A true ‘Sader
A profile of John J. Reilly, Jr., ’55, dedicated member of the Holy Cross community

BY MATTHEW DEMKO

Joseph J. Reilly, Jr.’s relationship to Holy Cross has long been a benchmark in his life. 70, has served the school in many capacities: he is now in his fifth year as chair of the Bishop Healy Com- mittee, helping to raise funds for the latest building projects and assists ALANA students. This past spring, just about fifty years after he first set foot on campus, Reilly was honored Reilly with a lifetime achievement award, and established an annual student award in his name.

Student Government Association leaders gave Reilly the achievement award at their annual banquet in April. Veronica Meneses-Swift, the Assistant Di- rector of Multicultural Education last year, and a committee that in- cluded Joe III, are HC gradu- ates and assists ALANA students. This past spring, just about fifty years after he first set foot on campus, Reilly was honored Reilly with a lifetime achievement award, and established an annual student award in his name.

By Brendan Radke

CRUSADER FEATURES EDITOR

What exactly is an ether card? Webster’s Online Dictionary defines it as ‘‘…wait, I don’t know. I can’t get online. My ether card is vaporized. That’s the point of this article. ’’

Whilist I traveled around my hometown last summer, I was unaware that an integral part of my computer’s hardware was decaying as it sat unplugged in my room. Perhaps the dust mites that have long plagued my allergies turned their wrath upon my circuitry. A character from a Hunter Thompson novel could have sneaked in and shuffled all the ether out of the room. Maybe it grew lonely from its disuse and sought the companionship of my brother’s old lap-top.

The option to send my computer to ITS was immedi- ately ruled out when I realized that repeatedly trying to log-in wasn’t going to work, better to have no internet than no computer for 6 months I naively. The pain and longing caused by hearing the distinct “instant message received” chime on my roommate’s computer was sharp at first, but I forced myself to persevere. However, after getting used to logging onto my email through the Holy Cross website, and waiting for songs to come out on CD (or be downloaded by my friends), I experienced a cathartic realization: last year, I had been overindulgent in ether.

A year at college creates an amazing amount of e-de- pendency. In my youth, I used my computer for Tetris and keeping in contact with non IM-ers. I could even remember of everything I was missing around campus, of emails upon my return to the Cross, I was faced with a ‘‘connection’’ had ‘‘failed.’’ No need to panic, I told myself. A thin layer of perspiration collecting on my skin. I clicked on the little yellow-running-stick- guy on the bottom right of my desktop. My heart pounded. Nothing. Instant Messenger was gone. De- prived of my life without the internet had begun.

BY RAJEAN SPEARS

FEATURES EDITOR EMERITUS

Striving for choice
Senior Lauren Genovesi explains the challenge of forming a pro-choice group on a Catholic campus

Trying to organize a pro-choice group at Holy Cross has proven to be a difficult task. Many students want to make two plus two equal five. Pro-choice groups are not allowed to be sponsored by colleges and universities affiliated with the Catholic Church—this includes Holy Cross. But senior Lauren Genovesi is not about to give up. She feels that a lot of her fellow students may not only be undecided about how they feel regarding the issue, but that many of those who are pro-choice feel intimidated because of Holy Cross’s Catholic setting. Although she has recently graduated, some students may also feel that joining it is somehow going against what they believe in and it makes it hard for them to make it clear that this is not the case.

Genovesi says that pro-choice supporters face many problems, especially at places like Holy Cross. She emphasized the fact that “pro-choice is NOT anti-abortion.” She said a good way to think about the issue is to remove yourself from it because “a lot of people have a hard time universalizing the con- cept.” She adds, “They think that just because they personally could not or would not have an abortion that the right to choice should be removed from all women. But it’s my body—how can [anyone] put legislation on it?”

To Genovesi and millions of others, both men and women, pro- testing legal abortion is at the top of a long list of feminist issues. To feminist leaders who believe in the right to choose, it’s about defeating sexism and patriarchy.

Patriarchy is so normal—it’s hard to encourage challenge against it,” she says. “There is so much more to this issue than what it seems.”

The next meeting of the pro-choice group will be Wednesday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact Lauren Genovesi either by email or phone courtesy of Public Affairs

Force ROTC journal, the Flying Cross, the Crusader (he wrote many of the paper’s editorials as an upperclassman) the Purple Key So- cety, the Holy Cross Club of Boston, and has also been a member of the Merrimack Valley (Mass.) Holy Cross club. The honors have kept coming, too. He won “Crusader of the Week” in student congress, he was also elected class president for his senior year.

Holy Cross has given Reilly more than awards, of course. Most of his closest friends were fellow HC students, and he feels a special kinship with them. When asked what he misses most about his time on another plaque—this one is now on public display outside Hogan’s Student Programs and Leadership Development Office—was listed the names of all students who won the Joe Reilly award. The ex- citement didn’t stop there for Reilly during the evening, his son Joe I and his pregnant daughter-in-law, Mary Agnes, had to leave suddenly for Colorado. Mary Agnes to the hospital? Reilly’s grandson, Kieran, was born the following morning at 4 o’clock.

Six of Reilly’s seven children, including Joe III, are HC gradu- ates. Reilly’s other son, a Hunter College English professor, was a member of the Holy Cross Class of 1964, as well as an occasional guest-lecturer at this school. It is surprising, then, to consider that Reilly did not even plan to go to HC after his 1948 graduation from New York’s strict Xavier High School. Like 26 of his classmates, Reilly did not even plan to go to college! Reilly’s grandson, Kieran, was born the following morning at 4 o’clock.

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