As most of students who are members of student groups know, many organizations and clubs are severely under-funded. Funding for all student groups -- including residence hall programming, student programs vans, club sports and all student organizations, from CAB to The Crusader -- comes from one source: the Student Activities Fee. The Student Activities Fee, as it stands, is $165.00 per student and has not been raised since 1998. Each student who is enrolled at Holy Cross must pay this fee. Assuming that Holy Cross has a student population of 2500 students for the 2001-'02 school year (the actual number is slightly higher), $412,500 was collected in Student Activities Fees. Considering that the number of student groups at Holy Cross has increased over the past three years, and taken into account the inflation which has occurred in that time, it is evident that the amount of funding for all student groups is not keeping pace with student activity needs. In order to make sure it kept up with inflation and the increasing number of student groups.

Over the course of the next few weeks, the SGA will be working with school administration officials in order to work out a plan for raising this fee. If anybody in the student body has any additional suggestions to offer, SGA co-chairs Jerry Volpe and Melissa Murrow can be reached at sga@holycross.edu.

US News rank falls again; Holy Cross is No. 32

By Matthew Hayes

U.S. News & World Report released their annual college rankings last week in a slightly new format but with no significant changes. U.S. News ranks the best colleges and universities across America every year, and their rankings have become the benchmark for rating undergraduate institutions. This year’s rankings can be found in the Sept. 17 issue, or on board, and other student fees -- $24,400. According to the 1% proposal, the Student Activities Fee would be pegged at 1% of tuition, thus eliminating the need to reassess the fee every few years.

A second proposal was also presented at the meeting, which would simply raise the Student Activity Fee to $185.00, and keep the funding as it has been. This would mean an increase in total revenues to $462,500, but would leave the student body with the problem of reassessing the fee every few years in order to make sure it kept up with inflation and the increasing number of student groups.

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Homeland Security will serve to organize the Nation’s prevention and recovery from a terrorist attack. Bush hopes that each department and agency should be prepared to take responsibility for its share of the problem, with the help of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) that was adopted by Homeland Security. It will also help to diminish the lingering fear that each American feels every day: “I know many citizens have fears tonight, and I ask you to be calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat.”

[The Wall Street Journal, Sept. 21]

Pakistan Renounces Taliban

Last Friday, Pakistan confirmed that it would end its support for the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime is the fundamentalist organization with which the suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden associates. Now, Afghanistan stands alone in the world, with the senior diplomats from Pakistan removed, and the United Arab Emirates no longer recognizing the Taliban regime. Even the Taliban’s closest supporters in Afghanistan are trying to leave Kabul, the capital, and common civilians are heading towards the Pakistani border.

Pakistan’s decision to disengage itself from Afghanistan and the harboring of terrorism starkly contrasts that nation’s support of the Taliban that began in the mid-1990s. As an advisor to the Taliban for almost a decade, Pakistan received much in return. According to Pakistani officials, cooperating with the Taliban facilitated trade to Central Asia, and helped to redistribute Palestine’s security forces along its country’s border. In Kabul, the Taliban was a friendly regime to which Pakistani forces could retreat in a time of war. In the beginning of its organization, the Taliban regime set up village councils, ruled collectively, did not repress women, and was able to maintain peace in Afghanistan. Therefore, Pakistan’s support was justifiable to its nation’s leaders. Pakistan’s sympathy towards the Taliban has become an ideology that many fundamentalist Pakistanis embrace, however, now their country has condemned the regime that it has spent almost a decade promoting its own self-interests.

Last Saturday, President George W. Bush addressed the United States on Tuesday night. The speech was widely praised by both the American political establishment and the public. However, there were also some criticism.

By Laura Snebold

Massachusetts Volunteers Return

Sunday morning, Sept. 25, 56 members of the Massachusetts Disaster Assistance Team were welcomed home from a twelve-day rescue mission in response to the terrorist tragedies in New York City. The heroic team of medical doctors is one of two organizations in the state created through joint effort between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services. The group that returned to Massachusetts from New York City on Sunday morning was composed of the emergency room and medical flight staff from UMass Memorial in Worcester.

To be a part of such a treatment organization requires extensive training and background checks. The purpose of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team is to treat large numbers of casualties from various destructive incidents. Although the team has aided victims from the hurricanes and ice storms, and refugees, there was nothing that could prepare any member for what the disaster and agony that was to be found among the remnants of the World Trade Centers in New York City. The medical doctors were there for a myriad of physical problems, yet they found themselves counseling more often than treating. Dr. Cynthia Aaron said it is difficult to understand the magnitude of the catastrophe without being there.

[The Boston Sunday Globe, Sept. 23]