Letter from the Editor

Judy McDermott

Winding down

The end of the school year is upon us. And this—the last Crusader issue of the Spring 2001 semester. However, many students may recall that the very last issue to leave the workrooms of the Hogan 220 Crusader office was not traditionally a little different from the norm. Many may remember a final journalistic call for the Holy Cross community: a “special” issue, supposedly dedicated to comic relief over factual news writing and satire over substance. Yes, the sophomore, junior, and senior classes, as well as other members of the Holy Cross community, may recall that time-honored tradition known as The Tomahawk.

Last school year, The Tomahawk was stricken from publication on campus, temporarily. Due to 1998 and 1999’s highly offensive content, the Holy Cross powers that be ordered the Tomahawk a “take a year off” and not be made in 2000. Administration felt that the discontented and offended uproar in reaction to the issue was just too much for the Holy Cross community to bear for a third year in a row, and under-standably so. The Crusader agreed to take the year-long breather, figuring that it was just that when they returned in the fall, they would be better than ever. So, yes, my co-editor, Doug, and I, among others, began the beginning of this semester to Dean of Students, Jackie Peterson, our plans to reinitiate The Tomahawk tradition at the conclusion of the 2001 school year, we quickly recognized that these intentions were not a casual matter. Our “breather” was supposed to be forgotten, along with the hopes for another Tomahawk.

Essentially, Dean Peterson (representing the sentiments of many Holy Cross administrators) did not want The Tomahawk back on campus. Unless we guaranteed that 2001’s edition would not be a recurring nightmare from two years previously, unless we proved that it could hold tasteful satire without flagrant slander, The Tomahawk tradition would be no more.

Consequently, The Crusader staff rose to the challenge of proving our capabilities as responsible student journalists. We decided to save this Holy Cross tradition (one of the few left) from extinction and find a compromise that could make everyone happy as well as keep the issue alive. To do this, The Crusader staff created a more substantial policy for its writers, guaranteeing accountability for every statement made. The Crusader staff rewritten the Constitution and instituted a journalistic Code of Ethics, signed by every staff member, in order to uphold this guarantee. And to make a long story short, The Crusader finally reached this compromise with the administration, and the tradition is back.

However, Doug and I wanted to brace the Holy Cross community for some changes to this satirical issue. Besides our likely content changes to avoid mean spirited content, we will also have one other change that may surprise many. I will not divulge anymore information for those that do not know this change already (for surprise’s sake). But, just know that this truly is a “new and improved” satirical issue that required much more planning and energy than some may realize. With that said, the staff and I hope you enjoy next Friday’s special, and we feel better, edition of Hogan 220’s aforementioned final journalistic curtain call of the school year. Hopefully, it will supply some comic relief as we all say goodbye to the Hill one more, or one last, time.

In other news...

This is officially my last column, not only as co-editor-in-chief of The Crusader, but also as a student here at Holy Cross. In less than a month, the Class of 2001 and myself will move on to a new chapter in our lives, leaving the Holy Cross chapter behind. So, with that, congratulations, well-wishes and respect, and I think it would be safe to assume that I speak for the Crusader family is certainly one of the most fulfilling aspects of my Holy Cross years. I’ve enjoyed working with all of you so very much. Doug, thanks for your even-tempered approach to my sometimes frazzled states. Your “that burned comb” comments never ceased to make me crack a smile. And, since I already started a sappy goodbye (that I promised to avoid), thank you so very much to Jack O’Connell and Richard Phelps—my road to journalism is well paved due to your guidance. And lastly, thanks to Liam, Kim and Meg, for several wonderful things—besides I’ll never need another ride home from school at two in the morning.

So have a wonderful Spring Weekend everyone. Have fun and enjoy the last days of Spring 2001.