9-20-2007

The Grizzly, September 20, 2007

Matt Flyntz
Lane Taylor
Caitlin Dalik
Ashley McComeskey
Ashley Higgins

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews
Part of the Cultural History Commons, Higher Education Commons, Liberal Studies Commons, Social History Commons, and the United States History Commons
Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Authors
Matt Flyntz, Lane Taylor, Caitlin Dalik, Ashley McComeskey, Ashley Higgins, Salia Zouande, Zach Shamberg, Zakary Arnhold, Daniel Sergeant, Laurel Salvo, Alex Ernst, Jason Davis, Ashley Drogalis, and Daniel Price
Berman Unveils Fiber Art Exhibit by Peri

CAITLIN DALIK
cadalik@ursinus.edu

There is a new art exhibit at the Berman Museum of Art on campus. The exhibition preview reception for *Fabstracts: Fiber Forms and Paintings* by Eve Peri (1897-1966) was held on Friday, Sept. 14 in the upper gallery of the Berman museum.

According to information provided by the Berman museum, Peri's work is a fusion of fiber and art. Her artwork uses media such as crayon, watercolor, fabric, ink, embroidery, and oil paint. She focuses on fibers and fabric stitching and has worked as a textile designer for the fashion and interior design industries.

Peri is known for her use of rich fabrics, expert stitching, and handwork in her compositions of floating and contrasting colors. Her artwork is lyrical and highly abstract. "Eve was largely a self-taught artist," said Elizabeth "Betsy" Bullock, collection owner and close friend of Peri. She was inspired by a well-known decorator in New York City. Peri lived and worked in New York, Mexico, and Philadelphia, along with many European cities. Peri was also influenced by artists Joan Miró, Jean Arp, and Henri Matisse. Many consider Peri's work to be abstract expressionism.

Bullock said that Eve Peri and she were "friends for years." Peri was born in Maine but lived all over the world. She loved Europe, especially Portugal. Peri especially loved Lisbon, Portugal. Before she passed away, Peri requested that her ashes be scattered throughout a park in the city. When asked what Peri loved about Portugal, Bullock said, "It was the simplicity about the people that inspired her."

Peri's artwork has been featured at a number of other galleries including the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York, the Detroit Institute of Art, and Cleveland Museum.

**COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW**

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

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:
- Dr. Leah Berman, Mathematics & Computer Science
- Dr. Kneia DaCosta, Psychology
- Dr. Sheryl Goodman, Media & Communication Studies
- Dr. Rebecca Lyczak, Biology
- Dr. Gabrielle Principe, Psychology
- Dr. Nathan Rein, Philosophy & Religion

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 October 12, 2007.
‘Ashley Treatment’ Sparks Debate

ASHLEY HIGGINS
ashiggins@ursinus.edu

In Seattle, Washington, the 2004 medical treatment of a nine-year-old girl identified by only her first name, Ashley, has sparked nationwide debate. Ashley was born with static encephalopathy, which was diagnosed shortly after her birth when her parents noticed severe development delays. Encephalopathy is a broad term including many diseases of the brain. Encephalopathies can be caused by infectious agents, exposure to toxic chemicals, prolonged trauma, brain tumors, metabolic dysfunction, poor nutrition, or a lack of oxygen in the brain.

If encephalopathies are caused by infectious agents, for example, the damage to the brain and the effects of encephalopathies are irreversible. Such is the case of Ashley, who is unable to walk, talk, sit up, or swallow food. She is in need of constant care from her parents or another caregiver. According to medical professionals, her condition will never improve, and it is unknown whether she even possesses the mental capacity to recognize her parents’ faces.

Her parents feared that as Ashley grew larger, she would become more difficult to care for. So in 2004, as MSNBC contributor Arthur Caplan, Ph.D., reported, Ashley’s parents consented to have her uterus and breast glands removed and to a continued regimen of hormone therapy that would prevent her from growing. In her current state, she will remain more than a foot shorter and 50 pounds lighter than she would naturally be.

In late 2006, Ashley’s doctors published their procedure, appropriately dubbed “the Ashley treatment.” Ashley’s parents found themselves in the midst of a bioethics controversy, with some critics citing eugenic and making malicious attacks about the intentions of her parents. Ashley’s parents created an online blog to address any misconceptions about the surgery and treatment. (http://ashleytreatment.spaces.live.com/blog/)

At 65 pounds, Ashley’s weight was beginning to impede her parents’ ability to carry her easily. This weight also put her at the maximum weight for the double stroller. The parents use it in lieu of a wheelchair (as it is very uncomfortable for Ashley to sit up for long periods of time, and she can lay down comfortably in the double stroller).

Limiting Ashley’s growth also allows for her to comfortably lie down in a standard size bathtub, which her parents say would not be possible if she were to grow to her adult size. The hysterectomy was performed because Ashley would not be having children, as she is so disabled that she cannot menstruate and any painful complications would make caring for Ashley much easier on her parents. The mastectomy was performed for similar reasons: Ashley would never need to breastfeed. Also, Ashley’s family has a history of breast cancer and other breast problems. Ashley would not be able to communicate any pain or early signs of any such conditions, which was also why her appendix was removed. Also, Ashley seemed to be experiencing discomfort in her breasts from being strapped into her wheelchair across her chest.

Though critics have also expressed sympathy for the impossible decision Ashley’s parents were forced to make, many feel that it is unethical to medically intervene to keep Ashley child-sized permanently. She is often referred to as “the Peter Pan project.” However, more moderate opinions have been expressed that show Ashley as a victim of a society very behind the times in caring for the disabled.

As Arthur Caplan, Ph.D., put it, “Families like Ashley’s need more help, more resources, more breaks from the relentless pressure of providing care and some hope that their daughter can be somewhere safe after they are gone” (http://www.mshb.msn.com/id/16472931/). In a society that makes it very difficult for patients such as Ashley to get what she needs, and with many reported cases of sexual abuse among hospital caregivers to disabled patients, this might have been her parents’ only choice.

SAO Reveals New Events for Fall

SALIA ZOUMANDE
szouande@ursinus.edu

Are you a fan of The Wizard of Oz? Then you will probably agree with thousands of other fans that since its publication in September 1900, L. Frank Baum’s Wonderful Wizard of Oz has become America’s greatest and best-loved fairy tale. While the Broadway musical Wicked, which opened in Philadel­phia in September 2003, has been a worldwide attraction for children and adults alike, few have made a connection between students and faculty staff by offering enjoyable activities and events in and around campus.

The Leadership Development & Student Activities Office is located in Wismer Lower Lounge (WLL) between Zack’s and the bookstore (and it is quite hard not to notice its open doors and the candy sitting on the table). SAO is operated by Director Todd McKinney and his Assistant Director Gregory Striano. The Leadership Development & Student Activities Office along with the multicultural service works with different groups on campus, including the Campus Activities Board (CAB), Ursinus Student Government Association (USGA), fraternities, sororities, and other clubs on campus to host educational, cultural, and social events. SAO also works with different departments on campus, including the Athletic Department for sporting events. SAO also posts information on flat screen TVs in Wismer and the Kaleidoscope, as well as other places scattered around campus.

SAO does more than you can imagine. Among the events organized by the Leadership Development & Student Activities Office are COSA (Celebration of Student Achievement), they assist the Study Abroad Program and WLL with lighting and other needs, manages the Parents Lounge in Wismer, and assists students in the funding of organizations on campus.

When asked what the best thing was about working at the Leadership Development & Student Activities Office, McKenney said he enjoyed the possibility of doing different things each day. McKinney, who has had 12 years experience in working with students, said he wants students to come by often to visit him in his office and talk about events/things they want to see happen on campus.

Among other upcoming events this semester, there is a trip to the Philadelphia Zoo on Sept. 23. SAO will also be sponsoring a New York Radio City Music Hall trip on Oct. 25. Homecoming will also be held on Oct. 29. For more events hosted by The Leadership Development & Student Activities Office, e-mail Todd McKinney at tmckenney@ursinus.edu.

In Case You Missed It...

ASHLEY HIGGINS
ashiggins@ursinus.edu

Sept. 7, 2007 - Government scientists predict that two-thirds of the world’s polar bears will die by the year 2050. Thinning ice conditions caused by global warming may drown the bears. Only 16,000 polar bears are expected to survive to the end of the century, and that population will be concentrated in Northern Canadian Islands and the west coast of Greenland.

Sept. 7, 2007 - President Bush responds to Osama bin Laden’s video. The video is bin Laden’s first appearance in three years. Bin Laden boasts about the 9/11 attacks and criticizes the Bush administration for starting a war in Iraq. Bin Laden also criticizes the Democratic party for failing to command an Iraqi-pullout. Bush says that this demonstrates that a continued military presence in Iraq is necessary, so that al-Qaeda cannot operate there. Bin Laden made no specific threat against the U.S. in his video.

Sept. 8, 2007 - Jerry and Kate McCann, British parents to missing 4-year-old Madeleine, have been named formal sus­pects in her disappearance on May 3, 2006. Madeleine went missing from the family’s hotel room while her parents were vacation­ing in Portugal. Since then, The McCann’s have launched an international campaign to find their missing daughter. Now police in Portugal may not allow the parents to leave and return to Britain, as they have been trying to return so that they can clear their names. Police found new forensic evidence in traces of blood in the parent’s car. Both parents have been interrogated by Portuguese police.

Sept. 10, 2007 - Senator Craigfiles papers in an attempt to withdraw his guilty plea in the Minnesota airport bathroom sex-sting operation. Craig claims he filed the guilty plea without speaking to a lawyer and without considering the long-term consequences to his political career. Requests to withdraw a guilty plea are not often granted.

Sept. 10, 2007 - General David Petraeus tells Congress that he expects the U.S. can withdraw 30,000 troops by July 2008. This would reduce US troops to the pre-surge level, after the military build-up of last winter. He says that surge has met its necessary objectives, and that the U.S. should be able to withdraw 30,000 troops without any escalating violence in the region as a result of the withdrawal. If 30,000 troops are withdrawn by next July, 130,000 US troops will remain in Iraq.
Features

Popping the Pill

Sex causes plenty of anxiety. We worry about the time, place, setting, and whether or not our roommate will be busy that evening. On top of all these valid concerns, practicing safe sex reigns as the most important matter; however, what makes the concept difficult is that each individual has his or her own way of protecting his or her self and their partner. The birth control pill, a form of hormonal contraception, is a popular form of reversible birth control that is available through prescription only and has a high rate of effectiveness. However, no form of contraception is right for everyone, and this article will help you and your partner decide whether or not the pill is for you.

Birth control pills, or oral contraceptives, generally combine hormones (estrogen and progestin) to prevent ovulation and thicken cervical mucus. Both methods prevent pregnancy by not allowing the sperm to reach the egg. In some cases, a progestin-only pill method may be prescribed to women unable to use combination methods. These “mini-pills” are also highly effective and work by thickening cervical mucus, but are less effective in preventing ovulation. However, it is important to understand that the thickening of cervical mucus alone is an effective way of preventing pregnancy (Planned Parenthood).

Both forms of hormonal oral contraception are purchased in packs containing 28 pills. In combination packs, 21 pills contain hormones and are taken during the first three weeks, while seven pills are inactive placebos that serve as a reminder and are usually taken during the time when a woman menstruates and has her period. Some packs now contain only 21 pills, and the only difference is that women using that method simply wait eight days after the pack is completed to start another pack instead of taking reminder pills. In progesterin-only packs, there are 28 pills, each active and containing a hormone. Like the combination pills, during the fourth week of use in progesterin-only methods, a woman usually gets her period (Planned Parenthood).

One of the most important points to remember is that one pill has to be taken once a day, every day, for the pill to be effective. Taking the pill at the same time every day helps ensure effectiveness, while missing pills significantly decreases effectiveness. If you’re using oral contraception and you miss a pill, consult your informational packet to determine what you need to do next.

Certain medications also decrease the effectiveness of oral contraception, and because of this it is important to be truthful with your medical professional about the medications you are taking to ensure that there is no conflict. Some anti-HIV protease inhibitors, anti-seizure medications, oral anti-fungals, and the antibiotic Rifampin are believed to decrease the pill’s effectiveness (Planned Parenthood). St. John’s Wort is also believed to interfere with the pill, and it is important to discuss all medications and supplements (including vitamins) with the professional who is prescribing the pill.

Scudera’s Gilgamesh

ZACH SHAMBERG
zashamberg@ursinus.edu

Hollywood screenwriters have made the following a rule to live by: adapt a book, win an Oscar. After all, the Academy Awards honor the most excellent adapted screenplay, and turned it into a visual spectacle unlike anything yet seen at Ursinus College. “There’s a lot of movement choreography in this show. The movement is very much integrated with the text, and it tells the story,” Scudera stated.

The story, however, is one that most Ursinus College students have heard before. The Epic of Gilgamesh is required reading for CIE students, which begs the question: why Gilgamesh? “I wanted to do an adventure story... so I looked at different plays that have already been written that are adventure stories, and I couldn’t really find one that I related to,” said Scudera. He continued, “And so I thought, ‘why not choose the one that everyone at Ursinus College already knows?’ Gilgamesh is just the kind of story I wanted to tell.”

Most CIE students have to wonder: will Gilgamesh usher in a new era of seeing and experiencing, rather than just reading? “I’m hoping that people will learn from it on stage the same way they might if they just read it in a book,” revealed Scudera. “I’m hoping it will at least achieve a place on this campus where it can be viewed and learned from.” Although theatre may never take the place of books at Ursinus College, Scudera is very optimistic that the character of Gilgamesh can achieve a better understanding in the minds of students, “He learns to be human. To me, that is a very interesting journey that he takes. It’s very much like a Greek tragic hero,” said Scudera.

Needless to say, Gilgamesh is an extremely risky leap for Domenick Scudera. When asked if he regrets choosing a piece rooted in so much history and meaning, the answer was delivered without hesitation: “I’d much rather take the risk. That’s why I chose it.” On October 3, we’ll see if that choice ultimately pays off.

Not everyone can take the pill due to possible serious side effects. Blood clots and high blood pressure are rare side effects, and their incidence increases in patients of older age and patients who smoke. In very rare cases, jaundice, gallstones, and liver tumors have also occurred. If you have a history of any of these conditions or conditions associated with diabetes, a history of stroke or heart attack, or have an abnormal growth, your medical professional may decide the pill is not for you. Other conditions may also cause the professional to keep you off the pill, however, in its stead, progestin-only pills can sometimes be prescribed. More common and much less severe side effects include breast tenderness, nausea, headache, moodiness, bleeding between periods (or “spotting”), and in cases of combination pills, weight fluctuation (Planned Parenthood).

The pill is also associated with positive side effects, such as less cramping, lighter and more regular periods, decrease in acne, a lower risk of certain cancers, less anemia, a lower risk of osteoporosis, less vaginal dryness, and others (Planned Parenthood). You can receive birth control counseling at the Wellness Center and Planned Parenthood that will help you and your partner decide if “popping the pill” is right for you.

Career Corner

CAREER SERVICES
career@ursinus.edu

Got Internship?

An internship is a structured and supervised professional experience that gives a student the opportunity to link academic studies to “real world” experience and develop practical skills in a work environment. With the approval and support of a faculty internship advisor, you can receive credit for an internship and satisfy your Independent Learning Experience (ILE) requirement. There are many reasons to consider an internship:

Try out a career field: An internship gives you experience in a field and can help you make more educated career choices. Would you buy a car without a test drive? Marry your partner without a date? Well don’t jump into a career field without trying it out first. An internship allows you to explore careers in different fields to help you narrow down your focus.

Develop career-related skills: Employers want to know what you can do for them, and they are especially interested when you’ve already done it for someone else. Many skills are best learned on the job, and internships can provide you with opportunities to demonstrate your transferable skills, such as leadership, analytical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills.

Great networking contacts: If you want to know where the opportunities are in an industry, the people you want to talk to are the ones already working in it. Internships give you the perfect opportunity to make connections and develop a network of professionals in your field.

An inside track to a job: Most organizations will hire successful interns over candidates they’ve just met. Many companies use internships as extended interviews for full-time employment. Some hire new graduates almost exclusively from their internship pool.

For more information on finding, applying, and securing an internship, stop in Career Services, Bomberger 110.
UC Unplugged

ZAKARY ARNHOLD
zarhold@ursinus.edu

Attention All Freshmen: do you think you can handle a little competition? Would you compete to have Ursinus College sponsor parties, social events, activities, and pay to deck out your dorms with foosball or pool tables? If you answered yes and you can turn off a light, shut down a computer, or unplug an appliance, then you can compete in UC Unplugged. Read this article to find out how and why Ursinus College has decided to turn up the green by turning off the lights.

An energy conservation competition is an idea advocated for by different individuals on campus, like this author. The competition will finally be actualized with the combined effort and support of President Strasser, Director of Facilities Services Andy Feick, Resident Director (RD) Jared Rodrigues, Dr. Rich Wallace and Dr. Leah Joseph of the Environmental Studies Department, Sustain UC, and UCEA. UC Unplugged is an energy conservation competition between Beardwood, Paisley, Stauffer (BPS) and Brodbeck, Wilkinson, Curtis (BWC) that will begin September 21, 2007. The competition is based on comparing this year’s monthly and overall semester energy consumption with the energy consumed by last year’s freshman class. Residents in BPS and BWC will be competing against the monthly energy consumption of last year’s freshman class with the opportunity to have an activity or event sponsored by the college if they consume less energy that last year’s freshman class for that month. Also, BPS and BWC will compete against one another to see who can conserve the highest percentage of energy. Facilities Services has agreed to allocate a portion of the money saved from energy reduction to the winning dorm which will get to vote on how to utilize their allotment, such as by purchasing foosball or pool tables to enjoy during the spring semester.

The official kickoff of UC Unplugged will be the night of September 20 where the RDs of BPS and BWC will camp outside for the first 24 hours living sans electricity. The campout will be in the triangle, and all are welcome and encouraged to join. The plan of attack after the kick off is to raise as much awareness of the benefits of energy conservation as possible, as well as ways to conserve as much energy as possible. Volunteers will be canvassing BPS and BWC, giving door to door energy audits using voltmeters to show how much energy appliances consume. E-mails, brochures, and verbal conservation tips will be given throughout the entire competition. Also, residents have the opportunity to request energy efficient light bulbs from Facilities Services at no cost. If this competition is successful in reducing energy, then there is the possibility of enlarging the scale of the competition to include other dormitories or even houses on Main Street in future competitions.

The success of UC Unplugged will be determined by each individual in BPS and BWC making a conscious effort to conserve energy. By conserving energy, the college will simultaneously reduce energy costs and help the environment. Energy conservation relates to the amount of energy we demand as a community. A lower energy demand means less nuclear, oil, coal, and natural gas needed to produce energy. This means a lower production of greenhouse gases and a cleaner environment. Also, this means less money that the college must allocate to energy suppliers and more money that can be spent on improving campus life.

The energy conservation competition is just one way we can live sustainably at Ursinus College. There are direct and indirect ways for each student to reduce his or her energy consumption. Direct ways to conserve energy are to turn off unused lights in buildings or dorms and to unplug appliances until they are being used. Even though an appliance may be turned off, it is consuming a small amount of energy, which is energy that is wasted. Another way is to swap our usual light bulbs for energy efficient bulbs to save the college up to $60 per bulb annually. Other energy saving tips include washing laundry less frequently, using energy star appliances, setting your air conditioner on energy saver mode, using battery operated appliances and recycling the dead batteries, turning your computer off throughout the night, using natural light for reading, reading a book instead of watching T.V., and running or biking outside instead of using the machines at the gym. However, do not forget the indirect ways of conserving energy, because they make an impact that goes beyond Ursinus College. One way is to recycle cans, bottles, glasses, cardboard, and paper, because recycling processes utilize less overall energy than the production of goods from raw materials. Another indirect way is to walk or bike more to destinations instead of driving to reduce the amount of gasoline consumed.

Whether directly or indirectly, energy conservation starts with evaluating how much energy you consume through your daily activities and making a conscious effort to consume less. UC Unplugged is just one of the up and coming ways to live sustainably at Ursinus College. Remember that the energy conservation competition does not limit who can conserve energy, because anyone can help to conserve energy on campus. If you have any questions, would like to help spread awareness, or just get involved in some facet, please contact either the author (zarhold@ursinus.edu), Jared Rodrigues (jrodrigues@ursinus.edu), Sustain UC (UCEAcycles@ursinus.edu), UCEA (UCEA@ursinus.edu), or Dr. Richard Wallace (rwallace@ursinus.edu) and Dr. Leah Joseph (lJoseph@ursinus.edu) of the Environmental Studies Department.

Features

Interested in writing for the Features section?
Email Features Editor Ali Wagner at alwagner@ursinus.edu to get involved.

Fringe Festivities Begins This Week

ASHLEY MCCOMESKEY
asmcomeskey@ursinus.edu

The 8th Annual Fringe Festival is held on Ursinus’s campus this week. It began yesterday, Sept. 19, and extends through Saturday, just a week after the Festival ends in Philadelphia.

The Fringe Festival is a collection of artists and performers who come together from around the world to produce new, experimental acts. The performances take place in Philadelphia, but the venues range from art galleries to local bars. At Ursinus, the acts will consist of local professionals. Associate Professor of Theatre Dominick Scudera, who organizes the event each year, invites only people whose work he knows and trusts, which will appeal to the Ursinus audiences.

Sponsored by the Art and Lecture committee, this “mini festival” is exclusive to Ursinus College, according to Scudera, because he doesn’t know of any festivals such as this one. Planned events include improv acts, a comedy show, a dance performance by two faculty members, and a cabaret, where students and faculty can put on their own shows.

In the past, students have done everything from singing and dancing to magic shows and stand up comedy. Scudera expects the Cabaret to have the biggest turnout, since Scudera and meet with huge success in Philadelphia, will conclude the festival.

All of the performances, which are open to the college and surrounding community, will take place in The Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center Black Box Theater. These acts, which can cost up to twenty dollars per ticket in the city, are free. Seats are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Scudera emphasized what a great opportunity it is to experience “fresh, new entertainment” and hopes that students will take advantage of it.

Schedule:

Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 12p.m.
Ursinus Dance Professor Cathy Young and Visiting Dance Professor Aviva Geismar, from New York’s Dramatic Action dance company, will perform short solo pieces.

Thursday, Sept. 20, at 8p.m.
Tongue and Groove

With an emphasis on realism, this unique improv ensemble develops a spontaneous theater piece that explores a wide range of relationships. These talented actors create laugh-out-loud humor and heart-touching moments of truth as they improvise the human experience. Expect romance, comedy, drama, playfulness...and lots of kissing and wrestling.

Thursday, Sept. 20, at 10 p.m.
Ursinus Fringe Cabaret
Students and Faculty perform individual acts, anything from singing and dancing to comedy acts and magic.

Friday, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m.
The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium presents “Four of a Kind: One Beckett, One Ionesco, A Pinter, and a Durang.”

Direct from the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, this smorgasbord of absurdist appetizers features an early Pinter comedy, ferocious hijinks a la Ionesco, and a 121-word dramatical from Beckett and Christopher Durang’s gleefully disturbing send-up of “The Glass Menagerie.”

Saturday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.
The Waitstaff sketch comedy troupe presents “Served the Way You Like It!” Also from the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, the popular Waitstaff returns with an all-new 100% not old sketch comedy show — served the way you like it.
Opinions

Music Review: Blaqk Audio’s “Cexcells”

LAUREL SALVO
lasalvo@ursinus.edu

The floor below, that is now covered in silver glitter, is being assaulted by heavy footsteps that follow the beats of lyrical notions that exist in a place; a place where time stands still; a place where vibrant shades of neon lights reflect off everyone’s faces as the gyrations of the crowd ooze sex, excitement, and freedom. That place is a Blaqk Audio show.

If you haven’t heard anything about the electronic side project of Davey Havok and Jade Puget (more commonly known as the vocalist and guitarist for AFI), don’t be too upset. Their album “Cexcells,” released through Interscope records, dropped on August 14th and it has yet to be aired on any Pennsylvania radio stations, let alone VH1, MTV, or MTV2. Unlike their rock band of AFI (also known as “A Fire Inside”), Blaqk Audio has no live instruments. Produced entirely by Puget on software programs with lyrics comprised wholly by Havok, the 12 tracks off of “Cexcells” define dance music perfectly.

And that’s been the main goal of the duo from the beginning. Loveline, AP Magazine, KROQ (LA’s premiere radio station); all of these places have been christened by Puget and Havok and each medium has heard their common desire: “We really want our fans to be dancing.”

And what about the title of the album being called “Cexcells”? For the most part, the lyrics consist of various vignettes that are either aligned with the act of sex or inspired by it. Consider lyrics from the track “Between Breaths” (a mix of liquid and pulsating beats with a hint of Marilyn Manson-esque aggression) such as: “Take it easy on me/Just make it harder to breathe/So I’ll climb on top/And I’ll never stop/Until I make you forget who you are/And just feel.” Those types of lyrics are what exemplify the album. Shocking though they may seem, it’s no worse than the lyrics of an average rap song. Dance music as a genre has always had shades of this nature within its core and having been avid listeners of that type of sound, Havok and Puget know this well, and they’ve harnessed it even better.

If nothing else, Blaqk Audio is a step forward in a bright and open direction. Havok and Puget created this side project predominantly because it is a huge passion of theirs. Major nerds for the Electronica genre, they’ve always claimed interest in various bands of that label; citing artists such as Ministry, Apoptygma Berzerk, Depeche Mode, and Justice as inspiration.

Puget said recently in a lengthy interview from September’s issue of Alternative Press Magazine, “We made this record just because we love that music. We never did it to sell records or become popular.”

Cléché as this may sound, I believe it’s true and I believe that artists today need to grasp these two mentalities tightly. Granted, Electronica isn’t a genre that is appreciated enough in the U.S. today. However, I think with the release of this album, that’s about to change. Already during the first week of its debut, it found itself on the Billboard charts at number 18 - not too bad at all. People are openly embracing the beats and feeling the rhythms and as more fans move toward the center of the dance floor, more are certain to follow.

Gonzo’s Gone, But New Attorney General Nominee a Mixed Blessing

MATTHEW FLYNTZ
mflyntz@ursinus.edu

When Alberto Gonzales was forced to resign as Attorney General, Democrats (and even some Republicans, for that matter) cheered for joy, and for good reason: Gonzales was an incompetent hack, and that fact took over two years to gain political relevance (a sad commentary on the state of public service, to be sure). But after the hooting and laughing, Democrats had to ask themselves, “Who will Bush pick next?”

Bush has a tendency to award his (or his Dad’s) pals with high positions. Mukasey would be willing to bring to the Justice Department the independence that it so badly needs. At the very least, he’ll be better than Gonzzo.

part in the famous case of Jose Padilla, the United States citizen who was held as an “enemy combatant” – more on his opinion in this case a bit later), rather than simply being the mouthpiece for an overly paternalistic boss, which brings me to my next point. Mukasey is not a “Bushie.” Bush has had a tendency to award his (or his Dad’s) pals with high seats of power in our Federal government, but Mukasey is not a pal. Not yet, at least.

These things are reassuring, but it is wise not to forget that it is the Bush Administration who is doing the nominating here. While Mukasey may not be a pal, he is certainly not an enemy either. We will not see a sudden change of policy once Mukasey is confirmed (and he will be, given the praise that Charles Schumer, that paragon of liberalism, has heaped upon him). But, there may be some slight changes. Back to the Padilla case for a moment. Mukasey sided with the Bush Administration, arguing that Padilla could be held as an “enemy combatant,” but he split with the Administration by claiming that Padilla was entitled to legal counsel. This difference seems to suggest that Mukasey would be willing to bring to the Justice Department the independence that it so badly needs. At the very least, he’ll be better than Gonzzo.

This Week in Regrettable History

DANIEL SERGEANT
dsergeant@ursinus.edu

September 16, 1999: Patrick “Hotsie Totsie” Naughton is arrested on a Santa Monica pier in a sting operation. Naughton was allegedly attempting to meet a 13-year-old girl (really an FBI agent) he had met in an explicit online chat room. This isn’t especially newsworthy until you learn that Naughton was a highly-placed executive at Disney, a company whose target demographic includes (drum roll) 13-year-old girls. For his crimes, Naughton spends one week in jail (though he also loses his job).

September 17, 1859: San Francisco eccentric Joshua Norton proclaims himself Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico. He is humored by the entire city for the remainder of his life, and upon his death is buried in a lavish ceremony paid for by the city. He is remembered as a leader with remarkable foresight, a trait that makes some political observers wish he was still around.

September 17, 1878: The U.S. Constitution is signed in Philadelphia, over objections from some representatives that its provisions are “frighteningly easy to ignore, aren’t they?”

September 18, 1992: After an incriminating feature in the New York magazine Q, attorney John Schlafly publicly announces that he is homosexual. What should have been an incredibly personal revelation now becomes national news, because John is the son of outspoken gay rights opponent Phyllis Schlafly. Phyllis is also the mother of Andrew Schlafly, the brains behind the much-lampooned Conservapedia.

September 19, 1986: George Washington issues his farewell address as an open letter to the American people. In it, he warns against the dangers of political parties and getting involved in stupid pointless foreign conflicts that have nothing to do with American safety.

September 20, 1633: Galileo Galilei goes before the Inquisition to defend his teaching that the Earth orbits the Sun, which goes against the official Church doctrine of the time, which is that the world orbits around Jason Mills, age 8, of Scottsdale, Arizona.

September 21, 2001: In an address to the country, U.S. President George W. Bush declares a global War on Terror. Six years later, the nation is at is most politically polarized state since Vietnam and is neck-deep in a stupid pointless foreign conflict that has nothing to do with Ameri­can safety.

September 21, 2001: In a secret government experiment, George Washington is brought back from the dead. He commits suicide a day later.

September 22, 1692: Giles Corey is tortured to death for his refusal to plead in the Salem Witch Trials. Years later, millions of American schoolchildren will forget his stoically heroic resistance in the face of unimaginable adversity, despite its beautiful portrayal in Arthur Miller’s masterpiece, The Crucible. Instead, they will remember the heroic resistance of Gerard Butler in 300, because fighting a digitized army of nightmarish monsters is sexier than being executed by religious officials.
“Shoot ‘Em Up” (2007)

Every once in a while a movie comes along that is so over the top it gains instant classic status (unfortunately, “Over the Top” does not qualify). Back in the day, “Die Hard” was able to pull this off with Bruce Willis’s ridiculous ballsiness (yes, it’s a word). More recently, Tony Jaa’s jaw-dropping action sequences in “Ong Bak: The Thai Warrior” raised the bar for films looking to flat-out blow viewers away. This week’s flick has once again set a new standard for action flicks. With that, I give you “Shoot ‘Em Up.”

Smith (Clive Owen) is minding his business when he sees a group of thugs trying to kill a pregnant woman. After delivering her baby in the middle of the first of many shootouts, Smith is forced to protect the baby from the mysterious Hertz (Paul Giamatti) as he tries to figure out why everyone wants the baby dead.

This movie absolutely kicks ass. I am honestly tempted to end the review here as there is no way to convey the awesomeness that was brought to the screen by this flick. Clive Owen plays the anti-hero to a “T” bringing back all the charm and charisma that helped him carry his segment of “Sin City.” Monica Bellucci, serving as the love interest, oozes sexiness all over the screen, making her the best French import since the Statue of Liberty. Balancing out the two is Paul Giamatti, once again proving why he’s the most under-rated actor in Hollywood. Will somebody give this guy an Oscar already? He’s definitely past due at this point, but one suspects that his involvement in movies like this makes the Academy a little wary.

If you were to ask me about the plot of this movie, I’d probably look back at you with a blank look on my face. I know that there was a plot, but it was just about the most unimportant thing in this movie, serving only to push the film along between action sequences. While this would be a death sentence for most movies, for this flick it works if only because the action sequences are so well done. The gun fights are inventive and creative, drawing you in past the point where you question just how insane the action really is. Owen’s character manages to find at least eight unique ways to kill the various thugs using carrots, including, but not limited to: impalement, eye gouging, and jamming it into a gun to allow it to continuously fire.

Frankly, “Shoot ‘Em Up” was one of the most entertaining movies I’ve seen this year, quite an accomplishment when the summer delivered gems like “Live Free or Die Hard.” It’s great to see that Hollywood can still produce action flicks that bring something new to the table. Turn your brain off for an hour and a half and see this movie.

Looking ahead, keep an eye out for “My Kid Could Paint That,” a documentary about a four-year-old girl whose paintings have been compared to Picasso. If anything, the title alone sums up my feelings about much of modern art today. Throw in the possibility that her dad, an amateur painter himself, could be influencing her or even painting it himself, and you have a compelling film. That’s it for this week, but get ready to have your mind blown with the sheer craziness of “Labyrinth” in all its David Bowie glory right here next time.

Alex Ernst thinks that even for this movie, shooting an umbilical cord to cut it off is a little much. You can reach him at alemst@ursinus.edu.

“Oh, Children. Those sweet, adorable little babies that will one day become the scraggly and bespectacled leaders of tomorrow—assuming they make it past puberty, which is a bad time in pretty much everyone’s life. As it turns out, however, it’s made unearable more so if you happen to be a member of a polygamist Mormon cult with a taste for incest matched only by its taste for statutory rape.

We are referring, of course, to the trial currently in progress in Utah against Warren Jeffs, CEO (or, rather, prophet) of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (known, thankfully, by its much-shorter-ened acronym, FLDS). It would seem that our boy Jeffs performed a marriage ceremony which blessed for eternity the matrimonial union between a 19-year-old man and his 14-year-old cousin.

This is problematic (as if there weren’t enough problems with that situation from the get-go) is that the 14-year-old, known in court documents as Jane Doe, didn’t particularly want to marry her cousin. And we can sympathize. We at CJFD will be the first to admit that we have some smokin’ hot cousins, but we still don’t want to marry them. Drunkenly hook up with them in the men’s room at a wedding reception (or, wake), absolutely—but not marriage. That’d just be gross.

Anyway, because Jeffs presided over the ceremony (by church rules—we mean, God’s rules, he is the only one allowed to perform weddings), he is charged with being an accomplice to the rape of Jane Doe, which is what she claims happened on what non-incestual, non-deranged couples refer to as their first night of welded bliss. It is bound to be a landmark trial whose ruling will affect not only the legal definition of rape, but also the women’s rights movement and even the First Amendment, as it attempts to determine where freedom of religion ends and criminal offense begins.

And you can bet your boots that Jeffs has prepared his butt off for this epic trial. His defense is that, while the girl may have been unhappy with her marriage, that certainly does not constitute rape, a daring (nay, smashback-
It's been a long four years here at Ursinus, hasn't it? I don't know about you guys, but I feel old. Being a senior in high school was awesome. But in college...let's just say it's not the same thing, you know. My Saturday nights are getting shorter, my papers are getting longer, and my belly is getting bigger. Okay maybe that last one isn't true. I have a really fast metabolism. But you know what I mean.

I feel like we've been through a lot of changes here at Ursinus. Think about it. Remember what Zach's looked like Freshman year? Seriously...because I don't. We now have a big building called the Kaleidoscope (don't remember what used to be there either), a turf field (used to be the baseball field), and a "New Dorm," just to name a few of the bigger ones. It feels like every year something at Ursinus changes. I think that may be one of the things I like about this place.

But one big change I want to point out, because I really don't want it to go unnoticed, is change our class has brought to the Athletic programs here at Ursinus. I don't want to hate on any of our sports teams, because I know they all work hard, but do you remember what some of our seasons were like as freshman? Our football team had one win. This year we were picked to win the conference. And if the team plays like we did in the second half against Juniata...maybe they should just give us the trophy now.

In 2004 our Men's Soccer team won three games total. This year they already have three wins with 12 games leaving. And it's the same exact situation with Volleyball: three wins total our freshman year, and now with 13 games remaining, they already have three W's. Field Hockey has always been a powerhouse, but last year they won their first ever Division III title, and this year they were ranked number one in the nation to start the season.

And that's just our fall teams. Some of our winter and spring teams have made huge improvements too. Take Track and Field for example. In 2003, the year before we got here, our Men's team finished last. Now we are a top contender to beat Haverford (they have never lost) for the Conference Crown.

It's not that we have just improved some of our programs; a number of our athletic teams have also maintained their winning ways year after year...some say that's even harder. Just look at Wrestling: five straight Conference Championships. Field Hockey's got three in a row. And Gymnastics, I'm going to be honest with you, I'm not sure how it works...but I know they've been one of the top teams in the country every year.

So I kind of just wanted to take this opportunity to thank my senior classmates (and you younger guys too, I'm aware there is no "I" in team) for all the hard work and time you've put in to make my time here fun. And when I do (hopefully?) graduate, I'm going to look back at these four years in Bear country, hold my head up high and say I proved to be an '8ker. We were winners.

Well unless everyone just starts losing. Then I'll probably just try to forget this year.

The Ursinus College Football team has shown much promise in the past three weeks while getting off to a 3-0 start. After an impressive gashing of LaSalle, the past two weeks have left the Bears excited, but with an understanding that there is still much work left to be done if they plan to finish atop the Centennial Conference. In games against Lycoming and Juniata, the team has shown great ability to respond to adversity. At the same time, they have shown some early season chinks in their armor.

Starting back on September 8th, the Bears had their home opener on Patterson Field to a great supporting crowd witnessing some nippy 90 degree conditions. This was the first time Ursinus had played since being bounced from the NCAA tournament by Lycoming back in 1996 (the last time Ursinus appeared in NCAA). Ursinus started the game off great with a 35-yard drive capped off with a touchdown pass from Junior Nick Dye to Senior James Sproule. The defense then answered with an interception by all-conference linebacker Brian Hyoncyszyn. At halftime the Bears were playing good football and pitching a shutout.

As relevant to the LaSalle game the Bears' defense let up a long 15-play, 69-yard drive to open up the second half, except on this day Lycoming, unlike LaSalle, was able to score on a fifteen yard touchdown pass. A blocked extra point by Junior Chris Sanna would leave the game at 7-6 in favor of the Bears. The defense played well the rest of the way, led by Sophomore Nate Mast (nine tackles) and Junior Billy Stolle (seven tackles). An offensive flourish taken back for a touchdown would give Lycoming the lead. A 2-point conversion made it 14-7 Lycoming. The Bears showed great resilience on offense and finally got it going again with a drive sparking 33-yard pass to Senior tight end Keith Mazanky. The offense then finished off the 63-yard drive in the middle of the fourth quarter to even up the score.

In overtime the Bears won the toss and elected to go on defense. After four downs, Lycoming walked off the field with no points and Ursinus got the ball on the Lycoming 25-yard line needing any score to win the game. As head Coach Peter Gallagher had game-planned, the bears pounded the ball with Sophomore running-back Aaron Harper and got to the Lycoming 7-yard line. There Ursinus Junior kicker Greg Zara launched a 24-yard game winning field goal to lift the Bears to a 17-14 win over a nationally-respected Lycoming program.

The bears would follow this great win with another "W" in their conference opener against Juniata College. After trailing going into the second half, the bears withstood a tough Juniata team and pounded out a 44-26 victory. Although the defense had problems in the first half, allowing most of Juniata's 416 yards of total offense and 20 points in that half; they buckled down in the second half, smothering the Juniata offense and allowing just six more points. The Bears' offense was strong all day and dominated the entire afternoon. Quarterback Nick Dye had a dream day, passing for 299 yards and 5 scores while rushing for another 87. His rushing complements Aaron Harper and Senior Eric Rembert also had banner days, combining for 230 all purpose yards. The Bears' offensive line has been the core of the offense's success in this early season. Seasoned veterans and Seniors Carmen Gentile, Keith Lynn, and John Rinkus have led the team in performance and leadership. If these guys can continue to perform, the Bears' offense may continue to roll up 40 points a game.

The football teams enter its bye week 3-0 for the second time in 2 years. A week off is needed for some players to regain their health and recharge the battery. The Bears will face off again in two weeks back out on Patterson Field against Gettysburg College. This game kicks off a seven-game haul in which the Ursinus Bears look to capture a Centennial Conference title. The football team appreciates its past, current, and future support and hopes to see everyone out on Patterson on Sept. 29th, 1:00 pm.