The movie version of “The Wiz,” released in 1978, boasts a cast of some of the most famous African American performers. From top to bottom, Diana Ross and Michael Jackson in starring roles, the movie has become known as a “soul” adaptation of the original story. It achieved great success, and was nominated for four Academy Awards. The box office for the film was down a bit. It deviates from the original “Wizard of Oz,” which was released in 1939, by having black stars Judy Garland. “The Wiz” draws popularity from its unique adaptation of Dorothy’s journey to Oz, incorporating live music and humor.

Student involvement in the decisions leading to commencement is on the rise. Student input is important for students’ choices to be taken into consideration.

The commencement website, which was updated a few weeks ago, is another vehicle through which seniors and their families can receive information. Thanks to Jayne Fox, web editor for public affairs, the website has been a success. Frequently asked questions, hotel accommodations, restaurants, directions, parking, an event reservation form and a schedule of events can all be found on the college website at http://college.holycross.edu/commencement/link.htm. Visitors to the website will also discover that the commencement address will be given by U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins ’63.

Billy Collins, page 1

The commencement website is an online version of the commencement exercises. The Worcester Telegram and Gazette wrote on Tuesday that a number of alumni are angry over the senior class’ selection of “The Wiz” as their senior play, which was performed in the Hogan Ballroom last weekend.

The decision as to who will act as the commencement speaker, and others involved in choosing the twelve faculty and students to be honored, have traditionally chosen black people in it, nominating is important for students’ choices to be taken into consideration.

The College of the Holy Cross cast was made up of entirely white students. “The Wiz,” which was presented by the Class of 2002, is a contemporary musical adaptation of The Wizard of Oz.

Another HC production, page 5

The commencement planning underway for May

The 2002 Winter Olympic Games came to a close this past week. Many Americans found the T.V. coverage of this games to be superior to the average of the ‘98 Nagano games, which was never live because of the time difference between the two nations. However, what will set these games apart for Americans is the overwhelming success that the U.S. teams enjoyed compared to previous winter games, as well as the controversy that surrounded them.

The United States finished with 34 medals in the Salt Lake games, the final silver being awarded in the Men’s Hockey final versus Canada. The projected medal count by the United States Olympic Committee was 20 medals, more than every other year by the United States at any winter games. Second only to Germany’s 35 medals, the United States illustrated the progress that has been made in its programs.

One notable victory was that of Jim Mooney in the Skeleton. Mooney, a third-generation Olympian, rode with a picture of his recently deceased grandfather in his helmet. Other U.S. victories went down new paths, such as that of Vonetta Flora, who became the first black to ever win an Olympic Winter game medal in addition to being part of the first-ever all-black women’s hockey team.

These Olympic Games were marked by controversy, beginning with the initial decision to hold the games in Salt Lake City. It followed the games through the judging of figure skating, in which the fairness of the scores received by the Canadian team was questioned and the Russian delegation threatened to pull out of the games. Skaters such as Apollo Anton-Otto, who became the first black to ever walk on the podium, found themselves on the podium. Other U.S. victories went down new paths, such as that of Vonetta Flora, who became the first black to ever win an Olympic Winter game medal in addition to being part of the first-ever all-black women’s hockey team.

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