Memories of Jake Jackson

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depended, and much of the campus gathered for a memorial mass was held in St. Joseph’s Chapel Monday night. Counseling is available in the Counseling Center as well as in the Chaplain’s office for anyone who wishes to talk to someone. A funeral for Jake was celebrated on Thursday at St. Joseph’s Church in Newport, Rhode Island. Limited calling hours were held before the funeral at O’Neil Hayes Funeral Home from 8:30 to 9:45 Thursday morning. Student Programs provided bus transportation for anyone who required transportation to Newport for the funeral.

In this time of great grief and loss, it is important for the Holy Cross community to band together and support each other. Many are deeply saddened by Jake’s death, and the community will always be remembered in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. Although Jake is no longer with us, he will live forever in the hearts and memories of those who loved him.

Female student sexually assaulted on campus

BY LAURA SNEBOLD
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

On Sunday, Sept. 2, between the hours of 1 a.m. and 4 a.m., a female Holy Cross student was sexually assaulted. According to the campus-wide e-mail sent on Sept. 5, entitled “Campus Alert,” “the alleged assault took place in the assailant’s vehicle that was driven onto campus and parked at the Loyola parking lot.” The e-mail went on to describe the assailant as “a white male whom she encountered off campus” who “appeared to be in his early twenties.” The statement, authored by Jacqueline D. Peterson, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, concluded by urging every student to “take care and use safety precautions especially with unknown and or less familiar individuals.” The College also chose to reiterate the details of the incident and their suggested precautionary measures in the form of flyers affixed to the doors of the campus’ residence halls.

Via a phone interview, Dean Peterson was unable to confirm whether the assailant was a student of the College, but did state that the victim chose to report the incident to the Worcester Police Department in lieu of the campus’ Public Safety staff. However, according to Dean Peterson, Public Safety has been provided with “limited” information regarding the incident and has initiated a continuing investigation.

According to “The Sexual Victimization of College Women,” a document compiled by The National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (NIJ and BJS), more than 95% of the victims of completed or attempted sexual assault do not notify the police.

Lisa Romano, patrol officer and sexual assault investigator at Holy Cross, supported this statistic, saying, “although it may be a surprise to the community, sexual assault is a reality and occurs more often than reported.” The document cites the most common reasons why a victim may choose not to report such an incident as: reluctance to inform family members and other people, lack of proof, and uncertainty that a crime had been committed.

Although sexual assault can be a difficult and an uncomfortable topic to discuss, doing so plays an important part in the healing process of victims and in raising awareness of such issues in their communities. At Holy Cross, there is a wide range of support and information systems for anyone who has concerns about sexual assault or any other threatening situation. Such resources include Public Safety (specifically Officer Lisa Romano), the Counseling Center, Health Services, and the Chaplain’s Office. Assistance and support can also be found off campus at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, the Rape Crisis Center of Central Massachusetts, and the Worcesters Police Department, Sexual Assault Unit.

This recent incident of sexual assault has had an impact on not only the victim, but also the entire community. Patti Nunez ’03 described reaction to the news of the assault by saying, “I just walked by the parking lot my- self a few hours before [the assault] happened… I refuse to live in fear but I can’t deny that I can’t walk to my dorm at night by myself without wondering if I may not make it there.”

Some students have felt a need for extra security on campus, while others have felt empowered by the support from their community to stand up for themselves.

By Kevin Higgins
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

International News: U.N. Conference on Racism

The United Nations concluded a nine day conference on racism Saturday, Sept. 8 in Durban, South Africa. The conference resulted in a formal, written condemnation of the slave trade which uplifted millions of Africans from their homeland to lives of drudgery in the Americas. The creation of the document led to an emotionally charged forum on the state of Israel’s treatment of its Palestinian citizens. It was the discussion of the Israeli issue that sparked a heated debate among the nations attending the conference - conflict which provoked the United States’ and Israel’s withdrawal from the conference earlier this week.

The central players in the debate over Israel were Arab delegates and representatives of the Western world. Arab delegates sought an explicit mention of Israel as “a racist country” in the document while Western nations felt that language too severe.

The declaration that emerged from the conference stated that slavery and the slave trade “are a crime against humanity and should always have been so.” Moreover, nations must seek to terminate any lasting hints of slavery in popular culture. Ultimately, African delegates were left unsatisfied with the final form of the document. They sought an apology and compensation from European nations for the horrible effects of colonization on their nations. Representatives of Europe failed to concede to African delegates, fearing a plethora of law suits would result.

Despite several countries’ dissatisfaction with the declaration’s final form, the conference was deemed a success by many who attended. Representative Amina Mohamad of Kenya said: “We have an agreement on a document that is far from satisfactory, that is terribly imperfect, but provides a basis to build on. I think we owe to the memory of all those who perished to have the international community declare slavery and the slave trade a crime against humanity.”

Regional News: Night Owl Service

On Saturday, the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority [MBTA] launched their inaugural Night Owl service, a new program which provides buses along the MBTA’s four subway routes from Government Center every half hour between the hours of 1 and 2 a.m. on weekends only. For only $1, riders boarded the MBTA’s buses, which stopped on the street level near each subway stop on the T’s four routes.

The first weekend did not disappoint MBTA officials. Brian Pedro of the MBTA remarked, “We were pleasantly surprised at how many people took it.” Despite Pedro’s happiness with the income of the Night Owl, the program did provoke some customers’ complaints. Some of the buses’ signs, telling riders where they were headed, were out of order. Passengers ran to confused MBTA employees, who couldn’t see the signs, asking for the buses’ destinations. Only adding to the confusion, several buses were as much as a half hour late, sometimes failing to make the designated stops.

Despite the kinks that the MBTA still has to work out on its Night Owl service, the first patrons seemed genuinely pleased. For late-night frequenters of local bars (which promptly issue “last calls” at 1:45), tourists, and weekend employees of the city, the bus service is an economical ride which, though not completely smooth, is very convenient.

Rider Alex Salcedo phrased it well in saying: “I think we’re all guinea pigs here. But I don’t care. It’s about time we got with the times. It’s worth the screw-ups.”

National/College: Affirmative Action Question Raised at University of Georgia

The question of affirmative action was thrust into the national spotlight a week ago when a federal appeals court ruled against the University of Georgia’s use of a racial preference system for admissions. For proponents and critics of affirmative action, the wait for the Supreme Court’s possible review of the case promises to be difficult.

The racial preference system utilized by the University of Georgia credited any non-white applicant to the school with a half a point. This point system seemingly violated the ruling issued in the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978). Justice Lewis F. Powell, the judge who wrote the twenty-three year old ruling, felt that ethnic diversity is just one of many ingredients schools desiring a heterogeneous student body should consider.

Powell stated that a concentration “solely on ethnic diversity would hinder rather than further attainment of genuine diversi- ty.”

Judge Stanley Marcus sees Georgia’s point system as being in direct violation of Powell’s decision. But where the line must be drawn eludes Marcus. “The status of student body diversity as a compelling interest justifying a racial preference in university admissions is an open question,” he said, adding that the question “is one that, because of its great importance, warrants consideration by the Supreme Court.”

Proponents of affirmative actions fear that Marcus’ opinion on the importance of the Georgia case will be shared by Supreme Court Justices and the concept of racial consideration in university admissions will subsequently be in danger of total elimination. The Oct. 31 Supreme Court hearing on a case which challenges limited racial preferences in a federal transportation contracting program brings race to the Court’s doorstep. It appears likely then, that a ruling on affirmative action is quickly approaching.