

## A racism proposal

This is an attempt to respond as an alumnus to Fr. Brooks' letter to the Holy Cross community on the subject of racism on campus. That letter first came to my attention by way of reports in the Boston papers — the Herald American and the Globe. Later, I had the opportunity, as we all did, to read the full text of Fr. Brooks' letter in Crossroads. Its message had a memorable impact on me.

The problem addressed by Fr. Brooks was not new to me. In April 1976, my son, John, who was then a senior at Holy Cross, arranged a meeting for me with some of his black classmates. We had a most helpful conversation on that occasion and continued it later in May at my home in Needham, Mass., with several other Holy Cross alumni who are active in the General Alumni Association.

Considering my own roots in Holy Cross and having the opportunity to hear first hand the expectations and frustrations, the anxieties and disappointments, the hurts and — undeniably — the joys of black students at Holy Cross, I could not react to Father Brooks' message simply by thinking "what a beautiful, courageous letter," or "isn't it too bad that such racial incidents have occurred." Instead, I wanted (and still want!) to respond actively to the spirit manifested in that letter. I want to play some small role in helping Fr. Brooks realize what he expresses as his ideal for Holy Cross. I am writing this letter to Crossroads in the hope that there will be a response from others who feel as I do, and together we can begin to develop means of improving the quality of campus life for black students at Holy Cross.

It seems to me that there is not much to be gained by arguing whether or not there is racism at Holy Cross. But mindful of our continuing interest in the College, I believe there is a need to ask ourselves if black students at Holy Cross have the same opportunity for feeling wanted, supported and loved as we had in our time, and as our own sons and daughters now have.

My son, after he had been at Holy Cross for two or three months, told me that he "felt very comfortable up there," and Tom Dowd, at an O'Melia Dinner, once said that one of his sons chose Holy Cross "because he didn't want to leave home!" Regrettably, most of our black students can't speak like that yet, but they do want very much to be able to feel that way about their college. I know, because I have come to know some of these black students fairly well.

I have a concrete proposal: I would very much like to arrange for a meeting at Holy Cross with other alumni and friends of the College who feel as I do. I hope that you will make yourselves known by writing to me or to Fr. Paul F. Harman, S.J., College vice president. If we could meet and discuss the matter further, the Lord will help us decide what we can do.

John J. McDonald, M.D., '42

Sunday, Sept. 17, 1978

This is a report of a meeting held Sat. 4:30 pm - 6:00pm, Sept. 9, at Room 414, Hogan Campus Center.

Those who attended are: John Beakey M.D., Walter Roy, John Mee, John Gleason, Joseph Cunnane, John McCarthy, Lisa Mooney, John McDonald Jr., John McDonald M.D.

Dr. McDonald provided some background for his letter in Crossroads. A meeting had taken place late in the winter '78 to explore what appropriate action might be decided in terms of alumni response to Fr. Brooks' letter re racism on campus. The pres. and pres.-elect of the GAA, several black students, Fr. Harmon, Fr. Manning were among those present. It was decided that the GAA could do little or nothing, and the suggestion was made that Dr. McDonald write a letter and submit it to Crossroads. The letter was composed against the background of awareness that perhaps only a few had any real concern for this campus issue, therefore, an appeal was made primarily to that handful; and it was put in the context of the remembrance of "belonging", which is the essence of the Holy experience  
Cross, common to all of us.

Dr. Beakey initiated the discussion, asking if racism did exist at H.C.

Dr. McDonald avoided a direct answer, explaining that (in his opinion) there was no interest in addressing the issue at that level. Instead, he was resigned simply to find out who the few were who would join him in pursuing one-to-one contacts with black students. Hopefully, encounter and communication would lead to sociability and friendship; perhaps, in time, numbers and interest would grow.

Much good discussion followed, with input from everyone present. It was decided that there was something that the alumni could do. An effort should be made to involve more alumni; and the alumni-parents of present

freshmen were specified as prime recruits. It was agreed that a structured and approved approach to the next step was necessary.

The following plan of action was decided:

1. We will meet again, on Sat., Sept. 30, following the close of the Dartmouth game. Everyone will try to bring others.
2. Dr. Beakey will contact Fr. Harmon, and will discuss the proposal that we contact those alumni who are parents of current frosh.
3. Dr. Beakey will also attempt to report the proceedings of this meeting to the next meeting of the executive committee of the GAA.
4. All present were requested to make ~~his~~ impressions of this meeting known to Fr. Harmon. All present agreed that support of this effort on the part of college officials is imperative; and ~~dis~~appointment was expressed that none were present at this initial meeting.

If no further particulars of the next meeting at Hogan on Sat., Sept. 30, at about 4:30 pm are brought to your attention, look for my name and the meeting room number posted on the bulletin panel on the Hogan main level.

John M. Jordan '42

Wednesday  
Oct. 4, 1978

This is a report of a second meeting of a group of Holy Cross alumni, interested in finding ways to help improve the quality of campus life for black students at Holy Cross.

The meeting was held in Hogan, room 414, 4:30 - 6:00 pm, Saturday, Sept. 30. The following attended : Bernard and Paul Monbouquette, Rick Peirce (Pres. of H.C. Club of R.I.), John Kershaw (Pres. of Holy Cross GAA), Brian O'Connell, Joe Reilly, Frank Delaney (Director of financial aid at H.C.), John Mee, John Beakey M.D., Walter Roy, John Gleason, and John McDonald M.D.

Dr. Beakey reported that he talked via phone with Fr. Paul Harman, who assured him that it would be possible for us to obtain the names and addresses of alumni-parents of current undergraduates; and we shall plan to contact them and attempt to interest them in our project. Also, in the a.m. of Sept. 30, Dr. Beakey addressed the board of directors of the GAA, and explained our efforts and purpose. He requested that the exec. comm. of the board approve our petition to be recognized as an official committee of the GAA. A favorable supporting comment came from the floor (Gerry Anderson '38), and no dissenting comment. Dr. Beakey (& Dr. McDonald) also reported that several other members of the board and senate came forward with expression of interest after the a.m. meeting.

John Kershaw, Pres. of the GAA, agreed to bring the petition to the attention of the next exec. comm. meeting on Nov. 18. At the 4:30 meeting, John spoke <sup>ag</sup> encouragingly, and advised us how we might best prepare a <sup>ati</sup> presentation for the Nov. 18 meeting.

In response to a question re a name for our group, Dr. McDonald asked if the "Bishop Healy Committee" was appropriate, and the comment was favorable. No final decision was made.

Next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Sat. Nov. 11.

Dr. McDonald will invite several black students to attend and discuss mutual interests in Holy Cross with us.

John McDonald '42

Oct. 29, 1978

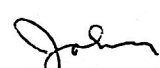
The next meeting of those who have expressed interest in developing an alumni program addressed to the needs of black students at Holy Cross will take place at Hogan, Saturday, Nov. 11, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting will consist essentially of a conversation between alumni and several black students, for the purpose of clarifying goals and the means to attain them.

Yesterday, the half-time program during the television coverage of the H.C.-Brown game made note that Holy Cross is dedicated to the education of "men and women for others, and agents for change." This effort is committed to the support of that intention, and its success depends upon your continued interest.

Please check the events panel in Hogan for the number of the room reserved for us.

God bless,

  
John McDonald M.D. '42

The third meeting of the alumni group, formed to address the issue of "being black at Holy Cross," was held Saturday, Nov. 11. This meeting provided helpful background for the presentation made to the executive committee of the General Alumni Association by Drs. John Beakey and John McDonald on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Following the presentation and discussion, the following motion was passed: "to authorize the Pres. of the GAA to establish a sub-committee of the GAA, consisting of Drs. McDonald and Beakey and an appropriate number of the executive committee, to meet together to formalize the committee in terms of name, purpose, longevity and other appropriate considerations, and to report at the January 6 meeting with a concrete plan which could be voted on ."

In effect, it appears that the executive committee has approved the idea, and wishes, through this sub-committee, to participate with us in the formalization of the stated particulars.

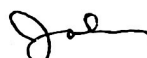
Your presence at our next meeting in Hogan on Saturday, Dec. 9, will be most helpful in defining our formal position in this effort.

The priorities of goals and programs will be the subject of our next discussion, and your presence on Dec. 9 is very important.

Thus far, it appears that the name "Bishop Healy Committee" is a popular choice, and our meeting room in Hogan will be reserved in that name, I believe.

Hope to see you Dec. 9 -- 10:30 a.m.

God bless,



John McDonald '42

On Saturday, Nov. 18, Jack Beakey and I will attend the meeting of the executive committee of the Holy Cross GAA to speak in support of a petition that the committee referred to in the enclosed notice be designated a formal committee of the General Alumni Association.

You are most welcome to attend the November 11 meeting of which the enclosed gives notice, and thereby obtain first hand impressions of what we are trying to accomplish.

We expect that it will be a helpful and informative meeting.

*John McDonald*

John McDonald M.D. '42

133 South St.  
Needham, Mass.  
Nov. 19, 1978

Dear Prof. McNeil,

I spent a good deal of my time last week preparing for our meeting with the executive committee of the General Alumni Assoc. and have enclosed a copy of the statement that I made. I have not received official word as yet, but from several sources we have word that our petition was granted and we are now an officially recognized entity.

At least three members of the exec. comm. are Boston area residents and I intend to arrange a meeting with them and give them an opportunity for some input. This is important, because our sources also inform us that we will be expected to present a program of specifics, and I suspect that a program that will serve the interest of the GAA, as well as black students, will give us a good boost.

It strikes me that an effort to involve more black alumni in regional club activities would help all of us very nicely. The clubs would welcome their participation, and our efforts to help the campus situation would gain not only moral support, but also a source of recruits!

What I would like you to do is this. Can you compile a directory of black alumni; names, addresses, and ,perhaps, even a mention of credits since graduation (graduate school, employment category, etc.)?

Walter Roy can possibly help you with this. He has attended two of our meetings and is very interested in our effort. I believe that he will be at our Dec. 9 meeting. I will send him a copy of this letter, if you wish to respond to this before Dec. 9. Or, you could contact him yourself; his address is :19 Barwood Manor, Haberen Ave., Unionville, Conn. 06085.



Your presence and your contribution to the exchange of ideas at our Nov. 11 meeting were most helpful, and I am very<sup>pleased</sup> that you responded so generously on such short notice. Please stay with us; we are going to accomplish a good result with this effort for sure !

Tonite I will start putting together a proposal for discussion at our Dec. 9 meeting as you suggested. I have decided that a program of interaction between black students and alumni (including blacks ) for the purpose of learning more about the black experience at Holy Cross should be our initial goal. I like your host family idea. I feel that we should distinguish at the very outset between those goals that we can achieve on our own, and those in which we are limited to the role of intermediary. If we show that we can do a lot on our own, I feel that we can become a more effective intermediary.

Hope that you can help locate our black graduates, so that we can appeal directly to them for their support.

God bless,



John McDonald '42

I have tried to anticipate the obvious questions you must have in mind, and will attempt to answer those questions. I've tried also to project my answers against some background of how this effort originated and evolved.

First, the questions :

1. What is the purpose of this committee ?
2. How do we intend to achieve our goals ?
3. Why is it important to give this committee formal recognition ?

Our purpose could be expressed in a number of different ways, and it is likely that with time our purpose will be influenced by new insights and by the awareness of goals that will then seem more attainable. At this point, we have one very basic goal -- it is to obtain a fuller understanding of what being black at Holy Cross is all about; and we are searching for the role that alumni can play in that learning process. This is the goal that we must achieve before anything else!

Here, perhaps, it might be helpful to know how this effort began. It started as a response to Fr. Brooks' letter of Sept. '77. Barry McDonough will recall my coming to him to ask if perhaps there <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ some response that alumni members of the Holy Cross community should make, and, if so, in what forum should the questions be raised. At his suggestion I made a presentation to the Young Alumni committee. Fr. Mahoney will recall that event in Oct. '77 ; and both Barry and John Kershaw remember the large meeting that Fr. Harman, the vice-pres. of the college, helped me arrange in late Feb. or early March '78, at which Fr. Brooks' letter was reviewed and reflected upon, and the question was put forth, "is there some way in which the alumni can and should respond to that message ?"

Several black students, Paul Saint and Prof. Matt Toth also attended that meeting. As the discussion unfolded, it became evident that it was important to know who among the alumni would have interest

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question  
in this ~~issue~~. It was Fr. Manning, also present, who suggested that I write a letter to be published in Crossroads; and that letter appeared in the summer '78 issue.

Now to consider how we intend to achieve our goals. Fr. Harman made a room in Hogan available for the first meeting of those who responded to my letter. The date was Sept. 16, and two additional meetings have been held since then. In the course of those discussions we have decided that there is a role for alumni, and presently we are evaluating suggested methods that will <sup>bring about</sup> ~~provide~~ the interaction of black students and alumni, and which will give us the opportunity for conversation, sociability, and just plain getting-to-know-you-better encounters. We <sup>would like</sup> ~~plan~~ to make our efforts know<sup>n</sup> through alumni publications and the regional clubs; and we hope especially to find response from alumni who presently are parents of students, and in that way hope to involve their sons and daughters in this work.

At the very least, we hope to establish a visible presence of concerned adults who are making a continuing commitment to know black students better. I'd like to think that we are a few of the many like yourselves who still remember the love, the support, and the feeling of really belonging that we enjoyed when we were here; and I believe it's something of value to want to share the benefits of that experience with others who, quite naturally, cannot relate to Holy Cross so easily as we did.

It is this point in particular, I feel, that should interest you most as directors of the GAA. You hold your appointments entrusted with the responsibility of fostering loyalty to Holy Cross. You know, as well as I, that the loyalty that each of us has is founded primarily on the memory, indeed on the fact, of the sense of belonging that we had while we were here. Certainly, our black students require equivalent reason for the loyalty that we will expect from them!

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There is another very real and practical consideration. Most of us within the Holy Cross community have had little, if any, in depth social contact with black men and women. Obviously, this provides a setting on campus leading directly to culture shock for both whites and blacks, especially so when one considers the traditional closely-knit aspects of community at Holy Cross as we know it exists. Some differences are easily passed over; others are the basis of considerable social stress.

We need a black presence here, so that we can make use of an opportunity to learn to relate to each other with harmony AND sensitivity.

Unfortunately, relatively few blacks are prepared for the demands that our academic standards and culture shock environment put upon them. Many of those who do qualify, pass us over for the school that is more prestigious, or the one that offers more promise of a supportive environment. The aggressive recruitment in which most schools engage <sup>provides</sup> readily available alternatives *for them*.

The negative attitude <sup>toward</sup> blacks that we project must be turned around, and hopefully, this effort will contribute to that worthy goal. It is regrettable that this image is projected by a school founded in the tradition of "see how they love one another."

The third question is - why is it important to give formal GAA recognition to this committee?

The idea was put forth immediately during our first meeting. Jack Beakey is one of those who responded to the letter in Crossroads, and he has attended all three of the meetings held thus far. Jack presented this petition at the director's meeting, Sept. 30, and he will give an answer to the third question.

## Guidelines for Development of Bishop Healy Committee Program

1. The feeling of "belonging here", as an undergraduate, is an essential feature of the Holy Cross experience, and is the foundation of alumni loyalty.
2. This committee exists to do what it can to help secure opportunity for all students to share that feeling of belonging.
3. To develop motivation for involvement with this committee, we need to make our efforts more widely known; and we shall concentrate on programs for interaction with black and other minority students. Hopefully, this interaction will lead to mutual understanding and acceptance.
4. It is important to understand, at the outset, that we must distinguish between the attainable and the unattainable; and between our direct role and our potential role as intermediary.
5. The following steps are suggested :
  - a. Compile a directory of names of all minority students, and all white students who are sons and daughters of alumni.
  - b. Compile directory of names and addresses of all black and other minority alumni, and data regarding <sup>their</sup> <sup>study</sup> post-graduate, and current employment status. Also a directory of alumni who presently are parents of Holy Cross students.
  - c. Make known to alumni regional club and young alumni committees the names collected in item "b"., and encourage these committees assist us in making our program known to these alumni. This can develop into something supportive of the work of these committees, as well as our efforts. Prof. McNeil's host family plan should be made known to the regional club committee.
  - d. An appropriate relationship can be worked out among the admissions office, our committee, and the alumni admissions counseling committee, so that the most effective minority recruiting can be developed

e. Progress report of this committee's work thus far should be published in alumni and student papers (Crossroads, The Crusader, and Crossbow). Perhaps we can interest the alumni continuing education committee in our efforts. The Boston Club first Tuesday luncheon meeting could provide a setting for a presentation of our program.

f. A Martin Luther King observance program might be planned shortly after start of second semester, with participation by our committee, the Black Student Union, the Student Government Body, etc. The hopes of our committee could be expressed at that program.

g. At some appropriate time a highest level meeting should be arranged with Fr. Brooks to explore the fullest possibilities of this effort. This can be helpful in defining our attainable direct and intermediary roles. The questions of black coach, black culture programs, etc. can be discussed at that time.

Dec. 27, 1978


The fifth meeting of the Bishop Healy Committee will take place on Saturday, January 6, at 11:30 a.m., in Hogan. Please look for the room number on the bulletin panel.

The Student Government Association was represented at our last meeting on Dec. 9, and Charles Cousins '79, President of the SGA, agreed to plan a Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, sometime in February. This event, sponsored by the SGA, will help to bring the goals and the hopes of our committee to the attention of students, faculty, and administrative officers of Holy Cross, and, hopefully, awareness and participation in our efforts will be enhanced.

On January 6, we will hear a progress report on Mr. Cousins' plans, and we will discuss means of making the Memorial a successful event. It is encouraging to think that this event could be an effective means whereby to involve students in the special efforts of our committee; and all of us who attended the Dec. 9 meeting were delighted that Charley Cousins responded so cooperatively.

Hope to see you Saturday, January 6, 11:30 a.m.

God bless,



John McDonald '42

February 1, 1979

The sixth meeting of the Bishop Healy Committee will take place in Hogan Campus Center on Saturday, February 10 at 10:30 a.m.

On that occasion we will discuss particulars of an event to be sponsored by the Student Government Association on Saturday, February 24. The event to be held will take the place of the Martin Luther King observance that we discussed earlier. It is expected that an invitation to the February event will reach you in the mail this week, and, hopefully, you will find it convenient to attend.

This committee - the Bishop Healy Committee - still awaits formal recognition from the Directors of the GAA. On January 6 a presentation in our behalf was made to a subcommittee of the GAA Executive Board, and attempt was made to further clarify our goals and intended programs. We feel that we received a favorable response, and we were assured that the matter will be reviewed again at the next GAA executive committee meeting.

We hope that you can attend the meeting, Saturday, February 10, at 10:30, in Hogan. Please consult the events panel for the room number.

AND - don't forget to look for your invitation to the event on February 24 !

God bless,

  
John McDonald



Good evening. Welcome. Thank you for coming !

These remarks I have prepared proceed from an assumption we have made, and one with which I hope you will agree. We have assumed that <sup>a</sup>message from a speaker is not required this evening, for the reason that the event speaks for ~~it~~ itself. In effect, the medium is the message !

By your acceptance of the invitation to attend, and by the encounter, the conversation and the sociability that your presence provide, we <sup>are</sup> addressing the issue to which reference has been made, and, more importantly, we are engaged in the very kind of thing that resolves difficulties which this issue that we address entails. This kind of interaction -- this opportunity to foster sociability and friendship -- this is what our message is about . So tonite we are not here to sermonize or theorize, to analyze or criticize; we are here to socialize ! Tonite the important things that are said will be the conversations that we will have with each other during the course of the evening. I shall not take much time from those main events .

Reference has been made to the Bishop Healy Committee, so just a word or two at this tim~~w~~e for clarification. That is the name that appears to have been adopted by a small group of alumni and others within this community, who were deeply moved by Fr. Brooks' letter on racism, in Sept. 1977, and since then have been searching for ways to make appropriate response to the message within that letter.

In the course of this search, several facts seemed to fall together.

Most Holy Cross alumni have fond recall of the sense of belonging we enjoyed as students here, and that reality is the basis for the loyalty and continuity

involvement with this place that characterize so many of us.

Most alumni profess concern for the continuation of the Jesuit - Catholic commitment at Holy Cross, and this issue that entails the need to learn that one must not regard the other person merely as other, is at the very heart of what Jesuit - Catholic Holy Cross is all about.

Consideration of these items has led us to conclude that at the very least, it is important for us to try to learn ~~what it is all about~~ what being black at Holy Cross is all about; and we feel that interaction with students and alumni will help us toward that end.

Too long we have been as ships that pass in the night !

Indeed, noting the apathy and benign neglect that characterize most of the communities in which we reside, there need be no problem to address here within the Holy Cross community to motivate us. We of the Bishop Healy Committee feel that for alumni interested in continuing involvement with Holy Cross, there is an opportunity here for continuing learning and personal growth -- readily available -- if we would but reach out and seek encounter, conversation, sociability and friendship with our young students and alumni.

I like to think of the potential for enhanced sensitivity and understanding that we could take back to our communities after we have had some of this suggested experience. <sup>As a resident of metropolitan Boston, I am fascinated</sup> ~~As a resident of metropolitan Boston, I am fascinated~~ <sup>by this speculation</sup> ~~by this speculation~~

We of the Healy Committee can offer no special expertise in this search for an appropriate role, but be assured that there is a lot of love tied into this effort. And rather than asking you to join us, we prefer to ask you

for an invitation to join you -- any and all parts of this community -- in that is being done and in what can be done to enhance the quality of response on the part of this community to what we are sure is being taught and prayed within this community.

This evening's event is both an expression and implementation of these intentions.

<sup>had the honor of being</sup>  
When I ~~was~~ tenor soloist with the glee club here about 40 years ago, I used to like to conclude my program with the feeling that my audience would like to hear at least just one more song. As I look back on it now, I like to think that it involved a sense of expectation that this was not a single, isolated, never to be repeated encounter, but rather, a feeling that this was the beginning of a continuing relationship, and, one day, perhaps, we would meet again for at least just one more song.

And I guess that's how I feel tonite about this song we are singing. I'd like to think that most, hopefully, all of us might want to sing a song together another time, and with your help the occasion will be provided. And if our chorus might become a continuum - if the beat does go on - what wonder we can add to our response to the invitation to life and to love which God extends to us here !

One final reflection. You, doubtless, share with me the feeling that whenever we gather together in the name of Holy Cross, we gather in the Lord's name as well. And on those occasions we are aware that He is with us. So it is here tonite. He is with us - among us and within us - within each of us in the same way ! I think we can say, "Lord, it is good that we are here !"

# THE CRUSADER

Vol. LVI, No. 3

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.

February 22, 1977

because I think my suggestion would pass in the SGA."

Curtis served this past year as parliamentarian of the SGA. He cited this experience and stated, "I consider experience very important because it is a complex machine with a lot of responsibilities that aren't known by a



Bill Green, SGA chairperson candidate (Giller photo)

lot of people. Being parliamentarian, I know how to run a meeting...that's one prerequisite of being a good chairperson. There's a certain knowledge that you can't get just by reading about the SGA. I do know the SGA as an organization pretty well.

"I'd be comfortable talking to the members...I think my involvement in the SGA (for example, I went to Boston last week for the drinking age protest

feel they are being nickel-and-dimed to death. I think the reasons for the administration's policies should be given, like why the bookstore has such an incredible markup, and why things are expensive in the lobby shop."

Green, who spent his sophomore year abroad, does not view his lack of previous close involvement with the SGA as a disadvantage. He said, "I wanted to get reacquainted with the school during the first semester this year. Now that I am, I can see a lot of problems in the SGA. I have as many ideas as the next person, but the basic problem is the establishment of good communication."

To afford better communication between the SGA and the student body in general, Green proposes more regular newspaper and radio coverage of the SGA and better reporting of SGA news by the dorm representatives. He proposes "periodic updates in The Crusader to demonstrate who has been effective in the SGA and who has been inefficient or inactive."

Green also suggested, "I think each class should elect two or three class representatives to be non-voting members of the SGA. They will keep the class informed on any news relating to the class and plan a few class events for the year. This is a way in which

## First Bishop Healy Dinner set

by Stephen Fatum  
News Editor

The SGA, in conjunction with the Bishop Healy Committee, will sponsor the first annual Bishop Healy Dinner tomorrow. A discussion of minority affairs at Holy Cross is planned.

The evening consists of informal dining and conversation. The event will begin with a cocktail reception in the Hogan Campus Center at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 and big-screen viewing of the Holy Cross - Georgetown basketball game at 7:30. All members of the College community are invited to a get-together following the basketball game in the same informal atmosphere.

Ron Williams, a member of the Student Personnel Policies Committee and organizer of the Bishop Healy Dinner, said, "Hopefully, this will be the start of the solution to racial problems at Holy Cross."

"If the administration would put forward equal effort instead of employing token gestures in the name of race of relations, we could really be on the road to success," said Williams.

There were 70 students, 60 alumni, and 60 faculty members and administrators invited to the dinner.

All final decisions on who was invited were made by Williams. He said he did take suggestions from a few faculty members and administrators. Williams said he knew almost every student who was invited.

"I invited students to attend the dinner who I thought like the school and will talk openly about it," Williams added, "I did not want them to be blinded by their love for the College."

Williams said some students were upset that they were not invited. "This probably was not the most just system of selection but we had a time limit," said Williams.

The total cost of holding the Bishop Healy dinner is approximately \$1,000, according to Williams.

SGA Chairperson Charlie Cousins had no comment on how he planned to pay for the dinner.

Cousins said, "I wish to encourage the College to pursue the goals of anti-discrimination more actively and hope that we students will continue these pursuits ourselves."

John McDonald '42, a practicing doctor in Needham, is the chairman of the Bishop Healy Committee. He founded the committee two years ago.

This year's dinner is the culmination of the committee member's search for ways to improve the racial situation at Holy Cross, according to Williams.

The purpose of the event is to provide a forum whereby students, with the support and direction of alumni, can seek new areas of understanding and development in the field of race relations, said Williams.

"We can appreciate the fact that for many blacks at the College today it isn't as easy to feel the same way," said McDonald.

"We need to be assured that there are ways in which minorities can feel comfortable..." McDonald continued, "The Bishop Healy Dinner is definitely a step towards the fulfillment of these hopes."

Williams said that the presence of blacks is a very essential part of the college learning process. He said, "You can't learn if you grow up in a plastic world because it is not an all-white world."

## Bishop Healy Committee

### Statement of Purpose

The Bishop Healy Committee was formed to discover and implement means whereby alumni might participate in the effort to foster inter-racial communication, sociability, and friendship within the Holy Cross community.

Seven meetings of this committee have been held at Hogan Campus Center since Sept. 9, 1978; and much discussion has taken place among the committee members, and also with members of the faculty and administration, and student body, including the Presidents of the Student Government Association and the Black Student Union.

The Bishop Healy Dinner, held at Hogan on Feb. 24, is an example of the kind of activity that this committee hopes to sponsor. The editorial comment taken from The Crusader, and submitted with this statement, expresses very effectively the style and substance of that event. The Crusader editor, Miss Diane Manning wrote, "Possibly the best part of the whole evening was the fact that it actually occurred, and that someone is trying to do something."

An outcome of the Healy Dinner has been the founding of a new student organization, The Bishop Healy Society. Officers have been elected ( chairperson is Miss Valerie Curtis '81, who is also vice-president elect of the Black Student Union ); and an agenda of monthly events is being formulated.

From the beginning, the members of the Healy Committee have tried very hard to make this a noble effort, and to avoid anything that might be counter-productive. We asked Fr. Harman, vice-president of the college, if some official of the college could attend committee meetings, and since October, Frank Delaney, Director of Financial Aid, has been an

active participant in every meeting.

Also, early on, it was the wish of the committee members that official endorsement of this effort by the GAA be sought. Not only will formal recognition lend visibility and credibility to this endeavor, but, hopefully, it will provide the potential for broad support that other programs sponsored by the GAA enjoy.

Once endorsed, the Healy Committee would prefer to develop its program through the medium of existing permanent GAA committees. In this way, the general body and its various committee spokesmen can have input into the style and substance of the Healy Committee effort.

Five permanent committees, in particular, could easily become the vehicles for implementing Healy proposals; regional clubs, young alumni, continuing education, admissions counseling, and athletic council. Members of these committees should be members of the Healy Committee, and could have input into the development of proposed activities. In this way, the Healy group can acquire a keener sense of what can be done. Once a certain level of accomplishment has been achieved, it is expected that a Healy Committee will no longer be essential.

June 1979

Admissions Counseling and Book Prize (Cont.)

Exec. Comm.  
meeting 9/22/79

Taunton High School, Taunton, Mass.  
Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, New Jersey

Schools who have not responded to any request for recipients' names:

Belen Jesuit High School, Miami, Florida  
Bishop Moore High School, Orlando, Florida  
Amity Regional High School, Woodville, Conn.

The Admissions Office has completed an inventory of the remaining dictionaries in stock. There are presently 216 books on hand and to date, there will be 139 books sent out in 1980."

BISHOP HEALY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. John McDonald announced that George Cahill will be the executive committee's liaison to the Bishop Healy Committee. He then read the goals and objectives for his committee as follows:

- "1. To evidence the interest of the General Alumni Association in the well-being and success of the minority components of the student body and of the alumni/alumnae.
2. To allow for increased positive inter-action among the alumni/alumnae, the students and their parents.
3. To sponsor and encourage a scheduled agenda of events, which will allow for the development of greater understanding among all concerned and which will lend identification to the purpose of the General Alumni Association to take a leadership role in the establishment of this sense of rapport."

Dr. McDonald expressed his hopes for the future of this committee:

They will attempt to encourage the chairmen of other existing committees to include goals of the Bishop Healy Committee within the objectives of their future plans by (1) requesting a presentation at the November 3rd meeting of the Regional Clubs Association, (2) consulting with the Continuing Education Committee to suggest the development of a sequence dedicated to the study of Bishop Healy and His Times (3) to continue the successful work with the Book Prize Committee to sponsor prizes at minority schools and (4) recruiting of minority students through the Admissions Counseling Committee. The committee hopes to plan an event in April 1980 commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Healy.

Dr. McDonald suggested that a complete roster of minority students who fall into their club areas be given to regional

133 South St.  
Needham, Mass.  
Nov. 25, 1979

Dear Lou,

Once more, I want to thank you, and the directors of the Holy Cross Boston Club, for your response to my presentation last Tuesday.

I believe that I gave you the lists of names and addresses of black students and alumni/ae, in the Boston area, and, included with this letter, is a copy of a statement of the goals and objectives of the Bishop Healy Committee. The whole purpose of my remarks was to ask you to consider those goals and objectives, as they can be made to relate to the students and graduates named in those lists.

To summarize my presentation, and to answer the question that you directed to me at the close of the meeting -

The Healy Committee asks the Boston Club directors to engage in thoughtful discussion of what the Boston Club can do to include the goals of the Healy effort in the club's annual program.

Hopefully, you will feel that black students and graduates in the Greater Boston area can be included in your discussions; indeed, such encounter, of itself, could prove to be an enlightening and rewarding experience - rewarding, especially, in the potential for enhancing alumni loyalty, and involvement with regional club activities.

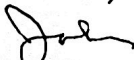
It's up to you to decide what you choose to do. If the selection of an appropriate event appears difficult, we would like to talk with you more about the Bishop Healy and his Times sequence that we are attempting to create, through the help of Prof. Lawlor, head of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Program, at the college.

If our efforts materialize, we feel that we can provide an interesting program, featuring particulars of the life of Holy Cross' distinguished first graduate, projected against the background of early history of Holy Cross, and of the Boston archdiocese.

At the very least, what you do decide, and whom among you is interested in this endeavor, are items of follow-up that we hope you will communicate to us.

Thanks again for your cooperation.

God bless,

  
John McDonald M.D. '42





# BISHOP HEALY SOCIETY

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, WORCESTER, MA 01610

Sept. 10, 1980

Dear Friend,

This letter is to inform you of this year's goals and events. The executive committee has been working hard since last June to make this year a good one which will benefit all members socially, spiritually and intellectually. Since you expressed interest at one time in joining the society, I hope that you will decide to stay on our membership list and encourage your friends to join. You may even want to pass this letter along to someone.

Our goals for this year include the social and intellectual growth of members in relation to the topic of inter-personal relationships. We focus on racial relations because it is an area which permeates our lives and will continue to do so as we enter new environments after graduation. By exploring the many aspects of race relations (i.e. stereotypes, racism, prejudice), we hope to become well-informed Christians who are more capable of serving and relating to others. That is our ultimate goal.

This year, we will be turning to outside sources for information (one speaker and a panel discussion throughout the course of the yr.) but will also be learning from each other as we engage in discussion groups (one each semester on a voluntary sign-up basis, meeting every other week). We will also have some social events, our first being a tailgate party on Nov. 8th with the alumni BH Society (more news to come). As the Society grows we can provide more events in the future years--so you can be sure there is plenty of room for new ideas and creative programs. Second semester, we hope to include an artistic event, perhaps with original poetry or drama followed by discussion. If you remain a member you will be informed of all events, and welcome to participate in the planning of them.

We are fortunate to have with us an Alumni Bishop Healy Soc. with goals similar to ours. They will be attending as many functions as they can and I hope that everyone will have a chance to meet them all. They will also be helping out with events and planning a few different ones (a cultural trip to Boston, for example). We will also be encouraging the faculty, staff and Jesuit Community to join us at events. We feel that the whole H.C. community can benefit from this organization. Our faculty moderator is Dr. Ogretta McNeil of the Psych. Dept.

I'm sure that you have many things to do, so I will end by inviting you to our first meeting on Sept. 23, Tues. night, at 7:00 in Hogan 403 (check the board in Hogan). I hope you can join us for this short meeting to sign up or help plan events. If you can't make it, please send your name, PO and phone # to me at P.O. 915 so I can get you on our mailing list. Thank you for your time and your concern, and I hope to see you on the 23rd.

*Amy Lehner '81*

Chairperson, Bishop Healy Society



## BISHOP HEALY SOCIETY

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, WORCESTER, MA 01610

On Tuesday night at 7:00, Sept. 23rd, the BHS held its first general meeting of the semester in Hogan room 403. About 25 students attended.

- I. After introductions of the Executive Board, Amy Lechner, Lisa Bender and Carol Oppelt briefly stated some of their personal expectations of the Society and reasons for joining it, in order to familiarize members with themselves and provide a basis for later discussion, as well as inform members of the society's goals in general. Ideas which came up were: the desire to learn from and communicate with students from races and cultures other than their own--and the importance of such experiences in one's education, the desire to learn about racism and ways of preventing it, the need to break down the barriers of communication and expression on this campus, and the Christian desire to see all students accepted on the basis of their individual merits.
- II. Bernadette Semple presented an overview of this semester's future events...
  - A. Nov. 8th - Tailgate Social with Alumni BHS at the UMASS game. Invites to go out soon.
  - B. Discussion Groups - Formal discussion group will be coordinated by Lisa Bender and will meet every other week. Topics of discussion will vary, to be decided by group. The success and productivity of this group will determine the need to start another one (to be run simultaneously). Informal groups will be coordinated by Carol Oppelt. They will consist of six people and will meet at times and convenient for participants in an informal atmosphere.
  - C. Newsletter - A newsletter committee will put together a one page letter once or twice a semester. Included in the letter will be personal reflections, editorials, poetry, BHS events, cultural events, or whatever else the staff comes up with (material can be solicited from all members).
  - D. The idea of a Panel Discussion was presented as a first big event, focusing on the racial problems at Holy Cross and ways of solving them. A committee will work on this idea and develop some kind of program for mid-November, to which faculty, students and alumni would be invited.
- III. A short discussion followed where members expressed their ideas about racism and prejudice and their suggestions as to where the BHS should take us. The suggestion of better publicity for meetings and events was proposed, and the need to come out in the open in regard to racial issues through the Crusader (the need for all students to express their concerns).
- IV. The meeting officially adjourned at 7:45. The discussion resumed over refreshments and members got a chance to meet one another. Sign-ups for the discussion groups and newsletter were successful, as well as the committee for the first event.

Report of the Bishop Healy Committee to the Board of Directors  
of  
the General Alumni Association of Holy Cross  
February 28, 1981

On Saturday, November 8, the day of the U. Mass football game, a tail-gate party was held, in conjunction with the student Bishop Healy Society. Those who attended made the most of this opportunity to meet the students who are supportive of the Healy effort. We agree that this should become an annual event.

Hogan Ballroom, on Friday evening, November 14, was the scene of another notable event. Mr. Gil Noble, a television director with WABC News in NYC, presented a film-lecture program, sponsored jointly by the Black Student Union and the student Healy Society.


My wife and I attended and enjoyed Mr. Noble's excellent presentation. It was gratifying to feel that perhaps some small part of this co-sponsored student gathering was related to efforts of the Bishop Healy Committee.

The latest word that I have from the students is that an International Festival in March, co-sponsored with the Modern Language Dept., and a lecture, co-sponsored with the women's organization are in the planning stages.

Lest you are concerned that there has been no alumni activity to report, on Sunday, January 18, Boston area members of the Healy Committee held a reception at the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, in Roxbury. On exhibit was the work of Kofi Kayiga, Jamaican artist, presently Visiting Professor of Art, and Artist-in-Residence at Holy Cross.

Black alumni/ae, black students, and prospective black students known to the admissions office were invited. Also invited were directors of the Holy Cross Boston Club, and directors of the GAA and members of the Healy Committee from the Boston area. This event was held on the last weekend of mid-semester vacation. It was well attended, and well received, and gave us much encouragement to continue this kind of approach to future Healy program planning.

Respectfully submitted,



John McDonald M.D. '42  
Chairman, Bishop Healy Committee

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49 WALPOLE ST.  
NORWOOD, MASS. 02062  
762-5595

Oct. 4, 1980

I've arrived at that stage in the passage of time when most every day provides multiple opportunities for reminiscence. Today, I'd like to take a minute or two to acknowledge Bud Ryan in his new role as GAA President, to congratulate him, wish him success, and to pledge my support.

Bud first came to Holy Cross in 1937 and I arrived a year later. I think that he must have been one of the first upperclassmen with whom I became well acquainted. He was among those who warmly welcomed me into the Purple Key in my freshman year, and for many years it has been a most natural thing for me to associate Bud with the earliest and best memories that I have of Holy Cross.

For me, Bud has been a significant part of my Holy Cross experience, an experience not unlike that which everyone else here has can remember. It's those memories that make each return visit to Holy Cross a homecoming, and which are the foundation of the assurance that Fr. Brooks can have that this new drive will succeed. It is these same memories that moved ~~xxxxxx~~<sup>s</sup> us to proceed as far as we can with the Bishop Healy effort.

At our last meeting in June, I told you about the study of race relations at Harvard, published in May. I have read the 137 page printed report, and I've met and talked with Dean Archie Epps, chairman of the Study Committee. The study documents much helpful information.

Here are several excerpts from that report: "The issue that clearly rankled whites the most was their perception that blacks at Harvard were being separatist; that they tended to segregate themselves

2

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from interacting with whites. " ----- "A very serious problem is the doubts about the academic ability of minorities." --- "One of our central concerns in this study was the extent to which whites and minorities perceived their environment as secure and comfortable, the degree to which they felt "at home" at Harvard." ---- This statement especially interested me, "We recommend that the Dean of Admissions undertake a study to determine why the percentage of students who are admitted to Harvard but who decide to enroll elsewhere is higher for minorities than for whites." --- And the final sentence in the report, "We hope that this report has made everyone more conscious of the existence and complexity of this issue, and that individual students of all races and ethnic groups will make an increased effort to get to know each other and to improve the College's racial atmosphere."

From my study of this report, <sup>from</sup> my conversations with Dean Epps at Harvard, with Chaplain Cheryl Giles of the Intercultural Awareness Forum at Boston college, with Chaplain Darryl Snaw of Racial Awareness Cultural Exchange at Brown, and from the little of know about I CAN, Inter-cultural Awareness Now, at Wellesley College, it is clear that there is nothing unique in the efforts of the Healy Committee, except that, to the best of my knowledge, we are the only alumni sponsored effort of this kind.

There is much more that we would like to share with you. The same problem areas cited in the Harvard report highlight the information that we have learned at Holy Cross. Alumni and students <sup>have</sup> are concerned about perceptions of black separatism and ~~divisive~~ lenient admission policy. But as someone, I think it was Mme de Staël once said, "Tout comprendre, c'est tout pardonner," (with understanding, everything can be forgiven,) and with the social interaction that we are trying to

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foster, an important ~~for~~ condition for developing that kind of understanding will have been met.

The more one makes the effort to meet and talk with these young people, the more one understands what is involved with what is perceived as separatism; and as the quality of this interaction is enhanced, the more the need for separatist solidarity is diminished. And with regard to the issue of academic qualifications, this same interaction provides a much more equitable<sup>t</sup> setting for appraisal of the aptitudes and gifts which these young people bring to this community.

The Healy dinner of February 1979 and the Healy 150th birthday celebration last March were held to express a commitment to this cause, to provide a setting for social interaction, and to make this effort known to others who might want to participate. We hoped that the regional clubs might consider some appropriate ways of cooperating, and I<sup>have</sup> made presentations to the general meeting of the Regional Clubs Association,<sup>+</sup> a meeting of the directors of the Boston Club, and to a luncheon meeting of the Worcester Club.

Today I would like<sup>+</sup> make special appeal to the leadership of the NYC and Greater NY Club, the New Jersey Club, and repeat my appeal to the Greater Boston Club. Here are some statistics that will interest you.

This data was made available to me in Oct. 1979. At that time 11 blacks were listed among the seniors, 6 from NY state, 3 from NJ, and 2 from Mass. In the present freshman class, there are 27 blacks, 8 from NY state, 4 from NJ, 3 each from Mass, Conn, and D.C., and 1 from each of 6 different states.

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Most of my data is now a year old, and on the basis of that data, there are presently 117 black<sup>s</sup> at Holy Cross, 27 frosh, 38 sophs, 42 juniors, and 10 seniors. 36 are from NY state, 24 from Mass, and 20 from ~~NJ~~ NJ, a total of 80 from 3 states. At least 22 of the 36 from NY state are from the NYC area, and 14 of the 24 from Mass are from Greater Boston.

There are 8 from Conn, 6 from DC, 4 from Pa, 2 from each of 5 states, and 1 from each of 9 states. I have copies of lists of names and addresses of all these students, and I hope that those of you who are leader-ship people of the NYC, NJ, and Boston Clubs will speak to me after this meeting. I have a copy for each of those 3 clubs. We might also talk about what you might want to do to help the Healy effort.

We also have black alumni lists available, but they are incomplete and in many cases inaccurate, and Arthur Martin has offered to work on them and update them, so we will have better info in the future.

One final item. This year the student Bishop Healy Society gives promise of becoming a successful student organization. Under the enthusiastic leadership of miss Amy Lechner '81, a membership of about 90 students has joined, meetings of the executive board have been held, and the first event, a tail-gate social before the Nov. 8 U. Mas game, has been planned.

The program includes discussion groups to meet every other week, and a panel discussion in Nov. The students are in touch with Chaplain Darryl Smaw of Racial Awareness Communication Exchange at Brown, who assisted the people at B.C. and at Wellesley College in setting up their intercultural programs.

Bishop Healy Committee Report - October 10, 1981

There will be no BLUES sung in my report this morning!

On the contrary, some very encouraging developments have occurred. During the summer, Judge Santaniello informed me that he had made five new appointments to the Healy Committee, Arthur Martin '70 (co-chairman), Jim Longley '74, Fr. Tom Sullivan '71, Maureen Pratt '81, and Stephen Anderson '75. All except Stephen Anderson have responded, <sup>thus far</sup> and we look forward to the interest, support and assistance which these new members will provide.

We felt that there would be too much going on to have a good turnout today, and notice will be sent by mail of the next Healy Committee <sup>meeting</sup> here (? Oct. 21 or Nov. 14).

An important event took place at the GAA exec. comm. meeting on Sept. 12. Miss Lisa Bender '82, chairperson of the student Healy Society, attended, and spoke very effectively in behalf of the student organization. The response that Lisa received from those in attendance was very gratifying, and we look for very helpful follow-up, as a result of her excellent presentation.

Lisa phoned me this week, and informed me that she and the student Healy Society exec. comm. had an interview with Fr. Brooks last week, and they were encouraged by his expression of interest and support.

Lisa called mainly to ask me to inform you that this year's Healy tail-gate party will take place near the H.C. dugout on the baseball field before the Colgate game on Nov. 14, and hopefully, many of you will drop by.

The first Healy Committee <sup>meeting</sup> of this year, held on Sept. 12, after the B.U. game, was also a source of much encouragement. Frank Doherty '53 and Dr. Bill Tosches '67 are members of the Worcester Club, and they plan to request a follow-up presentation to the talk that I gave to the Worcester Club luncheon group in April 1980. It was decided that a discussion of the goals and activities of the student Healy Society, presented by Lisa Bender and her co-chairperson, Mary Diaz '82, would make an interesting program.

Also, there was unanimous agreement that an appropriate article about the Healy effort should be prepared for publication in Crossroads. It would be most helpful, if this morning's meeting could be the source of some direction to follow in pursuit of this idea. Other than to mention the Healy Committee in connection with the Healy birthday event in March 1980, Crossroads has not



yet given any attention to the Healy Committee effort. An article in some future issue would be very helpful in our efforts to involve as many as possible in this program.

Walter Roy '72 has suggested that the Healy Committee sponsor a reunion of black graduates, for a celebration similar to what might be planned for the women's reunion. Blacks return to GAA events and to events planned by the BSU for Black WEEK, but another special kind of gathering might be worthy of consideration.

I have asked Frank Delaney, Dir. of Financial Aid (the college's representative on the Healy Committee), to prepare for me an update list of names and addresses of black students and graduates, and I intend to break these down into separate lists based on geographical distribution, so that each regional club will know which black students and graduates live in each club's area. Perhaps Mary Dacey or Dan Bradley, with whom I have been in touch recently, can make these lists available to the club directors on the occasion of the meeting of the Regional Clubs Association on Oct. 31, and perhaps either of them can <sup>express</sup> their views of what regional club directors might consider in terms of fostering more black alumni/ae involvement with club activities.

Professor Ogretta McNeil (Psychology Dept.) is faculty advisor to black students. She has been present at several Healy Committee meetings for the past two years, and she recently sent me a copy of her welcoming remarks to the new freshmen. Of special note was her mention of the Older Friend program, wherein each black student will receive a dinner invitation to the home of a faculty or staff member twice each semester. I asked Prof. McNeil if my wife and I might be included among the older friends participating in this great idea.


She also informed me that there are 19 blacks in the class of '85, of whom only 5 are women. Considering that perhaps at least 6 of the 19 are male athletes, that means that only 13 blacks came here without the special inducement of an athletic grant. Considering that the availability of aid will be an even greater problem next year, one might wonder if black athletes on full aid might be the only blacks at Holy Cross, in a few years! And if there are no black women here, will the black men choose <sup>Holy Cross</sup> ~~to attend here?~~

I most sincerely hope that all that can be done, will be done to assure Holy Cross the fulfillment of its proper role in educating young black

men and women; and, hopefully, this Bishop Healy effort can be a helpful factor in revealing to black pre-freshmen that Holy Cross is a loving, caring community.

I want to close this report with sincere expression of thanks to Judge Santaniello, and to the several members of the executive committee who made special effort to make their interest and support known to me at the close of the September 12 meeting. Be assured that an effort of this kind would never have been attempted without the conviction that there is a lot of love in this old place!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John McDonald".

John McDonald '42

Chairman, Bishop Healy Committee

October 10, 1981

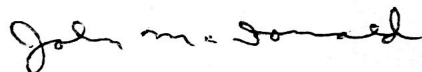
Sunday  
November 1, 1981

The next meeting of the Bishop Healy Committee will be held on Saturday, November 14, in Hogan Campus Center, shortly after the close of the football game with Colgate. Look for the meeting room number posted on the events panel in Hogan lobby.

A student Healy Society tail-gate picnic will begin at 11:30am near the Holy Cross dugout on the baseball field. In the event of foul weather, the alternate site will be in lower Carlin.

Hopefully, all those interested in the Bishop Healy effort, will make every possible attempt to attend . Your presence at these events is a helpful sign of interest and support.

God bless,



John McDonald '42

Chairman, Bishop Healy Committee

Sunday, November 1, 1981

During the winter of 1976-77, there were indications of discontent among the black students at Holy Cross, and, I believe, they requested and were granted opportunity to be heard by the board of trustees.

The freshman class that entered Holy Cross in September '76 numbered only 11 blacks, and the small enrollment of blacks, generally, was a major item of concern.

At the time, my son, John '77, was a senior, and I asked him to arrange a meeting for me with a few of his black friends, which he did, and that meeting took place in Worcester, around March '77.

Among those who attended was Wendy Pilgrim '77, who became an officer for the admissions office, immediately following graduation.

The meeting was most helpful to me, because it assured me that the black students did like Holy Cross, despite their problems there, and they wanted mainly to enhance what could be done to increase their numbers there. In an effort to make their sentiments known to others, I invited these same young people to my home in May '77, where we met with Paul Saint, George Cahill, and Barry McDonough (who was about to become GAA President).

Then, in September '77 along came Fr. Brooks' letter on racism. In an issue of the Crusader, I read of a seminar, chaired by Prof. Matt Toth, and I was struck by a statement in the report that racial problems at Holy Cross should be addressed by students, faculty, and administration. It occurred to me that perhaps even the alumni had an appropriate role to play, so I wrote to Matt Toth, and renewed my contacts with Wendy Pilgrim (who by then was an admissions officer), and with Barry McDonough, GAA Pres.

At first I discussed with Barry the possibility of raising the question at the GAA meeting in October '77 or January '78. He asked me to be satisfied with presenting my views at a meeting of the Young Alumni Committee in <sup>Oct '77</sup> ~~January '78~~, which I did, but dissatisfied with that meeting, I went ahead, with much help from Wendy, to arrange a meeting in Loyola, in February '78, that included Fr. Harmon, Fr. Manning, Matt Toth, Paul Saint, Barry McDonough,

John Kershaw, Wendy Pilgrim, two black students (one of whom was BSU chairman), and myself.

The question we discussed, was whether alumni had some appropriate role in helping to make Holy Cross a more comfortable environment for blacks. There was little, if any, opinion offered to support my view that we do have some role, and the meeting was concluded with an expression of support for Fr Manning's suggestion that I compose and submit to Crossroads, a letter stating my feelings about this issue, and requesting response from those who might care to join me in some kind of informal, unofficial endeavor.

The letter appeared in May- June '78 issue. I received letters from Jack Beakey, Charley Kickham '23, Lou Shine '42 ( my classmate, a former Paulist and Trappist - an interesting guy whom I'll tell you about some time), Jack McCarthy '43, John Gleason '37, and Bob Cousy.

As you can readily see from a reading of the letter, I did not choose to make this an obvious effort to deal with racism. Instead, I was, and still am trying simply to consider the feelings of young blacks at Holy Cross, within the context of my own pleasant memories of those happy days amid that most supportive environment. It seems to me that this is an experience that we should be most willing to make possible for others, in every way that we can.

I notified the respondents of a meeting, Saturday, Sept. 5, 1978, and approached it with the hope that a small group of individuals might be formed, interested in developing one-On-One relationships with black students and alumni/ae. Jack Beakey felt that this kind of an endeavor ought to become an official GAA function, and John Gleason suggested that we seek especially to involve alumni who are parents of current Holy Cross students.

Thus, we started down the road that ultimately led to official GAA recognition, in June 1979. We were helped greatly by the efforts of Charley Cousins '79 and Ron Williams '79. They planned the successful Bishop Healy dinner (Feb. 24, 1979), and that led to the awareness on the part of the students which was responsible for the origin of the student Healy Society.

I am including with this commentary, copies of things I have written on several occasions, which perhaps give some idea of what we are trying to accomplish, and what motivates this effort. Interaction between white and

black is the name of the game. The programs that we conceive provide the setting and the occasion for the encounter that hopefully will lead to communication, sociability, understanding, and friendship that ultimately will result in many, many cases.

I am convinced that if we could develop this <sup>program</sup> ~~effort~~ to a point where it is undeniably obvious that Holy Cross is making a special effort of this kind, word will get around, and we will see more and more highly qualified young blacks seeking admission there.

Lisa Bender spoke of the "Holy Cross difference", and I guess perhaps each of us has his own idea of what that difference entails. Hopefully, to the young black who can make his choice of the academically best schools, Holy Cross can ultimately be perceived as different in the extent to which effort is being made to create an environment supportive of each individual's quest for personal growth. I'm sure that this is what is intended at Holy Cross, and I believe that it is our role to help see to it that Holy Cross is perceived in that way, especially by those who are burdened by a social and economic support system unequal to that of others.

There is perhaps a good deal of the impossible dream in my hopes for the Bishop Healy effort. But when I think of James Healy, and his brothers Sherwood, Patrick and Michael - all of whom would have been slaves, if their father had not ignored Georgia law and sent them north to Holy Cross - I'm encouraged to keep on trying to see where the limits of possible actually are.

The opportunity to meet the young black students and alumni/ae that this activity has afforded me, has been a wonderfully enriching experience which others, once engaged, will also acknowledge. I hope that we can find the ways to articulate, and effectively convey a sense of the very great merit of an effort such as this.

A PROPOSAL TO FOSTER INTER-RACIAL INTERACTION WITHIN THE  
HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY

1. Let every regional alumni club, under the general direction of the Regional Clubs Association, submit names of alumni/ae who profess interest in the project to be developed.
2. Let these names be submitted to the Admissions Counseling Committee, and let that committee and representatives of the Admissions Office select alumni/ae, black and white, who will be given the privilege of participating in admissions recruitment.
3. Let teams of recruiters, 2,3 or 4 to a team, be formed within each regional club's area, with the number of teams to be determined by what is appropriate for that area.
4. Let the Continuing Education Committee, working with the Bishop Nealy Committee and representatives of the Admissions Office, develop a program to train the recruiters in their work, covering all the possibilities for learning and for social interaction with everyone involved that very special effort and creative planning can provide..

Discussion of above Plan

With regard to black students at Holy Cross, two observations stand out: there are few blacks enrolled, about 5%; the interaction of whites with blacks is limited.

The Admissions Office states simply that few blacks apply to Holy Cross. It is likely that the applicants who qualify for admission also qualify for other highly regarded colleges. Holy Cross is, therefore, engaged in a competitive exercise in an area in which it has little tradition and experience.

In my judgment, the most has yet to be made of the ideas and the

It appears that the achievement of black presence at Holy Cross requires high priority effort, including resources available in the alumni/ae. This is especially true, considering that we are interested not only in black presence, but in the presence of black students qualified to deal with the academic AND social strains that Holy Cross will put on them.

The proposal submitted hereentails the opportunity to consolidate what forces we have, and also provides the conditions that will foster the interaction that is essential. Black and white, men and women, working together to recruit applicants will get to know each other, to know the applicants, and will know those who become students and later on will become graduates.

They will also learn what blacks know about Holy Cross, and how they perceive Holy Cross, and why some choose and others do not choose to attend. This will be an important learning experience. In the long run, it will contribute greatly to the advantage of Holy Cross!

The programs that the Continuing Ed aspect of this proposal can ~~develop~~ develop can address the various questions and issues that the entire scope of interaction involved in the recruiting action will entail, and an exciting new way of growing and of relating to others within and outside the college community will be created.

The view that the Dean of Admissions takes of this proposal is the key to what will become of it. I hope that he sees some value in this idea, and will develop it according to his understanding of this issue.



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February 15, 1982

Dear Angelo,

I was delighted to learn that you had decided on a new date for the Healy Committee discussion. Every effort should now be made to assure the turn-out that it appears that we would have had in January.

Enclosed is a list of the names and addresses of the black graduates who had been informed of the initial date. Should I send a letter to each, and follow up with a call? Have any already been informed of the April date?

With your permission, I would like to receive from Pat's office a list of names of those, besides exec committee members, who received the recent mailing. Besides my own contact with the invited blacks by mail and phone, a brief note from you would be an immense help, especially if it came as a reminder around April 3.

Also enclosed is a statement of a proposal which I submit for your consideration. You will note that <sup>it</sup> provides for a new activity or program which is directed at an acknowledged need (more applications from black pre-freshmen) and at the same time creates the setting for interaction and for access to black points of view; and it is all structured within the form that the GAA organization provides.

I am very anxious to hear your comments. My concern is not that it is not a good idea, but whether it will clash with Jim Halpin's view of how best to conduct the business of his office. Applications from qualified white students is a solid item at Holy Cross, in part a tribute to the decision to go co-ed. Admissions is a closely held operation, and we must be willing to acknowledge Jim's concern that this proposal might cause more problems than good results, which is much the <sup>same</sup> response that the GAA gave to the Healy idea

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Please reply as soon as your time allows. I feel that this proposal comes as close to the program that the directors have been seeking from me that might be conceived. Indeed, it also addresses the issue of alumni involvement with students which Pat raised in his report which called attention to new areas of GAA activity.

This idea creates an activity that that will provide a lot of interaction, and many opportunities for learning new insights into the issue at hand. This could put the Healy effort in a groove that will ensure continued interest and effort.

Thanks again, many times for the hope that this meeting provides.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name 'John', located below the typed text 'God bless,'.

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SPECIAL MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GAA  
HOGAN CAMPUS CENTER  
APRIL 17, 1982

Considering the nature of this college, it seems reasonable to ask that a special effort be made to examine closely what being black at Holy Cross entails. This is what the Bishop Healy Committee asks of this community - what the eyes do not see, the heart cannot feel !

As chairman of the Healy Committee, I submit the following suggestions for consideration :

(1) Likely an effort will be made to encourage black students and graduates to become more active in the recruitment of black students. Let the best possible effort also be made to make it understood, at all levels here, that the cultivation of a sensitive integrated community can be the most effective factor in attracting admission applications from young black men and women.

(2) Let the admissions office, the SGA and the GAA participate in the formation and training of admission recruitment teams, composed of students and alumni/ae who will work in designated areas. These Holy Cross men and women, black and white, students and graduates can participate in programs structured to inform them, and their social interaction, in this work, should provide advantageous results.

(3) Financial aid is a critical issue. It is likely that many alumni could help provide access to student employment opportunities during summer vacation and semester break in December and January. We see this as an area of potential assistance and interaction that should be explored.

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(4) Many very good students are enrolled at black colleges. Has the idea of an exchange program between Holy Cross and any of those colleges ever been discussed? We suggest that possibilities in this area be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

*John M. Jordan '42*

Chairman, Bishop Healy Committee

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April 25, 1982

To the Editor  
The Crusader  
Holy Cross College  
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Sir,

On Saturday, April 24, my wife, Jane, and I attended the seminar on the Holy Cross Difference, presented by the Continuing Education Committee of the General Alumni Association.

Fr. Manning discoursed on the distinctiveness and the many splendid things that the Jesuit presence provides. Jim Halpin reviewed the Admissions process, and Matt Toth gave data on profiles of freshmen from various entering classes, with special attention to particulars, such as family and peer independence, liberalism, social conscience, cultural sophistication, etc.

Fr. Schroth presented his view of what makes Holy Cross special, and Ogretta McNeil discussed what being black at this college entails.

All three members of a student panel, when asked to comment on the positive and negative aspects of student life, attested to numerous advantages inherent in the Holy Cross experience; all three unhesitatingly cited poor inter-racial relationships as the most negative part of this experience.

It was the perception of this inappropriate and incongruous malady that led to the formation of the Bishop Healy Committee, and the Bishop Healy Society. The April 24 seminar sharpens the focus of that perception, and releases the adrenalin for renewal of commitment!

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It is sad, even to consider, that racist culture in America has, perhaps, so immobilized the Catholic Church, the Society of Jesus, and the Holy Cross College community, that effective leadership directed toward the resolution of this problem cannot be expected from those sources.

We applaud the initiatives that have been taken in involving the EPC in discussions of issues relating to minority students, and we look forward, with hope, to sustained efforts toward better understanding of these issues, on the part of all members of the Holy Cross family.

God bless,

*John McDonald '42*

John McDonald, M.D. '42

Chairman, Bishop Healy Committee

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February 13, 1997

Dear Fr. Brooks,

Please excuse my continuing use of office stationery for personal correspondence. I'm attempting to be considerate of others when I choose to type - rather than resort to my prescription longhand - and the quality of this paper permits easy erasure of my frequent errors.

Margaret Post has assured me that she told you about the conversation I had with her about your acceptance of Jack Geherin's invitation to participate in our Class of '42 reunion event in June. We are delighted that you will be with us, and Frank Sullivan and I are looking forward to visiting you for the discussion that appropriate planning will require.

These annual reunions that my class has chosen to have since our 50th have been the main form of my relating to Holy Cross in the most recent years past. The athletic program no longer holds any of my interest. For some time I've gone about creating my own preferred ways of connecting with the dear old place.

The departure of John Esposito and Ed Callahan was a source of great disappointment. I used to sit in on one of their classes once in a while; and of course the failure of the Bishop Healy effort to join with others in access to opportunities to help our black students and alumni/ae feel more at home at Holy Cross has been a most discouraging experience.

I have taken note of Fr. Reedy's professed intent to double the diversity enrollment, and in the wake of an invitation to provide some Healy Committee background at a meeting of Donal Burns' Strategic Planning Committee, I have been a participant in the meetings of the committee chaired by Rick Peirce, which Don felt was important for the further reflection and discussion required in order to best decide what future there may be for a Healy Committee. The coincidence of the availability of some of the data from John Becker's focus meetings with black graduates has been a fortunate development with regard to the potential effectiveness of Rick's ad hoc committee.

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With regard to the current <sup>black</sup> experience at the college, after the very nice luncheon for those of us planning the Class of '42 reunion in June, Margaret Post had seats for us for the matinee performance of Guys and Dolls. It was very well done. I also noted that there were no black students in the cast, and I don't remember seeing any in the audience. I had to wonder if the theme of the play excluded black performers, or do any black students participate in A.C.T.

This recent experience, reinforced by an hour of listening to a discussion of gospel music on Chris Lydon's radio show this morning, inclines me to ask whatever happened to the student Gospel Ensemble that performed under the direction of Valerie Curtis at the Healy 150th birthday celebration in March, 1980. If that student activity doesn't still exist, might some thought be given to starting it again, and thus give our black students a program that could address a number of our needs and difficulties.

I'd like to talk more about this when I see you. Thanks for promising Jack that you will do your best to draw Frank Sullivan and me away from heresy. That's a promise we want you to keep!

Will make a date to see you in Worcester soon.

God bless,

