The Grizzly, September 6, 2007

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UC Students Get Back in the Swing of Things

Field Hockey Flavor

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
News

The CarShare Revolution

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Whether purchasing a car or traveling by public trains or buses, college students often find accessible transportation to be a hassling or financially-burdening experience. Ursinus has recently decided to participate in a program that offers a convenient new solution to the travel dilemma: PhillyCarShare.

Currently offered in various Philadelphia neighborhoods, the program is becoming increasingly popular among the city's college campuses and surrounding areas. Schools like Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, Widener University, and Thomas Jefferson University offer PhillyCarShare's student service.

Once Ursinus signs up enough students for the program, PhillyCarShare will provide an electronically-starting car to be expediently located in one of the school's main parking lots. Students can gain access to the car by locating the "Students" section of PhillyCarShare's Website and by becoming a member of the program. As members, students can reserve dates or times they intend to use the car. Each student who reserves the car receives an individual key soon after payment.

Advance reservations are not required, in fact, the majority of PhillyCarShare's members' trips are booked within the same day of travel. The car will remain on campus for the entire school year, including during holiday breaks.

Aside from being simple and convenient, the PhillyCarShare is financially appealing. The program's daily and hourly rental prices are noticeably lower than those of many car rental companies, and former car owners claim to have saved up to $4000 annually. Rates include the cost of gas, reserved parking, and premium insurance coverage. Rates begin at $5.90 per hour, but two different payment options are available for the student. Also, membership is free from commitments; no application charges or security deposits are required.

PhillyCarShare, a nonprofit company, also exemplifies environmental concern. The program has reduced the number of cars driven in Philadelphia by at least 2,100, which, when combined with the fact that a number of its rental cars are hybrids, has led to a significant decrease in auto emissions. PhillyCarShare recognizes an increase in members' use of public transportation or walking, and has played a major role in eliminating hundreds of municipal vehicles.

The organization has a number of eligibility regulations with regards to student drivers. The student must be at least 18 years old, and those who are under 21 years old need proof of basic insurance, providing at least minimal coverage for the state of Pennsylvania, while Philadelphia will cover the rest during rental. Students under 21 must also provide written consent by the insurance policy's holder, must have been a licensed driver for at least two years, must have a license in their permanent state of residence, and must have a clean driving record.

For students looking for a reasonable deal on temporary means of transportation, PhillyCarShare is an innovative option. Students interested in using PhillyCarShare at Ursinus can access more information through campus' Philly Connections or through the organization's Website: http://www.phillycarshare.org.

Ursinus Initiates Film Fest

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The International Film Festival is back and more exciting than ever. With the screening of sixty thrilling movies in virtually every major language taught on campus, the festival aims to change your conception of foreign movies.

Initiated 10 years ago by the Language Department, the International Film Festival has become one of the most popular annual events at Ursinus, drawing curious crowds of students and community members alike to its movie screenings in Olin Auditorium.

In keeping with the tradition of Ursinus community spirit, the mission of the International Film Festival is to expose students to classic and new cultural foreign films. Another aspect of the International Film Festival is that all films are shown with subtitles, allowing viewers to follow the movie’s plot and flow without worrying about language barriers. The films also offer viewers the opportunity to enrich their language vocabulary.

Over the years, the International Film Festival has screened a number of The Cannes Film Festival’s best winning award movies, such as the 2004 French musical, “Les Choristes,” directed by Christophe Barratier. The Cannes Film Festival is one of the world’s oldest, most influential and prestigious film festivals held each May in the resort town of Cannes in southern France.

This year, Ursinus’ International Film Festival features two films: “Breaking the Silence” and “A Door to the Sky.” ‘Breaking the Silence,” a Chinese movie directed by Zhou Sun and released in 2000, appeared on Sept. 5.

The 1989 Morocco/France-released movie, “A Door to the Sky,” (Bab al-Sama Matouh) directed by Farida Ben Lyzaid, will appear on Thursday, Sept. 27. The films are shown in Olin Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., followed by conversation and refreshments in Olin 104.

The International Film Festival is ongoing throughout the semester, featuring different foreign movie screenings each month. French professor Colette Trout has been a major contributor to the International Film Festival. She said the secret to success has been getting each area of the language department involved by proposing a film. “The presentation and discussion following are great ways to interact with students, professors and people from the community,” she said.

For screening dates and more information about the exciting movies being shown at the International Film Festival, please check out your weekly Gazette calendar on the Ursinus Website or e-mail Professor Trout at c trout@ursinus.edu.

A screenshot from Pan's Labyrinth, which will be shown on October 11 in Olin Auditorium.
Facilities Makes Renovation Waves

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As summer is normally cue for rest and relaxation, the Facilities Services team spent the season hard at work making substantial renovations in preparation for the fall semester. Approximately $600,000 was spent this summer alone to make the necessary improvements and maintenance on campus.

Renovating Reimert Heights

Walking around campus, one can easily see the changes made this summer. All of the major reconstruction is paid for by the Plant Funds Budget, which is a source of money from endowment and donations.

One heavily renovated area was Reimert Hall. Facilities Director Andrew Feick said Reimert was the biggest push and the most expensive project. “We have a lot of work to do in Reimert over the next several years,” he said. “We spent a lot just to get started.” Reimert alone was probably $200,000.

The courtyard was completely renewed with new benches, concrete, elevated seating and tables, architectural lighting, and trash and recycling containers. New roof and gutters were also installed. New surfaces were installed on the upper walkways and stairs. The college is also experimenting with the floors, using Suite 110 as a test for a new kind of flooring material. Ursinus spent over $150,000 on replacing damaged carpet in residence halls. In Reimert, much of the carpet has to be replaced every year. A switch to a hard-surface floor in these areas is a much more sustainable practice both environmentally and financially.

More Restoration

Residents of Reimert and BWC might notice laundry room renovations, which were converted to a nice, bright aesthetic.

Wismer Lower Lounge, which had a significant transformation last year, received new bathrooms which all feature motion-sensing appliances and full handicap access.

Musser Hall received new carpeting throughout the space, a new heating and cooling system, and interior paint.

Facilities Services carpenters renovated the BPS student lounge by widening the doorways, adding carpeting, painting, tinting windows, putting in new furniture, and by adding a flat-screen TV. The goal was to create a living-room-type atmosphere for students in the very busy freshman center.

Many returning students are wondering what will become of 942 and 944 Main Street. Feick said they are still investigating several different solutions for those buildings, e.g. how to handle parking. There are no conclusions as of now, but a decision will be made within a year.

Fostering student achievement

Feick and the Facilities team are dedicated to making the campus a safe and inviting environment that fosters student achievement. “Our goal for student spaces is to have students and faculty dedicate all their brain cells for learning and teaching,” said Feick. Facilities focuses their decision process around that goal in upholding a worry-free learning environment.

In addition to fixing and renovating the areas on campus, they are also making efforts to be environmentally friendly. “Energy efficiency is huge,” said Feick. “Every little bit helps and prices keep going up. If we don’t do everything we can for energy efficiency, all it will do is squeeze other budgets, which doesn’t foster student achievement.”

Lighting systems were upgraded on Main Street paths, Reimert, and the New Hall. Recently, Ursinus College signed on for the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which is a plan to make the campus more carbon neutral in effort to alleviate the speed of global warming. Facilities also offers a bulb exchange, where students can get a compact fluorescent bulb for free by turning in their old, incandescent bulbs.

Future Improvements

Facilities will continue to renovate and restore areas on campus. Feick said they will continue working on Reimert, focusing on structural repairs which are “less glamorous, but still important.” Facilities will continue to put the finishing touches on New Hall. They will also be creating a Zen Dry Garden in a space next to the Berman Art Museum.

Budget allocation permitting, the team hopes to finish the second half of the bathroom renovations in the BPS complex. They also hope to be starting work in Myers Library, improving lighting, ventilation, and fire systems. As part of their environmental efforts, Facilities will continue to push energy efficiency throughout the college.
Features

Stopping the Stork - Emergency Contraception

Sex has consequences (many of which are more critical and awkward than running into a former, forgotten flame in Wisner.) We prevent these consequences by investing information and methods of disease and pregnancy prevention, using these tools as modes of insurance against the unwanted outcomes associated with sex. However, sometimes the scenario in which we choose to have sex is not the best, leaving inevitable anxiety about the consequences, specifically a possible pregnancy. Unfortunately, even when we situate ourselves in the best possible setting for protected sex or the failure of birth control (for example, the condom slips or breaks. In the event when the door you planned to leave open slams shut), emergency contraception allows you to open a window of possibility and can include each member of the group. Although sports are a large part of the Thursday activities, the Rising Suns aims to immerse itself in as many activities as it possibly can. For example: last semester, the first Thursday meeting consisted of a video game seminar. Members of the group brought their video games systems and televisions to the Unity House (the meeting area of the Rising Suns) and played video games for the duration of the Thursday meeting schedule.

Guest speakers serve an important role in the Rising Suns; they function as an educational tool for the members who can learn about the lives of individuals who have already graduated college. Last semester, a college graduate was brought in to talk with the members of the Rising Sun’s. He was able to help the business majors within the Rising Suns find a track they would like to follow while attending Ursinus. For those individuals not interested in business, this guest speaker was able to help them realize that the work that they do outside of college is not limited only to the subject in which they have majored. Although guest speakers may target their talks at one specific major, the things they have to say are beneficial to the group as a whole.

Weekly meetings for the Rising Suns are held within the Unity House. The group works closely with Ms. Patton to schedule meeting times throughout the week, as well as in finding possible guest speakers. Ms. Patton has also helped Alex Peay get the Rising Suns group started by providing the space for the group and talking about the logistics of the operation. The group is collectively run so that each member of the group can help to determine each new step the group should take.

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

A Look at The Rising Suns

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The Rising Suns is a new group on campus, created last semester through the efforts of Alex Peay. The group was created out of a need to form a sense of community within the male population of Ursinus College. During meetings, members of the Rising Sun’s converse with one another discussing their personal lives as well as the pros and cons they face on campus. The group functions as a support group for those who need help with classes as well as a recreational period for those who wish to take a break from their studies.

The Rising Suns’ meetings are split into two categories. The first meeting on Tuesdays consists of a discussion period. The second meeting on Thursdays is for recreational purposes. On Tuesdays of each week, there is a new topic the group members discuss. This topic is decided by the individual who leads the discussions. The discussion leader changes every week as one person is elected to become the new discussion leader. These discussions last for the duration of the meeting, which usually lasts for one and a half hours.

Meetings on Thursdays function as bonding experiences for the males within the Rising Suns. It is during these Thursday sessions that the males decide to organize games such as basketball, bowling, and football. The activities are usually anything that involves physical activity and can include each member of the group. Although sports are a large part of the Thursday activities, the Rising Suns aims to immerse itself in as many activities as it

Career Corner

What’s HOT in Career Services? Just a click away on the Career Services Web page these Career Services HOT PICKS are waiting for you! FOCUS: Focus is a self-paced online career guidance tool that can help all students with self-assessment and career exploration. Engage in an individualized online adventure that will help you consider your interests, skills, and work values, and identify occupations that match your interests and values profile. Once you identify your values and personality, you can also search information on the occupations reported on your profile. A comprehensive package, FOCUS is the perfect tool for students who need help identifying or confirming career direction. VAULT: Fortune magazine recently called Vault “The best place on the web to prepare for a job search.” Vault is the Internet’s ultimate destination for insider company information, advice, and career research resources. Vault’s unique career content includes carefully researched and continually updated “insider” information on over 3,000 companies and 70 industries. The Career Services Office has a preferred subscription to Vault, giving us access to Vault’s best-selling collection of more than 80 career guides and employer profiles. PERFECT INTERVIEW: Perfect Interview is software that creates a simulated interview. Your responses to questions asked by a professional interviewer are captured on a web cam. Suggestions and comments are presented by a built-in interview coach. Whether you are interviewing for grad school or employment, this program gives you confidence! Felicia Chou, Class of 2007, said “Perfect Interview not only prepared me for over 95% of the questions I was asked at my interview...it helped me make sure I didn’t make those same mistakes during the real interview”. You can get to all of these HOT resources by visiting the Career Services Web page www.ursinus.edu/career...
Spotlight on Sustain UC

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If you entered any of the buildings or dormitories at Ursinus College, you will likely notice a consistent trend. Everywhere you go, you will likely be greeted by a green plastic bin. The green and blue bins on campus represent bottle and paper recycling bins, respectively, but this has not always been the case. Prior to the arrival of the current graduating class, recycling on campus was almost nonexistent. The efforts of a determined committee comprised of students and faculty known as SustainUC have helped to transform this campus into an emerging Green Giant. SustainUC is a prime example of how even a few individuals can influence change in a larger community. This article will highlight their accomplishments, plans for the future, and how you can get involved and make a great and lasting influence.

SustainUC is the evolution of a student and faculty collaboration once called the Ursinus College Board of Recycling, also known as UCRecycles. The core individuals involved have not changed much over the past four years, but their approach has broadened from simply implementing recycling to campus-wide sustainability. To promote campus-wide sustainability is to promote lifestyle changes that minimize our consumption and waste of resources and energy to limit our impact on the surrounding environment. This overarching goal would not be made possible without communication and cooperation between faculty committee members Dr. Richard Wallace and Dr. Leah Joseph of the Environmental Studies Department and student committee members Carolyn Vogt, Zakary Arnhold, Rachael Greenly, Kerry McCarthy, and Nicole Dillig. While simultaneously working on multiple projects directed at the same goal, these individuals have been able to integrate recycling and sustainability into the Ursinus College Community.

Recycling on campus is built upon the efforts of SustainUC, facilities, and Greek organizations. Currently, we can recycle plastic and glass bottles, aluminum cans, mixed paper, cardboard, Styrofoam, ink-jet cartridges, cell phones, and batteries. Facilities Services has allowed the recycling program to grow substantially by collecting the cans, bottles, and cardboard. The Sigma Pi fraternity has aided in the collection of mixed paper, Styrofoam, and cardboard. The Sigma Pi fraternity has aided in the collection of mixed paper, Styrofoam, and cardboard. The Sigma Pi fraternity has aided in the collection of mixed paper, Styrofoam, and cardboard. The Sigma Pi fraternity has aided in the collection of mixed paper, Styrofoam, and cardboard. The Sigma Pi fraternity has aided in the collection of mixed paper, Styrofoam, and cardboard.

It is rare that one man’s autobiography can spawn an entire movement concerning thousands of individuals. However, Dave Eggers, author of the LA Times Best Book of the Year, A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, manages to do this through his transcription of the autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng. Deng is a Sudanese refugee who ran from the destruction and confusion of civil war in the 1990s, and was able to escape to America with thousands of other young African males from his region, now referred to as the “Lost Boys”.

The novel opens with the robbery of Deng’s apartment in Atlanta, Georgia. After the robbers bind and injure him, Deng begins to relate the story of his childhood as a Dinka boy and his journey to the United States, a place where he had hoped to find peace. As a young boy, Arab mercenaries destroyed his village, Marial Bai, murdering the men, raping the women, and kidnapping the children as slaves. He was separated from his family, and joined thousands of others in one long walk across the desert. Eggers describes harrowing images on behalf of Deng, relaying his memories of the fear of being eaten by lions like other boys had been in the night, the lack of proper sustenance for months on end, and the terror of meeting the militias that had destroyed their homes. The boys that survived the trek eventually reached refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, where they were educated, fed, and clothed, and then ultimately sent to America on sponsorships.

Despite the truth of the events described in the book, it reads like a literary work of fiction. Deng speaks through Eggers in a lyrical narrative that draws the reader into the events of the story so deeply that it is easy to forget that a human being truly endured these trials. The authors provide historical background, as well as religious context, with the recurring theme of “the What” throughout the novel, which alludes to the Dinka story of creation. According to the tale, God created man and woman, and gave them possession of his most fertile and sacred land. Because of this, they could only have one more thing: the cattle, which would provide nourishment, or the What. The Dinka supposedly asked, “What is the What?” but God would not tell them, because the Dinka chose the cattle. As the story goes, the Arabs chose the What, and so tried to steal the cattle from the Dinka. The ancient rivalry between the two peoples is still unresolved, and Eggers successfully uses the anecdote to tie some poetic notions to this very real situation.

Deng’s story is no fabrication. He lived through events that the majority of the world, and certainly America, could not even begin to imagine. When he arrived in Atlanta in 2001, he began to establish a life here, working and attending community college. But, he realized that he needed to share his story to “convey to the world the realities of what had happened in the civil war in southern Sudan, and its effect on the people there” (www.valentinoachakdeng.org), because so many had not been as fortunate as himself. He founded the Valentino Achak Deng Foundation in order to achieve his goals of providing a better life for those still in Sudan through What is the What. All of the proceeds from the novel go to build schools, hospitals, and various other educational centers to assist the people of Marial Bai. Deng himself has achieved his dream of attending a four-year college and is currently studying at Allegheny College here in Pennsylvania.

The Valentino Achak Deng Foundation provides extensive information about what Americans can do to assist the Sudanese who are in constant recovery from civil war, as well as the Darfuris who are currently in the middle of the horror. Anyone interested in learning more about the current situation should visit the website (http://www.valentinoachakdeng.org/take_action.php) to read the list of ten things that you can do for Sudan.
Opinions

With Gonzales’s Resignation, the Exodus Continues

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When Alberto Gonzales was first featured in our nation's political circus as Attorney General, the American audience took to him like he was a death-defying tightrope walker. A replacement for the more right-leaning John Ashcroft, Gonzales was noted for his balanced views on abortion and affirmative action. And because he had come from poverty as a child, Gonzales's ascent to become the head of the Justice Department in 2005 was hailed as proof that the American dream was alive and well.

But there's a reason that tightropes have nets below them; even the best acrobats have to fall sometime. And boy was Gonzales's a doozy, culminating with his resignation announcement on August 27.

It began in December of 2005 when The New York Times ran an article claiming that the Justice Department and the FBI initiated secret wiretappings of U.S. citizens without warrants. An investigation by the Senate Judiciary Committee ensued, in which Gonzales gave testimony that Senator Russ Feingold characterized as "misleading at best," and led Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy to tell Gonzales "I just don't trust you." But misleading as it might have been, Gonzales made sure not to commit perjury, a federal crime. During an April 19 testimony in front of the Senate regarding his role in the controversial firing of nine U.S. attorneys last December, he stated 71 times that he "could not recall" events related to the incident.

Gonzales's actions not only diminished his credibility with the Senate, but with members of his own staff as well. Eight top members in the Justice Department resigned after Gonzales's role in the attorney firings was uncovered.

Gonzales's actions not only diminished his credibility with the Senate, but with members of his own staff as well. Eight top members in the Justice Department resigned after Gonzales's role in the attorney firings was uncovered, including his Chief of Staff, the Justice Department's liaison to the White House, and the Deputy Attorney General. The president's Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove and White House Counsel Harriet Miers also resigned amongst suspicions that they had parts in the scandal.

And while this mass exodus of officials from the Bush administration may have a lot to do with Gonzales's indiscretions, Bush's role as an enabler to it all is not to be overlooked. Bush took full advantage of Gonzales's legal skill for his own warped means. As the once Presidential-hopeful Howard Dean remarked, "Alberto Gonzales's Justice Department has promoted a culture of lawlessness designed to serve the Bush White House's narrow political agenda, not the American people."

Bush and Gonzales have been working together since Bush's days as governor of Texas and many believe that their close relationship has detracted from the separation between the Justice Department and the executive branch.

As early as 1994, Gonzales has helped Bush out of tight political spots. When he served as counsel in Bush's gubernatorial administration, he finagled the law to get Bush out of serving jury duty in a 1996 Travis County drunk driving case using the reasoning that as Governor, he might be called upon to pardon the accused. However, Gonzales failed to mention in Bush's juror questionnaire the Governor's own misdemeanor drunk driving conviction in 1976.

It's this "pick and choose" legal philosophy, this idea that ethics are secondary, which is most likely the greatest contributor to Bush's chronically low approval rates. It's bad enough that 62% of Americans disapprove of Bush and his administration according to a USA Today/Gallup poll. Now that much of his Cabinet is forsaking him, let's hope he can take the hint.

Don’t Paint Over Our Freedom of Expression

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Reimert Hall was first built when my Dad attended Ursinus College in the late 60s. He recently visited Reimert and says the condition of this building has not changed over the years.

Reimert is where many Greek organizations and sports teams live. Usually they have the opportunity to express themselves on the walls and doors of the space in which they live and many suites have flawless murals painted on one or more walls that have been there for over 10 years. Squatting of suites has enabled organizations to make their living space personal.

However, for the first time in years, Reimert suite walls will be bare. This summer, the murals were all painted over with a fresh coat of white paint. No warning was issued, no last minute pictures were taken, no one knew it was going to happen. Being Greek, I can say that a part of each Greek organization was lost and many members of these groups are upset that no notice was given. This move stumps on the Reimert community and in fact negates community building. New rules put in place prevent anyone from painting the walls again without punishment and a fine.

If a suite has been squatted by those who belong to the same organization year after year for over 10 years, I think the members of that organization have a right to express their pride in the form of a mural on the wall. None of the artwork was offensive or hurtful. In fact, the murals help build and bring together the Reimert community and make a bond between students throughout Ursinus College. It helps to know where particular groups live if anyone needs to find a member and encourages friendly interaction between organizations.

In the rules last year, one wall was allowed to be painted in each suite. Why paint over all of the walls now? Painting over the murals without warning disrespects the members of the organization who have put so much effort into the upkeep of the suites. I understand that Reimert is in need of repair and is dirty most of the time because it is a central location for parties on campus. Painting the inside of the suites a plain white is not going to make Reimert look any better, but colorful unique artwork on walls helps to give the living space a warmer feel rather than the ugly cinderblock look it currently has. We pay over $43,000 a year to attend Ursinus College. Why can’t we exercise our first amendment right to express ourselves through artwork on our walls? Is there a problem with wanting to represent our organization in the Reimert community? I know the Ursinus students would like an explanation considering the community culture of Reimert has not changed since the 70s and I have proof - just call my Dad.

Harry Potter and the Satanic Pre-Teens

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As you may know, the latest volume of the much acclaimed (and also much derided) Harry Potter series was released over the summer. And as with any Harry Potter release, along with the sexual confusion that comes from little girls dressing like Harry, little boys dressing like Hermione, and grown men dressing like elves, there was the obligatory response from the religious right. Their message: Harry Potter promotes Satanism.

The response to the seventh book actually seemed more subdued than it has been in previous years. Perhaps this is because as evangelicals realized they lost this battle (after all, even if parents are Christians, their kids are reading: who will question that?), or perhaps it is because they realized there were more important things to worry about, like their standard bearer of a President losing popularity faster than the Holocaust in a bagel shop and the Democrats capturing control of Congress. Either way, they weren’t as feisty as in years past. But it is still worth looking at the responses of previous years, because even if they are subdued for now, it is only temporary, this boardroom insanity will resurface in due time.

In the great film Jesus Camp (I highly recommend you see it, so you know the true power of insanity in this world), youth pastor Becky Fischer notes, "Let me say something about Harry Potter. Warlocks are enemies of God! Had it been in the Old Testament, Harry Potter would’ve been put to death!"

One religious group in Fairfax, Virginia has pushed for the banning of the Potter books because they promote Wicca, and having such materials in a public school library violates the separation of Church and State. I find the fact that an evangelical group is railing against the First Amendment absolutely hilarious (and slightly terrifying as well - they’re using our own weapons against us!).

One could get into a treatise on how the Potter books actually exemplify Christianity in all its glory (and people have). After all, the central themes of the books are love, sacrifice, and the inevitable triumph of good over evil (sounds very Satanic, eh?). However, I think the evangelicals’ misunderstanding is even more basic: they do not understand the concept of “fiction.”

Just because a book says something does not mean that the author is promoting that thing or saying that that thing is the solid truth. For instance, “there is a wizard who happens to be good” does not mean “wizardry is good.” Similarly, “David fought Goliath” does not mean “giants exist,” but that is another article entirely. The point here is that writers use literary tools to tell a story. Fantasy or humor or suspense can be used to make a story more interesting, even though those things are not essential to the moral of the story. Indeed, if Ms. Rowling wanted to promote wizardry, why would she have good wizards battling against bad wizards? Wouldn’t she have wizards battling against regular ol’ humans (presumably God-fearing Christians)? It seems to me what is being promoted here is “good,” and that moral is being conveyed through the literary tool of “fantasy,” but I’m not steeped in Christian mythology, so what do I know, right?

Continued on page 7
If one were to make a list of '80s movie clichés, you would be sure to see such mainstays as the evil developer/entrepreneur/capitalist, over-the-top fights, and gratuitous nudity, both male and female. While some of these were simply a reaction to the times, i.e. Reaganomics, I'm completely at a loss to explain the male nudity one (see "Terminator" et al). This week's flick, coming in right at the end of the decade, manages to combine all these clichés and then some, in the end turning out a movie that is far from good, but pretty damn entertaining nonetheless. This week, I give you "Road House."

James Dalton (Patrick Swayze) is one of the best at what he does: acting as "cooler," a sort of manager for bouncers in bars. After getting hired to clean up a dirty bar in a small town, Dalton gets sucked into a conflict with the local crime boss Brad Wesley, a millionaire who makes his money shaking down the humble residents of the town. Fights, exploding buildings, and gratuitous Swayze butt shots ensue.

I re-watched this movie recently, and was immediately struck by how date it comes off as today. Not dated in the way like, say, "Clueless" seems now, in terms of fashion and lingo (although these issues do come up from time to time in "Road House"), but simply because they just don't make movies like this anymore. Buildings blow up for no logical reason, the bad guy is given the WASPiest name imaginable, and Patrick Swayze does tai chi while his muscles glisten with oil. All of these factors alone would be cause for ridicule today, yet somehow "Road House" makes it work.

As for the acting, this movie lives and dies on Patrick Swayze's charisma. While everyone else is taking their cues from "The Big Book of Movie Cliché Characters," Swayze at least makes the effort to create a tough, yet secretly sensitive persona. He's only somewhat successful at this, but I appreciate the effort. Also lacking in this flick is any sort of chemistry between Swayze and Kelly Lynch, who plays the ER doctor who Dalton falls for. Bizarrely enough, Lynch manages to pull off a sort of Clark Kent/Superman difference between when she's in the office and when she's out with Swayze. It was so bad that I was literally two-thirds of the way through the movie before I was able to grasp that she was the same person.

In the end, "Road House" is perfect for the kind of night when you want to just sit back, relax, and turn your brain off. Looking ahead, keep an eye out for an indie documentary about to hit limited release called "The King of Kong." The doc follows a middle school science teacher and a hot sauce mogul competing to take the Guinness World Record for the high score on "Donkey Kong." It's amazing how such a simple concept can produce such a compelling story. That's it for this week. As always, fell free to send ideas, suggestions, and comments along.

ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

MATT FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEAUN
Communism for Dummies

Submit your opinions to the Grizzly!
It's like blogging, except with paper!
Email daseargeant@ursinus.edu

September 6, 2007
Dubble Vision: Intramural Intervention

JASON DAVIS
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“We (the football team) would like to thank the student body, faculty, and staff who supported us and will continue to support us. We hope that everyone will continue to show up on Saturdays and become the 12th man to help us stay energized. Thank you greatly.”

That’s a quote from my main man Rusiewicz in a very nice email he wrote me in response to my article last week. Well, all I want to say is thank you, Bears football. What an awesome start to the season. Now all we need, coach, is to get some “12th man” tee shirts made right? We have the Hellferich Hooligans...how about the Patterson Possessed?

Anywho...I’ve been thinking...is it too early to think about Intramurals? Nope, of course not. It’s never too early to think about intramurals. Flag football starts soon, and don’t think I haven’t been scouting campus already. I’m very excited to see that with last years graduating class, the crop of big overpowering linemen seems to have dwindled. Why does that excite me? Well...I’m skinny. Simply put, smaller players means smaller chance of me breaking. But that’s not all, it also means that this year’s league will most likely be dominated by speed. So, for all you prospective captavists out there, I hope you’ve been out there selling your squad to any free agent that you think can help you get one of those coveted Intramural Championship shirts. If not, you’re already two weeks behind the reigning champs (my team).

Now to close it out this week, we have a quote from our friendly fitness center employee, senior Steven Phillips: “How come we can beat a Division 1 AA team, but the Michigan Wolverines can’t?”

Field Hockey Flavor

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The 2007 fall season brings nothing but high hopes for Ursinus’s National championship field hockey team. The team hopes to win a fourth consecutive Centennial Conference game and “go deep in to the NCAA tournament” says assistant coach Gabe Moliken. With a record of 21-3 in 2006 and two returning all Americans (mid-fielder Katie Sutherland and goalkeeper Jess Lamina), they should have no problem reaching their goals. After a good but challenging pre-season, the girls kick off their season on Friday, August 31 at Rowan University. Although the team lost eight seniors last year, they have a large and promising amount of freshman who the coach states “are learning a lot in a very short period of time.”

Most teams have only a few stand-out players, but not this team. When asked who his stand-out players were, assistant coach Moliken gave me not one or even two, but seven girls! So, who is it that the Centennial Conference should look out for? Katie Sutherland (mid-fielder),

Football Sets the Bar High with 28-0 Rout of LaSalle

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With last year’s 8-2 season, their first winning season in five years, the football team has high expectations for this season. The Centennial Conference acknowledged the Bears’ strides as well, voting them number one in the coaches’ pre-season poll. It’s not surprising to see the Bears gather so much pre-season hype when one looks at this year’s roster. The core of last year’s suffocating defense, including All-Region defensive back Devon Butler, is intact. Also, the offense returns its leading rusher, All-Centennial Conference running back Aaron Harper. This year’s Bears have their sights set on a Centennial Conference Championship and a trip to the NCAA Division III Football tournament.

With the excitement of the impending season whirring the campus into a fervor, the football team marched to LaSalle on Thursday to take on the Explorers. Bus loads of Ursinus students met with the Explorer’s fans creating an electric atmosphere. The Bear’s pre-season credentials were sure to be put to the test against their Division I opponents. Unlike the rest of the Bears’ opponents this season, LaSalle is a large Division I school, and while their football team has struggled, the large pool of players from which the Explorers can pull could pose a problem for Ursinus. Also, the Bears’ defeated LaSalle last season 6-2; could this combined with this year’s optimistic forecast cause over-confidence issues for Ursinus?

As the game kicked off it became clear that Ursinus head coach Pete Gallagher had prepared his men properly. Tough football dominated the first quarter as both teams struggled to handle the intensity of regular season football. But Ursinus’ extra work this pre-season tackling with pads paid dividends immediately as LaSalle fumbled four times in the first quarter alone. Finally, with five minutes remaining in the quarter, Ursinus scored as Harper plowed into the end zone from five yards out. Greg Zara added the extra point and the Bears jumped out to a 7-0 lead. Only minutes later, the touted Ursinus defense forced another fumble. This time Billy Stolle picked it up and ran 8 yards for another score.

With Bears’ defense looking impenetrable and a 14-0 lead at the half, Ursinus shifted into cruise control. Jumping on this weakness, LaSalle drove the length of the field to the Ursinus 3-yard line. But, Ursinus tightened at the goal line and forced the Explorers to turn the ball over on downs. In the fourth quarter, Ursinus built on their lead when Harper ran for a 39-yard touchdown. LaSalle tried to go to the air to get back in the game, but the superior Bears’ defense refused to bend as Ursinus made its last statement of the game when Chris Carey picked off LaSalle quarterback Joe Procopio and took it 34 yards for a touchdown.

While this was a banner day for the Bears’ defense running back Harper and their highly rated defense, contributions were made by previously untested players as well. First year starter Nick Dye played a solid game, passing for 91 yards, rushing for 26, and most importantly, throwing 0 interceptions. If Ursinus continues this style of consistent offense and stellar, point-scoring defense, Ursinus can really begin eyeing that championship.