Speaking of Student Affairs

Relationship Peer Educators and Long Distance Relationships

The Relationship Peer Educators (RPEs), one of several peer educator groups on campus, have the primary purposes of raising awareness on a variety of topics and preventing potential problems through education. The RPEs produce programs on sexual assault, consent, gender relationships, and tolerance for the student community. In addition to programming, the RPEs attempt to provide information through more passive methods. If you’ve seen “Fact of the Week” posted on bulletin boards around campus, that is the work of this organization.

Light of the upcoming Thanksgiving break, it would seem that now is an appropriate time to level some considerations at those involved in a long-distance relationship (LDR), as many may be giving serious thought to continuing (or discontinuing) their romances from afar. After all, it’s been three long months since school, you have five weeks to glance at the calendar, and you and your partner may be ready to hash out some important concerns:

* Determining whether your relationship is a healthy one. Is it marked by the positive characteristics of being flexible, respectful, trusting, faithful, stable, autonomous, peaceful, and open? Or does it tend more towards the unhealthy, marked by rigid, abusive, mistrusting, unfaithful, volatile, controlling or dependent, violent, or manipulative behavior?

* Open and effective lines of communication. Often times, LDRs fail because one or both partners do not communicate enough, and/or the communication that does take place is not clear, honest, or assembled. Take some time to underestimate the value of listening skills, as they are vital to maintaining the relationship.

* Responsibility for one’s own self-esteem and feeling “whole” without the presence of a significant other. It is important to be able to find value and meaning in oneself and one’s interaction with others even though your partner may not be present. Feelings of inadequacy or incompetence without the other are generally not an indicator of a healthy relationship.

* Openness to growth and change in both partners and the relationship. Recognize there is a time when opportunities for growth on many levels and in varied areas become available for students. The couple should do its best to remain open and supportive of the change and development of both partners, realizing that college is a time of much individual exploration.

* Commitment to mutual decisions. However you and your partner decide to go forth with your relationship, be sure that you follow through with mutually agreed upon rules or guidelines. Terming the relationship a product, not only with yourselves but also with others. This is a contract of sorts that, if held to, can provide great great mind for each.

There are many aspects of LDRs, and relationships in general, that obviously cannot be considered here. However, it is the hope that this brief article will, at the very least, spark your consciousness and give you something to reflect upon during your break.

For further information about the Relationship Peer Educators (RPEs) program please contact Dr. Matthew Angelosante, Professor of Social Work, and Dr. Liz Maloy, Associate Dean of Students about the Relationship Peer Educators (RPEs) program.

BY NICOLE ROYLANCE
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

Out of the tear gas, billy clubs, and tensions of the WTO riots in Seattle this past April emerged hundreds of small groups across the nation focused on "localizing the movement for global justice." The first collective meeting of groups from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine was held this past weekend at Worcester State College.

Over 300 concerned citizens attended the first New England Global Action Network Conference. Anarchists, socialists, communists, progressives, pragmatists, and others shared concrete plans of action and discussed how to be anti-everything, but to stand for something. In essence, the mission of the activists is to stand for justice and for more peaceful treatment of the poorest of the poor.

In the midst of this eclecticism, there were seven Holy Cross students and two professors. These students, from different organizations like SCOHIA, SLAC, EcoAction, and the campus Green Party, began participating in some of the major injustices of the world. Included on their list of problems are trade agreements like NAFTA, and the injustices faced by the world’s poor.

Despite the emphasis placed on the sad conditions that the poor endure, the conference went beyond just acknowledging the extreme poverty that plagues the world. Activists also examined the reasons for such destitution and brainstormed concrete plans of action. Conference participants were encouraged to “think globally, act locally.”

For those involved, this means working against the economic and social injustices in their own backyard, as well as poverty and economic injustices on a wider scale. Domestic labor, environmental, and housing issues are just as important as abstract national ones.

Participators are firm in their belief that institutions like Holy Cross should make sure that they are not indirectly support- mental, and, in other ways, like the World Bank through their connections and investments. Additionally, many noted that Holy Cross employees are spotted regularly in the city’s welfare office.

“At minimum, students should be asking more questions,” stated Justin Moody. “We have to do more than accept the fact that people are poor.” Holmes adds, “This is the time when opportunities for growth on many levels and in varied areas become available for students. The couple should do its best to remain open and supportive of the change and development of both partners, realizing that college is a time of much individual exploration.”

Wednesday, November 8th
Alumni - Burnt popcorn set off the fire alarm in the fourth floor men’s bathroom.
O’Neil, Science Building - A student reported a loud noise coming from O’Neil. The source was a generator.
Thursday, November 9th
Hogan Campus Center - A student reported larceny from Hogan.
Hogan Lot #3 - A trespasser’s vehicle was towed from campus.

HC contingent energized by global action conference

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