Crusader Album Review
Room For Squares

BY VICTORIA MCCABE
CRUSADER NEWS EDITOR

“Welcome to the real world.” The simple brevity of the first words on John Mayer’s major-label debut album immediately grab the listener’s attention. He goes on to perfectly describe the predicament countless students find themselves in at one time or another: teachers pointing towards the “so called right track,” the heart pointing towards another. He captures the frustration felt by one who seeks to be an individual, and his words represent the sentiments of all who have rebelled against academica’s cut-and-dry view of the road to success. Only one question remains: who is John Mayer?

His earthy, gravelly voice has drawn comparisons to Dave Matthews, though Mayer’s jazzy, guitar-oriented sound can speak for itself. His talent for both performing and song writing illustrate a maturity far beyond his 24 years. His concert tour stopped at the Avalon Ballroom in Boston last night, and his album “Room For Squares” usually sells for only $10. So why haven’t you heard of him?

“Room For Squares” offers more than quality lyrics that easily express emotions, it tells a story. Mayer easily displays the guitar proficiency that has brought him acclaim for years. “Why Georgia,” one of the album’s most musically memorable tracks, begins with a solo acoustic guitar riff that is at once melodic and percussive, immediately providing an underlying energy that is carried through the song in the irresistible beat. One of the album’s highlights is the ballad “Not Myself,” a slow-rocker with a laid-back guitar and drum beat setting the framework for Mayer’s smooth, thoughtful vocals. The vocal line soars on the chorus, as he questions whether periods of self-doubt could ruin important relationships: “Would you want me when I’m not myself?/Wait it out while I am someone else?” The track’s power is dramatically increased by subtly beautiful and emotional guitar lines.

Criticisms of the car crisis
Underclassmen vent on their transportation situation

BY CATHERINE BORELLI
CRUSADER FEATURES EDITOR

There are many privileges that are extended to upperclassmen that freshman and sophomores are not able to enjoy. Having a parking spot on campus is definitely considered to be one of these privileges. Not having to rely on cabs, not feeling constricted to the campus, and having the freedom to get in your car and go plays a huge role in the comfort level of living here at Holy Cross. Or does it? Many underclassmen had much to say on this issue.

Catt Hughes ’05 and Maggie Conover ’04 did not seem bothered by not having a car. They both said, “We both have cars at home, so it really doesn’t affect us. We have become accustomed to moeking off of others.”

“Sophomore Lauren Adamo said, ‘I think that more parking facilities are a necessity.’”

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“Well, when I drove that thing around campus, I’d just make a fool of myself, sort of like the time when I drove it down Ocean City, NJ, all senior week with the gray convertible top in pimpin’ position, but with the huge driver side window up because my power wires were broken. So, all week chicks saw nothing but a horny guy cruising through the streets at five miles an hour in an ’89 purple Dodge Shadow, five dollar, plastic rims that my Dad though were cool when he picked them up at Pep Boys, with the top down and the window up, and a weak system blasting Aikneye’s ‘Put It In Your Mouth’ on repeat. Now, remember kids, that was my first senior year. And I’ve changed a lot since then. Uh, anyway, what’s the question again?”

P.J. Farrell ’05 strongly disagreed with Hughes and Coner. He, at first, simply said, “It sucks” When asked to elaborate he said, “It sucks because you have no easy way of getting around.” Pat Hart ’05 agreed with P.J., “Not being able to have a car on campus is more of an inconvenience to everyone than the added expense of putting a new student lot somewhere on or near campus is.”

“I want to run through the halls of Holy Cross and the city of Worcester - how are we supposed to be connected when we have no means of transportation throughout it?”

Booby-Mike ’05, a little off the topic as always, said, “To be honest, I can’t really see my car being up here. If I drove that thing around campus, I’d just make a fool of myself, sort of like the time when I drove it down Ocean City, NJ, all senior week with the gray convertible top in pimpin’ position, but with the huge driver side window up because my power wires were broken. So, all week chicks saw nothing but a horny guy cruising through the streets at five miles an hour in an ’89 purple Dodge Shadow, five dollar, plastic rims that my Dad though were cool when he picked them up at Pep Boys, with the top down and the window up, and a weak system blasting Aikneye’s ‘Put It In Your Mouth’ on repeat. Now, remember kids, that was my first senior year. And I’ve changed a lot since then. Uh, anyway, what’s the question again?”

John Mayer’s most recent album, “Room For Squares”