The Grizzly, April 21, 2005

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A Taste of Asia

The Southeast Asian Students Association (SASA) of Ursinus College hosted their annual “Tour of Asia: A Journey to the East” program on Thursday April 14, 2005 in Wismer Lower Lounge, which was almost unrecognizable due to the elaborate decorations which created an Asian ambiance. Tour of Asia committee members Mona Singh, Rohit Rajoria, Sarat Duggirala, Prianka De, Josh Kistner, Menaka Gopalan, Yan Liang, Felicia Chou, and Mohsin Ali dressed in attire from a variety of countries mingled with guests as they arrived.

Guests began arriving around 5:30 pm in anticipation of dinner which was served at 6:00 pm with the beautiful sound of Jonathan Bronson’s piano improvisation in the background. Dinner included a variety of native foods from different Asian countries. Guests could choose to try one, some, or all of the following appetizers: Indian Samosas, Indian movies are like. This skit had several audience members laughing hysterically when the laughs continued with Welcome to Bollywood, starring Felicia Chou, an Indian skit, which was supposed to give the audience a taste of what India. For example, “Prayer to the Mother” consisting of a live rock band with Felicia Chou as the lead singer, performing with power point images of children affected by the tsunami—the audience was moved to tears. Another Indian rice dish, and Kheer, which is Indian rice pudding.

Next, the Damels of India, Prianka De and Reena Koodathil, performed an impressive Indian dance. This dance was followed by a Chinese skit called “Three Proverbs in One” starring Felicia Chou, Yan Liang, Thomas Dixon, and Tadeusz Kroll, which was hilarious. After that the laughs continued with Welcome to Bollywood, “Not Another Indian Movie,” an Indian skit, which was supposed to give the audience a taste of what Indian movies are like. This skit had several audience members laughing hysterically when all the characters would suddenly break into a dance number in the middle of a scene.

Welcome to Bollywood was a tough act to follow, but Mandrak Rock, which consisted of a live rock band with Felicia Chou as the lead singer, performing “One Night in Beijing” did not disappoint. The last act was a sensual belly dance entitled Turkish Dancing with power point images of children affected by the tsunami—the combination of which brought tears to the eyes of some audience members.

Spring is in the air and flyers for class officer candidates litter every space of bulletin board and door on campus. While in years past the competition was fierce throughout the ranks, this year the only contested positions are for president of the classes of 2006 and 2007, as well as the vice president of the class of 2008.

According to the USGA website, the role of the president is to not only act as a figurehead for the class, but also serves as a liaison to the administration, appoints necessary committees, and also organizes two social events, two fundraising events and one service project for the year. This year the nominees are:

Class of 2006 President
Cris Mathew (Incumbent) vs. Jenn McCann

Class of 2007 President
Blaine McEvoy vs. Pat Waldron

Class of 2008 Vice President
Sally Brosnan, vs. Ivy McDaniels (Incumbent), vs. Alexandra Wagner

Most prevalent on campus have been the campaign posters for the new senior class president; the competition between current president Cris Mathew vs. Jenn McCann. Cris has been an officer of the class of 2006 for three years, having raised over $2500. He also has ideas for more fundraisers so that senior year events are free or low in cost. As President, he has helped organize charity events benefiting the Tsunami Relief Concert with the Bearitones, the Dating Game with the Class of 2008, Airband (Lea Sullivan Scholarship Fund), and Make a Wish Foundation. He is currently Vice President of USGA, President and Founder of the Bearitones, Vice President of the Men’s Rugby Team, and Secretary of Sigma Rho Lambda. If elected he hopes to continue with Senior traditions of the Senior Halloween Party and Senior formal and possibly a Senior Dated off campus.

Jenn is running for class president because she believes they need a “fresh face and new ideas for senior year.” If elected, she plans to hold events that the entire senior class will want to participate in, such as a Senior Picnic in the fall and a ski trip in the winter, among other events to promote senior class unity. She also plans to hold fundraisers, like a Senior Night at Crazy Carl’s or a wiffle ball tournament. Jenn was an Orientation Assistant and is involved in other campus activities.

Elections have been taking place all week on blackboard. Go to the Ursinus homepage, click on Current Students, then Blackboard, and log in. Then click on “My organizations” and select your class to vote. Voting ends TOMORROW, Friday 22, 2005 - so be sure to cast your vote and have your voice heard in your class elections.
Students raise over $3,000 for Multiple Sclerosis

The event was sponsored by Hobson, the community service office. Students raised over $3,000 away from finding a cure. The MS Walk Greater Delaware Valley and over 11,000 people across the country took part to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. Multiple Sclerosis is a disease that affects the nervous system of people ranging from ages 20 to 50. There are over 11,000 local residents in the area with multiple sclerosis, and those who participate in the walk are one step away from finding a cure. The MS Walk 2005 is hoping to make $2.3 million in the fight against multiple sclerosis.

The team name for this walk was the UC Care Bears. The event was sponsored by Hobson, the community service house, and organized by senior Mary Ann Murrow, who was also the team captain. Over 50 team members, who are all Ursinus students, were a part of the MS Walk 2005. Door-to-door collections across campus, ACME collections, and emails requesting online sponsors were all ways students raised money for the event. Major groups participating included Hobson Hall, Kappa Delta Kappa, Tau Sigma Gamma, Upsilon Phi Delta, and Phi Alpha Psi. The walk was a huge success. Nearly 400 people were at the location and an unofficial team total of $3,094.62 was raised.

On the day of the walk, check in began at 9, while the walk began shortly after 10am. For two hours, students walked around the Elmwood Zoo, stopping to see the animals. Music from B101, free massages and food donated from local businesses gave the volunteers and participants an added bonus. Each person also received a medal from a volunteer suffering with MS at the end of the walk, thanking them for participating.

Help a great cause and fulfill community service hours by participating in the next MS Walk nearest you. Make a difference and help out a great cause in the next walk. For more information on the 16th annual MS Walk and to register for a walk, visit the website www.nationalmssociety.org/

Why Kaleidoscope?

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The biggest question on everyone’s mind and with rumors flying about is how the building came to be called the Kaleidoscope. According to Pete Scattergood, the Vice-President for College Relations here at Ursinus, “the Kaleidoscope, like any capital project at Ursinus, is paid for by gifts from alumni, parents, friends, corporations, and foundations.” When this happens, the donor who has given a significant amount is given the opportunity to name the building.

Of the $25 million it cost to erect the building, Betty Musser, Ursinus class of 1945, donated 40 percent and then worked with the college to determine the name. She decided on the name “The Kaleidoscope” because of one of her sons, Craig. Craig Musser always had an interest in Kaleidoscopes, which he designed, built and photographed. Some of these photographs were featured “on the brochure distributed to students a week ago,” according to Mr. Scattergood. Mr. Scattergood also said, “Mrs. Musser thought that the name, Kaleidoscope, presented an apt name for a theater building, a place where images are always changing, where color and light have artistic impact, and where interpretation of images and light through theater, dance, and music could take place.” The representatives from Ursinus that worked on the project agreed with Mrs. Musser about the name.

U.S.-Israeli Relations: On Cold Terms?

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Recently Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of Israel, visited George W. Bush at his Texas ranch. The outcomes of this meeting between the two key figures in the Middle Eastern peace process were eagerly awaited by many people, especially Palestinians and Israelis.

The visit comes during a critical time for Palestinians and Israelis. Since the leadership change in the Palestinian Authority, Sharon realized the inevitability of making peace with the Palestinians. After tough negotiations within his own cabinet, Sharon went far enough to begin the pull-out from the Gaza Strip, which Israel has occupied since the 1967 war. Despite the strong opposition from some Jewish settlers and hard-liners of the country, Sharon has even managed to set the date for the final withdrawal from Gaza July 2005.

Although Palestinian and Israeli heads have agreed on an informal ceasefire, there has been recurrent tension among Palestinian militants and the Israeli army. Last week three Palestinian teenagers were shot by Israeli soldiers while supposedly retrieving a football. This resulted in a rocket attack by Palestinian militia. Furthermore, hard-line Jewish protesters have been stirring up tensions at the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, the holiest site for Muslims in Palestine.

Another important issue is the expansion of the largest Jewish settlement in the West Bank, Maale Adumim. Sharon is planning to expand the settlement, so that it will be linked to Jerusalem and form a stronger bloc which can be defended better.

These developments have indeed changed the picture quite a bit, sending signals that peace will not be achieved easily even though politicians are in good terms. What about U.S.-Israeli relations at this time?

Everyone is aware that Bush is trying hard to change his bad reputation in the Middle East after the Iraq war by pushing for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Does this mean he will give Israel a tough time, after being its primary supporter for decades?

The answer to the question is not that clear. One thing is for sure, however: Bush seems to be determined to put pressure on Israel in order to stop the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. No doubt, this was expressed to Sharon during his visit to the President’s ranch. Time will show whether Israel will take the advice of its biggest protector or not.

*April 21st*
Opening Day of the Kaleidoscope
9:30 a.m. Guided tours begin on the half hour
10:00 a.m. Ballet class
11:00 a.m. Chamber music
12:00 p.m. Comedy improvisation
1:00 p.m. Modern dance
2:00 p.m. Comedy improvisation
3:00 p.m. Theater class
3:30 p.m. Modern dance
4:00 p.m. Dance comp class
4:30 p.m. Building closes
Evening - Wynton Marsalis performance
(ticketed event)
Features

Spread your legs and “turn your head and cough”

LANE TAYLOR
Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

insisting that you make an appointment with a gynecologist, urologist, or that you “turn your head and cough” during the examination. Who wants their genitals poked and prodded without a little candlelight and mood music? However, gynecological and testicular exams are essential in maintaining excellent sexual and physical health and are as simple as a few deep breaths and the cough.” However, gynecological and testicular exams are essential in maintaining excellent sexual and physical health and are as simple as a few deep breaths and the determination to take the first steps into the office and to sexual wellness.

According to Planned Parenthood, women should schedule gynecological exams on a yearly basis to aid in and treat sexually-transmitted infections, and to monitor vaginal and uterine health. It has been determined that women who do not seek regular examinations are seven times more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Routine gynecological exams include discussing medical and sexual histories, optional blood work and counseling, and breast and pelvic examinations. Pap smears are also routinely given to detect abnormal cell growth or infections of the cervix. This test can also monitor thinning of the vaginal lining, which implies low levels of estrogen.

There are certain conditions that may make your visits more frequent, such as pregnancy or planning to become pregnant, a family history of breast cancer before menopause, a sexually transmitted infection (STI) or a partner who has an STI, a history of sexual and pelvic concerns, or a new sex partner.

While gynecological exams are usually unnecessary prior to becoming sexually active or turning 18 (which means the vast majority of women here should have had an exam or are now planning one), any irregular pain, lump, itching, or significant change in vaginal, abdominal, and breast areas requires immediate attention regardless of age or the date of your last appointment.

For men, most of whom are reading this breathing a sigh of relief for being born with a Y-chromosome and penis, monitoring sexual health is somewhat simpler, but just as critical. I am referring to the discussion of your sexual history and testicular examinations, both of which can be completed in the office of your general practitioner. A good general practitioner will ask you about your sexual history and address and discuss your comments and concerns.

According to TeensHealth.org, during a testicular exam, the doctor is checking for a variety of conditions, one of which is a hernia. A hernia in the scrotum is usually the result of part of the intestine pushing into the scrotum, which can often be detected through a manual exam and treated through surgery. Your doctor will also be manually checking for any lumps or unusual swelling, enlargement, or hardness. The doctor will examine one testicle at a time, and, like gynecological exams, this examination should occur on a yearly basis.

You can also perform a self-examination, which, thanks primarily to The TCRC Self-Examination website, is fairly simple, and much like breast self-exams, should be performed monthly. This exam requires you to stand in front of a mirror, examine both testicles for swelling, and then examine each testicle with both hands by gently rolling them between your thumbs (positioned in front) and middle and index fingers (positioned in back). Locate the epididymis, a tube-like structure in the back that carries and collects sperm, so you can familiarize yourself with it and not mistake it for a cancerous lump.

Malignant lumps are usually found on the side and sometimes the front of the testicle, but epididymal lumps are not malignant. You should visit your doctor or preferably, a urologist, if you find any change in the size of either testicle, an achy feeling or feeling of heaviness in the groin or lower abdomen, unusual pain, discomfort, or fluid collection in the scrotum, or breast tenderness or enlargement.

If you find anything unusual or you’re unsure about whether or not something is significant, get it checked out just to be safe. And with one hell of a Wellness staff and a convenient location, there’s no reason not to stop by while on a condom or pamphlet run, “just to be safe.”

Our Town makes its mark as Ritter’s last play

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The premier of Thornton Wilder’s Our Town marked the last of the productions performed at the Ritter Theater. Thursday night’s performance captivated the audience with its emotional qualities, even drawing tears from several intent viewers. The play taught the audience one important lesson: appreciate life.

Walking into the theater, the smell of wood caught my attention, due to the 18 wooden chairs lined up on stage and a wooden catwalk extending toward the audience; the set was simple. “That’s one of the reasons why we picked it,” notes Dominick Scudera. On the stage, soft blue lights foreshadowed the conclusion and evoked a melancholy mood.

Our Town is set in New Hampshire in the 1940’s. Shane Borer, the onstage manager, opened the play as a narrator, discussing town history, hardships, gossip, deaths, and love affairs. The characters were small town people just living their lives on a day-to-day basis, not really taking the time to observe or reflect upon their experiences.

Alian Nesta and Lindsay Nicolo played the hard-working mothers who woke early, cleaned and cooked, and sent their children to school daily. Both actresses captured the appearance of exhausted and dutiful housewives.

At the end of Act One, a love story blossomed. Emily (Katie Urich) was an aspiring student, eager to make public speeches and intelligent remarks. George was an average small-town guy who wanted to be a farmer after high school and desperately sought Emily’s attention. As they interacted throughout the play, their chemistry shone in the stage lights.

Act Two focused on love and marriage. Shane Borer again narrated the nature of the town: people were aging, houses were developing, and people were getting married. “Gotta love life to have life,” said Shane. This simple quotation sums up the rest of the play, which speedily passes after Emily and George’s marriage.

However, the emotions in Act Three truly tugged at the audience. I saw a few audience members take tissues out from their purses as they sniffled. Emily, now dead, looked back on life in a very somber light. Emily returned to her 12th birthday for one last visit after her death. Her following monologue sent the message that there is something eternal in everyone: their memory. Emily’s death is a cue for everyone to appreciate and love even the small things.

Our Town was a great close for the Ritter Theater. Appreciate the small things in life, and remember the successes of the Ritter Theater. The audience will undoubtedly remember the successful and affecting performance of Our Town.

Talent show this Friday

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The Talent Show will be held in Wismer Lower Lounge at 8pm on April 22.

Hosted by CAB, this is the third year that senior member Tia Larse has organized the campus wide event. Although there are minor glitches that happen each year, such as tapes not working or acts not showing up, the Talent Show is always a good time.

During the one to two hours the show lasts, many different talents are showcased. Acts are judged on three different categories: “Overall talent,” “Showmanship,” and “Staging and Creativity.”

Be sure to stop by to cheer on your fellow Ursinus students!

grizzly Correction

Last week, the grizzly did not identify the writer for “Who’s in the Accepted Class of 2009?” Staff writer Jaclyn Partyka should be credited for writing the article.
Ursinus students take a vow of silence

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"Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination.

The Day of Silence is a day of silent protest against the injustices that gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals face everyday worldwide. The silence of the participants represents the silence that many LGBTQ people must endure in their neighborhoods and homes.

This year at Ursinus, more than 214 students, a large increase from last year’s 115 participants, participated in the Day of Silence events. This took place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and was sponsored by the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). The day began with all participants taking a vow of silence at 8 a.m. At noon, some of the students participating gathered in Olin Plaza, where they sat silently together in a circle so as to provide a powerful visual for the campus. At 5 p.m., participants gathered again in Olin Plaza to break the silence. The group joined in a circle as GSA President Amy Hollaman began reading from the United States Declaration of Independence.

One by one, students, many actually speaking for the first time all day, announced, “I will not be silent.” From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., students celebrated the breaking of the silence in North Basement Lounge with ice cream, Rita’s water ice, and chips. They shared their experiences of the day with each other, laughing, talking, and playing Twister.

During discussion, one of the negative occurrences of the day was mentioned. Several participants had been verbally attacked by protesters on Main Street that morning. According to witnesses, there were four demonstrators carrying signs which quoted Biblical scripture and had anti-homosexual messages. Sophomore Jason Comcowich retold how an elderly woman yelled at him on his way to class, “You’re going down the path of hellfire and brimstone.” UC student Anna Ardaszewski had a similar experience, but attempted to have a conversation with the protesters, which she describes as “infuriating.” She, like Jason, was told that she was going to Hell. She replied to the protesters that she was not homosexual, and that she was just supporting a cause that she believes in.

“They were stereotyped by the idea that some of us participating weren’t gay,” she says. Sophomore Virginia Santos expressed her concern about the protesters as well, stating, “When I was walking back to my apartment on Main Street alone, I started to worry, ‘What if someone attacked me?’

Despite the protesters, participants did not allow their day to be ruined, and the general consensus is that the Day of Silence was a success. GSA president Amy Hollaman explains, “I am proud of the community, the students, and faculty. Two years ago there was no mention of LGBTQ issues on campus, and now people are really speaking up and being open and involved about it.”

Participants in the Day of Silence wore red t-shirts, which non-GSA participants obtained for a donation of three dollars. The t-shirt money is being donated to the Attic Youth Center in Philly, a center where LGBTQ youth can go and feel comfortable.

To learn more about the Day of Silence, go to www.dayofsilence.org. If you would like to get involved with GSA in the future, watch for e-mail updates about meetings or contact Amy Hollaman at amhollaman@ursinus.edu.

New mugs in Zack’s promote environmental awareness

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A new display can be seen among the rows of potato chips, pretzels, and popcorn in Zack’s. However, this display is not for snacks. Instead, Zack’s is now selling plastic, recyclable mugs for soda or coffee in an attempt to help the environment.

These mugs are part of a new project going on in Zack’s, in which 15 cents from each mug sale goes to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The NWF is a national organization working toward the conservation and protection of wildlife in the environment. Additionally, the mugs are an attempt to encourage students to cut down on their paper product use, helping the environment.

Marianne DiGiglio, Director of Operations at Dining Services, first heard about the project from Sodexho, Ursinus College’s contracted food service. Sodexho periodically runs such programs in an attempt to protect the environment. DiGiglio’s decision to run the project involved concerns about on campus recycling. Furthermore, students who purchase plastic mugs will receive a discount on soda or coffee refills. The colorful mugs are sold filled and only cost $2.25 for soda and $2.50 for coffee. Refills are inexpensive as well, as they only cost students $1.00 for soda and $1.25 for coffee.

The colorful mugs are quite large and can be hooked on a belt or backpack. Junior Susan Buttinger purchased one of the mugs because of the large amount of bonus on her meal card. She says, “At this point in the semester, I practically always need coffee or soda to keep going, and the mug is obviously useful in that regard. Being able to refill it and help the environment is definitely a plus.”

However, Susan feels that the clip on the mug deters from the environmental cause. She admits, “I think what the college is trying to do to save the environment is definitely good, but I think the ‘mug clip’ is a waste of plastic and kind of self defeating since I just threw my clip away.”

So, next time you’re in Zack’s, take advantage of a worthwhile environmental project and purchase a plastic mug.

Preparing for the job search

Did you know the average job search takes from three to six months? Here are some ideas on how you can get an early start on your job search this summer!

Many new graduates are not aware of all the possibilities that exist for their particular backgrounds, skills, and interests, so summer is a great time to research the possibilities through online resources and information interviews with friends, family, and UC alumni.

After developing a clear sense of the types of jobs you would like to pursue, research industries and identify companies of interest to you. Develop an understanding of hiring trends/cycles. For example, large organizations in some industries (e.g., public accounting, information technology, consulting, pharmaceutical sales) are able to predict their annual hiring needs and begin recruiting as early as September! Timing can be a critical factor, so make sure that you are prepared.

When you are ready to apply, keep in mind that in order to effectively communicate with employers, you need to define your career goals and be able to clearly articulate how your skills and qualities can benefit the employer. You will need to know information about the employer and the specific job you are applying for in order to maximize your impact.

Other activities that will help you get a "jumpstart" on your search:*
1. Develop your résumé/cover letter and have it critiqued by the CSO and, if possible, professionals in your field.
2. Practice your interviewing skills.
3. Meet with a counselor in the CSO to develop a plan for networking and job searching.
4. Take advantage of networking resources such as the Grizzl*E Network.
5. Use web-based tools such as Sigi Plus and The Vault Career Library for industry, career, and company research.
7. Learn about and prepare to take advantage of on-campus recruiting events, including the Annual UC Job & Internship Fair.

For more information regarding these resources and services, contact Career Services at career@ursinus.edu or stop by Bonnberger 121.
Opinions

Academic honor code: Is it really necessary?

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You may have heard that some of the administration is interested in bringing an “honor code” to Ursinus. For those of you who haven’t heard, the “archetypal” honor code (in the words of Dr. Dawley) has four main parts. First, each student agrees to be completely honorable in their academic endeavors. Second, students are responsible for other students in adhering to “honorable” academics. Third, because of parts one and two, exams now can be taken without being proctored, and finally, the punishments for breaking the “honor code” would be doled out by a student judiciary board.

Maybe I am being cynical and pessimistic, but I really don’t think an honor code would work at Ursinus College. I’ll break it down for you by point.

Point Number One: students pledge to be honorable in their academics. Not that we aren’t honorable people—I know that we all are—but what I question is the definition of honorable. What I think is honorable may not be the same thing that someone else thinks is honorable. What each individual sees as honorable depends on their personal values and beliefs. So we can really set a boundary on what is honorable? I don’t think so.

Point Number Two: students are responsible for other students in adhering to the honor code. Basically, in a nutshell, this means that if you see someone cheating, it is your “honorable duty” to go turn that person in, regardless of whether they are your really good friend, roommate (who you would love to see kicked out of school) or your super-cool-best-friend-for-life (who you feel that you were separated from at birth). And—this part takes the cake—if a person gets caught cheating, and the judiciary board finds out you knew about it and didn’t tell anyone, you get in trouble too!

Point Number Three: exams can be taken without being proctored. So this means that the professors are going to leave the classroom, or even better, let students take their exams back to their rooms to work on... without their books or notes of course. And because we are all honorable students, we won’t use our books and we will finish our exams in the allotted exam time. Can’t speak for everyone, but I like this idea because I thought it would end up in absolute test-taking chaos, with people locking their roommates out of their rooms when the latter go to the bathroom, and fervently flipping pages of their Bio 111 textbook while hiding under their covers.

Point Number Four: punishments for breaking the honor code will be doled out by a student judiciary board. Hooray! Now we, as students, get to kick other fellow students out of school. It’s just what we’ve all always wanted—now we’re one step closer to valedictorian! And if they won’t let us kick them out, maybe we’ll get to fine them or at least publicly humiliate them in some way... you know, all in a day’s work.

You can see my stance on the honor code. When I raised my hand at last Wednesday’s USGA meeting to explain to Dr. Dawley that I didn’t think people at Ursinus would want to rat out their friends, he asked me if one of my friends murdered someone, I thought for a moment. Now I was thinking what the hell does murder have to do with cheating on a test, but I guess to some people, cheating is like academic murder of sorts. The more I thought about this, I decided that the only way we could make the honor code truly work here is if every student at this school was on this level of thinking, that cheating = academic murder.

I don’t know about you, but I don’t see this happening any time in the foreseeable future. To me, Ursinus is too close-knit of a campus—at a place where students actually value the strong friendships they have made here and do work hard for their grades, what is the need for an honor code anyway?

Scope the “opening”

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The Kaleidoscope (or ‘Scope, since it’s easier to spell and say) is going to be open for one day only. That’s today, the 21st of April. By tomorrow, the building will be closed again and construction will finish.

My original plan for this article was to talk to a construction worker and ask if the Scope would be ready for opening by the time the Fall semester rolls around, but that plan ultimately failed. Why? Well, it probably had to do with the fact that I didn’t feel comfortable shouting, “Hey! You!” while they were on their cranes thing high in the sky. In short, I didn’t want to kill anyone for the sake of an opinion’s piece for the grizzly.

I’ll kill somebody on my own terms, thank you very much.

But then I sat down and rationalized it to myself... the building has to be done by the time the Fall semester begins, because the building is almost ready to be finally open, since Wynton Marsalis is coming to play. And I’m pretty sure that the stage is structurally sound enough for this, since we don’t want to be known as “The School That Killed Wynton Marsalis.”

All seriousness aside, we should be glad that we’re going to get a sneak preview of the Kaleidoscope before we go away for the summer. After all, I’m sure that plenty of seniors would like to see the building before they leave this school. And it’s great that the opening of the Scope is an embracement of the arts.

Pardon the upcoming pun, but the opening is truly a multi-faceted kaleidoscopic view of how varied the arts can be, from music to dance to comedy. It’ll be like a circus of sorts, lots of people coming in and out, to “Scope” the place out. Rather than focusing on the fact that the Kaleidoscope is only open for today, we should be excited that there’s a new building on campus and that there’s a performer as prestigious as Wynton Marsalis coming to celebrate its opening. And to those who question the logic of having a Performing Arts Center dedicated mostly to the theatre department, let us not forget that this is a liberal arts school, and if this doesn’t show that the school is willing to embrace diversity within fields of study, I don’t know what will.

Letter to the Editor: Questions that need to be considered by the Ursinus campus

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TRUTH. How can something so pure and idealized be at the same time so sly and elusive? Even when you’re sure you’ve asked all the right questions (following that Socratic Method scientifically), truth laughs in your face and changes its direction. Then you’re left utterly confused about your seemingly enlightened position. Truth is the Ursinus community is going to snap. There is so much repressed racial tension on this campus that if no one speaks out and asks certain questions, we will never reach any understanding. What, you think everything’s fine and dandy? Then you’re sleeping. Stop hitting that snooze button and wake up!

Okay, so you’re up, now what? Time for a pop quiz, Ursinus! In my search for the elusive truth, I’ve asked myself certain questions to which I’d love to get an answer. Why are certain black people within the Ursinus black community viewed as the “other black”? Is it because they chose to embrace the Ursinus Community as a whole or because they don’t spend enough time with other members of the black community? Is it fair that within the black community there are certain existing stereotypes, although individuals of this community make it a point to speak out against other racial stereotypes? Do black students pull the race card merely as an excuse or is it justifiable? How does one even begin to judge whether or not the race card is valid? If a group is invited to a party, but then they’re not let in, is it because they’re not “cool” enough or is it because the party is just too full? Are parties shut down because there are too many black people? Do large numbers of black people make RA’s and social hosts uncomfortable enough to say that a party is getting “out of hand”? Why can’t white people just admit this to themselves: “Yes, as a matter of fact, large groups of black people do make me nervous!”? Heck, I’m black and large groups of black people make me nervous too. That way we can move past that fear and see it for what it really is. A silly little fear embedded into the psyche, which unfortunately has the potential to do some serious damage.

Folks, the Truth is that I haven’t even shaved an inch off this humongous iceberg of complexities frozen into the racial tensions here on campus. My questions are but a few. However, even if there are no straight answers to them, just getting people to really sit back and evaluate certain situations may bring us a lot closer to understanding. I’m not proposing we all sit down together holding hands and singing “Kumbaya, my Lord Kumbayaaa” (that would be great though, wouldn’t it?) but just wake up and stop ignoring these issues. That way we’ll be able to move forward and actually do something about it.
The essence of “The Skipped Diploma”

While I’ve always sort of dreaded the end of my college career, I think I’m just about ready to blow this joint. It really seems like it’s the same old shit every year.

First of all, I’ve been informed by some of my freshy buddies that male housing ran out well before everyone had a room. You’d think after four years of not having enough housing, the school would figure something out. My proposal is to do away with RAs, as they get singles that are otherwise doubles, thus taking up valuable housing space. Then just put the entire campus on the honor system. Or maybe instead of sinking twenty-five million big ones into a performing arts center when there are a mere 27 students at this college in the fields of Dance/Theatre (I used the facebook for a rough estimate, which was hard since every jackass, including my roommate, claimed dance as a major. Now I can’t recall seeing my roommate dance, but I’m pretty sure I’m better than he is, and last time I danced at a party, I was mistaken for an escaped circus bear.), just think, they could have used that money to throw a ‘cheerful’ farewell party for The Skipped Diploma....or build sorely needed dorms since enrollment seems to exorbitantly grow every year, whichever.

Secondly, while you guys dodged a bullet this semester with the abolishment of online registration, it’ll be back...and for some reason, I can’t help but feel that a quarter of the school’s population trying to log on simultaneously will once again freeze our oh-so-reliable computer network. Actually, just be happy the network isn’t as bad as it was my freshmen year. The entire quad would get kicked off of the AlMer for hours at a time, forcing us to look away from our laptops and perhaps even do schoolwork.

Oh, and while we’re talking about next year, my buddy Cris “Pops” Mathews, asked me to mention him in my column since he’s running for class president. He claims that people get the paper for the sole purpose of reading my column, and while this may be true, I hesitate to correlate “reading” with “respecting.” Furthermore, I can’t say this article has ever made any shining endorsements (minus PBR and Skolal), but here’s my shot at one: Pops has been busting his ass for USGA and such (I know because it’s always his excuse for missing rugby practice. Now I know Pops personally, and believe you me, the kid needs at least one thing to look good when he walks into an interview, and Lord knows his face ain’t gonna cut it. Sorry Pops, that’s as close to something nice that I can bring myself to say in this column.

So yeah, stay tuned, as next week will be my last column. I’ll try for something funny/sentimental/sayonara suckers, but let’s be honest, I’ll prolly wait until after the deadline/four beers to write it.

Goody is a senior. You can reach him at jagood@ursinus.edu.

Untitled

So it is Sunday evening, and I have once again forgotten to write this week’s column. I am growing worse and worse at remembering. I fear at one point, I will forget entirely and you, the unfortunate readers, will finally find time to celebrate when this column fails to appear.

Laziness has a lot to do with it. Technically, I am supposed to have the column in by Thursday evening. This, as far as I can remember, has never happened. On a rare occasion it will be finished by Saturday.

And often, when it is left until the late hours of Sunday night or possibly the early hours of Monday morning, I will have at least an idea of what I am going to write about.

I used to have a back catalogue of columns I wrote when I was bored one weekend. They came in use for several of my more lazy weeks. But I have long since sucked that well dry.

I am without direction. At the moment, even this far into writing, I have no idea where I am going with this thing. I suppose I’m just writing to pad the word count.

It’s not that I’m lacking topics. I have a whole list of them I wrote down at a dinner with my parents one evening. Some of them have been covered. Others have not. There is the story about splitting my head open. There is the time I went five days without sleep. The traumatic cabin trip straight out of the Twilight Zone (that would probably have to be a two part column). If you wish to hear about any of these, I suppose you could ask me to write about them. Otherwise I won’t, because I can’t be bothered.

As a senior, I have a certain reputation to uphold, and that reputation involves doing very little work and complaining about not having a job. Both of these come fairly naturally. Sadly, senioritis makes doing work a problem.

And if that wasn’t bad enough, I have friends who want to do things. Which is great, and I love them....well most of them. And I usually drop everything to do whatever they want, but this makes having any sort of work ethic difficult.

On top of all that, I find myself unusually busy as of late. For someone who prides themselves on actively avoiding social situations, I suddenly have a full and active social calendar. Dinner with professors, performing arts center openings, concerts, movies, fundraisers...it’s all pretty exhausting.

Of course, all of that wouldn’t be so bad if I didn’t keep forgetting to write my column. I still have no idea what I’m going to write about this week. I was thinking about something with monkeys. Or perhaps penguins. Which ones are funnier? Monkeys or penguins? I should do a poll of some sort. The winner of the poll will be discussed in a column. The loser will also be discussed in a column, because it’s late in the semester and I’m grasping at straws. So stay tuned next week, when the great monkey vs. penguin debate continues. For now, I have over five hundred words, and that should be enough.

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

This is The TRUTH: Take it or leave it

Sometimes in the course of writing this column I come across a story so wondrous that I need to ingest heavy sedatives immediately after hearing of it. In this case, I’m referring to the Day of Truth, a religiously inspired event that occurred on April 21st. Unfortunately, the Day of Truth only affects Believers; those who are not taught to understand and observe Holy Days have no idea what it’s all about. But I can’t do it, because what they’re doing is brilliant. It’s simply genius. I mean, what better way to disguise one’s hatred than to dress it up as ‘devine intervention’.

Anyway, I believe there are a mere 27 students at this college in the fields of Dance/Theatre, and from my understanding of their activities I have decided to pack up and drive to Marzella’s Restaurant and the United Church of Christ to inform us all that Collegeville is the new Sodom (making us all want to go to wine bars and parties). But I can’t do it, because what they’re doing is brilliant. It’s simply genius. I mean, what better way to disguise one’s hatred than to dress it up as Christian love? I wish I had thought of it first.

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Men's Baseball: Trying to make a push for the playoffs

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The Ursinus Bears baseball team faced division rival, the Muhlenberg Mules, last Friday the 15th. Earlier in the week, the Bears were overpowered by the Mules who were able to compile 16 runs in a 16-6 win. But this match-up would create a different outcome. Led by a complete game from pitcher Clay Miller, 3-1, the Bears were able to split the season series with a 7-2 win, tying them for first place in the Centennial Conference (9-8, 7-3 CC).

The Mules got on the board first in the 2nd inning and then jumped to a lead of 5-0 after an RBI single by A.J. Bettini. Down by two, the Bears were in need of a productive bottom of the 4th. With two outs, the Bears finally were able to get the wheels turning. Ben Fisher was able to get on base first with a single to center field, followed by a Victor Rodriguez single to left field filling up 1st and 2nd base. Senior Jerry Rogers then capitalized with an RBI double. Ensuing was a single by Tommy Herrmann, tying up the game two all.

The fifth inning was filled with similar results as the Bears took the lead after an RBI sacrifice fly by Brett Jenkins, and an RBI single from Jon Sheppard making it 4-2. The Bears scored one more run in the 7th after an Eric Wickham single. Putting the icing on the cake was a two-run homer by Brett Jenkins in the bottom of the 8th, ending the game at 7-2.

Saturday, the Bears were away against another conference foe, Washington, for a double header. The Bears continued their two-game win streak sweeping the Shoremen 4-2 and 9-4. Jenkins continued his power hitting, opening up the first game with a solo shot, and going 2-4 with 4 RBI’s in the latter game.

After a very successful weekend, the Bears now 9-3 in conference play are gaining momentum that they hope to carry to a Centennial Conference Championship. Sophomore Tommy Herrmann commented on their recent success, “Our young pitching staff is proving to be effective, which was a problem earlier in the year. Our defense has been really solid, and our bats are really coming around.”

The Bears have been quite successful recently, and if you haven’t seen them in action get out there to show some support. This upcoming weekend the Bears face Haverford away at 3:30 pm, and Saturday home against Johns Hopkins for a double header, action starts at 12:30 pm.

Conference woes continue for men’s lacrosse

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The sound of flesh and bone clashing against one another rang throughout Patterson Field last Wednesday in a Centennial Conference battle that proved to be more than just a final score.

Although the men’s lacrosse team lost their fourth straight conference game against Haverford College, they played with great intensity. When time expired on the scoreboard, the light bulbs illuminated a 6-5 defeat. However, understanding the heart that Ursinus played with is worthwhile.

Anthony Tori showed his relentless determination, scoring his third and final goal of the day at a pivotal point in the game. Early in the fourth quarter, the game was a close race to the end with Haverford up one, 5-6. Tori’s goal tied the game giving Ursinus some well needed momentum entering the final quarter.

Unfortunately for the Bears, Haverford battled back with three unanswered goals sealing a victory. The Fords avenged Ursinus for a one-point loss just a year ago. Joe Mauri scored two goals for Haverford, including the game winning shot that broke a 6-6 tie in the fourth.

At the beginning of the game, Ursinus took the lead in the first quarter 2-1. Nick Shriver scored two goals, helping the team keep a close knit fight with a score of 3-3 at the half.

Despite the loss, Matt “Endo” Orlando had an impressive performance in net with 18 saves and scooping up 10 ground balls. Ursinus has lost four straight Centennial Conference games, but the players want to stay positive, as four games remain in the season.

Anthony Tori expresses his frustration but looks forward to a string of victories that are sure to come. “It has been a tough year losing to all these good teams by just one or two goals, but we haven’t let that get us down. We’re a young team learning from our mistakes every game, and we’re just waiting to break out of our shell.”

When Tori stated that the team is young, he does not just mean the players. Yes, the players are very young, housing only three seniors and fifteen freshmen, but the program more importantly is only three years in the making.

Three years is hardly enough time to establish a winning program at the collegiate level. This team within the next three years is going to become a conference champion contender. Ursinus College put themselves on the map with the lacrosse program, searching for young talent that will become great players in the near future.

Coach Carter strives to win out the final four games, determined to improve to a .500 record of 4-4 in the Centennial Conference. The last home game is this Saturday, April 23rd at 1 p.m. against the Gren Terror of McDaniel. The team asks the student body to come out and support this young team at their final home hurrah for the season.

A struggling season shows some signs of improvement for tennis teams

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The season has been tough for both men’s and women’s tennis this year. While the effort and intensity are there every day, the wins are few. Again, the men’s tennis team is forced to sit through another year of rebuilding, while trying to regain some confidence within themselves to salvage the rest of this quickly ending season.

With a return from his rookie season, Coach Steven Mauro leads the Ursinus College Bears to a season of less disappointment and similar frustration compared to past seasons.

The men’s team has had some improvement as compared to last year’s record, 4 wins and 10 losses. However, it looks as though this will be another rebuilding year.

Meanwhile, the ladies’ team has the talent, heart, and potential to be very successful in the Centennial Conference, but have had tremendous struggles during this season with a record of 0 and 9.

Both teams show improvement, and have a young core that will hopefully pick up for future play. Until then, the teams are fighting hard to end their season playing their best.

In Centennial Conference action last Wednesday, the men’s tennis team played hard in a losing battle to Haverford College, 6-1. While the Fords did dominate in this conference meeting, Haverford found themselves winning five out of the six singles matches.

On a good note, however, Ben Isser, a sophomore, recorded his third straight singles victory with a 6-4, 4-6, 10-2 win at the number four spot for the only Ursinus victory of this match.

Last Thursday, the women’s tennis team also put up their best effort, but lost to Bryn Mawr College, 5-4.

Junior Courtney Root and senior Rebecca Gotwals scored an 8 to 6 victory for the Bears’ first point.

Freshmen Rachel Sussman and Julie Katz followed with two more wins at the number four and five spots of singles play.

Freshman Lindsey Kunkel ended the successful run by recording a 6-2, 7-5 win at the number six spot.

Unfortunately for both of these teams, their records do not speak well for them, but each team continues to push forward in search of improvement for the future.

The women are in search of their first win this year when they play at Swarthmore on Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

The men return to action on Saturday at Franklin & Marshall, and hope not only to improve their record, but also to prove that they can become real contenders within the Centennial Conference. The match is at 1 p.m.