Unity Week kicks off with lecture on white privilege

BY KATE MEYERS
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

On Monday, the first day of Unity Week, Peggy McIntosh hosted a lecture and panel discussion in the Hogan Ballroom. The topic of the lecture, white privilege, wholly supports the spirit of Unity Week by bringing the community of Holy Cross together in diversity. Peggy McIntosh is Associate Director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. She was joined on the stage by a panel of two students and two faculty members, including Ray Cañada ’01, Alissa Marrero ’02, Prof. Bertram Ashe, and Mary Ni, director of multicultural education.

The purpose of the lecture was to educate the Holy Cross community about the oppressive phenomenon of white privilege, a topic which many are unaware of. It was her belief that students need to understand the concept of white privilege in order to live in a more just way. Peggy McIntosh made the point that “whites are taught to think of their lives as morally neutral, normative, and average, and also ideal, so that when we work to benefit others, this is seen as work which will allow ‘them’ to be more like ‘us’.”

Howard ’94 felt that “the presentation of ideas like this obviously evokes a lot of contemplation and questions regarding how my race affects my life each and every day.” According to McIntosh, members of the white race are, on the whole, the white, dominant race unearned advantages in life. This is important to discuss during Unity Week because “describing white privilege,” she said, “makes one newly accountable for it.” Most members of the white race have come to enjoy these unearned benefits in life, which allow them to never be held accountable for their race being a factor in their actions, and to never be oppressed due to their color.

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Volpe and Murray elected new SGA co-chairs

BY KEVIN BOGARDUS
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Jerry Volpe ’02 and Melissa Murray ’02 will serve as SGA co-chairs for the 2001-2002 school year. According to Tuesday’s election results, the pair defeated rivals Gonzalez Almeida ’02 and Ryan O’Donnell ’02. The two camps had very different platforms and, since the beginning, the campaigns of each provided different ideas and promises.

Almeida and O’Donnell led a furious campaign that demanded more people should vote and participate in student life. Both being former Wheeler residents, Gonzalez, a Spanish/Sociology major, and Ryan, an English Honors student, portrayed themselves as the common student here at Holy Cross. “We are just like everyone here. We are social. We know a lot of people in diverse groups,” according to Gonzalez. In addition, several promises were made, from more student parking to improved interaction between multicultural organizations and the student body. Overall, the “Unity” agenda promised a new and more innovative approach to student government centered around the introduction of fresh ideas and new blood.

Meanwhile, Volpe and Murray’s campaign highlighted their two-turning the success achieved by the past co-chairs. The current student transportation program at Holy Cross is largely due to the determination of Volpe, a Psychology major. Murray, a pre-law student, wants to build on the success of the SGA shuttle buses by making them completely free in the coming year. Moreover, they have promised to expand the popular new meal plan to include freshmen. According to Murray, the SGA “must provide every opportunity” to get involved in student life.

The two sides met in Cross-roads during a public debate on Monday afternoon. A large audience was there to cheer them on, whether that was due to the usual dinner rush or a renewed interest in politics remains to be seen. Both platforms were sufficiently voiced, along with some embarrassing moments and notable instances of rhetoric by both sides.

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Sibling’s Weekend experiences high turnout

BY SARAH MILLERICK
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Last weekend, more than 75 siblings visited their brothers and sisters at Holy Cross for Sibling’s Weekend 2001. Students from all classes at HC took the weekend as an opportunity to have fun with their siblings and give them an idea of what college life is like. Siblings ranging in age from four to 21 years old took part in the numerous activities that the Student Programming Resident Assistants and Patricia Allen, assistant director of resident life, organized. The turnout was far greater than expected, with the number of registered siblings doubling on the last day of sign-ups.

Sibling’s Weekend began Friday night with a make your own pizza and sundae event in Lower Kimball. On Saturday, activities included a basketball clinic with the Women’s Basketball Team, ice skating at the Hart Center, and Double Dare. Cattie Farrell ’04 and her eight-year-old sister, Kelsey, especially liked ice skating. Farrell enjoyed “having the opportunity to spend time with her sister,” and explained that Kelsey had fun “being a college kid for a day.”

The eight-year-old, whose trip to College Hill included a visit to the bookstore for souvenirs and the novelty of climbing up to Farrell’s top bunk bed, found spending the night in a dorm particularly exciting. Patricia Allen’s nephews also attended Sibling’s Weekend. Jesse Viera, age seven, and his brother Ryan, age nine, took part in Double Dare, a life-size version of the TV show in the Hart Center. Patricia Allen felt that Double Dare was “incredible” because “students dug right in and had fun with their siblings.” This event was both physically and intellectually challenging, and the participants were cheered on throughout the game. Double Dare was such a hit at Sibling’s Weekend that some of the Holy Cross students who attended suggested that it should be done for Spring Weekend. Planning for Sibling’s Weekend began several months ago. The Student Programming Resident Assistants and Patricia Allen came up with a variety of events that would be fun for different age groups. Patricia Allen has “fond memories” of preparing this event with the S.P.R.A.’s and was relieved and excited when everything came together.Sibling’s Weekend provided Holy Cross students with a great opportunity to visit with their siblings and let them share in the college experience for a few days.

Siblings of HC students and their siblings get messy in a game of Double Dare at the Hart Center. Courtesy of Patricia Allen

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