

Up Front-

If your heart is set on painting the St. Ambrose statue in honor of St. Patrick's Day, you probably won't get the chance again (legally). Sorry, tradition-lovers.

The statue, which was damaged in an accident Nov. 16, 1985, will be replaced within a year, said Dr. Edward Rogalski, vice president for administration and college relations.

Rogalski is also head of the Statue Committee, organized to replace the statue.

The committee has raised more than \$10,000. Its goal is to raise \$35,000. Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream Parlors in the Iowa Quad Cities, which donated \$2 for each large pizza and \$1 for each medium pizza sold Dec. 2-4, have contributed \$1,400 to the replacement fund.

Rogalski said most contributions came in shortly after the statue was damaged. He said the average contribution was \$10.

Rogalski said, "We have an expectation of a significant contribution that will go a long ways towards meeting the goal remainder."

He said the new statue will be bronze. "It will be a more legitimate version of St. Ambrose. It won't be a 'generic saint.'"

The estimated cost, with provisions for security and landscaping, will be about \$25,000.

The college is now contracting artists to design the new statue.

"We would like to put the new statue in a park-like setting. We will have better control systems to handle vandalism," said Rogalski.

He said the college does not want to see the new statue painted or vandalized. "I don't want to see those things happen, but I can't speculate on human nature."

The old statue will be repaired. The committee suggested its remains be displayed in the Hayes Hall courtyard.

"I think if there was anything positive that came out of this incident, it was the positive community response. I think we had a significant outpouring of public sentiment."

Even though the statue won't get its traditional coat of green paint this year, Rogalski said the college may place another St. Ambrose statue the college already owns on the pedestal for commencement ceremonies.

The Rev. Drake Shafer, vice president for Student Services, said the person who knocked the statue off its pedestal has not written an apology to the St. Ambrose community yet.

He said, "Hopefully, that will be forthcoming."

St. Ambrose College has learned a valuable lesson from the statue incident- this college is not simply an "island" on its own. It is a necessary and integral part of the Quad Cities. We should feel honored we have community support.

The new bronze statue should not be an outlet for a vandalism-oriented tradition. It should be a new historical landmark to be shared and enjoyed by the college and people of this area.

David Baker
Co-editor in Chief



The St. Ambrose statue, Nov. 16, 1985 (photo by Doug Niemeyer)

— Vote —

Student Government Association elections will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 5-6 in the Student Union.