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The Grizzly, November 1, 2007

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Love is All You Need
News

Outlet Shopping to Debut Near Ursinus

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Thinking about your holiday shopping yet? Is the mall too expensive sometimes? Have nothing to do in Collegeville? Well, the Philadelphia Premium Outlets may be seen as a solution. These outlets will offer upscale outlet shopping with a solution to 120 designer stores offering 25-65% off store prices.

The Philadelphia Premium Outlets, a new shopping center located in Pottstown, will have its grand opening on Thursday, Nov. 8. The outlets are located at 18 Lightcap Road in Pottstown, PA, which is off of the Sanatoga/Limerick exit of Route 422.

A short drive from the Ursinus campus, the outlets will give students more options for shopping in addition to the popular King of Prussia Mall.

The Grand Opening celebration will take place between Thursday, Nov. 8 and Sunday, Nov. 11. On the opening weekend, there will be special promotions. The Philadelphia Premium Outlets will be open just in time for the holiday shopping season.

The hours for the outlets will be Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with hours varying for holidays. The Philadelphia Premium Outlets have already announced that most stores will be opening for “Midnight Madness” the day after Thanksgiving, also referred to as the popular shopping holiday, “Black Friday.” All stores will open at 7 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 23.

The Philadelphia Premium Outlets will offer shopping in designer fashions in sportswear, shoes, children’s clothing, fine leather, luggage, accessories, jewelry, housewares, home furnishings, gifts, and specialty items. There is also a food court with popular restaurants such as Ruby Tuesday and Starbucks Coffee. Popular stores include Charlotte Russe, Converse, Gap, J.Crew, PacSun, Under Armour, Zumiez, Crocs, Nike, Coach, and many more.

“I’m excited about the new outlets opening just up the road. It will be great for Christmas shopping and also will be an alternative to the sometimes crowded King of Prussia area, especially during rush hour,” said sophomore Lauren Davis. Students know that Route 422, the route to the King of Prussia Mall, can get very congested during rush hour traffic.

Looking for some extra cash for holiday shopping? Merchants are hiring at the Philadelphia Premium Outlets, and representatives are interviewing potential employees for all retail positions. For more information about employment opportunities, call the Philadelphia Premium Outlets at 610-327-0419 or visit the website at www.premiumoutlets.com/philadelphia.

Bridge Hosts Annual Alumni Celebration

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On a typical Saturday night, Wismer Lower Lounge resembles a modern-day ghost town. Last Saturday evening, the lounge transformed into a festival of friends, food, and performance as S.U.N. and A.L.M.A. co-hosted the 20th Bridge Anniversary and Alumni Celebration.

S.U.N.’s co-president Greg Little said, “It was hard to put together, but was worthwhile.”

Sophomore LaShaniee Echevarria said, “You begin the whole networking process.” Echevarria mixed and mingled at a table full of alumnae from her sorority, Kappa Delta Kappa (KDK).

The celebration brought Ursinus alumni from far and wide. Many flew to the campus just to attend the festivities. Taylor Gabrielle-Martin prepared nametags while obtaining a Master’s degree in Social Work. A classy event, the celebration was hosted by junior Liriany Gilbert.

D’Andra Thompson also attended the alumni celebration. Since graduating last spring, she has moved to Brooklyn, NY. She wants to work with children through programming while obtaining a Master’s degree in Social Work. A smiling Thompson said, “I think the reunion was wonderful! You get a good grasp of what Ursinus used to be and what it is now.”

The celebration was hosted by junior Brittany Gilbert who introduced the Director of Multicultural Services, Ms. Paulette Patton. The crowd cheered as she took the mike.

“Tou are delighted to see how far Ursinus has come since I came here ten years ago!” she said while looking over the large crowd.

The crowd welcomed Dawn Chavou, a 2002 Ursinus graduate. Chavou is now the lead singer of neo-soul group “Chavou.” Their debut album, “Life Without Limit,” reached great heights in the U.K. The group performed during the dinner portion of the alumni celebration.

After dinner, the performances came from current students. Juniors Michael Flores and Wynton Rice each performed, with popular restaurants such as Ruby Tuesday, Starbuck Coffee, and a designer store offering up to store prices.

A Bright Room Called Day, a play written by Tony Kushner and directed by Professor Beverly Redman, will be showcased from Wednesday, Nov. 7, through Saturday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 pm in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center’s Black Box Theater.

The play was originally directed by Kushner in April of 1985 in a workshop production by Heat & Light Co., Inc., at Theater 22 in New York City. This anti-realist play was Tony Kushner’s first big break onto the scene as an American playwright. Kushner is renowned for his award-winning masterpiece, Angels in America.

A Bright Room Called Day is set in Germany in the years 1932 and 1933, during the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. It takes place in the apartment of a middle-aged actress, Agnes Eggling, and details how her surrounding environment changes with the Nazi Party’s rise to power. It is a not too subtle comparison of the late 20th century U.S. Republican party to Nazi Germany.

Here at Ursinus, talented students and Professor Redman will perform their best while satisfying the audience in recrrenting the play.

Sophia Lazare, an actress in the play says it is “not only informative, but also very relevant to a lot of the things going on in America today.” The play is produced as kind of a horror-style movie, with spooky lighting and makeup. It will also be interesting to see and enjoy the uniqueness of the technique and the style of the play.

“If you are interested in all German history, communism, or simply are bored of the typical Hollywood story lines, this is the play for you. “And, it is interesting and very insightful,” said Lazare. She invites all the students and the Collegeville community with a warm welcome to the Black Box Theater in the Kaleidoscope.

Tickets for students and senior citizens are two dollars and five dollars for others. They are available at the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center’s ticket office before the play, and also a week before the play outside Wismer.
Speaking to the Soul: A Personal Interview with Constance Merritt

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She addresses a crowd the way she might address a long-lost friend. Her tone is familiar, and her stage presence is relaxed. At her reading, there is no trace of Constance Merritt, Harvard Bunting Fellow, or Constance Merritt, author of three anthologies. She introduces her work almost casually, as if poetry were a hobby more than a desire—or even an occupation, for that matter.

Is it humility? The indifference of genius? I ask if she considers herself a successful poet.

She hesitates, leaning back for a second. “Not really.”

Her answer seems inconsistent with a person whose works have graced the pages of Poetry, Prairie Schooner, and The New Yorker, among others. Some poets, after all, might be content with standards for success?

“I suppose it’s to have helped hand the human species over to future generations,” she says.

Such a definition certainly fits titans like Wordsworth, Eliot, or Ginsberg. But, I point out, isn’t there room in that definition for non-canonical poets—such as herself?

She agrees, as if rethinking her initial assessment of herself. And regardless of personal assessments, Merritt has a resume that is hard to ignore. As a college student, I have a vested interest in knowing just how much her education played a role in the preparation of that resume. I asked her about her undergraduate experience.

In response, she wove a tale of uncertainty and bureaucratic failure. A transfer student to the University of Utah, she considered a Sociology major until a problem with her registration derailed her ambitions. Temporarily aimless, she took an Imaginative Writing course. Intrigued, I went on to graduate with a degree in Literature.

It was not until graduate school that she wrote her first prose poem, “The Mute Swan,” which would later appear in one of her books. She hasn’t stopped writing since. And her writing has grown to be not only aesthetically beautiful, but technically impressive as well. Sonnets, villanelles, and even sextains populate her repertoire, forms which the current generation of free-verse-minded poets might regard as archaic. I ask her at what point in the writing process she figures out what form she wants to work with.

“Some students write the poem first, then put it into form,” she says. “With me, I know by the first few lines what form a poem will take. If I get three lines that rhyme, I might be working with a sonnet. If I get a paragraph, it’s a prose poem.”

Still, she insists, she is not a neo-formalist. “Form and content aren’t something to separate,” she says. “I’ve never really thought of myself as a rebel for form.”

Being a rebel for form she might deny, but it’s hard to dismiss the idea of Merritt as a rebel. As a visually-impaired, homosexual, African-American, woman who was arrested three times for her involvement in protests against the Iraq war, she must know all too well what it is like to be the Other; the Underdog; the Minority.

Still, she laughs slightly when I ask if she is an activist poet.

“I’ve been resisting the title ‘activist poet,’” she tells me. “I’m more an introspective poet. Or maybe an activist and a poet.”

She mentions also that she used to be opposed to writing “political” poetry. I begin to wonder what changed her mind. Were the hippies right? Can poetry change the world?

Maybe—but only slowly. “It happens one person at a time. And it certainly changes me as I write it.”

She does not write to move the masses, she tells me. Her audience is one person. She speaks as an individual speaking to an individual, one human soul to another. I think back to her reading—her casual tone, her personal demeanor. It begins to make sense.

“Liberty is everybody getting to be who they are without judgment,” she says. “Poetry appeals to our common humanity. By emphasizing a part of that whole, I emphasize our commonality. So I write poetry without fear of writing about our variations.”

Renowned Poet Reads for UC

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On Tuesday, October 23, award-winning poet Constance Merritt read some of her work in Bomberger Chapel after spending a day teaching and visiting students interested in writing.


Professor Taije Silverman introduced Merritt, stating, “Her individual poems have been published in the country’s premier literary magazines, including Poetry, Ploughshares, Harvard Review, and The New Yorker.” Merritt’s honors include The Vassar Miller First Book Prize, The Roni Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award, and the Porter Prize for Literary Excellence. She was also selected for the coveted Bunting Fellowship at Harvard University.

Merritt’s works were met with applause from the audience. Her poems explored issues of race, sex, war, love, and her own life. For example, Merritt attended a residential school for the blind in Arkansas as a young girl, and one series of poems explored the hilarity and heartache those experiences produced. From sonnets to villanelles in her repertoire, Merritt’s poetry showed a wide range of form.

Due to Merritt’s impaired eyesight, she read all her poems in Braille. After she finished the reading, Merritt was escorted to the back of the Chapel by Professor Silverman for a book signing.

Merritt is the author of two books, A Protocol for Touch, published in 1999, and Blessings and Inequalities, recently published. She is currently working on releasing another book, Two Rooms.

Homecoming 2007: Wet, Welcoming, and Memorable

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If you woke up on Saturday morning and looked outside, you would have thought that Homecoming 2007 was going to be a cold, wet, dreary, in fact, downright miserable day. Guess again.

As the rain came down in buckets throughout the morning and early afternoon, campus workers finished hoisting up the tents that would shelter the celebrations of Sigma Rho Lambda, Kappa Delta Kappa, Delta Pi Sigma, Omega Chi, and Phi Alpha Psi.

Meanwhile, the numerous athletic organizations prepared themselves for an afternoon of competition, unshaken by the not-so-cheerful weather conditions.

Ursinus alumni faithfully flocked from near and far to eat, drink, and cheer on Ursinus athletes while reuniting with friends and fellow grads that they may not have seen in a while. Tailgating and upbeat “How are you doing’s?” were widespread across the grounds of Ursinus, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves despite the mud and humidity.

And then, just when it was finally accepted that the rainy weather was not going to let up for the celebration, it disappeared. Out came the sun, and in swept a beautiful southeastern breeze that brought smiles to everyone who came to join in on the party.

“This was a good one,” said senior Frank DiMeglio with a smile and in a tone that suggested we all got away with something. “The weather finally held off, and even when it was raining I think that everybody was having a good time. No one complained about the rain. We just enjoyed the company of all the alumni and ignored the wet conditions.”

DiMeglio is part of the Delta Pi Sigma Fraternity, one of the five organizations that had a tent set up in the triangle between the Fitness Center and Wismer. With a large amount of rain, this usually pleasant grassy area turns into a muddy canal that runs downhill towards the Ritter center. This in turn would make for some interesting walking conditions, let alone a sturdy place to throw up some industrial sized tents and have a party.

But campus workers were a step ahead of the game, laying down countless bales of hay and conquering Mother Nature in her attempt to ruin homecoming.

“Usually this area is bad to walk on when it’s wet, and instead we are having the Greek organizations gather on it,” said sophomore Sarah Ebling of the Phi Alpha Psi sorority. “The Ursinus staff did a great job handling the weather, and it’s turning out to be a wonderful day.”

With a majority of the UC family watching the field hockey and football teams in action, both clubs added to the already cheerful day by registering wins. With ponchos and towels being the theme in the morning, each team eventually packed them up and instead found themselves shielding their eyes from the sun.

Regardless, this year’s Homecoming was one of good spirits and victory. Hopefully, if you were here to enjoy the experience, you had the chance to share a memory or two with someone in the Ursinus family.

We can only hope that for years to come we can maintain this same homecoming atmosphere and that the UC family has this chance to meet and enjoy each others company. We can also hope that next fall Mother Nature takes it a little easier on us.
Features

Dealing with Double Standards

Over the past few decades, tolerance for sexual practices outside of marriage and heterosexuality has markedly increased. The growth of sexually-open communities and sexual expression in television shows and the movies indicates that our society is gradually accepting forms of sexual expression that were considered bizarre and simply put, “wrong.” However, our society still seems to cling to sexual double standards that haunt those who wish to express their sexuality freely and without judgment and prevent us from truly achieving a fully-accepting society. Despite the fact that colleges and universities are typically filled with progressive youths and a liberal faculty, these double standards are present on campuses throughout the country.

One of the more present double standards in college and university communities involves the notion of acceptable promiscuity. Essentially, this is the player versus slut controversy. Typically, individuals perceive that it is acceptable for men to have a variety of sexual partners or “sleep around,” while it is unacceptable for women to do the same. The development of this double standard may be partly due to the idea that, prior to marriage, men should be experienced and thus “sow their wild oats,” while women are expected to be virginal. I find this idea to be fairly comical because it implies a contradiction; if women are supposed to be virginal until their wedding night, where are these men sowing their oats?

This is indicative of a spin-off of this double standard: choosing the reasons that one woman is branded virtuous, pure, or my least favorite, “clean,” and another is labeled a slut or a whore. It appears that women are labeled by a variety of factors, including clothing. If women wear clothing that is revealing in any way, it’s often considered “suggestive.” (Suggestive is the term used when people want to avoid saying what they really might be thinking, which is usually something along the lines of, “Wow, that girl is wearing a slutty outfit.”) Another determining factor seems to be based on whether or not a woman is sexually-active. Women who aren’t sexually-active rarely get labeled as sluts, but they may be labeled teases, while women who are sexually-active may have felt pressured to become sexually-active because they thought it would cause men to like them, while in reality, they became weighed down with a nasty label. At this point, it is important to note that men are not the only ones who label women: women also label each other. This is also true when regarding whether or not a woman is sexually-active. Men who aren’t sexually-active rarely get labeled as sluts, but they may be labeled teases, while women who are sexually-active may have felt pressured to become sexually-active because they thought it would cause men to like them, while in reality, they became weighed down with a nasty label. At this point, it is important to note that men are not the only ones who label women: women also label each other. This is also true when regarding whether or not a woman is sexually-active.

Another double standard that appears to be far less present but still common regards how men and women are expected to act during sexual situations. Many still believe that men are supposed to make the first move, which again may be a throw-back to the “men should be experienced” idea. This puts men in a difficult position because it may cause them to feel pressure that they have to be experienced and “know what they are doing.” Also, it is difficult to discern exactly what you are supposed to be doing when there are contradictory ideas floating in our culture such as it is “hot” or “a turn-on” when women make the first move. This double standard is a bit easier to deal with because communicating openly with your partner will allow you to determine with what each of you feels most comfortable.

Dealing with double standards can be difficult, especially when it feels like they are constantly present and aren’t ever going to change; however, taking time to think about why we label certain people and whether or not you would feel comfortable giving an unfair expectation, can change. All it takes to force a change is encouraging a change in thinking and in mindset.

Staff Spotlight: Darlene Robinson

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Upon hearing the name Darlene Robinson, many of you will likely be unable to pair the name to a face. Perhaps the identity of this person will become clearer when I mention that this woman has been an employee of SubConnections since September 2005, she always wears a smile on her face, and she always has a kind word to say as we zip through the SubConnections line around dinner time. At times, it seems as if we interact more with the friendly employees in Zack’s than with our own professors.

Darlene was born in Abington Hospital in Abington, Pennsylvania, which is a short 45 minute drive from the Ursinus campus. When she is not serving up tasty subs and wraps here on campus, you may find her attending bible study or prayer meetings, going to the movies with her mother and teenage daughter, relaxing at home, and on special occasions, getting manucures and pedicures. I was curious about the pedicure (it seems like it might tickle a bit), but Darlene assured me that it is “very relaxing” and does not tickle. “It is important to treat yourself sometimes,” Darlene said.

While Darlene has only been at Ursinus for a little over two years, she is no stranger to the food service industry. One of Darlene’s past jobs included working in the food service area at Eagleville Hospital, which is a Substance abuse treatment facility located in Eagleville, Pennsylvania. At the hospital, Darlene commented that she had to “interact with individuals coming off of drugs and alcohol, and offer encouraging words [to them].” This job serves as a stepping stone to one of Darlene’s ultimate goals, which is to work with troubled teenagers who are going through family/ life changes and to help teenagers with substance abuse problems. Darlene wishes, above all, to help others in need. In order to reach her goal, Darlene is currently studying human services at Montgomery County Community College.

Now I know one of the questions on all of your minds about Darlene is about her favorite sub or wrap at SubConnections. While Darlene says there are a few items at SubConnections that she enjoys, her favorite food from Zack’s is the chicken Caesar labbretti from Pandini’s.

Finally, when asked about what she liked best here at Ursinus, Darlene offered without hesitation, “the students. They are so pleasant and courteous; Ursinus should really be proud of them.” Hopefully, you come away from this spotlight knowing a little more about Darlene Robinson than before. We are so lucky to have such a caring and kind person to help fulfill our nutritional needs here at Ursinus. So, next time you make your way through the dinner chute that is the SubConnections line, make sure to smile and give thanks to this woman who does so much for us every day.

Career Corner

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Think about the Benefits! Most college students don’t think about becoming ill, retiring, and looking for tax breaks, but when you evaluate your salary offer from an employer you should consider the benefits that are included in your compensation package.

Consider some of the most commonly offered benefits:

- Health insurance - It is usually cheaper to get health insurance through your employer at group rates rather than purchase as an individual. Some employers pay for all of your coverage - others will pay for a part.

- 401(k) plan - A 401(k) is a retirement plan that allows you to put a percentage of your gross (pre-tax) income into a trust fund or other qualified investment fund. It may feel like retirement is way down the road, but you should begin your planning now...and this is "free" money.

- Flexible spending account (FSA) - Also known as flexible ben­efits, these plans let you put aside money that is deducted from each pay check to cover many types of costs such as payment of health insurance and life insurance premiums, vision care, dental care, or child- or dependent-care costs.

- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) - An EAP typically involves confidential counseling to help you resolve personal concerns that may affect your job performance. EAPs deal with situations such as substance abuse and marital or family problems.

- Flextime - This arrangement allows you to vary your workday start and stop times, within limits.

- Paid time off (PTO) - PTO banks group various paid time off options (e.g., vacation, holiday, sick and personal days) into one bank from which you withdraw days. You are given an allotment of days for the year, which you allocate as you wish.

- Stock ownership plans - You are given or are allowed to purchase shares of your company’s stock. The amount is usually based on length of service or earnings.

- Tuition assistance/reimbursement - A way to increase your job security. Returning to the classroom is easier when your employer pays all or a portion of your tuition costs for classes related to the business of the company.
Workers’ Appreciation Day

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Have you ever wondered what it really takes to run Ursinus College? Stop and think for a minute. As a campus with around 1,600 full-time students, there are many aspects of residential life that need to be taken care of, including dorm cleaning and meal provisions. While it may be true that we are more independent as college students, we must still stop to imagine how incomplete and dysfunctional our lives would be without the support of the workers. These are the folks who help run our lives and make sure we have everything we need.

We Care About the Nation (better known as WeCAN), a student-activist group on campus, held a special day called “Workers’ Appreciation Day” to appreciate and commend the efforts of the cleaning staff, the dining staff, and the campus workers. WeCAN got together several students from many campus-wide organizations to distribute free coffee and doughnuts to all the working staff in Olin Plaza in both the morning and late afternoon. The students also gave flowers to all the workers with a special thank you note written in Spanish and English attached to them.

Features

The Pizza Stop

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Hello, my name is Jeremiah E. Long (the first person to correctly guess my middle name gets a cookie, good luck!), and I’m the latest member of the newspaper staff. This is my first attempt at becoming something (I’ve always wanted to be - a reviewer. With that in mind, let me tell you a little bit about how I review and the concept of a ten out of ten. I review based on a one out of ten scale and I like to consider an average score for a restaurant to be between a five and six. I know it seems low, but that’s because I don’t want to give out perfect scores. If you give a ten to one thing and then another ten to a different thing, it just shows that your standards are too relaxed because no place on this earth is perfect.

Well, seeing as I don’t want to seem too stuck up, I’m willing to make my first score ever released a perfect ten. It will be the lower restaurant in Quebec City’s Fairmont le Château Frontenac; it was the most exquisite, papilla-stimulating meal I have ever had in my life. Just thinking about it makes me shiver. The lamb chops were herb-encrusted nuggets served in a brass pot which contained a thin layer of au jus. The waiters (and there was one for every two guests) then came over and began laying freshly cooked baby vegetables in ornate patterns in one corner of the pot. After it was all done, I just sat in my chair and wept, utterly ashamed at the idea of destroying this breath-taking work of art. Well enough prattling. I do have a review to write, but being the first one I felt obligated to tell you about myself, my aspirations, and my reviewing process.

The Pizza Stop is located in the Collegville Shopping Center at Rt. 29 and Main Street. The Pizza stop has been open for 27 years and its owner, Tony Mazzatal, also owns La Fontana; the restaurant across from our once miss- ing, now found again, famous Hippo called Tippo. The Pizza stop does deliver, but only if you order from the catering menu. The restaurant has also just recently gotten its liquor license and offers a variety of beers, such as Hop Devil and Corona, but lacks a wine list (although you can bring your own).

Walking in, I saw that the restaurant contained two seating areas - the right side is your standard sit-and-eat area, while the left is made for the more casual lunch time crowd where the seating can at best be described as cozy, and at worst, cramped. If you are part of the casual lunch time crowd, you can order from the counter and avoid the wait involved with sitting at a table. The seating area is nice, offering plenty of room as well as a large glass window to let you look out onto the street. You couldn’t really see much except asphalt out of the window, but I do enjoy getting some natural light in a room (Atmosphere 8/10). Going in for dinner, I sat down and was immediately greeted by my waiter who did a fine job waiting the table. He came over a couple of times to insure that things were all right, but was never too pushy (Service 7/10). I ordered the Chicken Piccata (a good alternative if any of you is tired of the same grains and at worst, cramped. If you are part of the casual lunch time crowd, you can order from the counter and avoid the wait involved with sitting at a table. The seating area is nice, offering plenty of room as well as a large glass window to let you look out onto the street. You couldn’t really see much except asphalt out of the window, but I do enjoy getting some natural light in a room (Atmosphere 8/10). Going in for dinner, I sat down and was immediately greeted by my waiter who did a fine job waiting the table. He came over a couple of times to insure that things were all right, but was never too pushy (Service 7/10). I ordered the Chicken Piccata (a good alternative if any of you is tired of the same grains and at worst, cramped. If you are part of the casual lunch time crowd, you can order from the counter and avoid the wait involved with sitting at a table. The seating area is nice, offering plenty of room as well as a large glass window to let you look out onto the street. You couldn’t really see much except asphalt out of the window, but I do enjoy getting some natural light in a room (Atmosphere 8/10). Going in for dinner, I sat down and was immediately greeted by my waiter who did a fine job waiting the table. He came over a couple of times to insure that things were all right, but was never too pushy (Service 7/10). I ordered the Chicken Piccata (a good alternative if any of you is tired of the same grains and at worst, cramped. If you are part of the casual lunch time crowd, you can order from the counter and avoid the wait involved with sitting at a table. The seating area is nice, offering plenty of room as well as a large glass window to let you look out onto the street. You couldn’t really see much except asphalt out of the window, but I do enjoy getting some natural light in a room (Atmosphere 8/10). Going in for dinner, I sat down and was immediately greeted by my waiter who did a fine job waiting the table. He came over a couple of times to insure that things were all right, but was never too pushy (Service 7/10). I ordered the Chicken Piccata (a good alternative if any of you is tired of the same grains and at worst, cramped. If you are part of the casual lunch time crowd, you can order from the counter and avoid the wait involved with sitting at a table. The seating area is nice, offering plenty of room as well as a large glass window to let you look out onto the street. You couldn’t really see much except asphalt out of the window, but I do enjoy getting some natural light in a room (Atmosphere 8/10). Going in for dinner, I sat down and was immediately greeted by my waiter who did a fine job waiting the table. He came over a couple of times to insu...
Opinions

Colbert ‘08?

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It is official: on his Comedy Central series on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, Stephen Colbert announced his candidacy for the office of President of the United States. He plans to enter the primaries in South Carolina under both the Democratic and Republican party - saying in an interview with Larry King the day before “I could lose twice.” But before you burst out in cheers and revel at the fact that someone “cool” and “funny” is running, there are some facts you should be aware of.

First, unless you are a resident of South Carolina, Stephen will not appear on the ballot. During his broadcast on October 16, Colbert informed viewers that he would run only in his native state of South Carolina, as their “favorite son.”

Secondly, it is important to note that it is not actually Stephen Colbert who is running for President, but the character he plays on the “Colbert Report.” The day before Colbert announced his candidacy, he appeared on Larry King live where he explained to viewers that he has two separate personalities - the real Stephen Colbert, the father and husband, and secondly, the improvisational actor and comedian. While I watched Colbert’s interview, I was both surprised and not surprised at the same time. The Stephen Colbert we see on TV every night at 11:30 is the Stephen Colbert all of us know, and while it is clear that he is being facetious and dramatic, a part of me wishes the real Stephen Colbert had some of the same qualities. He informed the nation in this interview that even his children really don’t know what he does for a living, which is how separate he keeps his two lives. When his children ask him what he does, he tells them that he is “professionally ridiculous.”

Third, while Colbert meets all the requirements to run for office, he has no political experience. Colbert studied improv comedy at Northwestern University in the 1980s. Later, he became a member of the Second City Improv Troupe in Chicago, where he met Amy Sedaris and Paul Dinello. The three later created a sketch comedy series for Comedy Central entitled “Exit 57.” In 1996, Colbert joined the “Daily Show with John Stewart” as a correspondent. Stephen appeared on and wrote for the show until his series, “The Colbert Report,” began in 2005. Colbert also appeared and wrote for the “Dana Carvey Show” in 1996, wrote for “Saturday Night Live” briefly, and appeared on several Mr. Goodwrench commercials between 2003 and 2005, among other things. It is clear that Colbert has fantastic credentials; however, he is not a politician, and in my opinion, never intends to be. When asked by Larry King what he would do on television, he replied “probably... anything legal.” He also noted that he does everything for attention, as he is the youngest of 11 children.

From what Stephen Colbert has said in interviews in the past few weeks, and during his own show, it is clear that Colbert is not taking his candidacy very seriously (gasp). While other Presidential candidates may scoff at Colbert’s candidacy, I find it amusing. Any person who can see clearly should be able to recognize that Colbert’s run is just another performance by a male-believe character: an irrational, egotistical, and uninformative political pundit. Personally, I thoroughly enjoy “The Colbert Report” and if he (the comedian/actor Stephen) wants to run for President as a Democrat and Republican in South Carolina, that is fine with me. His run will surely make the political process all the more interesting, and maybe even more humorous.

Point/Counterpoint: Last Weekend

Too Wet

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Homecoming weekend brings Ursinus Students together in support of their athletes. Whether Ursinus teams win or lose on homecoming weekend, the post-game celebration is always the same - students come together to party and drink alcohol. Nothing can stop a party on homecoming weekend because the rules are as follows: an Ursinus team's loss results in students partying; a win results in students partying harder. This type of celebration is perpetuated by the campus which offers very little activities to help minimalize the amount of students rushing to parties on homecoming Saturday. For freshmen and other students without access to cars, there is little to do homecoming night except leave their dorms and head to the nearest party. I think this is something the college must make a more intensive effort to change.

Homecoming weekend should be a weekend that helps bring students together with a mixture of sports and other activities. With the city of Philadelphia so close to Ursinus College, it would make sense that the school and/or student-run organizations should arrange buses to take students to places like the King of Prussia Mall or nearby movie theaters following the end of the games. Also, if there were a lineup of movies in the Wissman Lower Lounge, students would have the opportunity to enjoy their time inside with friends, shedding a few tears and/or laughs with one another.

There are a variety of activities that occur on campus during the week before homecoming weekend. For example, the Escape Velocity performance (which ran Thursday and Friday nights) ended before homecoming, leaving many students without a weekend event to attend. With such a lack of activities occurring on campus during homecoming weekend and with students retreating from their week of studies, many feel the only option they can turn to is drinking.

With the semester coming to an end, Ursinus parties begin to become monotonous, especially for upperclassmen who have already experienced the various parties Ursinus has had to offer. There is a need for a more diverse selection of events on campus, especially during homecoming. For the years to come, homecoming should not only focus on sports, athletes, and the homecoming King and Queen, but also student activities, and exploring the many extracurricular opportunities Ursinus and the communities around it have to offer. Ursinus is a small college; in order to make the best of it there must be an effort to reach out to the surrounding communities and work within the college to create as many events as possible for students looking for entertainment.

Campus Activities Board does bring to Ursinus great extracurricular activities for students that occur both on and off campus. For example, on November 3, there is a trip to the movies sponsored by C.A.B where students have the opportunity to watch a discounted price and have transportation to the theater provided for them. However, in regards to homecoming weekend, Ursinus students need to take the initiative to start creating events aimed at bringing students together around non-alcoholic activities and promote a college environment that distinguishes it from its peers.

Too Dry

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I am just going to come out and say it. Oktoberfest can be fun; you just won’t find fun while attending the official activities.

In a maze of view-obstructing orange fencing and bounce houses imported from Philly, I find myself again this year in a place with so much history, so much potential. Yet every year Oktoberfest comes, and every year it seems to be a disappointment.

I don’t know whose idea it was, but in my sophomore year it seems Oktoberfest really went downhill here at Ursinus. Instead of being able to drink outside while watching the “Battle of the Bands” and being allowed to act as if you were at a regular concert, everything changed. The infamous orange fencing came out, obstructing views from the Reimert balconies. Bouncers from Philly were hired to keep everyone in order. And I don’t mean the super-cool Patrick Swayze (a la Roadhouse) kind. I mean the uncool big same-style ones.

No longer were students free to get a little rowdy. No longer were we free to drink a beverage of a “refreshing nature” out in the open for one day a year. No longer were we able to have fun.

This cannot go on. This year was a step in the right direction with no imported bouncers. But still, Oktoberfest must be free of the restrictions that cause the courtyard of Reimert to be filled each year with a stunning 20 people. Just think of the children - the freshmen, the sophomores, the juniors, and all those little kids across America dreaming of coming to Ursinus College one day. Those kids that come to Ursinus so that they can bust their ass in ridiculously hard biology classes, or ridiculously fair politics classes all year! What about them? They deserve to be able to have one night of the year where the rules go out the window, where they can have some good old-fashioned, German-American, adult-type fun. I am talking about drinking those beverages of a “refreshing nature” and making some moderately poor decisions that may lead to a moderately awkward Wellness Center visit. I want YOU to have as good a time at Oktoberfest as I had my freshman year. I had a blast; it was wild, it was free, and I have the mildly deformed right ear to prove it. So call, write, or carrier pigeon Steve Larson and ask him to take away the cumbersome orange fencing. And ask him to let us celebrate Oktoberfest the way a holiday that started with a wedding and evolved into a bunch of Germans getting tanked in a field should be celebrated - with beverages of a “refreshing nature,” as God intended!

Have opinions?

Send them to
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November 1, 2007

The Grizzly
By the time you read this, Halloween will have come and gone. I’ll also have been watching the AMC channel more or less nonstop for almost 10 days straight. Whoever came up with the idea of “Monsterfest” deserves a medal, because there is honestly nothing better than watching B- and C-grade horror flicks for Halloween. Long story short, I wanted to do a classic horror flick this week, one of the great throwbacks that creeps me out even as I write this. With that, I give you “Rosemary’s Baby.”

Rosemary Woodhouse (Mia Farrow) and her husband Guy move into a new apartment and meet their friendly (if a bit strange) neighbors. After a bizarre dream, Rosemary gets pregnant, her husband becomes distant, and more and more strange things happen related to the baby. Extreme bouts of creepiness and Satanism ensue.

Explaining why this movie works on so many levels is almost as hard as explaining the plot, simply because not much happens. The pace of the movie is extremely slow, and is only moved along in increments. The amazing thing is that this is precisely what makes the film work. Roman Polanski tightens the screws ever so much, creeping you out bit by bit, until the film ends and you’re left sitting there, freaked out of your mind. You won’t see any of the modern “jump scares” here (e.g. cats jumping out of closets with an accompanying burst of music); instead, there is an atmosphere that you rarely see in horror movies these days.

The acting in this flick is quite frankly exceptional. Mia Farrow sells her character extremely well, particularly Rosemary’s vulnerabilities. As an audience, you identify with her confusion and fear as events begin to spiral out of control. The supporting cast also does a fantastic job of cultivating a sense of claustrophobia, whether it’s the gradual isolation of her husband, or the neighbors who are just a little too attentive.

Surprisingly, this film has aged really well, despite being 40 years old. Because it relies on storytelling rather than graphics, you’re never distracted by cheesy, outdated effects, with the sole exception being Rosemary’s dream sequence when she’s impregnated by the devil. Acting that seems cheesy at first later turns out to be critical to the plot. Essentially, not one frame of film is wasted. From the first minute to the last, you are in the film’s grasp, and it won’t let you go until the credits roll.

Looking ahead, keep an eye out for an indie flick called “Wristcutters: A Love Story.” Set in a limbo reserved for suicides, a guy who committed suicide after his girlfriend broke up with him finds out that she killed herself not long after him. He decides to set out across the washed-out afterlife to reunite with her. The premise of this movie is great enough, but it even manages to throw in great touches like the inability to smile in the limbo world. I’m out for this week, but like always I love suggestions, and sometimes I actually use them. Sometimes. You know who you are. Alex Ernst thought he’d grown up enough not to be freaked out by the clown in “Poltergeist” anymore. He was wrong. You can reach him at ale ernst@ursinus.edu.

Music Review: Download Festival

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It’s going to be incredibly difficult to write about this without sounding overexcited, but seeing the Cure live under the stars in California on October 6th was definitely one of the best experiences I’ve ever had. I had decided to go to Download Festival a while back after finding out that AFI was going to be playing a lengthy set before the Cure. As a long-time fan of AFI and heavily familiar with the Cure, I was far too excited to stay home.

My friend and I arrived at Shoreline Amphitheater late in the evening on Saturday, just as AFI’s set was beginning. It was unusually cold for a night on the West Coast, around 55 degrees to be exact. We were all on our feet during the hour that AFI played and eagerly waiting for Robert Smith to grace us with his presence. Having been on tour with Black Audio lately, frontman Dave Havok and guitarist Jade Puget are now back in the realm of rock with their core band. This was actually their second show in California this month with AFI. A week before Download Festival, the band offered its fan club the chance to see them at the Troubadour, an intimate setting where they played a 90-minute set of old and newer songs performed with crowdclips and comeback gusto. It was great to see them again as well as to hear the announcement that a new album is in the works and an E.P. for “Decemberunderground” (their most recent album) will make its debut in the next few months.

And what of the Cure live? There’s just so much to say. A lot of people scoffed at the idea of Robert Smith’s return to the stage because he’s getting “up there in age,” as some pessimists put it so eloquently. However, even though I’ve never seen them live, I don’t think I’ve ever had so many moments in such a short period of time where I’ve been so incredibly awestruck by live music. Their light show was one of the best I’ve ever seen: an endless parade of neon fluttering all over the massive stage behind the band. Smith’s vocals ran in and out of all 36 songs perfectly, giving the lyrics that specific quality of resonance he’s known for. They played for almost 3 hours and did 2 separate encores. And although Robert Smith isn’t one of the wild rockers that纷纷s the art of hyperactivity on stage, it was still excellent to witness a frontman who instead let his voice become the energy of the venue. Granted, it was a very different experience for me, yet having never seen an 80’s band live before this, it proved to be everything I hoped for and more.

bit are necessary to distinguish this costume from the oh-so-true “dirty Italian mobster.”

Sean Hannity: this is a bit of a tricky one. Dress up like “an instrument, as a syringe, for administering a jet or current of water, sometimes with a dissolved medicating or cleansing agent, applied to a body part, organ, or cavity for medicinal or hygienic purposes.” Tell your friends to think about it. Even after a lot of thought, though, many people won’t understand what you are, but rest assured; true Hannity fans will recognize you instantly!

I hope these ideas have given you some ideas or at the very least reminded you that Halloween 2008 will be here before you know it!

Next year, Matt and Dan are dressing up as Alvin and Simon – you know, the Chipmunks. If you want to be our Theodore, contact us at mflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu. As always, first come, first served.
Playoff time baby. The second season. Win or go home. This is what separates the men from the boys; women from the girls (The Dubble Vision staff doesn’t like to discriminate). One mistake could end up costing a team their season. Oh this is awesome! I’m so pumped! The drama, the suspense... I can hardly take it! (Plus I just got done watching Miracle).  

But seriously, this is going to be an awesome two weeks. Ursinus is lucky, or actually, skilled enough to have three teams heading to Centennial Conference postseason action. Well, actually two, but these last two football games are pretty much the playoffs. And all three teams are looking very strong.  

First we have Field Hockey. Now everybody knows we have an awesome field hockey team. But I really just had to laugh. The other day I went over to look at some of the conference stats and we literally, as a team, were number one in every single statistical category. And it wasn’t even close. Individually on the offensive end we had three girls, Kait Sutherland, Jennie Moore, and Lindsay Cappa, all in the top five of pretty much every category. I think these girls need a nickname. Flyers had their performance go into record, 6-1 overall. Following back to back winning trips to the Centennial Conference. Going into the pre-season hype as conference champs.  

But this game is no laughing matter. We are no doubt the top two teams in the conference if you ask me. And this game has huge championship implications. I just saw that Senior Ryan Tole made a facebook group for the game. He asked everybody to wear black to the game. Please everybody do this. I have to admit, after strong showings at the first two home games, I’ve been a little disappointed in the Patterson Possessed. Attendance has been down. It’s time to buckle down UC, play time is over. Our teams need us. The real season starts this weekend. I’m ready, our teams are definitely ready... Are you ready? As the great Leroy Jenkins once said “Let’s do this!” (If you don’t know who that is, look him up on YouTube. It will be well worth your time. I promise)  

Field isn’t quite home if we can’t have fans there. So please come out and support the Bears. The defense posted its second shutout of the season and the Bears won with an impressive score of 27-0.  

Despite field conditions that most would call unfriendly, it seems that the Ursinus football team loves when it rains. Patterson Field isn’t quite home if it’s not a bit muddy. Yeah, the team enjoys being able to fly around on opposing teams’ turf fields, but the Bears would rather slide around in the mud. Over the past three seasons, Ursinus has posted an unbeaten mark at home in the rain, winning at least seven games over those three years in which Patterson’s conditions were sloppy and suspect. The field itself wasn’t the only thing that gave Homecoming a true “home” feel, but the fans came out in full force. Family and friends arrived as early as 9:00am to set up in what was pouring rain at the time. The Gentile and Anderson families organized one heck of a tailgate and it was open to all those who came in sight. Both the traditional feel of Patterson’s mud and the support of friends and family made Homecoming for the Bears that much more enjoyable.  

The Bears take on (7-0) Muhlenberg next week on Patterson field at 1:00. The football team continues to appreciate all the support from the student body and is calling for everybody to come out on November 3rd and help them to a championship.  

Note: All fans are asked to wear black to the game on Saturday for an Ursinus “blackout.” Let’s get those Mules!