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In warlike pomp, with banners flowing, the regiments of autumn stood:
I saw their gold and scarlet glowing, from every hillside, every wood.

Henry Van Dyke, "The Fall of the Leaves"
On the Thursday night preceding Halloween this season, two white, male students were spotted in costume—one dressed as rapper Lil Jon and one as a member of the Wu-Tang Clan, a popular rap group. Donning African-American hairstyles, including dreadlocks and an afro, the two also adorned themselves in the attire for which the aforementioned musical artists are famous, wearing jerseys and baggy clothing. However, what was most controversial regarding this choice of costume was the decision made by these students to cover their faces in a muddy substance, mimicking the darker skin tones of Lil Jon and the Wu-Tang Clan, and, essentially, bordering on blackface.

Blackface was an extremely offensive practice that began during the 1820s and lasted until the 1930s, and consisted of mainly white actors who coated their faces in black shoe polish, leaving enough empty space around the mouth so as to exaggerate the "big lip" stereotype of blacks. These actors would mock blacks through song and dance, scathingly performing as slaves or ex-slaves. At the time, other racial groups were also targeted in line with this pervaded the media, particularly through popular cartoons, including the well-liked animations of Mel Brooks. However, it was finally recognized as a hateful form of entertainment and almost all programs depicting blackface were pulled from the airwaves by the 1970s.

Sadly, it appears that the history of blackface has been forgotten, as there have been several instances of it at colleges throughout the United States within the past few years, including Haverford College, Syracuse University, Penn State, Oklahoma State University, Union College, and the University of Virginia, to name a few. Now, several questions have arisen regarding this practice at Ursinus College. Whose fault is it that these two Ursinus students dressed this way? Was it offensive to the rest of the student body? Should there be repercussions for the students?

Students across campus appear to have widely varying opinions regarding this issue, ranging from shock or disgust to apathy or amusement. Sophomore Evan Thornburg was profoundly affected by this incident. "I was offended deeply. Even though it may be a joke to them, it's not a joke to a race that was being depicted at one time in a negative connotation, using that technique to make them look like fools, idiots, clowns, and scoundrels," Thornburg explains.

Some students express concern regarding a possible lack of respect for history. "I saw it and I felt like I was going back in time," purports junior Amanda Deibert. "Initially, I was shocked," claims one anonymous student. "My first reaction was to be offended, but once their intention was explained to me I was no longer upset."

Intent appears to weigh heavily with respect to students' feelings regarding the incident. Those who truly believe that there was no malicious drive behind the costumes seem more willing to accept the incident as it occurred and move on. Sophomore Sara Marshall declares, "I have mixed feelings about the students because I do not know if they had any prior knowledge of the racial ties to blackface. If they did, and they knew about the racial implications, they were completely wrong in what they did, and they should face some consequence. If they were honestly just wearing a Halloween costume, I feel that they should be informed of how bad their decision was and be advised to pick better costumes for next year."

"I think that it was a bad decision on their part and showed immaturity and lack of understanding concerning what may be racially offensive," asserts the anonymous student. "Apparently they didn't think that anyone would be offended and they were just dressing up as some of their favorite rappers who are black. I do not harbor any hostile feelings toward them because I believe them and accept that they were not being intentionally offensive."

Many colleges have taken action against the students who have practiced blackface. At the University of Virginia, two fraternities were suspended for similar behavior. At Haverford, since the students who committed the offense were in violation of the school's honor code, which maintains that offending one student is a violation, they were sentenced to the writing of history-intensive papers, as well as apologies and other redeeming activities. Still other schools have mandated some form of community service for offending students. Such actions raise the following issues here: should Ursinus have an honor code and should action be taken against the two Ursinus students?

Some students don't believe these two actions to be fitting. Marshall explains, "I do not think that we should adopt such [an honor code]—only because I feel as though people should be able to behave civilly without an honor code hanging over their heads. I do, however, feel that people should be responsible for their actions." With respect to punitive measures, she suggests, "I think they should be informed of the implications their costumes made, but because nothing like this has happened before, because we do not know their true intentions, and because we don't have a system to deal with something like this, we should not take any action against them."

Sackie supports the idea of productive sentencing for the students. "They should have community service with inner city kids or something...that would allow for them to get to know the people who they're discriminating against."

Thornburg proposes that the school take charge. "I think this school should make a statement to show it does not support such actions at the least, so that the minorities on campus can feel comfortable with where their school stands when it comes to such issues." At this point, the ultimate issue at hand is whether or not the school should or would make a statement. While some students feel that it is the school's obligation, as an institution of higher learning, to comment on this occurrence, others feel that the Ursinus community should just move on.

Essentially, the questionable costumes are an issue of great sensitivity. Unfortunately, a perhaps unintentionally harmless set of costumes placed a great rain cloud upon what was meant to be an enjoyable party. Though there are no known plans for immediate action against the students, there may be a call for some form of community service or education from concerned students. In the end, it is evident that to some, blackface has lost meaning, but to others, the legacy of its once ubiquitous use shall not be forgotten.
USGA passes Sigma Pi

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Applause echoed throughout Olin Auditorium as USGA President Vince Rosandich announced that Sigma Pi had passed USGA review. The final vote was 130 for Sigma Pi, and 91 against, with three students abstaining, showing that every vote does count.

The members of Sigma Pi were surprised after the results were announced. They had initially anticipated losing the vote and having to go before USGA again for approval, according to vice president Kevin Curl. "We're very surprised, very relieved. We feel this will save ourselves a lot of time," Curl said.

Mike Malone, president of Sigma Pi, echoed similar feelings with just one word: "Ecstatic."

The controversy over the group reached its peak two weeks ago when members of the Ursinus colony of the fraternity came to the USGA meeting to give a presentation about what the organization stands for and explain how bringing it to campus will be of great benefit.

Managed by Province Archon Frank Fryberg, the group's national advisor, Malone began by showing a slide show to the mainly-Greek audience. It included the fraternity's vision statement, which explained that Sigma Pi is dedicated to providing training, guidance and opportunities for leadership development, social and personal development, academic achievement, community service and heightened moral awareness.

The show also stated some facts about the fraternity. It was founded at Vincennes University in 1897. Sigma Pi currently has 82,000 members, 202 chapters and 10 colonies, which are groups that have not yet been chartered by the national organization. Currently, the Ursinus colony has 29 members, and was officially colonized on April 30, 2004.

One important aspect of Sigma Pi is the Altruistic Campus Experience, or ACE, project. The project is designed for chapters to exhibit pride and respect for their host college, and for those chapters to give something back to the college. The show mentioned some of the service projects already completed by the Ursinus colony, including its 1st Annual Arbor Day Cleanup, and its assistance in building a playground for physically handicapped children in Downingtown.

In addition, the national fraternity has an educational foundation that provides the opportunity for brothers to apply for scholarships. Awards can range from $250 to over $5000, according to the foundation's website.

Malone also explained that bringing Sigma Pi to campus will increase the number of Greeks on campus.

Having a new national fraternity on campus gives those students that did not join the current fraternities a new option, which will also be extended to incoming freshmen. "We recruit a different kind of person," Malone said.

Some students in attendance had questions about the fraternity's status on campus.

Julie Krezinski, a member of Phi Alpha Psi, was concerned that since Sigma Pi was not yet recognized by Ursinus, their brothers should not be allowed to wear their letters. She felt that it was somewhat insulting to the other Greeks who had to go through pledging before they were given their letters.

Malone responded that since they are officially colonized by the national fraternity, they have the right to wear their letters. In support, Vanessa McGrath, of Sigma Sigma Sigma, noted that her sorority gives its pledges letters prior to the conclusion of new member education.

Lauren Wise, of Tau Sigma Gamma, was concerned that Sigma Pi would recruit by giving out "free" letters, which would deme the local Greek organizations. Malone said that they do not recr in ways that would off the local fraternities and sororities.

Another student questioned how hard the requirements were for becoming a fraternity. Malone, holding a thick binder, explained that there were a lot of requirements that needed to be met before they could become chartered. He felt that the process was good, and that he and his brothers have become closer as they have moved toward earning their charter.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting, some students came to express their support for Sigma Pi's effort at recognition. Though some of the questions asked of them that night were intense, the members of Sigma Pi expressed an understanding of the concerns of the student body: "I understand what they are trying to say, but we don't see it exactly the same way," said vice president Kevin Curl.

With the approval of USGA, Sigma Pi's constitution must be approved by the Student Activities and Services Committee, or SACC. This is a standing student-faculty committee that is responsible for reviewing every organization's constitution after being passed by USGA. The approval of the faculty is the final step required before an organization can become recognized.

The next USGA meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 17, at 9:30 p.m. in Phaler Auditorium. This is a town hall meeting, so all organizations receiving AFAC funding must send one representative.

DSAC updates

For those of you looking to eat healthier and want to see more whole wheat, there is good news and bad news. Unfortunately, most food carriers do not have many bread options where whole wheat is the first ingredient. However, dining services is working to provide a whole wheat bread and bagel option.

Also, General Mills will be changing their cereal formulas. All of their cereals will contain less sugar and processed flour and more whole wheat and bran. Granted, this may take some time, but it is something to look forward to.

There seems to be some confusion on what exactly a Meal Deal is. The goal of the Meal Deal is two fold: provide a quick meal that many people would like and portion it to fit within the meal plan. There is room for leniency with this. For instance, if the Meal Deal is a cheese burger, but you want a hamburger, then that could be made special order. However, it is not meant to be "have it your way," and trying to create your own meal would defeat the purpose. Think of the Meal Deal as a daily special which changes from day to day.

As always, feel free to e-mail us at DSAC@ursinus.edu if you have comments or suggestions, or come to one of our meetings. We hope you enjoy your meals and please remember to bus your tables.

 Lonnie Graham is... 

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Many students came to hear Lonnie Graham, the 2002 recipient of the prestigious Pew Fellowship in the Arts grant, on Thursday night. Graham, who hails from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, comes across as more than just your average genius artist. He was endearing, selfless, candid, and downright hilarious!

Graham grew up in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement, but was too young to participate. His guilt over this drove him to the ends of the earth, searching for something political, "It's the sixties, everybody's doing something political...you know I'm taking pictures of sticks."

His ability to poke fun at his own folly is amazing, and drew peals of laughter from the crowd on numerous occasions. Graham says, "Here's the thing...okay, now what is it? 1960 something? I get this camera...I take a bunch of pictures, I win a few prizes...I think I'm a photographer...I'm gonna go around the world and take all kind of photographs, so that's what I did. And then...nothing happened! You know, I go around the world and what do I find?" he shouts at the audience, "Sticks!"

His projects evolved to include much more than sticks. He realized, after spending time with a particular teen, that art and community are related. Graham says, "I am interested in reestablishing the role of the artist as a vital societal component. That means rebuilding traditional links between artists and communities and activating those communities using art and artists as a tool."

To include just a few of the benevolent projects that he has bestowed upon society, for the Three Rivers Arts Festival he began the African-American Garden Project, which involved the community. For this, he flew farmers in from Africa to teach poor African-American mothers how to grow food, among other things. He has spent hours with inner city students, developing close relationships with them through art. Graham has used art grant money to buy blankets, coats, and food for homeless people.

His artistic projects have won numerous awards, but there is so much more to Lonnie Graham. He may have become a social and political activist and artist, but he is also a philanthropist. Graham says, "As artists we must not limit ourselves to the boundaries of our own imaginations. As our work centers on the needs of our community it becomes validated by that community and ceases its singular exploration. It sparks a fire in a thousand imaginations. As we work shoulder to shoulder with our community we fan the flames of enlightenment that burn prej usice and ignorance, so that we all might stand together in the brilliant light of human understanding."

Lonnie Graham is the spark. (Pic: http://eserver.org)
Imagine a professor handing out a test. He then says to the class, “This test is due back to me by 4:00 P.M.” Would a professor actually give students a test to take on their own, trusting them not to cheat? For colleges that abide by an honor code, examinations without proctors are surprisingly not uncommon. In fact, they are one of four parts that a true honor code contains.

The idea of implementing an honor code here at Ursinus has been a recent issue. On Wednesday, October 3, the Ursinus faculty began to discuss the options of the possible honor code.

Of what does an honor code consist? What are the implications of having an honor code? Aside from exams without proctors, students must first be willing to sign a pledge to uphold the honor code. Secondly, a student has an obligation to report other students’ violations, such as cheating on a test.

Professor and Coordinator of CIE, Robert Dawley explains, “The key point here is that honor is a community concern as well as a personal concern.” Finally, as part of an honor code, the college has to initiate a student judiciary system. Dawley said, “A student judiciary would maintain the code and punish violators.”

If an honor code were applied, the atmosphere of the college would most certainly change. Whether it would be a positive or negative change, however, is in question.

Dawley clarifies, “There are two versions out there, and they are not necessarily mutually exclusive. An honor code increases a sense of trust amongst faculty and students. We can be more equal partners in learning. My version is a little different. Our job at a liberal arts college is to provide a moral, as well as academic, education. You can’t learn if you aren’t honest about what you are doing. We should be upfront in the education we provide, and I think an honor code would allow us to do a better job.”

Some students feel that having an honor code at Ursinus is a bad idea. For student Sam Knapp, having exams without proctors is the biggest issue. He states, “I like being able to ask my professors questions during an exam.”

Sean Redline agrees with Knapp adding, “It wouldn’t work because people are inherently dishonest. It will only encourage people to cheat, and if you genuinely have a question, you’d have to find the teacher.”

Other students feel that having to “rat out” other students would make them feel uncomfortable, leaving them to feel guilty for either pointing out the offense or keeping their silence. Gina Barbari avows, “I don’t think we should have an honor code. I don’t think it should be our responsibility [as students] to bring to the attention of the faculty other people’s violations. Although I am indifferent to unproctored exams, I do feel other people would cheat.”

These issues are also concerns among the faculty. Professor Tina Waligum said, “I haven’t formulated a definitive opinion yet… I am keeping an open mind… If the implementation of an Honor Code at Ursinus helps foster a heightened sense of an all encompassing ‘moral sensitivity’ within our community, then I am in favor of implementing such a code. But if the implementation of an honor code at Ursinus falls short of its mark and ultimately facilitates opportunities for students to routinely take advantage of non-proctored exams and places undue pressure on ethical students to uphold the standards of the honor code, than I am not in favor of implementing such a code.”

Dawley admits, “There is skepticism as to whether or not it would work. I hope so, but we’ll have to think really carefully about what we do. The downside would be where we pretend that there’s an atmosphere of trust… instead of helping students learn to chose to be honest, we would be teaching cynicism… whatever the honor code, it’s got to be real.”

As the year moves forward, both students and faculty will continue to discuss the pros and cons of adopting an honor code. Whether or not the code would even affect current students is also in question. Dawley assures that they “are not going to do anything until we have massive student input.”

All in all, an honor code appears to be an interesting prospect for some, but a horror for others. From here, however, the final decision will be left to the Ursinus students and faculty members.

**The benefits for a professor on sabbatical**

**JARED GOOD**

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Ever feel that you could just stand to take a nice, long break from classes and homework? Well, imagine what it’s like for one of your professors. College, followed by grad school, followed by year after year of correcting rough drafts of essays and lab reports might start to wear you out.

Professors not only work during the time that students see them in the classroom, but also spend a great deal of time grading papers, meeting with students outside of class, attending faculty meetings, advising students, and working in their offices. That’s why at many institutions, including Ursinus, professors have the opportunity to take sabbaticals.

These temporary leaves of absence allow faculty members to “do specialized research, to accept a visiting professorship at another institution or to complete requirements for an advanced degree,” according to the Professors’ Handbook. During their break, professors are free to study their own interests in academia, as teaching repetitive classes may be limiting in this area.

However, professors can’t simply take this leave of their own accord. In order to go on sabbatical, one must have permission from the Board of Trustees and the Dean, as well as the President and Committee on Academic Affairs. Sabbaticals are only granted to tenured faculty members, and limited to once every seven years. These breaks can either consist of a half-year at full salary or a full year at half pay.

Applications for leave must include a description of the intended project, detailing how the faculty member plans on undertaking the project, the significance of the study, and the expected outcome. When returning from their sabbatical, professors must submit a written report of their time away as well as deliver an oral presentation at a faculty seminar.

The Professors’ Handbook also states that “sabbatical leaves are granted to allow faculty members to engage in scholarly activity that will contribute to the long-term effectiveness of the individual as a teacher and as a scholar at Ursinus and in the academic profession.” A prime example of this is the Travel Literature class taught by Dr. Jon Volkmer, Professor of English. He developed the class, as well as the Travel Literature Senior Seminar offered last semester, while on sabbatical, studying the subject.

Also while on his leave, Dr. Volkmer purchased over 70 books in the genre, reading most of them, and ordered 20 new titles for the library’s collection. From these books, he prepared essays and presentations on the theory of travel literature, which he delivered at academic conferences across the country. The fruits of his research resulted ultimately in a book, which is currently being submitted for publishing. Simultaneously, Dr. Volkmer also produced the webpage for Ursinus College’s English Department.

While Dr. Volkmer clearly still spent his time immersed in his intellectual pursuit, he also found it a pleasant change of pace from the usual semester as a collegiate professor.

He muses, “I don’t understand why more employers don’t incorporate sabbaticals, especially in places that are monotonous and repetitive.”

Biology professor Kathryn Goddard spent the fall semester of 2002 on sabbatical, researching birth defects found in aquatic turtles in highly polluted areas. Dr. Goddard worked with Professor Spotilo of Drexel University. Like Dr. Volkmer, her research has been incorporated into her classes, as well as inspired her to design Project Pericles, an environmental and scientific community project in Philadelphia.

Not only did her sabbatical give Dr. Goddard a relaxing break from the classroom to the point where “it was hard to get back into teaching,” but also gave her a start “on a whole new path.”

Overall, professors who are able to take advantage of a sabbatical find it relaxing, rewarding, and enlightening.

**Walk for Life**

A 5k walk to raise money for Pottstown Medical Center's cancer patients

*November 14, 2004*

(Rain Date: 11/21/04)

Sign-in: 9:00 a.m. at Helfferich Hall

Walk begins at 10:30 a.m.

$10 sponsorship for each walker

Greater donations welcome

Free t-shirt for participating!

Food and refreshments provided.

the grizzly
Effects of election still resonate in Ursinus community

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This past presidential election saw the largest voter turnout ever, as it became obvious that it was a very important vote to the American people. However, as the hype dies down, what do Ursinus students think?

For the most part, those who voted for Kerry appear to be very disappointed for a number of reasons. Some Kerry supporters believe that some people who voted for Bush did so for the wrong reasons. “It’s my experience that the people I know who voted for Bush...don’t know why...” says one senior.

An anonymous junior states, “I feel like the election was basically about who was the lesser of two evils, and obviously Bush came out on top.”

As there are several Democrats in the student body, a major concern that several Ursinus students express is that the House and the Senate are both Republican. One sophomore politics major asserts, “The problem with the fact that the House and the Senate are all Republican is that now anything Republicans want is pretty much going to happen, while the Democrats, which make up almost 50% of the population, are going to be overlooked.” The student continues by saying that, “On the other hand, people say that President Bush is going to prove himself to be a better president over the next four years. I just hope it’s true.”

A final problem that Kerry supporters state they felt existed in the election was that people who voted for Bush are concerned with their own personal welfare, in contrast to the welfare of the country as a whole. Some believe that emotion, rather than logical thought, reigned in people’s decisions. Many students agree that a lot of Americans voted for Bush because they wanted to feel safe. “Apparently we live in a time when the President can use fear to win votes,” laments one senior. However, not everyone is disappointed with the election results. Those who voted for Bush are glad because, as junior Dean Fox declares, “I like his economic policy and foreign affairs policy, and I hated Kerry’s way of changing his political stance just to persuade voters.”

Do Ursinus students make use of proximity to Philadelphia?

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With art museums, speeches, various exhibits, clubs, classes, and shows available in Philadelphia, it’s fortunate that Ursinus students are so close to this rewarding city—infact, within 25 miles of it. However, with so much located so close, do students employ Philadelphia as much as they possibly can? Furthermore, is the college making this popular city accessible to its students?

The campus has been trying to encourage students to explore Philadelphia and all it has to offer more recently. In the past two years, for instance, the first-year students have been taken to the Constitution Center and its surrounding sights in Philadelphia during their orientation in August. This trip is helpful in that it gives students a basis for what can be done in the city and to show them how convenient it can actually be to go there. The Campus Activities Board, as well as a few other student organizations, have always provided options and transportation to such things as Phillies, Flyers, and Phantoms games; plays, such as Underpants, a play adapted by comedian Steve Martin; and speeches occurring in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, there is often a limited number of students allowed to attend, and students are simply forgetful when it comes to remembering to sign up.

This year, however, the Student Activities Office expanded upon this use of the city and provided rides into Philadelphia on Saturdays for Ursinus students. This method of transportation took students to Philly and then picked them up at a later designated time and place. However, despite how easy and cheap it was, students lost interest after the first 2 weeks it ran.

Fortunately, Todd McKinney is currently in the process of starting “The UC Bear Express.” This initiative will transport students to the Norristown Transportation Center, where they can then travel to King of Prussia, Valley Forge, or Philadelphia from the several trains located in that area.

Some students state that they feel it is important for Bush to remain in his position so that he may continue his route as planned, instead of having a new face “interrupt” the current country’s course.

“A transition from Bush to Kerry right now would not have been a good one,” believes Barbara Donald, sophomore. “Although most of our campus consists of Kerry supporters, I feel that it was the best thing for our country to keep Bush in office.”

Many students conveyed the feeling that although the results did not turn out the way they wanted, there is nothing we can do except hope that Bush does a good job.

Junior Johanna Engel reflects, “The results of the election weren’t really a surprise, to be honest. I wish it would have turned out differently, but now that Bush remains President, he’ll at least be able to finish the job he started. I’ve been hearing that he plans to change things and prove himself to his non-supporters. I guess we’ll just have to see what happens.”

Corner

Mind your “Peas” and Q’s

Remember the Seinfeld episode when George Costanza got caught double dipping a large tortilla chip? Are you guilty of this sort of unfortunate dining disaster? Table etiquette plays an important part in making a favorable impression. They are visible indicators of our manners and therefore are essential to professional success. Regardless of whether we are having lunch with a prospective employer or dinner with a business associate, our manners can speak volumes about us as professionals.

If you are confused about which fork to use, which bread plate is yours, or how to eat challenging foods, such as pasta or cherry tomatoes, help is on the way! The Career Services Office invites you to participate in a simulated business interview dining experience on Wednesday, November 17, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. The meal includes a full three courses and is designed to polish your dining etiquette. It also includes an interactive program that provides tips to help you strengthen your ability to “chat and chew” while maintaining a professional appearance. Learn the do’s and don’ts of interview dining so that it can be a delightful—rather than dreaded—experience.

Again, this special event will take place during dinner on Wednesday, November 17, at 5:00 p.m. in the faculty and staff dining room. An advance of $3 is required in order to participate. The fee will cover the wonderful meal and educational materials. Stop in, call or e-mail Career Services to sign up. Act quickly, because space is limited and is on a “first come, first served” basis.
Two Sides to Every Story:
Is online dating a safe alternative for meeting people or a risky plea of desperation?

FIND ME @ LOVE.COM

CALL ME: 555-LOVE

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People who are sick of looking for love in all the wrong places can now find it on the internet. The creation of dating websites has helped link lovers all around the world. These dating websites use personality tests to connect people with compatible mates. Websites such as www.eharmony.com require members to take a personality test that measures your view on 29 dimensions of compatibility. The website's founder, psychologist Dr. Neil Clark Warren to be the building blocks of a stable, lasting relationship. These dimensions include family background, spirituality, emotional temperament, education, self concept, and life skills such as conflict resolution. The dimensions also include character traits such as curiosity, intellect, sexual passion, adaptability, and ambition. The personality test and members contact information are processed for a small fee. This fee and the personality test allow members to find and communicate with thousands of potential friends and partners. Once the members begin communicating the website offers expert relationship advice. The membership fee allows for a secured site and only allows members to have each other’s information. Before any information is sent each member is asked for permission. But how do we know that it works?

Eharmony.com has pages of couples and members that testify to the websites quality and help. In addition, the website studied 273 couples from Eharmony.com and 1,074 comparison couples. The study shows that 51% of couples on Eharmony are extremely happy in their marriage while only 39.4% of comparison couples were extremely happy. In addition 49.2% of Eharmony couples and 30.3% of comparison couples were willing to do whatever it took to help their marriage. Overall the study showed that although we Democrats may be a minority, we are still a very large one. Sitting on our hands will do nothing but allow the Republicans to take over the Supreme Court. Dick Cheney has spoken of a mandate from the American people, and according to last November’s New York Times, there are rumblings from radical right-wing groups about a “Conservative Revolution” in which the infamous Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage would be passed and Roe vs Wade would be overturned. Indeed, these are dire times. However, the victories of the neo-conservatives do not give us the right to sit around and stop participating in politics. We need to stop lamenting and start taking action. John Kerry’s loss is a wake-up call to liberals. Since we don’t have a government sympathetic to our causes, we have to get off our asses and fight for the issues that are important to us. While there are certainly things that we cannot change (the situation in Iraq comes to mind), we have a chance to make an impact on many other issues. There are opportunities to make a difference in America right here on campus. For example, if you are saddened by the passing of gay marriage bans by: eleven states, why not join the Gay-Straight Alliance and stand up for gay rights? If the prospect of four more years of the Bush administration’s atrocious environmental policies scares you, why not get involved in UC Blue skies?

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Searching for a partner or a special someone can be complicated, but it should not make people act in extreme desperation. With technology and internet advancements, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that our special someone is in another town, city or even country. Most of us want to believe that if we cannot find someone in our social environment, we should use online dating. This may sound adventurous, but in reality, if you believe that your special person is somewhere else, you fail to look closely at your surroundings, and may be well wasting your time.

Nevertheless, let me not confuse the reader. I am not trying to debate whether or not that special someone sits right beside you everyday at lunch, or is waiting for you in Venice. My point is to evaluate if online dating is a risky business or just an act of desperation.

Online dating has become very popular over the past couple of years. So popular that more than 8 million people joined sites like Match.com in 2003. In his article on the subject, David Teten states that online dating is “one of the largest segments of U.S. internet commerce with estimated spending of $449.5 million in 2004.”

On a similar note, the article also indicates that Match.com, which is a “leading” site, “claims [that] more than 89,000 of its members reported they found the person they were seeking.” Demonstrating that the online dating is a business network that will make you believe what you want to believe, if you are willing to pay the price.

The article also claims that the “traditional methods” of dating are “inefficient” because “your choices are extremely limited geographically.” While online dating helps you meet “people you would never otherwise meet…is private and confidential…[and] is safer than conventional dating,” because it gives you time to get to know the person. Since, the people you meet online are not around you, “it makes it much harder for someone to harass or stalk you.” It is easy to believe that online dating is safer than regular dating, but just keep in mind that it takes more than technology and internet “double checking” to really get to know a person, online or by regular methods of dating.

Another interesting factor that struck me while searching through Match.com was that it takes eight steps to find a date online. They are as follows: 1. signing up; 2. searching for other singles; 3. posting your profile, which subdivides into five more steps that teach you how to write a perfect profile, since 51 percent of match.com members find it “egregious” that some members make grammatical errors; 4. adding a photo; 5. subscribing; 6. contacting other members and starting a conversation; 7. making a date; and finally, 8. getting ready.

This method of dating takes five steps to write a profile, and eight steps to have a conscious conversation, with a possible candidate, for a date, which may or may not take place. Is this lengthy, tedious work, or what? What happened to simple dating? Personally, I find online dating a desperate measure that I could never see myself doing. But then again, you should never say never!

Operation Haverfordian Freedom:
The last episode

Fellow students, staff, professors, and administrators, we here at “Communism for Dummies” appreciate your valiant efforts against the evil black squirrels of Haverford. You all deserve to be brought up to date on the happenings of Operation Haverfordian Freedom.

First, let me proudly announce that we have captured one of the four senior representatives to the Haverford Honor Council. As you all know, Haverford’s Honor Code is a sickening attempt at crafting one master race to dominate the liberal arts community of Western Pennsylvania. Our forces found a disheveled J.J. Jacobs curled up in the fetal position inside of a port-a-potty. On his person, he had a half-filled super soaker and $1.34 in loose change. J.J. was taken into custody and was not allowed a shower before...
The medical muse

I think I'm swearing off modern medicine. Not because I've joined some leftist purist religious group. Nor because I've decided to follow this column's originator into the woods of New Hampshire to begin practicing holistic medicine (fun fact: during his brief 1939 stay at Ursinus, J.D. Salinger wrote an article entitled "The Skipper Diploma: Musings of a Social Soph").

One reason is that it seems like every third time I see my dad, he gives me a new health insurance card. Not that we get new insurance, but because Health America has decided to up the co-pay by five bucks. Or to take the social security numbers off the cards for security reasons. Or they have designed a kick-ass new logo. Basically, if it all means next time I go to the doctor, I have to wait for the secretary to photocopy the front and back, then update the computer. Then I pay the co-pay of the week and continue on my merry way to repeat the process at the pharmacy.

Secondly, I'm pretty sure that I haven't been truly sick in years (although if this is true, I think I've set some sort of record for non-germ related vomiting). Whenever I feel sick, it's when a few of my friends talk about how they don't feel well. Then I recall that my throat was a little sore this morning, and one of my ears might ache right now. The standard remedy? For lunch and dinner, I suck down 12-15 glasses of orange juice and go to bed early. I think it's mind over matter, because I don't feel well.

Unfortunately, it works both ways. My eye doctor recently recommended I stop wearing my contacts over 10 hours a day because it puts strain on my eyes. While I've worn contacts for a few days at a time with incident, about two days after my appointment, my left eye busts out all red, so now I can't wear a contact in it. There's no extra eye dirt or crust or "sleepy dust." (Hello to those who know me personally. This break is so you can note to make fun of me for saying "sleepy dust." And we're back...) to suggest it's pink eye or something serious. However, I don't know any old wives' tales or home remedies to fix it. For some reason, it crossed my mind to put salt in my eye to cure the infection, and believed that sounded pretty practical. Then it dawned on me that I also believed, until just recently, that "Happy Birthday to You" was written by Russian Astronauts, which turned out to be wrong: they're communists...oh, and they didn't write any traditional American songs.

Hopefully I can convince myself of something soon, as wearing one contact and having to close one eye to focus is getting old quick...OJ doesn't seem to help either. Then again, maybe I just think it doesn't.

If you know of a home remedy for Goody's eye, please contact him with it at jagood@ursinus.edu.

Sibling rivalry

My sister and I have always had a love/hate relationship. Secretly, we love each other, but outwardly, there is a noticeable level of hatred. Not pure hatred, more the bothersome sort of hatred, that builds up little by little until we have words with each other as a release and things go back to normal for a while. In a magnanimous gesture, I am prepared to except almost full responsibility for this underling tension.

My sister is and always has been everything I am not. She is intelligent, she is athletic; she is outgoing, she is social, she is hardworking...the list goes on, but continuing it would only make me look worse.

Growing up I always considered a overachieving on her part, just another way to show up her younger brother.

But as I grew older, I realized that her success couldn't be contributed to a vast conspiratorial plan to spite me. Instead, she actually cared about working hard and getting ahead. That I didn't was the reason she was more successful than me.

Whether this realization on my part really helped matters between us is debatable. We get along well enough with several states between us. She lives in Colorado now, expierencing life as a lawyer, whereas I am here in Pennsylvania, experiencing life as a directionless college student.

Over the phone we rarely get into disagreements. In person, though, it seems my own jealous streak tends to rise up again, and inevitably we find ourselves in an argument over who knows what. The reasons don't seem to matter much anymore.

As we grow older, things seemed to have mellowed slightly, and I look forward to seeing her more and more. Absence makes the heart grow fonder I suppose.

This brings us to this coming Christmas, when the family comes together to eat too much, get on each others nerves, and of course exchange presents we think the other person would like, but which we secretly want for ourselves.

So, I was informed the other day that my sister will be traveling to California to celebrate the holidays with her boyfriend's family.

This is the first Christmas she and I will be spending apart. And as I think about that, I realize how much I'll miss seeing her over the holidays, and how I wish I could have all those past occasions back again, without the arguments and the air of animosity. Just a sister and a brother, getting along.

Cam Furman is a senior. You can reach him at cfurman@ursinus.edu.

Operation Haverfordian Freedom

From FREEDOM, pg. 6

being filmed. The purpose of filming him in such a sad state? Humility, of course. The man was a tyrant, after all. Before this all-important capture, our forces had seen pockets of resistance, but as of now, all resistance has stopped. Haverfordians love our freedom-giving ways.

Dennis Vondran and the Ursinus Democrats may tell you that the resistance is more widespread than we are leading you to believe, but let me ask you something. Do you trust a man who thinks this world is better off with J.J. Jacobs? Dennis opposed the war, and we all know that without this great war, Haverford would still be ruled by J.J.'s iron fist. Plus, Dennis is a figure skater. (Source: more blurry pictures taken with Dan's digital camera.)

The UC Democrats would also have you believe that Haverford has no weapons of mass destruction. Let me quote a scene from The Santa Clause, since the Democrats will only understand such childish explanations of big-boy matters:

Charlie: "Have you ever seen a million dollars?"
Neal: "No."
Charlie: "Just because you haven't seen something doesn't mean it doesn't exist."

See, UC Democrats? Just because we haven't found the WMDs doesn't mean they aren't there. We have hard evidence that the campus was riddled with them prior to our assault. More than likely, Haverford's neighboring college Bryn Mawr, part of the "Pinwheel of Evil", took them in. However, I urge you all to rest assured. The new Haverfordian forces that we trained are searching for them as I write this.

Despite Dennis and gang's attempts to undermine the spread of freedom, Haverfordians are almost ready to participate in their first free elections. Thanks to our brave soldiers, Haverford will never be unfairly represented by the dreaded black squirrel. In fact, thanks to rules set forth by Ursinus diplomat, Haverfordians will only be able to be represented by vibrantly-colored, non-rodent, non-bushy-tailed animals. Isn't democracy great?

This is the last time I, Matt Flyntz, will address you on this matter, but remember, God is on our side. We were put here by God for the sake of freedom. Never let those heathen UC Democrats tell you otherwise. Thank you once again, and may God continue to bless Ursinus College.

Dan and Matt are freshmen. You can reach them at dasergeant@ursinus.edu and maflyntz@ursinus.edu.

MATT FLYNTZ

DAN SERGEANT

Communism for Dummies

the grizzly

november 11, 2004
Field hockey team wins Centennial Conference title

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They have finally done it. The Ursinus field hockey team has won the 2004 Centennial Conference championship.

With a stunning 4-3 overtime victory over Franklin & Marshall, the team advances to the NCAA Division III tournament held at William Smith. They will play the winner of the first round game between Keene State and Maine-Farmington in the second round on November 13th at 2pm.

Many critics who have watched Ursinus sports may have been skeptical about the field hockey team’s ability to win a Centennial Conference championship. This is due to their previous collapse in the playoffs last season when they went 15-6 (10-0 in the CC), where they fell in the semi-finals to John Hopkins.

They have proven that the past is just a distant memory by going an almost flawless 19-1 this season (10-0 in the CC). Their 20 straight wins against Centennial Conference opponents shows that they are the best team in the conference.

It is key to note here that the field hockey program at Ursinus was once Division I, and it shows when you see their excellent program. Not only has the coaching been successful, but players continue to step up year after year.

Even with the losses of Crystal McCarron and Joyce Ann Koubalou due to graduation in May 2005, the team still remains strong. This victory in the conference championship is the ultimate highlight for Ursinus sports in this 2004 fall season.

It's all over for three women soccer players

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After a long and impressive four year career, Aubrey Andre, Jen Cohen, and Kristen Papenberg must say goodbye to their fellow teammates and hang up their cleats. These three seniors have seen it all through the past four years; the good, the bad, and the influence of a new coach.

As freshmen, the three teammates came in as a group of five players. They were under the coaching staff of Bill Bonewitz and finished the season 2-7-1 in the conference and 6-10-3 overall. Sophomore year they lost one teammate from their class and dropped their record to 1-8-1 in the conference and 6-13-1 overall.

With the help of other teammates, the decision was made that it was time for a change. The change began with the hiring of Coach Jeff Ykoruk, who came over from Collegeville and determined to transform the team into winning program. With over 10 years of coaching experience under his belt, he was more than ready to make the necessary changes. Ykoruk was told that it would take at least three years to get the team into the playoffs, but he had more faith and set out to prove everyone wrong.

Ykoruk showed up in the spring and began the off-season workout plan with the eligible juniors, sophomores, and freshman. He got a feel for the team and their abilities and formulated a summer workout as well as his plan for the upcoming fall season.

With butterflies and anxiety, the three (then the only remaining juniors) showed up to preseason with excitement and excitement, but were also scared out of their minds. First order of business after meeting the freshly recruited freshman and gauging their practice gear; the 5 mile test run. It was the first sign that hard work was no longer just a concept, but something that Ykoruk was going to implement into the workouts.

The grueling preseason ended with a home tournament and a 1-1 record. By the end of the season, the team had made it to the playoffs, won 5 conference games, 10 overall, and landed the fourth seed in the conference.

Along came senior year and a new set of 12 freshmen. Again, the preseason commenced with a 2 week and 3 sessions a day fall week. In the end, it all paid off.

The season set new records and the Bears continued making history for their program. In the 13th game of the season, Aubrey Andre scored two goals to tie and then break former teammate Courtney Barh's record for total career goals. Andre scored her 27th and 28th goal and ended the season with 11 goals and 31 in her career. Teammate, Jen Cohen, scored her first collegiate goal and Kristen Papenberg scored the first goal in the record-breaking win against Muhlenberg.

The team finished with a 6-4 record in the conference and 12-7-1 overall, breaking their season high of 10 wins from last year. They beat Muhlenberg in the first round of playoffs and advanced to the semi-finals.

The team was defeated by number one seeded Gettysburg this past Saturday, but are not hanging their heads too low knowing that they are improving and had a successful season.

Overall, the three captain seniors have had quite a ride and ended the season in the semi-finals of the playoffs, which seemed impossible just two years ago. The three have made a considerable impact on the team and will be missed by the underclassmen.

“All I have to say is that they better win it all next year! I know they have the talent and determination... now we just need to get that respect we have been searching for,” said Cohen. “It is the end of something great and this [soccer] team has been my favorite since I came here. Best of Luck and I will be back to watch them take it to the top,” commented Andre.

Andre will play lacrosse this spring while Cohen and Papenberg have finished their careers as college athletes. Papenberg said, “It is sad, but it has been great and I am fortunate enough to have experienced the true meaning of team and hard work. Thanks, team.”

The Collegeville curse

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You hear about curses every day. The recently broken Curse of the Bambino and the Boston Red Sox, the Billy Goat Curse and the Chicago White Sox, or the John Madden EA Sports Curse. Each of these sports related curses have either prevented a team from winning or have seen players produce some of the worst seasons of their careers. Here at Ursinus, it appears as though our football team has become yet another victim to a haunting curse; the Collegeville Curse.

The Bears are 0 for their last 17 tries at winning a Centennial Conference game. Not to say, however, that they haven’t played well. The Bears put on a great showing on Homecoming weekend against nationally ranked Johns Hopkins as well as playing a great game against conference front-runner, Franklin & Marshall, in the following week. However, the team just cannot seem to “find a way to win” as head coach Peter Gallagher likes to say.

Now as is the case with most curses, it is not a lack of talent that is holding the Bears back, it is just a streak of unlucky breaks. During this year’s Homecoming loss to Hopkins, the Bears suffered through a terrible referee crew and fans witnessed one of the most lucrative and outrageous calls made during this wiretack streak. A penalty was called on the Bears without a referee even throwing a flag or blowing a whistle to rule the play dead. The Bears punted away and on Johns Hopkins first play of the drive, with 41 seconds remaining in the half, the Blue Jays scored and shifted the momentum of the game to their favor.

Every curse has its roots. For example, the no-longer existent curse of the Red Sox is rooted in the trade of Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1920 for $125,000. The Billy Goat curse of the Chicago Cubs goes back to an event which took place in 1945; the last time the Cubs were ever in a World Series. William “Billy Goat” Sianis tried to bring his pet goat, Murphy, with him into Wrigley Field for Game 4 of the World Series. Ushers at the game said the goat was too smelly and told Sianis he had to leave. To retaliate, Sianis cast a “goat curse” on the Cubs by saying, “Cubs, they not gonna win anymore.” The Cubs lost the 1945 World Series to the Detroit Tigers and haven’t made it to a World Series since.

However, the Bears have no terrible happenings of the past that can prevent them from winning. Over the past three years, each recruiting class has gotten stronger. The Bears of Ursinus College have the talent to win. Now, it is just a matter of execution.

Saturday, November 13th, will be the time to put the curse to rest when the team faces Dickinson.

The grizzly

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