To Our Readers,

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences for the victims of this week’s terrible tragedies in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers are with all who have been lost in these horrific events, and all those who have been so deeply affected by this national crisis.

The Crusader Features Staff

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Heath Ledger stars in “A Knight’s Tale, playing at Kimball Theater next week.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

FEATURES

CRUSADER FEATURES COLUMNIST

BY MICHAEL J. BALLEY

CRUSADER FEATURES COLUMNIST

The first SGA meeting of the year was by all accounts successful. It contained a wide-ranging agenda, it introduced the new cabinet, and it was over in time for Monday Night Football. But a question nagged at this reporter’s mind as the meeting ended: to an 11-point victory: did SGA address the real issues here at Holy Cross?

They told us that their efforts will make this year’s Student Handbook the best Student Handbook in years. They said that their office-space program will lead to better utilization of the Hogan Campus Center.

They told us that they have achieved “partial victory” on last year’s Black Rickus issue, even though the removal of the North-South handrails of the Quad seems to have happened, they admit, without any effort on their part.

They ignored, however, weeks of Administrative lies and double-talk. Weeks that crushed the spirits of returning students and dashed the hopes of wide-eyed freshmen.

Weeks that beg for a leader to step up from among the student body and challenge the dishonesty that infects our fair campus.

Weeks that molded the leader’s destiny and convinced him that now is the time to act.

As the SGA meeting drew to a close, that leader stood up and asked loudly, “Hey – where’s the beef?” That leader was not one of the co-chairs, or one of the Executive Cabinet, or one of the class officers. That leader was Joey Brocklesby ’03, Holy Cross’ best-known champion of student rights and other inconsequential matters.

The crowd’s rousing laughter mingled with thunderous applause as their tribute deposed the latest leader of the student body. And thus did the SGA meeting draw to a close, at 8:50 p.m. last Monday. Jozy was partying in Carlin.

Such is the nature of the Holy Cross community. Some of our most dynamic and committed leaders register their opinions and vent their angers outside of the official Student Government apparatus. Maybe that’s why the SGA meeting didn’t address the biggest threat to student well-being, the biggest quality-of-life issue, the biggest administration snow job of the new school year: the beef.

There was a time when the Kimball menu could be trusted. If it said that Friday breakfast was Breakfast Quesadillas, then you knew you’d be eating Breakfast Quesadillas. If it said that Sunday lunch was Phillies Steak, you knew you’d be eating Phillies steak. If it said that Thursday dinner was Meatloaf with gravy, you knew you’d be ordering pizza. Life was good.

But now, for the first time in history, the boneless chicken, the Campus Center’s totem body. Services and the study body have been brutally severed as Upper Kimball has deviated from its advertised menu. Kimball menus now promise that “Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Grilled Chicken are served at Saturday & Sunday Brunch,” as they have in the past, but this year the grill line is gone.

This betrayal of trust is hardly a trivial matter (you have my word on this – Comments on the Passing Parade does not deal in trivial matters), but even worse is the fact that crippling the grill line has reduced the weekend brunch options at Kimball to “bad” and “ugly.” Joey used to love his Chicken Grillas. He consoled himself to the horrors of Kimball Scrambled Eggs? Kimball French Toast? Kimball Belgian Waffle Spice? Surely there are more important matters, somewhere in the Geneve Convention.

Our inside source at Kimball, when pressed for comment, said that, “people like to stay away from the meat” in the mornings. This explains the long lines that formed when hot dogs and hamburgers were on the menu last year. This explains bacon and sausage. Perhaps, in the case of bacon, they are keeping the spirit of reheated Chicken Grillas – is now being used as a staging ground from which to foist leftovers upon unsuspecting brunchers.

Last week it was recycled meatloaf. This week it may be day-old Big-Mouth Burgers. Next week, who knows. We are looking at the possibility of reheated Chicken Footballs on a Saturday noon in the not-distant future, and it is not a pleasant sight.

Of course, the chief motivation here is to save money. Hot dogs and hamburgers cost money. And while it is true that the SGA meeting didn’t address the real issues here at Holy Cross, we would rather not spend more money than is absolutely necessary. In fact, if it were up to us, they wouldn’t buy any food at all. They’re operating on a budget and they need to save as much money as possible. Sure, we pay them at least $1,885 per semester (for the “platinum” meal plan). But you’d be amazed at how much hot dogs cost these days.

Speaking of highway robbery, the raising of the Lower Kimball Equivalency to $5, the most hard-fought gain from last year’s SGA agenda, has officially backfired. The observant reader will recall that Holy Cross student leaders spent half of last year campaigning that Lower’s prices were too high, and finally won an extra 25 cents per meal of cash equivalency. The Powers That Be, in an effort to thwart any student progress, then turned around and raised the prices. Now they have gone and done it again, making today’s $5 worth less than last year’s $4.75. Theologically, the proper response now is to campaign for $5.25 of equivalency, even though that would only cause Lower to raise prices again, creating a situation of never-ending escalation which would eventually culminate in $45 of cash equivalency, $20 hamburgers, and possibly even an item called “chicken.”

Even this, though, would be preferable to the situation as it deteriorates in Upper, where the cash-stripped dining hall may introduce even more austerity measures (who needs mustards, mayonnaises, and salad dressings? Ketchup goes with everything!) in an effort to keep aloft without having to raise our meal plan prices. It’s not easy to stay on a budget; anyone will tell you that. Especially when you’re paying $1,885 per semester to order pizza every night.

ROUND CAMPUS

Check out what’s happening at HC this week . . .

Hogan Campus Center, Hogan Ballroom, 4:00 - 10:00 p.m. Sponsoring Deaf Studies Program.

Monday, September 17th

Planning to Declare your Major. Hogan Campus Center, Hogan 304, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Workshop sponsored by Academic Services and Learning Resources. Pre-Registration required.

Welcome to Worcester.” Hogan Campus Center, Hogan Suites B, C, & A, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The event will include complimentary necessities and gifts from area establishments and museums and a lecture from guest speaker Prof. Anderson.

Concert: Just Cause. Hogan Campus Center, Crossroads, 9:00 p.m. Part of the “Welcome to Worcester” program.

Tuesday, September 18th

Women’s Soccer: HC vs. Vermont. Varsity Tennis Courts, 3:00 p.m.

Women’s Soccer: HC vs. Vermont. Fitton Soccer Field, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, September 14th

“Tune In.” Hogan Campus Center, Crossroads, 9:30 - 10:30 p.m.

A music trivia game show popular on college campuses across the nation which challenges students’ knowledge of their favorite (and not-so-favorite) tunes.

Kimball Movie: “The Mummy Returns.” Kimball Hall Theatre, 7 p.m. Admission is $1.50 with college ID.

It was a kooky underground of forgiveness.” Smith Hall, Rehm Library, 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture.

Men’s Tennis: HC vs. Vermont. Varsity Tennis Courts, 3:00 p.m.

Women’s Soccer: HC vs. Vermont. Fitton Soccer Field, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 15th

Football: HC vs. Harvard. Fitton Football Stadium, 1:00 p.m.

“Toward a Deeper Understanding of Forgiveness.” Smith Hall, Rehm Library, 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture.

Interfaith Service for the Inauguration of the Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture. Smith Hall, Rehm Library, 1:00 p.m.

Water Polo: HC vs. Bowdoin and Bates. College. Hart Recreation Center, Hart Swimming Pool, 1:00 p.m and 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Concert of Sacred Music. Brooks Concert Hall, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Kimball Movie: “The Mummy Returns.” Kimball Hall Theatre, 7 p.m. Admission is $1.50 with college ID.

Sunday, September 16th

Water Polo: HC vs. Colby and WPI. Hart Recreation Center, Hart Swimming Pool, 9:30 AM and 2:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Magis Seminar. Campus House, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Worcester Deaf Club 55th Celebration.

Crisis in Kimball

By Michael J. Ballay