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The Grizzly, March 29, 2007

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King Leonidas loses Hot Gates, Mr. Ursinus in same weekend
We have waited patiently all semester, and now the time is finally here. After detailed renovations, Bomberger Auditorium is once again available for use. It became official last Thursday night, March 22, when the Re-opening Celebration kicked off a new future of concerts, masses and other Ursinus performances to be held in the beautiful and historic concert hall. Many valued alumni, faculty and donors were in attendance for the free concert, given by some of Ursinus’ most talented musical groups.

Performing groups included the Ursinus Woodwind Quartet, Meistersingers, The Jazz Combo, College Choir, and a special performance featuring Dr. John French on piano and Assistant Professor Holly Gaine on saxophone. Solo performances were also given by junior Brandon Schenmey on guitar and freshman Brett Godoy on xylophone. Sophomore Meistersinger, Carrie-Beth Possick said, "It was a very beautiful ceremony. The novelty and caliber of the music performed showed the donors that their money was well spent. I am so happy I was able to be a part of it."

The ceremony that was held in the newly renovated hall was made possible by the many generous contributions donated by alumni, faculty, parents and friends. These contributions can be attributed to the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of Ursinus. The Taking Our Place Campaign rose over $120 million in order to achieve the resources to enhance UC’s academic mission. Of that money, $8 million was used for the renovations in Bomberger Hall.

Holding the title as the oldest building on campus, Bomberger was definitely in need of some upgrades. Built in 1891, the original construction of the historic building only cost $62,000. Since that time, Bomberger has housed science laboratories, administrative offices, and even the college library. However, Bomberger as we know it today is home to the departments of music, business and economics, politics and international relations, anthropology and sociology, and the offices of Career Services, College Communications and the College Chaplain.

The last renovations to Bomberger Hall that were completed in 1970 were largely cosmetic and did not account for accessibility or energy efficiency. As well as conquering these tasks, the most recent upgrades brought more space to the departments and classrooms and introduced a wireless Internet connection, an elevator, better lighting, and modernized safety systems. The renovations also made space for the Study Abroad program while expanding the music department.

The auditorium-chapel remained largely untouched in order to preserve the décor and excellent acoustics. Renovations included an expanded balcony section, an air conditioning system, and new seating and carpeting. The Heefner Memorial Organ, which was given in 1986 by Mrs. Lydia V. Heefner in memory of her husband, Russell E. Heefner, was completely preserved. The beautiful instrument used by the college organist, Alan Morrison, introduced those in attendance to the re-opening ceremony with a beautiful rendition of “Fanfares and Riffs,” by Charles Callahan.

The event gave insight into future events while maintaining a feeling of nostalgia from the beautiful auditorium’s earlier days. The renovations made to Bomberger Hall are greatly appreciated by students, faculty and alumni. Senior Tavenor Carlson reminisces, “As a senior, it’s so neat to see the changes that have occurred on this campus over the last four years.” On the verge of graduation, I am said that I won’t get a chance to see the final products of the other renovations! Bomberger and all of the other changes are incredible and I am personally very thankful.”

Incite AAAS program debut newsletter

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Last Tuesday, faculty members and African-American and Africana Studies students at Ursinus College were invited to the release party of the Incite Magazine in Olin 107. This release party was in honor of the African-American and Africana students to applaud their dedication and hard work in that field.

Initiated by Dr. Walter Greason of the History Department, the release of the Incite magazine is the first ever published literature for the African-American and Africana Studies program here at Ursinus College. The magazine, which is about five pages, addresses historical events tied up within the African-American struggle in the United States, as well as black poetry and art.

While talking about the whole realm of African-American and Africana Studies, Ursinus College students also attended the oration of Mr. Paul Rusesabagina, the hero who inspired “Hotel Rwanda” and author of “An Ordinary Man” at the Union League Building in Philadelphia. This event was sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, which is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to creating a more informed citizenry on matters of national and international significance. The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia is supported through contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Rusesabagina is one of the inspirations for the Oscar-nominated film “Hotel Rwanda.” During Rwanda’s 100 days of genocide in 1994, over 800,000 people had been butchered in the streets of Rwanda. Rusesabagina sheltered Tutsis and Hutus in the luxury hotel he managed, and saved the lives of over 1,200 people.

Rusesabagina was interviewed by Carolyn Davis, Editorial Board of the Philadelphia Inquirer, and at the end of the interview, answered some questions from the audience. Ursinus College was honored in the crowd, as senior Colm McCarthy raised the College Communications and the College Chaplain.

Rusesabagina has his own foundation, named “The Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation,” through which he continues to provide care and support to children and women who have been affected by genocides in Rwanda and other African nations. Rusesabagina said, “Silence is complicity.” Please help break the silence by joining the Darfur Club to help put a stop to another genocide going on in Africa.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Incite magazine, please contact Dr. Walter Greason, at wgreason@ursinus.edu.

The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia has programs running all year for college students, with free admission. If you are interested, please visit www.wacphila.org.

If you are interested in learning more about The Darfur Club or its upcoming activities, please e-mail Laura Glace, at laglace@ursinus.edu.

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March 29, 2007
The Grizzly
Young girl's death sparks ethics debate

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The death of 4-year-old Rebecca Riley on Dec. 13 has stirred a national debate regarding the ethics of prescribing psychiatric medications to young children. The young Massachusetts girl died with a powerful cocktail of clonidine, depakote, a cough suppressant, and an antihistamine. Clonidine is a blood pressure medication Rebecca had been prescribed for ADHD, for which she was diagnosed before her third birthday. Depakote is a serious anti-seizure and mood-stabilizing drug prescribed for bipolar disorder, for which Rebecca had also been diagnosed at just two-and-a-half.

The medical examiner who performed Rebecca’s autopsy asserted that the amount of clonidine alone in Rebecca’s system was fatal. Michael and Carolyn Riley, Rebecca’s parents, are now being held for murder charges. They are accused of intentionally overmedicating their daughter to keep her quiet and cooperative.

Dr. Kayoko Kifuji, the psychiatrist who prescribed the two psychiatric medications to Rebecca, as well as to the two other children of Michael and Carolyn Riley, has agreed to a suspension of her license while an investigation is conducted. Kifuji based a diagnosis of ADHD and bipolar disorder on Rebecca’s family history and behavior as described mostly by Carolyn Riley. Kifuji only visited with Rebecca briefly before prescribing medication.

In addition to raising alarm about the consequences of psychiatric medications in children, Rebecca’s death also points to a failure among teachers, social workers, and pharmacists to act in ways that might have saved Rebecca’s life. Teachers described Rebecca as “a limp doll.” The preschool principal had, at times, carried her off the school bus because she was trembling too much to walk.

Though pharmacists at Walgreens had called Kifuji because Carolyn Riley was continually making excuses about lost pills in order to refill prescriptions, the prescriptions were always refilled, as prosecutors are now estimating that Carolyn Riley obtained 200 more pills than she should have in the last year of Rebecca’s life. At the time of Rebecca’s death, there were only seven clonidine tablets in the prescription bottle, when there should have been more than 75.

Relatives told police that Michael and Carolyn Riley referred to the medications as “happy medicine” and “sleep medicine.” James McGonnell, Rebecca’s uncle, and her girlfriend Kelly Williams, witnessed Michael telling Carolyn to give the children more pills whenever they would act out. The children were often put to bed as early as 5 p.m., and Rebecca often slept through the day, waking up only to eat.

On the night of Rebecca’s death, McGonnell and Williams witnessed Rebecca knocking weakly on her parents’ bedroom door, only to be told to go back to bed. Later, McGonnell heard Rebecca vomiting, and told Carolyn Riley to take her daughter to the hospital. Instead, Carolyn gave Rebecca another half-pill of clonidine. Rebecca died soon after. Medical examiners have asserted that Rebecca died a slow and painful death, with the overdose of clonidine resulting in organ failure, filling her lungs with water and causing congestive heart failure.

Though Rebecca’s overdose is certainly not typical, it has reignited a long-standing debate about prescribing psychiatric medications to children. These medications are designed for adults, but it is perfectly legal to prescribe many of these medications to children. However, many psychiatrists feel that there is perhaps an insurmountable difficulty involved in properly diagnosing young children with serious psychiatric illnesses. The difference between, for example, a temper tantrum and a manic episode can seem very slight. On the other hand, some psychiatrists would say there is also a danger in failing to diagnose, because these severe psychiatric disorders, if left untreated, could lead to drug abuse, suicide, and other antisocial behaviors as the children age.

Despite the dangers, psychiatric medication use in children is on the rise in the United States. The proportion of children diagnosed with bipolar disorder rose from 2.9% in 1990 to 15.1% in 2000. An estimated 2.5 million children in the United States are now taking antipsychotic medications, showing a five-fold jump in the number of prescriptions between 1995 and 2002. Also, an additional 1.6 million children in the United States are taking ADHD medicines.

Professor Vosburgh awaits trial

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Professor Roderick S. Vosburgh’s class, Modern World 251, was thought to be entertaining and moderately relaxed. The visiting professor, who also held classes at other various local colleges, such as LaSalle University, Delaware County Community College, and Camden County College, was well liked by his students, who described him as a professor awaiting trial.

When the students in Modern World 251 were informed over spring break 2007 that when they returned, Dr. Ross Doughty would be taking over the class, there were mixed reactions from the class.

Doughty’s email gave warning to the students that frequent and random quizzes would be given throughout the semester, which led one student to believe that Professor Vosburgh’s easy class was busted.

“At first, I thought one of the students in the class had ratted him out for going too lightly on us, but when I found out the true reason, I did not even know what to think,” said Mayur Amin, senior.

Professor Roderick S. Vosburgh was given no choice to remain here and continue his class. On Tuesday, Feb. 27, Vosburgh’s apartment was raided by the warranted Upper Providence Police and various FBI agents. Agents were tracing him on suspicion of child pornography, which was revealed through a “24-hour period last year in which the FBI set up a sting via an existing pornography Web site” (Philadelphia Inquirer).

When officers arrived at his apartment, they repeatedly knocked on the door and phoned him to no avail; Vosburgh opened the door 25 minutes later. The investigators found a computer with a removed hard drive, several smashed portable hard drives, and pieces of portable hard drives in the toilet. Dozens of weapons were strewn around the apartment, including hand guns, shot guns, revolvers and several others; “Roderick S. Vosburgh, 44, is charged with destroying records and computer records to obstruct a federal investigation” (Philadelphia Inquirer).

Students reacted differently to the news. A big issue lies with the screening process for professors and mentors:

“It is important that people’s background checks are fulfilled. It is disappointing to know that someone facing these felony charges was actually teaching students,” said Stephanie Kayesen, junior.

Other students are upset about the matter of his charges. “I thought he was a cool guy. Now I am just disappointed in him,” stated Mayur Amin. Roderick Vosburgh is now awaiting trial.

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW

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

This spring, the following member of the faculty is being reviewed for tenure: Dr. Jonathan Marks, Politics.

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Dean Judith T. Levy, Office of the Dean by April 27, 2007.
The burning question

Nothing ruins a day more then missing your morning routine. If you’re in a hurry because you’ve overslept, your stall is out of toilet paper, or you discover an unexpected burning sensation; all will significantly alter your daily events. The latter will ruin a day or week if you have been so kind to is putting you through such misery. For some, a burning sensation while urinating signifies only a doctor’s appointment and a diagnosis, but for many others it causes alarm, and a run through of any past coital activities that may have led to this symptom.

Urinary tract infections are not necessarily, or even usually a sign of a sexually-transmitted infection. According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the most common cause of urinary tract infections (UTIs) is the bacterium E. coli, which usually resides in the colon. From there, it is transferred to the urethra where it clings and multiplies. The tactic to preventing this transfer is wiping front to back, instead of back to front, which is often how the E.coli bacteria ends up in the urethra. In some cases, the infection may spread to the bladder, and if left untreated, may continue on to the kidneys. For infections such as these, antibiotics are normally prescribed. Two other microbes that may cause UTIs are Microplasma and Chlamydia, which unlike an E. coli-triggered infection, may be sexually-transmitted. (These infections are also treated with antibiotics.) In some cases, a burning sensation is a symptom for several other STIs, specifically in the case of gonorrhea. However in cases of gonorrhea, 80% of women feel no symptoms until the infection has progressed. 20% of men also feel no symptoms, but for those who do, I once heard gonorrhea described as “thousands of little arrows traveling through the penis while peeing.” (Just a little added incentive to use a condom.)

It is important to understand that a burning sensation while urinating is not the ultimate sign that you’ve been infected with an STI, and in many cases, if an STI is present, this symptom may not even be present. If you are sexually-active, it is important to be tested and aware of the risks, and to not depend on a painful morning at the toilet or urinal to discover whether or not you have a sexually-transmitted infection.

Although scientists and researchers have yet to discover the reason, women tend to develop minor UTIs due to sexual intercourse. Researchers have linked this to spermicides, specifically nonoxynol-9, because it is the active ingredient in all spermicides found in the United States. However, these UTIs that develop in women who are sexually-active are usually very minor. Luckily, our friends at the Institute put down their pantheses and prescription pads to give the concerned and curious among us hints at how to avoid such infections. Some physicians suggest the following for women: drink plenty of water and cranberry juice (which will also aid in the passing of a minor infection), take showers instead of baths, cleanse the genital area before sex, and do not use douche or feminine sprays because they may be linked to irritating the urethra. Another suggestion that seems to help is to urinate right after sex, as well as whenever the need is felt, in order to cleanse the urethra. “Holding it in” seems to be an enemy of UTI prevention.

With new information and tactics on making the most of your kidneys and the new prevention methods and causes learned, you can hopefully avoid these unfortunate scenarios, and unpleasant morning.

Beat it!

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This year, Ursinus College is hosting the Tamagawa University Taiko Drum and Dance Group (Tamagawa Taiko) for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Philadelphia. In 2006, this troop won third place among 280 contestants at the Tokyo International Taiko Contest, and are also consistently one of the top ten Taiko groups in Japan. On April 3, 35 of their performers will be practicing at the Kaledoscope, and the troop will be performing on April 4.

The troop is currently under the tutelage of Isaburo Hanayagi, an Associate Professor in the Department of Performing Arts at Tamagawa University in Tokyo, Japan, where he has worked since 1976. He has been teaching taiko drumming since 1980, and has composed many pieces for student performance. He has choreographed and directed 32 Japanese dances and taiko drumming performances and toured in Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Canada, Thailand, South Africa, the UK, and of course, the U.S. His choreography is based on Japanese folkloric dances and kabuki, which he has researched in various regions of Japan.

Taiko are Japanese drums, with counterparts in both Korea and China. They are huge drums that are generally stick percussion instruments. They have been in use since feudal times in Japanese festivals, and were even used during war to motivate troops for marching and to call out announcements. Taiko drumming, or kumidaiiko, has become an art only in the last century. Activities it can be compared to are cheerleading and band. The movements are choreographed and practiced for hours on end. It is a visually and musically stimulating experience and quite a workout for the taiko drummers themselves. Amanda Ose, a senior at Ursinus, emphasizes the commitment it takes to learn and perform taiko. She has been participating in taiko for 12 years, along with her father and brother. Her troop of 12 people practices at least once a week for 5 hours at a time in the basement of a Buddhist temple. There are no leaders, yet many get to be teachers because taiko has different levels and facets. Trainees may retain their status for a year or longer, sweeping floors and attending performances which they will not perform in to learn both dedication and respect for the art form. There are both feminine and masculine styles, however, they are not gender assigned and each person may choose whatever style they prefer. The performances can vary greatly, from the two minute Orosi (drum roll), to an hour long performance. They generally wear the traditional outfits of taiko when performing, but there are instances where the girls may wear kimonos. There are performances that mix styles, and there are pieces where a specific style may be showcased, such as in an all-female performance. Whatever the mixture, the result is always exciting and beautiful.

Taiko is an ancient and powerful practice with its roots deeply embedded in an ancient country and its traditions. Some of the top performers in the world are coming to our little campus in order to perform for us. It is a unique and thrilling event which not every college gets to experience, and an excellent way to experience a little culture without having to walk beyond the Kaledoscope.

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

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March 29, 2007

The Grizzly
Ursinus Theater hosting musical farce

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This week, Ursinus College Theater presents the musical “Seeing Double,” by The San Francisco Mime Troupe. Directed by first-year Assistant Professor of Theater and Dance, Beverly Redman, the play will be hosted in The Kaleidoscope Center for Performing Arts in the Black Box Theater, Wednesday through Saturday, March 28 through March 31, at 7:30 p.m.

The San Francisco Mime Troupe won an OBIE award for the play, which is said to be one of the group’s most outspoken efforts. A satirical musical dealing with conflicts in the Middle East, the play is meant to offend extremists on both sides, while keeping a pronounced moral position. More specifically, the play dissects the serious issues between Israelis and Palestinians through the use of street-theater style, exposing the situation to those uninformed about the conflicts.

The story is told through two young Americans of different racial and religious origin who travel to Israel to make claim on the same piece of land. Salim Razalis, one of the young Americans, comes from Palestinian origin and is your average MTV addict who is oblivious to politics. Meanwhile, David Goldberg is a Jewish, die-hard, Talmudic scholar. After a plane hijacking and a satirical mix-up, Salim and David are mistaken for each other and each is accidentally transported to each other’s relatives. The incredible mishap forces the two to see the Middle Eastern conflict from the other’s perspective. The play is then made even more sarcastic and comedic because both characters are played by the same actor, freshman Zach Shambrook, who quickly switches roles, attitudes and accents. But, throughout this satric play, there is an obvious plea with the audience to do something about the serious Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

To examine the realities of the serious issues that the play explores, post-show discussions are being offered Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, which are open to anyone in attendance. The discussions will be lead by different groups each night. Thursday’s discussion will be led by representatives of Ursinus’ Hillel and the Muslim Student association, while on Friday, Joan Holden, a lead playwright of the San Francisco Mime Troupe, will host the discussion. On Saturday, closing night, she will introduce the cast and discuss the artistic process of the show.

Sophomore Kevin Bench, who plays Eliot Goldberg, David’s Father and Moussa Razali, Salim’s Uncle, said, “It is... a cast where everyone is playing multiple roles and is involved throughout the entire play.” He goes on to comment, “I am very excited about this show. I think it provides a strong message that something needs to be done about the situation in Palestine, and with discussions made available after the show, this is going to be a big deal.”

Tickets are $5 for general admission and $2 for students and senior citizens. For information and reservations call 610-409-3795. Get your tickets today!

Nutrition tips for the UC student: alcohol’s caloric content

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Let’s be frank: for most students, the idea of drinking amounts in college is far from that of moderation. How many news stories and Lifetime movies have been done on the dangers of binge drinking? My guess is quite a few, but who’s counting? I am not about to go into the debate on college drinking. I am, however, going to discuss one health area that may be beneficial for those looking to prevent the infamous “beer belly.”

My goal is to clear up some of the myths regarding drinks, while offering some tips on healthier drink options. For instance, knowing how many calories are in what you are drinking will make you not only a smarter drinker, but a healthier and thinner one, too.

First, it is important to realize that alcohol contains calories, but drinking it does not automatically lead to a weight gain. In fact, alcohol contains no fat, no cholesterol, and little sodium. The issue is moderation. Excessive amounts of any food or drink is generally not healthy, both mentally and physically. A calorie is a calorie. The more you consume, the more you must burn in order to maintain your weight. Studies have shown that every extra 100 calories consumed a day adds roughly one pound per month, and 10 pounds per year.

There are a lot of misconceptions about the descriptions of alcohol and its effects on blood sugar and the metabolism of carbohydrates. One speculation is that the liver breaks down sugar. Actually, alcohol is broken down by the liver into acetate, and finally into carbon dioxide and water, not sugar. Another myth is that there are no carbohydrates in wine. The fact is that even the driest wines have some carbs. Anything fermented will leave some sugar behind, thus some carbs. The only alcoholic beverages that can possibly have a zero-calorie content are distilled products. Finally, although renowned for its smooth, sweet taste, rum contains no sugar.

In terms of types of drinks, a common misconception is that light beer is like diet coke, calorie and fat free. Although light beer does contain fewer calories than regular beer, the average light beer still contains upwards of 100 or more calories per can.
Opinions

Injustice in Justice

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Last year’s firing of eight federal prosecutors has roused what Senator John Corwyn, perhaps the Bush Administration’s strongest defender in the Senate, called “a real firestorm.” Over the past several weeks, on a nearly daily basis, more information regarding these wrongful sackings emerges. Though much information is still forthcoming, and the Department of Justice is changing its story for every press conference, this is the likely chain of events: After concluding that embarrassing and highly-publicized Republican political scandals accounted for the Democrats newly taking power in Congress, high-ranking Department of Justice and White House officials have been involved in discussions about firing all 93 federal prosecutors. By some slippery fine print in the Patriot Act, if all 93 federal prosecutors resigned at once, Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez would have the power to replace all 93 of them without gaining Congressional approval for the candidates. This would allow for Bush to fill all 93 slots with Republicans, who would be more apt to focus their energies on indicting Democrats to cause the same embarrassment before the presidential election. This could guarantee another Republican president.

To provide some background information, there are 93 federal prosecutors in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. These individuals serve as the nation’s top litigators under the direction of the Attorney General. These individuals are also supposed to be nonpartisan, though Republicans were quick to manipulate and pressure judges into making partisan rulings. The key players in this scandal include Harriet Miers, Karl Rove, Kyle Sampson, and Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez. Harriet Miers could allegedly be the first voice to voice the idea of firing all 93 federal prosecutors, as the White House suggested, but then later denied. Miers is the former White House counsel, who is cited as wanting “new blood” in the system. Karl Rove is the White House Deputy Chief of Staff and assistant to the President. Recent e-mails have shown that Rove and then-White House Counsel Gonzales were involved in these discussions about a month before Gonzales was appointed Attorney General. Since the first word of this scandal, there has been a huge bipartisan call for Attorney General Gonzales to resign, but he has not, and the White House has issued statements hoping that Gonzales chooses to finish out his term. Given Gonzales’ key role in the scandal and complete abuse of his authority in the Department of Justice, however, a simple resignation would be getting off easy, as criminal charges should be made.

Kyle Sampson is the person most connected with this scandal, and is charged with leading the efforts to fire all of the federal prosecutors. Sampson is the former chief of staff for Gonzales, as he resigned for March 15, as some of his e-mails and memos related to the firings were released to the press. In a January 1, 2006 Memorandum to the Counsel of the President, Sampson suggested an alternate plan to fir

ing all 93 federal prosecutors. He warned of natural obstacles and suspensions that would immediately arise from a mass firing. Instead, “a limited number of US attorneys could be targeted for removal and replacement, mitigating the shock to the system that would result from an across-the-board firing.”... The Department of Justice Executive Office of US Attorneys (EUSA) could work quietly with the targeted attorneys to encourage them to leave government service voluntarily.” Sampson then provided a list of the federal prosecutors he felt should be encouraged to leave.

In the end, only eight federal prosecutors were sacked. The eight fired attorneys are David Iglesias, Bud Cummins, Carol Lam, Daniel Bogden, Paul Charlton, John McKay, Margaret Chiara, and Kevin Ryan. Though not all eight have commented on the circumstances regarding their resignations, a few have released public statements. David Iglesias, who resigned on Dec. 19, 2006, has announced that he had been under pressure by Republican Senator Pete Domenici to pursue more cases that would indict Democrats before the election. Bud Cummins, who resigned just a day after Iglesias, in an e-mail to the other fired prosecutors, admitted to receiving a phone call with “a threatening undercurrent” from a Department of Justice official after speaking to the media about his resignation. Carol Lam’s resignation has certainly gained the most publicity. On May 10, 2006, Lam informed the Justice Department about her plans to issue warrants in a criminal investigation of two men, one of whom was linked to Republican Representative Randy “Duke” Cunningham, who is currently serving a prison term after pleading guilty to charges of bribery. The next day, Kyle Sampson sent out an email citing a “real problem we have right now with Carol Lam that leads me to conclude that we should have someone ready to be nominated 11/18, the day her four-year term expires.”

Though much more information and testimony is required on this issue, the newly dubbed “Attorneygate” is getting stickier and stickier by the day. With the stories constantly shifting, many bipartisan representatives, including Senator Patrick Leahy, are calling for subpoenas of Karl Rove, Harriet Miers, and other White House officials. Leahy recently said “I want testimony under oath. I am sick and tired of getting half-truths on this.” Representative Chris Van Hollen, a member of House Democratic leadership from Maryland, sums this up neatly: “What you have got is a White House that has become an accountability-free zone that is now facing the reality of checks and balances from Congress.” On Tuesday, March 20, President Bush himself spoke out against the subpoenas, accusing Democrats of going on a “parisan fishing expedition,” even though the outrage about the scandal has come from both sides of the aisle. Bush added that he would aggressively fight in court any efforts to subpoena the White House aides. However, given the circumstances, President Bush’s attempt to prevent Gonzales, Rove, Sampson, and Miers from being questioned would practically be an admission of their guilt, and raises even further suspicion regarding the current administration’s corruption.

The roof, the roof, the roof is on fire...

The roof of the church that is. This week, for your musical enjoyment, I’m looking at Neon Bible, the sophomore effort by Montreal-based band the Arcade Fire. The title comes from author John Kennedy Toole’s first novel and interestingly was recorded in a church which the band recently purchased. The sophomore album can be a dealbreaker for any band, but with Neon Bible, Win Butler and Co. deliver the goods, combining diverse stylings into epic songs which, as a whole, create an album which is neither of the past or present. The orchestration is classical-esque and the production reminiscent of 80s indie rock and pop. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this album are the Springsteen-esque moments, in which emotion and storytelling come together in one coherent vision.

Highlights include the opener ‘Black Mirror,’ which is an epic song with a steady pulsing bass line, repeated keyboard melody, and strings that swirl and swell to a moving crescendo. Possibly one of the most upbeat and powerful openers for an album, ‘Black Mirror’ sets the mood for the album. A blend of 80s pop and classical string arrangements, ‘Keep the Car Running’ is 80s era Springsteen with a touch of Peter Gabriel and reminiscent of ‘Send Me on My Way’ by Rusted Root. ‘Neon Bible’ is a slow song, with the chorus “Neon Bible, Neon Bible, not much chance for survival but the Neon Bible is right.” There is the Head on the Door era Cure song ‘Black Wave/Bad Vibrations,’ a synth heavy track with a unique distorted synth guitar tone, with the line “We’ll make it if we run/run from the memory/too much in your soul to sleep.” ‘Ocean of Noise’ is phenomenal. My favorite track ‘Well and the Lighthouse’ is a rocking song that is reminiscent of late summer nights, driving by the sea, the fresh air blowing through the rolled down windows of your car. The first single ‘Intervention’ is built around a church-like organ, a Springsteen-esque spoken/sung combo, with lines like “You take what you give and keep it inside” and “I can taste the fear/ I can taste the fear.”

Perhaps I should just want to hear me cry’ are powerful and moving. ‘My Body is a Cage’ is an epic album closer which showcases the Arcade Fire’s ability to write simple yet moving and complex songs.

The bottom line: this album is important and will be for quite some time. Many years from now, I predict it will be on Rolling Stone’s Top 100 Albums of All Time, next to the greats like Ella Fitzgerald, The Rolling Stones, Kelly Clarkson, etc.
"Old School" (2003)

Once upon a time, there were only two great college movies: "Animal House" and "PCU." I dare you to try to think of more ("Revenge of the Nerds" doesn't count). And then, in a flash of divine benevolence, Todd Phillips bequeathed upon the human race the great college film of the '00s, solidifying the reputation of the "Frat Pack" once and for all. And it was good. Thus, "Old School" shall be enshrined in college movie history from hence forth.

Looking for an escape from their mundane lives, three friends, Mitch (Luke Wilson), Beanie (Vince Vaughn), and Frank (Will Ferrell) start a fraternity after Mitch's new house is declared campus property by a dean with an axe to grind (Jeremy Piven). Hazing, KY Jelly wrestling, and children's parties ensue.

One of the biggest strengths of "Old School" is that it allows the actors to play parts that are absolutely to type for them. Be it Luke Wilson's straight man who secretly enjoys the frat's activities that he is protesting, Vince Vaughn's obnoxious know-it-all, or Will Ferrell's emotionally stunted man-child, the actors all let loose and allow their characters to run amok over the screen. Will Ferrell in particular excels at this, be it when he is kidnapping pledges with flying tackles or licking an extra's face in celebration of finishing a beer bong.

One of my personal measures of a comedy's quality is its quotability. Hall of Famers include "Airplane" ("Surely you must be joking." "I'm not joking. And don't call me Shirley."), "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," and "Dumb and Dumber." I am proud to induct "Old School" in with such gems as Mitch's best man speech, Frank's apology call, and Beanie's attempts to convince Frank not to get married. Congratulations, guys, you earned it.

I realize that up to this point this has not been my most serious review, but I think that speaks to the comedic power of this film. Todd Phillips' sense of timing is second to none, and he knows how and when to allow the actors to improvise in ways that improve the scene without it becoming completely ridiculous. On top of that he uses cameos wisely, throwing in Sean William Scott, Juliette Lewis, and the Ragin' Cajun himself, James Carville, in completely ridiculous roles and situations that manage to spice up the comedy stew.

As I've said before, I am a tone-deaf idiot when it comes to music, but this movie uses it in ways that are themselves hilarious. Be it Frank's wedding band cursing their way through "Total Eclipse of the Heart" or Frank's heartfelt tribute song "Dust in the Wind" (sung as I would surely sing it—drawn out and off-key), this film creates comedic gold everywhere it goes.

For my pick of the week, I'm going to harken back to that other Jeremy Piven college movie masterpiece, "PCU." Highly underrated and virtually unseen nowadays, the movie takes a satirical look at politically correct culture and college cliques while at the same time being pretty damn funny (I crack up just thinking about the hippie/stoner clique playing Ultimate Frisbee in their tie-dyed long underwear). That's it for this week. Hopefully, I'll have more than funboy gushing next time.

Dear Mitch, if you're holding this letter you already know. The house has been boarded up. The doors. The windows. Everything. We're at the Comfort Inn. Room 112. I love you. Alex. You can contact Alex Ernst at alernst@ursinus.edu.
Not so much madness this year

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When it comes to the NCAA basketball tournament, people of all ages have their office or group pools to test their skills on who can make the most correct picks and who can pick the big upsets during college basketball’s most exciting three weeks. Most do this with money on the line, with the winner holding bragging rights and a large amount of money in their hands until next year. However, there hasn’t been that much “madness” in this year’s tournament.

Of the 32 games played in the first round of the NCAA tournament, only two upsets took place: 11th seed Winthrop’s ten point victory over 6th seed Notre Dame and 11th seed VCU’s shocking victory over 6th seed Duke (the biggest upset of the tournament). The remaining games in the first round were as planned, which resulted in a not-so-exciting opening round of March Madness.

As the tournament continued into the second round, all four #1 seeds secured spots into the Sweet 16, along with three #2 seeds (UCLA, Georgetown and Memphis), three #3 seeds (Oregon, Texas A&M and Pitt) and Southern Illinois as the lone #4 seed to make it through to the field of 16. UNLV’s upset over 2 seed Wisconsin was the only huge upset to rock the second round.

The regional semifinals proved that the experts picked the right teams to represent their respective brackets as the #1 and #2 seeds in three of the four regions found them playing for a spot in the Final Four. Kansas faced-off against UCLA, Ohio State battled Memphis and North Carolina took on Georgetown in a throwback contest. The remaining regional final had 1 seed Florida and 3 seed Oregon battling for the final spot in the Final Four.

Although set to be what was thought as four great games between eight great teams, turned out to be three blowouts and an overtime debacle. Florida, UCLA and Ohio State ran away with their respective regional titles and took their place in Atlanta quite easily in blowout victories. Meanwhile, Georgetown used the last nine minutes of their game against North Carolina to take a 10 point deficit and turn it into a 12 point victory. You can thank the Tar Heels poor shooting performance down the stretch (they missed 23 of their last 24 shots) for that victory.

Now the stage has been set with Florida, UCLA, Georgetown and Ohio State locked in as the last four teams left in the field of 64. One match-up is a rematch of last year’s Final Four. Florida and UCLA will battle in the Elite Eight. Florida ran away with the title last year and looks to do much of the same this year. UCLA looks to get revenge for last years’ poor performance in the title game, get back into the championship and re-take their place as the best basketball team in the country.

On the other side, Ohio State will take on Gonzaga for the other spot in the title game. The Buckeyes have had luck on their side the entire tournament as they have won 10 consecutive tournament games. They possess the most talent of the final four teams. UCLA is just as experienced in this situation as Florida, but where they may lack size, they gain speed. UCLA’s backcourt can be a huge factor in deciding the Bruin’s fate this late in the tourney. Ohio State has had the most luck this tournament as they were able to pull out two amazing come-from-behind victories, but they’ll need to play their best, from start to finish, to move on and win it all. Georgetown has the size and style of basketball to win it all. I feel they control their own destiny from here on out. If the Hoyas can play smart, mistake free basketball, they should be cutting down the nets this weekend. If not, don’t be surprised to see Florida cutting the nets down for a second consecutive season. Whatever happens, it’s going to be exciting to watch.

Women’s Rugby
3/31 @ Swarthmore

Baseball
3/30 @ F&M
3/31 vs. Dickinson
4/3 vs. Swarthmore

Softball
3/29 vs. TCNJ
3/30 vs. PSU Berks
3/31 vs. McDaniel
4/3 @ Neumann

Men’s Lax
3/31 vs. McDaniel
4/3 vs. Eastern

Women’s Lax
3/31 vs. McDaniel
4/3 vs. Salisbury

Men’s Tennis
3/31 vs. F&M

Women’s Tennis
3/31 vs. McDaniel
4/4 vs. Swarthmore

Men’s Golf
4/2 vs. Lebanon Valley Inv.

Women’s Golf
4/2 vs. Muhlenberg Spring Classic
4/10 Ursinus Invitational

Track & Field
3/31 vs. Muhlenberg Inv.

Bearly Reminder

Here’s a look at the early spring sports schedule from Thursday, March 29th to Wednesday, April 4th. The spring sports teams are well into the swing of things, so show some support this week coming up!

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