Ruby 1981
Ursinus College
Collegeville, Pennsylvania
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September of 1977, 350 freshmen entered into the life of Ursinus College. Over the years some left, and others came to take their place. But one could always find the spirit of the class of 1981. It was this spirit that helped us through times of change, both good and bad.
Sometimes, I think, the things we see
Are shadows of the things to be.
That what we plan we build,
That every hope that hath been crossed,
And every dream we thought was lost,
In heaven shall be fulfilled.
— Phoebe Cary
We are now reaching the end of our journey at Ursinus, but this end also marks a new beginning.

As we each go our separate ways, we shall always cherish the time we spent here, together.
You cannot teach a man anything
You can only help him
discover it within himself
— Galileo
This book is meant to trace part of our journey, to be a record of our last year. It is sure to invoke some happy memories, and also some sad ones. But that is what life is all about. Come now, as we begin our journey through Ursinus College, and see if you too have the spirit.
Culminating many years of frustration for the dramatic arts department of Ursinus College, a phenomenal transformation of Thompson-Gay Gymnasium into the Ritter Center for the Performing Arts became a reality on October 4, 1980. Considering this was the first building dedication on campus in eight years, Dr. Henry and a group of students, both present and past, would not be outdone. Their combined efforts resulted in a reconstruction of a variety of performances from past ProTheatre productions. Cameos included: "Soon It's Gonna Rain," from The Fantasticks; "The Egg," from Ionesco's play; "Katie and Carter," from Uncommon Women; and "One," from A Chorus Line. Ritter Center for the Dramatic Arts is named in honor of Dr. Rolland Allen Ritter and his wife, the former Lullis Mae Richards. Dr. Ritter is an honorary alumnus of Ursinus College, having received the Doctor of Laws degree in 1960. ProTheatre wasted no time in making use of the new facility for its own production in the fall. Two plays, Chekhov's A Marriage Proposal and Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial By Jury played to enthusiastic audiences, much larger than ever possible in the cramped quarters of The Bearpit. Now the only limit on stage productions is the imagination of the actors themselves.
Dan Lewis' "You're Ugly" won a Gong Show prize.

Steve Woodward expresses dissatisfaction with a gong.

Bill White (?) takes a gong with style.

Singe attempts to arouse the audience.

Dance Fever!
Ron Baltz hosts the ceremonies.

"Out Here on My Own" was a winner for Ann Edris in the Talent Show.

Once again this year, the College Union presented its annual Talent Show to a packed house. Hosted by Ron Baltz, winners of the successful show were: First prize, Ann Edris; Second Prize, Beth Murphy; and two third prizes, won by Steve DeDufour and Linda D'Alesio. The Gong Show was also a big hit. Sponsored by the Classes of '81 and '83, it was hosted by Mr. Barry Bowers with judges Ms. Eileen Kraus, Mrs. Catherine Wilt, and Dr. Ross Doughty. First prize went to Steve Woodward, second place to Dan Lewis.

Sig Nu's pledge class and a questionable alien perform hits from "Rocky Horror."

John O'Neill gives it all he's got.
It was time to turn the tables again on Friday, February 13 as the gals asked the guys to one of Ursinus’ biggest events of the year, Lorelei. A tradition since 1926, much time and effort was put into making the event a special one by a committee headed by Kit Anderson. The dance was once again held at Indian Valley Country Club and featured the well-received music of “Changes”. The event is an important and enjoyable one because it is truly an all-campus event, one at which everyone gets involved and has a great time.
Take a bunch of normal college students, put them in teams of ten apiece, make them do absolutely ridiculous stunts, and what do you have? SUPERSTARS! This year nine teams competed in such varied events as a popcorn eating race, a sock-swiming relay, an obstacle course (designed to maim and kill) and a orange passing contest which used a very questionable mode of movement (look at the pictures and you'll see what we mean). Although many of the participants' efforts were not consistent with those of a superstar, a supertime was had by all. Once again, Stephanie Kane and Diana Dakay are to be commended for doing such a great job of organizing the events.
Delta Pi performs “Cruel to be Kind.”

Sig Nu entertains with some Old Country music.

O’Chi makes up to the male members of the audience following their fraternity abuse act.

Food, glorious food!

Songfest
Friday, February 20 marked the revival of an Ursinus tradition, Songfest. This year ten Greek organizations performed musical hits of the past and present, ranging from KDK's “Baby Face” to Delta Pi's “Celebration.” Highlights of the show included rousing tunes from *Fiddler on the Roof* by Sig Nu and *Oliver* by Tau Sig, country hits by Phi Psi and APO, and a spoof on Ursinus fraternities by O'Chi. Slightly offbeat performances by Sig Rho, Beta Sig, and Demas capped off the wild evening. Songfest is sponsored by the members of Pi Nu Epsilon and was coordinated by Sue Bechtold and John Mulvey.
Bet a Sig... 

KDK... 

and APO perform at Songfest.
Ursinus students participated in many other activities in 1980-81. Among these were a visit to the campus by Saturday Night Live alumni Al Franklin and Tom Davis (including a concert by the Mike Bonti Band), a massive turnout of U.C. students to assist as “huggers” at the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, and The First Annual Richard J. Whatley Shopping Cart Race. Crazy, frenzied, unpredictable, but most importantly, fun, were ways to describe the special activities on campus this year.