The Grizzly, March 22, 2018

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Writer from The New Yorker gives talk on opioid empire

Said Dawley, “Patrick Keefe’s story about the Sackler family and the billions that they have made from the opioid epidemic was an important one for Ursinus students to hear. For those planning to work in healthcare or pharma, in particular, it was an opportunity to reflect on the moral obligations that will come with their job.”

“After Vice President Clothier mentioned the possibility of bringing Mr. Bowden to campus, we got in touch and fortunately Mr. Bowden was very receptive to the idea,” Evans said. Over the six-year process it took to write “Hue 1968,” Bowden had to report from and travel to the Vietnamese city of Hue where he had his translator, a native of Ho Chi Minh City, decipher information from the interviewed people.

“Hue 1968” tells the story of the Battle of Hue in 1968 during the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War. Bowden uses narratives from both sides of the war, with the perspectives of American Marines and Vietnamese civilians who were present during the Battle of Hue. For Bowden, the 1968 Battle of Hue was a “turning point” in Vietnam because Americans thought that the war would be easily won once they got involved, but when Hue occurred, “it had a big impact on the American public’s perception of what was actually going on in Vietnam.”

Before he wrote the book, Bowden said “[I] noticed that [books about the battle] hadn’t been done well. It had become
Kimberton Whole Foods opens near campus

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Kimberton Whole Foods, a supermarket located in the Collegeville Shopping Center, opened Mar. 21. The family-owned and operated independent market is the sixth Kimberton Whole Foods in Pennsylvania. The independent natural grocer focuses on providing customers with natural, organic, and non-genetically-modified products, according to the official Kimberton website.

The market features a café with freshly pressed juices, smoothies and specialty coffee, sandwiches, and a wide-range selection of in-house and locally baked goods. The location also offers a sushi bar, a hot and cold salad bar, a floral department and an apothecary supplied with natural body care products, according to the official Kimberton website.

Terry Brett, owner of Kimberton Whole Foods, explained in The Town Dish that the new Kimberton Whole Foods is the largest location thus far, with indoor and outdoor seating. This is just in time for the changing of the seasons.

Kimberton Whole Foods opened down the block from Redner’s, who reported on its website that it works for all natural products, rather than alternative products sold by other markets in the area. Compared to other markets nearby such as Walmart, “added Reinhardt.

Kimberton Whole Foods opened down the block from Redner’s, who previously dominated the market as the closest supermarket to campus. However, with its mission of natural organic products, Kimberton offers a place where many natural products can be found all within the same location.

Juliette Reinhardt, a sophomore, noticed the accessibility the market offers when it comes to healthy products. In a location that supplies all natural products, it’s easier for the shopper to hunt down products. “I don’t necessarily think you have to shop at an all natural store to get their products, but it’s nice and I’m sure a lot of community members will enjoy it’s accessibility, [and it] being its own entity,” said Reinhardt.

Kimberton offers several alternatives that cater to individuals with restrictive diets, according to their website. Nienus, a sophomore, noticed the alternative products sold by the market include dairy alternatives, which accommodate people with dietary restrictions.

“When it comes to being a vegan or being a vegetarian, it allows more options when it says it’s going to be more natural and organic,” said Nienus.

The market offers an incentive for the community to expand the ways in which they think about how they shop, especially when consumers are taking initiatives to learn more about where their food is coming from. The company reported on its website that it works with more than 150 local producers to bring fresh products to their stores.

“It introduces the community to more natural products, rather than processed and chemical ones that we tend to see in corporations such as Walmart,” added Reinhardt.

Kaitlyn Lawrence, a junior, and one of the student workers in Kimberton, is excited that the market will be walking distance from campus. As a Cafe team member and a Sustainability Fellow on campus, she’s conscious about her impact on the environment when it comes to what she consumes.

“I feel that even if something were to be more expensive at Kimberton Whole Foods, I would still rather purchase it there than at Wegmans, just because I can trust that these products are made ethically, sourced local, and are trusted by the Kimberton team to be more environmentally sustainable and natural,” said Lawrence.

Kimberton Whole Foods is located at 222 E. Main St., open everyday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Opioid talk continued from pg. 1

OxyContin.
OxyContin is an extremely powerful opioid pain reliever with a continuous-release formula. Keefe explained that taking one pill every twelve hours would, at least in theory, provide all-day relief, unlike previous drugs which required dosing every four hours.
OxyContin was different from these because its sole ingredient was oxycodone, a chemical cousin of heroin. Opioids such as Percocet and Percodan contain this ingredient, but in smaller amounts that are mixed with Tylenol and aspirin. The danger of OxyContin, Keefe emphasized throughout his talk, is that it is highly addictive. Many doctors in the 1990s were aware of this issue and hesitated at first to prescribe the drug.

“...This was a marketing problem,” said Keefe, “and the Sacklers excelled at nothing so much as marketing. They knew how to handle this. What [they had to do was] persuade doctors to reconsider.” Keefe described the intense marketing campaign that followed, in which a massive sales force was hired by Purdue Pharma to sell OxyContin. Purdue Pharma funded studies, whose results were provided for skeptical doctors to further persuade them that OxyContin was perfectly safe. The common statistic used during this campaign, according to Keefe’s article, was that “fewer than one percent of people who use OxyContin become addicted.”

There was no real basis for this statistic, but it worked its way into the sales pitch,” Keefe explained. “This blitz worked ... and billions of dollars started flowing to the Sackler family.”
Keefe described the ways in which rampant drug abuse and addiction began to surface from reported overdoses on opioids. Even patients using the drug as prescribed were becoming dependent on it. David Kessler, former commissioner of the FDA, is quoted in Keefe’s article as saying, “The more of it that is out there, the more abuse there will be.”

Keefe approached several sales representatives for Purdue Pharma while writing his New Yorker piece, including Steven May, former sales representative for Purdue Pharma. May said that the sales force was instructed to persuade doctors to prescribe OxyContin and “sell through it.” According to the US Department of Justice, Purdue pled guilty in 2006 of “misbranding” their drug. Keefe said that the company acknowledged during this case that they deliberately downplayed the addictive qualities of OxyContin.
Since subsequent reformulation of OxyContin in 2010, the Sacklers have taken OxyContin abroad. Keefe drew parallels between Purdue’s market technique and that of the tobacco industry. He explained that, after a connection was formed between tobacco use and negative health effects, the industry targeted teenagers in particular to keep revenue coming. But with all their fortune, Keefe pointed out, the family has never given a dime to funding addiction treatment.

However, since Keefe’s article, there has been quite a bit of kickback for the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma. Mike Moore is a Mississippi lawyer who sued thirteen tobacco companies for smoking-related illnesses and was necessary to many patients suffering from both illnesses, according to Bloomberg Businessweek. Beginning in 2014, Moore sued Purdue Pharma and other pharmaceutical companies over the current opioid epidemic in the US. An audience member pointed out that, according to a report by The Washington Post, following intense criticism of its marketing campaign, Purdue Pharma announced Feb. 10 that it will “cut its sales force in half and stop promoting opioids to physicians.”
Photographer Nan Goldin led a protest Mar. 10 in which protesters targeted Purdue Pharma with custom labels into the reflecting pool in the Sackler Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, according to The New York Times. The protesters called for the museum to remove donations from the Sacklers until the family agrees to fund addiction treatment.
When asked by student Jennifer Joseph what students, as rising scientists and doctors, can do in the face of this growing opioid epidemic, Keefe replied: “You are young, and I think you live in an age of more perfect information now than we did in the past decades. It shouldn’t have been as easy for a clan like the Sacklers to distance themselves from the source of their wealth.”

When asked what she took away from Keefe’s discussion, Joseph stated that: “Doctors and scientists... have to do homework of their own to make sure they aren’t just blindly accepting something. ... [Keefe’s talk] was probably my favorite of the whole speaker series.”

As a journalist, Keefe explained that he strives to portray every side of a story, and that he tries to interview the subjects of his articles to better understand how they see themselves. Keefe’s attempts at working with the Sustainability Office have not been successful. None of the members of the Sackler family have responded to his requests for an interview.

“...the villain in the story usually doesn’t think that he’s the villain, he usually thinks he’s the hero. ... It’s very telling that they don’t want to have the conversation,” Keefe said. “And the only way the conversation happens is if people force it to happen.”

O&A with UCSG President and Vice President candidates

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The Ursinus College Student Government elections went uncontested for the second consecutive year, with one candidate running for student body president and vice president, respectively. The Grizzly wrote to each candidate to learn about how students may be informed of the candidates’ platforms. Elizabeth Iobst ’19, a history major with a minor in media and communications, ran for the position of UCSG President. Originally from New Tripoli, Pennsylvania, Iobst is a track and field athlete, a social chair of her sorority, and a tour guide. She had previously served as the class of 2019’s class council. Last semester, she studied abroad in Florence, Italy. Jonathan Cope ’19, a media and communications major from Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, ran for UCSG Vice President. He participates in cross country and track and field, Greek life, the student senate, and serves as a resident advisor. After graduation, Cope hopes to attend law school.

Describe a unique experience of yours that has impacted you, and made you more prepared for this position. What qualities do you possess that make you feel most qualified?

Iobst: I believe my previous involvement in student government has prepared me to successfully fill the role of UCSG President. I have served as a senator, organized fundraisers for the class of 2019 and have served on the Activities Fund Allocation Committee (AFAC). I have built relationships with faculty which will enable me to help facilitate conversation between students and faculty. These experiences have also given me a firsthand view into the processes and practices of student government. As a tour guide, I am in frequent contact with potential students and the admissions staff, which has given me a unique perspective of our campus to both present and future students. I am currently the social chair of my sorority which has developed my communication and organizational skills. These experiences along with my work ethic, positive attitude, communication skills and love for Ursinus make me a qualified student for this position.

Cope: This summer I had the opportunity to work with the Wee-Read program, which works to provide books to underprivileged children in my area who are learning how to read. Working with these kids showed me that even the smallest gestures can help to make a difference in someone’s life. Experiences like this have helped to fuel my passion for helping others, which is something that I believe I can use to help students across campus. Through my time in athletics, Greek life, the student senate, and as an RA, I have been able to meet so many incredible people. I believe that my involvement with these groups has helped give me the connections and perspective needed to push forward the wants and needs of the student body.

In your opinion, what do you think are the most pressing issues for Ursinus students? As president/vice president, how would you address these issues while advocating for the student body?

Iobst: I believe that diversity, eco-friendliness, and student participation in UCSG are some of the pressing issues that Ursinus students face on campus. As president, I hope to work with admissions, faculty, the student body, and the rest of UCSG to make our campus more welcoming and safe space for minority groups. Furthermore, I want to make sure that minority groups are visible and heard in our community. As president, I hope to work with UCSG to make our campus more welcoming and safe space for minority groups. Furthermore, I want to make sure that minority groups are visible and heard in our community.

Addressing a “sexual assault culture,” what would you do through UCSG to manage risks and create safer spaces for students at parties where sexual assault has become the norm?

Iobst: I strongly support and applaud the new initiatives from the Peer Advocates to expand these initiatives and to improve our campus culture. I will also work to promote and advertise the resources available for survivors of sexual assault such as Wellness, Campus Safety, and the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County. I believe that the college recently made significant changes to the sexual assault policy and I believe that this was a great step in the right direction that helped to move Ursinus forward. In order to fully maximize the benefits of this change, we need to work on educating students about issues surrounding consent. I know that this has already been occurring to some extent, as students who are involved in Greek life and athletics were required to attend seminars this year. I believe that the best way to help solve this problem is to educate more and more students about this issue. By doing this, I believe we can work towards creating a safer and more welcoming environment. I also believe that we need to stress to all students that this is a place where victims can come forward and know that their complaint will be taken seriously.

Read the rest of the interview at www.ursinusgrizzly.com
What’s next for retiring professor Dr. Carol Cirka?

Business and Econ professor and U-Imagine co-founder talks future plans and her time at Ursinus

Dr. Carol Cirka
Business and economics professor

After 18 years of dedication to Ursinus College, Dr. Carol Cirka will retire this year from the business and economics department. “Up until a couple of years ago, I couldn’t envision myself retiring. I couldn’t envision myself not continuing to work for the foreseeable future,” Cirka said.

According to Cirka, one of the things that changed her vision for the future was the collaborative opportunity that she had over the last year with Ursinus alumni and longtime Ursinus trustee, Will Abele ’61, and his wife Joan Abele. Cirka worked with the Abeles to help start the Abele Family Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps students who face significant challenges to further their education post high school. Cirka enjoyed her time working with them and plans to continue to work with the Abele Family Foundation on a more flexible schedule after retiring from Ursinus.

After retirement Cirka also hopes to travel more, and spend more time with family, especially with her grandchildren.

Cirka looks forward to the retirement. “I worked for a long time; it’s time to take a break.”

Over the years, Cirka has taught classes on business management, strategy, research methods, leadership ethics and human resource management. She is also the co-founder and co-director of the U-Imagine Center for Integrative and Entrepreneurial Studies along with Dr. Rebecca Jaroff of the English department.

During her time at Ursinus, Cirka sought to disseminate entrepreneurship on campus. The creation of the U-Imagine Center was a big part of this effort.

“The U-Imagine Center was created to provide a bridge for students between what they are experiencing as a part of their undergraduate education and how [their] skills can be applied no matter where [they] work,” Cirka elaborated.

Reflecting on her teaching style, Cirka explained the importance of this applied-focus for students. “I’m demanding . . . I like to take whatever I’m teaching and show how it relates to what students are going to be doing in their careers.”

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— Dr. Carol Cirka
Business and economics professor

Cirka noted that she likes to use various teaching methods, particularly the experiential learning method, where she can use activities to get students out of the Ursinus bubble. According to Cirka, her purpose as a teacher was to have students leave Ursinus with “the knowledge that they can compete anywhere against anybody and be successful.”

Danielle Kuller, a senior applied economics major with minors in management study and psychology, praised Cirka’s work and teaching style. Said Kuller, “[Cirka] is one of the smartest professors I’ve ever had. Her class is always interesting and informative . . . She pushes you to be a better student and think more critically.”

Another legacy that Cirka will leave at Ursinus is a project she collaborated on with five other professors concerning the influences of digital technology. The project consists of classes with a wide variety of topics such as digital storytelling, analytics in digital marketing, and psychological changes through digital contents.

According to Cirka, “the cluster of classes has to do with how what we do has changed because of digital technology and platforms . . . [It] doesn’t matter what your major is or your plans, you should be comfortable in a digital world. The classes go well beyond what many students are comfortable with right now, which is social media and using computers.”

Cirka wants students to be successful in utilizing the information and the technology that the digital world has to offer, instead of solely being consumers of that technology. Although Cirka will not teach any of the courses because of her retirement, she believes these classes will integrate well with the new core curriculum.

The only concern Cirka has about retirement is that she will miss the people of Ursinus, especially her colleagues from the business and economics department. “I will miss the day-to-day [at our department]. We are a fun department, we get along and we work well together. We know how to enjoy our jobs [while taking them] seriously,” said Cirka.

Before she leaves Ursinus, Cirka would like to offer some advice to students: “Work hard, be an excellent communicator, learn fast, [and] adapt quickly to the working environment. The rest [of your job experience] will teach you.”

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Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting
Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
Ritter 141
History professor’s legacy becomes more historic

Dr. Ross Doughty has been honored by the Bucks County Historical Association as the namesake of a new award

Joe Makuc
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On Mar. 9, 2018, the Bucks County Historical Association created the Ross Doughty Award in honor of retiring Ursinus history professor Dr. Ross Doughty. On March 24, The Ross Doughty Award will be awarded in recognition of a Philadelphia-focused history project as part of National History Day. Hosted at Ursinus since 1996, the annual National History Day competition of Bucks and Montgomery Counties helps students from grades 6-12 bring history to life in a variety of projects.

Doughty, who has served as chair of the history department for 19 years, has been a part of National History Day at Ursinus since its beginnings.

"John Strassburger had just become president of Ursinus College and the Board Chairman was a wonderful fellow named William Heefner," Doughty reflected. "One of Heefner’s passions was history, particularly local history, and he was also the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bucks County Historical Society. The Bucks County Historical Society and the Mercer Museum in Doylestown somehow secured the responsibility of organizing the Bucks and Montgomery Counties regional National History Day competition and were looking for a place to stage it. So, John Strassburger, on behalf of Bill Heefner, asked the History Department to help out.”

Doughty volunteered to host National History Day with the cooperation of Julia Sefton, Bucks County Historical Society’s Director of Education at the time, and the program took off. Though the competition started small, over the twenty-plus years Ursinus has hosted the event, it has “slowly [grown] to an average of about 400 contestants,” said Doughty.

But National History Day isn’t just a big deal for the contestants - Doughty emphasized the importance of the Ursinus community in facilitating the experience. Thanking Margie Connor, Dr. Edward Onaci, and alumni volunteers for their service, Doughty also applauded various Ursinus institutions: “Facilities Services and the Athletic Department have been the most important, but Campus Safety, Sodexo, and College Communications have also played significant roles. Also, I have always had numerous volunteers from among the history majors to help out as student assistants."

Two of those students are senior history majors Jake Nop and Elijah Sloat. Nop volunteered at National History Day sophomore year and both will be volunteering this year.

According to Nop, the two seniors will work on the sidelines this year, “doing manual labor that facilitates the competition.” Sloat agreed, emphasizing “effort, [they] would be rewarded for it.”

Sloat agreed, emphasizing Doughty’s “foresight in what you can do in the study of history.” For Sloat, Doughty’s variety of approaches to classroom history, including incorporating “film and other non-traditional topics,” echoed Doughty’s commitment to bringing history to the community.

Dr. Doughty is retiring this year, and similarly, National History Day is leaving Ursinus. “The regional competition will be moving from Ursinus to [Delaware Valley University] next year,” Doughty explained.

But just as Nop and Sloat can testify to Doughty’s impact, National History Day has also left a legacy.

“During the past 22 years, literally thousands of middle and high school students, their parents, and their teachers have visited Ursinus, and I’m sure that has helped to spread our name, recruit students, and facilitate community relations,” Doughty said.

While Doughty is honored to have the prize named for him, he emphasized its communal nature, considering it “an honor for Ursinus College as well.” He wants “to thank everybody at the college [who has] helped over the years.”

Doughty and National History Day both endure in the Ursinus Community.

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Happening on Campus

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The failure of representation in “The Shape of Water”

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It seems increasingly the case that Hollywood loves talking about itself. Specifically, it praises films which reference Hollywood’s best and most romantic images. In 2015, after “Birdman” took the prize, Ethan Gates made the comment that “[T]he past few years of Best Picture winners suggest a pattern of rewarding films that directly engage with Hollywood, the business of entertainment and the very act of movie-making.” The problem with Hollywood’s self-romanticization is that its own account of history leaves behind the worst aspects of the industry without ever actually addressing them.

So when “Moonlight” took home the Oscar for Best Picture at the 2017 Academy Awards, seemingly snatching the award straight from the hands of the deeply romantic and typically Hollywood “La La Land,” there was a sense of hope. Progressive film-lovers saw a sign that the Motion Picture Academy may have finally figured out what the rest of the world thought a “Best Picture” should look like. After a year like 2016, full of racist and otherwise reactionary messages in the media overall, “Moonlight” was a welcome example of storytelling featuring historically marginalized people up against real human struggles. Most importantly, it was a film in which a black director helped represent characters familiar to him that weren’t as familiar to Hollywood. Not only that, it was a technical and visual marvel.

In comparison, the 2018 Best Picture Award feels . . . wrong. Truthfully, “The Shape of Water” is a visually gorgeous film. Guillermo del Toro continually proves his mastery of presenting vivid color to create dark and imposing settings. The production design was thoughtful and the makeup effects were effective. In terms of overall production, the film is a masterpiece.

It tells the story of a woman named Elisa Esposito who comes to love an amphibious creature (that the government calls “the asset”) while working as a member of a cleaning staff in a secret government facility outside Baltimore. This love is based on their shared inability to communicate vocally with others. Upon learning that the creature is to be killed for scientific research, Esposito enlists her friend and neighbor, Giles, as well as her fellow cleaning worker, Zelda Deli-lah Fuller, to help break him out.

Guillermo del Toro usurps the mechanics of ASL to serve his purpose of storytelling, and that false acquisition, and employment, of American Sign Language as a tool in ‘The Shape of Water,’ is both sorrowful and outrageous.

“A story of a mute woman, a gay man, and a black woman janitor teaming up against the US government to save a tortured, mysterious creature certainly sounds like fertile ground for something new and innovative. So why does it feel wrong?” — David Boles

Author

The failure of representation in “The Shape of Water” does not connote a certain desire and male entitlement to voice anonymous discontents and opinions.

In addition, I talked to sophomore Joe Simon about our reservations about men’s bathrooms. He explained, “I feel like the culture of shame versus pride in fecal functions is why it makes me uncomfortable . . . There is a feeling that you have to be proud or comfortable urinating in public and if you’re not, you get ostracized for it, which makes it more uncomfortable for people on the point where if they are pee-shy they pretend to flush the toilet so they don’t get judged.”

“Wait, so you think it’s masculine to be proud of your poo?” I asked.

“Basically, yes,” Simon responded. “Or to be proud of showing it off or proud that other people know about it.”

In contrast, women’s bathrooms on campus show a different phenomenon of performativeness. I say performative because it’s not that women are naturally more quiet and clean or some other sexist stereotype. Rather, women feel the need to perform these qualities because, especially in public spaces, they are assigned to reinforce normative feminine gender roles of silence and politeness.

In light of national debates over “bathroom bills,” which would allow transgender individuals access to public restrooms, bathrooms are now more political than ever. While I know the school can’t leave bathroom graffiti, at the same time I think that writing on bathroom walls is political, interesting, and shouldn’t be ignored. What do men’s bathrooms say about what it means to be a man at Ursinus? Is men’s bathroom graffiti a new CIE test? Some of this writing makes just as much sense as Descartes.

The gender politics of men’s bathrooms at Ursinus

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Since I started using men’s bathrooms on campus, I have been more aware of the significance of gendered public spaces. I’ve spent the majority of my life going to women’s rooms, and even though I identify as a man now, I have never felt the burning desire to use a men’s bathroom. Because my SPINT house doesn’t have gendered bathrooms, I told myself that men’s bathrooms must be approximately the same. I entered men’s bathrooms at Ursinus and completely opened my mind rather than stereotypes about them being disgusting—an attempt at resisting oppositional sexism, or the idea that men and women are essentially opposites. But now, if I could use one word to describe men’s bathrooms here, I would probably say “dystopian.”

All jokes about gross men’s bathrooms aside, I think the majority of us don’t think about public spaces like bathrooms as political or culturally significant at all. It’s just the bathroom, right? Well, I don’t think so. It’s easy to dismiss this argument and say that “men are gross, so of course their bathrooms are.” But I think it’s much deeper than that. How we treat public spaces illustrates gender expectations and performances. The men’s bathroom in particular exposes male entitlement to space through performative dominance.

After the overall displeasing atmosphere, the next thing I noticed in men’s bathrooms at Ursinus was the “graffiti.” When I have told my cisgender, non-transgender, male friends that I started using the men’s bathrooms, the first thing they asked was what was my favorite graffiti is. When considering how women’s bathrooms don’t have the same graffiti, I think bathroom graffiti shows a lot about men’s entitlement to public spaces as a place to express their thoughts. I’m not saying men shouldn’t write on bathroom walls: The more interesting question to me is what graffiti says about how manliness functions.

I claim that bathrooms are political because these performances of gender surround the individual in the bathroom. In seemingly mundane spaces like the bathroom, graffiti also exemplifies the political tension of Trump’s America. There is literally writing in bathroom stalls that confront political conflicts. In the basement of Myrin Library, there is an extensive debate about Trump, though very petty, that continues to grow with responses from all different points of view. After the stalls in the first-floor men’s bathroom of Olin were painted over by facilities, another recent writing read, “I will not be silenced.”

Those words disturbed me—not because I think that the writer was serious—but because the plethora of writing on men’s bathroom walls does connote a certain desire and male entitlement to voice anonymous discontents and opinions.

Since I started using men’s bathrooms at Ursinus, I’ve become more aware of the significance of gendered public spaces.

In addition, I talked to sophomore Joe Simon about our reservations about men’s bathrooms. He explained, “I feel like the culture of shame versus pride in fecal functions is why it makes me uncomfortable . . . There is a feeling that you have to be proud or comfortable urinating in public and if you’re not, you get ostracized for it, which makes it more uncomfortable for people on the point where if they are pee-shy they pretend to flush the toilet so they don’t get judged.”

“Wait, so you think it’s masculine to be proud of your poo?” I asked.

“Basically, yes,” Simon responded. “Or to be proud of showing it off or proud that other people know about it.” In contrast, women’s bathrooms on campus show a different phenomenon of performativeness. I say performative because it’s not that women are naturally more quiet and clean or some other sexist stereotype. Rather, women feel the need to perform these qualities because, especially in public spaces, they are assigned to reinforce normative feminine gender roles of silence and politeness.

In light of national debates over “bathroom bills,” which would allow transgender individuals access to public restrooms, bathrooms are now more political than ever. While I know the school can’t leave bathroom graffiti, at the same time I think that writing on bathroom walls is political, interesting, and shouldn’t be ignored. What do men’s bathrooms say about what it means to be a man at Ursinus? Is men’s bathroom graffiti a new CIE test? Some of this writing makes just as much sense as Descartes.

The gender politics of men’s bathrooms at Ursinus

Robin Gow
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Since I started using men’s bathrooms on campus, I have been more aware of the significance of gendered public spaces. I’ve spent the majority of my life going to women’s rooms, and even though I identify as a man now, I have never felt the burning desire to use a men’s bathroom. Because my SPINT house doesn’t have gendered bathrooms, I told myself that men’s bathrooms must be approximately the same. I entered men’s bathrooms at Ursinus and completely opened my mind rather than stereotypes about them being disgusting—an attempt at resisting oppositional sexism, or the idea that men and women are essentially opposites. But now, if I could use one word to describe men’s bathrooms here, I would probably say “dystopian.”

All jokes about gross men’s bathrooms aside, I think the majority of us don’t think about public spaces like bathrooms as political or culturally significant at all. It’s just the bathroom, right? Well, I don’t think so. It’s easy to dismiss this argument and say that “men are gross, so of course their bathrooms are.” But I think it’s much deeper than that. How we treat public spaces illustrates gender expectations and performances. The men’s bathroom in particular exposes male entitlement to space through performative dominance.

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The Ursinus College women’s swim team won their fifth consecutive Centennial Conference (CC) Championship last month, and the Bears are sending six women to the national competition in Indianapolis, Indiana this week due to their performances at the conference championship.

The six Lady Bears that are making the trip are first-year swimmer Sophie May, seniors Maggie Leitz, Olivia Tierney, and Sydney Gunderson, and juniors Peyten Lyons and Clara Baker.

Baker is excited to make her third appearance on the Division III national stage: “I’m excited for this year’s trip, especially with the experience of the past two years. Even though it is all about the swim [events] that got you there, it is fun to watch all of the other fast swimmers and enjoy the meet. I am hungry to place higher than I ever have and hope that I can pull it off.”

She continued, “Already this trip differs from the previous, as we have twice the amount of women than we have ever had. This is the first time in history we’ve had a relay qualify, let alone two, and that just reflects the work ethic and determination that all of us poured into this season. With more of us there, we can make more of an impact point-wise, as well as [have] more fun.”

Head Coach Mark Feinberg chimed in on the biggest difference this year from previous trips to NCAAs.

“The biggest change in our participation is the five relays. We have been so close . . . the previous four years to taking a relay and we finally broke through this year. We need to be strategic in which relays to key [in] on and where to put our athletes to maximize points. We set a goal to be top twenty. That is extremely aggressive, but these relays give us a chance if we swim well,” said Feinberg.

One might assume that going from a large team of forty swimmers between both a men’s and women’s team down to just six women would be quite the shake-up in routine, but Feinberg explained how that might not be the case.

“There is not really much of a change. These six women, five of whom are juniors or seniors, have been role models of preparation through their careers. I get to personalize the workouts more easily since we only have six [swimmers] instead of forty, but the hard work and polish of detail continues like it did back in September.”

Baker added, “The idea is that if you practice fast, you race fast. This is always Coach’s mentality, whether it is before a dual meet or a Championship meet. The way we physically get ready for our big meets is by tapering off the amount of yardage in the pool and stopping our weight-training, so our bodies can recover and get ready to go fast. Mentally, I try to be ready for and invested in my competition all year so that when it gets to these big competitions, it is nothing new, and I will perform how I have been practicing.”

Feinberg is very proud of his team this year, and especially proud and happy to have Baker on the team. Said Feinberg, “I feel like [the women] keep getting better each year and that’s been the most rewarding part. Each of the last three years, I knew we had the talent to win if we swam well but thought the challenge would be significant. What the women have done is continue to distinguish themselves through hard work, attention to detail, toughness, and amazing will to win every close race.”

He shared how Baker in particular has grown the last three years.

“Work ethic! Plain and simple. Clara was the first one back in the weight room last spring. Less than a week from collecting her fourth All-American, she leads the charge to get better. She has a positive attitude like I’ve rarely seen in my thirty-plus years of coaching,” said Feinberg.

“She takes that same approach to each race whether she’s disappointed in her previous swim or elated. If a young swimmer wants a role model, they should follow Clara daily. She is an outstanding role model and fills the team with positive energy. We may someday surpass her records, but she will never be replaced.”

The admiration is mutual, as Baker described what the coaching staff has done for her in her time at Ursinus.

“The coaching staff has brought me so many things, including the best times of my life, both in the pool and life in general, the hardest I have ever worked, and so much more enjoyment for the sport of swimming,” said Baker.

“I am always excited to get in and attack the practice they wrote because I know the amount of detail and thought that they put into it. I want to succeed for myself as much as I want to succeed for them, because they are the reason I am headed to nationals for the third year in a row,” said Baker.

Baker talked about the work ethic that Feinberg mentioned: “A lot of the preparation I do during the week of swimming is right before practice. That is when I stretch, read and understand the practice, and get ready mentally. I try not to let swimming consume my life, but I am always conscious about what I am eating and how much I am sleeping. Most of the time my preparation for my next practice is all about my recovery from the last one. We practice six days a week for two hours on a normal day, with an hour in the morning three days a week for weight lifting.”

Feinberg has pretty simple recommendations for his swimmers, especially the ones making their first trips to nationals. Said Feinberg, “[I expect them] to represent Ursinus College with the same class, enthusiasm and energy that they take to every dual meet and championship. If they do that, the swims will take care of themselves.”

Feinberg added, “[I want them to] enjoy the experience. This is the pinnacle meet for any Division III swimmer. We will see Olympians, swim in one of the most historic venues in the world, and even eat dinner at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. If you can’t have fun with that, you’re missing the point.”

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Scores as of Monday, March 19, 2018

<table>
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<th>M. Lacrosse (1-5)</th>
<th>W. Lacrosse (2-3)</th>
<th>Gymnastics</th>
<th>Baseball (2-7)</th>
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UC teams hit the road for spring break

Freshman middle infielder Heather Lazer agreed that the team’s chemistry was greatly benefitted by the trip. “I feel as if our spring break trip . . . really strengthened the bond of our team as a whole . . . this experience will help us with our overall team chemistry on and off the field as the season progresses and will be vital in an effort to achieve our goal of making [Centennial Conference] playoffs,” Lazer said.

The team also got to play against new foes on the Florida trip. Hyman explained, “What’s great about spring training is that we get to play against teams we wouldn’t play against in season. I think the teams we played were pretty equivalent to the teams we would play in conference. Minimal errors were made in the field and the pitchers made us work at the plate.”

Hyman hopes to keep the momentum rolling upon return to Ursinus. “Since the weather is less than ideal here, it’s going to be really important to continue to capitalize on what worked in Florida, like hitting and team chemistry, and push to work towards a more consistent defense, especially with two outs,” said Hyman.

Lazer and Manto agree with Hyman. Said Manto: “We expect to continue to keep the momentum going. Usually after we return from the spring break trip, the weather in [Pennsylvania] does not permit us to play, but we work hard in practice and do everything we can to get outside and keep the game simulation going.”

Said Lazer: “Keeping this strong momentum rolling is going to be very important as we start facing teams in our conference. To help with this task, it will be important to limit negativity and stay focused on our goals.”

The Bears’ baseball team benefitted from their training trip as well, despite its bumpy start. Senior center fielder Travis Kozak explained, “As our team was set to fly out Saturday morning [Mar. 3] for LAX, the flight was abruptly canceled moments before boarding. [We] were stranded at the airport for 7 hours before given hotel rooms by the airline. We stayed overnight, missing our first two games. [However,] this may have been a blessing in disguise, as we had to battle through adversity that we had no control over together, and we learned about our teammates in those hours spent in the airport.”

Once the team finally made it to California, the trip proved valuable in experience. Kozak said, “The trip benefited our team in that we were able to get out and play games against some of the top teams in the nation. Playing the Defending National Champions [at] California Lutheran University was a showing that we are really close to becoming that top caliber team that we know we can be.”

Sophomore outfielder and first baseman Alex Mumme agreed with Kozak. “[Going] out to California was a great opportunity to put our team on the map and show that we can compete with other teams across the country,” said Mumme.

Kozak compared the competition in California to that of the Centennial Conference (CC): “The competition we saw over spring break was the best we have seen in a trip in my four years. They compare greatly to a Johns Hopkins and Haverford in playing style and team make up. When you are playing for a regional bid, every game matters and every team is solid in this region.”

Junior outfielders Drew Roesch and Mumme agree with Kozak. Said Roesch, “I think the competition over spring break was much stronger than it is here at home and should make the competition we play here at home seem much easier.”

Mumme added, “Going out there and playing a high[er] level of competition allows for us to keep our team in top shape when we face conference-level competition.”

UC Softball enjoyed a 7-3 record while on their Florida trip.

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### Upcoming Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<td>M&amp;W Golf:</td>
<td>Track &amp; Field:</td>
<td>Baseball:</td>
<td>M&amp;W Golf:</td>
<td>Softball:</td>
<td>Women’s Tennis:</td>
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<td>NCAA Championships (@Indianapolis, Ind.)</td>
<td>Revolutionary Classic (@Patriot’s Glen - Elkton, Md.)</td>
<td>@22 Moravian</td>
<td>12 p.m.:</td>
<td>Revolutionary Classic (@Patriot’s Glen - Elkton, Md.)</td>
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<td>Softball:</td>
<td>Double Header vs. New Jersey City</td>
<td>Golden Ram Invitational vs. F&amp;M</td>
<td>Double Header vs. #5 Gettysburg</td>
<td>vs. Washington Coll.</td>
<td>vs. Swarthmore</td>
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<td>vs. TCNJ</td>
<td>Men’s Lacrosse: 12 p.m.: vs. #5 Gettysburg</td>
<td>vs. @ West Chester, Pa.</td>
<td>Women’s Lacrosse: 3 p.m.: vs. #1 Gettysburg</td>
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