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The Grizzly, February 27, 2001

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THE GRIZZLY

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Tuesday February 27, 2001

Autopsy reveals student's death possibly due to rare heart defect

Dan Reimold
Grizzly Co-Editor-in-Chief

The sudden death of Ursinus freshman Joseph deLaurentis may have been caused by a rare heart condition, an autopsy by the Chester County Coroner's Office revealed Friday, Feb. 23.

"It looks like an undiagnosed heart condition, possibly from amyloidosis, which infiltrates various organs of the body. It was a sudden cardiac death," County Coroner Dr. Rodger Rothenberger stated publicly Friday.

Funeral services for deLaurentis

were held Tuesday morning Feb. 27 at St. Anthony of Padua Church in his hometown of Hightstown, N.J. Ursinus College offered transportation for students who wished to attend.

A memorial service for the Ursinus community is planned for Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. in Bomberger Hall. It will be led by college chaplain Rev. Charles Rice.

According to a statement from Collegeville Police, deLaurentis was discovered lying face down in the snow behind Commonwealth by an Ursinus student shortly be-

fore 11 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22.

After finding him unresponsive, the student sought help from other students and deLaurentis was moved into the building.

Students performed CPR until emergency personnel arrived on the scene.

Trappe Ambulance transported deLaurentis with the assistance of the Collegeville Fire Company, due to snowy road conditions. He was taken to Phoenixville Hospital, where he later died.

Police have determined deLaurentis had left his room in Commonwealth to deliver a sand-

wich to another student in Duryea Hall, about a block from the dormitory.

It was during his return to Commonwealth that he apparently collapsed.

Collegeville Police and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau initially opened an investigation.

"It appears to have been cardiac-related," Montgomery County First Assistant District Attorney Tim Woodward stated. "There was no foul play."

Ursinus students were first notified of deLaurentis' death by college President John Strassburger

in a voice-mail message late Thursday night.

Soon after, a group of over 200 students met in Wismer Lower Lounge with Rev. Rice for prayers and mutual counseling sessions.

A Bearfacts e-mail message was sent campus-wide on Friday after 10 a.m., in part to inform students that the chaplain and college deans were available for grief counseling for as long as necessary.

In a letter to parents of students, Strassburger stated, "We grieve for the family in its time of sorrow and we ache for the loss of a young life filled with promise."

A graduate of the Peddie School in Hightstown, deLaurentis served as a manager of the football team during the fall semester at Ursinus and was pledging Delta Pi Sigma fraternity at the time of his death.

Junior Daniel Uszaki, vice-president of Delta Pi, and roommate Andy Geissler, also a junior, lived across the hall from deLaurentis in Commonwealth.

"He was a trusting student with a compassion and generosity that I can only dream of possessing one day," Uszaki remembers. "Andy and I considered Joey our little brother."

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IN THE NEWS



S&M to be on MTV

Ursinus seniors Sean Witt and Mike Keeper are taking their show on the road for MTV in a summer special. *News, Pg. 2*

ESS at Pa. conference

Club members attended the annual PSAHPERD conference in Lancaster, Pa. *News, Pg. 2*

OPINION

'My third roommate'

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Defending Greek life

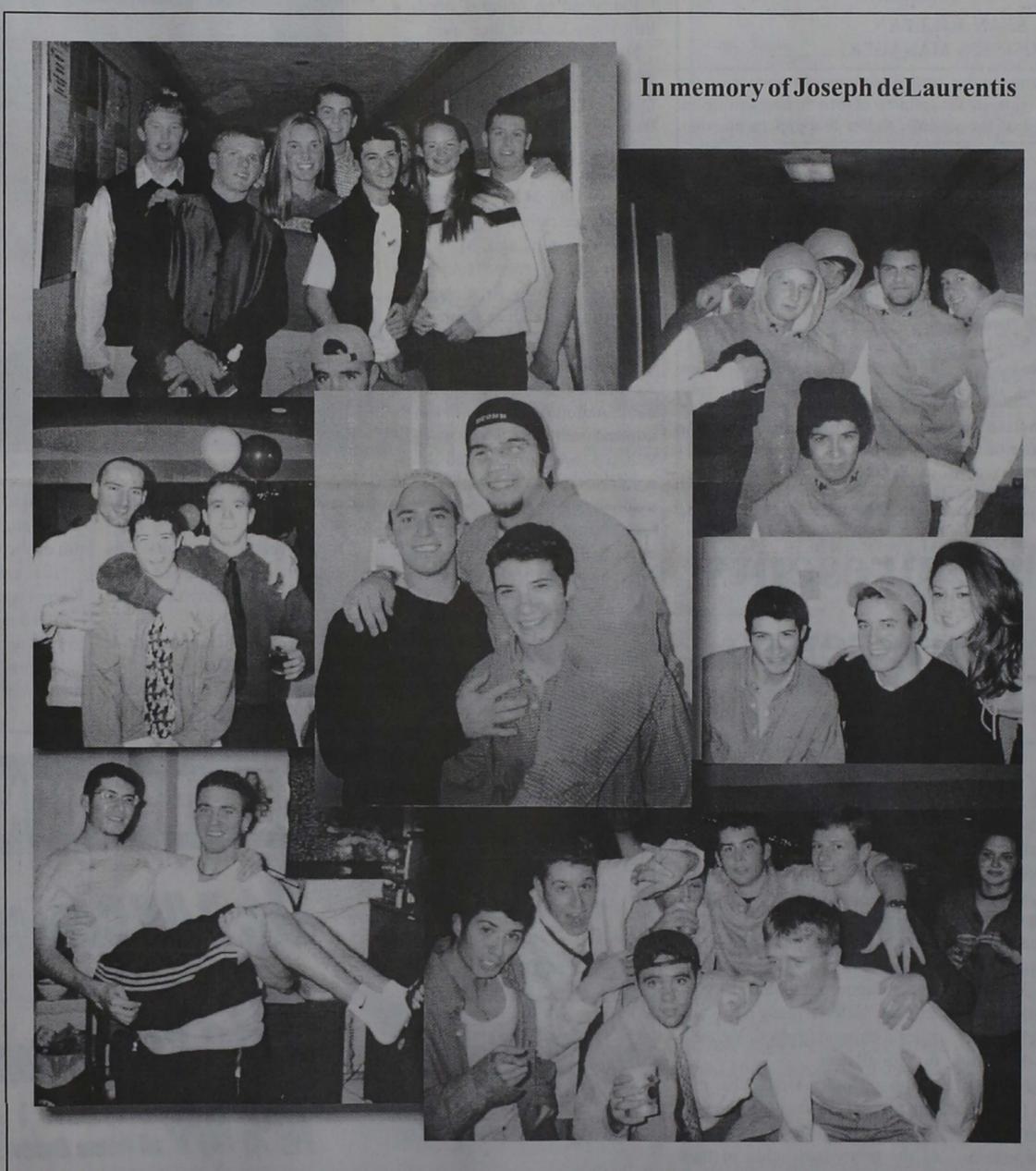
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Value of life

Junior student Lauren Cyrsky speaks on lesson learned in face of tragedy. *Opinion, Pg. 4*

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In memory of Joseph deLaurentis

Freshman Joseph deLaurentis (pictured in bottom left photo in arms of student Daniel Uszaki) passed away Friday, Feb. 23. Assembled by Joe Laskas.

Ursinus community shocked, saddened by student's passing

Quinn Dinsmore
Grizzly News Reporter

The snow-covered Ursinus campus awoke on Friday to chilling news: first-year student Joseph deLaurentis from Hightstown, New Jersey had died unexpectedly overnight of a rare undiagnosed heart condition.

In light of this tragedy, the student body, faculty, and administration came together in sorrow as the Class of 2004 and a close-knit community mourns one of its own.

Those who knew deLaurentis well describe him as "the kindest-hearted kid you could ever meet."

His roommate, freshman Bob Gray, obviously had difficulty putting his emotions into words but he

was grateful that he "got to know who Joe was, not just the outer shell. I only wish he had blessed us with his character and charisma longer."

"What can you say when you lose your friend, buddy, roommate, and pledge brother, even a piece of your heart? I just wish I could walk into our room and see him, I wish he was here still. I'll miss him more than anything."

Two of his best friends, juniors Dan Uszaki and Andy Geissler, remembered the freshman they loved like a little brother with funny stories and now bittersweet memories. From playing video games and watching Blind Date, Joey's "presence was a comfort and he

loved the simple things in life," Geissler said. "He had the heart of a lion and lived his life with such a positive outlook. He enjoyed every minute."

Uszaki remarked, "He was like our third roommate and he exemplified what an Ursinus student should be. He was so involved, good at everything, excited about pledging our fraternity, and family oriented."

Freshman Kate Guisto knew deLaurentis from high school. "In the four years I knew him, he never had a harsh word for anyone," she said. "He was so close to his family and he will always be my little Joey D."

Junior Brian Walsh also ex-

pressed his grief. "What upsets me most is that of all the people whose time had to come, it had to be Little Joey who was never angry, never spiteful, but instead, always happy, always forgiving, always smiling," he said. "We can never take anything or anyone for granted."

Another brother, senior Joe DeMarco, felt "Joe was and will be forever my friend. The sudden loss was a shock to my system and to everyone else that knew Joe. Joe was a great person. He was always smiling and would never think twice about helping you out."

Freshman Travis Roop, who joked with his friend about being the "funny little Italian kid," will

remember Joe every day. "I know that Joe touched many hearts, and that from now on, whenever I make the hike over to Commonwealth, that I will miss the smiling face of everyone's friend."

Freshman Brice Shirbach commented on what he will miss about his friend. "There's never only one thing you can miss about a friend. I would rather celebrate who he was and his life. He was a genuinely great person. He had a contagious smile and sense of humor."

His closest friends experienced various emotions in response to his death.

Freshman Brian Harrington confessed feelings of anger and dev-

"Joe was and will be forever my friend. The sudden loss was a shock to my system and to everyone else that knew Joe.

---Joe DeMarco,
Ursinus senior and
Delta Pi fraternity member

astation.

"Why had God taken one of his own true gifts of life? This is the question that still haunts me today and will continue to haunt me for the rest of my life," Harrington

Remembrance on Pg. 3

THE GRIZZLY

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF URSINUS COLLEGE
25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Ursinus senior wins Baumgartner Scholarship

Cara Nageli
Grizzly News Editor

Roxanne Moore, a senior exercise and sports science major, was recently recognized by winning the Violet Baumgartner Scholarship Award.

She found out about the scholarship earlier in the year when recognized as the Outstanding Future Professional for Ursinus College and submitted a resume-based application.

Finalists for the scholarship were selected competitively.

A group of over 70 students in Pennsylvania was narrowed down to three finalists, who were invited to attend the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance State Convention in Lancaster, PA.

The three finalists were interviewed at the conference, where they were asked a number of questions about themselves, were required to ask a question to the interviewers, and talked about financial need.

"Basically you have to sell yourself," Moore said of the rigorous interviewing process.

"You have to know what to say and what they want to hear. It's like an art, and you either do it well or you don't."

The scholarships were awarded at a dinner that evening.

All three were awarded with scholarships, and Moore was awarded the highest value.

Moore's accomplishments over the past four years show why she was worthy of the scholarship.

She currently holds various offices at Ursinus, such as President of PEK (ESS Honor Society), President of the Athletic Training Club, Vice President of the ESS Club, Secretary of the Campus Activities Board, and Recording Secretary for Phi Alpha Psi, and she is a member of Whittan's Society (Women's Honor Society), STAR, AAHPERD, and PSAHPERD.

Her volunteer work includes Clark Physical Therapy, The Children's Therapy Center, Fairfax Nursing Center, Halfway House in Norristown, the canned food drive at Ursinus, and she is a tutor in exercise physiology.

Moore is a certified aerobics instructor, certified sports nutritionist, orientation assistant, stu-

dent athletic trainer, and has made Dean's List every semester.

Aside from the Violet Baumgartner Scholarship and Most Outstanding Future Professional from Ursinus College, Moore has received other honors as well. She received the Rotary Club Scholarship and Merit Scholarship, was elected as a "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities," and has attended eight conventions since June of 1998.

Moore plans to go to graduate school for physical therapy. She has already been accepted by Widener and Arcadia and is waiting for acceptance from the University of Delaware, Medical College of Virginia, University of Maryland, and Thomas Jefferson.

S&M on MTV a reality in near future

Sarah Napolitan
Grizzly A&E Editor

Everyone on campus needs a little more S&M in their lives.

Now people all over the world who have never experienced S&M might be getting a dose of it right in their very own living rooms.

That's right, seniors Shawn Witt and Mike Keeper will soon be employed by MTV and may be broadcasted right into your home.

A few months ago, MTV held video auditions for a "How Crazy Are You?" Spring Break special.

Instead of sending themselves wearing whipped cream speedos or grinding to the latest hit single, Keeper and Witt put together a combination of the S&M show's greatest moments, clips of individual video projects and documentaries they had done over the summer.

A short while later, an MTV executive called Keeper and offered he and Witt the chance of a lifetime: co-hosting their own video documentary/comedy show.

The show would have three teams of two that travel the country and video document kids who



Seniors Sean Witt (left) and Mike Keeper (right) were chosen by MTV producers for the chance of a lifetime.

have shows just like the S&M show.

"We travel to where the kids have their shows and see what kinds of crazy stuff they're doing," Keeper explained.

"Then we kind of 'scout host' it and it goes on MTV".

The boys are heading off to NYC

in April to get the full details, and will begin filming in July for a test run of the show.

"If it catches, we have a job," Keeper said.

"If it doesn't, I guess I have to go to grad school."

Despite potential fame and fortune, Witt and Keeper are both

very humble about everything. "I'd like to thank our cast and crew," Witt commented.

"We're going to come back and get them if everything works out."

If everything does work out, you can catch S&M airing on MTV in early September with their brand new show.

ESS club presents at Pa conference

Nipun Suri
Grizzly News Staff

From Feb. 15-17, 14 Ursinus ESS majors attended the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PSAHPERD) conference.

This annual conference, held in Lancaster PA, showcased new ideas, strategies and developments in all allied health fields. Professors, trainers, teachers and students from across the state attended and/or presented at the conference. Of the 14 Ursinus students attending the conference, three gave presentations pertaining to new developments in exercise and sport science.

Senior David Heath, who is the president of the ESS club, presented a new computer program designed to allow students to assess their own physical fitness and compare it to the nation as a whole. Heath praised the conference by stating, "it gave a chance to foster friendships with other students as well as experts in the field. All presenters were judged

equally regardless of their educational background".

Junior Allison Wagner gave her presentation on a Polar cardio heart rate monitor. Specifically, she described how this instrument could be utilized in physical education classes since it offers students a more personal approach to learning about their own physical fitness. Wagner feels that the conference, "offered many new strategies at improving physical education for all ages".

Junior Donica Godri also presented new computer software that assesses and informs individuals of the nutritional value of their diets. Godri found the conference informative and she "encourages all ESS majors to attend the conference during their college career." She also feels that, "the conference is a good way of getting your name out in the allied health field."

All three students enjoyed the conference and agreed that it was a great opportunity for them to present and learn about new ideas in the allied health field.

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Remembrance: Students reflect on loss of classmate, friend

Remembrance from Pg. 1

said. "The only answer that helps me go to sleep at night is the notion that God needed him and had a special place for him at his side in heaven.

"I know that Joey is looking down on me and all those that loved him smiling, telling a joke or doing his famous Harry Carry impression, wanting everyone to know that he is all right and to continue to live life to the fullest, cherishing every day that we have

brother. I knew he was there with us in spirit and coming together is exactly what Joey would have wanted."

His closest friends in Commonwealth know the road of grief ahead will be extremely painful but they are focusing on what Joey gave to them in celebration of his life.

Uszaki admitted, "It's so hard to walk past his room and know he won't come through the door. He was such a huge part of my daily

think he's smiling down on us and I hope he knows how much we loved him as our little brother. The way he lived his life helped you realize who you were." Both friends vowed to remember their good times with Joey forever and only wish more people would have known the freshman they cared for and respected.

Even those students who didn't know him personally grieved on Friday, shedding tears for a young life cut short.

Freshman Megan Rooney immediately thought of his family and friends but hoped the "closeness of the entire campus would continue. It is one of the things I like best about Ursinus, the coming together of the campus for support."

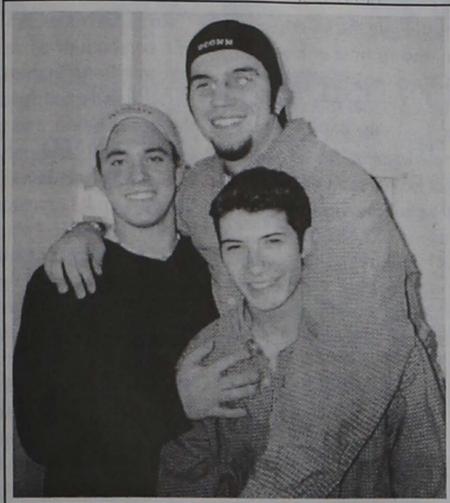
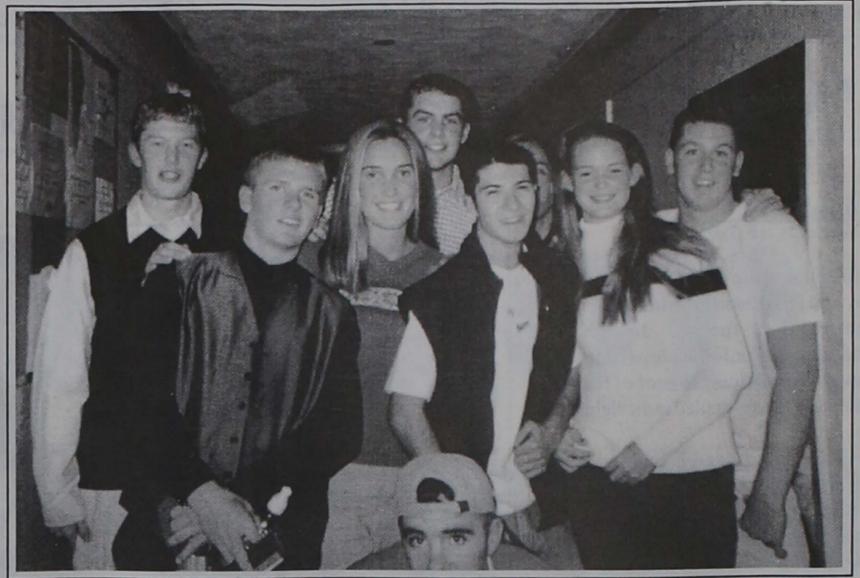
Many students relied on the support of Ursinus as a community, as the college offered grief counseling and frequent updates on the tragedy via e-mail. Ursinus even provided bus transportation for students who wished to pay their respects to the family during the wake held on Monday and the funeral on Tuesday in his hometown.

A memorial service is also being conducted by Chaplain Charles Rice and will be held in Bomberger Auditorium on Wednesday afternoon.

Student body president Andy Haines remarked, "The depth that this event affected the entire campus is immeasurable. The idea of Ursinus as a family came to fruition from this sad event. The emotions felt campus-wide Friday are a reflection of the Ursinus family."

Joseph deLaurentis, described by all as a wonderful friend with the ability to light up a room, a great sense of humor, and big heart, taught the Ursinus campus, in his sudden death, one of the most painful and amazing lessons in life.

Freshman Meaghan Nelsen, who saw Joe in biology lab the night he died, expressed that sentiment. "It's an absolute tragedy for someone so young ... We need to appreciate each other and treasure the times that we have with one another."



Ursinus junior students Dan Uszaki (left) and Andy Geissler pose with Joe deLaurentis (bottom right).

on earth."

Geissler recalled on that fateful night, the residents of Commonwealth gathered for prayer, "laughing and crying for their little

life. He was my favorite freshman and I loved him. Many people don't understand the bond we had and why this is so painful."

Geissler agreed, expressing, "I

Main street accident raises questions, larger issues

Patty Quinn
Grizzly staff writer

Since the recent drunk driving incident on Main Street last week, questions have arisen as to whether this is a growing problem amongst Ursinus students.

Many students fear for their life each Friday and Saturday night when they venture to drive down Main Street. On the other hand, other students do not feel that it is a problem at all.

Like every other place in this country, there is always the possibility of a drunk driver on the road. The chances may not increase just because by living on a college campus.

Many Ursinus students feel drunk driving is an increasing problem. One RA said, "It is a known fact that students drive to Wawa after drinking a few beers on a Friday or Saturday night."

Is their rationale that it is only down the street? If so, that is not an excuse, because walking can be an option. Another RA commented, "It is definitely an increasing problem on Main Street in particular. It is scary."

Another student found himself undecided on this issue. "I don't consider drunk driving as being a problem amongst our students. However, I do know of some of my friends who have driven drunk, so I guess there is a bit of a problem."

A majority of students expressed their feelings and said that it was not a problem here at Ursinus.

One junior said, "I don't think it is a problem because our school is so small, and most of the student's driving is limited."

Another student said, "I don't

consider it to be a problem now, but should it ever become one, it should not be tolerated."

A member of SERV said, "While I have never had to deal with a drunk driving situation since I have been a member of SERV, I have seen some erratic driving on campus on the weekends, and I would attribute that to drunk driving. I hope that it does not become a problem because there would be horrible consequences for the perpetrator, as well as the victims."

Gary Hodgson Sr. of Campus Safety said that during his 11 years here at Ursinus, "Instances of drunk driving are few and far between." He then went on to explain the specific of the accident that took place last Sunday morning, February 18th, at 1:45 am.

As it stated in the "Crime Blotter" from last week's Grizzly, a young man from campus hit a pole with his car in front of Elliot. There was severe damage to his car, and the driver himself was slightly injured. He was administered a driver's competency test on the scene which indicated there to be a case of intoxication. The student was then brought to the police station where he failed a breathalyzer test.

However, aside from this particular incident, Gary feels that students here are very responsible: "The fact that there are few incidents here tells me that the students are responsible. The idea of a designated driver is widely accepted, and many times students have other students who are incapable of walking home stay with them for the night."

Your strengths covered my weaknesses

Your strengths covered my weaknesses
Your smile brightened my days
Your laughs eased my pain
Your presence warmed my heart

You touched my life
in a way that words cannot describe
You are my little brother
the little brother I've always wanted
You have opened my eyes and heart
to a new way of living
You lived life to the fullest
enjoying every minute life had to offer
I treasure every moment together
the laughs, the hugs, the words
You're forever in my heart and prayers
I love and miss you dearly.

Love Always & Forever
Your brother,
Andrew Geissler

Through this tragic time

Through this tragic time
there is no justice.
We rush to answer "for what
reason was his life
brushed away like dust?"
It's not in God we trust,
but rather one another.
For why would He destroy this lover of life
and also take down his brothers?
May his soul survive
as we all strive
to explain to his family why
we loved to see their son alive.
My hearth thrives to describe
this smiling saint.
But my insides die when
in the back of my mind his voice rings faint.
Why would God take his life,
rape his life,
disgrace his life?
...And not erase my life instead
He spread so much joy and wonder

Love, Mac

Weird Winter Sale at the Bookstore!

--Entire UPSTAIRS clothing department on sale through Feb. 28th!

--Lots of great markdowns on the clearance rack!

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If you are a registered voter in one of the following areas, please be sure to vote on March 20th!

Townships:

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Boroughs:

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'My third roommate': Student remembers 'Little Joey'

Daniel Uszaki
Special to the Grizzly

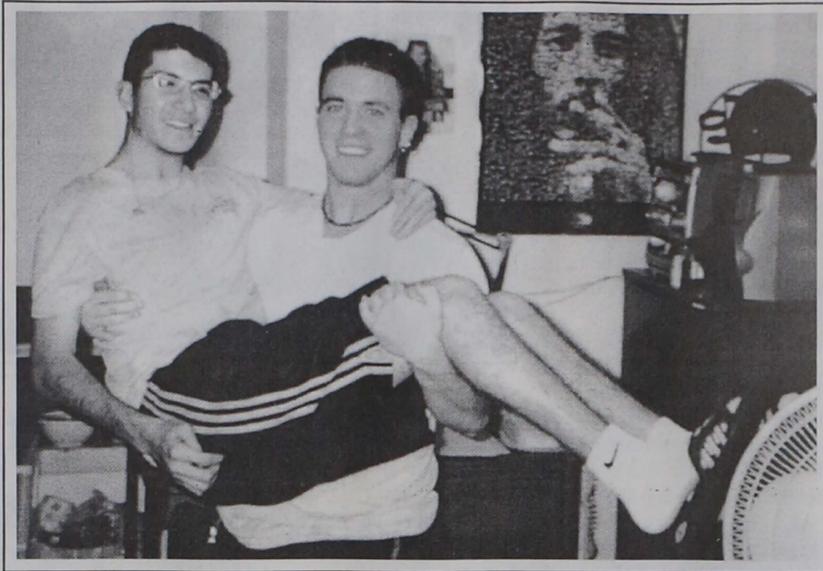
A little while ago, I was asked by and felt reason to write a short editorial about Joseph deLaurentis' unfortunate passing away. This offer, in honor of his memory, was e-mailed to the right person.

The Brothers and New Members of Delta Pi Sigma knew the real Joey, but if I could pick out who knew this kid the best, it would have to be my roommate Andy Geissler, and me, Dan Uszaki.

Little Joey and his roommate, Bob Gray, were the first two freshmen that Andy and I had a chance to meet on the campus for the new year. Being the outgoing guys that we are, we marched to the room across from us to see what guys we were going to get a chance to corrupt this year.

Both of them possessed a sense of innocence and purity, but that's usually the general feeling that you get from some of the incoming freshmen.

However, as Andy and I began to hang out with Joey more, it was quite obvious that he wasn't just another average person, at least not on an emotional and personal



Ursinus junior Daniel Uszaki (right) gives freshman Joe deLaurentis (left) a lift in Commonwealth.

level.

No, he wasn't very big and if you didn't know him, chances are he would walk by you on campus and you probably didn't even notice it.

Our friendship with Joey began to increase rapidly as Andy and I began to realize that we had discovered a third roommate. To tell you the truth, if I was to go on and list all of the memories that I had

with Joey in the one and a half semesters that I knew him, I don't know if you could stop me from talking about this amazing person.

It's the small things that I'll miss, think about, spontaneously cry thinking of, and wish that I could hear or see just one more time. Joey had a talent of brightening up anyone's day with simply his laugh or smile, and that is what I'll miss

most about my brother and my best friend.

I can't remember Joey ever raising his voice at another in anger, I can't remember being mad or fighting with him, but most importantly... I can't remember a day going by where I didn't get to see him, to ask him how his day was, to make sure that the freshman spirit was still caught up inside of him. He

was the definition of "Good things come in small packages," and it didn't take a genius to realize that.

Certainly, the New Members and Brothers of Delta Pi Sigma recognized how valuable Joey was, but also how rare.

For a little guy, he had the heart of a lion, the attitude of a warrior, and he always took things head on. Everyone was glad that Joey possessed a desire for pledging Delta Pi Sigma, because if he didn't, there was no persuading him. He did what he believed in and nobody was going to make him do anything but what he desired. The kid that I saw during pledging was the same person that Andy and I looked out for during the first semester. He never changed.

He was the same Joey that I, like the rest, came to know and love. He didn't have to do anything flashy to get you to laugh at him, it was the simple things that made you laugh. He was a simple person that mastered everything from sports to video games to the art of being a "perfect person." That isn't a word that I throw around very often, but it is the only word that describes my little buddy. I learned so much from him and Joey is going to be in all of our hearts forever.

My only regret is that I wish Joey could have seen the love that this campus had for him... too many people didn't know him, yet. He just needed a little bit more time to blossom to the rest of you.

Andy and I saw how beautiful of a person he was, and it didn't take very long for him to open to us. He was a trusting student with the compassion and generosity that you and I can only dream of possessing one day.

Andy and I considered Joey our little brother. I want to thank each and every person that took the time to acknowledge his presence on campus, I want to thank everyone (especially the fraternities and sororities) for their endless support and gifts to the porch of Commonwealth and Joey's memorial, and I want to thank each person that prayed for his well-being. If there is one lesson that I can take from this unfortunate event, it would be to take Little Joey's beautiful outlook on life and apply it to my own... live life to the fullest, don't walk away mad and don't be afraid to tell someone that you love them because you never know when your last chance is around the corner.

In face of tragedy, a reminder to value life

Lauren Cvrsky
Grizzly Co-Editor-in-Chief

I hate how something tragic can sometimes indirectly leave a positive mark on my life.

The first time someone close to me passed away, I was a junior in high school and it was my best friend's younger brother.

Confusion, fear, and sadness encompassed me.

Here, someone I had talked to, shared stories with, laughed with and made fun of, was gone, without any warning.

It was the most horrible event that had ever occurred.

The next thing that happened, and still does at points, was this onset of immense fear.

Fear that next time it would be a family member, another friend, or just anyone I had ever interacted with.

Basically, I feared that somebody close to me would die and I would again go through the same emotions as before.

When I received word that a fellow student had passed away suddenly, I was upset, despite the fact that he had not been a friend of mine.

The surprise of it put the value of life, anyone's life, into perspective. The petty argument I had at dinner, the dirty look I gave to the driver who cut me off, were all the biggest wastes of time.

I had gotten the worst grade ever on my last exam in politics, but does it really matter?

Now, someone's brother, friend, son... was gone - that is something that cannot be changed or taken back.

The first thing I did after my friend's brother died, was run around and make sure there wasn't some person that I had forgotten to call back or tell I loved.

I called my dad, grateful that I still had the ability to call him up and hear his voice. I stepped aside from the stupid hate I felt

towards my sister and realized the value of the bond we shared as being from the same family.

The possibility of losing her, knowing that I failed to make the best of our time together, was enough for me to avoid all future confrontations - just in case.

Instead, I found security in the fact that if anything did happen, she would know that I loved her and I would know she loved me, with no regrets.

The lack of value we put on everyone's life is the most upsetting observation that I have made.

We lose countless hours as college students, to things we think demand our immediate attention.

It could be a complication with a member of the opposite sex, back stabbing a friend, getting wasted at a party, or pouring over books for a test.

All of that to sacrifice a late night talk with a friend, a phone call home to check in with mom or dad, or a call to a high school friend.

However, I don't mean to shrink the significance of events that do seem important at the time.

I just think that it is necessary to take the time to step back and evaluate what life, college, friends, and ultimately, what you, as a person, are.

For now, I'll mourn the loss of losing someone, however large or small his or her influence was on my life.

I'll mourn the loss of a friend that could have been, a person who could have made me laugh, a person who no longer has the chance to affect other people's lives.

I also want to take time to reflect on how the family, friends, and the students who are directly affected by this loss, feel and how I would if I were in that situation again. I express my deepest sympathies.

We should be grateful to be able to say that we are alive, I know I

Greek life teaches tradition, unity

Sorority member responds to criticism of pledging process

Jenn Prendiville
Special to the Grizzly

Being in a Greek organization is something that people choose to do. Who gives anyone the right to bash someone's decision.

No one. You say that pledging is making people suffer. I am in a sorority, and I do not feel that I suffered nor suffer right now.

I feel that I made a great decision and I feel that I am privileged that I have gotten the opportunity to pledge.

No matter what sorority I would belong to, I would feel the same way, because I know that each one has the same ideals and traditions that I have come to learn.

What our new members go through is nothing that will harm them. They soon will be a part of us and we will treat them as sister, like we do to all of each other right now.

Everything that we do is done for a reason. It is done to teach the pledges about traditions, sisterhood, unity, pride and many other things.

By you making the decision not to pledge you are automatically an outside source.

You do not understand what goes on behind our closed doors.

The fact that you make assumptions that we are hurting our pledges

am.

I just hope the next time something this tragic happens to anyone, that person will be able to go on knowing that he or she lived his or her life to the fullest and that the time spent with others was worthwhile.

I hope everyone makes an effort to ensure that not a moment is wasted.

We may never know the value of something until it is gone, but I'd at least like to be able to say that I tried to find out.

Time in life is limited, to waste it would be foolish.

or making them suffer, is something that you are jumping to conclusions about.

Those conclusions that you have made are what are getting the Greek society in trouble, and that is how we are getting our bad name.

When the truth is that behind our closed doors, we are teaching our pledges the traditions that we have learned, and that have made us the people we are now.

You say, "Greek organizations are beneficial to their members" because they develop a strong level of friendship among their members," but then you contradict yourself by saying that pledging is not beneficial to the pledges.

Every member that is in a Greek organization has gone through pledging and because of pledging, therefore they have the great friendships.

Pledging IS beneficial because it allows the pledges to understand

the bond that the organization has, and those people will continue to teach the new classes about the bonds for years to come, that if however, unless people like you keep prying at our beliefs.

You say that we will continue to haze in secret, and that you know nothing beyond the rumors that everyone else hears.

That is exactly what they are,

RUMORS, but because you take the initiative to believe these rumors, you force people to draw a line between the independents and the Greeks.

We do not dare bash your decision to be an independent, we accept your decision and we are glad that you have made that decision because you feel that it is not for you.

A line has been drawn between independents and Greeks and that line was drawn because of the few independents that need to bash our feelings for our organization.

The letters that each Greek

wears upon their chest mean more to them than you could ever imagine.

You try and get rid of the Greeks on this campus, well I am sorry sir, because no matter how hard you try, our bonds that we have will never go away.

We have our letters and our friends are for life and maybe you are just jealous that you are not as happy as we are and always will be, so please sir, keep your damn opinions to yourself.

With the tragic accident that unfortunately happened over this weekend, shows this bond that us Greeks have.

Many people did not know little Joey, but felt the pain that each member of Delta Pi Sigma felt. Because of this pain, we all rallied around each other to show our support.

Joey did not have to wear a set of letters on his chest. In his heart he was already there.

He was proud to be pledging a fraternity, and he will be a member forever.

God bless you Joey, and our prayers are with you as you continue to watch over all of us!

Jenn Prendiville is a member of Phi Alpha Psi sorority.

**The World is not Conclusion
A Species Stands Beyond
Invisible as Music
But Positive as Sound
It beckons and it baffles**

Emily Dickinson, #501

Joseph deLaurentis's untimely and tragic death robs us of his company, and forces us to meditate on the meaning of his life and our own. But now, as much as anything, it should compel us to

celebrate him and who he was. We should distill the memory of Joseph, capture it, preserve it and make his presence part of our better natures.

Our obligation to his family and

to each other is to cherish from now on the memory of Joseph deLaurentis.

---John Strassburger,
Ursinus College President