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The Grizzly, October 12, 2006

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"Two Gentlemen of Verona" adds color to the Ursinus stage
Editorial: a call to responsibility

Over two weeks ago, a group of students in Reinert posted publicly approximately 60 pictures on facebook.com, depicting one student with discriminatory writing all over his torso, face, and arms. This writing included swastikas and various slurs, such as "***** lover," "slut," and "**kye," with "few" appearing amidst a Star of David. These photographs remained posted online for two weeks, until they were reported to the administration as offensive material on Monday, Oct. 9. As two students who were directly involved declined to comment, the background information to explain the pictures is unclear.

This event has undoubtedly incited disturbance among students and faculty members perturbed by the pictures. It is unfathomable to me that in 2006, on a campus that is supposed to be full of educated young people, there are still individuals that think that it is acceptable to use racially and ethnically derogatory phrases and symbols. It is unfathomable to me that in 2006, on a campus that is supposed to be full of educated young people, there are still individuals that think that it is acceptable to use racially and ethnically derogatory phrases and symbols. It is unfathomable to me that in 2006, on a campus that is supposed to be full of educated young people, there are still individuals that think that it is acceptable to use racially and ethnically derogatory phrases and symbols.

As of yet, there has been no judicial hearing for the responsible students. "We just learned of it today," stated Debbie Nolan, Dean of Students, on Monday, Oct. 9. "We’re just investigating, talking to students who have any involvement."

"Clearly, the administration has an obligation to use judicial action to respond to this," Melissa Sanders, Assistant Director of Residence Life, explained, "We can’t tolerate acts of discrimination."

Thankfully, however, one of the students involved in creating one of the photo albums made an open apology to the Ursinus community in Olin Plaza on Tuesday evening. The student expressed his regret, stating that “no one thought long enough” before committing the acts.

It has become clear that two issues are at hand here: the execution of discriminatory acts on a liberal arts campus and the lack of forethought in positioning photos of a questionable nature in a public domain such as facebook.com. Since facebook.com has recently made drastic changes with respect to confidentiality of personal information, the administrators of the Web site have published numerous notes explaining how students who use the site’s resources can maintain their desired level of privacy. These privacy settings incorporate the option for students to make their personal photos public or private, to the point of being able to filter who can and cannot view students’ photos. There have been many instances of students being penalized for certain indiscretions simply by virtue of school administrators being able to see their facebook.com photos, which have often provided the evidence needed to punish students. It is also well known that many employers often investigate students’ facebook.com profiles before hiring them. May this serve as a caveat: placing sensitive information on the Internet—particularly on facebook.com—may have serious ramifications.

Unfortunately, this is not the first incident of its type to present itself on the Ursinus College campus. Many students have been reminded of last year’s USGA diversity talks following the outbreak of socioeconomic slurs at the NCAA championships held just a few months ago. Following that incident, other instances of injustice on campus were revealed, including the drawing of a swastika in one of the freshman dorms. Essentially, occurrences such as this most recent one demonstrate a disturbing trend of students overlooking the possible repercussions of their actions. As the student newspaper of Ursinus, The Grizzly would like to emphasize the necessity for the members of the Ursinus community to think before they act. Any act of hatred is still a form of hatred.

To serve as a forum for this issue, the Exposure Committee will be holding a meeting this Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m., in Wismer Lower Lounge. The Committee’s mission is to unearth acts of discrimination so as to foster a greater safety and awareness on campus. The Grizzly urges anyone in the Ursinus community with lingering concerns regarding the facebook.com incident or other disquieting events to attend.

Letter of apology

ASHLEY PANICKER
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Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I would like to offer a formal apology for the discriminatory acts that I have indirectly done by way of submitting obscene pictures on facebook. Several pictures of my roommates were taken to depict wrestling matches and them sleeping, and the racist writing on the bodies of those pictured were not an emphasis or the reason that those pictures were put up. In no way do I want anyone to think that I had posted these pictures to endanger, harass, or frighten any students on campus. Moreover, I did not write the racist remarks on these people and posted these pictures only because certain people involved had asked me to on several occasions. Their intent was also just to have pictures of themselves passed out or wrestling, not thinking that strangers may see them and be offended by them.

Many of you know me, my personality, and my character, and know that I am not capable of hate and did not mean to harm anyone in my actions. My upbringing is strong in Christianity and I lived in a very diverse community back home; it is not in my moral values to harass anyone for anything. I have many friends of all types of ethnicities and religions and I am tolerant to any decision that any person may make. However, in a moment of weakness, I’ve done a great injustice to the community of Ursinus and ask for your complete forgiveness. Lastly, I thank all of you for reading what I had to say and I pray daily that I may receive forgiveness for all the wrong that I have done. Once again, I want to express how truly sorry I am for my actions and want you to know that there is never a chance of this sort of thing happening again.

With Utmost Concern,
Ashley Panicker

The article titled, “Smoking ban introduced,” in Issue 5, was written by Kacy Managan, not Erin Padovani. The Grizzly apologizes for this error.
New shopping center near campus

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A new strip mall has been built on Ridge Pike, where it meets Township Line Road. It is located at barely a five-minute drive down Main Street from the Ursinus College Campus. Main Street turns into Ridge Pike just before the mall, which is on the left-hand side.

“The Court at Upper Providence,” as it stands, has a Giant, a Target, and an AC Moore (for arts and crafts). Furthermore, two buildings are currently being constructed at the same site and in the vicinity of the mall. The AC Moore Target opened Friday, opened on Oct. 11, all the stores are enthusiastic. “I am very employee of Target said, just stocking the store. I’m looking forward to the opening.”

Other buildings at the site, but there have been many rumors about these two buildings. One person reported that it might be a Borders Bookstore, while another was certain it would be a Bed, Bath, and Beyond. It was also suggested that one of the uncompleted buildings may become a restaurant.

The official word from the construction company is that the contract for the space is still under negotiation. Until the contract is signed, there be no official word. A representative from Gambone Development Company, the company charged with construction at the site, said that the identity of the new stores should be released in the coming months.

Spring registration just around the corner

LAUREN VAUGHN
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Nov. 6 marks the first day of spring registration, as well as debate among many Urisinus freshmen.

Although many upperclassmen are aware of what takes place during spring registration, freshmen are new to the registration process and the importance that it has in students’ education.

Spring registration lasts a week, from Nov. 6 to Nov. 17. During this time, both students and faculty must meet to discuss class choices for the spring semester. Students are encouraged to take responsibility during spring registration. This includes setting up appointments with advisors; having some, if not all, of the classes in mind that they need or would like to take for their major and core classes; and turning in their paperwork.

While this may sound as though it is not a major task, this process may be overwhelming to students. For that reason, students are assigned advisors who are also given some responsibilities during spring registration as well, helping alleviate some of the pressure for the student.

Depending on the department, major, and faculty, advisors are assigned between 15 and 20 advisees. During spring registration, advisors must help each one of their advisees create a class schedule. “Students may take no more than five classes per semester,” said Dr. Jeanine Czaraboff, an advisor at Ursinus College, “because the college wants students to have a balanced education which includes other [activities] than just taking classes.”

Even though it is the student’s choice to take certain classes, advisors often influence students to take certain classes if they believe that it would be beneficial to them. “I encourage but I don’t pressure,” Czaraboff explained. “If the students have to take to take a certain class I encourage that they take it. The student’s choice of study belongs to them. They need to make choices and learn to deal with them.”

Another concern that arises frequently during spring registration is waitlistings, which occur when students are put on hold for a class because the class reaches the maximum number of students it can have. In the case that a student is waitlisted for a class that he or she needs to take for his or her major, the registrar will hold a seat open in the class for the person who needs to take that class and put that student in first to take the class, assuming someone drops it. Even though many upperclassmen may not take the same classes as freshmen, waitlisting may be a common problem among freshmen because they last to register for classes. According to Czaraboff, “Freshmen have the most courses they have to take and are the least unsure of what they want to take, and they don’t have a major. Seniors have been here longer and they deserve more privileges, which are considered `seniority.` This causes much debate with freshmen who may feel that by time they register for classes all the ‘good classes’ are taken.”

Even though sometimes there isn’t much that can be done to avoid problems during registration, first-year students can make spring registration run more smoothly by making timely appointments with their advisors, having an idea of what classes they need, turning in paperwork on time, and always asking plenty of questions.

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. Xochilt Shuru, Modern Languages
- Dr. Mohammed Yahdi, 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 Oct. 13, 2006.
Features

Preventing sexual assault

LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

Sexual assault is a problem that students face on every college campus. No one is immune from sexual assault, regardless of how small or safe the town or school in which they reside appears to be. However, sexual assault is preventable, and means can be taken to ensure a safer university experience. This article will outline a few measures that you can take to prevent sexual assault and that will allow you to enjoy college life safely.

The exact prevalence of sexual assault in the United States is unknown because it is often unreported. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that only 39% of sexual assaults and rapes committed were reported in 2002. The CDC also reports that 20-25% of female college students report sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, and in the last year, at least 300,000 women reported sexual assault as well as more than 90,000 men. These statistics hold significance due to the alarming number of incidences and the inclusion of statistics regarding sexual assault on men. Sexual assault is often misunderstood as a crime that only affects women, but men can also be assaulted by other men and women.

The University of Georgia provides a short guide to sexual assault prevention through their Web site. They recommend open and direct communication with your partner first and foremost as a prevention tactic. This will allow you to create and respect boundaries that are often confused when left unsaid. It is important to remember that the majority of sexual assaults occur between acquaintances. When meeting new people, the University of Georgia also suggests avoiding getting in a car with someone that you do not know.

When partying, it is a good idea to travel with a group of friends, ideally with one or two individuals who are planning to remain sober. This system allows you to keep an eye on one another while sticking together, which can best be done with a trusted person who has not been drinking. Also, never accept a drink from someone that you do not know while at a party, and do not leave your beverage unattended. This will prevent an individual from drugging your beverage with a date-rape drug.

The University of Georgia also reminds students that alcohol inhibits decision-making and judgment. This is important to remember because an intoxicated individual at a party will not necessarily be able to make his or her boundaries clear, and that affects the judgment of both parties involved.

When walking around campus or Collegeville at night, be sure to walk with a friend. Plainly stated, it is extremely unsafe to walk around alone at night. If no one is available to escort you, you can call Campus Safety, which will send an officer to escort you to where you need to go. Also, be aware of your surroundings. Headphones prevent you from being completely aware of the events that are occurring around you.

Sexual assault on college campuses is an unfortunate reality with which we all must cope. However, we all also have the power to take our safety into our own hands to prevent assault and to not allow fear to ruin a great college experience.

Finding your perfect career

CAREER SERVICES

www.ursinus.edu/career

Join us in welcoming authors Sheila Curran and Suzanne Greenwald to campus on Monday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. in Olin Auditorium, as they share suggestions and smart moves for turning a liberal arts degree into a meaningful career. Their presentation, like their new, highly acclaimed book, will feature both straightforward job-searching advice and innovative, real-life stories from graduates who have achieved fulfilling careers.

Curran and Greenwald praise the value of a liberal arts education and share insight into the many factors that contribute to success. All are invited to learn valuable career lessons and an unparalleled framework for success. Ursinus faculty and staff are also invited to bring their high school children to hear the presentation.

Make a “Smart Move” and join us on Oct. 23 to find answers to these important questions: What is the value of a liberal arts education? What should I do while I am still in school? Will I need a graduate degree? How do I find work that I love? How do I get the “edge” with employers? What if I don’t have a good GPA?

Smart Moves for Liberal Arts Grads: Monday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. in Olin Auditorium.

in the spring semester. “Peers educating peers” is the best thing that we can do, according to Nolan, which should encourage us all to get involved.

Dean Nolan commented, “Overall, our community is very supportive and respectful. This is very reassuring to me. Our entire system supports this type of awareness. The Judiciary Board proved that to us in a prior incident. We just want our community to be more responsive. It’s not just students; we are all involved.”

If you have any immediate sexual assault concerns, call (215) 277-5200 for an anonymous Victim Services Crisis Hotline.

October 12, 2006

The Grizzly
Features

New “Incentive Program” underway for CAB

KIRSTEN SCHUCK
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Want to win huge prizes? In the past, on some weekends you have had the option of watching the Campus Activity Board (CAB) movie shown in Wismer Lower Lounge as a relaxing way to unwind from the week, and as a good chance to see a free movie without even leaving campus. Now, CAB is giving you even more of a reason to check out their fun and free events!

CAB officers have started the unofficially titled “CAB incentive program,” a program that allows participating students to win huge prizes when they come to events. “Basically, any student can participate by attending CAB events,” said Julia Lickfield, CAB’s President. The program was instated in an effort to boost student attendance at the events offered by CAB, and also to reward them for becoming active members of the Ursinus community.

The program is simple: each participant is issued a card when he or she attends a CAB-sponsored event. At each event a student attends, the card is stamped and signed by a CAB officer. Each card holds 10 stamps; once you fill one card, you turn it into the Student Activities Office, and you are entered into a final drawing, which will be held at the end of the year. There is no limit to how many cards you can fill, and each additional card increases your chances of winning.

One of the big questions being asked is what are the prizes for this drawing? Is it worth it to participate? According to Lickfield, CAB has not decided yet exactly what the prizes will be, but they will be huge. “If you don’t believe me, come to Casino Night on Nov. 5 and see what kinds of prizes we typically have for that,” Lickfield said. “The Incentive Program will be even better.”

CAB has a few upcoming events that will allow you to get involved. On Nov. 5, they are sponsoring the well known Casino night. They are also always looking for new members, and Lickfield says you can be as involved as you want to be depending on your availability.

You can always contact the organization with questions, directing them to cab@ursinus.edu or julia@ursinus.edu.

Ursinus students evoke Shakespeare’s spirit in “Two Gentlemen of Verona”

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The place to be last week was in the Ursinus Black Box Theater, where an all-student cast performed a jazzed-up version of William Shakespeare’s “Two Gentlemen of Verona.”

“Two Gentlemen of Verona” is a romantic comedy about two friends from Verona, Valentine and Proteus, played by Zach Shamberg and Scott Cocchiato, and the tangled situation that they manage to get themselves into. Valentine travels to Milan and falls in love with the Duchess’s daughter, Silvia, played by Joanna Crockett. Meanwhile, Proteus has promised his heart to Julia, played by Julie Toth, a lady of Verona. However, when his mother sends him to court in Milan, he too falls for Silvia. Julia, thinking that her lover is still true, disguises herself as a page and follows Proteus to Milan, only to discover that he has fallen for Silvia instead. Silvia, however, is betrothed to Valentine, despite the fact that her mother has promised her to another. Eventually, the friends work out what they really want, and they all get their happy endings. Proteus realizes that he really does love Julia, and Valentine is finally allowed to marry Silvia.

The show began at 7:30pm Saturday evening, and was also performed to a packed theatre on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at the same time, respectively.

The production was directed by Assistant Professor of Theater Domenick Scuderi, who directed the same show for the Philadelphia Shakespeare Company earlier this summer. In Scuderi’s production, the play is set during the 1960s, and music by the Beatles and other icons of the age is played throughout the show. “It was a really interesting combination, but it made the play for me. I loved it,” claimed one audience member.

If you were unable to attend this show, be sure to catch upcoming performances by the talented students who perform for Ursinus. You will most certainly have a wonderfully entertaining and artistic experience.

Degas: his work, his vision, his camera

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On Sept. 26, at 7 p.m., Lisa Hanover, Director of the Berman Museum, introduced alumni Richard Goldberg and Alan Klawans to Olin Auditorium. Upon arrival, visitors received a booklet containing photocopies of paintings and commentary articles on Degas’ works. Goldberg informed us that each painting in the pamphlet had once been featured on the cover of The Journal of the American Medical Association, or JAMA. The corresponding articles on the paintings were all written by Therese Southgate, M.D., and Senior Contributing Editor for the magazine.

While art and medicine are usually thought to be on opposite sides of the spectrum, Goldberg eloquently explained that doctors and artists are more similar than one may realize. “Doctors and artists are both excellent and privileged observers. They both think of their subjects while they are away from their subjects. They are always thinking.” Goldberg, who is an eye surgeon as well as an artist, has a wonderful understanding of the relationship between both careers.

Goldberg, though soft-spoken and unruffled, was undeniably knowledgeable about the life and work of Edgar Degas. Using slides that were composed primarily of paintings and self-portraits, Goldberg lectured without notes or an outline. From his slides, we learned that Degas was born in 1834 in Paris, France. Sadly, his mother died when he was 15, but his father was extremely supportive of his endeavors. The artist was well read in terms of literature, art, color, and languages. It should be no surprise, then, that when Degas was supposed to begin law school, he opted out to become an artist.

One could fill volumes in regard to the life and times of Edgar Degas. But the most interesting aspect of the lecture was the fact that, though he was a brilliant artist, Degas was legally blind! Remember the Snellen eye chart we must read at every eye exam? Degas could only read the giant top line. Due to the lack of medical technology at the time, doctors could only determine that he had a serious problem in the retina of one eye. Hypotheses emerge frequently, yet, no one knows exactly what type of eye malady Degas suffered. Though the partial blindness did not keep Degas from producing great works of art, his friend and fellow artist, Walter Sickert, stated, “It was natural that from 1883 on, he would speak of the torment that it was to draw, he could only see around the spot at which he was looking and never the spot itself.”

Though Degas is often described as an impressionist painter, he began painting portraits first. Unlike his colleagues, he did not paint many landscapes nor did he paint outside. Rather, he observed and memorized his subjects and painted back in his studio. Years passed before Degas painted the usual subjects of impressionist art: women in bath tubs, drinkers in bars, and dancers and jockeys. Goldberg claims that the reason Degas was so prolific was because he was able to paint the moment before the moment occurred. Degas had a bold personality and claimed, “What he could do with the stroke of brush, a writer could do with an entire novel.”

Goldberg did an excellent job of explaining artistically and medically how Degas continued to create art despite his progressive visual impairment.
Opinions

On habeas corpus

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Recently, the United States Congress passed a bill stating that terrorist suspects shall not be able to invoke their habeas corpus rights. For those of you who are not political nerds, habeas corpus is the right to challenge one’s detention in court. Thus, this bill states that anyone who is being detained as a terrorist suspect may not challenge his or her detention in court. This is troubling for three reasons: first, it simply ignores the core assumption of the American system of criminal justice; second, it raises questions regarding the validity of these detentions; third, it sets down a frightening constitutional precedent.

First of all, I should note that revoking habeas corpus rights is not unconstitutional. Indeed, Article I, Section 9, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution states that “The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.” The Bush administration and supporters of this bill will surely argue that the War on Terror amounts to a sort of “Rebellion or Invasion” that requires the revocation of habeas corpus rights from terrorist suspects. The argument goes something like this: if terrorist suspects can challenge their detentions, they might be allowed to go free and continue their terrorist activities. This would significantly weaken the United States effort in the War on Terror. However, this rests on assumption that terrorist suspects are indeed terrorists. This brings me to my first point.

The American criminal justice system is guided by the assumption that all suspects are innocent until proven guilty. By revoking habeas corpus, the government is assuming that these suspects are guilty. However, they are not confident enough to allow these suspects to challenge their detentions before a judge (a judge who, in all likelihood, will be lenient in favor of the government). In effect, the government is saying “trust us.” I don’t mean to be cynical, but never trust a politician who uses “trust me” as a defense for something. That usually means that he has no other way (i.e. no legitimate way) to defend himself. This relates to my second point: if the government does not have enough evidence to legitimize a detention, they have no business detaining that person.

The whole basis for habeas corpus is the understanding that the government cannot simply detain people arbitrarily. Thus, habeas corpus allows improperly held suspects to “get their day in court” and see justice done. By revoking habeas corpus, the government is necessarily stating that their bases for detaining terrorist suspects are questionable at best. This is simply unacceptable. Our government must be held to a higher standard.

Last, this revocation of habeas corpus, if upheld by the judiciary (which is certainly questionable), will set down a powerful precedent. It will increase confusion regarding what, exactly, constitutes a “Rebellion or Invasion,” and future Republican presidents and Congresses will surely press the envelope further, taking away more civil liberties. It is my hope that the judiciary will do its duty and check and balance the executive by ruling that this law is unconstitutional.

The fundamental importance of negative campaigning

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Most Americans complain about the bitter nature of contemporary American politics. This nastiness is most clearly manifested in political “attack ads.” Indeed, many Americans suggest that these ads harm our political process, but I argue the contrary: these “attack ads” are a fundamental part of our democracy.

When we think about the reasons people vote, “dis- pleasure with an individual candidate” ranks relatively high on the list. How do Americans develop this sort of displeasure? One answer is that Americans keep up to date with current events and develop opinions based on this investigation. I am not so optimistic. Rather, I think many people develop this displeasure by watching negative campaign ads.

I think this is perhaps more true for the House of Representatives than for either the more highly-publicized Senate or, of course, the presidency. This is shown by the lack of knowledge of incumbent Congressmen and the even smaller amount of knowledge of their opponents. Indeed, over 50 percent of registered voters in local Congressional districts do not know enough about the incumbents’ opponents to form an opinion. Thus, between now and November 7th, they will have to develop an opinion somehow. I believe that, to a large extent, attack ads will inform the public. Now, some will argue that this is a very bad thing. But, with voter turnout in non-Presidential election years consistently below 50% (in 2002: 46 percent; in 1998: 45 percent), I’ll take all the votes I can get. Plus, the dissemination of information, whether positive or negative, serves to educate the public. An educated public makes for a better electorate.

I can hear the shouts: “Are you suggesting that attack ads educate the public!?” Well, yes. They do. Certainly, they may be misleading, but they are all at least rooted in truth. And, since Americans are so keen at detecting nasty attack ads, they ought to be able to determine which attack ads are legitimate and which are really stretching the truth (e.g. any of Rick Santorum’s campaign ads). So, the average American can probably learn something useful from attack ads while filtering out the rubbish. However, the rubbish has its uses, too. A particularly sleazy ad (once again, any of Mr. Santorum’s ads) may very well provoke a person to vote against the person running the ad.

Thus, attack ads, whether or not they are effective in gaining votes for individual candidates, get the public riled up; they, perhaps subconsciously, catch our eyes more so than would positive ads. Thus, I think that people are much more engaged in the electoral process, and are thus more likely to vote in a campaign dominated by negative ads.

And I think a higher voter turnout is a noble goal, indeed.

Hurt feelings

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The recent controversy concerning the Pope’s comments about the nature of Islam has once again shaken the Muslim world. Immediately following the Pope’s speech at the University of Regensburg, in which he quotes the 14th-century Byzantine Emperor Palæologus as saying Islam is “spread by the sword,” there was a rash of protest across the Middle East. Outraged Muslim demonstrators burned American and Israeli flags, as well as effigies of the Pope, while calling for his death. The day after the speech, a 65-year-old Italian nun died after being shot four times in the back by radical Muslims while working at a children’s hospital in Somalia.

Irony aside, this is not the first time something like this has happened. Recall last year’s controversy over the cartoon depictions of Mohammed published in a Danish newspaper. In London and across Europe, Muslims gathered in protest, holding signs that read “Behead those who mock Islam,” and the like. Middle East protests stemming from that incident led to attacks on Danish embassies and the deaths of a great deal of demonstrators.

So, where is the western backlash for this most recent incident? A nun who dedicated her life to helping Muslim children is murdered in the name of Islam, and there is not so much as a sit-in anywhere in the world? No one calls for an apology from Islamic leaders? Even CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has yet to denounce the murder. In the mean time, however, the organization is voicing outrage over the use of the term “Islamic Fascism.” At least they have their priorities straight.

It seems to be a widely held belief that Islam is a sac­ rosanct religion, on a higher plane of righteousness than Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, or even the fundamental values of liberal democracy. It is this very sentiment that radicals use to justify inciting mass violence over a newspaper cartoon or a quote from a medieval emperor. It is used similarly by groups like Hezbollah to rally support behind unprovoked attacks against residential Israeli neighborhoods and other civilian targets.

But this summer, when Italy retaliated to Hezbollah’s unmerited act of war with military force, the world criticized the Jewish State as “overreacting.” According to the inter­national community, Israel should have only attacked Hezbollah to the extent that Hezbollah attacked Israel, as opposed to wiping out the terrorist group and ending the conflict. The world held the Islamic terrorist group Hezbollah on a moral equivalency with the sovereign nation of Israel, giving justification to the unlawful kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and the slaughter of innocent civilians.

Eventually, the UN brokered a “ceasefire,” with Is­raeli troops being replaced by multinational forces in Leba­non. Last week, however, Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, held a very public rally announcing that it had rearmed with 20,000 more rockets. Rest assured, more civilians will die because Hezbollah was not destroyed.

Destructive, radical Muslim groups like Hezbollah and the violent protesters of the papal speech continue to be legitimiz ed as the world declares them morally equivalent to other peaceful, lawful groups. As long as this goes on, extremists will continue to push the envelope of intolerance. To those extremists, I say your hurt feelings do not excuse your assaults on civil freedoms and innocent lives. End the violence and you will earn the respect of millions.

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

grizzly@ursinus.edu

October 12, 2006

The Grizzly
**Opinions**

**Sinners in the hand of an angry H.P. Lovecraft monster**

Brothers and sisters, a plague of perversion is upon us. Our young people are becoming the principal targets for a new threat sweeping through the country like those damned Civil Rights acts. That’s right — I’m talking about rock n’ roll. Soon, your little Betty Sue or Johnny Smith might be caught up in this degrading jukebox culture, where it’s considered “hip” to stay out past curfew doing the “lindy hop” or listening to... I have just been informed that I am warning you about the wrong decade. My bad. O brothers and sisters, a plague of perversion is upon us. A plague called *homosexuality*.

No doubt you read in our church-approved literature about the evils that inevitably come from lighting your metaphorical votive candle from the wrong end. I will not delve into the gory details, as this is a family sermon. But what I do want to focus on is how even the sinnermost of sinners and the homoeist of homosexuals can find peace and redemption. No, not through Jesus, I’m talking about Dread Lord Cthulhu.

To many of you, Cthulhu is a fictional octopus-headed monster created by science-fiction writer H.P. Lovecraft. But I assure you, he is far from fictional. Even now, he lies at the bottom of the ocean on the sunken island of R’lyeh, waiting, hiding his time, before he will rise up and reclaim his throne as Lord of the Earth.

But to come to you not to rehash the mythos of Dread Cthulhu to you. I come to offer our wayward homosexual brethren a path to salvation in the eyes of The Eternal One. Join us, my queer children, and be healed by the slimy embrace of Cthulhu. Divert your attentions away from worldly concerns like where your next spoolful of “hot gay love” is coming from, and focus on higher spiritual matters. Join our flock, so we may all rejoice when the second coming of Dread Lord Cthulhu is nigh!

I know what you’re thinking. “But, Pastor Sergeant, being gay is swell! What’s so wrong about loving another person, and why are uptight assholes like yourself always trying to legislate and force-feed your Puritan brand of morality down the throat of a society so jaded with its political process that it has learned to see through your pseudo-religious charade for the crock of BS it actually is?”

Well! Instead of dignifying that with a response, why don’t I tell you the wonderful things in store for you when you turn away from your homo-sex and accept Dread Cthulhu as your path to salvation?

First, by joining, you are automatically enlisted in the archaeological expedition that seeks to find Cthulhu’s living place and wake him from his millennial slumber! Second, when the Eternal One rises enraged from his sleep, he will slaughter all of his followers first, thereby sparing us the eternity of mayhem and mass insanity that will ensue while he reigns! Imagine a world where you don’t have to kill and eat your loved ones; where you aren’t kept from sleep by visions of pan-dimensional demons crawling through your skin; where The Great and Ancient One doesn’t snare you in his greasy tentacles and empty the sorrows of mankind down your unholy gullet, like a mother bird feeding its hell-spawned offspring. Is it not paradise? And you thought being gay was fun.

Dan Sergeant and Matt Flyntz will either be the first killed or the last raptured, depending on whether Cthulhu or Jesus gets here first. Send your vote to dasergeant@ursinus.edu and mflyntz@ursinus.edu.

**Bewilder gems**

It may appear, to the casual observer, that I use this column merely to grouse about Ursinus, and that I don’t really like this college. This is not true. I think Ursinus is a great school with good faculty and the right ideas about education. Maybe a bit expensive. But still, a fine school. Maybe not the best meal plan. Nice facilities, though. Maybe not the best infrastructure. All joking aside (I wasn’t), I think we can come to consensus that Ursinus is like a precious necklace studded with small, and often bewildering inanities. Call them bewilder gems.

Let’s look at one of them:

The Library

Nice building, decent coffee, open to 2 a.m. Thanks! But have you tried to rent a movie lately? I bet you haven’t, because “they’re impossible to find.” You all remember the halcyon days of the old media services (Except you, freshmen. You don’t know anything), and it was simple. Want a dvd? Here’s a list! Can’t find the list?

Go online, and see it there. Simple, easy, efficient.

Now, the list is gone, the basement facility closed, and I am told I have to guess which movie I want to watch and search for. Somehow, I have to conjure up from the ether what movie I feel like watching on a particular evening, and then hope that the library has it. Apparently, it’s far too much work to keep an updated list of the dvds and videos in Myrin, which I find particularly surprising since they seemed to have no trouble doing so last year. The only reason I can think of for why they don’t keep a list is that the original keeper of lists—a list-keeper, if you will—has become inexplicably hobbled and no one has come up with a contingency plan in his or her (its?) absence.

I used to enjoy renting movies from the library; now I download.

That’s it. No other problems at UC this week. Plus Flyntz says I need to keep my word count down. God, I love my job.

Next week on Modern Times we explore my use of metaphor in the Op-Ed pages. Strained or Genius? You decide! Send e-mails to chcurely@ursinus.edu.

**“Serenity” (2005)**

Before I start this review, a quick back story. I was asked to review this movie a couple of weeks ago, but initially refused because although I had seen it, I hadn’t watched “Firefly,” the series from which the fan support launched this film. The friend who had made the request handed me the complete DVD set, and 15 hours of TV later, here I am. Let it be said that I am nothing if not dedicated.

The plot of *Serenity* is kind of complicated, so here is an oversimplification: Captain Mal Reynolds (Nathan Fillion) runs smuggling and robbery jobs off his Firefly-class ship, Serenity. Lately, he’s been hiding two fugitives, Simon and his telepathic/genius/traumatised sister, River, from the Alliance, a totalitarian government which Mal fought against and lost to in the war six years ago. The crew discovers that buried within River’s mind is a dark secret, for which the Alliance has sent a mysterious man known only as “The Operative” (Chiwetal Ejiofor) to retrieve her at any cost.

I’ve always been a big science fiction fan, and having watched the series, I’m really not sure how I missed out on it. The premise of a space-western alone is brilliant, but creator Joss Whedon went far enough to create a faux-Civil War back-story and otherwise normal-looking guns with a “laser” sound-effect touch. (For another awesome use of the space-western theme, check out Muse’s music video for “Knights of Cydonia.”) Another fantastic touch is how grounded the series is to reality. Space is silent, making the battles there that much more striking. Also, there are no longwinded explanations of whatever device is being used. The crew uses ropes, bullets, and even horses on occasion. Finally, everyone lives in a future where China and (we assume) America were the last two super powers. Thus, scattered throughout the film are Chinese phrases, mostly used for cussing (Somehow, “pardon my Chinese” doesn’t have quite the same ring to it).

As far as acting goes, nobody plays the hero with the troubled past like Nathan Fillion. (Be sure to check out *Slither*, where he does a fantastic job as the sheriff with the troubled past). If he keeps this up, he can soon join the ranks of Ryan Reynolds as actors who are able to build careers out of “Two Guys, a Girl, and a Pizza Place.” Chiwetal Ejiofor also succeeds extremely well as the bad-ass mysterious whose modus operandi involves having his victims fall onto their own sword.

Ultimately, “Serenity” succeeds because it delivers on two levels by pleasing both the uninitiated and the hardcore fan. You can easily walk in to the film and enjoy it without having seen a single episode of “Firefly.” On the other hand, the fans among us get the ultimate finale the series deserved but was robbed of. If you enjoy any kind of sci-fi, I absolutely recommend giving this film a shot. Hopefully, I’ll get to “Babes Brothers” next week, but who knows? This week alone I watched a Japanese film about 9th grade students killing each other on an island, a British flick best described as “The Office” crossed with “Deliverance,” and a thriller about a 14-year-old-girl playing mind games with a pedophile. Needless to say, I have lots of time on my hands.

Alex Ernst thinks way too much about the meaning of the polar bears in “Lost.” You can reach him at alexern@ursinus.edu.

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**MATT FLINTZ DAN SERGEANT**

**Communism for Dummies**

**CHRIS CURLEY**

**Modern Times**

**The Back Row**

ALEX ERNST

The Back Row

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Men’s soccer capture first win

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The Bears produced a couple of impressive performances in the past week, defeating Delaware Valley 4-0 and giving Gettysburg, the #23 ranked team in the nation, a major scare in a 3-1 loss. The results left the Bears with a record of 1-2-2, but should provide much needed confidence for the remainder of the season.

Gettysburg arrived at Ursinus on Sat., Sept. 30, doubly confident of an easy victory, given that their lone conference blemish was a 1-0 loss on the turf of Johns Hopkins. While Gettysburg did enjoy a 1-0 lead into halftime, thanks to a 33rd minute goal by Bill Mozet, it was evident that the home side had no intentions of going down without a fight. Just five minutes after halftime, Bears leading scorer Doug von Allmen scored from a difficult angle off of an assist by Dustin Young. The goal gave Von Allmen two goals and one assist on the season. The game would remain tied until 66th minute, when the Bears conceded a direct kick after fouling the Bullets. Geoff Menge headed the ensuing free kick into the net giving Gettysburg a 2-1 lead. Despite yet another strong performance from keeper Ed de Gottal, the Bears would concede another goal late in the afternoon. De Gottal made eight saves on the afternoon. Von Allmen and Young lead the Bears offensive attack, taking three shots apiece.

The spirited performance left the

A look into Ursinus College fall athletics

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Ursinus College athletics has certainly had its good moments, its bad moments, and its simply awesome moments this fall season. The Centennial Conference has seen intense competition from every UC athletic team this season, as well as good sportsmanship from every program.

The Ursinus cross country teams have put up a stellar performance up to this point in the season. The men’s team has finished fourth, second, sixth, and 24th in the four invitational races they have participated in, respectively. It was during the Keystone Invitational that the men’s cross country team showed what they could do, finishing second out of eight total teams. Chris DeCon ran the 8k event in 31:30 to take the individual title. He also earned Runner of the Meet.

The women’s team finished one better than the men’s team by capturing first place at the Keystone Invitational. The team overall has finished second, first, second, and 18th in their four competitions this season, respectively. Terrific scores for the young team that only has one senior on the squad this season. However, the Keystone Invitational was especially exciting for the Bears as it was the first first place finish under the direction of coach Chris Bayless. Sara McNally paced UC finishing second with a time of 21:55. Both teams can look forward to an even better second half of the season.

A team that has had incredible success this season is the Ursinus College field hockey team. Ranked fifth in the nation, the Bears are 10-2 overall and 8-0 in the Centennial Conference, continuing their unbelievable 38-0 CC unbeaten streak (from the 2004 season). Their only losses came from Messiah and TCNJ, who is currently ranked third in the nation. Leading the way for the Bears is goal keeper Jes Lamina. Jes, a junior, has started all 12 games and has had only 12 goals scored against her (1.27 gpg) and 42 saves. She has been named player of the week as well as the ECAC goal keeper of the week. On the offensive side of the turf, the leaders are top goal scorer Jess Rogers, as well as Kait Sutherland. Rogers has piled up ten goals and four assists this season for 24 points, while Sutherland has tallied seven goals and seven assists for 21 points.

Sutherland was named player of the week this past week for outstanding performances in three games, scoring three goals as well as assisting on three others. With the talent and effort this team has put forth in the first half of the season, the expectations are even higher for the second half.

A team that is not doing as well, but has shown signs of life recently, is the UC men’s soccer team. The Bears have struggled this season with a record of 1-7-2 overall and 0-3-1 in the conference. However, they picked up their first win of the season against Delaware Valley with a convincing 4-0 victory. Chris Bascom tallied not only his first collegiate goal, but also first two-goal game of his career. Bascom is also one of the teams’ top-three scorers, along with Doug von Allmen and John George who have tallied two goals on the season.

The other Ursinus soccer team, the women’s team, has been steady this season compiling a record of 4-5 overall and a 2-3 record in the Centennial Conference. Leading the way for Ursinus is Nicole Papp, whose lone goal in the 71st minute against Swarthmore gave the Bears the victory. Papp has registered two goals this season. Jess Guzelnman and Sarah Gardner also have tagged on two goals for the season. Amanda Leahterman leads the team with three goals on the season. Both the men’s and women’s teams are looking to improve in the second half of the season.

The Ursinus College volleyball team has struggled this season with an overall record of 2-14 and 0-4 in the conference. With wins against Rosemont and Mitchell, the team has certainly shown its youth. Michele Finney and Melissa George are the only seniors on the team. The team hopes to turn things around against conference opponent Dickinson College on Oct. 7.

The Ursinus football team has experienced quite a ride so far this season. The bears are 5-0 overall and 1-0 in the conference. Ted Wallingford leads the team as its quarterback, along with defensive standouts Rob Gibson and Matt Duppel, and offensive guard Keith Lynn, who captains the team. The Bears’ defense has been the story so far, keeping three out of the five opponents they’ve faced off the scoreboard. The team as a whole are first in the conference and are also receiving votes for the Top 25 in the nation. The Bears face conference opponent Muhlenberg this weekend in Allentown.