



12-7-2006

The Grizzly, December 7, 2006

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The Grizzly

Thursday, December 7, 2006

The student newspaper of Arsinus College

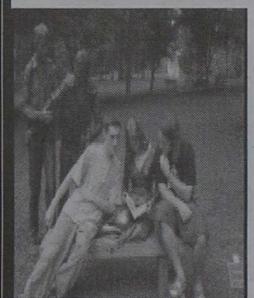
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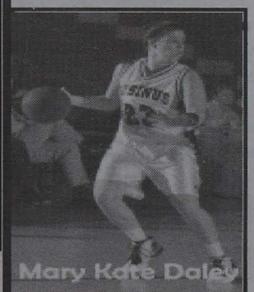
The dangers of Facebook
News, 2



What's rushing?
Features, 4



CfD wishes you a
Commie Christmas
Opinions, 7



Mary Kate Daley
Basketball report
Sports, 8

The Gospel Choir sings in the season

Collegeville, Pa.

Volume 31, Issue 13

Facing Facebook: Ursinus administrators show students the dangers of Internet use

AKASYA BENGE

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The presentation on Facebook was all that was promised and more.

Many students attended the event; some came out of curiosity, while others were concerned about the racial issues that have occurred on campus. Still others attended out of concern for "privacy."

And that's what most of the presentation focused on—privacy. The presentation began with a lecture by Detective Mary Anders, who started off by saying that there are over 957,753,600 users on the Internet, a number that is continually growing. Other information she provided included the fact that 12% of people who had met online agreed to meet, 61% had received pictures from another user, 30% had been in a chat room in which the discussion made them uncomfortable, and 50% had filled out a questionnaire that included personal information. Whatever information or pictures are posted on the Internet can be potentially seen by each and every one of those users.

The information also is almost virtually impossible to erase, she added. So, in years to come, whatever someone puts up will still be there, cached in one way or

another. She also reminded of the some of the humor in the situation, however, and showed students a clip on YouTube, a popular Web site comprised of videos posted by and viewed by the public, that parodied youth behaviors. The detective informed her audience that not only was Facebook a problem, but Myspace and other networks



were potentially dangerous. Not only are peers viewing these personal pages, but potential employers view them as well, and with public disclosure comes consequence. An inappropriate photo or other factor may deter an employer from hiring someone using these Web sites improperly.

She moved on to show actual pictures of Ursinus students in questionable positions. They were so visually disturbing that the previously giggly audience was shocked into silence. There was one Ursinus girl on collegehumor.com lying completely naked on a bed, covered in marijuana. While her face is not shown, she may not even know her picture was posted there, or how much it has been circulated since being taken.

The audience was reminded of the fact that while some pictures were meant in jest, sexual predators often view these sites. It is such a concern, that police will set up fake sites in which they pose as young girls in order to catch these predators.

But the concern isn't just about underage teenagers—this extends to everyone. People can find out who you are and where you live all just with the click of a button.

Fortunately, simple steps can be taken to protect your information. Setting your profile to private, being careful about what you say in the open, and monitoring all pictures that others tag of you should keep you safe from both employers and others.

For those of you who missed the presentation, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMlPXq1BG8> to see the video shown to the students.

New Berman exhibit to be longest-running show

CORINNE LICCKETTO

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Is there still life?

The most recent gallery exhibit at the Berman Museum of Art pushes us to ask that question. The gallery features works from Constance Moore Simon, Debrah Jospe, and Enid Mark. The function of the exhibit is to first force its audience to examine objects seen daily so as to inquire about the purpose these objects serve.

Simon, Jospe and Mark all reside within the region. Enid Mark lives in Philadelphia and specializes as a book artist. Many of the still-life paintings that are hung in Berman are excerpts from books that she has put together. Mixed in with three artists' works are selections from Berman's own permanent collection.

Nov. 18, 2006, marked the first day of the exhibit, and it will remain open over winter break through April 1, 2007. Susan Shifrin explained that this exhibit will be one of their longest displays. Due to the ample length of the still-life exhibit, Ursinus College is offering courses that will utilize the pieces. Shifrin is teaching the course "How we look at everyday things?" in which she will urge students to reexamine how we look at ordinary objects. There will also be some English courses that reference particular pieces within their focused studies.

Interestingly, this exhibit will build the foundation for expanded partnership with the local Perkiomen public school district. Prior to this exhibit, the district's middle school was basically the only school that worked with the college. Ursinus had a four-year partnership with the middle school and now the program has expanded district wide. Students will have the opportunity to visit the Berman and also to create their own drawings to be hung in the museum. Susan Shifrin commented that the children will become aware of the possibilities that art has to offer through the confidence of their displayed pieces.

The opening ceremony for the exhibit was held on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2006, and students, faculty, and community members were welcomed through the open museum doors. Everyone should take advantage of having the exhibit on campus. Still life offers everyone the chance of looking at seemingly plain objects in a new and extraordinary way. Shifrin explained, "The exhibit has given us the opportunity to place contemporary artists' work with the context of each other's work and in the context of historical artistic tradition; the tradition of still life."

For more information on this exhibit, contact Susan Shifrin, Associate Director for Education at the Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art, at sshifrin@ursinus.edu.

The museum is open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call the desk at 610-409-3500.

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31, Issue 13
grizzly@ursinus.edu

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Ursinus administration supports WeCAN's backing of worker's rights

SARAH KECK

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It's official!

Last week, as a result of a recent student and faculty campaign to ensure sweat-free collegiate apparel, the President and the Ursinus College administration approved the college's affiliation with the Workers Rights Consortium and the Designated Suppliers Program.

We Care about the Nation (WeCAN) was the driving force behind this affiliation. WeCAN is a student-run organization that has made itself visible on campus by hosting a weekend-long conference for the United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) Mid-Atlantic Region and participating in a protest at the King of Prussia Mall, among other admirable events.

This affiliation will require adopting a code of conduct and public disclosure of where Ursinus College apparel is currently being made. "As a member of the Designated Suppliers Program, we will also be securing the future of garment workers internationally by placing college apparel orders in factories around the globe that respect international labor rights laws and allow freedom of association and collective bargaining," asserted WeCAN President Dina Yarmus, a senior at Ursinus College. "It is only by holding big brands accountable for the conditions in the factories and providing positive incentives that universities, such as Ursinus College, can educate the world on how institutions can play a role in the respect for human rights internationally."

Adoption of this program will require Ursinus College to pay a yearly fee that will cover a wide array of expenses that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Accurate, thorough, timely and impartial assessments of conditions in factories that produce collegiate apparel and other goods, with specific reference to whether factories are in compliance with universities' Codes of Conduct.
2. Research on important dynamics and trends in the apparel industry that affect

workplace conditions in factories that produce collegiate goods.

3. The ability to work in concert with other WRC affiliates to address problems at supplier factories and improve conditions.

Student members of WeCAN were thrilled with the announcement from the administration. "I think it is so cool that the administration is taking [the Workers Right Consortium / Designated Suppliers Program] up," said Carolina Contreras, a sophomore at Ursinus College. "I think that it is so important for the Ursinus community to understand the garment industry abroad and begin to take the right steps toward working together with millions of workers internationally."

"We go to a liberal arts school," elaborated Chris Curley, a junior at Ursinus College. "We're supposed to value diversity, understanding, and equity. The adoption of the Workers Rights Consortium shows that the administration is willing to work with the student body and physically support the standards laid out in the college's mission statement. It's good to see them putting their money where their mouth is. I'd like to see more."

By joining the Workers Rights Consortium / Designated Suppliers Program, Ursinus College added their names onto a long list of schools, both large and small, including University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University, Kutztown University, Franklin and Marshall College, Moravian College, Dickinson College, Lehigh University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, American University, Penn State University, and Haverford College.

"The commitment that the college has made to workers' rights and human rights abroad by affiliating with the WRC/DSP shows the true exemplary character of our college," explained Katie Ringler, a senior at Ursinus College, "as a liberal institution that cultivates social awareness and responsibility."

Sounds of Gospel music bless the Lenfest stage

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The 9th Annual Gospel Concert this year at Ursinus was held on Dec. 3, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.

Within the Kaleidoscope, voices resonated and otherworldly sounds emanated through the vibrations within the building.

The group members had worked hard to achieve this remarkable sound, practicing for 2 hours weekly until the performance. The choir was led by director Michael Adenaik, a newlywed working on his residency. In the very few hours of free time he had, he organized and molded the members so that they could perform on this day.

The Gospel Concert is Christian in nature, but its atmosphere is so warm and friendly that anyone of any belief system may readily enjoy the beautiful music they created. The choir is comprised of students from freshman to seniors, compiled into a four-part harmony. They have the ability to sing a range of Gospel music, including spiritual, classical, and contemporary.

The whole event comprised of at least 16 pieces, including Gospel, poetry, and interpretational dance. Some of the pieces performed included "I Need You Now," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and "I Need You To Survive."

Included also were several short speeches by various members, such as Julian Weight and Dana Yancey, for the purposes of opening and closing with positive thoughts. In its entirety, it was an inspirational piece, and the group ended with a note that they hoped to move each of their audience's members, even if in the smallest way.

All members of the Ursinus community are encouraged and welcome to join the Gospel Choir.



Come be part of a worldwide movement that is striving to improve the livelihood of disadvantaged people in developing countries through the expansion of fair trade!

At the **Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale**, crafts and gifts made in developing countries will be sold, with all proceeds directly benefiting the artisans who made them.

Where:

Wisner Parents Lounge

When:

Friday, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

&

Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E-mail Katie Ringler (karingler@ursinus.edu) with any questions.

Unraveling the Floy Lewis Bakes Center

SIMON MARCUS

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Located between Ritter Center and the Kaleidoscope is a building that's home to the athletes of Ursinus. It's the one that's often referred to either as the Fitness Center, the Field House, the gym, Helfferich, or that funny-looking building called the Floyd Something-Something Center. In reality, though, it is all of these and much more.

In essence, the Floy Lewis Bakes Center is the place at Ursinus where one can go for whatever athletic need suits him or her. This is made obvious by the featured assortment of athletic areas, chief among them being the aforementioned Fitness Center and Field House. When you walk through the main entrance, to your left is the expansive Fitness Center. The facility features plenty of treadmills, exercise bikes, weight stations, and even televisions. If running or weight lifting isn't your thing, past the fitness center and further down the building's main hallway is the William Elliot Pool, which features six lanes, 25 yards, and plenty of spectator seating.

At the end of the building is the main feature of the Floy Lewis Bakes Center: the Field House. The gigantic facility features a 200-meter track, two batting cages, four basketball courts, three tennis courts, and a volleyball court. Of course, finding a time slot to use the Field House during team sport seasons will be tough at best. Assuming you can squeeze in some time and figure out all the numeric codes for lowering the curtains, batting cages, and basketball hoops, however, it's more than worth it.

All of these features are known to each and every

member of the Ursinus community and could easily be read about on the Web site. What isn't so obvious, though, are the more inconspicuous features. Like a hedge maze, there are difficult-to-find passages and rooms that are nonetheless worthwhile. Of course, the Helfferich Hall that you and I know of contains, of course, the 3,000-seat gym, which is impressive in its own right. Before the gym, though, is a certain door that is practically hidden that reveals an upwards stairway. This stairway leads to a hallway of classrooms. Yes, the school's athletic facility hosts some of your typical, everyday classes. Imagine my confusion last year upon receiving my schedule and seeing that an English class was in Helfferich Hall! Sure enough, the upper floor of Helfferich (which I hadn't even been aware of) housed pretty ordinary-looking classrooms. Sure, there are no windows to speak of, but they'll suffice.

Aside from the well-hidden upper floor, the facility also has an equally well-hidden basement. (Sniff around the gymnasium and you should find a stairway or two.) In this basement is the trainer's facility, which undoubtedly wouldn't be of much interest to someone simply exploring the building. Look hard enough in the deepest, darkest depths of the Floy Lewis Bakes Center, and you'll find a tiny door which opens to reveal, of all things, a racquetball court. Yes, Ursinus College has a racquetball court. I didn't know of this until recently, and I don't know too many who are aware of its existence at all. Trust me, though, when I say that there's nothing quite like a game of racquetball on a rainy weekend afternoon to pass the time. Of course, if racquetball isn't your thing, or you just can't find the place, the gym is there for, say, a basketball shoot or practically anything else.

What is rushing?

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As the fall semester quickly comes to an end, students may notice an unusual increase of invitation e-mails flooding their Ursinus inboxes. Requests to attend themed parties, off-campus semi-formals, and Wendy's Nights Out are just a few of the activities being offered to students. These activities are offered by Greek fraternities and sororities participating in an old Ursinus tradition called "rushing." Freshmen may find the tradition a bit confusing, but it's a wonderful way to meet new people. Organizations get to showcase their creativity and innovativeness by coming up with unique ideas for activities.

Every fall, sororities and fraternities are given the opportunity to plan events for potential New Member Educatees (formerly "pledges"). The Greek Fair that was held in Wismer Lower Lounge on Nov. 1 kicked off the month and a long tradition. The activities are designed to help students interested in becoming a member of a particular sorority or fraternity to get better acquainted with other members. Rushing requires students to have a friendly disposition, since socializing with other members of an organization is an important part of finding the right sorority or fraternity. Rushing also requires setting aside time to fully participate in the events and activities planned by the Greeks.

Rushing activities can vary in theme and time commitment. Some organizations hold rushing events centered

on community service, while other organizations opt for simple activities, such as a movie night. On Nov. 20, for instance, the sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma, a national sorority here on campus, hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for their rushes.

Students are encouraged to use rushing events as a tool to help identify the values and ideals of each Greek organization. Before making the final decision to participate in New Member Education, carefully consider each rush experience. When I was a freshman, I remember attending rush events without fully realizing their purpose. Greeks use rushing as a way to find out whether or not a student would be the right choice for their organization as well. Of course, these activities are planned to give busy students a chance to relax and have fun, but keep in mind that they also serve an additional purpose that may not be apparent.

As a senior member of the Greek organization Kappa Delta Kappa, it has been a pleasure attending the activities designed by our Vice President, Sharlene Brown, a junior neuroscience major. Our rushing activities are always varied and are designed to showcase our values such as sisterhood and diversity. A game of capture the flag with the brothers of Phi Kappa Sigma was an intense yet fun-filled way to create a sense of a Greek unity between fraternities and sororities. All eligible members are urged to attend the remaining upcoming events of all organizations on campus!

So, there is the Floy Lewis Bakes Center in a nutshell. Whether you'd like to work out, swim, play team sports, go to a dreaded class, or hunt for the ever-elusive racquetball court, the place is sure to at least provide a welcome distraction from the monotony of everyday college life.

For more information on the facility and Ursinus Athletics and Recreation, go to <http://www.ursinus.edu/Section/Athletics/index.asp>.

Career Corner: Networking

CAREER SERVICES

www.ursinus.edu/career

Did you ever think that your family holiday parties could be the key to your future? Perhaps you will see your favorite uncle who works for your dream organization, or maybe your cousin's friend is a marketing executive in an organization you have targeted for a summer internship. Spending time with family and friends during the holidays provides great opportunities to network!

Many individuals feel awkward asking for help and advice through networking, but experts agree it is an essential element of the career and job search. At least 60%—some report even higher statistics—of all jobs are found by networking. Don't hesitate to develop contacts, through friends, family, neighbors, college alumni, people in associations, or anyone else who might help generate information and job leads. You can take a direct approach and ask for job leads or try a less formal approach and ask for information and advice. Keep in mind that the people you ask are often flattered to be asked for advice and are more than eager to help.

Job Search Networking Tips

- Conduct informational interviews with your contacts and ask for referrals for additional meetings
- Always thank contacts in writing (e-mail is fine)
- Make a list of the assets you will bring as a prospective employee
- Write notes about your meetings on the business cards you collect or in a notebook so you'll remember the details of your conversation
- When networking online, keep track of who you've emailed and what you have said so you can follow up

Finally, consider your knowledge, skills, and abilities, and write them down—you'll need to articulate these when talking with contacts, writing your resume and cover letter, and during interviews.

Additional Networking ideas:

- Check out the Grizzly*E Network, the UC online alumni mentoring database that features alumni who have volunteered to talk with students about their work (access this through UC CareerNet)
- Get involved with Professional Associations in your field of interest (e.g., the local chapter of the Public Relations Society of America)

For more information, call, e-mail, or visit Career Services! Happy Holidays!

Health in ten questions: Influenza

DR. PAUL DOGHAMJI & LANE TAYLOR

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1. What are some effective methods of preventing the flu?

Influenza, or "the flu," is a virus that is easily transmissible via casual contact. It is a respiratory infection, attacking the nose, throat and lungs. About 10% to 20% of Americans get the flu each year; all getting sick enough to be incapacitated, only some getting sick enough to become hospitalized. 20,000 people die yearly from the infection.

First and foremost, prevention involves avoiding contact with those who have it and are spreading it. Because the flu is a respiratory illness, it is transmitted via respiratory means. That is, any fluid that comes out of the nose and throat can harbor the virus, but also the water droplets in one's breath. So, as one exhales, but especially as one sneezes and coughs, one is spewing a gazillion viruses aimed at your nose and mouth. Thus, avoiding being in the "breathing zone" of one who is ill will lessen the probability of breathing in the flu virus. (Being a few arm's lengths away is the minimum.) Also, since the virus is in one's exhaled, expectorated, and sneezed fluids, it can get on to utensils, food, handkerchiefs, and hands (and possibly other body parts). So, avoiding putting these objects in one's mouth is important in prevention. An extra precaution is always washing one's hands before eating and drinking anything. Bottom line, get more hygienic.

The second method is immunization. This is the best way to avoid getting the flu. The vaccine is available by shot ("flu shot") or by nasal spray. To be effective, it should be given 6 weeks or more before the flu season, which starts in February.

The third method of prevention is to do something about those who are infected. People are most contagious in the first two days of illness. They should either stay home, or if they are in recovery and must leave the house, they should wear a surgical mask.

A fourth method of prevention are antibiotics. In households where someone comes down with the flu, others can be given antibiotics prophylactically (see below).

To summarize:

- Wash your hands often using soap and water
- When you cough or sneeze, use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose. Discard used tissues in a wastebasket
- Don't have a tissue? Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve
- Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing. Use soap and water or an alcohol hand sanitizer
- Stay at home if you are sick
- If you are exposed closely to someone who definitely has the flu, ask your doctor if antibiotics are right for you

2. What can we do if soap and water are not readily available?

Hand sanitizers are a reasonable alternative to preventing spread from hands. Although they are not as good as soap and water, they are a reasonable alternative because of their high alcohol content.

3. Who should be vaccinated for the flu?

Anyone who wants to be protected from getting the flu should be vaccinated. Because some people have a higher risk of flu complications, such as pneumonia and death, these people **should** get the flu vaccine every year:

- All children aged 6 to 59 months
- All adults aged 65 years and older
- All women who are or will be pregnant during the flu season
- Residents in nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- Individuals who have long-term health problems (asthma, diabetes, cancer, heart failure, AIDS, etc.)

- Children aged 6 months to 18 years who are on chronic aspirin therapy

- Healthcare workers who have direct contact with patients
- Caregivers and household contacts of children fewer than 6 months of age

4. What are some of the possible risks associated with the vaccine?

The flu vaccine is safe. Occasionally, you might get a sore arm from it that can last a day or so. That's pretty much it. And no, the flu vaccine does not cause the flu! If you got the nasal-spray vaccine, you may have a runny nose, headache, cough or sore throat. But, there *are* those who can't take the flu shot:

- People who have had an allergic reaction to it in the past
- People with an allergy to eggs
- People who have previously developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a partial or complete paralysis that resolves spontaneously) within 6 weeks of getting a flu shot

5. Why is this an important year to watch out for the flu?

Actually, every year is an important year. Last year, many lackadaisically didn't

get the flu shot, yet practiced poor (or no) hygiene measures, and they got hit hard. And, to add salt to the wounds, many of these patients had to be sent home to spend a week with their parents.

But this year may be a good year to get more savvy about the flu, because there is this "superflu" brewing out there: the Avian Flu. This started in China and Southeast Asia, and has been killing many fowls (chickens, ducks, etc.) quite rampantly. However, it began spreading from bird to human. Those who have come down with it have gotten quite sick: nearly half of those seeking medical attention for it have died from it. So if we can get better with flu prevention every flu season, we may be more prepared if and when the Avian Flu strikes.

6. What can we do to help ourselves if we get the flu?

There are four antibiotics that can be used to help prevent and/or treat the flu. These antiviral meds are: amantadine (Symmetrel), oseltamivir (Tamiflu), rimantadine (Flumadine) and zanamavir (Relenza). If you take one of these drugs within two days of getting sick, it can lessen your symptoms, decrease the amount of time you are sick, and make you less contagious to other people. Your doctor will decide whether and which one of these medicines is right for you.

7. How effective are over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription treatments for the flu?

All OTC's at best lessen symptoms of the flu. Nothing lessens the course of the illness. The most effective treatments are:

- Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, etc.), naproxen (Aleve), and acetaminophen (Tylenol) for aches, pains and fever
- Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed) for stuffy nose
- Guaifenesin (Robitussin) for cough

8. What activities should we avoid if we have the flu?

Avoid coughing and sneezing on the Wellness doctor. This is your primary directive. Other than that, the best advice is:

- Conserve your energy for it to be used to fight infection—stay home in bed
- Drink plenty of fluids, as infections speed metabolism, which causes more loss of bodily fluids
- Eat nutritiously
- Most importantly, get enough sleep, as it is in sleep that the body heals, restores, and rejuvenates itself

9. When is it appropriate to visit a healthcare provider?

It is appropriate to visit your healthcare provider if you highly suspect you have the flu. If it has been two days or less and you would like to see if antibiotic would be right for you, or you are having chest pain and trouble breathing, or are at high risk for complications of the flu—see above.

10. What symptoms should we be aware of?

Keep in mind that influenza usually *starts suddenly and peaks to extremes swiftly*, and may include the following symptoms:

- Fever (usually high, >101 degrees)
- Headache, usually severe
- Tiredness (can be extreme)
- Severe, dry cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Body aches, severe
- Diarrhea and vomiting, usually only the first day.

Having these symptoms does not always mean that you have the flu, so don't panic, especially if you have mild symptoms. Many different illnesses, including the common cold, can have similar symptoms.

The Grizzly wishes you a happy and healthy winter break!

Opinions

Goodbye blue sky

As December rolls in, I finally realize that there isn't much time left in this semester. In fact, this is my final article for 2006. I know you've read each and every article I've written (all four of them). I have made a vow to become an even awesomer writer in 2007 through being even cleverer and using proper sentence structure. However, I will not be writing my thoughts and opinions at Ursinus College. I will be overseas "studying abroad," or as I call it, "an excuse to get intoxicated overseas." It also dawned on me that I have only a month or so in America before I am assaulted by English culture for 90 days straight.

Though I'll only be gone for three months, there's plenty I'm going to miss about America. For example: freedom. Recent polls show that the United States is the most freest country in the entire world. The Europeans can claim to be free, but I'm going to miss that crisp, free oxygen in the United States that no other country can duplicate completely. You see, freedom begins with our air. This is a scientifically proven fact, I even bothered to Wiki it, but I don't know how to do citations. Anyway, hopefully I can find some store that sells American oxygen in bottles, because I'm going to need a large supply of it, as god forbid it runs out and I'm forced to breathe the inferior British air.

I'm also going to miss water. Water is an underrated element, probably second only to neon. Seriously, where would we be without neon signs? Neon-colored signs are solely responsible for keeping middle class business owners on their feet and companies like Wal-Mart imitated, thus maintaining some sort of status quo in our society. In terms

of water, it is non-existent in England. British people only drink tea and tears of orphans. It's horrifying, I know. They round up these poor orphan children on Christmas Day, deny them presents, and then order them to cry into large tear crates.



GREY JOHNSON
The Warm Side of the Door

Finally, I'm going to miss democracy. Democracy was actually the name of the boat used to slay over 35,000 citizens of Troy during the Trojan War. As usual, we borrowed from Greeks, but really, who hasn't? Democracy is the only form of government that is approved by *twelve* deities. Communism only had three and that's because Karl Marx promised to pray to them. He lied. British people cannot even pronounce the word "democracy." Granted, they speak a loose form of Esperanto rather than English, but trying to even pronounce

the word properly will cause them to spontaneously decompose. That's how powerful democracy is. The main form of government in England is "yelling," which is a system based on a bunch of old people insulting one another. The person with the best insult gets to propose a bill, and each side then takes each other on in a massive fist fight. The sole survivor of this bloody battle gets to cast the deciding vote and a new group of delegates is elected to decide the next bill.

So I guess this is a temporary goodbye to the United States, which has treated me so well for 20 years. I will be moving on to bigger (but probably not better places), and I will try my best to keep you all updated.

Grey Johnson is also going to miss e-mail. You can try mailing him at grjohnson@ursinus.edu while he is away. If he gets your message, he will respond via smoke signal, the most popular form of communication in England.

We won't get fooled again... will we?

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On Halloween, The Who released their first album since 1982's "It's Hard. Endless Wire" is one album, but at the same time it is two; it consists of the first nine songs and then a mini-opera entitled "Wire and Glass," which consists of 12 songs. I'll admit, I ran straight to the nearest HMV (England's equivalent of Best Buy) and picked up the deluxe edition, the one with a bonus concert DVD that's only four songs long (that's right; you can buy the complete DVD with the entire concert from the Who's website and it will benefit various charities the band supports.) I popped it into my computer expecting a cross between the classics which made me a Who fan in the first place, and a little bit of a modern feel. Instead what did I get? I got liner notes in which Pete Townshend tells the listener about how long it took him to craft this masterpiece and how much he loves The Who. Translation, an opening track, "Fragments," which sounds remarkably like the beginning of "Baba O'Reilly" (OK for those of you scratching your head, the song you know as Teenage Wasteland), and a few hints throughout the album that good ole Pete has decided to change up some of the old classic riffs.

Now to this point I've been harsh about the project which Townshend has spent the past few years crafting, but I expected a little more from Pete Townshend, the man who gave us "Tommy" and "Quadrophenia." As a whole, it's worth a few spins, but it lacks much of what one expects from a Who album. There is no regaining of the glorious R&B which made them stars back in the Marquee Club in

London, and there isn't even a clear musical vision to this mini opera. Most of the songs are about relationships and have a reflective nature which makes the lyrics interesting to read, but singer Roger Daltrey (the only remaining original member) doesn't seem to breathe the life into the songs that they quite deserve. Even though Pete Townshend has assembled some amazing guest musicians: Pino Palladino (who recently toured with John Mayer for his small club outfit The John Mayer Trio) on bass, and Zakk Starkey (son of Ringo Starr and touring drummer for bands such as Oasis) on drums, it is still evident that this is a Pete Townshend solo album with the Who's name on it. Pete Townshend actually says in his liner note that he made the record "in his own way, to the bitter end—only delivering it to The Who's touring band when I was certain it was properly realized."

I realize that this article has been particularly harsh but honestly, I felt let down by Pete Townshend and would expect that a Who album was an album written mostly by Pete Townshend but with other members of the band involved in the process of writing. Some of the lyrics contain images that are very fitting of our time, but in "Mike's Post Theme" when Daltrey sings "with any luck we should get laid today" seems like a sentiment that the band itself is past yet perfectly captures the inside mind of young males. There are some moments worth noting on this album (amidst all the crap I'm giving it): the songs "Mike's Post Theme," "Fragments," and "In the Ether" (Daltrey seems to be imitating Tom Waits). Although these songs are decent, they do not compare to the music or lyrics that The Who once penned, leaving me very disappointed.

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What's happened to our movies?

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My family and I love going to the movies. Or I should say, we used to love going to the movies, when there was something to watch. Now, we sit and stare in horror at the previews that come on the television and the sneak peeks we get from the Internet.

In the past two years the only good movies I have seen have all been (surprise, surprise) based on books. Not that this is a bad thing. I enjoyed "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" immensely when it came out last year, and I am looking forward to "Prince Caspian" in 2008 with as much anticipation as I am "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" in 2007. But both of these movies are based on someone else's plot. In other words, no one really had to come up with an original idea. They just borrowed someone else's instead.

As far as original ideas for movies go, the only idea out there now seems to be to throw as much trash onto the screen as you can get away with without receiving a rating that will cause you to lose half your target audience. And it is disgusting what they can get away with.

It's not the violence that bothers me, or even the overdone sexual scenes that crop up far too frequently, though those are bad enough. But if a movie producer is going to have such things, shouldn't he make sure that his writers also remember to include a plot? Sex and violence are not, in themselves, stories, however fun they may be to watch.

There are plenty of older movies which manage to convey the same ideas and still manage to include a storyline. How about the scene at the beginning of "Armageddon" where Harry (Bruce Willis) finds out that his assistant A.J. (Ben Affleck) and his daughter Grace (Liv Tyler) are sleeping together? Now *there* is a scene with just the right amount of sexual suggestion and humor. Tyler does more with five seconds of one toe retreating under the covers than any more recent actress has done with ten minutes of her whole body exposed.

Horror movies these days are a prime example of this tendency to use sex and violence as a substitute for a real plot. For instance, what, exactly, is the point in "SAW III" of the naked man with chains coming out of his skin and lower jaw? Are we supposed to be watching a horror movie, or a display of violent pornography? If it is the latter, then it should not be classified as the former. It's not as if we need sexual suggestions to be properly horrified during a horror movie. Alfred Hitchcock managed just fine with his famous shower scene in "Psycho" (1960). And that was in black and white, too.

Even the children's movies are jumping on the trash bandwagon. Was it *really* necessary for the squirrel in "Over the Hedge" to blow his nose and have cheese whiz come flying out? And what was the point of Shrek taking a glob of wax out of his ear for his candle back in the 2001 movie "Shrek"? What exactly do these scenes add to the movies? Absolutely nothing. If the movie writers are trying to impress me with how wonderfully they can insinuate toilet humor into what would otherwise be an enjoyable story, they have failed. I am not impressed, I am disgusted.

Every year the movies seem to go even more downhill. Even mostly pleasant family movies like "The Santa Clause II: The Mrs. Clause" have slipped in some toilet humor somewhere, though in those cases it is usually watered down. Still, it should not be there at all. Movies are supposed to entertain and provide harmless fun, not fuel a sick lust for the baser sides of our nature.

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“Die Hard” (1988)

I really struggled to find a Christmas movie to review this week. Old classics were considered (“It’s a Wonderful Life” and “A Christmas Story”) as well as some newer ones (“Elf”). But then it hit me: why not “Die Hard”? A little research on IMDB shows “Die Hard” ranked above “Gone with the Wind” and “The Grapes of Wrath.” That’s saying a lot for an 80s action flick. So without further ado, I give you the most rockin’ Christmas movie ever made, the one and only to ever bring the Christmas spirit with German terrorists (who are really bank robbers) that make Bruce Willis walk across broken glass with bare feet. I give you “Die Hard.”



ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

John McClane (Bruce Willis) is a New York cop who has flown to L.A. to see his family for Christmas. Unfortunately, his wife’s office party is interrupted by terrorists led by Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman). It’s up to McClane to stop the terrorists with only his wits, his guns (literally and metaphorically), and the help of the fat cop from “Family Matters.”

Almost twenty years later, this movie still rocks. Although it comes off as a bit dated now, there’s a timeless quality to the way Bruce Willis spits out one-liners, kicks ass, and takes names. I was going to write about how they don’t make movies like this anymore, but “Die Hard 4” is currently in production to be released next year. Regardless, this movie is a fantastic example of how even by being formulaic, you can still make a really entertaining movie.

As far as acting goes, Bruce Willis manages to bring some pathos to troubled New York cop McClane, a man who came to reunite with his estranged wife, but left having blown up a building with an office chair and some C4. Alan Rickman is especially sinister as Hans Gruber, a man so devious he befriends McClane in my favorite example of a Brit playing a German pretending to be an American. Also worth noticing is the actor who played Carl Winslow on “Family Matters.” Normally, I would look up the actor’s name, but if you insist on playing the same fat cop on every show or movie you do, you’re stuck with Carl Winslow for life. Same goes for Urkel.

Whenever someone mentions “Die Hard,” you always remember two things: the scene where Bruce Willis walks in bare feet over the broken glass, and *the line*. For those of you who haven’t seen the movie, McClane steals a walkie-talkie and is going by the codename “Roy Rogers.” As he blows up a large portion of the building, he utters the line “Yipee-kay-ay motherf*@\$!ers!” in a fit of awesomeness. And movie history was born.

As this is our last issue for this semester, I want to take a moment to wish everyone a happy holiday; I look forward to seeing you all back here next semester, hopefully.

Alex Ernst is really a big “Family Matters” fan and means no disrespect to Carl Winslow. Urkel still sucks though. Contact him at alernst@ursinus.edu.

The Opinions Section of *The Grizzly* wishes you a very safe and joyous holiday season!

A very Commie Christmas

As if we needed further proof that America is the perfect location for a Great Experiment with Communism, a recent Rasmussen Reports poll has shown that 69% of Americans prefer “Merry Christmas” over “Happy Holidays” (for the record, I am a part of that 69%. I take “Happy Holidays” as an assumption that just because I have a prominent nose, I must be Jewish. And let me be the first to clear up that rumor; I am a good, God-fearing Christian American just like everyone else in America. These people who judge me based on my nose are no more than prejudicial bigots. Calling me a Jew... the nerve!) The connection between Christmas and Communism may not be clear at first, but after reading this article, you will surely understand why Santa Claus dresses in red.

First, Christmas (despite falling on the date of an ancient Pagan holiday, not the birthday of Jesus Christ) celebrates the birth of our lord and savior, Jesus Christ. Of course, it is not *simply* a birthday celebration; we do not bake cakes that say “Happy 2006th B-Day, Jeez!” Rather, it is a celebration of the beginning of an era; an era in which an oppressed people (the followers of Jesus) threw off their shackles and rose up to put off their oppressors and fulfill their destiny. Their rallying call might well have been reproduced by Kaptain Karl when he wrote, in *The Communist Manifesto*, “All that we want to do away with is the miserable character of this appropriation.” And they did just that. The backward morals of those Pagan Romans (and lest we forget *the Jews*) were set straight in a revolution whose “development involved the most radical rupture with traditional ideas.” As we, students of Kaptain Karl, know, the rise of the



MATT FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT
Communism for Dummies

Christians (although, I have always held that we have been and still are being persecuted. Announcement: pity party for the Christians. You’re all invited. This Friday. My place. BYOB.) closely mirrors the foreseen rise of the proletariat. It is not absurd, by any means, to make the argument that Christians are the perfect people to take up the cause of Communism (sure, the Kaptain was an atheist, but that wasn’t really *that* important).

Need further proof? Let’s look at what the spirit of Christmas is all about: “peace on Earth and good will toward men.” Sure, Communism may call for a bloody revolution in which the proletariat crushes the bourgeois, but the *goal* is peace on Earth and good will toward men. The ends would clearly justify the means. After all, one of the most famous lines in the *Manifesto* is “WORKING MEN OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!” Communism calls for unity. Does capitalism do that?

No.

Thus, since Americans are good Christians, and the goals of Christianity would be better served by a Communist people, it is only logical that America accept Communism with open arms. This, of course, rests on the assumption that Americans *are* good Christians. Some unpatriotic liberals may suggest that this statement is false, but I am confident that the faith of Americans is strong, even if most of them do only go to church on Christmas and Easter.

Matt and Dan will be handing out free copies of The Communist Manifesto outside of Colledgeville’s First Revival Baptist Church on Christmas Eve. Get Jesus, then get Karl! When you’re ready to join the Revolution, let them know: maflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.

Christmas: a season of pretension

MATT FLYNTZ
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No, I’m not talking about the hoards of new fedoras and scarves Chris Curley will receive Christmas morning... I’m talking about the commercialism that dominates the Christmas season, and the holier-than-thou Christians that spend their holiday seasons complaining about said commercialism.

Now, I have to admit that I’m somewhat guilty of this sort of complaining (except for the Christian part...); I was taken aback when I saw the Christmas displays at the King of Prussia mall weeks before Thanksgiving, and I am often disgusted by the crowds that practically live in retail stores during this time of year. But, at the end of the day, I shut myself inside, do my shopping online, and have a very happy holiday season. It worries me that people will take time out of their holiday seasons to be upset about the way *other* people are spending *their* holiday seasons.

Unless you or a loved one happens to get trampled at an Early Bird Sale at Bloomingdale’s, I simply do not see how some stranger’s lust for commercial goods affects you and your Christmas celebration in any way. Oh, I got it! Maybe you want to engage in social activities, but everyone is at the mall, so you’re lonely.

Nah, that can’t be it; complaining in your blog is so much more fun than social activities.

Okay, here it is! This commercialism makes Jesus cry, and really, there’s nothing more awkward and upsetting than when the birthday boy cries at his own party.

But in all seriousness, even if commercialism is an abomination of the “true meaning” of Christmas (and I think there is a good argument supporting that point), who cares? Don’t get me wrong; I’m not using relativism as an argument (we have *far* too much of that at this school already). I am not, by any means, saying that any meaning of Christmas is just as “true” as any other. What I am saying is that even if every other person is celebrating the “false meaning” of Christmas, your celebration will be no less “true.” To put it another way, why let people who are so clearly *wrong* have such an effect on your own joy? Their greed will not come between you and your celebration of Big J’s Big Day.

In other words still: mind your own damn business and stop fishing for things to complain about. This is supposed to be a happy time; stop finding ways to be angry.

But, hey, what do I know? This article is nothing more than one giant complaint about the way people choose to celebrate Christmas. I guess you could call me a holier-than-thou agnostic. Hmm, oxymoronic.

Anyway, try your hardest to have a happy holiday season. Our government provides us with enough to complain about, there’s no reason to bring more complaints upon ourselves.

Men's basketball looks for three-peat, women contenders in Centennial Conference

MATTHEW PASTOR
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As the fall sports season came to a close in late November, you could say that it has been a successful fall campaign for Ursinus College athletics. As the temperature begins to drop and sports are now being played indoors, the men's and women's basketball teams look to bring the excitement that we saw on the field in the fall onto the court this winter as both are contenders for this year's Centennial Conference titles.

With the loss of only one senior, the return of a plethora of talent and experience and an excellent recruiting class that came in during the off-season, the women's basketball team looks to improve upon last year's 13-1 record and hope to find themselves right in the mix for the Centennial Conference championship in 2006-07.

In order for the Bears to do that, they have to depend on an experienced senior class and young talent to shoot, pass and score their way into the postseason. Look no further than senior forwards Mary Kate Daley and Molly Guntli to provide that senior leadership and experience; Daley led the team in scoring last year with 15 points a game, while Guntli averaged a double-double adding 10 points and 11 rebounds a game. Daley, who was named to the second team All-CC last season, also scored her 1,000th point last year and looks to continue to add to an already exciting career this season. Guntli should continue to clean glass and looks to be a force on both sides of the ball.

Ursinus' back court is also a big reason why the women's team should contend this year. Senior Stephanie Cavalier provides the team with a solid ball handler who can control the game with her quick decision making and passing, while Hennessey provides the Bears with a three point threat. They finished number one and two on the team in assists and Hennessey was second to Daley in scoring, averaging 12 points per game.

Ursinus' front court is complimented by freshmen newcomer Jennifer Konstanzer. At six feet tall, Konstanzer provides height at the center position and the ability to block shots on defense and be a post presence on the offensive side of the ball. Currently, Konstanzer is third on the team in scoring, averaging 10 points per game and leads the team with five blocks after five games played this season.

The women's basketball team also has depth on the bench with girls that fifth year head coach, Jim Buckley, can go to for additional help. Seniors Dana Alf and Kate McMahon, along with freshmen Julie Bown

have seen action in all five games this season and have all contributed on both sides of the ball for Coach Buckley and the 3-2 Bears.

With all the talent and experience that the Ursinus women's basketball team has to bring to the table they have the means to make this season an exciting and memorable one. A strong group of upper classmen and a talented group of freshmen should provide the Bears with enough weapons to be a contender late in the season. Don't be surprised to see the Bears in the postseason come this February as they continue their quest for a Centennial Conference title in 2006-07.

As for the men's team, all they did in the past four years was bring home 3 Centennial Conference Championships, including two consecutive ones. With the loss of five seniors to graduation, you would think Kevin Small's Bears are in a rebuilding year; not so fast! The Bears return All-CC first team junior Nick Shattuck who averaged a team high 17 points per game a year ago. Shattuck also has experience in the post returning to help him out. Seniors Will Furey and Matt Fabian return to provide post presence and a Dennis Rodman-esc rebounder to the court for the Bears. Furey, who scored his 1,000th career point this past Saturday led the team in blocks last season and provided solid point scoring averaging 13 points per game, while Fabian led all players on the Bears' squad averaging 10 rebounds per game.

The biggest question for the 2006-07 Bears was who would replace two-time Centennial Conference Player of the Year Mike McGarvey. The obvious answer is nobody after the career McGarvey had here at Ursinus. In his four year career, McGarvey scored 1,460 points and dished out 754 assists (sixth all-time in the CC). McGarvey is still at Ursinus, however, but he'll be in a shirt and tie coaching as an assistant under sixth year head coach Kevin Small.

The answer to who will replace McGarvey can be found in a stellar class of freshmen brought in this season. Freshmen point guard Remy Cousart takes over for McGarvey as the general of this team on the hardwood. Being a freshmen and coming into Ursinus to be a starter is no small feat so the talent is definitely there, but it doesn't hurt to get some help from McGarvey, that is, freshmen point guard Kevin McGarvey.

Mike McGarvey's younger brother Kevin joins the squad this year and looks to contribute on the court as much as possible. He is another option for Coach Small to look to when Cousart gets into foul trouble or if he just wants a change of pace.

Sophomore guard John Noonan takes over the fifth and final spot in the Bears' starting line-up this season giving the Bears even more height on the court along with good ball handling skills and a good jumper.

The Bears have depth on the bench to turn to when starters get into trouble.

McGarvey is a solid back-up at point guard and freshmen guard out of Manchester, England, Keith Page, is also another talented shooter and ball-handler that can provide relief for a number of starters. Junior Michael Shema provides depth in the front court for the Bears and will definitely be turned to when Fabian or Furey get into early foul trouble. Sophomore Eric Burnett is also another key reserve for the Bears. With a good

on-court presence and a lethal shot from downtown, Burnett should be a pivotal player in the Bears' quest for an unprecedented third consecutive Centennial Conference Championship.

The Ursinus men's basketball team truly has the weapons to make a run at its third straight conference championship and fourth in the past five years. In order to do that everyone on the Bears' squad must be a contributor as we have seen so far this season. Once again the Bears have tremendous height in their starting five. With four starters at 6'5" or better, the Bears can be physical in the post and have more talent in their backcourt than any other team in the Centennial Conference. With the help of some key reserves and a phenomenal head coach, look for the Bears to find their way into the playoffs once again.

So come out and be a Hellfire Hooligan this season and support both the men's and women's basketball programs on the newly renovated basketball gymnasium. The Bears basketball teams need YOU to help make them the best in the conference. We have a reputation of being the loudest and best fans in the conference so let's keep it that way this Saturday as the men's team tips off at 2 p.m. against Swarthmore.



Nick Shattuck



Mary Kate Daley

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