



11-16-2006

## The Grizzly, November 16, 2006

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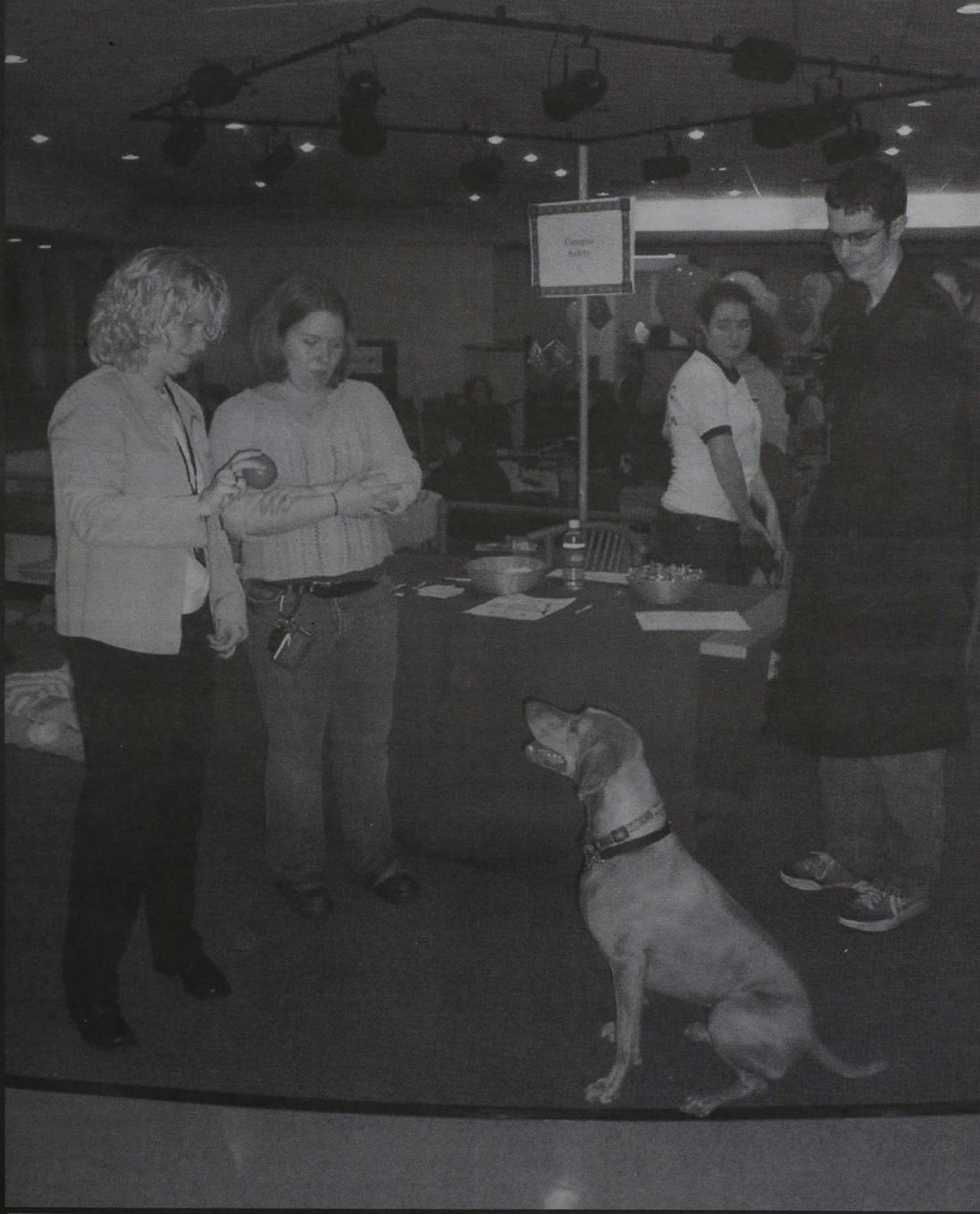
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# The Grizzly

Thursday, November 16, 2006

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

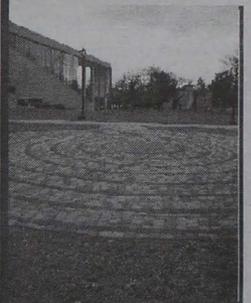
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## Election results bring significant changes

DAN LAMSON

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The democrats swept the nation last week, as they reclaimed both the House and the Senate. However, some elections closer to home yielded varying results.

Incumbent Jim Gerlach, and his opponent, Lois Murphy, of the Pennsylvania 6th District, faced off in a tight congressional race. The 6th district, in which Ursinus College is situated, has been held by republican Gerlach since 2002. This district was one of the last of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives to have a winner confirmed. This race was one of the closest in the country, with only 3,001 votes, less than one percentage point, separating victor from opponent. It was so close that neither candidate declared victory or conceded until more than a day after the polls closed. With the vote so close and absentee ballots still needing to be counted, Murphy said, "I have no reason to believe that, when the official result is announced, it will be any different."

Negative advertisements were targeted at both candidates, though neither approached the level of 2004, when the National Republican Committee ran an ad saying that MoveOn.org, and, by association, Murphy, supported the Taliban in Afghanistan, as well as its rapes of women and public executions. This year, the NRCC ran an advertisement that was later deemed to misrepresent Murphy's position on body armor for troops, and the ad was pulled by Comcast Cable. Gerlach was targeted for his acceptance of \$30,000 from former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's ARMPAC, and not returning or donating the money after the breaking of the recent scandal involving DeLay. Gerlach argued that he would return the money if DeLay was convicted of those crimes for which he was indicted. The final decision was not reached until mid-afternoon on Nov. 8, the day after the election.

In other Pennsylvania elections, Democrats came out ahead, as they did in the nation as a whole. Governor Ed Rendell was reelected by a wide majority, defeating his opponent, Lynn Swan, former football player. The incumbent received 60% of the vote, while the contender only received the remaining 40%. Most opinion polls showed that Rendell was ahead anywhere from two to 20 points in the days leading up to the election and that it was a relatively safe election for the former Philadelphia mayor. There were some early signs that signaled that this race might be close, but then several political errors were committed by Swann, and Rendell spiked in the polls.

One other key race in the state of Pennsylvania was the Senate race. Bob Casey Jr. challenged the serving senator, Rick Santorum, and won in a landslide victory. Santorum has long been seen as a conservative by many of the voters, and he has made some controversial decisions. He has a very strong position in the privatization of Social Security, which upset many older Pennsylvania residents, and brought forth the fiery vengeance of the AARP. Casey won a large majority of the vote and it was his social platform, which is more conservative than the democratic norm, that analysts say may have helped propelled him to victory.

Throughout the country, voices resounded in their desire for change, and the change has been granted to the people of America.

## Peace vigil on campus

Students at Ursinus College took place in a peace vigil on Monday, Nov. 6, at 11:30 a.m. in front of The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art.

The rally was executed to support positive changes in the safety and community of Ursinus College, in light of recent events. The protest was peaceful and was supported by many members of the student body, faculty and staff.



## Ursinus maintains its health

KRITHIKA KRISHNARAO

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Wednesday, Nov. 8, marked the day of the annual Wellness Fair at Ursinus.

Vendors from the surrounding area took part in this event to increase awareness of different aspects of health and well being.

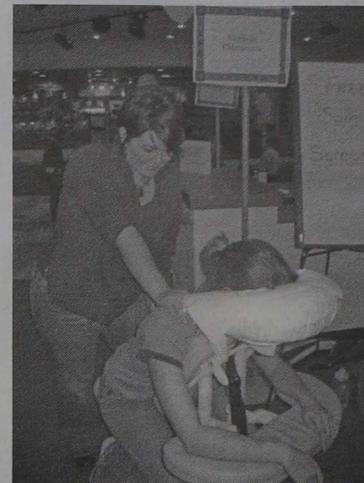
A total of 19 vendors—10 off-campus and nine on-campus—set up booths turning Wismer Lower Lounge into an extravagant exhibition with various activities for everyone. Approximately 150 to 200 people turned up for the event.

"It is a way to promote all dimensions of wellness by bringing off- and on-campus vendors together for one big event," said junior Lindsay Kulovitz, House Coordinator of the Wellness House, who was vital in making the event a success. "It's been around for years, without anyone knowing about it," she added. "They came to me last year, as [I am] the [House Coordinator] of the Wellness House, to try and make it a big event again, and now it has been big for two years."

From raffles to massages, the Wellness Fair offered unique and exciting activities. Vendors such as Mary Kay, Progressive Rehab, Connelly Chiropractic, Healthy Step Gym, and the Pennsylvania State Police came together to participate in the fair.

"I think there are a lot of different groups that came out that normally we wouldn't have access to," asserted senior Kari Sears, Chief of Student Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV). "It gives people a chance to see people outside their normal roles and have fun." Many on-campus groups were also present, such as SERV, the Psychology Club, and the Wellness House.

"The different stands represent companies showing off their product[s]. [The Wellness Fair] is basically anything to do with the wellness of the campus and demonstrates any situation you would be in," explained sophomore Stephanie Rogman. The most popular attractions were the Pennsylvania State Police and their intoxication goggles, the massage therapists, the raffles and prizes, and the Campus Safety dog.



## The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31, Issue 11  
grizzly@ursinus.edu

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# Lecture examines the ethical treatment of abandoned embryos

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Frozen embryos were the hot topic of debate at a lecture titled "The Question of Ethical Treatment of Abandoned Embryos," given Nov. 2.

The lecture was presented by Dr. Julie Tannenbaum, formerly of the University of California and currently a member of the Department of Clinical Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health.

Tannenbaum explained that one in every seven couples has difficulties conceiving, and often turn to in vitro fertilization (IVF) as a way of starting a family. To maximize the success of this process, IVF specialists retrieve more eggs from the woman than they need and form embryos that are never used. The embryos are then frozen and stored. Lately, since technology has improved, the number of embryos being transferred has decreased, while the number of left over, frozen embryos has increased.

By 2002, there were 500,000 frozen embryos in IVF clinics all across the country, and a heated debate was emerging about the ethical consequences of discarding the unused embryos. "They don't agree about what they should do with the embryos," said Tannenbaum. Tannenbaum explained that parents often stop paying storage fees, and IVFs are forced to consider the embryos abandoned. "IVF clinics are fearful of lawsuits," she said, explaining the possibility of parents reappearing years later only to find their embryos have been thrown away. "They often go to court."

In order to answer the question of whether it is morally permissible to discard an unused embryo, Tannenbaum first granted the assumption that embryos have a moral status

## SquadZilla brings hip-hop to life at Ursinus

SALIA ZOUANDE

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On Friday, Nov. 3, members of the Ursinus student body were up for a hot performance in Wismer Lower Lounge, with one of the biggest rising groups of young talented hip-hop artists in the rap music industry today, SquadZilla.

The hip-hop show was created to have some entertainment in conjunction with United Students Against Sweatshops Mid-Atlantic Conference (USAS) to protest against the workers conditions in sweatshops throughout the world, and, as seen in the news, the recent firing of more than 5,000 Kenyan sweatshop workers in Kenya (East Africa) belonging to one of the Rising Sun Factory branches.

SquadZilla is a Philadelphia native hip-hop group composed of eight young talented rappers who have undertaken their own solo careers. They do a lot of local shows in Philadelphia's local bars and night spots, such as The Balcony and Sneaker Freaks. Sophomore Kristina Hill, also known as DJ Special "K", and senior Evan Thornburg, or DJ E'xtacy, who run a radio show on WVOU, Ursinus' campus radio station, discovered SquadZilla at their CD release party over the summer. They were completely blown away by their energy and talents, and so contacted them to perform at Ursinus.

Hill spent time with members of the group over the summer, and when school started and her radio show was on the air, she was able to play some of their hit songs and do interviews with them.

"The concert was the biggest turn out for any musician coming at Ursinus," exalted Thornburg. Approximately 100 students were in attendance. The show was the first hip-hop show Ursinus has ever had. The crowd was definitively responsive to the group, and, in turn, the group entertained all those that came out by doing some of the songs from their album, as well as individual songs from some of the members' solo CDs. There were also some beat-boxing melodies and spoken word pieces done by "Just Greg." Overall, the group showed a lot of enthusiasm and had a great stage presence.

This concert was co-funded by the club Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN), but many representatives from other organizations were present, such as members of the Ursinus Student Government Association (USGA), We Care About The Nation (WeCAN), and the Association of Latinos Motivated to Achieve (ALMA). Thornburg pointed out that the concert owed its success to all those in attendance. She was very happy that everyone was able to come together for this performance, particularly in spite of the recently addressed racial tension on campus.

For more information about Hill's shows on WVOU radio, please check your campus radio show listings, or e-mail her at krhill@ursinus.edu. For more information about the different dates of SquadZilla's shows in the Philadelphia area, please check out their profile at [www.myspace.com/zillaface](http://www.myspace.com/zillaface).

(she was clear that she was not taking this stance, but merely granting the assumption for the purposed of her talk). "If you grant this assumption and if people feel like they have no obligation," she elaborated, "then we don't even need to have this debate."

Tannenbaum first looked at whether women were morally obligated to implant frozen embryos. "No," she very clearly stated as an answer to her question. "There is more than one way of keeping the embryo alive," she stated, referring to the possibility of freezing the embryo. "There is no reason that the woman has to provide the most burdensome way of aid."

Tannenbaum then analyzed the existence of the over half million pre-existing frozen embryos and asked the audience a question: "Is anyone obligated to keep frozen embryos frozen?" Tannenbaum came to the conclusion that because of the high cost of keeping frozen embryos stored (\$300 a year), people don't have an obligation to accept this burden.

Unfortunately, many IVF clinics have reached their capacity and have begun to transfer the embryos to storage facilities. These facilities, however, are placed in a difficult position in the debate about what to do with them, because they, unlike the IVF clinics, did not create the embryos. However, they are now given the burden of what to do with them. "If you are not responsible, do you think you have obligations?" asked Tannenbaum, comparing storage facilities to a person finding a baby on their doorstep, or to a middle class citizen choosing whether or not to commit money to starving children.

In the end, Tannenbaum suggested that while women are not responsible to implant, couples should try to accept the responsibility of keeping the embryos frozen. "My goal is not to answer the questions, but to give you ways to think about it," said Tannenbaum.

The United States currently doesn't have a policy concerning the handling of embryos following implantation or a length of time during which the parents have been unreachable. In England, all embryos are destroyed after five years, and in Italy and Germany, all embryos created must be planted. "But," Tannenbaum pointed out, "whatever policy we adopt, it won't solve the problem of the embryos that are currently frozen in the United States."

For more information about programs and lectures at Ursinus College, visit the college website, [www.ursinus.edu](http://www.ursinus.edu), or call 610-409-3000.

## Ursinus campaign surpasses goal

### COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

Ursinus College has concluded the most successful fundraising campaign in its history, surpassing the original \$115 million goal by raising more than \$120 million to enhance the college's academic mission, which emphasizes student achievement and a long-standing egalitarian tradition.

The Ursinus College Board of Trustees has announced the end of the highly successful comprehensive campaign, called "Taking Our Place: The Campaign for Ursinus." The Taking Our Place campaign has raised \$120,078,091 in cash, pledges and planned gifts. Support has come from more than 12,477 donors, including 7,000 alumni. Thirty-one donors made gifts of at least \$1 million each to Ursinus.

The campaign provides the resources to enact a vision for Ursinus. At the start of the campaign, which was publicly announced in October 2003, President Strassburger said, "We now have the chance to ensure that this extraordinary college, this engine of transformation, will have the resources to stand as one of the country's finest educational resources. We are taking our place, permanently, among the greatest colleges in the land."

The vision included the addition of a broader curriculum and a larger student body for Ursinus. Enhancement of the fine arts, increasing opportunities for student achievement, maintaining a favorable student faculty ratio, and opportunities for faculty scholarship and professional growth were among the goals and results of the campaign.

The visible centerpiece of the campaign was the architecturally acclaimed Performing Arts Center, The Kaleidoscope, which opened in April 2005. The campaign enabled renovations to the campus' oldest building, Bomberger Hall, built in 1891. The building is being completely upgraded for accessibility, energy efficiency, and teaching. In addition to the Berman Museum of Art, a new turf playing field, improvements to Helfferich gymnasium, and other physical plant additions are also made possible by the success of the campaign.

## HPV and cervical cancer: the facts (part two)

LANE TAYLOR

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The possibility of acquiring a sexually transmitted infection is one of the possible consequences that make sex complicated, especially when the infection itself is complex. This is the case with HPV infections, which are not as easily understood or straightforward as other STIs. In part two of this installment, we will discuss cervical cancer, a condition that can be caused by an untreated HPV infection, and the means necessary to prevent and treat this condition. Hopefully, this article will unweave some of the complexity of HPV, allowing you to better understand and prevent this infamous STI.

Though it perhaps goes without saying, cervical cancer afflicts the cervix, which is located at the end of the vagina and serves as the entrance-way into the uterus. It is important to remember that while men cannot develop cervical cancer, they can transmit it to women. This is the case because cervical cancer develops from HPV infections that both men and women can carry. On a positive note, however, not all HPV infections cause cervical cancer. (Planned Parenthood)

In fact, the majority of HPV infections that occur go away without any treatment. However, some high-risk forms of HPV can lead to cervical cancer. These infections cause abnormal cell growth on the cervix, which in turn causes cancer when the cell growth cannot be naturally curbed. Fascinatingly, many women develop immunities against forms of HPV that they've encountered, and many fully recover from HPV infections. It is still unclear as to why some women are unaffected by HPV, while others develop cervical cancer. However, it has been discovered

that women with an immunodeficiency are at a much higher risk for developing cervical cancer than women with healthy immune systems, though statistically, the majority of HPV cases occur in women with healthy immune systems. (Planned Parenthood) An immunodeficiency can be caused by a variety of factors, including HIV/AIDS, chemotherapy, certain medications, and age. For more information regarding the health of your immune system, contact a medical health professional.

Unfortunately, the high-risk forms of HPV infections that cause cervical cancer rarely have any symptoms. However, once the cancer develops, women may experience lower abdominal pain and increased vaginal bleeding and discharge, particularly during intercourse. While these symptoms are worrisome, they do not necessarily mean that a woman has cervical cancer; a diagnosis can only be determined by a medical professional. If you are sexually-active, to prevent and monitor yourself for cervical cancer, schedule a yearly gynecological exam and Pap smear. If warranted, your gynecologist may make testing more frequent, depending on your risk for developing HPV. (Planned Parenthood)

If the results of the Pap smear are abnormal, your medical professional may re-test you, order a colonoscopy and biopsy to confirm cancer as a diagnosis, prescribe medication, and/or order other tests. If cervical cancer is diagnosed, there are several treatments that may be recommended. One option is cryotherapy, during which the abnormal cells are frozen off of the cervix. Another is laser surgery, during which the abnormal cells are destroyed with a laser. LEEP, or a procedure during which a thin loop of wire destroys abnormal cells using an electrical current, is a third option. Generally speaking, HPV is not

treated until it manifests as abnormal cell growth. In other words, if genital warts, pre-cancerous cells, or cervical cancer develop, it will be treated. (Planned Parenthood)

As mentioned in part one of this installment, HPV can be transmitted through anal and vaginal intercourse, and in some cases, during oral sex or intimate skin-skin contact. While condom use reduces the risk of transmitting HPV, it is not always preventative, because HPV infection can develop on areas of the genitals not covered by a condom. (Planned Parenthood)

Now that together we've worked through the complicated infection and consequences associated with HPV, we can go out into the world a little more confident that we're well informed and responsible enough to engage in a sexual relationship. To those who have stuck with me through these two installments and gained this new knowledge, I say, "Kudos."

## Career Corner

### CAREER SERVICES

[www.ursinus.edu/career](http://www.ursinus.edu/career)

If you have a profile on an online social networking site such as Facebook, MySpace, Friendster, LiveJournal, etc., you should assume that you are being watched by more than just innocent people who want to make new friends. As employers and graduate schools become aware of this vast pool of revealing information, they are using it as a way to screen potential and current employees and students. Career Services recommends not putting anything online that you would not want included in a job application.

In a recent survey, 77 percent of recruiters said they run searches on the web to screen applicants, and 35 percent of these same recruiters said that they've eliminated candidates based on the information they uncovered. Don't let online social networking deep-six your career opportunities. Protect your image by following these simple tips:

**Be careful.** Nothing is private. Derogatory comments, revealing or risqué photos, foul language, and lewd jokes will be viewed as a reflection of your character. Also, be aware of your use of jargon or slang so that your words are not misinterpreted.

**Be discreet.** If your network offers the option, consider setting your profile to "private," so that it is viewable only by friends of your choosing. But, don't forget that in some cases, employers can view "private" profiles. And since you can't always control what other people say on your site, you may want to use a "block comments" feature.

**Be prepared.** Check your profile regularly to see what comments have been posted. Use a search engine to look for online records of yourself to see what is out there about you. If you find information you feel could be detrimental to your candidacy or career, see about getting it removed, and make sure that you have an answer ready to counter or explain "digital dirt."

Excerpts of this article were taken from [CareerBuilder.com](http://CareerBuilder.com).

shape, she is still very excited to see them on stage. "You don't really see what a piece is about until you see the students in performance. It's thrilling to see what they do on stage. They are great performers. Sometimes students tend to freeze up on stage, but our Ursinus students tend to be really strong performers!" See you at the performance!

## A preview of the upcoming UCDC performance

ERIN PADOVANI

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On Nov. 16, 17, and 18, the Ursinus College Dance Company's (UCDC) fall concert will take place in the Lenfest Theater in the Kaleidoscope. Each show begins at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets cost \$2, while general admission tickets cost \$5. Professors of Dance Cathy Young and Chris Aiken primarily organized the concert. Though Cathy has been at Ursinus for four years, she has been teaching dance for the past 25 years at various colleges, universities, studios and festivals.

The dance program took flight after Young and Aiken arrived. Cathy shares that, "[Even though] our program is four years old, the upcoming concert is sophisticated and broad-ranging. The choreography is strong and the dancing is beautiful."

The program consists of seven pieces from different genres of dance. Throughout the concert, 50 to 60 different students will perform. Though many of the performers hold Dance majors or minors at Ursinus, other students just want a chance to perform, and are featured in the show. Cathy adds that, "We have a really exciting and growing program, consisting of Dance majors and minors. Many have a lot of training who want to have a professional career in the field of dance. We cast some pieces by audition to give the advanced dancers a chance to deepen their work. Other pieces are open to anyone who would like to participate, so that all Ursinus students can experience dance performance. We want to make sure that anyone

who wants to experience and perform dance has the opportunity to do so."

For the upcoming concert, three visiting choreographers have contributed their talents to the program. Aimee Wright, a senior, was most excited about Ruth Andrien, an adjunct professor who was a former principle dancer of the Paul Taylor Dance Company. She is not only contributing to the concert, but teaching a class as well. Shakia Johnson, a young hip-hop choreographer of Philadelphia, is also contributing to the program. Our very own Cathy Young worked with her when Shakia was 15 years old. Junior Danielle Langdon shares her enthusiasm for Shakia, stating that "She is amazing! The class has been nothing but fun and exciting. Hopefully, the performances will captivate our audience and show them just how much the dance program at Ursinus has grown." Finally, a premiere choreographer from Taiwan, Ming Shen Ku, is back after helping with last year's spring concert. Ku is known for experimenting with dance and video.

Among other performances, Ramon Clark will be performing a piece that he created during Summer Fellows. In the piece, he explores hip-hop as a contemporary form. The choreography of another piece was completed not only by Cathy Young, but by the rest of her class as well. They worked as a team to create a new piece that is interestingly based off a piece of writing found in Ursinus' literary magazine, *The Lantern*.

The dance concert will definitely be a big hit. To reserve tickets, you can call the box office at 610-409-3795. Though Cathy Young has seen all the pieces take

## The labyrinth: not just David Bowie in spandex

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Although it may not be considered part of the Outdoor Art Sculpture of which I'm so fond of writing, the labyrinth between Reimert and the Kaleidoscope is definitely a form of art. And no, I'm not talking about the art that is the classic 80's film starring David Bowie; this is practical art, art we should all take advantage of, especially for its inexhaustible health benefits.

At the Wellness Fair last week, I picked up an informational sheet about Labyrinths, explaining its health benefits and plenty of other tips on well being. Since I know not everyone could make it to the Wellness fair, I want to share those benefits with you, while at the same time enlighten you on the artistic aspects of a labyrinth.

There are several varieties of labyrinths, ranging from ancient Greek, to Medieval, to Modern. Prehistoric labyrinths were considered traps for Minotaurs (half-man/half-bull creatures) or evil spirits, while Medieval labyrinths were symbolic of the path to God. (wikipedia.org) The most common use of labyrinths today is as a means of meditation.

All labyrinths are designed to have a clear (albeit difficult) path to the center. You can use a labyrinth for personal mental health, spiritual discovery, or simple relaxation. Regardless of whether or not you're a spiritual person, taking the time to follow the path slowly and surely will allow your mind to calm down and unwind from the insane amount of stress that we live with every day. Who can say no to that?

If you have a specific problem bothering you, the labyrinth may help you find a solution. The general idea is that you enter the labyrinth with that problem in mind and focus on it as you walk the winding path. When you reach the center, take a few minutes to let your mind relax, while still keeping that issue in your head. In some cases, you may experience an "ah-hah!" moment on the walk out. If not, at least you made progress on your problem during your time in the labyrinth.

Ursinus currently owns not one, but two, labyrinths. The second one was created by honor student Laurie DiRosa and Professor Laura Borsdorf. Made out of 35 feet of canvas and paint, this labyrinth is portable and available for loan (contact lborsdorf@ursinus.edu for information).

I, for one, plan to take advantage of the labyrinth any time that I feel the pressure of college life taking over. The labyrinth allows for more than one person at a time, so feel free to join me!

The Wellness Center recommends these tips for walking the labyrinth:

- Go at your own pace
- Quiet your mind
- Notice images and thoughts as they occur, if they occur
- When you arrive at the center, spend some time there if you wish
- Exit following the same path you used when you entered

While labyrinth-walking, some people also enjoy:

- Praying or meditating
- Reflecting on an object with special meaning
- Repeating certain phrases to help them concentrate
- Reflecting on personal questions



## A review of "The Sisters Rosensweig"

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Ursinus College held opening night of "The Sisters Rosensweig" by Wendy Wasserstein on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006. Students and members of the community viewed the production in the Kaleidoscope Lenfest Theater. Director Beverly Redman coordinated a comfortable stage setting in which the cast appeared "at home."

The play surrounds three Jewish sisters. Each sister is struggling with her identity and all three realize that they need each other. Sara Rosensweig, played by Abbie Chichowski, is the oldest sister and single mother to Tess, played by Kelly Gassler. Sara suppresses her identity; she even keeps her second husband's last name, Good. She is a strong woman with a high-end job. However, she feels alone, until she meets Merv, played by Tim Frey. Merv distracts Sara from her planned lifestyle, and from Nick, played by Mark Smedberg. Nick represents a proper British gentleman, whereas Merv, like Sara, is a Jewish American living in Europe. Tess is flirting with the idea of moving away with her boyfriend Tom, played by Jason Comcovich. She wants to join a political movement and make a change; she wants to find her identity. Pfeni, played by Emily Spencer, is the baby of the three sisters, a worldly traveler, and unmarried at the age of 40. She dates Geoffrey, played by freshman Nick Bendas. They flirt with the idea of marriage. However, Geoffrey confirms his sexuality by the end of the play and leaves Pfeni for his boyfriend. Lastly, Gorgeous, played by Nadine Burt, is the sister who appears to have it all. She holds on to her Jewish ideals most strongly; she also works as "doctor" on the radio offering advice, and has a lawyer husband and three children. She is living the American dream, or so she fools the audience into believing. Each individual on stage performed brilliantly and had great chemistry with the other actors.

Nick Bendas's portrayal of Geoffrey was excellent. He worked well with each of his castmates. Nick took chances on stage by dancing around in his underwear and sporting a believable British accent throughout the play. The play focused mainly on women's identity, and Nick managed to make himself stand out.

Tim Frey is a junior who has performed in other Ursinus productions. He and Abbie Chichowski had excellent onstage chemistry and presented a believable relationship to the audience. Both had strong projections and performances.

The ambiance of the production was warm and inviting. The set was made to look like the living room of a home in London, the home of Sara and Tess. With comfortable furniture and warm lighting, the stage popped with familiarity. The costume designs were true to the 90s, especially Gorgeous's outrageous outfits.

"The Sisters Rosensweig" was an interesting choice for an Ursinus fall dramatic production. A lot of students and faculty members, as well as outside assistance, put great time and effort into bringing our community an enriching form of entertainment; thank you to all those who made it possible. Also, if you missed the play this semester, make sure you make it out for the spring production!

Interested in covering  
features stories on campus?  
E-mail Lane Taylor at  
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## Nerf: Yardstick of the Pentagon

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A good portion of the American male population of this generation had, at one point in their youth, an arsenal of Nerf weaponry so large that it would have made a prepubescent David Koresh drool with envy. Those days were a kind of bizarre Cold War microcosm, with plastic arms races escalating to ridiculous levels. Fortunately, our generation eventually grew out of this phase, which is more than can be said for the participants of the actual Cold War. But Nerf survived long after the interest of our generation waned, and in the interim, they have made a terrifying leap in technology, the likes of which I can only compare to the leap from muskets to assault rifles.

Whereas before, Nerf products were little more than elongated plastic tubes and springs, the company now markets weapons designed to look and function like actual weapons. Six-shooters, rocket launchers, and sub-machine guns round out the Nerf catalogue. But by and far, the most egregious offender is known as the "Longshot CS-6," which can only be described as the Nerf equivalent of a high-powered sniper rifle. No more Revolutionary-war-style muzzle-loading, either. This device is loaded with a clip and armed with a bolt, in the exact same fashion as modern military weapons are.

I can personally attest to owning a few examples of these "egregious offenders", primarily because college students with disposable incomes and a love for kitschy nostalgia are clearly a key demographic for this new gen-

## American press needs revamping

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America manufactures terrible automobiles. Our unions are destroying the economy and our aircraft manufacturers are second class. Our education system is in decline and our scientific community has already gone south. Our streets are infested with robbers and child molesters and our athletic stars are drug-addicted, steroid-using academic dropouts who can no longer compete on the world stage. The list of our failures is endless and we are doomed.

I know these things to be true. I am positive! I have been told them over and over again by the American press. It seems like this nation's media has been clobbering America for as long as I can remember.

I have a confession to make. I don't trust the American press. It seems to me that they all are very un-American. I know we have problems but their way of covering the news (when they actually manage to cover it) stinks.

A member of the American military in Iraq who commits a crime is fair game for all branches of the press, but an American soldier that does some decent things in an Iraqi village goes unmentioned. Our forces are condemned for an errant bomb or rocket while the militants can deliberately blow up school buses and kill scores of people with little condemnation from the press. A church is blown up in Bangladesh and trains are bombed in India and the press does not even note it. But a tortured prisoner in one of our jails ... that's news.

I have yet to see any American auto firm get a high mark in Consumers Digest. Toyota's Matrix got rave reviews yet the Pontiac Vibe, which is virtually the same car manufactured in the same factory in California, was never even mentioned. Only the Wall Street Journal bothered to

eration of Nerf. But judging from the commercials, which are available online, the main target (pardon the pun) of the advertising war is, and has always been, the 8-12 prepubescent crowd. It has been well-demonstrated by the sales history of G.I. Joe that war-themed toys sell better in times of war. That much, while still unsettling, is at least understandable. What continues to perplex me, however, is why these products are designed for consumption by children. One can wax paranoid for pages about possible military-industrial-complex conspiracies designed to ingratiate young children with a favorable impression of the armed forces that will last until they are of enlistment age. I think that's stupid, personally. More likely, in my opinion, Nerf is simply trying to turn a profit by appealing to humanity's baffling love of pretend combat. After all, children have been pretending to shoot, stab, and maim one another almost as long as older humans have actually been shooting, stabbing, and maiming one another. And I certainly won't argue that there is a correlation between pretend violence during childhood and actual violence in adulthood. Once again, I personally think that's pretty stupid.

My goal is not to criticize Nerf; after all, they're just trying to turn a profit. But if we use the increasing sophistication of Nerf weaponry as a yardstick to measure our own culture's increasing martial sophistication, then perhaps you will see why it is so hard for me to write off the existence of facsimile sniper rifle designed for middle-schoolers as a "boys will be boys" phenomenon. In fact, I'm not sure which I should be more afraid of; the next weapon coming out of Nerf, or the next one coming out of the Pentagon.

report that eight of the top ten cars on the road after five years with the fewest problems were American.

General Motors is producing great cars that can only be purchased after weeks on a waiting list. Pontiac's G6 is the least expensive hardtop convertible in the market. Saturn's VUE hybrid gets better mileage than any other hybrid SUV out while the SKY sport car is one of the most highly demanded automobiles available. Cadillac was rated higher than all German car manufacturers except Porsche, and most GM cars now come with a one hundred thousand mile warranty; yet there remains limited support from the press.

Perhaps it is time for some friendly criticism of our press. They are a self-righteous group who judge few as harshly as they judge us. They have allowed the Muslim extremists to remove freedom of speech from our vocabulary and never seem to take a pro-American position on any item of consequence.

We are not perfect; as a people we have our failings. All of our products are not successful worldwide and our military has committed mistakes. Some of our politicians have alternative motives and some of our streets are not safe. But all in all, we as a nation and as a people have accomplished a lot.

We have walked on the moon, demonstrated democracy, taken in the world's tired and poor and offered all an opportunity to dream, to achieve and to live in freedom and practice their own beliefs and religions. Not a bad record. We do have problems. Some are very serious and endanger our way of life and the nation's well being. But a jaundiced press that only realizes faults will only hurt our country. It is important to realize where we have gone wrong; however, we must also understand where we have excelled and continue to do so.

## First Impressions of Earth

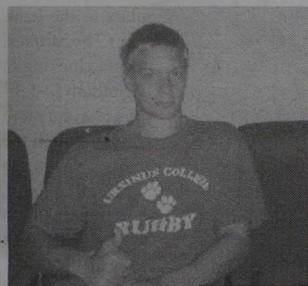
BRANDON BROWN  
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A few months ago, Albert Hammond Jr. of the New York band The Strokes created a MySpace page and announced a forth coming solo effort that would be UK only. Both Albert and management for The Strokes have announced that the band is not splitting, but rather that Hammond Jr. is merely doing what he does: writing music. Since I'm in the UK right now, I got the privilege of buying the record right after it came out; it was like destiny really, because I got the only remaining copy in the store. What does it sound like, you say? Well, to be honest, the first half is distinctly Strokes-esque. From the guitars to the bass, you can tell that it was written by a member of The Strokes. I must say though, it is a very good album, and clocking in at about 32 minutes, it is a fast listen. The album is definitely a good start for a solo career. The songs have a more upbeat nature than those of The Strokes and although the style is reminiscent of the group, I think this owes to the fact that they've just come off writing their recent album, *First Impressions of Earth*, and also that Hammond Jr. is trying to stick to what he knows how to do. The most interesting part of the album is getting to hear him sing. Hammond has a very mellow voice that doesn't have the jaded, painful sound of the always amazing Julian Casablancas, or the raspiness of Dylan...yet (I say this because Albert Hammond Jr. smokes a lot). Now on to your favorite part (ok my favorite part), notable songs: *Call the Ambulance*, *Scared*, *Blue Skies*, and the first song, *Cartoon Music for Superheroes*. Now before I get into these songs, it must be asserted here and now that *Scared* is one of the best simple relationship songs I've heard in a while. Although the lyrics are simple and the chorus is repeated for much of the song, as the song climaxes your attention is pulled to how poignantly dead-on the chorus is: "I know you're still there because you're scared that you'll lose everybody, I know you're still there because you're scared that you'll lose everything, I know you're still there because you're scared." There is something in this song: the way the verses profess a friend's or love's desire to be perfect for another person, and the dark and somber tone of the chorus that changes the listener's perspective on what the song is about. *Blue Skies* is a nice little acoustic ditty which stands out amongst all the other songs. *Cartoon Music for Superheroes* is very much like a Strokes song and is a fitting album opener. It is a song with a simple picked rhythm, a steady bass line, and guitar melodies which interact well with the other instruments so that no one instrument is dominating the song for attention. In conclusion, what makes the album most interesting is how Albert Hammond Jr. manages, in the span of 32 minutes, to have enough music for the listener to enjoy, but also leaves you wanting more.

Do you have a fever, and the only prescription is...writing in the Opinions section? Contact the Opinions Editor at mafflyntz@ursinus.edu

## “Traffic” (2000)

There have been any number of movies that have explored the horrors of drugs, the very real costs on the users, the families of the users, on anybody remotely connected to them. In recent years, it seems that there has been an increase in these types of movies, bringing to the screen the consequences in a very real way. These films include “Trainspotting,” “Requiem for a Dream,” and that one sequence in “Wet Hot American Summer” when they go into town. The flick this week deals with some pretty serious material, some of which hits close to home for me. If I’m not as jokey, I apologize, but really when I am ever funny? (Don’t answer that.)



**ALEX ERNST**  
**The Back Row**

“Traffic” deals with three separate storylines that collide, weave in and out of each other, and deal with the problem of illegal drugs. In the first, the newly appointed drug czar Robert Wakefield (Michael Douglas) discovers his daughter Caroline (Erika Christensen, better known as the stalker from “Swimfan”) is a drug addict. The second deals with the problems of trophy wife Helena Ayala (Catherine Zeta Jones)

while her husband is tried on drug trafficking charges, as two DEA agents (the always excellent Don Cheadle and Luis Guzman) struggle to keep the witness who can put him away alive. Finally, a corrupt, yet conflicted cop (Benicio Del Toro) struggles to deal with the drug problems that line his pockets but destroy the community around him.

Needless to say, this is a complex flick. IMDB claims that there 135 different speaking parts, so picking and choosing the best acting in this movie is extremely difficult, as there is no such thing as a weak link in this flick. Two standouts that must be mentioned are Dennis Quaid and Topher Grace. Quaid plays the sleazy lawyer helping Helena Ayala, bringing a level of scum to his character that he rarely portrays on screen, making it quite refreshing. Topher Grace’s moment to shine comes as he and Michael Douglas are searching for Douglas’s character’s daughter. As they drive around, Grace delivers a fantastic monologue about how suburban kids coming into the inner city looking for drugs can actually create the drug trade, instead of vice versa. It is a moment that sticks with you long after the movie ends.

Steven Soderbergh does an amazing job creating three very different feels for the different locales, ranging from the cold, detached feel of the Ohio suburbs to the gritty atmosphere of Tijuana. With “Traffic,” Soderbergh once again demonstrated his ability to switch between artsy films like this one and straight up commercial flicks like his upcoming “Ocean’s Thirteen.” He has definitely proven himself a director, particularly with his upcoming project, “Jennifer Government,” based on the satirical novel of the same name.

Have an opinion? Set it free! Send your ideas to [mallyntz@ursinus.edu](mailto:mallyntz@ursinus.edu)

## A Democratic sneak peek

Last Wednesday, the soon-to-be Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), announced her plans for major pieces of legislation to be pursued by the Democratically-controlled 110th Congress. She, with soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) by her side, gave the following speech on the steps of the U.S. Capitol:

“First, a sincere thank you to everyone who voted for change. Change you want, and change you will get. Without further ado, I announce the Democratic plans for major pieces of legislation.

“Regarding our flag, we plan to introduce a Constitutional amendment defining a right to flag-burning. Along with this, we will introduce a sister bill of sorts which will require that all public schools replace the pledge of allegiance with a daily flag-burning ceremony. Of course, we will have to raise your taxes to afford all of these flags. But we are certain that it is worth the investment; what better lesson is there than the lesson of freedom of speech?”

“Next, regarding the use of embryos for stem cell research, we plan to appropriate large sums of money to forward this new and exciting science. In addition, we plan to introduce an “embryonic food-stamp replacement” program. Many Republicans and even moderate Democrats have voiced concerns with the welfare state, and as the Party of the People, we listen to *all* voices. Thus, rather than spending tax dollars on the food-stamp program, our proposal allows for low-income families to find nourishment in the leftover embryonic material after the research is complete. We strongly feel that this will cut back on governmental waste.



**MATT FLYNTZ**  
**DAN SERGEANT**  
**Communism for Dummies**

“We have always felt that the Republicans’ “abstinence only” sexual education program is foolish and impractical. Thus, we plan to appropriate funds to provide public schools with the materials necessary for a valuable and diverse sexual education. This will, of course, include funds for the distribution of condoms, but we also plan to provide funds for the implementation of our “Safety in Sodomy” program. Thus will provide public school students with the education necessary for the safe practice of fellatio, cunnilingus, and anal sex and the safe use of anal beads, butt plugs, and BDSM equipment. The safety of our children should *always* be our top priority.

“Naturally, these programs will require tax hikes; after all, we *are* the tax and spend Democrats! We plan to revise the U.S. tax code to distribute income equally across all social and economic classes. Some Republicans have suggested this is akin to Communism, but all I have to say to that is ‘Sour grapes.’ The Republicans are simply bitter at the results of the elections.

“However, we can also attain funds by taxing commodities. Rather than tax any existing legal commodities, we plan to legalize the possession and use of marijuana. However, the government (the FDA in particular) will have strict control over the cultivation and sale of marijuana. After we ensure that it is safe, we will tax it at a reasonable rate. Plus, legislating is a lot more fun when stoned out of one’s mind.

“These are simply some highlights of our plans for the next two years. More to come. Thank you, and may Darwin bless America.”

Matt and Dan played a key role in the Democratic takeover of Congress by constantly calling for Pennsylvania voters to vote against Rick Santorum. Send them your thanks at [mallyntz@ursinus.edu](mailto:mallyntz@ursinus.edu) and [dasergeant@ursinus.edu](mailto:dasergeant@ursinus.edu).

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## Bears down Dickinson in battle of top teams in Centennial Conference

**MATTHEW PASTOR**  
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When the top two teams in the Centennial Conference clashed on Saturday afternoon, you could not ask for a more fitting outcome. With family and friends on hand to honor the 17 seniors from this year's Bears' football team, Ursinus said farewell with a thrilling 31-24 overtime victory over the Dickinson Red Devils on Patterson Field.

It was a back and forth event involving big plays and phenomenal defense during pivotal points of the game. Dickinson struck first on their second possession of the game when quarterback Matt Torchia found Chris McInerney on a nine yard touchdown pass to give the Red Devils (8-2, 5-1 Centennial Conference) an early 7-0 lead. The Bears answered back later in the quarter thanks to a fumble recovery by Brian Hrynczyszyn deep in Dickinson territory and two plays later Josh Hannum found the end zone on toss reverse to knot the game up at 7-7.

Thanks to a 31 yard punt return by McInerney early in the second quarter, Dickinson started the drive deep in Ursinus territory and Torchia scrambled in from four yards out to give the Red Devils a 14-7 lead. The Bears (8-2, 4-2 Centennial Conference), whose offense has become quite explosive down the stretch, answered back two plays later after Ryan VanWright returned the ensuing kickoff 53 yards when Ted Wallingford found Hannum up the far sideline for a 40 yard touchdown pass evening the score at 14 apiece.

After the intermission, Dickinson kicker Matt Stark gave Dickinson its third lead of the game at 17-14 thanks to a 26 yard field goal in the middle of the fourth quarter, but once again the Ursinus offense answered back when Wallingford hit Brandon Evans on a 51 yard touchdown pass to give Ursinus its first lead of the game at 21-17.

this situation before, drove down the field as time was running out and tied the game at 24 thanks to Matt Torchia's third touchdown of the game with 1:19 left in regulation.

In the overtime period it was all Ursinus. On the first play the Bears had in overtime, Wallingford went up top and connected with Evans who made a terrific div-

since 1999.

Wallingford completed 9-20 passes for 191 yards and 3 touchdowns, while Hannum and Evans both accumulated two touchdowns on the day. The Dickinson defense held the Bears run game in check all afternoon holding Ursinus to only 32 net rushing yards. Along with Mast's performance, DeVohn Butler had a pretty good day himself with five tackles, three pass break-ups, an interception and a sack.

At a Centennial Conference coaches' meeting on Monday, 12 members of the Ursinus Bears were selected to the All-Conference team. 1st team honors went to Mike Trio, Brian Hrynczyszyn, DeVohn Butler and Jon Rinkus. 2nd team honors went to Aaron Harper, Josh Hannum, Brandon Evans, Rob Gibson, Chris Frank, Brandon Hasse, and Ryan VanWright. Centennial Conference honorable mentions went to Mike Kimpel and Stephen Ordog.

With the win, Ursinus was selected to host an ECAC playoff game this Saturday at noon on Patterson Field. The Bears will host Widener from the MAC in a one game postseason event. This will be the final game of the season regardless of the outcome, so come support your 8-2 Ursinus Bears and their 17 seniors in their final game at home, on Patterson and in the black and gold.



Due to an early injury on senior linebacker Stephen Ordog, freshmen Eric Mast stepped up big for the Bears. Mast accumulated 10 tackles on the day and a huge interception late in the game that Ursinus turned into a Justin Beres 20 yard field goal to give Ursinus a 24-17 lead late in the fourth quarter. However Dickinson, who has been in

ing catch in the back of the end zone to give the Bears a 31-24 lead after their half of the first overtime period. Dickinson then got their chance to tie the game, but all hopes of finishing 6-0 in the Centennial was lost when Chris Frank broke up a Matt Torchia pass on fourth and six to seal the victory for Ursinus and cap their first undefeated home campaign

## Bears win thrid straight CC Championship!

**DANIELLE LANGDON**  
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Watch out UC...the field hockey team is putting everyone to shame! The girls kicked some serious butt again this past weekend bringing in their third Centennial Conference (CC) championship. The top seated Bears advance on to face the second seated Johns Hopkins who defeated McDaniel 4-1 in the other semifinal game. Junior Lindsey Cappa started the scoring streak in the 26th minute, netting a penalty corner taken by CC Player of the Year sophomore Kait Sutherland. Sophomore Jennie Moore, embracing the energy of the game, scored two goals in a two minute, seven second time span in the second half of the game, putting the Bears in the lead 3-0. At the 54:51 mark, senior Jess Rogers helped Moore from the top of the circle, sending it to Moore, who put the ball into the back of the net, making it 2-0. Junior Meredith Stabley also helped out just two minutes later, sending another pass from the top of the circle and letting Moore put her one-touch shot past Schram for her second goal of the afternoon. Junior Jess Lamina who has had an outstand-

ing season thus far recorded her sixth shut-out. Lauren Schram made 15 saves for the Blue Jays who, for the first time since 2000, were making an appearance in the CC tournament. Moore must be bursting with ex-

dominating the first half 13-0 and defeating Muhlenberg for the second time this season. This victory gave eight-year head coach Laura Moliken her 100th victory!

Cheers to the girls who have now been

of Wednesday's game between Kenyon and Juniata. Ursinus will be appearing in the NCAA Division III tournament for the third consecutive year; they have earned their praise and position in the tournament thanks to their third straight CC championship conquest this past weekend. With a 7-0 win over Kenyon and a thrilling 2-1 win over then undefeated SUNY Cortland, the Bears now travel to New York to face Lebanon Valley in the 2006 Division III Field Hockey Final Four. It is the second year in a row that the Bears have made it this far into the postseason.

In their win against #1 SUNY Cortland, Centennial Conference Player of the Year Kait Sutherland scored both goals for the Bears in the 2-1 victory.

The Bears will play Lebanon Valley on Friday and should they win that match and move on to the finals, they will play on Saturday. Good luck to Coach Moliken and the Ursinus Bears Field Hockey team this weekend as you attempt to bring home the National Title for our school!



citement this week, seeing as she was also named the CC Offensive Player of the Week. She is joined by senior Allison Doult who received Defensive Player of the Week. The ladies maintained a 26-1 shot advantage,

selected to host the 2006 NCAA Division III regional field hockey tournament this weekend. With an outstanding record of 17-3, the Bears are ranked No. 7 in the latest NFCA Division III poll. They will play the winner