Authors
Ali Wagner, Bart Brooks, Sarah Keck, Dan Lamson, Alexis Witt, Lane Taylor, Megan Helzner, Katy Diana, Darron Harley, Casey Joy, Sonia N. Gonzalez, Alex Ernst, Dave Marcheskie, and Matthew Pastor
Congratulations to the Class of 2006
Full auditorium discusses solutions to diversity issues at forum

SARAH KECK
sakeck@ursinus.edu

“We’re all Ursinus students and if one group is attacked, we’re all attacked.”

At 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, senior USGA President, Vince Rossomando, called the group of students, faculty and staff gathered in Olin Auditorium to order for a continuation of the discussion that had begun the week before on issues of diversity at Ursinus.

“There were concerns on campus, not just recently, but throughout the year.” Rossomando said to a full auditorium. He made it clear that this was the opportunity for everyone to have their voices heard.

Issues of racism and general intolerance on campus were raised after the Ursinus Men’s Basketball team hosted an NCAA first round tournament game against Farmingdale State University.

Ursinus Athletic Director, Brian Thomas, described fans being enthusiastic throughout the evening until Ursinus fell behind. “In the heat of the moment, several fans led insulting, derogatory chants, including ethnic slurs, directed at FSU,” Thomas said in a letter to the editor for the March 9 issue of the Grizzly.

President Strassburger was among the faculty in attendance and addressed the issues that surfaced at the basketball game in his opening remarks. “In every conceivable way, the incident at the basketball game was unfortunate; it put Ursinus in a bad light,” he said to the crowd. “There’s no need to insult other people that come to our campus as guests.”

When Rossomando opened the floor to students, many of the their remarks addressed the issue of campus awareness; many students were upset that they hadn’t been notified when one-inch swastikas were found drawn on four doors in one of the freshmen centers.

Dean of Students Debbie Nolan, Director of Residence Life Steve Larson, and Resident Director Leslie Stellwagon addressed this by assuring students that from an administrative perspective, this incident was handled responsibly and respectively.

“I hope you believe us when we say that it wasn’t swept under the rug,” Stellwagon said.

Nolan apologized to students who felt that an e-mail should have been sent informing all Ursinus residents of what had happened.

Junior Evan Thornburg stood up and addressed her peers, saying that they need to stop blaming the administration for what students are and are not informed of on campus. “As a student body, what can we do to increase conversation?” she asked, even of her own friends. “We are our biggest source of communication.”

Junior Julia Lickfield, President of Campus Activities Board, agreed. “It comes down to one thing—it’s our responsibility to get the word out,” she said. “Revolutions start with the smallest groups.”

Although significant changes are dubious with the end of the semester drawing near, faculty, staff, administrators and the USGA executive board assured students that these issues wouldn’t fizzle out over the summer. Members of the diversity committee, which had been inactive over the past few years, are making plans to execute changes on campus next year.

“We haven’t been doing a very good job,” admitted committee chair Matt Mizenko. “But we’ll try to do a better job next year.”

In the meantime, the administrators, staff, and executive board members encouraged students to speak up and speak out. Write opinion articles for the Grizzly; attend town hall meetings; talk with your RA or a faculty member that you’re close with about issues that concern you. Everyone in attendance was in agreement that no one’s voice should be silenced.

If you have an opinion that you would like to be voiced to the USGA, you can e-mail the organization at usga@ursinus.edu, or visit their Web site: http://webpages.ursinus.edu/usga/. You can also contact Rossomando at vrossomando@ursinus.edu or Amanda D’Amico, who will be president in the 2006-2007 school year, at amdamico@ursinus.edu.

Corner

Junior Jumpstart: Get a head start on grad school planning and your upcoming job search!

Many new graduates are not aware of all the possibilities that exist for people with their particular background, skills, and interests. Summer is a great time for juniors 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. Learn about hiring trends/cycles for those industries; for example, large organizations in some industries (e.g., public accounting, information technology, consulting, and pharmaceutical) are able to predict their annual hiring needs and begin recruiting as early as September! Timing can be a critical factor—make sure that you are prepared when you return to school in the fall. Write a rough draft of your resume and have it critiqued by the Career Services Office. Become familiar with all the web-based tools on our Web page, which are all accessible during the summer. Get comfortable with UC CareerNet.

Although graduate school applications are due typically during the fall or spring semester of your senior year, you can work with advisors and obtain application information during the summer. Determine the degree (e.g., MS versus PhD) that will enable you to reach your career goals.

Begin to research programs. Use the Peterson’s Graduate School Guides, www.Gradschool.com, and other related resources to help you locate schools that offer the program(s) you are interested in. If you plan on taking the GRE, consider using the summer to study and take the exam before you return in the fall.

If you are a junior, it’s not too early to start your preparation for next year’s career activities! See your advisor or a counselor in the Career Services Office (610-409-3599 or career@ursinus.edu) for help.
News in brief

DAN LAMSON
dalanson@ursinus.edu

- The Hamas-led Palestinian government announced last week the formation of a new security force made up of members of Palestinian militant groups. The new Hamas Interior Minister, Said Siyam, said the force would help the police enforce law and order. Mr. Siyam also put a leading militant, Jamal Abu Samhada, in charge of Palestinian police and security forces. (BCC)

- In this era of easy ad skipping with TiVo-like video recorders, television viewers could one day be forced to watch commercials with a system that prevents channel switching. Researchers of the Netherlands-based consumer electronics company, Royal Philips Electronics, have created a technology that could let broadcasters freeze a channel during a commercial, so viewers would be unable to avoid it. Royal Philips has recently applied for a patent with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. (MSNBC)

- UN human rights experts have condemned Nepal's police forces for "excessive and deadly use of force" after three people were killed at anti-monarchy rallies. There was "indiscriminate firing" as at least 100,000 people defied a curfew to protest against King Gyanjendra in the capital, Kathmandu. Doctors say at least 40 protesters were injured, some seriously. The king imposed direct rule in February 2005, saying the government had failed to defeat Nepal's Maoist rebellion. (BCC)

- Antarctica's buried lakes are connected by a network of rivers far beneath the surface, say several UK scientists. It was thought the sub-glacial lakes had been completely sealed for millions of years, enabling unique species to evolve within them. In a recent issue of the journal "Nature," experts say international plans to drill into the lakes may now have to be reviewed. Any attempts to drill into one body of water risks contaminating others. "What this paper shows is that not only could you contaminate a lake, you could contaminate the whole drainage system," lead author Duncan Wingham, of University College London, said last week. (BBC)

- President Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks last week on nuclear proliferation and energy policy as they worked for closer U.S.-China ties. Outside the White House, activists protested human rights abuses by the Hu government. At least one protester managed to get inside to disrupt a ceremony. The two leaders' summit included discussions about North Korean nuclear weapons, Iranian nuclear weapons and China's growing demand for oil. The White House visit was Hu Jintao's first as president of the People's Republic of China. (NPR)

- Google Inc., the most-used internet search engine, said first-quarter profits rose 60 percent, beating analysts' estimates, as the company took market share from Yahoo! Inc. and Microsoft's MSN. Google lured more users with new products, such as a finance site and online video store. About 60 percent of Internet searches were made through Google in February, up from 50 percent a year earlier. Those extra searches created enough revenue to compensate for an increase in spending on products, new offices, and hiring. (Bloomberg)

- A cargo ship struck and killed an endangered whale and then dragged it, a state wildlife official said. The 35-foot long, 17,000-pound male sei whale was found recently, wrapped around the bow of the 800-foot container ship MSC Johannesburg. The whale had broken bones and internal injuries, indicating it was killed by the ship, which sailed from Boston to Baltimore last week, said Cindy Driscoll, Director of Fish and Wildlife health programs at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. (CNN)

A senior reflects on her Ursinus experience

ALEXIS WITT
alwitt@ursinus.edu

Shoulda, woulda, coulda. As a senior enduring the last few weeks of school, thoughts of my four years here have been running through my mind. Most seniors will read this and graduating. The real world seems like a scary place, and although we are all mentally ready done and could have done—and some didn't. Some seniors are throwing suggestions out.

Darron Harley expressed, "What I liked most about Ursinus is the closeness that you have with some people on campus. I feel that the friends I made here are lifetime friends. Our experience on this small campus has made us appreciate the bond we have." On that note, do what you like and have fun.

On behalf of the senior class, we wish you all good luck. Don't take your college experience for granted because it will pass you by before you know it. Thank you everyone: faculty, staff and students.

Grizzly@arrinus.edu

Spring art show

DAN LAMSON

The annual student art show opens April 26 through May 13 in the Main and Upper Galleries of the Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College and Ritter Art Studio Gallery. The exhibition and related events are free and open to the public.

The art presented by students includes painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, photography and the video arts. Student artists have been recognized for excellence in specific media with juried awards including cash, book and purchase prizes.

The Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday; closed Mondays and college holidays. The museum is accessible to the physically disabled. Admission is free. For more information about this and other museum programs, please call the Berman Museum of Art at (610) 409-3500.
Features

Crowding First Base

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

Amount of sexual activity can turn to an act much less complicated yet just as sexy: kissing. For millennia, humans have used kissing to experience passion and pleasure; however, our generation rarely takes the time to embrace all that our steps on the metaphorical baseball diamond and linger just a little longer at first base.

According to The Everything Great Sex Book, moisture is essential in a kiss. The authors suggest wetting your lips using your tongue before moving towards your partner. It is also important to move toward a kiss at a moderate speed; do not rush in. Slowly bringing yourself to your partner will make it clear that your focus is on him or her, not sexual activity. When you and your partner make first contact, the authors suggest stroking the inner lips of your partner with your lips before introducing your tongue into the kiss. Introducing the tongue too early may threaten the romance of the kiss; it is important to approach the kiss without expectation of further sexual activity.

When you decide it's appropriate to launch (figuratively speaking) your tongue into the mouth of your partner, do so at a slow, loving pace. Try kissing your partner as though you and your partner were experiencing your first kiss. (This can be a wonderful encounter for those of us who have incurred a first-kiss experience that we wish we hadn't.) The authors define "French kissing" as "probing" the mouth of your partner using your tongue. They suggest moving your tongue in an exploratory manner within your partner's mouth, making sure to take the care and time to fully experience the kiss. You can also use your tongue to tease your partner. Much like with intercourse, moving your tongue in and out of your partner's mouth may further entice and excite him or her (The Everything Great Sex Book).

You can also excite your partner by exploring other erogenous zones above the waist and neckline, specifically the neck and ears. The ears are extremely sensitive and respond significantly to stimulation, and kissing and lightly sucking on the ears and areas surrounding the ears will arouse your partner. The authors also suggest whispering softly into the ear of your partner as another way to excite him or her. Listen and react in accordance with your partner's response; move your lips and tongue harder, faster, softer, or slower in unity with the wishes of your partner (whether or not he or she is expressing them with words). Use your instincts and knowledge of your partner while kissing his or her ears or neck. When in doubt, simply ask. It may interrupt the moment, but it will show your partner that you care and your focus is on him or her pleasure (The Everything Great Sex Book).

Though kissing may seem boring to more sexually experienced individuals, this is hardly the case. Kissing is one of the most intimate and romantic activities in which two people can engage. And in spite of our youthful rush to the finish line, or in this case, home base, it's important that every now and then we bend the rules of the game a little and crowd first base.

One last look back

ALI WAGNER
alwagner@ursinus.edu

BART BROOKS
babrooks@ursinus.edu

Working for the Grizzly after the previous editors in chief, who had two years of experience, was a challenge. We strove to devise new ways to build upon what they started, to expand the Grizzly and to raise its level of journalistic integrity. We worked as hard as possible to meet that challenge, and we hope this reflected in each and every issue over the past year.

We could not have done this without our industrious editors, whom we'd like to thank immensely. They were: Jon Gagas (news), Marlena McMahon-Purk (news), Cecily MacConchie (features), Heather Turnbach (opinions), Dave Marcheskie and Matt Pastor (sports), Ivy McDaniels (photography), Lauren Perotti and Jan Cohen (business). We would also like to extend our gratitude to our copy editors and our writers. Lastly, we'd like to thank Dr. Jaroff, who provided much help along the way. The Grizzly is the result of teamwork each and every week.

While we have been extremely pleased with the Grizzly this year, we would like to see more campus involvement. The Grizzly can, and should, be an excellent platform for student and faculty opinion. There is so much that this campus has to offer, and not enough makes it to the pages of this paper—to no fault of our hard-working staff. The simple fact is that the Grizzly needs your help: you can contribute to the Grizzly by writing articles, by sending in pictures, by responding to events and articles and so forth.

The students have every right to participate in this free flow of ideas, and the faculty is more than welcome to use the Grizzly as a sounding board for what they perceive to be positive or negative changes to the campus. Faculty can also use the paper to raise awareness of what goes on in their department. Students and faculty tend to focus exclusively on their own department and are unaware of what remarkable things are going on in other parts of the campus; and we'd like to see this change. We'd like to see Ursinus become more of a truly integrated community than ever.

We strongly encourage all students and faculty to engage the Grizzly, to use it as a tool to express your thoughts and ideas, as well as to broaden awareness of events and occurrences on campus. We are confident that our successors will continue to improve the Grizzly, but without your help they can only do so much.

I (Ali) will be going abroad to Florence in the fall, but will gladly be returning to the Grizzly staff in the spring. I look forward to reading the Grizzly while abroad and watching the future editors do my job. No, really, I have complete confidence that they will more than live up to the standards we have set this year.
Well-known on campus for her artistic talent, Westfield, New Jersey-native and sophomore Kate Re was the first ever student to be commissioned to create and install a piece for Myrin Library's permanent collection. Called "Bamboo Forest" and commissioned by Myrin Library Director Charlie Jamison, the piece is painted on the reverse side of the doors by the circulation desk. If you're lucky, you'll happen to see the doors to the library offices open, and catch a glimpse of this lovely large-format piece, which Jamison proudly calls, "one of the jewels of the Library collection." Myrin Library owns thirty student pieces, including pastels, oils, sculptures of all types, photographs, and more, all purchased at annual student shows.

Jamison, who is a photographer himself, first met Kate at last year's Student Art Exhibition at the Berman Museum and Ritter Art Studio (this year's Student Exhibition, incidentally, started April 26). Impressed by her style, Charlie comments that he immediately noticed the "gentle, textured fluidity" of Re's work, and was struck by "a bright, colorful energy [about her]." In fact, at last year's show, he bought two pieces—one for Myrin's collection called "Old Glass Bottles," a life-size oil painting of a man, woman, and cello (Myrin, floor 2), and the other, "Fish Pond 1," a smaller oil, featuring blue flowers, thickly-painted onto the canvas, which Charlie keeps in his office.

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"Kate created "Bamboo Forest" using a combination of oil and acrylic paints, and gold, copper, and variegated metal leaf. While in Japan through the Ursinus exchange program last summer, Kate learned about the use of metal leaf on wood in traditional Japanese art. Kate notes, "The Japanese used the gold leaf because traditionally there was no electricity, and the gold leaf reflected light into a room and brightened it up. I just think it looks pretty."

The Student Art Exhibition opened yesterday at the Berman Museum and in Ritter Art Studio. When you go, look for Kate's work, much of which involves collage (she's always experimenting stylistically). Fellow artist and friend comments, "Kate always makes working in the studio a pleasant environment, she's one of my favorite people—you always just want to work when she's there."

Please note that another article on Kate Re's "Bamboo Forest" can be found in the latest issue of the Myrin Library Newsletter.

Exploring the "Nature" of Suburban Sprawl

"So, where is the actual 'town section' of Hamilton?" asked a friend from college, as we drove home from the train station. "Is there a place where you can just walk around?"

"Well..." I said, "I don't know if it exists." I laughed thinking about all the strip malls, chain restaurants, and CVSes we just passed. "I guess it's Mercer Street where they have the 25 mph speed limit that no one obeys. There's a little sitting area with a fountain and the Cookie Cottage across the street. But no one really walks around. No parking and too much traffic."

In Hamilton, few of the restaurants are independently owned and there are even fewer "mom and pop" shops. Of course, there's plenty of housing, crowded schools, and traffic galore. Only the new Barnes & Noble, the movie theatre, and the very few bars are open past 9 p.m. With everything developing adds it seems that much more is lacking. Hamilton just barely succeeds in creating a sense of place that exists more than just within the confines of roads and our own treasured cars. Most people, when picturing Hamilton, would picture themselves driving through it. As for me, I sometimes picture "home" as being lost since I blame suburbia for my absolute lack of a sense of direction. My friend Pat lives quite literally in the center of a suburban maze and I rarely can remember the right route. More often, we use our cars and roads as a means to leave Hamilton for Princeton or New Hope or some other place, rather than to dwell near our homes.

When I was young, I gleaned from my parents' discontent that the suburbs were bad. I realized how they valued open space, privacy, ownership of land. But, I never thought them noble since it was clear that any land they would own would be sold to a developer for the highest price. There are so many ways for anyone to be ignoble where money is at stake and so few ways for money to matter less. We struggle with this like everyone else. When I was 8, we moved a few miles to a more rural area where several acres cushioned us on all sides from the major highways and surrounding suburbia. I'm waiting for those boundaries to get smaller and smaller until we are hatched onto the side of yet another development. Or, if the market allows, maybe it will implode instead starting from the inside out with the selling of our land and the bulldozing of our homes.

People speak of sprawl as a cancer. I used to see this pattern too: a corn field suddenly barren, then filled with identical houses in a maze of dead-end avenues with token trees and shrubs. These clones are unwelcome and appear to multiply quickly; just a few streets up and the next patch of green is gone. Spreading like weeds, they seem under the surface of everything just waiting to pop up through the fertile ground. Like cancer, these houses bring complications, discomfort, and unhappiness. Sprawl feels like it is all about real estate and taxes, and never about comfort, practicality, and risks to the environment. It harbors an unsettling feeling that echoes in the lack of nature and the wastefulness of sprawl's spread. I still crave open space and mourn for lost fields and forests like so many others, but I now have a better understanding of sprawl's lasting troubles.

Suburban sprawl is not a cancer afflicting nature and our well-being. It is not something incurable, inevitable, and sudden. The spread of suburbia has been happening for decades; it was very much planned—though without sufficient insight into its future—and now, planners are working on new ideas for "smart growth," which in many places, are still unfortunately tied to old standards and ideals. Sprawl desperately needs to be demystified. The more recent conflicts surrounding suburbia have created stereotypes of developers and NIMBYs that will be difficult to work past. The fact is, developers are doing their jobs and following the rules of how to build low-density housing. In Hamilton, NJ, at least, open space has always seemed like an issue politicians espouse to get into office and then never do anything about, but the problem does not necessarily lie in their interest or power. Instead the problem stems from outdated methods and obsolete reasons for certain aspects of community planning. Sprawl is nothing more than a bubble that has never been updated or questioned at the right levels.
Opinions

The Left Side of the Hallway...is closed?

Well folks, my work as a journalist for the Grizzly has finally come to an end.

The fact that this is the last article you will read from me is good news. For a little more than a year I have been a contributor to this newspaper and have caused some minor disturbances on this campus. My desire was to make you, the reader, think about opinions unlike your own.

Admittedly, this column was written inconsistently and most of the time seemed very pessimistic. I have written about the segregated part scene, apathy of Ursinus students, assault weapons ban, and my most controversial article about being known because I am black.

These articles were written not to be controversial, but rather conversational. In order for collective ignorance to be eliminated there needs to be a mass discussion between people of all walks of life. This does not include the one guy in your fraternity or sorority who doesn’t drink (if there is such a thing). I wanted you to talk to the person whom you would never think of talking to seriously.

People are not novelties. It is not “cool” enough to have a black friend who can dance, a gay friend who dresses well, or a disabled person who makes you look like a boy/ girl scout by helping. Every human is unique. It is our differences that make this world a fantastic place. Imagine if the whole world were like you. This place would be boring (face it; you are as cool as the whole world were like you).

Ursinus prides itself on creating a diverse atmosphere.

The Left Side of the Hallway

DARRON HARLEY

While this campus could be more diverse, it could be a lot worse (like other schools in the Centennial Conference). It is appalling when a few people on campus attempt to ruin the ambitions of our school by trying to falter the spirits of others of campus. Hanging swastikas, using the N word, making racist chants at basketball games, and other acts of ignorance can be discouraging to the people who are trying to make a difference. But I am proud to say that it is not a discouragement, but an ENCOURAGEMENT.

I was happy to see students become outraged by acts of ignorance on campus. I was happy to see emails from students inquiring about how they could make a difference. It was good to see faculty become more aware and concerned about the campus’ lives of their students. I am happy to be a part of something I hope grows into a campus-wide campaign for harmony.

I have learned a lot from Ursinus and the beautiful people that make up this community. Many people have shaped my wonderful experience here. From the best bridge class ever (BRIDGE 02) to the greatest class ever O-SIX, and even the oh-so-ambitious Class of 2009. I want to thank you all. The faculty, staff, and everybody who told me I could make it. The Onwak Boys (Bayne and Shiz) and the incomparable J-Sweetz have been a major blessing to me.

I pray that as I lay this column down that someone will finally come to an end. Yes, I am optimistic that this scenario will come to an end. My desire was to make you, the reader, think about opinions unlike your own.

The organic obsession

SONIA N. GONZALEZ
sogonzalez@ursinus.edu

Over the past year, Zack’s has undergone some fairly big renovations. The physical look of the signs and decorations has changed, some of the food offered has expanded, and part of the meal plan has changed too. The latest transformation that has occurred is the explosion of organic food on display.

In many ways this organic revolution is a good thing. I have discovered many foods that I had no idea could be organic; such as soda, lemonade, cookies, and candy. It is all very fascinating and even gives a ‘fat kid’ like me a curiosity in which to possibly try some of these organic things.

The price range is one issue, however. It seems that in order to be a little healthier you also need to have a little extra spending cash. Buying something like apple slices and an iced tea would bring me closer to, or possibly over, my meal spending limit of $4.25 and I wouldn’t even be getting a real meal. There are two complaints I have about that scenario.

The extra expense is not only an issue at Zack’s. In many stores organic food is sold for a higher price than non-organic food. Do you think people just want us to all die sooner of unhealthy food choices because we are poor? Eh, I have my theories but my guess is because higher quality costs more money. Such seems to be the story of our lives, so I cannot really complain about the painful price of organic food on campus.

What I can complain about, however, is the $4.25 limit for our lunch and dinner meals at Zack’s. In all honesty, when is having only $4.25 going to be enough money to buy a decent meal? The only meal of the day that I think you can pull that price off with is breakfast and possibly in-between meal snacks. Considering the price of the combos in Zack’s and the price of organic food, I do not see why our limit could not be raised to at least five dollars and twenty-five cents. It is true that if you want to eat in Zack’s more often you can change your meal plan and have more bonus dollars, but it also means less meals in your week and bonus dollars can fly really fast if you are buying organic.

All in all, it seems that having all the organic choices in Zack’s is a good idea and makes people more aware of the healthy choices we could make. Unfortunately, I am not sure how long the organic section will last. Many at Ursinus do not have the extra spending money to afford it, and with our meal exchange limits there is not a lot of freedom given to choose organic on a daily basis.

Unnecessary police watch

CASEY JOY
cajoy@ursinus.edu

Last month I attended the Ball at the Bellevue and had a wonderful time. It was a great event planned by the school and all who attended were very happy with the event. The entire night was exactly how I expected it to be until I came back to campus to find two police cars waiting for our return. One car was parked in the Kaleidoscope parking lot and the other in the Wismer lot. Why were they there? It was simply because there was a large gathering of students where alcohol may or may not be involved.

Coming back to find the police on campus waiting for us and watching for reasons to hassle students is a very disturbing feeling. There is also the assumption that Ursinus College is not protecting us from this harassment. Yes, some students misbehave and act completely immature, but that is by no means the majority of the campus.

I find it quite ironic that Ursinus prides itself on the smart, intelligent, responsible students, yet allows police officers on the campus grounds to keep an eye on us in addition to campus safety officers. Is this necessary? If so, why do we employ campus safety officers? If we need police in addition to campus safety, is it because campus safety is not effective?

Police have no legal right to come onto campus as it is private property, yet we often see them here on weekends and during large events. They harass students while walking on campus and down Main Street, which is mostly campus housing anyway.

Just a few weeks ago, a group of students were stopped by a police officer twice while walking down to the Collegeville Diner. He stopped them the first time because he claimed he could hear them from about two blocks away. That in itself is laughable. I am sure that the police officer was stopped somewhere with his windows down and heat off in the chilly weather listening for boisterous college students.

The second time they were stopped was because they came within five feet of LaFontana’s infamous hippo. Even though they showed no intention of tipping the hippo, they were still stopped. This kind of treatment from police officers is unneeded and violates our rights to walk in Collegeville without being constantly harassed. Ursinus College wants to make the campus a walking campus, but offers no protection for those walking.

In addition, it is great that police officers are available in full force after a night of parties, but where are they when students get jumped or physically accosted? I have never seen a police officer lend a helping hand when I was being harassed by people in cars on the way down to WaWa. If I am with friends walking on Main Street, however, we would get more attention than necessary.

While Ursinus cannot do anything about the police patrolling Main Street, they could do something to protect students from unneeded harassment on campus. Collegeville police should only be allowed on campus if they are requested. There is no other reason for them to be there. That is why we have campus safety.
The earth day conspiracy

I think it is important to reiterate that the findings on global warming are far from conclusive, given the Earth Day celebration last Saturday and all the liberal propaganda that brought it forward. Until more research is done, it would be a waste of energy and resources to fight something that may not even exist. Global warming is like Big Foot. Should we spend our time fighting Big Foot when we're unsure of his existence? No way! We should provide grossly inadequate funding toward Big Foot research so that we can learn if Big Foot poses a threat now or will in the future. It's basic logic, really.

Some (i.e. liberal elitists) argue that the findings are conclusive. I had a conversation with Dr. Richard Wallace, the chairman of the Environmental Studies department, on this subject. It is useful to point out first, that almost every Environmental Studies major is a registered Democrat. The others voted for Nader, but I refuse to recognize their existence. Anyway, Dr. Wallace "informed" me that some Eskimos have had to change their lifestyles because of changing weather patterns. Apparently the warmer temperatures are affecting the availability of food. Their hunting and gathering schedules have been thrown off by global warming, or so Dr. Wallace says.

You know what I say to that? Boo-hoo for the Eskimos! Remember what happened to the Indian savages who couldn't keep up with the White man's industrial superiority? They died. If the Eskimos can't adapt, it's not my job to help them out and send them some of my stash thrown off by global warming, or so Dr. Wallace says. You really.

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The last time a global climate change occurred, Dennis Quaid showed his mastery over the forces of nature by walking from Washington DC to New York City in subzero temperatures. He adapted so that he and Jake Gyllenhall could survive. That is how real men handle global climate changes.

Plus, it's about damn time for the Eskimos to get in line with the march of technology. Who still lives in hunting and gathering societies, anyway? Losers. That's who.

And are you going to tell me that 70 degree weather in January isn't awesome? I, personally, like to keep a nice, sun-baked glow all year round. That doesn't make me a metrosexual, it makes me confident. You're just jealous because you burn so easily, Whitewater McPaleskin.

Let's say Dr. Wallace and his liberal tag-alongs are right and the polar ice cubes are melting. You still have a choice. You have to ask yourselves, "What is more important: your ability to feel like you have an enormous penis in your Hummer and your ability to wear shorts in February or the future of the major cities along the American coastline?" Clearly, the former. The Constitution or something says that we have the right to pursue happiness. So, pursue your happiness! Drive big cars and go skinny dipping in the winter. Plus, those cities - Boston, New York, Seattle, New Orleans, San Francisco, to name a few - are all liberal havens. Let's drown 'em for Christ's sake!

So, drive your SUVs and turn on all your lights. Take 40-minute showers and throw your Coke can in the garbage. Go on, flush twice! And don't bother cutting apart those plastic six-pack holders. Whatever you do, don't let the vast left-wing conspiracy grab you, too.

Opinions

The Back Row:
Year end wrap up

ALEX ERNST
alex@ursinus.edu

I was going to review Almost Famous this week, but since this is the last article of the year I put that on the back burner and decided to do something a little different this week. Relying on a tried and true movie cliche, I'm going with a montage, clipping and slapping together my favorite moments out of all the movies from every column I've written this year. So enjoy... or don't. No one is holding a gun to your head. That is The Back Row: non-pressuring you since 2005.

Assault on Precinct 13: John Carpenter's genius really shines in the scene where one of the trapped cops ventures outside after a salvo of shooting suddenly goes silent. Out of nowhere, he is shot dead in a genuine scare that no amount of cats jumping out of closets in modern horror movies can equal. I have to admit I yelled embarrassingly loud when I first saw this scene and of course, recommend it.

Mindhunters: Ever since Heathers, Christian Slater has annoyed me to no end with his smirk and halting laugh. So it is understandable that seeing him have his leg frozen off due to his character's overconfidence lends a good deal of catharsis. I felt a little guilty about how much I enjoyed it until I thought of the money I wasted on Very Bad Things. Problem solved.

Wet Hot American Summer: This was a tough one, given how very funny this movie is throughout. However, in honor of this montage, I give a nod to a fellow one. WHAS is the only movie that would dare to combine the training sequences from Rocky III, Flashdance, and many others into a sequence that left me in tears.

Shaun of the Dead: This is quick and simple. The continuous shot as Shaun wanders hung-over through the streets, oblivious to the scenes of zombie mayhem all around him is simply riotous.

Made: Few things are funnier to imagine than the Dustin Diamond-Vince Vaughn fight Vaughn's character instigates after Screech gets let into a nightclub ahead of him. Although, based on his performance on "Celebrity Boxing" there's a good chance Diamond could hold his own.

Baseketball: Running out of room, so from here on out they'll be short and sweet. The incredibly un-P.C. psyche out while playing the San Francisco Ferries gets me every time.

Swing Kids: Two words: "SWING HEIL!" Enough said.

Con Air: Dumping a body out of a plane has to be the greatest deus ex machina the action movie genre has ever given us.

Stripes: Bill Murray can lead the one hell of a military demonstration and, "That's the fact, JACK!"

Highlander: This should be self-explanatory if you read my column that week, but for one final appearance... "THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE, HIGHLANDER!" I think I finally got it out of my system.

Slap Shot: The fight that leads up into the stands after a fan throws his keys at one of the Hanson brothers, breaking his glasses and forcing him to punch everyone despite the fact that he's virtually blind, will always hold a special place in my heart.

That's it for this year. Thanks to everyone who gave me feedback and I'll see you right back here in the fall. Uhh... Sun Dimas High School football rules!
Year in review, dynasties and disappointments

DAVE MARCHESKIE
dmarcheskie@ursinus.edu

MATTHEW PASTOR
mapastor@ursinus.edu

As the 2005-2006 school year comes to a close, so does the athletics program here at Ursinus. 2005 really brought a lot of great highlights and phenomenal play by Bears across campus. With championship wins, upset, nail-bitters, and even defeat at the hands of Centennial Conference opponents, we can truly say that this was a good year in sports for Ursinus.

The football team enjoyed its best season in over three years with a mark of 4-6 overall and a 2-4 record in conference play. The Bears ended a 20-game Centennial Conference losing streak when Vince Gallagher scored the game winning touchdown with 6 overall and a 2-4 record in conference play. They went undefeated in Centennial Conference action for the second straight season, the Bears will be only be losing once this off-season.

The following weekend Ursinus traveled down to Baltimore, Maryland to face unbeaten and 16th ranked John Hopkins in another Centennial Conference showdown. The Bears pulled off the biggest upset of the year by edging out the Blue Jays in a torrential downpour all game. It was a mud bowl out there and Ursinus came out on the short end of a 14-7 score.

Although the Bears failed to defeat Franklin and Marshall or Dickinson, their senior, repeating as Centennial Conference Player of the Year, Dave Marcheskie and Matthew Pastor would like to thank everyone for reading our crazy articles and all the support from the athletes. 1 (Dave) will be in Flo...