Bitter pre-winter weather welcomed by some, despised and reviled by most

BY CATHERINE BORELLI
CRUSADER FEATURES STAFF

So, last weekend the sun was shining, the breeze was gentle and everyone broke out the late summer–early fall clothes again. Warm weather in the region usually means that within a few days the weather was freezing, raining and everyone switched to winter clothes. When asked to describe the weather conditions during their time here in Worcester, many HC students had complaints.

Freshman Andrea D’Amore commented, “The weatherreally makes me want to cry because I never know what to wear. It is so cold outside. But, once you get inside it is so hot. The weather also makes me want to order a cab everywhere, and that means I have to spend even more money!” Freshman Drew Bigda was asked to describe how about the weather really affects our wardrobes. “The weather is not that bad. The only problem lately has been the fluctuating temperatures. If only the weather would stay the same, I would know what to wear.”

Larry Bruttì also complained about the weather. “All I have to say is: enjoy seeing the library since libraries are the only places where you don’t see them again until June.”

Freshman CJ Kozlowski was not as concerned with the weather here since he is from Syracuse, NY. “Syracuse is the snowiest city in the northeast and there isn’t as bad as it was at home for me. I guess the thing that I am used to is walking to the trap for parties.” Becca Soule said, “I’m from Massachusetts, closer to Boston though, and it’s colder here than it is back home.”

Coming from a drastically different climate, freshman Kate Thornton from Cleveland was not as used to the weather here. “The extreme leaf change and I love the snow. I guess I’ll just have to suck it up and look forward to getting warm once I get back inside a building. And ooohlh, a cab becomes your new best friend in this kind of weather.”

Just as excited as Kate, Maggie Crow said, “I can’t wait until we can go play in the snow, make snow angels, snow men, and song about ‘winter wonder land’ down the many hills at Holy Cross!” Catt Hughes, sharing some of the same excitement as Maggie, said, “I’m really excited because I love the snow and I can’t wait to wear my hats and sweaters. I usually get too warm once I get back inside a building. And ooohlh, a cab becomes your new best friend in this kind of weather.”

As finals draw ever nearer, it’s almost impossible to pick up a book upon which you don’t frantically flip through your syllabus. For you members of the ever-dwindling population who find time to read, however, Tom Robbins’ ‘Skinny Legs and All’ can prove both entertaining and thought provoking.

In his abstract portrayal of the Middle Eastern conflict (written ten years ago), the author presents an array of characters that provide perspectives from all sides of the conflict. Some characters are truly realistic and animated inanimate objects. The main character of the book is Ellen Cherry Charles, an artist/writer from Utah who has made the move to New York and is determined to crack into the New York art scene. She despairs when her husband, wobbler Petway, becomes artistically renowned for converting their trailer into a giant metal turkey. She works at Isaac and Ishmael, a controversial restaurant across from UN headquarters that is co-owned by friends Abu, a Muslim, and Spike, a Jew. They are constantly threatened and attacked by militants from every religion. Among them is Ellen’s uncle, the Reverend Buddy Winkler, a golden-toothed Christian TV preacher who wants to speed up the Apocalypse by bombarding a sacred mosque. Moreover, Ellen’s tea spoon and can of beans have, along with Buddy’s doorky, joined a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. They are prepared to use any weapon at their disposal, even a painted stick, ancient relics of the lost godess Astarte whom they awaken in a cave in Iowa.

Readers will almost certainly be offended by many of the views expressed in the story, as well as the manner in which they are presented. Robbins doesn’t pull any punches when dispensing blame for the conflict between religions, races, and sexes; rather, he outrageously tosses views both extreme and moderate into the dialogue and narrative. Some make sense, some don’t. Some seem relevant, some clearly aren’t. Where the author might lose credibility to some, he amuses others with his seemingly nonchalant treatment of volatile issues. Although you might justifiably upset by what you read, you won’t feel singled out: Robbins can be harsh, but he is fair.

In light of the present escalation of the Middle Eastern conflict, and America’s immersion in it, it is a rare opportunity that one can enjoy an encounter while contrasting realities. ‘Skinny Legs and All’ will make you laugh enough to keep reading, even when its issues make you want to put it down. It doesn’t try to solve anything, but it presents some of the questions we must answer if we want to live in harmony.

Variety show “Griot Live” a hit at HC
Show encourages diversity and understanding through music and poetry

BY EVAN RABKE
CRUSADER FEATURES EDITOR

Those who did not attend Griot in crossroads last Saturday evening missed an amazing show. The term ‘Griot’ is a French word that refers to ‘Jali,’ or West African hereditary musicians and praise singers. The most important aspect lies in the manner in which they are presented. ‘Griot’ were juniors Nikia Jean and Kristopher Jamal Clemon.

The show closed with Jamaican-born Tehut-Nine giving a verbal display that showed why, at the age of 25, he has performed all over the world. He is based out of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York City and has also been featured at the world famous Apollo Theater.

Tehut’s talent with words and his politically and socially charged poetry has allowed him to share the stage with such artists and activists as Wyclef, Mary J. Blige, Sistah Souljah, Mos Def and The Rev.

The proverbial “meat” of the show were the student performances. One such performer, Junior Roberto Garcia, displayed his free styling that deals with inner-city struggles, self-identity and women’s struggles against oppression. There was also the incredible voice of soprano Diana Castillo, who gave a brilliant display of her talent. Also, freshman Donkor Mi nors threw his spoken word out with a world-renowned spoken word poet, Tehut-Nine.

The BSU is tentatively planning on pulling together another griot performance in February. They also hope to bring Tehut-Nine back for an encore performance, so keep an alert for the signs next semester, and don’t miss the chance to have your mind truly expanded.

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The Middle East according to Tom Robbins
‘Skinny Legs and All’ provides humor and controversy

BY BRENDAN RADKE
CRUSADER FEATURES EDITOR

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