Tae Kwon Do club kicks into gear
Weekly classes teach Korean martial art to students

BY MATTHEW DEMKO
CRUSADER FEATURES STAFF

Kasie Blanchette ’04, might not seem like someone who would enjoy breaking wooden planks with her head. She is a cheerful, outgoing music/economics major. Part of what attracted her to Holy Cross was that, on a campus visit, “everybody asked ‘Hi, How are you?’ and opened doors for each other!” Nonetheless, Kasie, the founder of the new Holy Cross Tae Kwon Do club, is fierce when it comes to her martial art.

Kasie has been taking Tae Kwon Do for nine years, and she’s a black belt. She sprained her ankle on a trip to Washington D.C. over the Columbus Day break, yet still taught two classes the following week. And yes, she does like to smash boards, although she says it still scares her a little.

Tae Kwon Do is now the most popular martial art in the world. It became a summer Olympic event in 1996. But how did a ten-year-old girl from Manchester, NH get interested in a sport that, at the time, didn’t even exist in this country than it is today?

Actually, Kasie’s family made her aware: Her father and younger brother took it, and, she says, “I was like, I want to take it, too!” Her mother began lessons as well, but, unfortunately, neck problems prevented her from pursuing it further. The other three, however, remain enthusiasts, and all are second-degree black belts. (The highest degree is nine; very few people in the world attain it.) Her father, Kasie says, especially took to the board-breaking activity. He routinely kicks through six boards at a time, for fun, it would seem.

Kasie’s love for Tae Kwon Do made her want to teach it to her classmates. Not only that, but advanced Tae Kwon Do students are more or less expected to teach others the sport. When she applied to Holy Cross, there was a Tae Kwon Do club, although it disbanded before she arrived. Last semester, Kasie taught the sport, as a paid position, through the aerobics department of the Wellness Center.

Eerie Events

What’s Happening in...Salem

A guide to the official Halloween hot spot

BY JULIA CROWLEY
CRUSADER FEATURES STAFF

Well boys and ghouls, my indecious nature has led me to commit one of the seven deadly journalist sins. I could not decide which fantabulous place in Worce-ester to highlight in this week’s column. My instincts tell me to go with what I want to do, and my mind tells me I should stay true to what this spot is supposed to be used for. I have decided to go with my instincts, even though I generally get in trouble when I do so.

I realize the headline for this column is “What’s Happening in Worcester,” but this week I am leaving the city. Actually I am leaving the county to be more specific. No, this does not mean that I have run out of great places in Worcester to write about, it just means that I have experienced something so interesting that I just have to write about it, or write about nothing.

Now the Worcester area used to have some fun Hal- loween stuff, but it has all migrated elsewhere. Spooky World has taken up residence in Foxboro and Oxford’s pumpkin festival thingsy is now located in Salem, which is the perfect transition for this article.

Salem, Massachusetts is a must see place, especially at this time of year. The entire month of October is one giant Halloween extravaganza of sorts. There is something there for everyone. You could visit a bogs haunted house, or a museum, or a cemetery, or...well the list just goes on and on.

A few weeks back a friend and I went and visited a lot of the little museum places. Places like the Salem Witch Museum and the Salem Witch Dungeon were relatively cheap to get into ($6 like most of the attractions) and offered information on the Salem witch his- tory and entertainment. There are also different short plays and interactive events that you can partake in as the holiday approaches.

Also on this visit I was able to buy some wool mit-tens for $5 instead of $12 at a mall and try on army hats at the army navy store. You can buy pretty much anything in this store, including riot gear, and it’s all pretty cheap. Helmets were a mere $7.

Not being able to resist all of the fun and excitement the town had to offer, I went back last Friday. My friends and I visited the House of Seven Gables for a night event called Spirits of the Gables, which was a little freaky and involved characters from the book. However, the scariest thing there was the staircase, so beware. Our next stop was the Peabody Essex Muse- um’s Eerie Events (not all too imaginative of a name, I know). This involves a series of ghost stories told in various historic homes and runs until midnight. For these events you may want to make reservations, and admission is $10.

The highlight of my evening was the midnight vampire and ghost tour offered by Spellbound Tours. This was a pretty legit walking tour of Salem and brought us to various places in the town. Whether you believe in such things or not, the guide (in our case a delightful top hat wearing young man named Sage) brings you to various validated haunted locations and explains the occurrences concerning the areas. It’s also neat just to be standing outside of a prison at one in the morning. I just can’t wait to get my film back to see if there is any ectoplasm in my shots. For students, the tours are only $7 instead of $10, so bring an ID. Go to www.spellboundtours.com for more information.

For driving directions go to yahoo.com. If you go Halloween night, go early and stay late. For a calendar of events go to www.hauntedhappenings.com.

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