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The Grizzly, February 15, 2000

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Stephanie Restine, Jamie Matty, Cynthia Neff, Dan Reimold, Bradford Joyce, Ed Kloss, Kevin Wilson, Tim Burton, Jeremy Fox, Jeff Church, Kate Buchert, Emily Callaghan, Lauren Flanagan, Tim Noone, Lauren Cyrsky, Fran Shaughnessy, Luther Owens, Heather W. Gurk, and Andy Owens
UC Students Debate Pros, Cons of Pledging On Campus

Cynthia Neff  
Staff Writer

As the spring semester rears its head, the time for pledging at Ursinus has rolled around once again. With the pledging season comes a plethora of emotions, opinions, questions, fears, and expectations among the student community involving the annual process and how it affects our students. Each UC student, whether male or female, freshman or senior, Greek affiliated or independent, has his or her own outlook on Greek life in general, as well as in respect to the process of pledging.

For the most part, the members of fraternities and sororities see Greek life as a positive institution that benefits those involved and the campus as a whole. Moreover, students seem to view the pledging process as a positive mechanism that functions to create strong bonds between fraternity/sorority members.

Yet, on the contrary, many independent students feel that the importance of Greek life is overstressed on an already small campus and that the pledging process involves unethical behavior. Hazing is the one aspect most strongly argued against. This is the ongoing debate that creates the controversial nature of pledging.

Speaking from the Greek perspective, Laura Fontaine, a junior member of Tau Sigma Gamma, feels that she made a wise decision by pledging. "I truly believe that Greek life helps this campus," Fontaine stated. "We do community service that shows UC in a positive light to the Collegeville community. We also do a lot of fun things for the campus itself, like holding parties and sponsoring activities."

Besides making a great group of friends in addition to those she already had (who are either independent or in another sorority), Fontaine is proud to represent the sorority and values the bonds that she has forged via pledging.

As far as the concerns raised are: love, unity, and respect seem to be the overwhelming themes of just about every frat on campus.

Not only do Ursinus Fraternities build a sense of unity, trust, and love, but they also go out into the community and help others in Collegeville and beyond. Each group member is required to complete 20 hours of community service each year and, according to the presidents of several fraternities, that deed is usually done "at a local hospital or center for disabled people."

As far as the concerns raised during pledging about slipping grades, most groups have mandatory study sessions throughout the three-week pledging process to help pledges keep up in their class work. For all those students pledging now, I congratulate you and wish you the best of luck in the weeks to come.

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Students Debate Pros, Cons of Pledging

Continued from Front Page

a member of Sigma Lambda Rho, feels that pledging has a great deal of benefits, such as bringing together the brothers/sisters who pledge a fraternity/sorority as well as providing a social outlet outside of classes where both Greeks and non-Greeks can come together. "It gave me an identity beyond what I already had...one that I am proud of," said Walker.

Walker feels that three weeks of pledging were worth the benefits of becoming a fraternity brother.

In the same vein, junior Natasha Misanko, a member of Omega Chi, believes that pledging was a positive experience for her in light of the friendships she has gained and the things she has learned. She feels that Greek life helps to maintain ties with alumni.

Misanko remarked, "Greek life is one of the strongest ties that alumni have with this campus and many times alumni will return for the traditional activities that fraternities or sororities have.

Junior Dana Delledonne, an independent, feels that pledging a fraternity/sorority may restrict a person to an exclusive group rather than allowing one to easily associate with many groups. She also dislikes the lack of respect that some fraternities and sororities seem to exhibit toward the rest of the campus during pledging. Delledonne commented, "Pledging is everyone's own prerogative though and they have the right to suffer through it if they want."

While she is skeptical about some of the humiliating practices involved with pledging and the risk of serious consequences due to some pledging activities, Delledonne feels that pledging is an individual choice.

Likewise, junior Larisa Kunderewicz feels happy with her decision against pledging in light of the fact that she is not compelled to hang out with one specific group. She does not agree with the apparent treatment that pledges receive during the three weeks of pledging. "I feel that pledging on this campus tends to be more like hazing as opposed to the bond-building experience that it should be."

Agreeably, junior Joe Wagman does not like the public hype and attention that promotes what he coins as a corrupt establishment. He is against the seemingly unjust treatment that pledges receive from their future brothers/sisters. "Think about the way you would treat your real brother or sister and become closer with them - wouldn't you by talking and communicating or by making them eat worms?"

However, Greek affiliated students do recognize the problems inherent in pledging. Independent students recognize the benefits of pledging, as well as the positive effects Greek life has on campus as a whole. Greeks would agree that pledging is not easy and is not seen in a positive light for everyone. Fontaine admits that despite the learning and bonding it provides for those involved, to many others it may be just "a bunch of crap."

Similarly, Walker concedes that unnecessary things take place and "things have been taken to extremes occasionally." He is sad to see the dwindling numbers of male pledges and feels that the true meaning behind pledging a fraternity is becoming jaded.

Independents would agree that pledging does uphold some traditions and can foster friendships while Greek life contributes to the social scene on the UC campus and to the community in terms of service projects. Kunderewicz and Wagman commented that Greeks live up campus via parties, while Delledonne commended Greek life for its effort to improve the community.

Despite all of the activities (negative or positive) that go along with pledging, and all of the controversial rhetoric that surrounds the issue here on campus, and all of the attention given to this issue, the most important thing for students to remember is that the decision to pledge or not to pledge is an individual one.

No man or woman on this campus (or any other) should be railroaded into or dissuaded from pledging a fraternity or sorority.

A student should know up front what he/she is becoming involved with before committing to it, and if at any time, feels uncomfortable with the situation he/she has entered should be able to dismiss himself/herself from that situation without the fear of being ostracized.

Weird News

Dan Reimold
News Editor

The $25,000 Question

A 34-year-old Media, PA man looking for love is offering to pay up to twenty-five thousand dollars to the matchmaker who sets him up with that "special woman." Ed Ryder, a native of Philadelphia who wants to be wed by the end of the calendar year, began his search early last month on the Internet and is hoping to find a woman who shares his interests in go-kart racing, Russian culture and the protection of wild animals.

However, a potential bride who introduces herself and later says "yes" is not eligible for the prize because, as Ryder relates coyly, "You don't get the money. You get me."

Good Mourning...Via the Web

After witnessing everything from babies' births to open heart surgeries over the Internet, a Syracuse, NY man is seeking to complete the cycle of life shown to the world via the web and has started a website for the sole purpose of broadcasting funerals direct online. The broadcast, says funeral director Fred Ferguson, is to be provided for those unable to join family and friends at viewings and services but who still want to pay their last respects, albeit through cyberspace.

As of yet, Ferguson has had no takers for the Kid at his site, www.FergusonFuneralHome.com. Yet, the funeral director wasn't planning to make his living showing the dead and grieving over the Net.

As Ferguson shares, "I don't think there's going to be a big demand for it. But we've got it if anybody wants it."

Just Give the Kid a Rest...Room

Carey Jones, a Montgomery, Alabama junior high school teacher was arrested this past week after refusing the repeated requests of a 13-year-old student to use the restroom and instead advised him to relieve himself in the classroom wastebasket.

A statement from the boy's parents indicated that, at his teacher's behest, the young student moved the trash can to the corner of the classroom, wrapped his jacket around his waist for some small measure of privacy, and, when the call of nature began to sound too strongly, began urinating in the presence of his teacher and fellow students sitting nearby.

Jones, 26, has been charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
Employment Available for Graduating Seniors

Bradford Joyce
Staff Writer

For students interested in staying in the area during their search for employment after graduation, pharmaceutical companies such as Smith-Kline Beecham and Rhone-Poulenc-Rohrer have offered multiple job opportunities to people living in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

Not far removed from the Ursinus campus, remarkable economic growth has been underway for quite some time in both Chester and Montgomery Counties.

The signs of expansion are obvious as the location of these two counties is ideal for many people due to major roads such as the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Route 422 that serve as a means of access to home as well as they enter the working-world.

The rate of growth is occurring so rapidly that the Philadelphia suburbs have economically overcome the city of Philadelphia. Experts agree this rapid influx of population may have been brought about by many reasons, namely that many of the wealthy residents of the Main Line and other surrounding areas have decided to invest their funds in offices and properties outside the city.

This area is rapidly becoming a mecca for white-collar jobs, which is what Ursinus graduates will be seeking when they attend a mandatory meeting where a list of rules and regulations were distributed and information regarding pledging and any questions about the pledging process were answered.

Life here at Ursinus, thinks the annual songfest is an exciting way to start off pledging. It teaches you pride and spirit for the sorority of which you want to gain sisterhood.

Regardless of one's stance on Greek Life here at Ursinus, pledging is a definite way to show pride, spirit, responsibility and to form a bond with a select number of your fellow students.

Sisterhood Alive On Campus Through Sorority Pledging

Continued from Front Page

of Students, has made it perfectly clear that the Ursinus Community will not tolerate any "unlawful pledging procedures." All prospective pledges were required to attend a mandatory meeting where a list of rules and regulations were distributed and information regarding pledging and any questions about the pledging process were answered.

McKinney, who was present at the meeting, warned the students to be responsible and careful in the three weeks of pledging that were to follow. They were reminded of occurrences that had taken place at other institutions and were then instructed not to allow themselves or Ursinus to become a statistic.

Official pledging for women began at the Songfest held on the steps of Pfahler Hall. Each sorority was represented by its pledge class, who donned their respective "pledge clothes." Many Ursinus students attended this event, which kicked off the three-week long pledging period.

Sophomore Emily Callaghan, who is pledging this year, thinks the annual songfest "is an exciting way to start off pledging. It teaches you pride and spirit for the sorority of which you want to gain sisterhood."

Freshman Leigh Maggi said that, "although I don't have any free time between pledging, school work and lacrosse, I will never regret pledging...[because] it will be worth it in the end."

Weekly Weather Forecast

courtesy of weather.com

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Cartoonist Charles Schulz, the world-renowned creator of the "Charlie Brown" comic strip that spawned multitudes, passed away this past Saturday night Feb. 12, on the eve of his final Sunday strip. He was 77 years old. Billionaire tycoon and casino mogul Donald Trump announced Monday he will no longer seek the Reform Party presidential nomination, citing his belief that the party has become too fractured in recent months. His decision paves the way for presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan to run as a Reform Party candidate and to also receive the 13 million dollars in federal aid awarded to the party nominee for the general election this fall. Cyber-crime surged to national prominence this past week as five major websites, Yahoo, eBay, Buy.com, Amazon, and CNN.com, became the targets of Internet hackers. President Clinton is highlighting this wave of illegal activity in his call to appropriate an additional 37 million dollars in the federal budget to aid in the fight against criminal acts occurring on the World Wide Web. Kansas City Chiefs defensive star and sack specialist Derrick Thomas died of a massive heart attack this past week after spending sixteen days in the hospital following a car crash that left him paralyzed. Thomas, who once recorded seven sacks in a single NFL game, will be missed for his presence and kind nature off the field and for his devoted work to many charities. Ken Griffey Jr., formerly of the Seattle Mariners, was traded mid-week to the Cincinnati Reds for four minor league prospects. Griffey, a perennial All-Star and Gold Glove recipient for his outstanding defensive play in center field, cited family as the reason for wanting to be traded to Cincinnati. His father, Ken Griffey Sr., a former standout Reds player, is currently a hitting coach with the club. Police arrested 21 people and recovered four handguns, five knives, two detonators and two grenades as the Ariana airline hijacking came to its conclusion after four days of drama unfolded in Stansted, England as the world watched. The hijackers followed suit over two hours later. NASA astronauts aboard the space shuttle Endeavour, who are currently attempting to generate the most exact and complete 3-D maps ever made of planet Earth, may have to cut their mission short by eight hours due to a thruster malfunction. Phil Mickelson beat golf sensation Tiger Woods in a thrilling final round this past Sunday at the Buick Invitational, finally putting an end to Woods' incredible six-tournament win streak, spanning two seasons. Woods, currently the top-ranked golfer in the world, goes down in history tied for second behind only past great Ben Hogan on the all-time consecutive tournament victory list. In his heyday, Hogan won a record 11 straight invitational.
True Love: Sorrow and Devotion
Ed Kloss
Special to the Grizzly

To love someone completely...impossible. There is no way that anyone can ever totally devote themselves to a member of the opposite sex. If you would have asked me last week what I thought about the idea of love, I would have told you just that. To me, the idea of love was a sham, although I would have told you that lust was alive and well. To me there was no such thing as the "perfect love." That was until this last Sunday.

Sometimes in life you meet a person and they change your perspective on the way you view life. Their insight may not be that of a world renowned philosopher, but it touches you in a significant way; so much so that your perceptions of life's little intricacies are forever transformed.

For me that happened this Sunday. I thought long and hard about how to put what I experienced this past weekend and what effect it had on me. The result of this reflection was that I really couldn't figure out how to write what I saw in the old man that I spoke to. Then a friend of mine told me that there was a passage in the Bible that might help me out. Not being particularly religious, I gave the "good book" a chance. In the Bible it says that: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

Over the past two years Jake Hessler has "affectionately" become known as the "Can Man" here at Ursinus. If you walk the main brick path at the College on a Sunday afternoon you will find him sorting through the trashcans and the dumpsters for the aluminum cans that aided in the student's inebriation over the weekend. In partaking in such a venture, Jake often finds himself the target of verbal scolding. When I was talking to him just this last weekend a student drove by and shouted, "kick the bum off campus, Kloss." It is no surprise that people often look at him oddly. I cannot say that I blame them. To see a grown man sorting through garbage is not an everyday occurrence, especially in Collegeville. Jake has only one reason for sorting cans every weekend. That reason is love.

Last Sunday around two o'clock I was emptying the recycling bins as I always do after the weekend. As usual I wouldn't tie the bags and I would always yell over to the "Can Man" that I had some cans for him and that I would leave the bags beside the dumpster. Usually the extent of our conversation had to do with how poorly the Eagles were playing as the game on WYSP blared through on the speakers of his white Ford Escort. On this particular weekend though, I decided to do something different. Instead of just asking him about the Jaguar's/Titan's game that was on his radio I went up and said: "Hey man I never caught your name. I'm Ed, Ed Kloss."

"Pleased to meet you Ed. I am Jake, Jake Hessler."

"Hey a friend of mine drives a recycling truck for a trash company in Delaware County he told me that price of aluminum went up. You must be making a fortune. Before you know it you'll probably own half the campus huh?"

"I only wish that could happen, Ed."

"Why is that?"

"The money that I make off of these cans has a more important purpose."

"Oh really? What's that, if you don't mind me asking."

Jake smiled. "They are for my wife. Two years ago she had a stroke and it has been pretty tough ever since. The bills that I get to take care of her run pretty high so I collect these cans to help pay them off."

That statement shocked me. Here I was thinking that Jake was just some old man who was probably just out collecting cans to keep himself busy on the weekends and break up the dull drum that was his retirement and here he was collecting cans to help pay for the care of his wife. As we continued to talk, he painted the portrait of a bond that could rival even that of Romeo and Juliet.

"I always kid her that I am going to trade her in. The fact of the matter is I would sell my soul to the devil himself before I put her in a home. I have seen too many of those places. I would never put her in there, NO WAY, NO WAY."

I stood there and I talked to Jake for a long time about him and his wife. I was amazed at how open he was to discussing his personal life with me especially with how emotionally devastating a story his was. As it turns out, Jake and his wife have been married for 40 years. They were high school sweethearts. The way Jake describes their relationship, they are kindred spirits. "The moment I met my wife I knew that she was the one for me. I still remember the first time that I saw her. My heart just skipped a beat. Whenever I am around her I feel perfect."

Despite everything that has happened to his wife he remains optimistic. "I receive help from the state through lottery money and my kids help pay for the nurse that stops by the house three days a week. It isn't all that bad. To tell ya the truth Ed, this whole ordeal is harder on me than it is on her. I am at home with her most of the day. The nurse stops by three days a week to make sure that she is holding up and make sure that all of the medical equipment is working. He (the nurse) bathes her but I ALWAYS make sure that I change her. I feed her and cook her favorite foods and I put her to bed at night. I usually get about three hours of sleep a night. I don't mind it though; I love her. What else could I do? I am not going to abandon her."

As my time with Jake drew to a close I couldn't help but make a mental note at how strong of an individual Jake was. To look at him all you would see is a frail individual who stands at 5'7". His clothing is nothing special. He always wears the same green ABF hauling hat and his mismatched working gloves don't exactly say Rockefeller. Yet Jake is a stronger and richer man than anyone that I have ever met in my entire life. Jake knows what it is like to love and be loved. How many of us in this world can truly say that they know how that feels? Through tragedy and heartache he has stood firm. Despite the obvious loss of personal pride, Jake makes a weekly Pilgrimage through the Ursinus College dumpsters for aluminum cans, not because he wants to, but because he has to. He sorts through the garbage so that he and his wife can remain together.

As I was walking away from Jake, he said "Hey Ed-thanks for everything."

No Jake, thank you.

Oops, We Goofed...

We apologize for any inconvenience we may have caused due to misprints in last week's edition of The Grizzly.

A misplaced layout sheet caused the omission of Diane Johnson's title (Sports Editor), a shortened statement by Dean Nolan, and the exclusion of the entire weird portion of a "Weird News" segment. (The attendants were using the 3,000 year old sculpture as a bike stand.)

In other mistakes, senior Tom Flud had one pin, one win by decision, and one win by forfeit in the Feb. 5 matches as opposed to what was reported.

Upcoming CAB EVENTS

February:
18th MOVIE: American Pie in WLL, 8:00pm
24th Have Nots, an improv group, in WLL, 8:00pm
26th MOVIE: The General's Daughter in WLL, 8:00 pm
The Greeks agree: Pledges have no free will

Tim Burton

Special to the Grizzly

In response to the articles published in this paper in previous weeks regarding pledging, I would like to say that I agree completely. Some of the things that these "pledges" are forced to do are absolutely ridiculous and I have no idea why they put themselves through it. In fact, I would argue that they don't even do it themselves; they unwillingly comply with what their pledgemasters or pledgemistresses tell them for no good reason at all. Once they are given a bid by one of these Greek "organizations," they are automatically compelled to accept and have no alternative. Imagine, someone saying no to a bid...crazy. Since they have no choice in the matter at all, they begin the process and participate in the strenuous and humiliating activities that pledging entails.

One activity that specifically revolts me is the public humiliation often seen at meals in Wismer. The horror of being forced to make hundreds of people laugh is an especially cruel task that pledges are assigned, and I can't possibly see why they go along with it. And they even have smiles on their faces! This is made worse by the fact that, since pledges have no free will whatsoever, they certainly couldn't say no to the people who make them do such horrible things. I have heard that insubordination results in instant execution with these Greek people. I'm sure they had no idea of what was coming either, since all pledges enter this process blindly, without any account of what pledging is like from members of the fraternity or sorority or friends who have seen it before.

But Greek organizations are not the only people who exhibit this kind of worthless bullying. Look at those Basketball players, for example. They beat themselves and each other up in practice all week, doing hundreds of suicide drills, skill drills and other physically draining exercises, only to get heat up even more in a 40 minute game. The purpose of this behavior, to win a game, has no desired benefits at all. I mean, what do they possibly get out of killing themselves to prove their hard work paid off by beating someone else? Does that make them feel good or some-thing? As if their hard work paid off? I think they might be brainwashed. Why do they do it, when it obviously does nothing for them at all? People even get hurt, and continue to play through injury, but for what? I'll tell you why. Because they have no choice. Their coach tells them what to do and they do it; not because they want to by any means, but simply because they have no alternative. No, at no time is quitting an option, just as it is not an option for pledges, but above all they must listen to the coach and do whatever he/she says, even if it causes them harm. Why do coaches do this? Some sort of sick power trip? Hours of hard teamwork towards the ultimate goal of winning a game; does the coach think that builds some sort of Unity? He must be insane. I could go on, including all other sports as well (especially those Football players-they get beat up the most). In fact, some people even make a LIFE of this sort of behavior and claim to have fun doing it! It must be some sort of genetic disorder that all these professional players have that makes them think that what they do is worthwhile. It would seem that this same gene runs through Ursinus, where 35% of students are insane. Somebody should tell them they are wrong; it would be our place, not theirs, to decide for them that what they are doing is meaningless. The Administration, at least, should be the ones to decide for them that they are wasting their time, since they are incapable of deciding themselves. Someone better do it soon, or that laughing you see in Wismer and the smiles you see on the faces of those pledges may be there forever.

Tim Burton, Delta Pi Sigma

Pledging: What's the big deal anyway?

Kevin Wilson

Staff Writer

Around this time every year, pledging begins, and around this time every year, some people complain about the whole Greek system at Ursinus College. My question is Why do people always complain about this time of year the Greek system? People have a right to pledge and join a fraternity or sorority if they please. If someone decides not to do it, that's fine, no one is going to hold it against him/her. If you don't pledge, why make problems for others?

Throughout the year, most fraternities and sororities are the ones that host parties. No one ever complains when they are at a party. They're having fun, and everything seems fine.

But all of the sudden around this time of year the Greek system is looked at as a horrible thing. This is totally absurd. I am the fourth person in my family to come to Ursinus. My two brothers and my father were all members of Alpha Phi Epsilon, like I am. To this day they are still very tight with their friends from the fraternity. I also know many of my father's fraternity members donate a lot of money to this college.

The fraternities and sororities on campus are also able to bring back alumni and interact with them on campus. This helps to show what exactly the school is doing and what is going on the campus.

The Greek system also helps to get people jobs. Many fraternity and sorority members come back to campus and offer job positions to members of their organization. They also share their stories and help prepare us for experience in the real world.

There is nothing wrong with the Greek system and it should be left how it is. People complain about what goes on during pledging. Opposition to pledging puzzles me because no one knows exactly what happens unless you actually go through it. I have heard so many rumors around this campus about not only what goes on in other frats/sororities' pledging but also in my own. Let's honestly think about some of the rumors we've all heard about. Do you honestly think people would do these kinds of things? I highly doubt it. Everyone knows how rumors fly and get twisted around at Ursinus. Within a few minutes stories get spread and changed drastically. Sometimes these rumors have been going around for years. I think my simple point is this. If someone wants to pledge and become part of the Greek system, let them. Everyone has their own choice and being young adults, I think each person can make their own choice.

"The horror of being forced to make hundreds of people laugh is an especially cruel task that pledges are assigned, and I can't possibly see why they go along with it. And they even have smiles on their faces!"
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Environmental Studies

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All interested freshmen and sophomores should attend an information session during the common hour:

Wednesday, February 16, 2000
12:30 p.m.
Pfalher Auditorium

ProTheatre
Presents

HALVES

Written & Directed by
Meghan Gualtieri

February 23, 24, 25, and 26
7:30 pm

Ritter Center, Ursinus College
Please Call: 610-409-3604 for Ticket Reservations
Tickets are $5 ($2 for Students and Seniors)

The Bear Truth
Column by Heather Gurk

Everyone remembers the one about the woman who spilled coffee on herself at a fast food restaurant and sued the place on account of the drink being served too hot. Would she have liked the coffee better cold, or would that have been grounds for a different lawsuit?

Hardly a day goes by without hearing mention of a lawsuit—one person, one company, one country suing another for some ridiculous reason, unfathomable to the rest of humanity. Or, maybe not so unfathomable after all. Perhaps crazy lawsuits have become so common that the average person no longer bats an eyelash at them, and so outlandish that they inspire more laughter than criticism.

Not all cases turn out to be laughing matters. One of the bigger gripes I have concerns patients filing suits against doctors. Under certain circumstances, including obvious negligence and incompetence on the part of the physician, I can understand a patient's right to sue for malpractice. I can even sympathize with a patient or family member's desire to sue if something goes terribly wrong during surgery, and a serious mistake occurs that could have been avoided.

However, I find the entire concept of suing a doctor, a person who is in the business of saving lives, very disturbing. In light of the prevalence of malpractice suits, so much paperwork needs to be done prior to a surgery that it literally feels as if the patient is signing his or her life away.

Not only are hospitals taking precautions to prevent wrongful claims, but it seems that businesses are also taking extra measures to safeguard against lawsuits. Several weeks ago, my friend's mom slipped and fell on a grape in a supermarket. Although she wasn't injured, the owners of the market have been calling her house ever since to check up on her, probably out of a fear of being sued!

It seems that suing, with certain exceptions, is becoming just another game that people play to win money at another's expense, and that doesn't speak well for our country.

COME OUT AND WRITE FOR THE GRIZZLY:
MEETINGS ARE HELD ON MONDAY NIGHTS AT 7 P.M. ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF BOMBERGER.
Church on Film
Great War Movies: Full Metal Jacket

Jeff Church
A & E Editor

Matthew Modine... can’t make me "Vietnam can kill me, but it’s better to be alive."

"Vietnam can kill me, but it can’t make me care." Matthew Modine... can’t make me "Vietnam can kill me, but it’s better to be alive."

Throughout the movie the audience can examine life as a soldier from two sides: boot camp and the front lines. Kubrick shows that it does not really matter what side of the ocean you are on—the indiscernible feeling of hollowness and absurdity (Kubrick’s use of darkness reflects back to Apocalypse Now) follows one wherever one goes. In boot camp, Private Pyle gloomily states that he is in "a world of shit." The film feels so real. Kubrick hired a real US Marines drill instructor, R. Lee Ermey, to drill the cadets, with such vicious ardor, that we cannot help but laugh at his deviously vulgar quips. Kubrick remains one of our greatest masters behind the camera. His precision, innovation, and naturalism attest to his strength as a director. He shows human emotion and experience raw and unexposed.

Church On The Great Films

The Third Man
Chinatown
The Bridge on the River Kwai
High Noon
The Searchers
2001: A Space Odyssey
Blade Runner
One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest
Apocalypse Now

muMs Schemes at Ursinus

Kate Buchert
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 9 muMs the Schenker brought the spoken word to Olin Auditorium. Aspiring to what "rap could be, if it took itself seriously," muMs' unique form of poetry held the audience with a gritty, hip-hop flavored edge that attempted to examine man’s place in urban society. muMs polished his art in the Bronx, contributing his unique work to the New York underground rap and poetry scene since 1992. His work has been spotlighted in such magazines as The Source and Vibe and has been published in a photo poetry book called, “Soul of the Game.” muMs is perhaps better known for his character, "Poet," on the critically-acclaimed HBO prison drama Oz. His poetic works serve as the "universal narrative voice of the prison population." muMs performed his poetry for a small, intimate gathering in Olin, first giving the audience the background inspiration for each piece. The work was both alliterative and lyrical, with the conviction necessary to give life to the words:

"Schenker
Fiender, foe friend, fear
Not fear
Blasphemer, redeemer, dreamer,
got to get it back.
Mix godliness with gibberish and sauerkraut and greens
Read your bible backwards and upside down until you understand what that means."

muMs went on to express his disillusionment with the current rap and hip-hop scene, pointing out that many music artists are more concerned with how much money they can make than the integrity of their work. He also read a selection from his unfinished one-man play. He hopes to have a book of his poetry published later this year.

Down to You is Perfect for Two

Emily Callaghan
Staff Writer

"Down to You is a romantic comedy that tells the story of first love and all of the trials and tribulations that come along with it. Al Connelly (Freddie Prinze Jr.) and Imogen (Julia Stiles) are two college students trying to figure themselves out while at the same time falling passionately in love with each other. These two find "love at first sight" at a local college bar one night and begin to follow the path of first love. This movie is set in the heart of New York City and would not be complete without the comedic input of a memorable cast of parents and friends. The light-hearted comedy from Al's father, the master chef, played by Henry Winkler, combined with the torque of support lend by Al and Imogen's circle of eccentric friends makes for a story of pure entertainment. Throughout the movie the young couple learns of both the happiness and heartache that comes along with true love. The two tell the story of their romance from both sides, keeping the audience constantly guessing how this relationship will turn out. The two throughout their efforts of becoming the "perfect happy couple" face and deal with the many problems that come along with love and the fear of commitment. Along with a great movie comes an incredible soundtrack. The selections of music in this movie are very fitting and range between ballads by the "Goo Goo Dolls" and dance hits by "The Velvet Crush." The soundtrack includes several songs by original artists that leave you dying to hear them again and again.

So, do Imogen and Al end up together after all they go through? You're not gonna find out by reading this. So grab your best friend or make it a belated Valentine's date to remember and go out and see "Down to You."
Music Review: The Alligator Blues Band

Jeremy Fox
Staff Writer

Years ago, Pottstown’s Sunnybrook Ballroom hosted some of the most famous dance bands in the world. Legendary musical icons such as Count Basie and Stan Kenton graced the bandstand of this once celebrated venue.

Today at the Sunnybrook Brew Pub, located on High Street, one can still enjoy the fantastic energy of live musical entertainment. On Saturday, Feb 5, the Alligators Blues Band delivered a night of hard driving tunes as they played to mainstream. No traditional Blues cleared and the dance floor filled.

The Alligators can be seen at the Barto Hotel just off of route 100.

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Gymnastics Tops RIC with Season High Score

Supported by an enthusiastic home crowd, the Ursinus Gymnastics team took on Rhode Island College on Saturday, Feb. 12. The UC gymnasts came up big in their final home meet, attaining their highest score of the season in 179.450-163.225 win.

The Bears dominated the meet from start to finish, winning every event over RIC by significant margins. With a total score of 45.875 points on the floor exercise, the UC squad bested the school record set on Feb. 27, 1999 against Rutgers.

Sophomore Christina Ng brought home the all-around title for the Bears, tallying 36.975 points. While winning first on the balance beam with a score of 9.600, Ng challenged the school event record (9.625) which she had set in 1999. Ng also captured second place standings on the vault (9.100), the uneven bars out third place on the event with an 8.950. Freshman Reyna Hochstedler contributed greatly to the Bears’ effort, winning the vault with a score of 9.125 and taking third on the floor exercise with a 9.200. Freshman Kristen Reed also excelled on the vault with a 9.025, finishing in third place.

Additionally, freshman Desiree Yuhasz had noteworthy performances on the balance beam for second place (9.250) and on the floor exercise for fourth (9.100).

As this meet marked the final home meet of the season for the Bears, seniors Molly Jennings, Sarah LaVigne, and Cindy Leahy competed on their teammates, LaVigne and Leahy wowed the crowd with their "provocative" moves on the floor, while Jennings stuck a bar routine.

"I'm totally pleased with the girls," said head coach Alice Kuntz, "We're well on our way to reaching our goal (of qualifying for) Nationals."

"The gymnasts have endless possibilities," agreed assistant coach Ed Nyman, "We haven't even touched our real potential yet."

The gymnastics team will take on West Chester University on Wednesday, Feb. 16.

Intramural 3 on 3 Action: Brains vs. Brute

Drew "the Manchild" Owens dropped 19 points and finished the day with a monstrous dunk.

One fan was overheard saying that Owens reminded him of a smaller Vince Carter. The pre-game work ethic and religious inspiration of Skellan helped lead the team to the crown. Also leading the way was Messick, known to the basketball world as Pitts Johnson, who dominated the boards throughout the game.

And who could forget the little guy Kev Schaeffer. This kid's scrappy play demonstrated the real life "little engine that could."

The 942 Rawdawgs continue their season with a regional tournament at Rutgers University where they will play UNC-Charlotte's 3-on-3 champion.

Indoor Track Steps Up To "Eight Way Challenge"

Despite the lack of indoor facilities, the Ursinus College men's and women's indoor track team finished third and sixth, respectively, at the "Eight Way Challenge" held at Swarthmore College on Saturday, Feb. 12.

The day led off with Ursinus sweeping the field events. Freshman John Mohl and Kate Gallagher placed third in the shot put. Mohl threw 41'07" and Gallagher threw 32'11". Sophomore Eboni Woodward placed third in the triple jump with 32'10.50". Sophomore Whitney Daniels jumped 16'01.25 in the long jump. Senior Marc Clymer cleared a height of 11'06" for the pole vault, earning a second place.

Yori also cleared 6' in the high jump, claiming a first place for the Bears.

The day continued with track events. For the men, Yori Adegaunwa took first places in both the 55 meter high hurdles with a time of 7.9 seconds and the 400 meter run with a time of 50.9 seconds. The women's 4x400 relay team of sophomores Lauren Cyrsky, Mariana Morris, Nola Rae Cronan, and freshman Vicky Everekhian finished second after Morris chased down the team from Swarthmore in the last 200 meters of the race with a time of 4:27. Nola finished sixth out of 26 girls in the 200 meter run in 28.43 seconds and Cyrsky also finished fourth in the 400 meter run with a time of 68.7 seconds.

The Bears will take this weekend off in preparation for the Indoor Centennial Conference Championships to be held at Haverford College on Feb. 26.

Gymnastics Wrap-Up

-Current Conference record: 6-0
-Ranked first for Division III Team Total
-Seven Ursinus Gymnasts are ranked within the Division III top ten in individual events

Season-at-a-Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Brockport Invitational</td>
<td>UC</td>
<td>174.100, Brockport 153.000</td>
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<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>UC 176.400, Ithaca 173.225</td>
<td>Wilson 166.775</td>
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<td>Jan. 29</td>
<td>Wilson 166.775</td>
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<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>UC 176.500, Brockport 158.150</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UC 174.450, RIC 163.225</td>
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Lauren Cyrsky
Copy Editor

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Staff Writer

Tim Noone

In the final week of the Bears' regular season, the Ursinus Wrestling team torched four non-league teams for an enormous confidence builder going into the championships. The Bears shutout the insufficiently matched teams of Valley Forge (58-0) and Gallaudet (60-0), while manhandling Kings Point (45-3) and Baptist Bible (42-15).

Senior Tom Flud smashed the school record for pins in a season (19), garnering five pins in his five matches for a total of 21 on the season. Flud pinned all of his opponents in less than three minutes and crushed his foe from Gallaudet in merely 51 seconds.

"Last year was a horrible year for me...There were definitely a few bumps in the road," Flud commented. "This year I dropped two weight classes. No one expected me to have a 30 win season, and I have a chance for a couple more this weekend at Championships."

"My goal is to be an All-American and go to Nationals," Flud continued. "I have to get the job done and win at conferences, either by pin or by points."

Many other Bears joined in the "Flud frenzy." Seniors Kevin Greco and Andy Ashton, juniors Pat Curry, Josh Moyer, and Brad Tobias pinned their opponents. Sophomores Lou DiStefano, Dan Cwalina, and Jim Turner were joined by freshmen Jeremy Snyder, Vince Yanni, and Sebastian Voltarelli who all also followed the lead of the upperclassmen.

Throughout the five matches, both Flud and Curry went undefeated (5-0), while Moyer and freshman Travis Allred took home four wins. "I had never seen a wrestling match before," freshman spectator Eric Fiero said. "The first time I went a few weeks back, the strength and determination of our own Grizzlies inspired me to kick some butt."

As the match reached its exciting conclusion, UC wound up one game over .500 overall to complete the season.

"We are really coming into our own as a team and as individuals," junior Mark Rodkey said. "These wins place confidence on our side going into the championships."

Gettysburg, Johns Hopkins, and Ursinus are expected to battle it out with the best teams in the conference on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 9 am at Johns Hopkins' Larry Goldfarb Gym. The bears are a close third place at 4-2 in Centennial Conference trailing Hopkins and Gettysburg who are both 5-1.

Sports Profile of the Week: Shana Goane

Andy Owens

Staff Writer

Shana Goane

photo from http://sports.ursinus.edu

Year: Senior
Major: Math
Sport(s): Basketball
Position played: Guard
Accomplishments this season:
- Leads the team in scoring, averaging 12.1 points per game
- Leads the team in steals with 33
- Only returning starter from last year
- Team Captain

What her teammates say:
Junior Kate Maxwell: "Shana is a real asset to our team. Shana's fierce intensity shines through on defense, and she is a real sharpshooter on offense. Off the court, her love for math sets a great example for the rest of us to follow in the classroom."

Best College Sports Moment: "They were all so good. It's impossible for me to pick just one."

Favorite Class at Ursinus: Introduction to Education with Marsha Florio

"In the next few years..."
"I would like to educate others on the value of math and its relevance to the rapid technological improvements made in the twenty-first century. I would most like working at a private high school where I could also coach basketball."

"Ten years from now..."
"Hopefully, I'll be married with five or six kids."

BASKETBALL
Men's team won 73-56 vs. Swarthmore
Women's team lost, 66-34 vs. Swarthmore

GYMNASTICS
High score for UC this season, winning 179.450-163.225 over RIC
Jumaah Johnson won bars with a 9.225

SWIMMING
Centennial Conference Championships for Men's and Women's teams at Franklin & Marshall on Feb. 18-20

TRACK
John Mohl is ranked 2nd in the Conference for shotput
Eboni Woodard placed third in the triple jump

WRESTLING
UC goes 4-1 in Feb.12 matches
Tom Flud and Pat Curry both posted five wins