

The Ascent

February 2004

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Valentine's Day: Spirit and History

By Brittany Cozad

St. Valentine's Day either makes people complain or rejoice at the opportunity to spend time with their significant other. Although this day has been labeled the infamous "Hallmark Holiday," Valentine's Day hasn't always been a day full of flowers and candy. Instead, this tradition has been linked to several legends dating back to Ancient Rome.

According to an online Web site, the true identity of Saint Valentine remains a mystery. Some believe he was a third century Roman priest who continued to perform marriage ceremonies after the Emperor Claudius banned young men from matrimony. The Emperor believed these men should serve as soldiers before becoming husbands.

Another story surrounding the Saint contends that Valentine was the author of the first ever Valentine card,

which he sent in prison. Prior to his execution for his crimes against Emperor Claudius, the legend states that Valentine began a secret affair with his jailor's daughter and sent a letter to her signed "From your Valentine."

Although many believe this holiday could be a remembrance for Valentine's death, this day has also been rumored to worship Faunus, the Roman God of agriculture, and Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome.

Every year on Feb. 15 in ancient Rome, Roman priests would meet at the cave where Romulus and Remus may have lived. The priests would sacrifice a goat and the men would cut the hides off the animal, dip them in sacrificial blood, and slightly hit the women with the skin to make them more fertile. Following this unique ritual, the men would pick a woman's name out of an urn, and the two

would begin a courtship and eventually marry.

While the history of Valentine's Day is surrounded by religions, traditions and love affairs, feelings on the holiday seem mixed. Although we begin celebrating this holiday by exchanging little cards and feasting on sweets with our classmates during our elementary school years, maturing into adulthood causes people to alter their perception on the February holiday. Is Valentine's Day simply an obligation to spend money on a loved one? Or, should we remember the past when it was okay to just say, "I love you?"

Some Daemen students believe that a relationship shouldn't be celebrated only one day out of the year. "If you love someone, everyday should be Valentine's Day," said Amber McKenzie, a senior secondary education major. "You don't need a special day to celebrate love."

(Continued on Page 3)

Health Officials Show Smokers' Warmth

By Amy Dehn

For all those Daemen-ites who know what it's like to withstand bitter cold temperatures just to have a smoke, there may be a warm front coming your way.

After only six months, the New York statewide smoking ban is loosening its restrictions by allowing businesses to apply for exemptions. Last week, criteria for obtaining these exemptions was released in Erie County based on rules previously established by the New York State Health Department and almost every other county in Western New York already granting waivers.

The waiver application will require local bars and restaurants to provide

documentation that the smoking ban has caused at least a 15 percent decline in sales. All other counties in Western New York require businesses to prove a 15 percent loss in sales to obtain waivers, with the exceptions of Niagara County, which requires proof of only a 10 percent decline, and Allegheny County, which is not allowing waivers.

Already 150 businesses in Erie County have shown interest in applying for waivers, indicating that the smoking ban has in fact significantly impacted sales.

Waivers will also be granted to businesses that can show a major investment was made to accommodate smokers for restrictions before the

state ban was put in place.

Establishments granted waivers will be required to set up separate ventilated smoking rooms equipped with automatically closing doors. Employees will not have to enter these "smoking rooms," leaving customers to bring in their own food and beverages purchased elsewhere in the establishment.

Erie County health officials have tacked on a \$100 application fee, and will require waivers to be renewed annually, while Niagara County waivers cost nothing to apply and are valid for two years. However, Niagara County has fined over 40 businesses for violating the state smoking ban, although less than

(Continued on Page 5)

A Tribute to Black History Month

By Shemisa Ali

A Few of Black Inventions:

Ironing board: Sarah Boone
Horseshoe: Oscar E. Brown
Pacemaker: Otis Boykin
Super soaker: Lonnie Johnson
Envelope seal: F.W Leslie
Fire extinguisher: Tom J. Marshal
Lock: W.A Martin
Elevator: Alexander Miles
Gas mask: Garrett Morgan
Traffic signal: Garrett Morgan
Peanut butter: George W. Carver
Doorknob: O. Dorsey
Guitar: Robert Flemming Jr.
Helicopter: Paul E. Williams
Refrigerator: J. Standard
Cellular Phone; Henry Sampson
Automatic gearshift: RB Spikes

February is a very special month of the year. It's a time to reflect back on history. It's a time to recognize the extraordinary contributions made by African Americans that wouldn't have been decades ago. Black history is also American history. Everyone is a part of Black history in some way. For example, by honoring those who fought for the struggle of equality also contributed to culture and technology.

Black history dates back to the hot sun and beautiful grasslands of Africa before slavery began. Africa, as evidence proves, was the origin of the first being on earth before the nature of evolution. There lived noble kings and beautiful queens who made Africa a flourishing land of art, music, and

(Continued on page 7)

A few Memorable Black Figures:

Oprah
Tupac Shakur
Jesse Jackson
Colin Powell
Spike Lee
Billie Holiday
Aaliyah
Louis Armstrong
Scott Joplin
Muhammad Ali
Jackie Robinson
Halle Berry
Stevie Wonder
Ray Charles
Maya Angelou
Mae C. Jemison
Bill Cosby

Promises to Keep

By S.D. Wright

It is summer at the starlit hour. The shade of this night is somehow more gray than black - as the vast concrete urbandia, for all its shadows and inconsistencies, sprawls everywhere. And yet the oily creature sky hangs naked and close, this to all eyes the black belly of the panther, whose legs are hidden underneath the horizon, its inky fur speckled with stars.

Alone, a fast-food restaurant sits on the edge of a parking lot, splashing arrogant and indecent amber light. My passenger and I are hungry as hell, and we pull in. The dazzling drive-thru menu spills into sight, offering much in the way of color and cholesterol. This night in particular the "burger lust" in us is strong. Another car blocks our way, though, and we sit waiting for their order to be taken.

But wait. Fate, according to its nature, has prepared for us a scene, a study, a cause to be defended and a moment to be contemplated. The car ahead of ours carries some militantly indecisive customers. And a vicious exchange - as only fast food can elicit - suddenly escalates. The two young men switch their orders enough to annoy the restaurant employee. His voice betrays his frustration. Their gluttony deferred, the customers respond angrily. Another fast-food place is just down the way, and there the food might be a little quicker. Cursing at this employee, they drive off.

Amidst this, I observed something I thought incredible - in the shaky, indirect thought of summer nights, somehow hope-inspiring. The employee's voice is effeminate sounding - distinctly so - and yet my friend and I hear not one gay slur from the two belligerent customers. Obscenities are thrown in mouthfuls, yes, but the words "fag" and "homo" are avoided. The young employee may not be gay, but he is gay-sounding,

and somehow one cultural boundary had been respected, in the heat of bitter argument. And then it occurred to me that modern America is reflected in this scene, and how far our society has come in what is termed the gay rights movement.

Oh, discrimination does exist, and will always, I imagine. But the world in which every human being should hope to live - where man doesn't pass judgment on man as concerns his personal rights - is so near one can feel it.

Our country has changed and is changing; from entertainment to law to government. Bravo broadcasts a television show entitled "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," where five gay men, one wittier than the other, reinvent a straight man so as to improve his personal appearance and inner living space. On the same network contrasting views of homosexual men - one, more straight acting and the other less so - are depicted on "Will and Grace." A new show is scheduled on a different network, featuring lesbians. Gays represent their districts in Congress, with the most outspoken member being Barney Frank, a representative from Massachusetts. Over the summer, "Lawrence v. Texas" became a great milestone, striking down anachronistic sodomy laws. Fifty years ago straight America would have run into the streets screaming if they witnessed this cultural revolution; now they accept or ignore it, typically. Such is the nature of progress.

It is fundamentally un-American, after all, to violate a man or a woman's right to be what he or she longs to be - unless, of course, such behavior inflicts pain on others. In this great country, founded on belief in the individual, man (or woman) dare not question another's right to pursue happiness. The gay rights issue, therefore, is a test of our patriotic mettle; and the farther we proceed, the better. The same rights granted to heterosexual couples should be given to those of

the same sex, marriage or otherwise. All evidence - the vitriol of Christian crazies laid aside - seems to indicate we are moving in that direction.

Steadily and completely, the societal boundaries excluding gays and lesbians are being crushed and removed. The hunger for change will not be instantly gratified, as burger-lust is sated in a fast-food setting on a summer night. We have, in the language of Frost, miles to go before we sleep. Indeed, future men will see these times as part of a splendid progression: reaching, in the end, complete social, political, and cultural equality for men and women of same-sex orientation. A new morning, after all, comes in degrees, and despite any momentary despair, we cannot but recognize daily the night sky always is with child. And so it is with the progressive social/sexual agenda in the great country that is the United States.

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Phil McAndrew 'toon



'Whogavethisidiotagun?' or The terrible consequences of an apathetic electorate

Josh Gallagher- Columnist

Groggy, decaying, congested, I reach for a cigarette. Ahh!, how great it feels to be disgusted at myself as my New Year's Resolution exhales across the room. My tar soaked lungs, fill me with revulsion, a revulsion soon forgotten, destroyed by headlines, of a nation proud of violence and war, a nation that declared 'Soldiers' *Time* magazine's Man of the Year. What a betrayal of modern societal evolution! Bewildered, names ticker-tape through my head, *Freud, Einstein, Jesus, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr.*, great intellects and great actions have paved the way to truth, no matter one's faith, no matter ones martyr, history has spoken, the voice of reason declared violence the tool of fools and incompetents generations ago, violence begets violence. Sadly, this day after New Year's, I am that fool, my fellow citizens and I hold the keys to the most awesome power known in the history of man and we are asleep at the wheel. We are fools.

A blind, deaf, ignorant, apathetic mass of sheep. Ignorant or ignoring of media blackouts, unconstitutional legislation and activity, infringements on civil liberties and governed by charlatans wielding poorly disguised parlor tricks.

We deserve what we get, considering the election that began this current regime involved documented voter fraud, racial profiling, bigotry and nepotism was absorbed with nary a whimper by the collective american sheep. Americans of merit would still be screaming to this day!

An unelected leader fraudently obtains the reigns of the mightiest warhorse in history, a lapse in security under his watch becomes his shield rather than his noose. What sense does that make! President Bush should have been the first one blamed for a security lapse the size of the World Trade Center disaster. Instead, the nation rallied to the call of militarism and patriotism, leaving their glasses and textbooks in the mud. Blind and brainless we march to war. As we march, the nation beneath our feet makes no improvements creditable to the administrations leadership, but no one notices, all eyes on the prize, on war, on threats from the outside, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Korea small rogue states that have been used to gag, blind, and pervert the american mind. The coming election will be mired in controversy, hopefully our eyes will be open to the true meaning of any future security lapses or suspicious computerized voting trends, when

evil men steal power, they do not give it up without using all their options first. Militaristic tyrants have claimed and perverted democratic processes in the past. People have proven themselves remarkably gullible given the right amount of material comfort to embrace it. The Germans ignored the smokestacks on their hilltops just as we ignore the true cost of the exhaust pipes of our transportation. The world watched the rape of Tibet by China, and we watch the rape of Iraq by our brothers and sisters. There are few things one can never truly change, I'll never be able to not be an American, but I can express my disgust at myself and my brethren, just as the rest of the civilized world and those willing to accept the obvious are doing with me now.

Ofcourse, it's to late, our generation is now responsible for death and violence in our names, nothing will change that, not electing a new leader, not contributing to aid agencies, not writing seethin editorials, the time is past. Our parents before us dodged the draft, wrote songs of love and peace, and dropped out of the military-industrial corporate society, we merely twiddled our thumbs, watched NASCAR and gladly filled our brains with mass line. At least i'll be able to tell whatever miserable spawn i have, that I spoke out. Can you say that!

Unlike most doomsayers I propose some possible solutions.

- A recent trend in Anti-War, Anti-Bush campaigns is the "Anybody but Bush campaign". As great as it sounds, the slogan engenders the same kind of mindlessness and apathy that allowed his reign in the first place. Learn the truth of the human to whom you are granting such mighty power.
- In order to ensure you recognize your guilt for the actions of this once great nation, replace the words "BUSH", "AMERICA", or "United States" with your own name anytime you read the newspaper.

ex) 60 Iraqi Women nad Children killed in American attack, becomes

60 Iraqi Women and children killed by Josh's attack, and if your really into a parctice in civic responsibility and compassion- replace the word, "Iraqi," Civilian, or unarmed with the name of a loved one.

ex) Stray gunfire kills innocent iraqi civilians, becomes

Stray gunfire kills Josh's mom, dad, and brother.

- As a student body decide that you are tired of your ignorance, tired of the disconnect between your studies and the real world. A possible solution would be a class series, similiar to the new multi-disciplinary freshman experience, the course could be entitled CURRENT EVENTS *in context*, the classes would include daily readings from both national and international newspapers so students are familiar with domestic and international affairs while cutting down on misinformation and biased journalism. Students would be taught to read critically and to recognize global trends as they happen. Most importantly the class would be taught by rotating instructors who would discuss current events in relation to past historical, philosophical or scientific viewpoints.

ex) How does Albert Einstein's "Why War" relate to current rationalizations about war?

ex) How should current estimates about world petroleum supply effect our consumption, Could energy deficits effect current foreign policy?

ex) To what extent is a single citizen responsible for the atrocities committed by his/ her representative body?

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Valentine's Day

(Continued from page 1)

Michael Gerster, an elementary education major agrees.

"It's completely overrated," he said. "You shouldn't use Valentine's Day as a one-time deal to do something nice. It should be done all the time."

However, English Professor and Honors Program Director, Dr. Nancy Marck holds a different view. "In a world too often inclined to be cynical, Valentine's Day gives us a chance to celebrate love, counters disillusionment with poetry," she said.

During these times when many are forced to be apart from those they cherish, perhaps we should remember to embrace all types of love on this day and every other in the year

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The Life of a Journalist: Paul Chimera

By Shemisa Ali

Who said journalism was a stressful job? Paul Chimera, a savvy businessman, doesn't quite think it is. It can be but doesn't have to be. As a matter of fact, he loves what he does as a writer; a self employed, independent journalist. For those who aren't exactly sure what journalism is, let me give you some examples. Journalists are responsible for what you read in the Buffalo News, Essence and Teen People magazines; they write and report information.

Chimera was born November 11, 1949. And although an experienced journalist for over 20 years, he wasn't always sure what career path would be best to follow. Many of us don't. All he knew was his strengths lay in English and composition. But the big question always remains: how can I make a decent living from this? How can I make this marketable?

With a Bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University and a Master's degree in Communications from UB, Chimera then decided his future was right there in his hands, holding a pen. He decided to become a journalist.

Even so, there are different fields of journalism. Freelance journalism is like a hustle looking for stories to write and submit in hopes that your story will be accepted. Or simply a journalist who has stability, security, and a steady salary exclusively working and writing for one employer. Nevertheless, Chimera chose to become self-employed and an independent journalist who works on his own terms.

When I asked him about the pressures of being a self-employed journalist, he drew in a deep breath before he finally spoke. "It's a lot of responsibility," he replied. Chimera explained

financially it can be difficult and sometimes a strain because he plays so many roles all in one. He is the marketer, the promoter, and the accountant. Meeting deadlines, approaching strangers, making sure the article is accurate can also be a bit stressful, he adds, without failing to remind me that as a journalist your work is under constant scrutiny. "I like being my own boss," he says proudly. Chimera perhaps could make more money working for someone else, but prefers to be an independent writer where he is in control of his salary. "We never close," he replies with a soft laugh, obviously referring to the dependency and responsibility that comes along with being self-employed. However, Chimera makes it clear he loves what he does, and is content with where he is in his life.

"How would you describe your life right now?" I asked curiously. Without hesitation, but with much simplicity he replied he is happy. He mentioned he has a happy home life. He and his wife Anne have two daughters, Catherine, 24, and Kristy, 20. Furthermore, Chimera is comfortable with his success so far.

I then asked him if he has other aspirations. He pondered a short while, and said, "Not really." So far, he has many accomplishments in his life as a local success. Besides being an independent journalist, Chimera is a part-time college instructor at Daemen College where he teaches several courses: Media Writing, Writing for the Media, Introduction to Public Relations, and Journalism. He has taught courses at Buffalo State College, Erie Community College, and Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in the Buffalo region. He is a writer for Business First, Buffalo Spree Magazine,

the Buffalo News, and Daemen Today: College Alumni Magazine.

Several articles that Chimera has written, (which are all great in writing and precise in accuracy I must add), include: "Watching the Detectives;" "Modern Technology Keeps Travelers (virtually) Tethered to the Office;" "Many Don't Understand the Role of a Newspaper;" "Getting Out of Town, but Not Out of Touch;" and "Big Ghost on Campus?" Those are just to name a few. He is also the author of the booklet, WINNING WITH THE NEWS MEDIA: SIMPLE STEPS TO BETTER PRESS RELATIONS. Moreover, Chimera has completed 43,000 words of a manuscript for a proposed book based on freelance writing and self-employment.

At the end of the interview I asked if he had any advice he would like to give to aspiring journalists. Another deep inhale and finally an exhale, he explained that journalists must understand how critical news gathering is, especially when you're dealing with people's lives.

"Hone your writing skills," he advised. "Practice and read."

He also recommends writers watch plenty of television and listen to the radio to become aware of what's going on around them.

So as you've read, journalism doesn't have to be stressful. Furthermore, success in a particular field comes with how much you enjoy and value what you do, and Paul Chimera is living proof. How would he describe his business right now? With a slight smile, he replied, "It's working well."

Substance Abuse and Vocational Services

The Erie County Department of Mental Health designated Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. as the home of the Erie County Vocational Resource Center. The Resource Center provides current information related to vocational rehabilitation for individuals with chemical dependency disorders, their family members and treatment providers. A website called RecoveryWorks has been established as part of the Center.

The goal of RecoveryWorks is to increase the emphasis on work as a component of rehabilitation and to improve the availability of services and supports. The website provides opportunities to share information on best practices. It advocates for greater integration of vocational and treatment services for individuals with substance abuse disorders, recognizing that this type of service delivery has positive impact on

an individual's recovery and ability to retain employment.

The RecoveryWorks website offers a centralized resource. It provides links to the latest research, best practices, training opportunities, community providers, and contact information. Visitors can link to information on resume preparation, interviewing techniques, job search, and retention strategies. They also can access personal stories of people who have successfully integrated employment into their recovery process.

The RecoveryWorks website has been established in conjunction with the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the Erie County Department of Mental Health.

The Ascent is now accepting advertising and personal ads.

For Pricing Information:

Contact Josh Gallagher at
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(att: Ascent)

Seantoon



Prof. Cuddy Responds to Critic

I read with interest and amusement Richard Laub's letter in the Ascent expressing "alarm" that Daemen students are exposed to a teacher with my views. If only he could see the drowsy faces in my history classes his angst would surely vanish.

Mr. Laub's broadside following the Israeli-Palestinian debate in November, I submit, was loose with facts, selective in history, and supportive of the pro-Israel hard line that has repeatedly doomed the peace process in blood-soaked Palestine.

He rightly condemns the murders of 1000 Israelis by Palestinian terrorists. Yet, he seems oblivious to 2600 Palestinians, largely civilians, killed by Israeli occupation forces.

Under International Law, he claims, the West Bank and Gaza Strip are not "occupied territory," and UN Resolution 242 does not demand Israel's withdrawal to its 1967 borders. In fact, Resolution 242 (1967) explicitly calls for the "Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied (italics mine) in the recent conflict" (those territories included the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem).

Laub falsely links Palestinian terrorist organizations, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, with Yasser Arafat and his Fatah party, citing their common goal to "eradicate Israel." In fact, Arafat, despite his flawed leadership, long ago abandoned that goal and has actually provoked hostility from terrorists because of his commitment to the peace process. Admittedly, he has made accommodations with Palestinian militants under pressure from Israel's continued expansion into Palestinian lands.

In the 1993 Oslo Accords, Arafat recognized Israel's right to exist, conceding 78 per cent of the original Palestinian lands for the Jewish state while willing to settle for the remaining 22 per cent - the West Bank and Gaza - for a Palestinian state. Unfortunately, the continuing expansion of Jewish settlements in that remaining sliver of land - in violation of International law and several UN Resolutions - is only the latest chapter in the repeated assaults on Palestinians to make way for the expanding Israeli state:

- the 1947 UN Partition giving 55 percent of the contested lands to the Jewish minority;
- Israel's annexation of another 23 per cent during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war;
- 700,000 Palestinians driven from Israel, largely by military force and terror;
- Israel's conquest of the final 22 per cent during the 1967 war, followed by the first settlements in defiance of Resolution 242;
- the latest assault - an Israeli separation wall underway, slicing through the West Bank, grabbing more land from Palestinians.

Israel's expansion, Laub claims, is simply the "natural growth of Israeli settlements." How natural are they? When those settlements are dispersed throughout the West Bank and Gaza, shredding the land into morsels too small for a viable Palestinian state? When Israel, despite its crumbling economy, coughs up an additional \$10,000 annually for each family, partly to entice 250,000 Jews to risk their lives to dwell amid nearly four million Palestinians?

With his mind fixed on Palestinian sins, Laub seems blind to the Israeli repression that has driven the many to despair and the few to suicidal rage: homes demolished, farms confiscated, to make way for expanding Jewish settlements and military bases to defend them; workers trapped for hours daily, ambulances halted, women giving birth at road blocks - all ensnared in the growing labyrinth of Jewish-only by-pass roads and check points; scarce water resources diverted to settler homes; villages pounded by tanks and air craft, amid the spiraling violence

fed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's ruthless tactics and Palestinian terrorism.

If Laub is alarmed by my views, what must he think about the many Jews - American and Israeli - leading the charge against Israel's policies? Hundreds of soldiers have refused further service in the occupation forces which, they claim, violates their Jewish values while corrupting "the entire Israeli society." Recently, 27 pilots refused to continue attacking Palestinian neighborhoods, despite threats of punishment from Chief of Staff Moshe Ya-alon. Then Ya-alon, himself, shifted course to condemn government policies which "only generate hatred that will explode in our face."

Sharon's use of brute force has incited Palestinian suicidal attacks, declares Avraham Burg, an Israeli parliamentary leader. For thirty-five years, he argues, "we have pursued a stupid policy which sacrifices our children on the altar of settlements." In November, four former chiefs from Israel's top anti-terrorism agency, Shin Bet, denounced the "disgraceful behavior" which had devastated Palestinian lives. Under Sharon's policies, they warned, "we will continue to live by the sword .

... and we will continue to destroy ourselves."

But hope springs eternal. Some political figures, Israeli and Palestinian, recently joined hands to forge a new peace plan supporting a genuine two-state solution while addressing vexing issues heretofore neglected. Their efforts, Sharon groused, were "shameful" and "pathetic." But former President Jimmy Carter called it "the most promising foundation for peace" we are likely to see. Arafat, dubbed it a "courageous initiative" opening "the door to peace."

"People have begun to break free" from the paralysis of fear and hatred that has gripped them for years, observes Israeli novelist David Grossman. "How long will it be before the majority grasps this fact, and how many more lives will be lost before then?"

His question should be put to American politicians - with their unconditional support for Israel - as well as Palestinian militants and Israeli officials.

Smoker's Warmth

(Continued from page 1)

half have actually paid the \$250 fine, according to county health officials.

The exemptions are receiving mixed emotions from residents. Some feel the ban is comparable to prohibition. One Derby resident called it "an erosion of freedom" in an editorial written in THE BUFFALO NEWS. Smokers see the ban as discriminating and intolerant, and a punishment to loyal and contributing citizens.

Other Western New Yorkers would rather the health protection remain without a compromise.

Non-smokers believe the economic worries of local businesses should not be weighed as more important than a citizens' right to breathe clean air in public. In another editorial written in THE BUFFALO NEWS, a Williamsville doctor referred to a study done in Helena, Montana that found that a revoked smoking ban led to a significant increase in the rate of heart attacks in the area.

Local businesses--from bars and clubs to bingo halls and bowling alleys--feel the exemptions are necessary in regaining and maintaining solid business. Some establishments have reported over 30 percent declines in sales because of the anti-smoking law. Despite health concerns, many believe this may save local small businesses from going under.

Two Words: Bruce Campbell

By Mackenzie Lambert

There are actors born with silver spoons in their mouths and reputations to live up to. Other actors earn their skills through years of experience and practice. Michigan native, Bruce Campbell, earned his fame by having experience in a theater community and to debut in one of the greatest cult classics of all time. This fame has him placed along side other cult legends like Dick Miller, Robert "Freddy Krueger" Englund, and John Saxon.

At a time when shockingly violent films from Tobe Hooper's Texas Chainsaw Massacre to the zombie films of George Romero and Lucio Fulci, amateur director Sam Raimi, would-be producer Rob Tapert, and theater actor Bruce Campbell went to Tennessee with a small crew to film The Evil Dead. What separated this film from the rest of the horror films?

Kinetic energy-driven camera work by Raimi and the Three Stooges-inspired violence, yet contained extremely squeamish moments. The film became a hit in the U.K. before becoming a hit in the States, as well as sparking a "video nasty" controversy that affiliated the film with other titles such as Ruggero Deodato's Cannibal Holocaust (the inspiration for The Blair Witch Project) and Bruno Mattei's humorous zombie romp, Hell of the Living Dead. On a side note, The Evil Dead is the only film ever to be released on video and in theatres at the same time. The second film in the series, Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn, focused more on the camerawork, Splatstick (a sub-genre Raimi shares with Peter "Lord of the Rings" Jackson) gags, and legendary one-liners spoken by Campbell's character, Ash (some dialogue would be ripped-off and used in the Duke Nukem video game series). Campbell sees a great difference in the kind of violence used in the Evil Dead series as opposed to some of the other "video nasties" it was clustered with.

"I've never been a fan of mean-spirited violence," Campbell said.

The statement is fair to say when comparing the Evil Dead films to moredemeaning fare like Joe D'Amato's Anthropophagus and Juan Piquer Simon's Pieces. Also, the bigger studios have been coming out with bad horror movies as well. Valentine, The Scream trilogy, and I Know What You Did Last Summer all follow the dated teen slasher formula that was perfected by the likes of Sean Cunningham and John Carpenter.

When asked whether he agrees with the correlation of the bigger the budget, the dumber the horror movie, Campbell claims, "No doubt about it, but there have been plenty of terrible cheap horror films."

One can easily point to directors like Roger Corman, Ed Wood, and Fred Olen Ray as examples.

One of the rapidly growing concerns among movie fans is the number of movie remakes. The horror genre seems to be the most expendable. While non-horror films like the Joe Don Baker vehicle, Walking Tall, and The Stepford Wives are the only standouts. The recent and future releases have the internet in an uproar. Legendary films like Dario Argento's Suspiria, George Romero's Dawn of the Dead, and Stuart Rosenberg's The Amityville Horror are the targets of big studio remakes.

In response to the possibility of an Evil Dead remake, Campbell answers, "Yeah, I wouldn't doubt it. Honestly, I feel the same way about them doing Charlie's Angels - it means that Hollywood needs a transfusion of ideas - and fast. It's getting pretty embarrassing."

Campbell is one of those actors who have tried

(Continued on page 6)

Wallace Camp All Grown Up! Bruce Campbell

(Continued from a previous Issue, this is on ongoing story)

By Coco Lepheyr

Hello? Hey Zia it's me Twinkie, we still on for the mall? I don't know my Mom has us all on lock-down, something about some crazy dream she had. What dream, what are you talking about? I don't know, she's been going on about some dream she had that seemed so real she doesn't want any of us to leave the house tonight. Dazia, you're making this up, your mom is not superstitious like that. I know Twinkie, she usually has her head on straight, that's why I'm going along with this, I figure it must be something, and what ever it is, it really has her spooked. Okaay, no big deal I got homework anyway. I just hope everything is alright so we can keep our plans for Friday. Oh, please believe me, no one is going to stop us from going to that party, she'll just have to get over what ever it is that has her so up-tight. Be nice Dazia, besides I'm a little..., scratch that, I'm a lot nervous about lying to my Mom, it's almost like she has a built lie-detector that can tell what's a lie when she hears one. Okay, listen, get that nervousness out of you because we are going and we are going to have fun, don't even try to back out on me! Zia-Zia, I'm not backing out, all I said was I'm nervous. Don't worry, I've got my story together and I'll drop it on her tomorrow when I get home from school. You want me to come along to hold your hand? Nooooooo, Dazia, I can do it.

Alright, well then I'll see you in school. Bye Zia. Bye Nervous Nelly, Oh Wait! What's up? I meant to ask you something, why does my brother keeps asking about your sister? Which brother and which sister I have three? Paris, and your sister Rondi. Rondi?! I have no idea; maybe because he babysat her those few times, she really seemed to cling to him. I don't know, it just seems kind of funny for him to always ask about her, oh well. Dazia, don't let your Mom's craziness rub off on you. That's not going to happen. You just worry about getting your story straight tomorrow.

Whatever, later Zia. Bye Twink.

Who gave this Idiot a Gun?

(Continued from page 3)

Of course, my suggested topics are biased towards my personal beliefs, but a more balanced curriculum could easily be created by experienced educators.

ex) How do Machiavelli's theories on leadership relate to current administrative norms?

Finally, in an attempt to create a politically active campus. The school should promote a registration day, and provide transportation and excusals from class on polling days. The school being a private entity would not suggest or support any specific party or candidate only create an atmosphere for a more empowered, active generation of graduates.

According to Samuel Huntington, Political Scientist, every great social movement is a product of a young generation, from the Crusades to the civil rights movement, youth power change. Our generation has a handicap, we are severely outnumbered by an older voting generation before us, unless we become a highly mobilized, active, registered demographic we will never have any control over the future of our nation.

Any responses, replies, questions, statements or hate mail can be sent to
Josh Gallagher at jgallagher@daemen.edu

Dear Homeland Security, the statements in the preceding article are in no way the opinion of the author, please do not make me disappear into the cold night. If you must, dont forget to turn my heat down when you leave..Thank You

By Kathy Horschel

Think about where you were in the spring of 1997 (that's seven years ago). How old were you? What kinds of things did you like to do? Who were you at that time? Do you remember what song you couldn't stop singing? It was song you either loved or hated; either way it was infectious. It was a happy song about relationships. Three blond brothers sang it. Still don't remember? Here's another hint.... Mmmmbop! Yes, now you've got it. This is an article about Hanson. Now I know what you're thinking, "Hanson, who cares?" Don't start the "Hanson sucks" chant just yet. Read on, and then you may start; just give them a chance first. After all they too have grown up in the last seven years, just like you, and are making completely different music.

Yes, Hanson is that blond brother trio (Isaac, Taylor and Zac) from Tulsa, Oklahoma that wrote Mmmmbop. That was a long time ago, so don't hold that against them. Hanson has sold fifteen million records and were a three time nominated group for the Grammy Awards. They have had six top twenty songs (no, they are not a one hit wonder). The music critics love them and critics never seem to like anyone, so the band is not just "pop fluff." In 2000 the brothers released This Time Around. Critics voted it as one of the top albums of that year. It was filled with very deep lyrics that were very mature for the ages of the young brothers that wrote them. It was a very much a pure Rock 'N' Roll album, gritty vocals and a lot of heavy guitar riffs. The album also had a lot of soul, mainly due to middle brother Taylor's abilities to sing with great passion and emotion. Yet the album sold poorly compared to Hanson's 1997 record Middle of Nowhere.

The Hanson brothers are back again, Isaac 23, Taylor 20 (21 in March) and Zac, 18. They are not the same innocent goody-goody little boys you remember. Everyone seems to think they are suppressed, can-do-no-wrong, perfect little angels. Taylor is married and has a child, which was born only five months after the marriage (Do you need to borrow a calculator or do get what I am trying to say?). Isaac has been seen at bars drinking and smoking cigars. "What about little Zac" you ask. Well, he says he likes writing songs about death and has admitted to experimenting with drugs, but "no hard stuff." Zac, being the only one still at home with their parents has his own house on the family property, apparently a party house. The other thing that I couldn't help but notice is how much they have changed physically. They have all grown into very handsome men. Their long blond locks are short and have grown much darker. Isaac is sporting an English Punk style Mohawk and has a very cool style of dressing. No one can say Taylor looks like a girl anymore; he has the reputation of being the best-looking Hanson (He has really nice blue eyes, dang he's the married one). Zac has gone from cute little brother to one fine looking man and he is fairly brawny.

In August of 2003 they released an EP called Underneath Acoustic. It is an eight song acoustic sneak peek to the upcoming album Underneath, rumored to be out this March. Isaac says, "It's the most intimate and vulnerable one we've ever done." Hanson also promised that the new album is what they like to call "reckless abandon" guitar rock. The brothers had an intimate acoustic club tour between August and November of last year. It was to promote their new music and say thank you to their "cult" like fans who have stuck beside them for years. They even made a stop here in Buffalo, which I attended and was totally blown away by their incredible talent. I was on a post concert high for three days after. That's how much energy and passion Hanson plays with. Trust me Hanson shows rock, even if it was acoustic. I thought Zac was going to bust his drums the way he was playing and at one point they were so into the music that Taylor's feet ended up on the piano. How's that for Rock and Roll, no bubble gum pop for this trio anymore. The tour ended with a show at Carnegie Hall

(Continued from page 5)

out for roles, only to be rejected because he isn't considered to be "bankable." He's been up for such roles as the title characters in Sam Raimi's Darkman and the comic book-inspired The Phantom. Respectively, Liam Neeson and Billy Zane were recipients of those roles. Fortunately, Campbell is not one to dwell on lost chances.

"It's a war of attrition," explains Campbell, "you can't let any one failure razz you that bad. It ain't brain surgery."

Campbell has attained a number of behind-the-scene credits as well. He worked unaccredited for his work in the sound department on Darkman. He wrote the story for Josh Becker's Thou Shalt Not Kill...Except. He served as produce for Michael Kallio's Hatred of a Minute. He directed episodes for the TV series of Hercules and Xena.

"I like to go back and forth," Campbell says. "A creative 'job rotation' if you will."

Campbell's voice has a sense of sarcasm equal to that of Bill Murray. His voice work talents range from video game fare like Evil Dead: Fistful of Boomstick, Pitfall 3-D: Beyond the Jungle, and Broken Helix. However, his most appeasing voice-over credit is voicing the tour guide for the video game adaptation of the Spider-man movie.

Campbell's autobiography, If Chins Could Kill: Confessions of a B-movie Actor, has appropriately mounted a cult reception. It exposed the inner fakeness that is under the gilded glitz of Hollywood. Unlike Howard Stern's book, this one won't have any film rights attached to it. His next novel is Make Love the Bruce Campbell Way. No, it's not Campbell's answer to the Kama Sutra.

When compared to other books, written by Ph.D'ed authors, of its advice-giving nature, Campbell replies, "A. because its fiction, and b., because these jokers don't know any more than anybody else."

Bruce Campbell has plenty ahead for his fans. He is credited as a snooty usher in Spider-Man 2 to compliment his role as the ring announcer in the previous film. The recently released Bubba Ho-Tepp has him playing the real Elvis Presley along with Ossie Davis as a retirement home patient who claims to be JFK. He plays a father in the upcoming, Robert Wise's The Haunting-inspired The Woods. Yet, internet rumors are in mass for an Evil Dead 4 and a Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash. To close, Bruce "don't call me Ash" Campbell gives advice that all could live by: "Stay Groovy".

(impressive). The new songs are incredible and anyone can relate to them. The band still carries the perfect three-part harmony that has become part of their signature sound. A sound that is so beautiful that on songs like Misery it gives you chills. Another song I really enjoy is When You're Gone. Its lyrics are very sad and depressed and yet hopeful at the end. Plus, Taylor's voice takes on a very angry tone and I think it sounds so awesome. I dare anyone to listen to Underneath Acoustic and not like at least one song from it. Hanson is a musical force to be reckoned with.

Not only do the boys have a new album, they also have started their own record label called 3CG (Three Car Garage), die-hard Hanson fans know where the name comes from. They say the label "gives us freedom." The boys can also take the credit for discovering Michelle Branch and they have been promoting bands like Maroon 5, Rooney and Phantom Planet for long while now. The boys early influences are 50s and 60s Rock 'N' Roll and Soul. Hanson is a band who knows music; Taylor claims "we're music geeks." They are music historians and music is what they were born to do. They love the Beatles, Chuck Berry, Travis, Radiohead and even the Ramones. You can hear all these different elements in their music. Take a chance on Hanson, they might surprise you.

So now you know about the music, all you need to know is where to get it, it's available only at Hanson's official web site www.hanson.net.

Calendar Boys of Daemen

By Michelle Murphy

The New Year has begun and with the beginning of every new year comes a new calendar. This year, be sure to look for the "Guys of Daemen College" calendar. Yes girls, there are boys here at Daemen, and these 12 in particular are even cute!

The Psychology Club has been working hard on making a "Guys of Daemen" calendar possible. The idea for the calendar came about at the Academic Festival last spring 2003. Psychology students were chatting with their professors about the attractive guys here at Daemen. A joke was made that there should be a "Guys of Daemen" calendar.

Well, needless to say, the joke became a reality.

The Psychology Club thought the calendar would be a great way to get the entire campus involved in something fun and exciting.

"We thought it would be a great way for students to get to know people they normally would not," said Laura Pasker, a senior psychology student.

The calendar did not become a reality without a lot of hard work and dedication. Even those who may not have taken part in the process of the calendar realize the degree of dedication it took for the final outcome.

Lauren Metzger, a third year psychology student said, "It took a lot of work, that's for sure. The people who were persistent, and stood behind the cause deserve a lot of credit."

The Daemen College community also participated in the beginning phases of the calendar. They were able to vote on the males they thought belonged in the calendar. Students were asked to vote for professors as well as their fellow classmates. When it came time to decide who would be in the calendar, the Psychology Club wanted to make sure the representation was fair.

The six guys with the most nominations were automatically included. The other six guys were decided on the reason people nominated them. The club wanted to make sure the guys were represented for qualities besides their good looks.

"I'm very impressed," said Caleb Richter, a senior physician assistant student. "The calendar was done in a classy way to represent each of us."

The final product of the calendar will include a picture of each of the guys, their bio, hobbies, major and anything else they wanted to add. There will also be a complete list of the guys who were nominated.

Bethany Sick wasn't worried about her boyfriend, James Felicita, being in the calendar for other girls to see.

"As far as having my boyfriend in the Calendar, I will admit that I am very proud," she said. "He definitely deserved it. It doesn't bother me that other females think he's attractive, it's actually a compliment, because his choice is to be with me, and I know he's all mine!"

Feelings from the guys in the calendar were those of honor and pride.

Physician Assistant students Mike Patane and Richter were honored and excited to be included in the calendar. They are both anxiously waiting for the calendars arrival. Both guys agreed their family and friends are excited to see the calendar as well.

So when will the calendars be available?

They will be on sale in the Wick Center during lunch and dinner hours, hopefully very soon. The price is still not decided. However, half of the profits will go to an organization related to mental health.

Enthusiasm is spreading around the campus for the calendar's release. Other students, like PJ Tudisco, junior psychology student and Dave Kibby, junior physician assistant student, are wondering what will come after the "Guys of Daemen" calendar.

"When will there be a 'Girls of Daemen' calendar available?" they said.

Audience Members Embrace the Music of Any December



By Antoinette DelBel

Seventy screaming fans, many of them Daemen students, came out on Saturday, Jan. 24, and showed their support for Any December during a live performance at the Tudor Lounge, located on Franklin St.

The acoustic-rock quartet – composed of AJ Dicembre (singing/acoustic guitar), Travis Gruszka (drums), Dave Sousa (bass/vocals) and Alex Heinrich (electronic piano) – put on a spectacle in the intimate, cozy, bar setting.

Dicembre's dulcet voice made it easy for die-hard fans to bob their heads in accordance to the music and sing along to the band's original lyrics.

Through his lyrics, Dicembre tries to "capture the feeling of when the song was written."

Songs like "Empty Puddles & Lullabies," "Blue," "Hide and Seek," "Typical Love," "And Maybe," "What to Forget About" and "Long Goodbyes," mostly speak of human experience and love.

Dicembre, an international business student, writes most of his lyrics spontaneously. When he gets an idea for a melody, he has to write it down, even it means waking up from his sleep.

"Sometimes I just can't sleep until I get it down on paper," he said.

"It's like a blessing and a curse at the same time."

With a book filled with at least 200 pages full of original lyrics, Dicembre says he scraps at least 99 percent of them.

Even though most of what he writes ends up on paper, he loves to improvise on-stage. "It's just amazing because you're writing on-stage as you're playing," he said. "I feed off the crowd and the crowd feeds off of me."

Although influenced by bands such as Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins, Counting Crows, Ben Folds Five and Coldplay, Any December's sound is like no one else's. With the help of Daemen alumnus Alex Heinrich and his piano, Any December becomes an original, piano-driven modern rock band, which truly makes them unique.

Recently, on Feb. 6, Any December took first place in Daemen's annual Battle of the Bands competition, and didn't walk away empty-handed. The band won a \$500 cash prize that will go toward studio time and enhancing their Web site.

This April, Any December will be playing at The Tralf, located in Buffalo's theater district, which is where Our Lady Peace played at about a year ago. A date has not yet been announced.

Be sure to visit their Web site, www.anydecember.com for information on upcoming shows, including a Valentine's Day special on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. at Exposure.

Without the support of their fans, Dicembre says Any December wouldn't have made it this far. "Everyone is so supportive," he said. "We're so lucky to have the best friends and fans that are at every show, cheering us on."

Black History

(Continued from page 1)

much more. Egypt was once noted as the professor of the world where many famous leaders, taught by Egyptian scholars, learned of literature, art, apprenticeship, and arithmetic. The outside world admired the valuable and scarce resources of prosperity Africa offered. However, it wasn't too long before the Europeans at that time calculated the value of these goods, enchanted by gains of profit thus creating the human slave trade.

During the Middle Passage (the slave trade route from Africa to the islands then to North America) in the 1700's, thousands of Africans were kidnapped from their families and stripped naked of their dignity and their pride. When they were brought to America the Africans were enslaved for hundreds of years. They received no respect and treated harshly because of the color of their skin.

Hundreds of years later after slavery began, founder Harriet Tubman and others followed the Underground Railroad to finally find the road to freedom. Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist worked with many others both black and white in discovering ways to justifiably end the harsh realities of slavery.

Years later, about the early 1900's, time moves into the era of the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance was such a significant time in Black history, because it is the era where black culture and life was expressed through poems, literature, and song. Music became such a strong part of black culture. Rhythm and song was a scapegoat in helping blacks free their minds and spirits of the hatred that surrounded them while showing the world a glimpse of their many talents.

Writers such as Langston Hughes, Zora Neal

Hurston wrote a lot about black life in those days, while singers like Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong passionately sang jazz, the blues, rock n' roll - songs of the life they lived and saw.

Entertainers such as Dorothy Dandridge and Lena Horne were one of the first and few black actresses that succeeded in Hollywood despite the racial barriers, which by no means was an easy task in those times.

After the visions, the hopes and dreams, the sad and determined songs that sang of peace, love, and equality, it wasn't long before actions were taken to rightfully claim their rights and freedom like any other race. The Civil Rights Movement, which took place in the 1950-1960's, fought against the Jim Crow laws and the Brown vs. Board laws, which exercised a world of segregation. Leaders such as Martin L. King, Malcolm X, the Black Panthers, WEB Dubois, the NAACP fought for the struggle of peace and equality. Many died and were killed tragically all in the name of justice.

Today, in 2004, we celebrate the history, Black history, and history in the making. We honor the contributions of black literature, art, inventions, music - all that was created that have a major influence and impact in today's world and society. Black culture recognizes the past and how it has shaped the future. The world of hip-hop and soul is the new culture of our youth, just like the jazz and the blues in the 50's, in that both musically express deep emotion, life, and love. Many inventions that were created paved the way for technological advances of many of the tools we need and use today that comfortably gets us through everyday life. Let's embrace our history, Black history and American history.

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