Student-run judicial advisory center proposed

By Maura Malone
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

A common gripe among Holy Cross students is the student lack of understanding and poor communication between themselves and members of the administration. To address this problem, and to promote judicial awareness, the Office of Judicial Affairs has proposed a program to strengthen the community’s role in maintaining community standards that involve the judicial process of a Student Affairs Center next year, which will be staffed by students. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between administration and students involved in the judicial process with a source of reliable information.

These student liaisons will be trained to deal with students only at the advisory level, and will be well versed in the college’s judicial procedures and community standards. R. Thomas Clark, judicial affairs coordinator and the administrator behind the program, describes the advisor’s role as that of a resource for students involved in the judicial process.

“The role of the judicial advisor is to provide assistance and support to student[s] who are required to respond to complaint[s] in preparation for a hearing during a hearing, as well as after a hearing.” Judicial Advisors will also be able to aid students in filing complaints. Though their role sounds similar to that of an attorney, it is important to note that the advisors will not serve as advocates for their students, but rather as facilitators of information and interpretation.

Proposed tax to raise price of alcohol in Massachusetts

By John Curley
CRUSADER NEWS EDITOR

A new tax bill, which would place a five percent tax on alcohol to raise revenue for substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, moved closer to the State Senate floor, according to the Boston Globe.

The program, according to Senator President Thomas F. Birmingham may allow the bill to be debated this year.

Opposition to the bill is fierce. Citizens for Tax Justice and the Massachusetts chapter of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Alcohol have opposed the tax, arguing that alcoholism should not be treated as a health issue but rather as a public health concern.

Supreme Court bars certain drug tests

The Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday, March 21, that hospitals are not allowed to perform drug tests on pregnant women without their consent, the Christian Science Monitor reported last Thursday. The justices decided 6-to-3 that drug tests performed with the intent to report violations to police constitute an illegal search.

Hospital officials in Charleston, S.C., began a policy of testing pregnant women in 1989. A woman tested positive for cocaine, she was given the option of facing criminal charges or entering a drug treatment program.

Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in his majority opinion that although the actions of hospital officials may have been in the best interest of unborn children, drug tests violate Fourth Amendment protections.

The justices did not agree with proponents’ argument that the hospital testing constitutes a special-needs case. In the past, the Court has made exceptions to the warrant requirements of the Fourth Amendment, including roadside alcohol tests for drunk drivers. The majority declined to extend that exception to the hospital program.

HC senior awarded prestigious Watson Fellowship

By Katie Perry
CRUSADER NEWS EDITOR

Brent Otto ’01 was recently awarded one of 60 fellowships from the Thomas J. Watson foundation. The award provides students with a $22,000 award to be used for travel and independent study. Otto plans to use the money in order to pursue a year-long project on “The Faces of Catholic Education in India and Sri Lanka.”

Otto is a history major and a participant in both as educational facilities and as representatives of Catholicism. The project will give him insight into a broad spectrum of teaching approaches, providing information that will be invaluable in his life’s work.

Holy Cross is among 50 liberal arts colleges and universities allowed to make Watson Fellowship nominations each year. Each institution nominates up to four students, making the program extremely competitive. More than 1,000 students were selected for the 60 available awards this year. The winners for 2001 represent people with diverse academic interests. The recipients range from physicists to studio artists, and plan to touch upon roller coaster design, classification of tropical frogs, and the international art market.

The selection process for next year’s Watson nominees began last week with open meetings with the Graduate Studies Advisor, Dr. Mary Lee Ledbetter. In order to learn more about this opportunity, students can contact the Graduate Studies Office.