Authors
Kerri Landis, Marlena M. McMahon-Purk, Dina Yarmus, Sarah Keck, Harrison Ziskind, India McGhee, Dan Lamson, Emily Mercadante, Lane Taylor, Tracey Ferdinand, Brandon Brown, Courtney Fox, Simon Marcus, Alex Ernst, Matt Flyntz, Tyler Johnson, and Matthew Pastor
WeCAN kicks off the school year with a protest for workers’ rights!

DINA YARMUS
diyarmus@ursinus.edu

On Saturday, Aug. 26, 2006, Ursinus College students and administrators took the lead in organizing efforts across the country to demand that Adidas and Reebok address worker violations in their factories. This action was organized by students in WeCAN, the Ursinus College human rights organization. It was affiliated with the international student organization, United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS), the student-run workers’ rights advocacy organization that facilitated the action. Supporters of the demands took action outside of Adidas and Reebok stores in Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Washington D.C., Madison, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Boulder. The student-worker solidarity actions brought attention to illegal firings and workers’ rights violations in specific factories producing apparel for Adidas and Reebok in El Salvador (Hermosa Factory), the Dominican Republic (BJ&B), and Bangladesh (Dhakarea Factory). As members of the Mid-Atlantic region chapter of USAS, Ursinus students stood with students from St. Joseph’s University and Temple University as part of a silent, direct action, linking arms and holding a banner that read, “Adidas and Reebok, stop illegal firings: compensate workers in Dhakarea, BJ&B and Hermosa factories.”

This day of action presented a unique opportunity for students in our area to directly associate our action with the brand. This action drew attention to the demand that as consumers we can and should have an impact when we become aware of workers’ rights violations associated with the garments we wear. Three Ursinus College students, D’Andra Thompson, Sabir Peele and Dina Yarmus, spoke with community members, explaining the consumers we can and should have an impact when we become aware of workers’ rights as part of a silent, direct action, linking arms and holding a banner that read, “Adidas and Reebok, stop illegal firings: compensate workers in Dhakarea, BJ&B and Hermosa factories.”

The popular Australian TV personality and conservationist was filming a segment for an upcoming series, called “Ocean’s Deadliest,” when he swam too close to one of the sting rays. The sting ray’s barb, which is a poisonous spine on the top of its tail that flexes if the ray is frightened, travelled up Irwin’s chest and made a hole in his heart. Irwin is survived by his wife and two children. He was 44 years old.

Steve Irwin, better known by fans as the “Crocodile Hunter,” was killed on Monday by a sting ray near the Great Barrier Reef.

The popular Australian TV personality and conservationist was filming a segment for an upcoming series, called “Ocean’s Deadliest,” when he swam too close to one of the sting rays. The sting ray’s barb, which is a poisonous spine on the top of its tail that flexes if the ray is frightened, travelled up Irwin’s chest and made a hole in his heart.

Crew members on board immediately called emergency services and administered CPR as the boat rushed back to shore, but rescue efforts failed, and Irwin was pronounced dead later in the day.

Irwin is survived by his wife and two children. He was 44 years old.

What does the job market hold for the Class of 2007?

In general, the job market looks good. For the fourth straight year, employers are reporting a double-digit percentage increase in college hiring according to the NACE Job Outlook 2007 Fall Preview. More than 20 percent of employers report plans to raise starting salaries in order to entice future employees.

In spite of the positive outlook, students can’t just sit back and wait for a job. Students need to be proactive in their job searches. A good start would be to visit the Career Services office for guidance and resources. Some suggested steps include

- Using the resources in the Career Services office. You’ll find a variety of career and job-search related resources already collected for you, and you’ll have access to expert guidance. Visit Olin 104 or email career@ursinus.edu to schedule an appointment.
- Researching employers and their opportunities. This may be the single biggest secret to job-search success! Employers say they can tell when a student hasn’t bothered to investigate their organizations. Given the many resources available to today’s job seeker—including corporate Web sites—employers think there is no excuse for failing to conduct research.
- Networking. You’ll gain an edge by building a network that can help you learn about organizations and their opportunities. Your network contacts may help you get your resume into the right hands. In fact, many employers reward their current employees for referring candidates.
- Getting relevant work experience. Employers place a lot of emphasis on relevant work experience gained through full- or part-time employment, or through volunteer work, because these experiences show that you can flourish in a work environment. Internships and co-ops are especially valuable because the work you do and the environment in which you do it may relate to the position you’re seeking.

“Crocodile Hunter” killed by a sting ray

SARAH KECK
sakeck@ursinus.edu

Steve Irwin, better known by fans as the “Crocodile Hunter,” was killed on Monday by a sting ray near the Great Barrier Reef.

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Irwin is survived by his wife and two children. He was 44 years old.
Freshmen attend first Common Hour

INDIA McGHEE
inmcghee@ursinus.edu

On Monday, Aug. 28, the Ursinus College Class of 2010 gathered in the Kaleidoscopic Auditorium for their first CIE Common Hour, a presentation called “Images of the Flood.”

The presentation ran twice—once at 7 p.m. and once at 8 p.m.—and was both presented and organized by Assistant Professor of Theater, Domenick Scudera. Dr. Steven Hood dealt with the logistics of the event, while Jon Brightman managed the lights and other effects. It was the fifth year that the presentation was given. “Images of the Flood” compared stories of the flood that appeared in historical and religious texts in many cultures. Though CIE students are currently reading the Epic of Gilgamesh, which contains the earliest account of the flood, the meeting focused most of its time on the story of Noah and the Ark from the Bible. The story was presented using a variety of media with a wide range of interpretations and levels of seriousness.

The evening began with a student-faculty, semi-improvisational, and somewhat satirical look at the epic of Noah through a medieval play that used humor to get the message across.

The different interpretations of the story of Noah were also shown through a Bill Cosby skit, both classic and modern art, and various movies. Students were also directed to take a look at the way in which the story of the flood has permeated our culture’s collective conscience. Even those who have never read the Bible can recite the story of Noah and the Ark via children’s toys, songs, books, and even a Mercedes-Benz commercial in which two of the company’s cars are taken on the Ark.

“Looking at a story that is so prevalent throughout different time periods and cultures allows us to build bridges to those other times and cultures because the commonality of the story ties us all together,” Scudera said.

All of these things were brought together through vibrant lecture and discussion held among Scudera and the students, discussing the ways in which Noah’s story is a bridge to our own lives. Events such as Hurricane Katrina and the less recent tsunamis in Asia were referenced, as well as more subtle relationships about sacrifice and the power of water in a culture.

“I hadn’t realized that the story of Noah was so pervasive in our culture,” elaborated freshman Rebecca Lawson. “But now that you think about it, the story is everywhere.”

“Images of the Flood” was the first of four similar presentations that will be given this semester.

Dell announces recall

DAN LAMSON
dalamson@ursinus.edu

Over the past couple of weeks, Dell issued a voluntary recall of certain batteries, sold with Dell notebook computers, that could overheat and cause fires. Campus Tech Support has sent out e-mails, hoping to alert students that this recall may affect their school-issued computers. The department does not keep a list of identification numbers for batteries, so it is up to students to check the ones in their machines.

To do this, power off your laptop and flip it over. The battery has a small LED panel with a button that will cause any number of five lights to light up. You will see an arrow on the release; push this in the direction of the arrow and pull it up. This should bring the battery out. Once it’s out, look on the bottom to see if the serial number contains any of the following sequences: KHOS5, C5446, F2100, K1D494, W5915, Y1333, 3K590, C6269, F5132, OR331, X5308, Y5400, SP474, G6270, GD785, M3006, X5329, Y4666, 6P922, D2961, H3191, RD857, X5332, C6260, D5555, J1324, TD349, X5333, C5339, D6024, 6D16, U5867, X5875, C5340, D6025, JD617, US582, or X8577.

If your laptop contains any of these sequences, please bring it to Tech Support as soon as possible. Do not use the faulty battery in the computer. If you have any trouble checking the battery on your own, bring your laptop to Tech Support, and they will be happy to help you. For more information on this recall, please visit https://www.dellbatteryprogram.com/

Comments sought for tenure review

In accordance with the Ursinus College Faculty Handbook, student comments on teaching effectiveness and student-faculty interaction are invited at the time of a faculty member’s review for tenure. Although student letters must be signed to be considered, student names may be withheld, upon request, when their comments are shared with the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the faculty member.

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:

Dr. Francis Fritz, English
Dr. Rebecca Roberts, Biology
Dr. Xochiti Shuru, Modern Languages
Dr. Mohammed Yahi, Mathematics and Computer Science

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Dean Judith T. Levy, Office of the Dean by October 13, 2006.
Alternate energy sources needed to insure globally-sound future

EMILY MERCADANTE
emmercadante@ursinus.edu

At a time when gas prices seem to fluctuate constantly and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are the highest they’ve been in 650,000 years, alternative energy sources play a key role in securing a globally successful future. Wasting electricity and the contribution of fossil fuels to American society. These, and other bad energy habits adopted by the communities of the world are destroying the ozone layer and sparking new interest in the question of global warming.

Even though some members of the government would have us believe that global warming is a term scientists “cooked up” with no substantiation, evidence supports the alarming truth that our atmosphere is deteriorating due to greenhouse gases that are released from burning fossil fuels. Why, then, does the government not encourage and create incentives for the implementation and conversion to renewable, non-fossil fuel energy sources?

One reason for the lack of support of innovative energy sources is the supposed detrimental impact it would have upon the economy. Some argue that converting an entire infrastructure based on fossil fuels to something new would force thousands of people out of jobs and cost millions of dollars. Even if this argument were true, it still wouldn’t outweigh the need for renewable energy sources; eventually, fossil fuels will run out because there is only a finite supply of them on this planet. In all likelihood, the benefits of organized conversion to alternative energy sources would yield more jobs and create new sources of revenue. Brazil’s economy has become more self-sufficient because it no longer relies on foreign oil imports, as it can grow sugar cane and manufacture its own ethanol. In fact, with the introduction of ethanol already occurring in the United States, an estimated 200,000 jobs will be created.

Despite opposition from hesitant parties, alternative energy sources are slow making their way into the mainstream. There are many different types being put into use. Solar energy is one of the better sources, capable of storing energy in photovoltaic cells, heating buildings and water directly, and having zero emissions.

Hydroelectric power already accounts for 20 percent of the world’s energy production, and for some countries like Norway, it makes up the majority of energy resources. Problems associated with hydroelectric power include the infrequent but possible failure of dams, and the disruption of ecosystems during dam creation.

Harnessing wind power is another useful alternative, although the location of wind farms depends on the weather conditions, as the turbines require winds of at least 20 kilometers per hour and can only generate electricity 35 percent of the time at best. However, wind farms take energy from the atmosphere, which aids in lessening CO₂ pollution.

Geothermal energy is also location-specific; it harnesses the heat of the earth’s crust and turns liquids into gases, which in turn rotate turbines to produce electricity.

Biomass fuels like ethanol and biodiesel are catching on faster than other renewable energy sources because they can be used in an internal combustion engine. The problem with biomass fuels, however, is the work involved in the acquisition; sugar cane needs to be harvested and turned into ethanol. In addition to the work involved, CO₂ emissions are a product of burning biomass fuels, but to a lesser extent than fossil fuels.

Though much research has been done already regarding alternative energy sources, there still remains much to explore. The sources already in use need to become more prevalent, which necessitates government subsidies and corporate incentives. Obviously, oil companies will not be pleased if this conversion occurs, but they need to consider that their companies will no longer exist if we continue to destroy the planet with our current energy consumption.

90s music

MARLENA McMAMON-PURK
mamcmahonpurk@ursinus.edu

Across
1. Before he was making the band, he was known as...
2. International dance craze by Los Del Rio, or a regrettable nickname in my life
3. Destiny’s Child’s negative debut
4. They invite you to “Jump Around”
5. Girl Power’s first hit
6. Mariah Carey sampled “Genius of Love” with this hit single
7. This Backstreet Boy suffered a heart murmur
8. This rapper had a dollar sign in his name
9. A popular rock group sang about this animal’s cry in this 1999 hit
10. Translated from French, this group’s name means “The Mouth”
11. Will Smith’s favorite season
12. One-hit wonders of “How Bizarre”
13. The video for this grunge hit was taken off the air due to the violence of the young student protagonist, or the namesake of this song
14. In Spain, this 1993 album may be translated as “Peligroso”
15. Moving to the country, gonna eat a lotta...
16. Before she was Mrs. Federline, she was Miss...
17. This group of girls made condoms a fashion statement
18. Weird Al mimicked this hip-hop artist’s eccentric hairstyle at an awards ceremony
19. This group exploded with “The Score”
20. This artist donned a giant garbage bag for her debut video
21. They sang “Poison”
22. “You Oughta Know” is about the man who played this “Full House” character
23. This movie’s soundtrack featured R. Kelly, Salt-N-Pepa, The Quad-City DJs, and Bugs Bunny
24. “Kiss by a ___”

Down
1. Before he was making the band, he was known as...
2. International dance craze by Los Del Rio, or a regrettable nickname in my life
3. Destiny’s Child’s negative debut
4. They invite you to “Jump Around”
5. Girl Power’s first hit
6. Mariah Carey sampled “Genius of Love” with this hit single
7. This Backstreet Boy suffered a heart murmur
8. This rapper had a dollar sign in his name
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24. “Kiss by a ___”
Sex has consequences (many of which are more critical and awkward than running into a former, forgotten flame in Winsmer.) We prevent these consequences by investing in information and methods of disease and pregnancy prevention, using these tools as modes of insurance against the unwanted outcomes associated with sex. However, sometimes the scenario in which we choose to have sex is not the best scenario, leaving inevitable anxiety about the consequences, specifically, a possible pregnancy. Unfortunately, even when we situate ourselves in the best possible setting for a horizontal study break, the rare and unexpected can occur; for example, the condom slips or breaks. In the event of unprotected sex or the failure of birth control, (in other words when the door you planned to leave open slams shut) emergency contraception allows you to open a window and provides another possible escape from an unwanted consequence.

Emergency contraception, or the “Morning-After Pill,” refers to a pill or serious of pills taken after unprotected sex in order to prevent pregnancy. According to Planned Parenthood, emergency contraception is effective up to 120 hours (5 days) after intercourse. However, this method is significantly more effective the sooner it begins. (Meaning, it is better not to wait the full five days before using emergency contraception.) In some cases, emergency contraception can also refer to the utilization of an IUD, or “Intra-Uterine Device,” which is a mechanism containing copper or hormones that is inserted into the uterus with the purpose of pregnancy prevention.

Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECPs) are a form of hormonal birth control (just like Birth Control Pills), and work to prevent ovulation, fertilization, and implantation. They are a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy, and are available through prescription only. (Due to a recent decision made by the Food and Drug Administration, ECPs will soon be available over the counter as well.) Any physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant can prescribe ECPs, but they are also dispensed in Planned Parenthood facilities and the Ursinus Wellness Center. The IUD and ECPs effectively prevent pregnancy, but are NOT effective in terminating a pregnancy already in progress. Many pro-life groups and others skeptical concerning emergency contraception often argue that it is a form of abortion, but that accusation is false and unfounded. Emergency contraception actually decreases the number of abortions necessary by providing another mode to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Some possible side effects associated with ECPs include: nausea, vomiting, breast tenderness, change in menstruation schedule and amount, fatigue, dizziness, abdominal pain, and headache. (Many health professionals may suggest taking the ECPs on a full stomach or suggest or prescribe an anti-nausea medication.) The IUD is often associated with abdominal pain, irregular bleeding and infection, and in less common circumstances has been associated with heavy menstrual flow, uterine puncture, cramping, and loss of fertility.

However, newly-developed progestin-only ECPs (in comparison to combination estrogen and progestin ECPs) have been shown to greatly reduce the side effects. Just like in Birth Control Pills and other hormonal methods of birth control, emergency contraception does not protect against sexually-transmitted infections or HIV.

The cost of emergency contraception varies depending on the option that is right for you, but regarding ECPs you can expect a cost range of eight to seventy dollars, depending on your method and the amount of time between the beginning of treatment and the unprotected sex act. The IUD is significantly more expensive, usually amounting up to 400 dollars counting the exam and insertion.

Emergency contraception is an affordable and accessible form of pregnancy prevention that can aid in changing a scary, worst-case scenario situation into a situation that allows you to take control of your own body and future.

Women, thou art loose: a concise, candid discussion on “sluts, smuts, and hoes”

TRACEY FERDINAND
tferdinand@ursinus.edu

While following the Duke University rape case referred to by the New York Times as a “tangled American opera of race, sex and privilege,” the interconnectedness of race and gender as social constructs became hauntingly obvious. For those unfamiliar with the case, Ms. Roberts, a 31-year-old black female escort service worker, accused three white male lacrosse players of sexual assault in March of 2006. As the case has unwound, it is clear that America’s history of poor race relations will play a huge role in upcoming trials.

Perusing a recent article on the case, my attention was immediately drawn to the specific way in which sexuality is addressed. For example, in a police interview on the night of the assault, Ms. Roberts’ work partner, a 27-year-old HBCU (Historically Black College or University) student, stressed that she was not a prostitute. She also told the police that “she had been to one event in the past where she thought a male at the party was nice, so after the party they went out and had consensual sexual relations.” However, the New York Times quickly adds, “but just that once.” Aside from the legalesties of being charged with prostitution, the “just that once” sends a certain message to readers. It implies that the woman was insistent upon establishing her sexual innocence because she only participated in casual sex once! Whether or not she had sex once or a billion times, it’s rather frustrating to note that American society is still dependent upon the “moral uprightness” of women, or rather, its own personal definition as such. It is also frustrating to note that most women still find themselves constantly playing the angel role--virginal, pristine, and, most importantly, passive--for fear of being labeled a demon-slut.

Certain ideologies regarding a woman’s sexuality have been deeply embedded into our culture’s psyche, and though we usually take these rules for granted, they have a tremendous impact on the way women act and speak. The labels “smut,” “slut,” and “hoe,” for example, used to describe sexually deviant women who are outwardly defiant of the clear moral standards presented to them, are strategically used to control a woman’s sexuality. Black women specifically have to be extremely careful about the way their sexuality is portrayed because there is double trouble in the “smut, slut, hoe” label. Black women have always fought to earn the prestige of being considered even a lady. Having breasts by no means supplied us with first-class membership into the “womanhood club.” In the twenty-first century, however, many forget or are unaware that the “womanhood club” has been exposed as pretty packaging for a “womanhood cult.” More importantly, many ignore the argument that a woman’s sexuality is often strategically used by institutions as a way of ensuring patriarchy. Though I am in no way condoning females to partake in sexually irresponsible acts, such as unprotected sex, I am attempting to shed light on a semi-taboo topic in hopes of offering an alternative viewpoint. I’m sure we’ve all had casual “double standard” discussions about the differences between actions acceptable for males and females. However, looking at the issue from a theoretical standpoint, one can clearly see the detrimental effects certain ideologies have on specific groups, such as women, and how these ideologies were and still are implemented in our society.
Give Zack’s a chance

SIMON MARCUS
simarcus@ursinus.edu

As I made my return to Ursinus last Sunday, I was greeted by quite the sight as I entered the lower levels of the Wismer Center. Happening to glance with a complete overhaul. Complete seating considerably njcerthan in the past, but more importantly, change in decoration, furniture, and its integration with the touch-screen, this new Zack’s was something to behold. With this new set-up, I knew there would inevitably be quite the reaction from the student body: perhaps confusion, maybe even outrage. This is certainly understandable, and indeed the reception hasn’t exactly been grand, but with time, the fury should die down and you’ll see that Zack’s isn’t just new, but improved as well.

The immediately apparent change to Zack’s is the change in decoration, furniture, and its integration with the touch-screen extending to the lounge, allowing for many more people to sit down and eat their meals. Of course, this won’t exactly mater to the masses rushing to pick up lunch and move on to their 1:30 classes, but to those who actually have the time to sit down and eat, it’s much more accommodating than before.

Speaking of being in a rush to get food, a major concern that I had had was with the new system of using the touch-screen to order food and how long it would take to receive my meal. To be fair, my visits to Zack’s this week have been mostly bedlam, with lines for the touch-screen extending to the lounge, tickets swarming the floor, and the masses holding their tickets and waiting for food. It looked more like the O.T.B. than a college snack bar. Even with this mess, it’s reasonable to believe that time will mend this situation. No longer do you have to wait in line for the cashier, as you can pay for your food right at the station, making for a much quicker check-out time. Once customers figure out which buttons do what on the touch-screen, that situation will right itself too.

Sure, most of the “new” stations are really nothing more than the old stations made to look nice, but one new perk of Zack’s that can’t be disputed is the new Jazzman’s. How many times are you running to your morning class, in need of a pick-me-up, with the library nowhere in sight? For the morning’s walking dead, two Jazzmans are certainly better than one.

Remember, fellow students, that Rome wasn’t built in a day. Like, say, a new computer, Zack’s is something new that’s unfamiliar now, but can be accepted with time and experience. This new Zack’s may seem chaotic now, but give it some time, maybe a couple of weeks, and the smaller, more time-consuming Zack’s of old will be no more than a memory.

Bring back the old Zack’s

COURTNEY FOX
cofox@ursinus.edu

The highlight of many students’ days last year used to be sitting in Zack’s and enjoying a nice meal. Sure, there were certain times of the day when Zack’s would be overcrowded, but for the most part whether you ordered a fresh-made Asian salad or chicken fingers hot off the grill, service was mostly satisfying.

When I heard that Zack’s was renovated my initial reaction was optimism. I assumed that most of the food would still be the same, and that the renovation would only further help cut down the sometimes chaotic atmosphere. So, at lunch time on the first day of class I excitedly ventured down to experience the new Zack’s for myself.

When I first walked in I felt like I was on the set of the Jetsons. I suppose the school took a liking to the way Wawa is set up when ordering food because Ursinus put in two computer machines where students are to press what they want and then go to the designated food station and wait for their food to be made. These screens might work if there were not constant glitches in the system. Many students that ordered food were incredibly frustrated and confused because the machines were malfunctioning. The staff working at Zack’s seemed to be just as confused as the students.

A designated check out register does not exist so if you simply want to quickly buy a Gatorade it is hard to figure out what register to go to. And the biggest question on many students’ mind is “Where did all the salads go?” The salad station last year was my personal favorite place to order a healthy lunch. When I asked a fellow sophomore at Ursinus what her feelings on the new Zack’s were, she responded by saying, “I miss the old variety of food, and the service is very slow.” So, although the new Zack’s is significantly bigger and a bit newer looking, I would take the old good service along with the old variety of food over this new futuristic-looking food court any day.

Have an opinion? Please send your questions, comments, compliments, and complaints to the Opinions Editor at maflynitz@ursinus.edu

Dylan strikes gold

BRANDON BROWN
brbrown@ursinus.edu

We live in a day and age where it is trendy for aging musicians and groups to reunite for a fifth farewell tour and even release a CD which often contains tracks that sound remarkably similar to their hit from the 80s, possibly in hopes of attracting a new, younger group of fans. Now I will admit that I have often bought these CDs and been satisfied but not impressed. Bob Dylan’s new album, Modern Times, is anything but a rehashing of his back catalogue. In fact, for his 31st studio outing, Dylan does what he does best: write music with deep lyrics and sing with a voice that begs to be listened to.

Now many of you are probably thinking, “Dylan can’t sing anymore.” On the contrary, he is in fact in top shape (granted he has his moments when the effect of years of smoking shows) with the overall sound of the music reminiscent of Love and Theft meets Blonde on Blonde. The lyrics on this album also show a mature Dylan who seems to have sorted out a lot of his life and is able to look back on his experiences and compile them into the perfect hour of music. The styles change from the old time country of Spirit on the Water, to Chicago blues on the song Rollin’ and Tumblin’, to the slow balladry that Dylan is known for. One highlight on the album is the opening track, Thunder on the Mountain, which seems like the kind of music you’d hear in a bar and see people dancing to. When the Deal Goes Down and Workin’man’s Blues #2 seem like reflections on life and the latter is reminiscent of Positively 4th Street from Blonde on Blonde. About two years ago, Bob Dylan said in a “60 Minutes” interview that he was not sure he could write great songs like he used to anymore. It seems that whatever insecurities Dylan may have had are gone and he is back again writing poetry which is applicable to life and love. Dylan sings “I’m trying to feed my soul with thought” and “sometimes no one wants what they got and sometimes you can’t give it away” on Workin’man’s Blues #2, which are as deep as any of the songs that he wrote on some of his most well known albums.

My point is that Dylan is in top shape on Modern Times and if there was ever any doubt in anyone’s mind that Bob Dylan is one of the greatest singer/songwriters and poets in history, this album proves that he is still up to the task. An interesting thing to note on this album is that Dylan is not just singing but in fact also plays the harmonica, guitar, and piano on the album. This is interesting because as of late Dylan has not played guitar in concert. He also handled the production of the album.
A tale of playground politics

It was a recess like any other recess. Israel was minding his own business, playing in the sandbox. Hizbullah was running around like a madman, creating the usual playground mischief: giving wedgies, sticking gum in the Jewy kids’ hair, while not-so-skilfully evading the ever-watching eye of the playground supervisor: America. “Hizbullah! Calm down! You’re making the other kids nervous!” shouted America. Hizbullah momentarily slowed to a fast-walk, but as soon as America turned away, he ran up to Israel, kicked sand in his eye, stole his toy soldiers and ran away.

“Hey, you! I’m going to get you!” yelled Israel, shaking his fist.

The end-of-recess bell rang. Israel and Hizbullah returned to their separate classrooms, and the day continued as usual, but little did Hizbullah know that Israel was plotting revenge. Sweet, sweet revenge.

“Toy soldiers and ran away;” Israel was plotting revenge. Sweet, sweet revenge.

It was acting as usual, but Israel seemed to have its stick stuck just a bit farther up its butt. Hizbullah ran up to Israel and said “Hey, dweeb!”

Israel responded by grinning a rather devilish grin, taking a rubber band out of his pocket, shooting it at Hizbullah… and missing. It hit Hizbullah’s friend, Lebanon. Lebanon was shocked. “Hey, man! What’d I do?” Israel took out another rubber band, shot, and hit Lebanon again. “Hey! I’m telling on you!”

“Haha! Go right ahead!” scoffed Israel.

Lebanon ran up to America and said “America! Israel keeps shooting me with rubber bands, but I didn’t do anything!”

“Are you sure you didn’t do anything?” said Lebanon. “Yes!”

“Well, in my experience, Israel seems like a very reasonable young lad. I’m sure he is acting with self-control, and it is not my duty to interfere.”

“What? You’re the playground supervisor! Of course it’s your duty to stop him!”

“Leave me be, Lebanon. You tire me.” Lebanon shuffled off, looking rather dejected. He walked back to his friend Hizbullah, who was still picking on Israel, who had finally managed to land a shot. He said “Hey man, let’s go do someth…” He was cut off by a rubber band to the face before he could finish his thought. “Dammit, Israel, stop!”

“Hey, Israel! What lesson is that?” said Hizbullah.

America inquired, standing behind Hizbullah, arms crossed.

“Umm… uh…” Hizbullah could find no words and fled, leaving his friend Lebanon alone with America and Israel. Israel shot another rubber band at Lebanon.

“Hey, man! What’s this?” said Lebanon.

“Hey, America! Why are you shooting rubber bands at Lebanon?” America asked, faking interest.

“Hizbullah stole my toy soldiers yesterday!”

“Well, Lebanon, it seems Israel is perfectly in the right here. Stop whining and get Hizbullah to return Israel’s soldiers!” America turned away, winking at Israel and giving a semi-hidden thumbs up.

Lebanon was speechless for a few seconds. Then, rather hopefully, he said “You know, Israel, I hate you.”

“I know, Lebanon. But, I have America on my side, so I don’t care! I can do whatever I want!”

Just then, he shot another rubber band at Lebanon.

“You know what, Israel? I’m going to go tell Iran about this, and then we’ll see how cocky you are!”

Just then, America quickly ran back. “Did you say Iran?”

“…yeah.”

“Stop messing with Lebanon.”

“America, that’s not my fault. I just said ‘stop,’ and he won’t listen!”

“Oh, I see how things are. Have a good day, Israel!” Lebanon walked off, whistling, as Israel fell to the ground, crying.

Matt and Dan are not anti-Semites, but if you want to tell them that they are anyway, direct all hate mail to matflyntz@ursinus.edu and dsergeant@ursinus.edu. We thank you kindly.

We want water!

MATT FLYNTZ

I have one complaint to add to the discussion about the new Zack’s. Employees at both Zack’s and Jazzman’s have been ordered not to give out free cups for water. If you go to nearly any dining establishment and ask for either water or a cup for water, the waiter or cashier will gladly deliver the water or the cup and charge. But not Zack’s. Why? Ultimately, it is a matter of trust. At McDonald’s, when the cashier gives you a free cup for water, he trusts that you will fill said cup with water. Apparently Zack’s cannot give us the same trust. Apparently there was a big problem with scammers last year, filling their “water” cups with soda. Now, I am not one to legitimize stealing, but come on. If someone fills their water cup with soda, the school takes on a net loss of what, five or 10 cents? Soda is one of the most notoriously and ridiculously marked up items in all of retail. But, let’s give dining services the benefit of the doubt and say it is 10 cents. With the price of the smallest cup being 99 cents, it would take 10 scammers for every one good, honest person to even achieve a net loss. Do the higher ups in dining services really have that little faith in the ability of humans to be honest? Don’t get me wrong, I’m not an optimist, and I realize that there are plenty of scammers out there. But, given the ridiculously high profit margin of soda and the fact that big corporations like McDonald’s give out free cups for water, I find it absurd that our own school, which we pay so much per year, is so cynical and miserly that it cannot even give us free water. Surely, they will say “Oh, but Matthew, please note that we provide water fountains for your drinking pleasure.” First, the fountain next to Zack’s has been busted for at least a year, and second, that is a dirty and pitiful cop-out. Shame on you, dining services. Shame on you.

Opinions

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

ALEX ERNST

When I choose a movie to review, I am usually inspired by one of two factors: a) I just rented/own/saw it on cable late at night, or b) some random pop culture reference happened to remind me. In this case, both happened to coincide. A few months ago, Mountain Dew Code Red ran an ad that employed both the distinctive “whistling” soundtrack and Sergio Leone’s trademark close-ups. Just these touchstones were enough to inspire me to rewatches this movie on AMC recently. Thus, I give you The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

Blondie (Clint Eastwood aka “The Good”) is a mercenary who captures criminals for the bounty, and as they’re about to be hanged, uses his skills to free them at the last possible moment. He tries to capture Tuco (Eli Wallach aka “The Ugly”) but has the tables turned and is himself captured and tortured in the desert. While Blondie is still extremely weak, the pair comes upon a train wreck, next to which is left a dying robber. The robber confesses the hiding place to Blondie, forcing Tuco to nurse him back to health so that he can claim the gold. Meanwhile, Angel Eyes (Lee Van Clef aka “The Bad”) has also caught wind of the gold, and begins racing them to reach the hiding place first. As all of this is going on, all three men have to contend with the Civil War raging on about them.

Having never really been a fan of Westerns, I was blown away by this film. First off, all the actors give stellar performances. No one ever has ever or will ever snore like Eastwood does. Wallach also plays the conflicted bandit well, particularly in a scene where he meets his priest brother and gets a glimpse of the different path his life could have taken. Finally, Van Clef flat out ozonees evil. He absolutely plays one of the nastiest and underrated villains in cinema.

A lot has to be said for the historical context in which the movie plays out. None of the main characters take sides in the Civil War going on around them, but it is to the credit of the writers that they are inevitably drawn in, especially in my favorite scene in the movie. A wounded commander asks Blondie and Tuco to destroy a strategic bridge for him that is the site of day after day of futile skirmishes that only end in blood baths for both sides. The pair destroys the bridge, finally allowing the commander to fall back in relief. In addition to providing a captivating sequence, Leone throws in a subtle commentary on the futility of war.

I absolutely love this movie. From a movie buff’s standpoint little touches like the opening 10 1-2 minutes without dialogue, the trademark close-ups, and wide landscape shots that make the surroundings a character in themselves all serve to show just how revolutionary Leone was as a director. On a more basic level, the movie has a fantastic story, a ton of suspense as to who will be the first to get the gold, and just a ton of flat-out cocky performances. I struggled a bit with the recommendation for this week simply because I don’t really like Westerns. I finally settled on Tombstone for no other reason than you can’t go wrong with Kurt Russell (Say what you will about Unforgiven & Crash, but even with a terrible plot Russell saves the flick). That’s it for this week. Stay tuned for Ronin (No promises though. It’s hard enough to meet this deadline without being chained by my poor choice of movie).
Men's soccer looking for breakout season

TYLER JOHNSON

The Ursinus Men's Soccer Team hopes their hard work in preseason will translate into a successful 2006 campaign. Despite the loss of several key players, including goalkeeper Brian Berkowitz, All-Conference defender Thomas Hanlin, and central midfielder Jon Herding, the team has ample returning talent and a strong freshman class. Head coach Wayne McKinney and his assistant Calvert Louder Jr. hope to improve on a difficult season in 2005. Senior co-captains Danny Callahan (Dover, Pa./Dover Area), Zach Coale (Souderton, Pa./Souderton), and Corey Goldberg (Ivyland, Pa./Council Rock) have started throughout their collegiate careers and will provide valuable leadership. Callahan has high hopes for the team's performance this year, commenting, “I believe we have a lot of promising talent and hope this can be a breakout year for the program.”

The team's strongest asset might be its experienced defensive unit, featuring co-captain Coale, junior Karl Kelchner (Ridley, Pa./Ridley), senior Daniel Urban (Denville, N.J./Morris Knolls), and sophomores Justin Faust (Southampton, N.J./Lenape) and Steve Sullivan (Wyncote, Pa./William Penn Charter). Kelchner, Coale, Urban, and Faust are all returning starters, while Sullivan made a significant contribution off the bench last season. Coale predicts, “The team should be able to compete this season. We are all very experienced in the back.”

Replacing Berkowitz in goal this season will likely be sophomore Ed de Gottal (Flemington, N.J./St. Joseph). Senior Urban believes, “Even with the loss of a three year starter we should be solid in the net. He has a lot of heart and drive and is very experienced.” De Gottal will be backed up by junior Mike Norris (Boytown, Pa./Boytown) and freshman Joseph Kenney (Drexel Hill, Pa./Shipley).

Callahan heads the midfield unit, along with sophomore Brad Atkinson (Redding, Conn./Joel Barlow), sophomore transfer John George (Wayne, Pa./Archbishop Carroll), and freshman Ryan Campbell (Media, Pa./Strath Haven). Junior Dean Kelly (River Edge, N.J./River Dell Regional), junior Chris Bascom (Farmington, Conn./Farmington), and sophomore Taylor Jones (Ann Arbor, Mich./Ann Arbor Pioneer) are likely to play significant minutes as well. Callahan expects the midfield to “be solid, particularly due to our depth.”

Senior captain Goldberg is likely to shift from central midfield to striker this season, after tallying two assists in 2005. Senior Doug von Allmen (Chapel Hill, N.C./Radnor) and sophomore Donald Reilly (King of Prussia, Pa./Upper Merion) should compete for starting positions alongside Goldberg. Reilly and Von Allmen led the team in scoring a year ago, with four goals and two assists apiece.

The team began its season in Salisbury, Md., at the Elmer Lord Memorial Classic on Labor Day weekend. Ursinus faced Salisbury University, ranked #1 in the NSCAA Adidas NCAA Division III preseason poll, on Saturday at 2 p.m. A day later the team played St. Mary's (Md.), which was 12-7-1 in 2005. While the team's competition was stiff, the tournament provided useful experience in preparation for the upcoming conference schedule. Unfortunately, the team had to play without sophomore flank midfielder Ted Hooven (West Chester, Pa./Devon Prep), who tallied one goal and one assist and started every contest as a freshman. Hooven, who suffered an ankle injury, will reportedly be ready for Ursinus' home opener Wednesday, Sept. 6 against Virginia Wesleyan.

Harper and Gibson carry Bears to home opener victory

MATTHEW PASTOR

On a day where field conditions were at their worst and the only way to move the football was on the rain-soaked ground, the Ursinus Bears used dominating defense, an over-powering offensive line and one stellar performance from a freshmen running back to defeatSusquehanna on opening day at Patterson Field 6-0.

It was the Bears’ third consecutive win in horrible weather conditions dating back to last year when Ursinus defeated Newport News and Gettysburg in torrential downpours. Saturday’s game was much of the same with the Bears coming out on top thanks to freshmen Aaron Harper’s 43 carries, 153 rushing yards and lone touchdown. It would not have been possible, however, without the incredible play of the men upfront opening huge holes for Harper to run through.

The first half belonged to the defense as neither team was able to put any points on the board with the score all knotted at 0 after 30 minutes of play. The second half, however, belonged to the Bears’ offensive line as they steamrolled down the field on the first drive of the second half, 7 plays to put the Bears on top for good at 6-0. Harper amassed 61 yards on the ground during the scoring drive and finished it with a 15 yard scamper into the end zone.

Once again the Bears’ defense kept Susquehanna in check as they only allowed 57 yards of total offense, two first downs, three fumble recoveries and an interception. Susquehanna was only able to muster one yard on the ground throughout the entire football game.

The black shirts found themselves in the Crusader backfield numerous times throughout the game and when Susquehanna found themselves deep in Ursinus territory late in the third quarter, the Bears answered back by recovering a fumble and ending the threat any chance of Susquehanna mounting a comeback.

This was truly a game of field position and Ursinus’ special teams made sure that that advantage went to the Bears thanks in large part to an early blocked punt by Ryan Tole and the foot of Greg Zara. Zara continuously kept the Crusaders deep in their own territory with great punting, allowing the defense to put massive amounts of pressure on opposing quarterbacks and giving the offense numerous scoring opportunities all game.

The Bears dominated every facet of the game Saturday and were rewarded with what looks like the first of many “W’s” this season. The experience and talent that is the backbone of the 2006 Bears’ team overcame awful field conditions and played smart, mentally sound football to grab the victory over Susquehanna.

For his efforts in Saturday’s game, freshmen Aaron Harper was named Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week and also broke the Centennial Conference record for most rushing yards by a freshman in his first collegiate game. The Bears were also awarded Centennial Conference Defensive Player of the Week due to the play of senior Rob Gibson. Gibson was a force to be reckoned with all game as he made five solo tackles, forced a fumble, recovered another fumble and made one sack for a four yard loss.

Ursinus returns to non-conference action this Saturday in Reading when they face Albright at 7 p.m. What better way to spend your Saturday evening than watching gold helmets fly to the football under the lights? The only reason you shouldn’t be attending Saturday’s game would be if you are glued to your television set watching Penn State vs. Notre Dame.