Spiral." Cook will be performing at Holy Cross tonight.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 30TH CENTURY FOX

BY MARIO CACCIA
CRUSADER FEATURES STAFF

Holy Cross has once again managed to surprise the student body by bringing to the community a show that will, with no doubt, amuse and entertain all who attend. Following up on the excellent decision to bring comedian Jay Mohr to the field house, CAB now brings us an up and coming comedian named Dane Cook.

Cook, a Boston native, began his career by playing the local nightclubs and bars, eventually leading to his making an appearance in the ABC sitcom "Maybe This Time," which led to the start of his acting career. He has now made several appearances on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and Craig Kilborn's "Late Late Show." Cook has also appeared on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend," and in one of the latest "Comics Come Home" episodes with Jay Mohr and Dennis Haskoy. These comedy specials find Cook making hilarious commentary on ranges from observations on why people carve messages into toilet stalls, all to what it was like growing up with five sisters, to what it was like having a job at Burger King (a bit to which this writer can wholeheartedly relate.)

Dane continued his acting career appearing in the movies "Buddy" and "Mystery Men," and co-starring with Dennis Rodman in "Simon Sez." Cook is also currently starring in a movie that he both wrote and produced called "Spiral" that was shown at comedy festivals around the country, it was the production of this movie that prevented the comedian from being here in December as originally planned.

Cook also has won the respect of his peers. Upon finding out that Dane would be performing at Holy Cross Jay Mohr said, "Oh, Dane's coming here, he's gonna tear the house down."

For those of you who were impressed with the performance of Jay Mohr, you should be even more enthralled with the performance of Dane. Cook is quite possibly the funniest of the exciting comedians that I've ever seen on stage. His liveliness during a routine transfers into the crowd, and allows the audience to really get into the performance. When Dane is through there is no one left who has not laughed.

Anyone looking for an alternative to a typical Friday night should make a trip to the show. Take advantage of the fact that your school is finally offering entertainment to its student body on the weekends (at least all at it is free) I will see you all there.

Cook will perform tonight at 10 p.m. in the Hogan Ballroom. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Crusader

HC Welcomes Comedian Dane Cook

On Sunday, Jan. 21, The Brooks Concert Hall played host to the Boston Symphony Orchestra as they performed the Prokofiev Overture on Hebrew Themes (featuring clarinet, string quartet, and piano) and the Tchaikovsky String Quartet No. 2 in F. The Holy Cross Music Department sponsored this hour-long free concert.

You Want It; You’ve Got It: The New Meal Plan

BY MELISSA L. PELEZ
SGA DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

After several years of surveys, hard work and compromise, the Student Government Association and dining services agreed to change the meal plan on a trial basis starting this spring semester. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors have the privilege of using improvements made to the traditional meal plan and the addition of the new block meal plan.

Since dining services must ensure a baseline income, freshmen are unfortunately not included in this trial run. However, if the plan proves successful, freshmen will hopefully become an established part of the plan in the future. The changes occurring in dining services are broken down into three parts: changes made within dining services, improvements of the traditional meal plan and the addition of the new block meal plan.

1. Changes taking place in dining services that affect freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors were planned to happen, regardless of obtaining a new meal plan, are as follows:
   - A two bottled beverage limit for each meal equivalency (this does not include Fountain or half-pint beverages)
   - A rise in prices on selected items (this was not an across the board price hike)

2. Changes made to the traditional meal plan, available to sophomores, juniors and seniors, are as follows:
   - Introduction of Crossroads to the traditional meal plan
   - Open Monday – Friday, Lunch 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.; Dinner 3:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
   - $5.00 meal equivalency (raised from $4.75) to be used in Lower Kimball and Crossroads

3. Changes made creating a trial run for the new block meal plan, available to sophomores, juniors and seniors which has the following options:
   - Choice of three levels of meals for the entire semester (instead of having a set number of meals per week):
     - Platinum = 275 meals per semester $1,885
     - Gold = 200 meals per semester $1,745
     - Silver = 150 meals per semester $1,620
   - Ability to have as many meals a day or week as one wants – meals roll over from week to week until the last day of finals

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212 Years of Presidential Inaugurations

BY ALICIA STARKEY
CRUSADER FEATURES EDITOR

After an election year riddled with controversy and excessive media coverage, the United States, as well as millions of others from around the globe, watched last Saturday as George W. Bush was sworn into the office of President of the United States of America. Personal convictions aside, President Bush’s inauguration, the 63rd such ceremony to occur in the United States’ history, gave every citizen another glance at the monies into infamy. For obvious reasons, George Washington’s first in 1789, holds a dominant place in the history books. He is, however, by no means alone. In 1829, Andrew Jackson’s inauguration led to the start of his second term in 1829. The inaugural address, however, is by no means a static tradition.

Much to the contrary, practically each one of this nation’s 43 presidents has added some kind of personal flare to the office. Over the years, individual taste, brilliant oration, and uncontrollable circumstances have promoted some ceremonies into infamy. For obvious reasons, George Washington’s inauguration, the first in our nation’s history, holds a dominant place in the history books. He is, however, by no means alone. In 1829, Andrew Jackson’s inauguration day became noteworthy when, later that evening, such a large number of supporters visited the White House that furnishings were ruined and Jackson was forced to cede the building through a window.

William Henry Harrison, sworn in under dismal, wet, and cold weather conditions, gave the longest inaugural address in history (continued for nearly two hours). The cold that Harrison caught as the result of this outdoor speech soon led to a cold, then pneumonia, followed by pleurisy, and finally to his death a month later.

Later Presidents, learning perhaps from Harrison, focused on the quality, not quantity of their speeches. Several produced some of the finest pieces of oratory this nation has ever known. On his first inauguration day Abraham Lincoln said, “The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.” Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes efforts to convert retreat into advance.” John F. Kennedy said, “And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

Inaugural addresses, however, do not necessarily make or break a presidency. George Washington’s second inaugural address in 1793 was the shortest in history, consisting of 135 words. Franklin Roosevelt’s fourth speech, given in 1945, lasted only six minutes.

Only one tradition, with the exception of the inauguration itself, has remained constant since 1789, and that is the oath. Each president, from our very first George to our most recent, has recited the same 35 words: “I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” Although two presidents, Herbert Hoover and Franklin Pierce, solemnly affirmed, instead of solemnly swore for religious reasons.

Washington began one of the best-kept traditions when he added, “So help me God” to the end of this oath. He also set the pace for kissing the Bible after the swearing in was completed; a tradition which has been broken by few.

And with only two exceptions, every President has sworn in using a Bible. John Quincy Adams used a volume of constitutional law given to him by Chief Justice John Marshall. Theodore Roosevelt became the second.