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The Grizzly, December 9, 1983

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Santa Shot Down Over USSR

Ursinus College

Collegville, PA

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by Jon Ziss

The sleigh missing with Santa Claus aboard was shot down in the Sea of Japan by a Soviet jet fighter near a Soviet island off Siberia, the United States said yesterday.

There were no known survivors of the attack, in which a heat-seeking missile was said to have been fired without warning at the sleigh and eight reindeer by an interceptor that had tracked over Soviet territory that had tracked over Soviet territory for two and a half hours.

President Reagan expressed "revulsion" over what he called "a horrifying act of violence." He declared that all the kids would "totally dislike with Ursinus-'

There was no clear explanation for the reported attack which occurred amid several puzzling circumstances. There was an unconfirmed report that the sleigh had radio trouble, Soviet officials said the sleigh was without Rudolph's red nose leading the way and therefore, was considered a spy sleigh.

A spokesman acknowledged that Santa was far off course, despite carrying the latest in reindeer navigational equipment. Mrs. Claus commented, "I knew Santa should have fed the reindeer before he left. He sometimes had to make an unscheduled stop to take on fuel."

As American, Soviet, and Japanese ships and planes searched frigid seas north of Japan and reportedly found bits of antlers and Cabbage Patch Kids where the sleigh apparently went down, Secretary of State George P. Shultz demanded an explanation from the Soviets. However, no Black Box was recovered. "The Soviet pilot reported that he fired a missile and the target was destroyed."

Soviet explanation late yesterday afterwards was rebuffed by the State Department as "totally inadequate." An informed source stated that Premier Andropov wanted a Cabbage Patch Kid, Baby Skatees and a "Return of the Jedi" game for his grandchildren. Santa, due to the huge demand this year, was unable to meet his obligations. Deans Kip Minister Andrei A. Gromyko asserted "When Yuri heard his grandchildren were to be disappointed, he told the pilots to shoot down that bothersome sleigh, Santa Claus."

South Korea's President Chun Doo Hwan accused the Soviet Union of "a barbarous act" that "deserves the censure of the entire world." People all over South Korea condemned the attack. Japanese officials said they, too, believed that Santa had been shot down by a Soviet jet fighter and called the incident "very regrettable."

The American Cancer Society Student Affiliate Chapter at Ursinus College has earned a commendable rating for the 1982-83 academic year. The Ursinus chapter was selected for special recognition for the chapter adviser; Robert Y. Beesburg, Jr., a senior at Ursinus, is chapter president.

Ursinus, Robert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Y. Beesburg, Sr., Yardley, Pa., studied beta-hexosaminidase as a potential cancer diagnostic indicator in human sera under the supervision of Professor Jack Allabed.

Beesburg also represented Ursinus in a select group of 21 chemistry and chemical engineering majors from 16 colleges and universities who took part in a special undergraduate research program in chemistry and chemical engineering at Lehigh University this past summer.

President Reagan expressed revulsion today at the reported downing of Santa Claus near the Soviet coast. He declared angrily that the Russians had "totally failed to explain how or why this tragedy happened."

He also decided to cut his vacation short by three days to return to the White House for a National Security Council meeting to discuss responses to the incident. In addition, Mr. Reagan conferred with Dean J. Gengis Khan and Dean R. "Wild Nick" Wazoo of Ursinus College, asking Wazoo to refrain, "for the moment," he said, "from railing nuclear death on the evil empire until it turns into a fused-glass desert" with Ursinus' new nuclear arsenal.

"I speak for all Americans and for the people everywhere who cherish Christmas in protecting it from this unmerciful armed elf," said Mr. Reagan. "Words can scarcely express our revulsion at this horrifying act of violence."

"Ursinus College joins with the other members of the international community in demanding a full explanation for this wanton and appalling misdeed. The Soviet statements to this moment have totally failed to explain how or why this tragedy occurred," Dean J. Gengis Khan said, repeating what President Reagan had said earlier. "Indeed, the whole incident is inexplicable to civilized people everywhere, but, uh, don't quote me on that."

President of the College Richard R. Pichter was recalled from his place of exile at the President's House this morning, where he has been residing in the two years since the bloodless coup for power instigated by Deans Jean Khan and Wazoo. Pichter acted first by ordering the crazed Dean Wazoo be restrained, for when the elusive Dean Khan could not be reached in the bushes outside Wilkinson Hall where he usually hides, Wazoo began running around Corson Hall yelling, "I'm in charge here!" Pichter then issued a statement that an emergency "Board of Directors" meeting was convened to find "ways in which Ursinus can join with the US, Korea, and Japan to effectively express disgust they feel at this shameless act of international terrorism." Pichter also said that he wasn't sure, but the only thing for the Board of Directors to do would be to initiate a new tuition hike.

At an emergency house meeting held this morning, the delegates of Commonwealth North, Central and South, agreed to send a letter to Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov, and to send a letter to "Late Night With David Letterman" to be read on Thursday night's "Viewer Mail" segment. At the meeting President Butch Sheffield of Alpha Tau Omega said if he could find Dean Khan, he would arrange to make a service project out of dreading the Sea of Japan for the wreckage of the sleigh or St. Nick's body.

What will happen to the Christmas season rush on toys? In capitals around the world, government that be could in Soviet ambassadors to deliver outraged protests. The French Foreign Ministry stated "Christmas without Pere Noel! It is outrageous!" The British Foreign Office called the incident "deeply disturbing, The wee ones will be bloody sad without Father Christmas."

Canadian airline pilots called it an "unwanted Smurfs."

The Tragedy Hawaii elected President George P. Shultz demanded an explanation from the Soviets. However, no Black Box was recovered. "The Soviet pilot reported that he fired a missile and the target was destroyed."

Soviet explanation late yesterday after-
Dean Khan Sighted

by Philo T. Farnsworth

Dean J. Gengs Khan was sighted last Friday, this incident barring the latest in a recent rash of sightings of the elusive Dean of Student Life.

Early in October, his secretary noticed he had not come out of his office all semester. "He hadn’t come out for a month," his secretary told the Grizzly. "Of course, he was not under arrest for a couple of weeks at a time, and send me to the Seven-Eleven for burritos and Big Gulps." Khan has been sighted several times this semester, in various places around the campus, even underground in the pipes outside Corson Hall, much to the surprise of the work crew. The eyewitness to the latest appearance gave this account: "I was passing Old Men’s, y’know, by those bushes out there, and all of a sudden, he jumped out, took a look at me, and ran." The witness also said he carried a walkie-talkie; obviously the Dean uses a network of observers to keep him informed and to stay one step ahead of the students.

Dean Khan’s only explanation was found in a letter delivered to the Grizzly’s office. In the invisible, he explained that he took "a lot of flak" last year, so he was "laying low" for a semester or two.

Urinsus Joins Nuke Club

by Philo T. Farnsworth

In an unnoticed announcement made while hiding behind a curtain in his office in Corson Hall, Dean J. Gengs Khan revealed what everyone already knew — Ursinus now has a strategic nuclear force. The story has been covered at various sites about the campus and have been paid for by increased tuition hikes and "the fines on unregistered refrigerators and cars," Khan added.

When questioned about the morality of nuclear weapons and the absurdity of a private college owning nuclear weapons, Dean Khan said that "in these times, small colleges have to be able to protect themselves against foreign adventure and unruly visitors from other schools.

Dean R. Wild Rick" Wazoo will command the missiles, which he said will be useful in either helping the US win World War III, or in searching out alcohol or drugs in the men’s dorms. "Just like in the good old days, in ’69-’70."

State of the Union

by Philo T. Farnsworth

An Ursinus student was executed last week for robbing the mail while working in the Mail Room in Bomberger Hall. Mick Sethman, a freshman, was dragged out of bed and hauled before the J-Bot at gunpoint in the middle of the night to answer for his "crimes against the empire, uh, College," as Dean R. "Wild Rick" Wazoo put it.

Sethman was hired in mid-October after the previous mail workers, Dino DiDiomgina and Chin Hoo Wing, were fired for alleged ties with the Sicilian and Hong Kong mobs. Sethman was recommended highly by Dean Wazoo, the Dean of Parking Tickets and Refrigerators. The criminal tendencies in Sethman were not apparent at first; it was not until he decided to start lifting all packages over ten pounds that the administration got wise. Sethman has gotten upwards of $300,000, his biggest hauls coming from alumni checks to the College.

"The opened birthday cards and food packages I don’t mind," Dean J. Kengs Khan said, "but taking those alumni checks hit the college where it lives. The medical bills have yet been sent. Dean Sethman’s arrangement, and though no firm ties have been established, it is thought that part of it ended up in Wazoo’s Swiss bank account.

The prisoner was executed Monday by the Campus Security Squad (SS), and his final meal was furnished by the Dining Service of Wismer Hall. He was served a simple meal of poached eggs, clam strips, and over-cooked vegetables, but, "only on entre at a time," said Food Service Director Tom Slick.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

1. At what level of the Soviet command structure was the decision made to shoot down Krs Krigel? 2. Did the Russians have any suspicions about the activities of Santa, and if they did, what evidence did they have to support their conclusions? 3. What was the sleigh crippled by hoof-mouth disease among the reindeer, or did the sleigh collapse because of its weight? 4. Did a truck become immobile, why didn’t Santa call for help, using an international distress signal?

How and why did the elf go off course?

Some of the articles in this issue are of a satirical nature and should be considered as such.

Staff Box

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The Grizzly was founded in 1976, replacing the previous campus newspaper, "The Ursinus Weekly." In 1978, the first issue was published. The Grizzly is edited entirely by students and the views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those held by the administration, faculty, or a consensus of the student body. The staff of The Grizzly invites opinions from the college community and will publish them as time and space permit.
For the Record

Heads' Album Hits Charts

BY Kurt Richter

Being one of the best albums on the college's radar, Speaking in Tongues is already owned by most of the Talking Heads' steady followers. But for those of you who buy albums cautiously, this album deserves some looking into.

The Talking Heads have produced some of the most interesting music on the airwaves since the New Wave began in the late '70s. With the great Adrian Belew and Brin Eno as former cohorts, the Heads are famous for other reasons than just their songwriting. But it is songs — like "Psycho-Killer," "Electric Guitar," and "Letting the Days Go By," for example — that have brought them to a larger audience.

With this release, the Heads are doing very well, which comes normal to them: they are being different. Never satisfied to leave the formula alone, the Heads now use a more

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Dear Editor:

The end of the semester is upon us and that means it is report card time. Every student is worrying about what grade he will receive in each course and what are professors worrying about this time of year? Making up and marking final exams? Yes. Computing each student's grade correctly? Yes again. However, professors are also facing one of the most annoying problems of teaching — the giving of borderline grades.

Since Ursinus uses the quantum system of grading, there will always be a significant number of students who will need only 1-5 points more on the final exam to raise their grade one notch. Soon many of these students will be pestering their professors to change their test scores slightly and thus change their grade by a notch. From a student's point of view, if 1-5 exam points make a difference between only an 89.99 and a 90.00, then why hassle the professor? But since an 89.99 will be rounded down to a B+ (88.33) while a 90.00 will be rounded up to an A- (91.67), a little hassling over 1-5 exam points can result in a .34 grade point change. Now it really doesn't matter to some students what grade they would have received. I have had students argue with me to change an A to an A+ as well as an A- to a B+. For example, suppose a student who claimed that he sat too near another student who had not taken a shower. The smell was so strong that it broke his concentration causing him to get a lower test score than he would have gotten otherwise.

I am not going to debate whether or not any of these alleged extenuating circumstances have merit. Clearly any one of these or similar occurrences could result in a 1-5 point difference on a test. But how one works under time constraints and minor annoyances is an important component of a grade because real life consists of these things. Just try telling an employer that you can do exactly what another applicant can do except you take twice as long and see what happens. Or try telling an astronomer who is heading for the Moon that he is really headed out of the solar system because you had to make a rush calculation and made a careless decimal point error in the process. The difference between an A- student and a B+ student is not making a few careless errors despite time constraints and "bad luck" occurrences.

If professors are supposed to make allowances for a student's bad luck, then why shouldn't they also try to compensate for a student's "good luck?" Sometimes a student will review the exact test that appears on part of the exam. That part of the exam becomes a "piece of cake." I always propose to minimize any "luck" effects by suggesting that I use the gymnast's scoring method — throw out the lowest score, throw out the highest score, and average the rest. However, there has always been the strongest protest that I have never used that grading method. Instead, I am "forced" to use a method in which only the lowest scores are dropped or minimized. So much for "fairness." On the part of the students. What annoys me the most, though is that if I had not dropped the student's lowest test score, he would not have a borderline grade or would have had a borderline grade at a lower level. Yet, such students (both men and women) can still have the audacity to cry when I refuse to change their grade, to accuse me of ruining their chances for med/grad school, to attempt to make me feel guilty if they are put on probation, etc. This is any wonder that some professors manage to avoid the issue by either: (1) refusing to discuss borderline grades, (2) not telling students their final exam scores at all or until they have gone home, or (3) secretly altering all grades so that no one appears to get a borderline grade?

I am sympathetic to students who receive borderline grades. I have received a number of them myself. I was once on the border between a C- and a D+ and got the D+. Another time I needed a 3.250 to make the Dean's list but only managed to get a 3.24! In my experience, for every student that misses an A- by one point, there is another student who makes an A- by one point. After 4 years at Ursinus, one will have taken 30-40 courses. Any "bad luck" or "good luck" over borderline grades should just about cancel when a cumulative average is calculated. After all, grades are supposed to approximate what a student knows (or once knew) rather than what he knows. Therefore, students, argue about borderline grades only when it is obvious that the professor has made a mistake. Don't take the attitude that you have something to lose. Making a negative impression on a professor may not be worth a few grade points.

Sincerely,
Douglas Chinn
Dept. of Physics

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Aquabears Triumphant in Warrender's Last Meet

Women's Basketball

Winning the South Carolina title was on one hand a small achievement, but behind the scenes, the Aquabears were working hard to prepare for the national meet. They were determined to make the most of the opportunity, with the hopes of bringing home the gold. The Aquabears were known for their hard work and dedication, and they were ready to put in the effort to achieve their goals.

Men's Basketball

The Bears faced a tough battle against Juniata College, but they were able to pull through with a 91-80 victory. The game was intense, with the Bears making a comeback in the second half to secure their win. The crowd was on the edge of their seats, cheering and supporting their team. The Bears' victory was a testament to their hard work and determination, and it set the stage for a strong performance in the upcoming tournaments.

Mercer Wins Fencing Tourney

The Mercer Bears fencing team dominated the competition, emerging victorious in the South Carolina title. They were able to outperform their opponents, showcasing their skills and techniques. The team's performance was a reflection of their hard work and dedication, and it earned them the well-deserved title.

Brian's Song....

The Swarthmore game was a different story. The Bears went on to win 110-80, scoring a record to bring their record to 3-4. A victory over Haverford and a loss to Swarthmore. The Bears played their best game, with the outcome of the game being the brilliant shooting of senior co-captain Bob Thomas. His performance was a testament to his hard work and dedication, and it earned him the South Carolina title.

Grizzly Bear

Thoma Leads Bears Over Haverford

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