the University of Buffalo is also concerned about its students' safety. They are implementing new technology and even hiring staff members to create an Emergency Oversight Committee. This group meets bi-weekly and also coordinates with the Extended Operations Group, which has a crucial role in emergency planning and recovery. Within UB's emergency response plan, each office and department is responsible to assume key roles. For instance, the Athletics Department is required to open a temporary shelter in the Alumni Arena and set up Clark Hall as a staging area while University Police oversee crowd control, evacuation, and radio communication. A text messaging system called RAVE is also in effect at University of Buffalo along with the same alert systems as Buffalo State.

It is comforting to know that your friends and family who either attend or work at Buffalo State and University of Buffalo are safe with a well devised plan, but what about you? Is Daemen College prepared to alert students in a timely manner and set up temporary shelters?

After several months of trying to look into the security procedures that Daemen College stands for, the answer is NO.

The head security guard of Daemen, Allen Callwood, said that all campus security guards are contracted from an outside company and are unarmed. In case of an emergency, such as an active shooter, he said that he would call the Amherst police and let them take over the situation. Also, e-mails would be sent out, and all campus roadways would be blocked. When he was further questioned about whether or not he would start evacuating students and staff to a "safe zone," he said he would leave that decision up to the police.

People hired to protect us here in the Daemen community would sit back and let the police handle the situation? It appears as if we pay part of our tuition for so-called "security" that would do nothing more to protect us than you could do using your cell phone. In a time of crisis we need plans to be set in place immediately, and Daemen College has left the lives of its students to be controlled by an outside source.



You may be saying to yourself, "Well, I received an e-mail from Daemen College about a student and his threats to the campus community." It is commendable that they shared this student's name with us. However, do we really know what this student even did or what he was capable of? We don't even know how long this e-mail was sent out after the student started showing possible anger problems. Most active shooter incidents have occurred suddenly and quickly with no sign or warnings.

Something needs to be done to protect the students of our campus community. Daemen prides itself in its low crime rate. No incidents have occurred since 2003. The suggested advice they give to students to protect themselves include:

- When on an elevator, stay near the controls. Push every button at the first sense of an attack.
- Walk confidently—look like you know where you are going. A good defense is to look and act confident.

Was this advice written in the 1920's? We need to push for an effective procedure to be set in place by Daemen to protect its students and faculty; and we need to do it now.

Help Us Pay For Our Gas!

By Cheri' Nowicki

Daemen Education majors travel every week to practicums all over Buffalo and its suburbs. These students spend approximately fifty dollars a semester in gas alone to get to the schools. The students consist of all years and the schools vary from Kenmore, to Buffalo, to Amherst, and Cheektowaga. With the rise in gas prices, the cost is really weighing down on many of the students.

With the private education that we are receiving, and the amount of money that is spent on tuition alone, Daemen College should reimburse a percentage of gasoline costs for those enrolled in the practicums.

Over 120 hours are spent in schools around the city, and other majors participate in their own practicums. Physical therapy majors must observe at different offices all across the area. The amount of money in gas becomes outrageous.

I personally have to fill up my tank every three days, at a cost on average of \$35 a tank. I drive to school, work, and my practicum. This price does not include any social activity that I plan on attending. My practicum is 10.44 miles from the school, and it really puts a dent in my pocket. The expenses of college are outrageous already, and driving 20.88 miles twice a week is beyond my monetary capability.

I spend two days a week at School 45, the International School, located at Fillmore St, & Oneida St, and 45 hours. Twenty days are spent here, which is a total of 417.6 miles driven in one semester. My car gets about 25 miles per Gallon. I paid \$3.71 per gallon, so I spent about \$61.97 last semester on gas for my practicum and will spend nearly \$500 in four years.

Every Education major experiences this yearly, therefore I think it is Daemen's responsibility to give some reimbursement. At this rate, anything would help.

The Ascent

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Join the Ascent!

We are looking for writers, columnists, reviewers, cartoonists, photographers and copy editors, along with graphic arts people to make up our pages by computer.

The nucleus of our staff was formed by students taking CMP 247, Writing for the Campus Newspaper, which is taught by Anthony Cardinale. The three credit course will be offered again this fall (Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m.). For those wishing to work on the Ascent staff – without enrolling in the course – the English Department is now offering Ascent staffers one hour of academic credit per semester, for up to four semesters. You can e-mail messages and articles to: daemen.ascent@gmail.com

Students and Staff Sounded Super!

By Patrick Breslin

It was a sunny afternoon at Daemen College when the air shook with music. The beautiful sounds of a wide range of musical genres rang through the halls of the Wick Campus Center.

The day had been filled with academia, as Daemen's Academic Festival progressed from the morning through the afternoon. The day came to fruition as faculty members and students alike displayed their musical talents. The music gods gave us a Sabbath of a divine nature.

This culmination of talents was a part of the festival's Musicales Exhibit. The program started off with a performance by Associate Dean Kathleen Boone. She performed one selection written by former Daemen faculty member Sotireos Vlahopoulos entitled "Sonnet." Though the piece was brief, the way in which she worked the piano was absolutely beautiful. Her performance set the tone for what was about to unfold.

Student Rosh-Neke D. Thomas stepped up to the microphone next. Transcribing Ella Fitzgerald's "Smooth Sailing," Ms. Thomas put on a clinic that provoked the question, "How can one follow an act like that?" One only needed to hear her rendition of George Gershwin's "Summertime," to answer that question. It was an exhibition that has this writer thinking, "Idol hopefuls beware, Rosh-Neke is a force to be reckoned with."

Professor Ned Cuddy rose to the stage and proved, to an extent, that time travel is possible. He shot us through "The Evolution of Jazz Piano." In his medley were the progression techniques used by jazz pianists as they evolved over the ages. His performance was not only a gift, but was also efficiently executed. It truly was as if the great pianists of jazz were in one room.

Following Cuddy was Dr. Peter Siedlecki. Brandishing a guitar he kicked off his set with an original piece entitled "The Spider Song," which was a beautifully tragic account of a girl who gazed at a spider

with wonder. As she examined the spider an unsuspecting boy swiped the web and the spider to the ground, delivering on his promise to kill it.

After his folk-influenced performance, Siedlecki switched gears to "lounge" music. His last two selections were renditions of Harold Arlen's "Accentuate the Positive," and Guy Wood's "My One and Only Love," both done with a voice Frank Sinatra himself would give a wink at.

Next to perform was professor of mathematics Jeremy Hall. Covering Kat Stevens' "Father and Son," Hall put forth an emotional effort that brought a tear to this writer's eye. Following this was Tom Petty's "Won't Back Down," which received a large applause. Had Mr. Petty himself heard this performance, he would have given Hall a wink and a nod.

Joe Kenyon, student and president of Daemen's Omega Epsilon Zeta fraternity, grasped adversity by the throat and strangled it. Having broken his right hand days before Musicales, he wrote a piano piece entitled "A Song for the Left Hand in C# Pentatonic." He performed the piece using only his left hand. His performance was more than deserving of the applause he received.

As Joe Kenyon stepped away from the piano, Michelle Kmentt approached the microphone. Beginning with a piece from the Opera Carmen entitled "Habanera," Ms. Kmentt cemented her place as one of Daemen's top vocal talents by delivering an operatic performance that caused the hair to stand on end. Following this was "Music of the Light," a selection from The Phantom of the Opera, again delivering a jaw dropping performance. Ms. Kmentt then demonstrated her vocal dexterity by performing "Pearl's a Singer," from the musical Smokey Joe's Café by showing a jazzier side to her voice. Overall, her performance was one of my favorites.

Director of Student Activities, Chris Malik, (who accompanied Brown, Siedlecki,

and Kmentt on their pieces) sat again at the piano to try his hand at Frederic Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude," an excerpt from his Opus 10 No. 12, delivering a performance worthy of the baton from Chopin's grave.

Closing the event was an eight-song set by Associate Professor of Psychology Denise Emer. Accompanied by a full band, she seemed set on knocking the crowd dead with her voice. Accompanying her in her band were Jeremy Hall on guitars and backing vocals, Malik, and students on drums and saxophone.

Starting with Reba McIntire's "Take It Back," Emer set the tone for what was to come. Then came Sarah Baireilles' "Many is the Mile," in dedication to her children and students. After this she performed a tune originally composed by the Beatles, "Let It Be," bringing the audience to a classic era of vocal talent. Her band covered The Band's "The Wait," which heralded a return to rock'n'roll. Changing the mood she did Jewel's hit "Foolish Games," which exhibited her vocal dexterity.

Jeremy Hall took command of the piano as she per-

formed Elton John's "Border Song," which was done on purpose. She explained that she chose it because of the age we live in, implying the issue of illegal immigration and troubles with the U.S. border. Finally she capped the afternoon off with the Rolling Stones' "Jumpin' Jack Flash," which had the audience clapping with the beat.

As the afternoon came to a close, the sun had begun its final descent into the past. However, in this writer's mind, the performances witnessed on April 17, 2008, will live in the present for years to come.

Freshmen Perform 'A Play with Words'



Incoming freshmen put on a talent performance in the Daemen Social Room on Aug. 12 under the guidance of the Arthur O. Eve HEOP staff. Assistant Director Sabrina Fennell, seated in their midst, was honored after the students concluded five weeks of college preparedness.

Some Friendly Advice for Freshmen

By Missy Bakker

Unfortunately summer vacation has come and gone, and while some of us are returning to campus as experienced upperclassman, others are experiencing Daemen and college life for the first time. So, Freshmen, take a deep breath, relax, and read the following advice offered to you from your wise, older classmates.

"Don't make skipping class a habit. It is too easy to fall behind." Heather Gramza, senior

1. Laundry – do not let it pile up and only do it every few weeks. You will regret this! Clear some time in your schedule one day a week, preferably during a week day/night rather than on the weekends, because that's when the laundry rooms are the busiest!

2. Exercise – take 45 minutes to an hour 3 to 5 days a week and walk over to the gym or the Y and break a sweat! It is a great stress reliever and will help you stay in shape!

3. Eating Healthy – 2 words: freshmen fifteen.

4. "Time Management – the workload in college is double what it was in high school, so time management is a key to a successful college career!" Rachel Carroll, senior

"Don't let the activities on campus go to waste. Grab some friends and stop by even if only for a little while. Watch what you eat. Just because Wick has no limit doesn't mean your body also doesn't have a limit. Enjoy the fact that it is a small campus and you can get to know a lot of different people. Four years seems long but

it goes by fast!" Rachael Cunningham, senior

"Be open-minded and willing to learn because everything is different in college. Sometime there may be challenges along the way and you have to be willing to listen to others in order to succeed." Jennifer Wargin, junior

"Attend as many classes as you can. That way you establish respect with the professors and you will feel comfortable going to them for help. Also, most teachers go over the text during class, so if your schedule was too busy to allow yourself time to read, you will at least hear important parts of each chapter during class." Jennie Yockey, junior

Don't wait until the last minute to study and don't be shy!" Kim Kelley, senior

The Fine Art of Rule-Breaking

By Heather Gramza & Larissa Gramza

Each year college students drink an estimated 4 billion cans of beer. This equates to 430 million gallons of beer consumed annually. This is enough for each college and university in the United States to fill an Olympic sized pool. Furthermore, college students spend \$5.5 million on alcohol (mostly beer).

What do these statistics have to do with Daemen College?

inside the room. While several resident students on campus have reported that they have never been written up by a Resident Assistant, they do admit to having broken the rules at some point or another without being caught. Others have merely gotten away with just a warning.

So, what exactly happens to those students who are caught?

contains a list of suggested sanctions. Depending on the severity of the actions performed, the sanctions vary. Anything that is serious, like violence for example does not go in front of the Peer Review Board and is dealt with by school officials.

The alcohol situation on Campus gets confusing however because the policy in the Residence Hall Contract

papers, and occasionally even mediation and intervention.

A statistic found on the Alcohol Abuse Initiative website states that college students spend more money on alcohol than they spend on books, soda, coffee, juice, and milk combined. Based on this statistic, one can probably imagine the reaction students have when they are required to pay additional fines after being caught drinking.

One student said, "I personally feel it was unacceptable that I had to pay a fine. The Resident Assistant poured out my beer, and I pay thousands of dollars to live on campus."

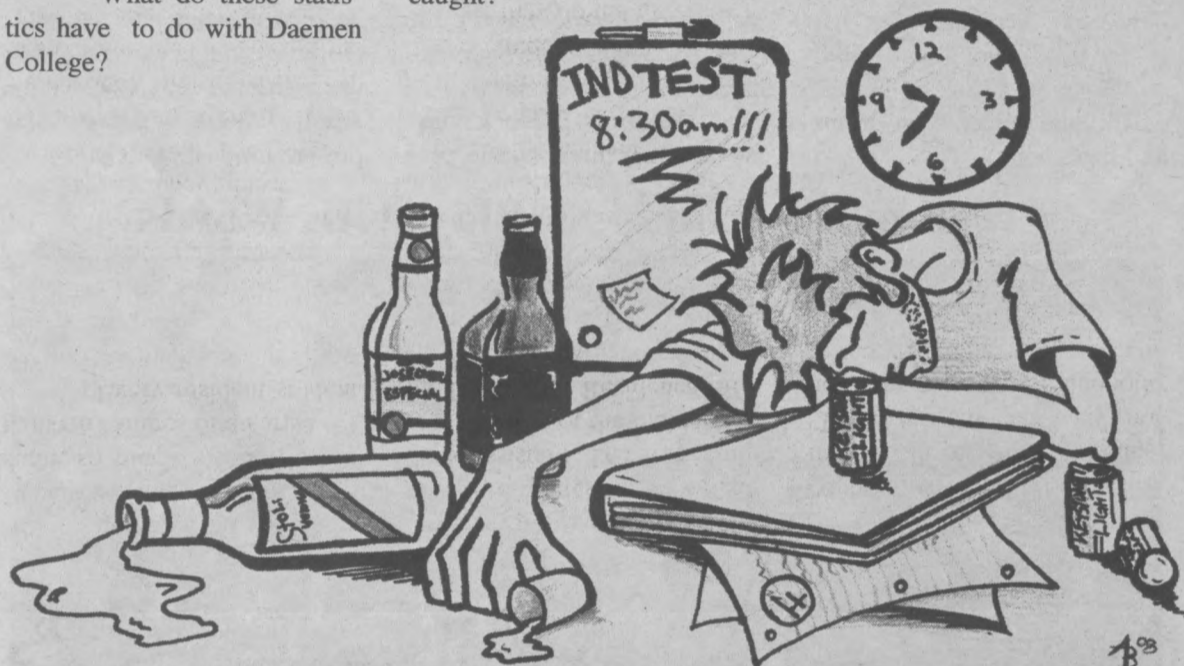
Another student who has been written up for various noise violations, and alcohol related incidents was referred to the counseling staff at Daemen. He says, "I didn't take it seriously because I know I don't have a serious drinking problem."

A Resident Assistant who was once written up him

self for partying and noise was asked how he felt about his punishment. His only response was, "Whatever."

Bottom line, the consumption of alcohol tends to be a concern of many college officials. Drinking and excessive noise are noted as the most common rules broken in the residence halls at Daemen College. Consequently, these infractions affect many residents. Drinking, which advertently leads to excessive noise, affects not only the "drinker" but also has harmful effects on non-drinkers as well. Non-drinking students can be negatively affected by their peers' use and abuse of alcohol.

While all resident students are required to sign the policy contracts annually, and may be part of the statistics presented, our findings show that many resident students still break the rules; it all comes down to whether or not students are caught by a Resident Assistant.



Quite a bit, actually. Because college students consume so much alcohol, problems on campus often arise.

Every resident student on the Daemen College campus is aware of the rules and policies of the residence halls, as each student is required to read and sign a residence hall contract at the beginning of every academic year. The contract explains the rules and policies for alcohol, noise, damages, etc. Despite the annual signing of such contracts, numerous resident students are written up for various infractions every semester.

Brief surveys were administered by The Ascent to various resident students living on the Daemen College campus recently. Based on the results of these surveys, the most common infractions of the policies set in place include the possession of alcohol, and excessive noise emanating from the apartments or dorm rooms. The noise is most frequently due to the partying going on

First and foremost, students are written up by a Resident Assistant. The R.A. submits a report of the incident, to the Director of Residence Life, Dan Nilsson. He first meets with the individuals involved. During the meetings, the write up is discussed. After talking individually about the infraction, punishment is administered. If the student disagrees with a penalty, he/she may appeal it before the Peer Review Board. Students only go to the board if they do not agree with the original punishment(s) given to each of them.

According to Patricia Le Page, the chairperson of the peer disciplinary review board, the students involved in the incident meet with the members of the board one-on-one to answer questions, and share their sides of the story. "The most common cases that come to the board are those of drinking and noise."

There is a handbook that the members of the Peer Review Board follow which

is difficult to understand. The contract as found on the Daemen College website states, "Underage students may not be in the presence of alcoholic beverages. The only exception is an underage resident who lives with students of legal drinking age, may be in the presence of alcohol in his/her assigned apartment. The underage person may not consume or possess alcohol. Once guests (anyone not residing in said apartment) over the age of 21 enter an apartment where alcohol is present, no students under the age of 21 (including residents of that apartment) may be present." Students often fail to understand this particular part of the policy, and it is one that is most frequently challenged and brought up to the Peer Review Board.

The results obtained from the surveys completed by resident students show that the most common punishments for noise and alcohol violations on campus include paying fines, writing

Six New Faculty Come on Board

You'll be seeing six new faces among the faculty on campus this fall, as Daemen College introduces six new assistant professors to the college community.

They are: Ruth Berry, education; Erica Friscaro-Pawlowski, English; Kristen Klyczek, physical therapy; Dennis Scheitinger, education; Andy Steck, education; and Robert Waterhouse, theater.



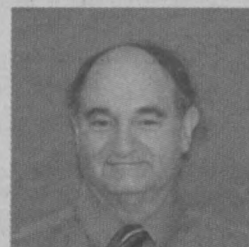
Berry



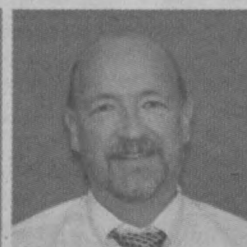
Friscaro-Pawlowski



Klyczek



Scheitinger



Steck



Waterhouse