Agents in training

Many freshmen find they live ‘double lives’ after returning home or seeing their parents at school

BY CATHERINE BORELLI
CRUSADER FEATURES STAFF

Everyone says that college is that place where you make your life long friends, where you learn from experience, and where you truly find yourself. And although that may be ultimately true, in the beginning it doesn’t always seem that way. Every year, graduating seniors are pulled from all that they know and feel comfortable in, and have learned to love. They are pulled from their childhood roots and placed into a small, shared room. As time passes, the home that you once felt so uneasy leaving becomes replaced with a small, shared, and probably cluttered room. And now, going back home feels weird. For all first year students, one confusing question remains: Where is home?

Between going home for Columbus Day weekend and having all of our parents and siblings up for Family Weekend, our home lives and college lives have been colliding. Freshman Meghan Gorman commented, “Seeing different family and friends from home over Columbus Day and parent’s weekend made me realize that I’m leading two separate lives.”

Freshman Andrea D’Amore also reflected, “It is interesting how freedom of choice and lifestyle really affects first year college students to the point where nearly everyone changes. It is tiring living a double life, and when you finally go home, like for Columbus Day weekend, you realize how things are really different.”

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Mikey McKee made a distinction between his friends at home and his friends here when he said, “The boys back home will always be the boys back home, but my friends at college are the [expletive for faces] and we have a sweet time.”

Expectations and memories of Opportunity Knocks

By CLAIRE NICOLAY
CRUSADER FEATURES COLUMNIST

I have been asking around, and there are a lot of different opinions out there about the annual Opportunity Knocks Dance. In the interest of preparing the Op-Knoxs virgins, and reminding the veterans what this dance is all about, I have analyzed several of the most common responses I got to my question, “So what do you think about OpKnoxs?” To protect the innocent from ridicule, I have identified those polled merely by their class and gender.

Freshman Boy: (knowingly) “Opportunity Knocks is where you finally get to go out and get drunk and screw... get drunk and screw.”

My issue with Freshman Boy here is that his objectivity and perspective on this annual event must be somewhat limited because he has never actually attended it. It seems, however, that this is an often expressed opinion of what occurs at the dance, and I feel obligated to present the reader with the reality of the situation: going to OpKnocks does not automatically result in getting laid. I’d say your chances are the same as they are at any party. Well, maybe a bit more so, considering the number of people who attend OpKnocks is far more than that of any party I’ve been to, so there is a larger pool of potential hook-ups to work with. In conclusion, to all those who see OpKnocks as some 60s-style throwback to the era of orgies and love-fests – “wow.” (slaps knee, rolls eyes, obviously recalling some sort of debauchery of past years) “Wow.” It’s just so high school, you know?”


Junior Girl: (loftily) “Yeah, I guess OpKnocks is fun. It’s just so high school, you know?”

No, misss, I do not know. OpKnocks is more like high school dances in that you have to dress up, and there

Fancy footwork

The Dance Ensemble marks its fourth year of ballroom performance

BY JASMINE FIELDING
CRUSADER FEATURES STAFF

Walking by the Hogan Ballroom this past Saturday afternoon around 4:30 p.m., it would have been impossible to ignore the loud music and dancing feet of the Holy Cross Dance Ensemble. Despite the long football game, students and their families still filled the room to make it to the Dance Ensemble’s annual Fall performance. This performance was presented especially for the parents who were visiting for the weekend, providing them with an exciting and fun treat.

The show consisted of six dances in various styles such as lyrical, ballroom, Broadway, and hip-hop. The dancers performed to a variety of music, including “I Like Them Girls” by Tyrese, “Kissin’ You” by Desirée, “The Piano” by Michael Nyman, “Love Is Really My Game” by Brainstorm and “I Wanna Be Had” by Willa Fay. The wide assortment of pieces ranged from classical ballet to modern hip-hop dancing. The short performance, intended to give the audience a sample of what is to come in the Spring Show on March 23, 2002 at 8 p.m. in the Hogan Ballroom.

This year, the 2001-2002 Dance Ensemble officers include Co-Presidents Brice Campoverdi and Sarah Bolduc, Vice-President Michelle Schiavi, Secretary Julie Colotti, and Treasurer Kim Brown. The choreographers this year are Leah Fosnook and Natalie Tompkins. Two of the three faves for lyrical, Sarah Binke for hip-hop, Adrienne Izzo and Lisa Cervice for the basketball dance team, Jennifer Sacher for Broadway and Christina Lodde and Brice Campoverdi for tap.

Started in 1997, the Dance Ensemble provides experienced students with the opportunity to continue to pursue their interest in an extracurricular setting while attending Holy Cross. A majority of the dancers in the ensemble have been dancing for more than 10 years and have experience in several dance styles.

This year, the ensemble consists of 40 dancers. Auditions are held every September, and an audition is required every year for all the dancers. Classes are student-run, providing a more relaxed and comfortable atmosphere for the dancers and choreographers. Members are given the opportunity to further their exploration of teaching and choreography. Auditions for choreographers, as well as the voting of new officers, take place in the spring of each year for the following school year. In the last few years, the Dance Ensemble has expanded to include performances at the Holy Cross men’s and women’s basketball games.

The end of the year performance incorporates several pieces in each dance class, where there are numerous specialty numbers of the members' choice. Members of the ensemble who do not usually choreograph are given the chance to create their own piece in any style of dance, to any type of music, and in collaboration with any other members. Each of the dancers are also allowed to perform a specialty number, even if she is not already in that particular dance class. All the dancers are given the chance to explore different styles of dance, emphasizing experimentation and creativity.

The Dance Ensemble also orders costumes for the performance each year, making the show more professional. It relies on dues from the new members, as well as donations, to pay for costumes, music, and activities.

The Dance Ensemble practices weekday nights in the Hart Center’s aerobics room. This year, the members hope to attend professional dance performances, as well as dance workshops, in order to broaden their knowledge of other forms of dance.

As seen on Saturday afternoon, the Dance Ensemble performances were well-attended events. In the past, the spring shows have been standing room only. Now, with the time it will be time for another entertaining and energetic performance by the Holy Cross dancers. Like always, the Dance Ensemble promises to put on a good show and display the dancers’ talents.