Debate erupts into controversy on MLK Day

BY JOE CAMPBELL
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"We missed the chance today to memorialize this great man." A student spoke up at the debate and teach-in in the Rehm Library Monday morning commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. The subject of the event was slated to be "The Moral Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." Student speakers from every class came prepared to speak about topics ranging from the leadership of King to the commercialization of his image. Instead the event evolved into a discussion of how the administration of Holy Cross handled the Black Student Union's (BSU) commemoration of King to the college experience, enraged the alumni.

The BSU knew, given the "glacial pace" of change in the school, that these changes would not be enacted this year. Still, they wanted some sign of the administration's clear commitment to recognizing the holiday fully in the form of a joint recommendation collaborated on by members of the BSU and the administration. This second collaborative recommendation was supposed to have been given to the faculty at least a week before classes resumed in the spring semester, according to McNamara. No such recommendation followed the Black Student Union's (BSU) day ceremonies at the Rhem Library.

BY KATE MEYERS
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Everyone knows that Holy Cross is a Catholic, Jesuit college, but how prevalent is the Catholic influence on campus today? How much does Catholicism affect the daily lives of Holy Cross students? The answer to that question appears to vary depending on who is offering their opinion.

This issue has been brought to the forefront of college affairs recently, when a group of alumni sent a letter to the administration encouraging the school to BSU sources. No such recommendation was enacted this spring, according to McNamara, the next edition of the crusader.

The alumni who composed the letter, three men who graduated in 1949 and one who graduated in 1945, felt that it was necessary to make known the results of a student survey on faith. The survey, which reported that Holy Cross students do not feel that religion is a large part of their college experience, enraged the alumni who value the days when daily mass was mandatory and students lived more pious lives.

The student profile that summed up the results of the survey, written by Kim McElaney, director of the Chaplain's office, revealed that Holy Cross students, or at least those who filled out the survey, do not feel that religion is a major part of their lives. Students admitted that they do not go to mass or confession regularly, do not know much about Church teachings, and are very active sexually. It also revealed that the majority of the students do not have any devotion to the saints and come from families that do not attend mass regularly, even though 90 percent of the student body is Catholic.

Nevertheless, the study also revealed that students do pray regularly, volunteer often, and pay close attention to their homilies when at mass. To some alumni, thesmiths' donation to the scholarship fund. The college is currently accepting any monetary donations for the fund.

Students eligible to receive the scholarship are: 1) children of alumni/ae who were killed as a result of the terrorist attack; 2) children of firefighters, police, and rescue workers who died as a result of the terrorist attack; 3) (provided that there is money available after students in the first two categories are provided for) children of alumni/ae or their spouses who were killed violently, by accident or illness, thereby rendering their family needy of financial assistance. In addition to these qualifications, eligibility for the scholarship depends upon a student's academic record. Candidates for the scholarship must satisfy the College's admission standards and demonstrate significant progress in the way of their studies.

All contributions received by the college (along with the interest accrued) will go directly to the students selected. This fund is not an endowment; but instead the money will be spent directly for the students in need. The fund will be monitored so that donations will be accepted until at least 2025.

In the Public Affairs press release for the Holy Cross Scholarship, the Rev. Mr. C. McFarland said, "Many alumni/ae and other members of the Holy Cross family have expressed a special concern for the children left behind by the terrible tragedy on September 11th, and a desire to help them. This gives them a means of doing so, in partnership with the College. We want to make sure that any of those children who want to attend Holy Cross will have the financial means to come here."

Thus far, the fund has generated a response from the alumni/ae community. Katharine McNamara, director of Public Affairs, said, "We notified alumni via e-mail about the 9/11 Scholarship Fund and since I'm the person who sent the e-mail, I've personally heard from many, many people. We've received dozens of e-mails and many phone calls—people inquiring where to send their checks. A couple of people sent checks directly to me." According to McNamara, the next edition of the crusader.