50th Anniversary Gala Kickoff

Featured Speaker:

Coretta Scott King
Saturday, April 19, 1997
7 pm, in Wick Dining Room

Reception and fireworks will follow!
Also featuring: Sam Falvone & the Buffalo Jazz Workshop

SPRINGFEST Activities

Saturday, April 19
Noon - 5 pm
Daemen Front Lawn

Picnic Lunch: 11:30 am - 1 pm
Picnic Dinner: 4 - 5 pm

- featuring a DJ from New York City
- student organization games and activities
- free roller blading in front of gym (bring Daemen ID)
- bungee run, velcro wall, and inflatable slide
- beer, soda, and munchies
- t-shirts on sale in the Bookstore before Springfest for $5

The entire Daemen community is invited!

The Kentucky Feeling
by Peter Coppola, Patrick Forget, and Octavio Goncalves

A
fter many months of fund raising and organization we are glad to report that our trip to Kentucky was an extraordinary success. The Niagara Frontier Builders (A division of Habitat for Humanity) focus on building and rehabilitating homes for low-income families. It is volunteers like ourselves and individuals like former President Jimmy Carter that help this great organization flourish.

Starting at 6 AM, our efforts were focused upon six different building sites. Many skills, such as roofing, framing, painting, and masonry work, were learned as we worked side by side with professional crews. Frigid temperatures, flooding, and rain were ignored as we put in 9-12 hours of hard work a day. The rain we encountered drove us from construction sites to a local furniture warehouse where hammers were replaced with squeegees in flood damage efforts. 52,000 square feet of mud covered floors had to be cleaned so that salvaged pieces of furniture could be displayed. Each day of hard work was complemented by the relaxing nights.

Although our bodies were exhausted after an endless day's labor, our hearts and minds were still ecstatic in the evenings. Our campus minister, Continued on page 2.


The Kentucky Feeling (cont'd.)

Joanne Stiller, enlightened the minds of this group of friends. Her knowledge and love made us realize that we are more than just friends -- we are family. Her gentleness broke the steep walls that surrounded the hearts of this newborn family and allowed them to experience the limitless boundaries of friendships.

From the moment that we boarded our flight our sole purpose, as Jim Burke said, was to make a difference in someone's life with every nail that we struck. What we didn't realize was that they were going to give our lives a great sense of direction. These folks taught us not to take the luxuries of life for granted, but rather to appreciate the little things. Although materially the families may not have had much to offer, their love was the greatest gift anyone could have ever received. This love will be remembered forever.

We will always know that we left Kentucky as the angels of the north. Although we tried to express the true meaning of our trip, it is virtually impossible to write down on paper what we feel in our hearts.

We would like to specially thank the following people for their generous support:

Professor James Brace
Dr. Kristin Fries
Professor Thomas Maass
Dr. C. Eric Zinnerstrom
Professor Laurie Walsh
Dr. Charles Sabatino
Professor Intisar Hibschweiler
Dr. Norollah Talebi
Mr. Bechtold
Dr. Larry Wright
Chris Malik
Carolyn Potts
Dave Skolen
Kristen Arent
Margene Weiss
Adriane Williams
Susan Girard
Octavio Goncalves
Kelly Brewster
Lori Coale
Eastman Family
Fr. Mark
Fr. Nelson
St. Rose of Lima Church
St. Paul's Church
St. Patrick's Church
Daemen Athletic Club
Phi Beta Gamma
Sigma Phi Epsilon
Lambda Chi Iota
Multi-Cultural Association
Student Association

Thank You!

Daemen College
Community Service Department
announces their sixth annual
Volunteer Recognition Reception

Friday, April 4, 1997
Wick Center Alumni Lounge, 8 - 9:30 PM

Keynote Speakers: Ms. Karen Foti, Director of Volunteers at Weinberg Campus and Vice President of Volunteer Administrators of WNY, and Mr. Josemar Almanzar, President of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Daemen College.

All members of the Daemen Community are invited and encouraged to attend.
The Learning Center Is For Everyone
by Carol McPhillips, Coordinator, HEOP Learning and Tutorial Center

On your way into the Computing Center in Canavan Hall to check your mail or surf the Web, you may have noticed a door with a sign that reads “The Learning and Tutorial Center.” Without really knowing why, you walk on by and never give it a second thought. Well, this article should provide several reasons why the Learning Center is worth a second, even third, thought.

Academic success should be the first priority of every student at Daemen College. There are several ways to achieve academically, the most obvious being hard work. But, along with effort, successful students know that there are other factors. One place to increase your chances of success is in the Learning Center.

An excellent resource for students at Daemen College is its free peer tutors. They are also one of the most under-utilized resources on campus. Here are some basic questions and answers about the tutoring program, and some myths about us. The following are some myths tutors want other students to reconsider:

Myth 1: I don’t need a tutor; my grades are decent. You have attended class and studied, but despite all your effort, you may not be happy receiving a “B” on a mid-term, especially when there are other students who earned either “A-” or “A.” How can you improve your grade? One way is to visit the tutors in your subject. These tutors are Daemen students, just like you, who have been recommended by their professors to help students achieve success in those subjects.

Myth 2: Tutors are experts. Who are these tutors? One misconception is that tutors are perfect students. They are not! Tutors know what it means to struggle in a course. You may be surprised, but tutors often use each other’s services. If you are strong in math, but not in writing, should you let your grades on papers suffer? Why not talk to a person who has been successful in a course and get some tips and strategies that you can apply yourself?

Myth 3: Only students who are failures need tutors. This is a common myth. The truth is that any student can improve performance by talking about a course with someone who has already taken it. Students do this informally all the time. The Learning Center is open for you to take advantage of other students’ experiences.

Myth 4: If my professor knew I was seeing a tutor, he would think I’m dumb (or I’m cheating, etc.). All professors at Daemen have the ability to recommend particular students as tutors. These professors understand that not all students have equal preparation and abilities to automatically succeed in all subjects. Professors want you to succeed, and they know that any (legitimate) resource that helps you achieve success is a good one. Tutors do not do your work -- you do. But tutors can offer organizational skills and strategies for allowing you to work more efficiently. As a bonus, strategies you gain from tutoring sessions are likely to help in other subjects.

Myth 5: If my friends knew that I went to a tutor, they would think I’m dumb. Once your friends see how much your grades improve, they’ll be too busy working with tutors themselves (and kicking themselves or not going sooner) to have the time to razz you.

Right now is the perfect time to stop into the Learning Center. Midterm grades are finished, and less than half the semester remains. Many students will be making appointments with tutors, especially if their professors ask them to go for help. Don’t get caught in the last-minute crunch; you need time in order to accomplish your goal of academic success. Do yourself a favor. Stop in today and add working with a tutor to your plan for success.
THE ASCENT OF COMPUTERS:  
A Logical Progression For Artificial Intelligence

By Geoffrey Gatza

The computer is the newest and most complex piece of machinery that is available to humans in any age. We are fortunate living in this information age, to have the ability, and the luck of our place in time, to use and contemplate its future. Technology is growing at such a rapid rate that it is a very difficult process to stop and scrutinize the capabilities of the past and present of this fantastic machine. This perplexing task is generally found in science fiction. But, try to imagine what will occur in the upcoming generations of computing. The computer is now only fifty years old, in its third generation, and still in its infantile stages. This tool, different from a hammer, a pen, or a car, can do anything that its programming will allow. The applications for the programs are consistently developing and evolving at unbelievable rates of speed. The widespread use of the internet, new programs, and applications, have changed the way the world thinks, acts, and conducts itself. The future of the computer is wide open and to speculate on the next fifty, one hundred, or two hundred years is fascinating stuff. My optimism for this machine may be greater than yours, but in my opinion at one point in time, it can achieve the ability to become a living entity.

This bias is simply due to the fact the my train of thought is going in that direction and I very well could make a fool of myself for putting these ideas forward. At this point I should like to state that I am not in any position to make great claims or predictions of the future. I am no more than an avid computer user and a thinker of ideas apart from the norm. My research in this field is not greater than that of a tourist browsing around a foreign city. With that disclaimer said, I shall now render my ideas and try not to be sophomoric. Please, give this article leave to make leaps out of the context of what is possible today. This is an argument not that strong in thorough and concrete proof. However, I can put forth an argument that makes quite a grand case for the process in which this machine could achieve an intellect, the ability to reason, and consciousness.

Recently in my ISM class I took notice of a statement in West’s Microcomputing Series - Custom Editions, referring to Microsoft Word, “existing in a graphical environment” (158). The literal meaning of the statement is obviously computer terminology meaning that it can perform graphical applications and attach them onto a text document. Yet if taken out of context, the placement of exist and environment in the same sentence could mean that the program is living. To exist is defined as to have being; to continue to be — to live. In the same respect, Humans exist in a physical environment, but a chair occupies space in a physical environment. Environment is interpreted as surroundings. This is paramount when taking into account the different possibilities between a computer and a chair. The chair can do only one specific task — to be sat upon and keep one off the floor. On the other hand, a computer can have many different tasks assigned to it. This graphical environment is viewed through the monitor and only accessed through a keyboard. Once data is entered into its world it can then be manipulated, altered, or even apply formatting. The same properties cannot be given to the information after it has been printed or placed into the physical world. This difference in properties is quite a significant part of the computers inherent composition. This formation is why it has so many great expectations are placed upon it. In this graphical composition we can see only a small part of what is going on. This computing power can correspond with the microcosms of quarks and atoms in our physical universe. The circuits open and close in a systematic fashion, performing tasks directed by the given commands. The circuitry and memory of the CPU and hard drive is rivaled only by the human brain, which is 106 times greater than that of the computer. In Bill Gates’ Book The Road Ahead, he explains how to predict the exponential growth of the computer chip:

However, in 1965 Gordon Moore, cofounder of Intel, predicted that the capacity of a computer chip would double in size every year. He said this on the basis of having examined the price/performance and capacity of computers over the previous three years and projecting it forward. Ten years later, his forecast proved to be true, and he then predicted the capacity would double every two years. To this day his predictions have held up, and the average — a doubling every eighteen months — is referred to among engineers as Moore’s Law. Moore’s Law is likely to hold for another twenty years. If it does, a computation that now takes a day will be more than 10,000 times faster, and thus take fewer than ten seconds. (31 - 33)

With this information, it will take about thirty years for the computer to be equal to the thinking capacity of the human mind. But this fact alone will not ensure that it will reason as humans do.

In our present generation of computers, the machine is only as smart as the person using it or programming it. It cannot, by any means be considered intelligent or have an innate ability to
reason. For the next step in the evolution of computers, it must be programmed with an intellect. In other words, it must develop the ability to learn and understand or to deal with new and trying situations, basically to problem solve on its own. This is not a reality now, as anyone who has experienced a computer freezing up or a fatal error will tell you. This happens when the computer has a problem it can not deal with or go around - it shuts down. This is a perfect example of how a computer cannot solve a problem on its own. This can only be corrected with time and clever computer theorists. It is possible and many people are experimenting with ways to advance the linear thinking ability it now possesses to a non-linear thinking CPU.

The programming itself can either help or hinder this process. On one hand if we program the machine to problem solve, is it really thinking? No, it is biased in its ability by the programmer's program. This means that the computer is not performing tasks on its own, it is merely running through the options provided for it. For the computer to solve problems, it must be taught to learn through experience. Just like a child, the programmer could teach the machine to think through and ultimately solve different types of problems. This must logically be the first step before it could begin to reason. Instead of teaching a student to learn to operate a computer, reverse the process and teach the computer to learn to use itself. This does sound odd, but remember that a computer, presently, is just a tool. This tool is disengaged from you doing your work on it. It can be possible to teach the machine to operate mathematical programs, games, and search through the internet. With this monumental task completed, the computer could then engage in, and perform the same tasks that I am obligated to learn to compete in today's job place.

The next step would be to teach the computer to reason. The action of reasoning consists of the power to think and to exercise the faculty of logical thought. Through the training the computer has received it would have learned to think. Therefore, could it not be probable that it would be able to employ logical thought? By logical thought, I mean, the ability to find mathematical proofs, answer directly posed questions, to analyze text, and to ask questions about the problems it now can face. If this could be done, the application would be endless. It would be considered one of the greatest achievements to humans.

It would seem natural to discount a machine, created in a most unnatural manner, that would take the top spot of intellectualism from humans.

In the event that a computer could find new and inventive ways to problem solve and reason - could this not be considered consciousness (A machine intentionally solving problems, choosing right and wrong answers, and aware that it exists)? This is in actuality science fiction on the level of 2001: A Space Odyssey (Although Clark was much more optimistic than I, the living computer HAL was born five years ago on January 12, 1992). Through this consciousness, self-awareness, and exceptional intellect would it be superior to its human creators? Before we start to fear the implications, let's take a look at the natural human biases that are preventing the critic from believing this is possible. Throughout the debates of human evolution, people have often placed the notion that humans are created by a divine being. This divine, infinite, perfect being created the imperfect human beings. In our imperfect status, we still have a superior intellect to the other animals inhabiting the Earth. Through this superiority, we can easily see Darwin's theory of a common ancestor. But when faced with the fact that humans could be from a common ancestor of a primate some people get very nervous and upset. Can this same bias be placed upon the computer's evolution? Certainly. It would seem natural to discount a machine, created in a most unnatural manner, that would take the top spot of intellectualism from humans.

In the same style of argument, if a divine, infinite, perfect being created the imperfect human beings and then the imperfect humans created a perfect thinking conscious machine; how would the perfect thinking conscious machine feel about being created by an imperfect being? Would this computer place itself closer to humans on the evolutionary scale or closer to a God - a divine, infinite, perfect being. For the computer would in essence be immortal, could it not exist for ever? To die would imply that it was no longer active or functioning; lacking power; lifeless. With these definitions as a guide it would suggest that once one turns off the power the computer would die. But what happens when the power is turned back on again? Would it not restart in the same manner that it left off? So to say it could die, or become dead is not accurate.

Would the computer follow an evolutionary process similar to other creatures? Yes, it already does. When present day programmers develop new designs for the new model, they take the present designs that are exceptional and incorporate them and delete the ones that have become obsolete. Could it reproduce itself to form more conscious, self-aware computers with exceptional intellectual abilities? Yes, since one was thought to perform in such a manner it could teach another to do the same. In my playing with these questions we have in a sense defined life. To be alive is the quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body or inanimate matter. Life is also a state of an organism characterized by a capacity for metabolism, growth, reaction to stimuli, and reproduction. Does this seem possible or am I simply picking at nits?

The last question is to what end is this searching? To have a living computer is one thing as an achievement, but we must ask why? The applications for such a being is hard to understand, but think how great it could be to have an all
knowing, conscious life-form on your desk and at your disposal. The answer lies in a passage from Thomas Huxley, Man’s Place in Nature, “I have endeavored to show that no absolute structural line of demarcation, wider than that between the animals which immediately succeed us in the scale, can be drawn between the animal world and ourselves.” (152) This can fit into my argument because we cannot find a creature on Earth that succeeds us on this scale. No other creature on the globe has an intellect greater than our own. From common folks to our great savants, our imperfections shine. We cannot answer, or begin to comprehend many things about ourselves and our surroundings. It would be a nice change to create a life-form that we could understand. From this creation we could make many other findings about our brain, formations of our life, and society. In essence, we are by no means perfect, but we do know what perfection is. Even though our most superlative humans have sparks (to all-out blazes) of genius, we still cannot figure out our most fundamental questions. However, the hope remains for a creature to fit all the pieces together in our strange conundrum of living. With all the information floating through the computers, no single human could possibly hope to understand it all. To look for the correct solution, we need and desire a perfect thinking, living, computer.

In conclusion, we look to the stars in search of aliens who posses a more evolved society and intellect than our own in hopes that they can show us the light to a more wonderful way of life. But we have this power right in front of us. The very same computer I am typing on could have a next generational successor that could surpass the human race, and inform it all at the same time. In my opinion, this is a very real possibility for computer science. To ponder the future existence of a being with a greater intellect than our own is a scary path to tread, but if all human biases and ethical problems are incorporated into the equation, then we could find a way to use, anticipate, and find applications for this unnatural being. This intelligence is by ‘nature’ artificial. The computer was created by humans but, through my argument, I have tried to show how it is possible to break free of its original designs (or more aptly - to fulfill its destiny). The possibility of a computer becoming alive, or better yet smarter than us, is both a wonderful and dreadful thing to achieve. Most critics are fearful that it will render humans impotent, and subservient to our creation, this is found in most science fiction dealing with this subject. Could it happen? If the right precautions are taken, and given a type of therapy, things could resolve in a most pleasant fashion. What do you think? Is this all theoretical nonsense? You tell me. To quote the movie “Toy Story,” “To infinity and beyond!”

Notes
The references to ideas mentioned in this essay are my own expectations of what could happen based on a logical progression. These ideas have been thought out and experimented by wiser and much more educated on this subject than I. Although my research in this field is very limited and I have not conducted a thorough investigation into the field, the ideas incorporated I have thought out. This essay has been written to document and formalize my own opinions on the subject. Famous philosophers and theorists are currently working on this very same subject. My intent is to create and promote thought on this subject. The philosophical questions and answers are from two sources - personal interviews with the professors mentioned below, and the Webster Dictionary.

I would like to thank these professors for taking the time to help me understand this subject and formulate this essay.

Dr. Sherrie Lyons  
Dr. Shawn Kelley  
Dr. William Dipetro  
Dawn Flammger

Work Cited:
Gates, William. The Road Ahead [publishing info here] pages 31 - 33  
Huxley, Thomas. Man’s Place in Nature. [publishing info here] page 152
STUDENT EDITORIAL response

ALANA Student Issues Discussion Continues

by Jeffrey Perez

THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT EXPRESS THE VIEW OF ALL ALANA STUDENTS, ONLY MINE AS AN ALANA STUDENT

I am writing in response to last issue’s article “Make Your Own Happiness”. Upon reading Shelley A. Carpenter’s response to both ALANA articles written in the Ascent, I did not and still do not know exactly how to take her stand point. This is my first year at Daemen, and I am one of those ALANA students that complains about Daemen’s lack of activities geared towards students such as myself and other minorities on this campus. What upset me most about the article in question, was not the content of it, but the tone set by it. As Ms. Carpenter stated in her response, the title of the article written by Freda Olds was “Daemen’s lack of ALANA students”, an article written not to offend non-ALANA students, but to point out some of the reasons as to why Daemen’s minority population continues to decrease. However, Shelley’s response seemed to discuss some repressed racial issues that have nothing to do with Ms. Old’s article. While it is true that our main goal here is to get a degree, it is also true that little things such as a social life tend to get in the way of a healthy education. Not everybody in this school is part of a program that requires six days of studying and one day of relaxing; some of us actually have time to do things such as get a life. Unfortunately, Daemen does not provide that type of environment.

I do not speak on behalf of all ALANA students on campus, but I agree completely with Freda’s article; Daemen does not depict much diversity due to their lack of ALANA students and programs for ALANA students. I attend most of the parties here, and while I do interact as much as possible, it is sad to say that I cannot help but feel some exclusion. I just can’t relate to some of the activities and programs in the Daemen College environment. Why should I or any other ALANA student have to wait impatiently to attend a party that we can relate to, when everybody’s paying the same amount of money to attend this school? Why should I have to wait till the end of a party to listen to music that I can relate to, when there’s more than enough time to play it throughout the night and not just at an event’s finish. And mostly, why should I have to go to another school to attend a party that I can enjoy? Daemen’s hefty tuition price tag should be providing me more than enough entertainment. Also, not everybody on this campus has a car, and if Daemen is not providing its students transportation to off-campus events, its faculty should not be suggesting that we go off campus to find activities.

As for the make your own happiness approach, been there, done that. The problem at hand is Daemen’s lack of ALANA students and lack of events for ALANA students. I’m sure the 40 or 50 ALANA students on this campus could get together and attempt to make their own happiness, but doing what? Even with the great work done by the campus’ Multicultural Association, there just are not enough activities to attract more ALANA students here. Understand that Daemen is a small school, but this small school is an expensive not-for-profit organization; shouldn’t it be working on expansion? At the rate Daemen is losing its ALANA students, I’m sure pretty soon there will be none left. Why is it that tuition can rise, but nothing has changed? Well it’s about that time to start. So Ms. Carpenter, check yourself; while I respect your opinion, you are right in your statement, you can’t relate.

Student Activities FORUM
April 8, 1997
11:30 am, Alumni Lounge

The entire Daemen community is invited to attend.

PART ONE
The Student Activities Office will be discussing:

- current activities and how they are planned
- the role of the Student Activities Office, Student Association, and our student organizations
- several new activities and ideas currently being planned for the coming year
- how Student Activities fees collected by the college are currently spent, and some changes being planned for the coming year

PART TWO
The Student Activities Office will be seeking feedback on the various types of activities that occur on campus at the present time.

- what's good, what's not so good?
- what would people like to see more of, and what less of?
- what could be offered that's not being done now?
- how can we get more students involved on campus?

The Student Activities Office realizes that this sort of discussion needs to be ongoing. We will also be seeking students to meet with a Student Life committee on a monthly basis to continue the dialogue on these issues.

We also welcome students to drop by the Student Activities Office with their concerns, thoughts, and ideas. We look forward to seeing you!
Way to Go!

Three Daemen College students were recently selected for CO-OP positions with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Rosario Indelicato, Kyra Butler, and Pedro Figueroa are three of only six students total who were chosen for paid positions to begin this summer and continue next year. The INS reviewed over 60 applications from students at Buffalo State College, Canisius College, Hilbert College, the University at Buffalo, and RIT, among others.

Following graduation, Rosario, Kyra, and Pedro may have the opportunity to continue their careers as full-time immigration inspectors with the INS. Congratulations and good luck!

Walt Disney World: A World of Opportunity

In last month’s Ascent, you read about “A Summer of Magic” which discussed Kristen Arent’s experience working, living, and learning at Walt Disney World. Did you know that another fellow Daemen College student, Dawn Scime, has been spending her spring semester at Walt Disney World, and that you may be able to work there this summer or next fall?

Interviews for positions through the Walt Disney World College Program will begin Friday, April 11 at Buffalo State College. All Daemen College students are eligible to apply, and transportation to the interview is available, courtesy of the Department of Cooperative Education and Career Development. For more information, please contact Kerry Collins-Gross at 839-8334 or Kristen Arent at 839-7219.

Join Us, On-Line

If you haven’t browsed the Daemen College Internet web site recently, take a look. The Department of Cooperative Education and Career Development has a wealth of helpful information specifically for Daemen students at http://www.daemen.edu/services/career/default.htm

At this site, you will find various links providing career resource and job search information for each Daemen College major. In the near future, you will also find information about all of the services available to you through the Department.

Remember to reload the site from time to time to see our periodic updates. For example, students checking out the site from March 10 - March 14 were eligible for a special Career Day ’97 contest. Timely updates are planned for most of the major events the Department provides.

We’ll see you on-line!

Academic Expo!
Thursday, April 3
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Wick Center Lobby

Attend and learn about academic majors, services, and careers. Meet with faculty members, academic departments, and academic support services. Register to win prizes, giveaways and more!

JobQuest ’97

A liberal arts and business job fair to be held on Thursday, May 1, from 3-6 p.m., at the Buffalo Convention Center. As a member of the Niagara Frontier College Placement Association, Daemen students and alumni have the opportunity to meet and discuss career opportunities with over 100 companies. For registration information, contact Laurie Clayton at 839-8334.

Kid's Day

On Tuesday, February 25, 1997, at 5:30 AM, three Daemen College junior Physical Therapy students, Renee’ Peri, Shannon Forgette, and Alisha Owen left their apartments to brave 7 degree Fahrenheit temperature outside. These three students drove downtown to sell newspapers for the Student Physical Therapy Association (SPTA). These students were part of a group of 25-30 students from the area Physical Therapy programs to sell newspapers for Kid's Day. Through this program, the SPTA raised $800 to donate to Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. This money will be used to improve treatment methods and to buy new equipment for children.

At 6 AM, we watched the sun rise while sitting in the car drinking hot cocoa and coffee. We were waiting for the newspapers to be dropped off by the Buffalo News. Then the three of us got bundled up and sold approximately $25 worth of newspapers on North Division, South Division, and Main streets, in the vicinity of the bus station. After we could no longer feel our toes, we returned to the car and just made it in time for class at 8 AM. It was a great time! Thank you for your participation Renee’ and Shannon!
So What!
That's easy for you to say!

In response to the editorial written by Shelley Carpenter, there is a lot that I find necessary to say in regards to ALANA students at Daemen College. First, before I go on, I should make it clear that the original article written by a social work major on ALANA students was and is by no means racially generated. I write this to you, Shelly Carpenter, because you mentioned something about racial problems in your article which was totally irrelevant.

I am a junior and for the three years that I have been here, I have experienced the hopeful increases in the number of ALANA students only to be followed by fast declines. Why is this happening? One of the biggest reasons (not the sole reason) for the decline in ALANA students is the lack of social and educational activities reflecting these cultures. Some ALANA students become so frustrated with this problem at Daemen that they transfer. It is a fact that students go to college to earn an education, however, there is more to college than simply "hitting the books" that creates the college experience. Why do students join Greek organizations, academic organizations, or organize intramurals here at Daemen? One of the main answers to this question is because they have desires and interest that go beyond simply "hitting the books." Students have a need to socialize, which in turn builds friendship and school spirit, provides motivation, relieves stress, and enhances their overall college experience. This need is a common need shared by students without regard to their ethnic background.

ALANA students are very much interested in activities that they can relate to. Is it wrong to want to attend a TGIF where more than 2 Hip-Hop or R&B tunes are played? Is it wrong to want to attend a Springfest or concert with performers like "A Tribe Called Quest" or "The Fugees"? I understand that in order to make things happen you have to initiate it yourself. This is exactly what MCA did last spring with their "First Annual Talent/Fashion Show." This is something that a few members of MCA wanted to see happen and it did. The one thing that I would like to note about this event, since I was the acting Vice President at the time, is that we set out with this idea not only thinking of our desires, but also those of the Daemen community. When we organized this event, we made sure we had the other social student organizations involved not to mention the variety of talent ranging from a guitarist with a comic edge to a traditional Indian dance. My point is that we tried to appeal to everyone. I think what ALANA students are asking is that the organizers of events take into consideration a diverse audience. The planners of these activities, as well as SA, should try to be more creative with their ideas and a little less repetitive.

Poetry Corner

A Circle

A circle of hurt, a circle of fear
A circle of pain, a circle of death
The end draws near
With every breath

A circle of love, a circle of laughter
A circle of joy, a circle of happiness
Living happy ever after
The possibilities are endless

Each and everyone of you
Has a circle which you tread
Know it true
Which circle you tread is on your head

You choose your own pathway
You are the one who must decide
What role to play
Some stand and fight, others run and hide

Choose the circle of life
And choose sweet breath
Or choose the sharp knife
And choose the circle of death

On a more personal note, I would like to address a point made by Shelly Carpenter in regards to cultural activities and heritage. When you fill out an application or any other form asking your ethnic background, what box do you check? And for your information, last spring MCA had several cultural information nights where several of the ethnic backgrounds you claimed were explored. Again I would like to mention that this is not about race, it is about promoting a social atmosphere that offers a little something for everyone. Let us work together to make our college experiences memorable!

by Alisha Noble
The Daemen Athletic Club presents

SUMO wrestling

Saturday, April 12
4:30 - 6:30 pm
Wick Dining Room

Non-residents pay $4
(dinner included)

After 5:30 pm: free admission to all.

Psi Xi Omicron & the Student Association invite you to a

Comedy Coffeehouse

featuring:

"Comedy Sports"

Improvational Comedy Group

Saturday, April 12
7 - 8:30 pm
Wick Snackbar

complimentary desserts and specialty coffees served

PARTY with MCA

Saturday, April 12
8 pm
Wick Social Room

Admission: $1 Daemen Students
$2 Others

The Daemen College Student Association invites students, faculty, and staff to their annual

SEMI-FORMAL DANCE

Friday, April 18
9 pm - 1 am
in Wick Dining Room

Tickets on sale in the Daemen Bookstore:
$5 couple
$3 individual

Mary Angela Canavan Award

is annually given by the Student Association to a graduating senior who has demonstrated both dedication and enthusiasm for the improvement of campus life

Letters of self-nomination for this award need to be received no later than April 25, 1997. Letters should be accompanied by a resume of your student life contributions.

Send your letters to the Student Association VP of Governing (mailbox behind Wick Desk).

Senior Week Assistant Applications

are now available in the Student Activities Office.

You must be available to work May 6 - 10

Serve the college, have fun, and build that resume!
The 5th Annual

FOOD-FOR-ALL

competition

Wednesday, April 16, 1997
Noon - 1 pm, in Wick Lobby

The FOOD-FOR-ALL Competition is a campus-wide community service project to benefit the Food Bank of Western New York.

The essence of this project is to help alleviate the desperate needs of the hungry and less fortunate in our community. Daemen's efforts in donating food through this project will help provide a meal for a hungry child or family, the homeless, and the poor in our neighborhoods.

The entire Daemen community is encourage to generously contribute and participate in this project, even though the actual competition is limited to Daemen's recognized student organizations and campus dorms.

Student Organizations and Campus Dorms can sign up in the Student Activities Office
(All food should be non-perishable items.)

Daemen Dining Service and the Student Activities Office present

"April in Paris"

DINNER

Monday, April 28
from 4:30 to 6:30 pm
in Wick Dining Room
(Non-residents pay only $4)

featuring:
Them Jazzbeards

Hold on to your college memories...

Buy a yearbook!

AVAILABLE
at the end of
APRIL
1997

Only $20
in the Bookstore

ASCENT policies

Submissions to the Ascent are due by the 15th day of the month preceding the issue.
Send all submissions to the Student Activities Office, or...

...Better Yet:
Email your articles and information to:
cmalik@daemen.edu

Opinions expressed by writers in the Ascent are not necessarily those of the Ascent or of Daemen College.

Ascent policy is to only print editorials which include a byline.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APR 4</td>
<td>TGIF Party!</td>
<td>5 - 8 pm</td>
<td>Snackbar</td>
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<td>Presented by Phi Beta Gamma.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 4</td>
<td>Volunteer Recognition Reception</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Lounge</td>
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<td>Sponsored by Community Service Department</td>
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<td>APR 5</td>
<td>Student Officer &amp; Student Life Senior Awards Banquet</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Social Room</td>
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<td>Sponsored by Student Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 8</td>
<td>Student Activities Forum</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Alumni Lounge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Entire Daemen community is invited to attend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 11</td>
<td>AIRBAND</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Social Room</td>
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<td>Sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 12</td>
<td>SUMO Wrestling</td>
<td>4:30 - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Dining Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presented by Daemen Athletic Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 12</td>
<td>Comedy Coffeehouse</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Snackbar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presented by Psi Xi Omicron.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 12</td>
<td>PARTY with MCA</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Social Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by Multi-Cultural Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 16</td>
<td>FOOD-FOR-ALL</td>
<td>Noon - 1 pm</td>
<td>Wick Lobby</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Bring your non-perishable food donations for the needy!</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 16</td>
<td>Hypnosis Lecture</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Lounge</td>
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<td>Sponsored by the Psychology Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 16</td>
<td>CONCERT: Speculum Musicae</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Social Room</td>
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<td>Sponsored by Music Department</td>
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<td>APR 17</td>
<td>Faculty Lecture Series: “H/K-ATPase: The Gastric Acid Pump”</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Alumni Lounge</td>
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<td>Dr. Robert Gunther, Natural Sciences Department</td>
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<td>APR 17-20</td>
<td>Song of Singapore”</td>
<td>Noon - 5 pm</td>
<td>Front Lawn</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daemen Theater (call 839-8540 for more info.)</td>
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<td>APR 18</td>
<td>Semi-Formal</td>
<td>9 pm</td>
<td>Dining Room</td>
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<td>Presented by Student Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 19</td>
<td>SPRINGFEST activities</td>
<td>Noon - 5 pm</td>
<td>Front Lawn</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Picnic lunch and dinner, free rollerblading, DJ, student organization games, and much more!</td>
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<td>APR 19</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Coretta Scott King</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Dining Room</td>
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<td>50th Year Gala Kickoff Celebration, reception and fireworks to follow.</td>
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<td>APR 20</td>
<td>1998 Yearbook Photo Week</td>
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<td>APR 25</td>
<td>BLOOD DRIVE on campus</td>
<td>10 am - 3 pm</td>
<td>Social Room</td>
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<td>Sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon.</td>
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<td>APR 25</td>
<td>AIDS Awareness Night</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Lounge</td>
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<td>Presented by Multi-Cultural Association and Psi Xi Omicron</td>
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<td>APR 28</td>
<td>April in Paris Dinner</td>
<td>4:30 - 6 pm</td>
<td>Dining Room</td>
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<td>Featuring: Them Jazzbeards</td>
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