The Grizzly, November 15, 2007

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Cretella Shines in *A Bright Room Called Day*
Kemper Scholarship Offers Unique Experience for Freshmen

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Ursinus College is one of only 16 institutions eligible for the opportunity to participate in the Kemper Scholarship Program which offers students financial assistance and the chance to take part in internships across the country. “The program is a great opportunity, but not many students know about it,” said Director of Career Services, Carla Rinde. The scholarship is open to freshmen only. One student per institution per year is selected as a Kemper Scholar based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service, and leadership qualities.

After being chosen, the scholar attends the annual conference in Chicago to discuss summer plans and to meet with other scholars. The summer after sophomore year, students are set up at internships in Chicago, working for non-profit organizations. Then, after junior year, the scholars work as interns at a-for-profit organization of their choice.

Kemper Scholars LiXiang Poncz and Megan Helzner have both completed their internships in Chicago. Poncz worked at a small theater company, while Helzner worked in marketing and public affairs. The internships are set up to “introduce you to the professional business world,” explained Poncz. The scholars worked 40 hours a week and were set up in furnished apartments. After work, they were free to do as they pleased, which included visiting museums and tourist attractions, and just hanging out. Helzner said the experience has “opened me up and made me more aware of different career fields and opportunities.”

Poncz said, “It’s a completely different environment, and it’s empowering.”

Yale Professor Discusses Acclaimed Novel at Ursinus

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As part of the arts and lecture series, Ursinus gave a warm welcome to Dr. Elijah Anderson, Professor of Sociology at Yale University on Thursday, Nov. 8. Anderson discussed his critically acclaimed novel, The Code of the Street.

Anderson’s novel takes an in-depth look at inner-city issues such as the violence and stereotyping of African-American young men. Anderson calls The Code of the Street “the plight of the poor black male.”

Before writing his book, Anderson conducted innovative research by hitting the streets of Philadelphia and talking with some of its young, black men. From his encounters, Anderson declared that “The poor inner-city black male is in trouble, deep, deep trouble.”

Dr. Anderson describes this “trouble” in a number of ways. He began by attributing structural poverty to the plight of the young, black male. Anderson explained structural poverty as the next logical step to slavery. During each war, more and more African-Americans migrated to the city to build a black working class. Since then, poverty levels have risen within the black community. Anderson said, “We’re talking about ultimately the disenfranchisement of the African-American people.”

The author also talked about inner-city employment. He mentioned the change from manufacturing services to high-tech. “Our people are here competing with others from developing countries,” said Anderson. In today’s society, it is crucial to have skills and education for employers to hire you. Anderson said that in Philadelphia, the majority of employers are not receptive to hiring young, black males. He said “Take a look at most city restaurants! There are no black men working there accept for in the kitchen.” He went on to explain that jobs and opportunity provide hope and long fuses for the young, black male. “Short fuses from rejection contribute to street violence,” muttered Anderson.

The speaker connected a lack of employment to entering a dangerous world of thievery and violence. Dr. Anderson asked the audience, “Do you know what it feels like to truly be broke?” Anderson said that one young man asked him, “Why is it so hard to find a job but so easy to sell drugs?” This question was the common thread Anderson used to link points during his speech.

Dr. Anderson proclaimed that it is not easy to sell drugs. Some are starting from a very young age “criminalizing their childhood,” as Anderson put it. The level of drug sellers, ages, influences, and unnecessary violence involved is sickening. Guns are being used as a method of retaining the ever-changing definition of street credibility. “We’ve got to stop the cycle!” said Anderson. “I think it’s very important to move beyond the past and place the young, black male in the post-industrial America we live in today.”

Would you like to write for The News section of The Grizzly? E-mail the News Editor at heturnbach@ursinus.edu.

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A member of the Peace Corps was stationed in Olin yesterday to inform students about the benefits of joining the program. Students had the chance to interact with the representative, ask questions, learn what the Peace Corps is all about and who makes a good candidate for the program, and how to get through the application process.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps is a program that sends volunteers to live and work in developing countries to help promote world peace and understanding of other countries in comparison to America. There are currently over 8,000 volunteers, but over the course of the program, over 190,000 people have served in 139 different countries.

Ursinus has had recruiters visit campus in the past. A handful of alumni are returned Peace Corps volunteers. Alumni Joe Wagner, Class of 2001, said it was the recruiter that visited campus that made him interested in the Peace Corps. According to Wagner, the recruiter “gave the standard introductory presentation.” He said, “I can’t say exactly what led me to attend, but by the end of the presentation I was convinced that the Peace Corps was a personal calling. The combination of responsible and sustainable development work and increasing cross-cultural understanding is what attracted me.”

Other alumni had family members that encouraged them to join. Anne-Marie McMahon, Class of 1996, said her father had worked in the Peace Corps which is what encouraged her to join. Likewise, Molly Jennings, 2002, said her mother served in the 1960’s which served as inspiration for her, but she also “wanted to help people and use my French skills.”

No matter what the reason, the three alumni agree that the experience is life-changing. They were each assigned jobs that reflected their areas of concentration in school, and applied them to benefit the community. Wagner worked with youth groups, teaching them the importance of community and promoting awareness about different issues that were affecting the community, including HIV/AIDS awareness. Jennings taught a business course and served as coordinator for the Gender and Development Committee that started nine Girls’ Mentoring Centers across the country to help ensure that girls stay in school. McMahon’s jobs varied depending on what the community needed most at the time. She said, “I was assigned to be an Agriculture Extension volunteer; however, once in the village, my work was directed more by the needs around me than by any Peace Corps oversight, and eventually my main duties revolved around micro lending, not agriculture.”

Though all the jobs were different, each alum had similar daily tasks. They worked with a host family, shared meals with the community, and made trips to the market which was usually a number of miles away.

Students can expect to live and work in areas very unlike their hometowns in America. According to McMahon, living conditions were “extremely basic - no electricity, plumbing, telephones, etc. I lived in a mud hut with a thatch roof and had an outdoor pit latrine, as did the other villagers. There were no paved roads leading to the village, and no one in the village had a vehicle; we all got to and from the village and the nearest paved road by walking, which took over three hours, or biking, which took about 45 minutes. We did our laundry by slapping clothes against rocks in a spring-fed watering hole.” Likewise, Wagner lived in a town with no paved roads or running water. McMahon said, “It’s very easy to become discouraged by the conditions you will probably find yourself in. You could always choose something easier to do with your time, and that is the great temptation.”

However, completing the two years is a huge accomplishment and very rewarding. Wagner said, “The experience was unique and forced a lifetime of personal growth into just over two years. It affected me in so many ways.” Volunteers form relationships not only with other volunteers, but with people from the community. McMahon said it was what sticks out most in her mind because, “The relationships I formed with people in my village; the friendliness of everyone in my village; the closeness of my village community; it all stands in direct opposition to the anonymity of the average American life.”

Though there are hardships involved with the Peace Corps which has previously been known as “The toughest job you’ll ever love,” the result is positive in so many ways. “It was only after coming back home that these difficult experiences took on a larger meaning for my life and became transformed into great learning points,” McMahon explained.

Jennings said her experience “helped me develop a more global point of view and also improved my problem-solving skills. Also, I was able to gain experience that I would not have been able to in the States at that point in my life.”

Each alum appreciates their experience and to anyone interested in joining, Wagner advised, “Talk to as many returned Peace Corps volunteers as you can to get a wide variety of perspectives. Try to speak to several people who completed their entire two year commitment and some that left early.” McMahon said to make sure your commitment is 100%, “It’s an amazing opportunity for real learning and growth; which in turn has a direct impact on how America and Americans are perceived and the directions that America moves in the world.”

The Peace Corps is a serious commitment, but students who are up for the challenge or have questions about the program can visit www.peacecorps.org.

UC Alumni Share Volunteer Experiences in Peace Corps

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The brand new outlet mall, located in Limerick, opened The mall is a 1

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Last week, the Ursinus community came together to help the hungry. On Wednesday, Nov. 7, a table sat in the lobby with towering cans on it. What were all those cans for? The UC Ambassadors and Sodexo Dining Services teamed up to collect canned goods for Cans Across America.

Canned goods were collected in the Student Activities Office (SAO) in Wismer Lower Lounge up until Nov. 6. The cans were counted and handed over to the Dining Services collection. The individual who collected the most pounds of canned goods won an iPod. The individual who collected the most pounds of canned goods won a gift certificate for a night out to dinner.

The Sodexo Foundation has been collecting cans since 1999. Their goal is to help the 35 million people in the U.S. affected by hunger. Colleges across the U.S. also participate in Cans Across America. This year, Cans Across America is attempting to set a new Guinness World Record for the most canned food donations collected during a single event, nationwide.

Last year, Cans Across America collected a little over 200 pounds of canned goods at Ursinus, and this year. Dining Services set a goal to collect at least 600 pounds (about 500 cans) of canned goods. The Ursinus Community surpassed that goal and collected 754 pounds of canned goods that will benefit those who suffer from hunger.

Senior Carly Haines was the representative for the UC Ambassadors. “All of the food was donated to Philabundance, a food shelter in Philadelphia which helps families without food in the Philadelphia area,” Haines said.

She added, “We were extremely successful in our efforts, largely thanks to the support of the Ursinus community and particularly the Ambassadors, we received a great turn out, over 700 pounds of cans. We definitely beat our goal and hopefully all the food will be able to brighten a lot of people’s days. A little bit of effort can go a long way and it certainly did this year!”

For more information about Cans Across America, check out helpstophunger.org or www.forstudentsbystudents.com.

Cans Across America

Cans Across America

News

Premium Outlet Mall Now Open

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The brand new outlet mall, located in Limerick, opened to the public Nov. 8. The mall is a 10-minute car-ride away from Ursinus and a 20 minute ride on Septa’s Bus 93 which stops within the mall, making the outlets very accessible to Ursinus students. The outlet mall is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The mall features 120 outlets and plans on opening 30 more in the spring of 2008. The outlets range from Coach to the Gap, with Nike, Timberland, Converse, Sean Jean, Guess, and Levi Jeans in between.

Since the stores are outlets, all the merchandise in the stores is anywhere from 25 to 65 percent cheaper than non-outlet stores, so everything from clothes to shoes to whatever else strikes your fancy is more affordable to the regular, full-time student at Ursinus.

The outlet mall will be having an After-Thanksgiving Weekend Sale featuring Midnight Madness. The Madness begins on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, and the majority of the outlet stores will be opening to customers at midnight and all stores will be open by 7 a.m. The mall will close at the regular time at 10 p.m. The Thanksgiving sale will last until Sunday, Nov. 25, with extended hours of operation. For more information on the mall visit www.premiumoutlets.com

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Am I Pregnant?

Am I pregnant? This question is one that most women our age never want to have to ask. However, in spite of the progress made in the development of birth control and the high-effectiveness of many forms of modern birth control, no method is 100 percent effective. Thus, many women our age who may or may not be using some form of birth control are forced to ask this question every day.

Am I pregnant? How would I know? What are the signs? These are all questions that may run through the mind of any woman who believes that she may be pregnant, though this is often lighter or shorter than that of periods; however, some women actually bleed during pregnancy, though this is often lighter or shorter than that of periods. (Some of this bleeding could be attributed to implantation bleeding, which occurs 6-12 days post-conception, and entails spotting and cramping.) Also, a missed period may not necessarily indicate pregnancy, but may be caused by stress or tension, breast-feeding, fatigue, significant weight loss or gain, ending the use of birth control pills, or other hormonal issues.

Another sign that women usually associate with pregnancy is "morning sickness." Morning sickness can often begin 2-8 weeks post-conception, and involves nausea and vomiting. This name is a misnomer, because many women experience morning sickness at other times of the day and not in the morning. Not all women experience nausea and vomiting during pregnancy, while others may suffer from these conditions through the majority of their pregnancy. Nausea and vomiting can be attributed to other causes, however, and do not necessarily indicate a pregnancy.

Breast tenderness and darkening of the nipples may also occur with pregnancy. Many pregnant women experience breast tenderness or soreness which may occur 1-2 weeks post-conception. Women experiencing these symptoms may also notice swelling of the breasts. These symptoms can also be attributed to the use of birth control pills, an upcoming period, or hormonal imbalances. Darkening of the nipples, specifically the areolas, may occur with pregnancy but may also be due to symptoms left over from a prior pregnancy or a hormonal imbalance.

Food cravings and an increased frequency of urination may also be symptomatic of pregnancy. Food cravings, however, are also associated with craving a certain necessary nutrient, depression or stress, inadequate diet, or an upcoming period. An increased frequency of urination may also be associated with diabetes, drinking a larger amount of liquids than normal, a urinary-tract infection, or using a large amount of diuretics. An increased frequency of urination may occur 6-8 weeks post-conception.

Other symptoms women may experience while in the early stages of pregnancy are headaches, backaches, and fatigue. These symptoms, like those mentioned earlier in the article, may also have other explanations.

If you or your partner are suffering from any of these symptoms, you may want to consult a health professional to determine whether or not a pregnancy test is necessary, and how to manage the symptoms (whether they are related to pregnancy or not).

Information obtained from Americanpregnancy.org

Spotlight: The UC Wellness Fair

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Stress balls, rape whistles, condom holding key chains, trail mix, and perfume samples - what do all of these items have in common? These items were some of the many free goodies you may have received if you visited this year's Wellness Fair, which was held on November 7, 2007.

Even have to admit, when I received e-mails during previous years advertising the Wellness Fair, I wasn't as interested as I thought, "this is going to be another one of those things where middle-aged men and women in white coats shove pamphlets in my hands that try to get me to "just say no to drugs and alcohol!" and abstain from sexual activity until I get married. To my surprise, however, I found that the information and goodies offered at the fair were quite appropriate for college-aged students.

No one tried to lecture me about STD's; instead, the college organization STAR Students Together Against Rape, offered pamphlets on rape, free condoms, and even handed out sexual health paraphernalia. If you answered a question correctly concerning some aspect of sexual health, you got a free piece of candy. What is not to like about that?

Other organizations that were present at this year's Wellness Fair included Residence Life, Sodexho campus services, Campus Safety, SERV, Wellness/Counseling services, Career Services, Study Abroad, Philly Connection, GSA, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Young Survival Coalition of Philadelphia, several chiropractic firms, and Mary Kay Cosmetics.

One of the most popular attractions at the Wellness Fair was the mini prize wheel at the Residence Life booth. To win a free prize, all you had to do was spin the wheel! Free prizes ranged from dream journals to piggy banks.

For hungry students, the Sodexho nutrition booth was also a popular place to be. Trail mix was provided for hungry students, and a nutritionist was even on standy to answer questions from enquiring students. Since I am often concerned about the lack of variety in my own diet, I took the opportunity to ask the nutritionist about a staple in my diet, the good old peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The nutritionist informed me that in moderation, nothing is really bad, and that eating a few PB & J's a few times a week is nothing to worry about. Actually, it turns out that peanut butter and jelly is a good source of protein - what a comforting fact!

Wismer Lower Lounge was packed with students for this year's Wellness Fair. Walking around, I stumbled upon Junior Kalli Grasley, who had this to say about the Wellness Fair: "All of the organizations being present today really shows Ursinus's commitment to the well-being of its students."

So, if you are one of those kids who, like me, thought the Wellness Fair was going to be kind of lame, take it from me and Kalli Grasley: it wasn't! The organizations at the Wellness Fair offered tons of useful information, not to mention free stuff. So, make sure to get out to next year's Wellness Fair!
KUSHNER WOULD BE PROUD

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Ursinus Theatre brought Germany into the Kaleidoscope last week with their presentation of “A Bright Room Called Day.” The play, originally written by Tony Kushner in 1987, juxtaposes the fall of the Weimar Republic and rise of Hitler with current unsettling events in politics and world news. The majority of the play is set in the apartment of a woman named Agnes (Abbie Chichikowsk) in 1932-33, around the reactions of her and her friends to the political occurrences they encountered.

Intermittently, there are soliloquies by a young modern resistor named Zillah who draws parallels to the Kushner in Room Called Tile current state of America. This production of “A Bright Room Called Day” updated Zillah’s (played by transfer student Sophia Lazare) monologues so that they were more relevant to present issues, while keeping with the attitude behind the original portrayal of the character’s anti-Reagan assertions.

The rest of the characters in the play - artists, actors, radicals - have left-leaning tendencies and at least toy with loyalty to the Communist Party. They attach themselves to political ideologies ad speak in fervent sup­port of their beliefs, but ultimately are unable to rise against fascism in any real way. Eventually, as the fascists gain power, they are each forced to leave Berlin in order to stay safe. Agnes’s lover, Huz (Zachary Aungst), psycho-analyzed actress Paulinka (Joanna Cretella), and homosexual psychologist Baz (Joshua Aungst), all leave the country. Agnes, apparently attached to her rent-controlled apartment, refuses to leave.

Because the entirety of the play was set in one apartment, the sparseness of the set not only served as a likely realistic portrayal of what an apartment in 1932 Berlin probably looked like, but also allowed the audience to focus on the dialogue between the characters and the actual content of the play. The costumes appeared to be accurate representations of the clothing of the time period, which reinforced the historical context of the play. In addition to the opinions that were presented by the characters themselves within their dialogue, factual information was also projected onto the set to provide background by explaining the events that were taking place as time passed between scenes.

While this production was successful for many reasons, the most effective element of the play was the interruptions by present-day Zillah. Her speeches tied together the entire production by presenting the painfully related similarities of the events of the 1930s with the current Bush Administration. Her outbursts, directed to the crowd, were entirely believable, fueled by righteous anger in defense of those who are hurt by those in power, and condemnation of “the man.” Kushner spoke through her unmistakably, insisting that “Dur­ ing times of reactionary backlash, the only people sleeping soundly are the guys who’re giving the rest of us bad dreams…listen to your nightmares.” Zillah is fighting against the uncertainty and disbelief of the characters which frequent Agnes’s beloved apartment in an attempt to make sure that the viewer will not allow it to happen. Through her anger, she begs for someone else to notice the similarities between Hitler, Reagan, and Bush, and it is completely believable.

Despite the intensity of Kushner’s play, there are moments of humor which were very well presented by the cast. The mood was lightened with the occasional joke, such as the banter about sex and anxiety between Huz and Agnes, but the cast adeptly conveyed the importance, poignancy, and power behind Kushner’s work without compromise. Ultimately, the play appears to be a call to action through its negative portrayal of the complacency of the 1930s characters and support of modern conspiracy theories. “A Bright Room Called Day” demands the audience to notice how timely its content is, and serves as Kushner’s personal reminder that Agnes could just as easily be saying “Welcome to America” as she does “Welcome to Germany.”

TORTUGAS: IN THE MOOD FOR MEXICAN FOOD?

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So, who is up for going south of the border tonight?

First, before the review, a quick note to all of my avid readers out there (I know that there is at least one of you). If you have read my previous review, you may be asking yourself a few questions. Who is this Jeremiah fellow? And what the hell do all those numbers mean? Well, fear not, because today all of those questions will be answered. Jeremiah is one of the great prophets of the Hebrew bible. His writings are collected in the Book of Jeremiah, and according to tradition, the Book of Lamentations. As for the Jeremiah living on campus, he likes to think of himself as a relaxed fellow who wonders why the Hebrew bible. His writings are collected in the Book of Jeremiah, and according to tradition, the Book of Lamentations. As for the Jeremiah living on campus, he likes to think of himself as a relaxed fellow who wonders why

What are all the numbers for? I judge each restaurant on three separate criteria. The first is atmosphere - how does the place look? I try and evaluate the Feng Shui (feng shui is not a measure for us Americans) of the restaurant. A good restaurant may have some natural light, it might have high ceilings, but most importantly, it should be clean. Appearance is judged using a ten point scale.

The next category is service. I nomically break it into two parts. One, was I attended properly by my waiter or waitress or was I ignored and forced to draw attention to myself? The second is simply the time it takes to cook the meal. I know it takes time to cook, but there is a limit to how long one should wait before his/her food is served. Service is also judged using a ten point scale. The final and most important category is food. I’ve had good food, great food, and terrible food. Using this knowledge I hope to accurately judge what I’m being served. Food is judged using a twenty point scale. Once again, I’m on another tangent-filled expedition, so without further ado, on to the review.

Tortugas is located in the Marketplace at 305 Second Avenue. From the college, simply get on Main Street and start heading toward the McDonalds. At the traffic light make a right, then follow the road as it bends around. On your right you should now see Sars. Tortugas is on the left side of Sars. Tortugas does not do delivery, but you can order take-out. They have no alcohol license, but they do allow you to bring your own. Tortugas is owned by Kathy Hvaiza, and she was inspired to open her restaurant by her sister, who opened the first Tortugas in New Jersey. Mrs. Hvaiza’s husband is the artist who created the large turtle that they use as their logo.

Info aside, the restaurant has a nice atmosphere. They use a classic adobe style decor and the seating is simple and casual. The tables are narrowed to provide more intimate seating (appearance 7/10). The waitress who attended me was nice and polite, and helped me with anything I needed. She was busy the whole night, but whether this is because of a lack of staff or the unexpected number of people eating on a Wednesday night is debatable (service 7/10). As for the food, I’ve had better Mexican, but again, I’ve had much worse. It was on the upper end of my scale. The sauces were flavorful and tangy; however, if you’re looking to get burnt, go somewhere else. Maybe it was just that particular day, but there didn’t seem to be much sting to the sauce (Food 15/20).

That comes to an average of about 7.3 out of 10, which is pretty good. Please remember that I am trying to grade low. A seven is good - it’s only when you hit the 5.5-5 range that you should start worrying. So, if you’re in the mood for Mexican food, Tortugas is not a bad choice.

In addition to the success of the performance on campus, the students in the Ursinus College production of “A Bright Room Called Day” have been honored with the honor of attending ACTF, or the American College Theatre Festival. ACTF is a national theater program that assesses and recognizes student artists, giving them the opportu­nity to showcase their work outside of the university or college (www.kennedy-center.org/education/actf). This is a great achievement, and we wish the Ursinus students attending the best!
Concert Review: Tiger Army, The Static Age, and Street Dogs

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The last concert I attended occurred at the TLA on October 13th in Philly and while there, I saw quite an eclectic mix of live music. My friends and I arrived outside of the venue about 5 hours early. Getting to tour South Street is one of the perks of waiting in line at a TLA show.

First to take the stage was The Static Age. If I had to classify their sound, it would most likely fall under Ambient Pop or Melodic Rock. They exhibit an intense passion and frontman Andrew Palley’s voice almost sounds like that of a young Sting. Their songs are intertwined with Cure-like vibes and at times listening to them even reminds me of U2. They’ve been around for quite some time now and their most recent album, titled “Blank Screens,” came out in 2006. It was really incredible to see them touring with an act such as Tiger Army. The last time I saw them live, they were at this tiny room located next door to a bar in Philly called “The Fire.” Only about 8 people were there, total. It’s great to finally see them getting some crowd recognition.

After they took the stage, Street Dogs graced us with their presence. A punk band from Brooklyn who are definitely anti-establishment and pro-energy, they did an amazing job of urging the audience into a rowdy, boisterous mess of excitement. Admittedly, I had never heard anything about them before, but for one reason or another the crowd that evening knew their album word for word. There was lots of interaction from band to audience and more often than not, the frontman would come down into the middle of the barricade and share his mic with those who were singing along passionately. They were an incredibly fun band to see live. It’s rare for me to say this after only seeing a band once, but I’d most certainly see them again in a heartbeat.

Thereafter, Tiger Army came on stage. I’ve been familiar with this rockabilly band for over a year now. Having first seen them live in Long Beach with AFI in September of 2006, I have to say this last show of theirs was an altogether different experience for me. I was pretty far away at Long Beach Arena, and being in a barricade at the TLA was like nothing else. To be blunt, it took me a while to get used to their sound when I first saw them live. There’s a bit of a twang, and watching a stand-up bass player instead of an electric guitarist was interesting. Rockabilly is a genre that has a truly unique sound. It’s almost as if bluegrass and rock and roll come together harmoniously to mix a bit of twang, a bit of nostalgia, and a bit of screaming passion. It works well for Tiger Army. They truly love what they do and watching a band on stage who is genuinely into every aspect of performing is always wonderful.

All-Male Housing: Damage Control

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Out of the nineteen on-campus residences offered to Ursinus students, nine houses are all female, eight houses are co-ed, and only two, Omwake and Maples, are all-male. Members of the Greek community are particularly concerned about this issue.

While Residence Life fails to recognize any houses for their Greek affiliation, certain sororities have managed to fill a number of locations through use of their quitter’s rights. For many years, the sisters of Phi Alpha Psi have called Omwake home. The same goes for Omega Chi and Duryea, Tau Sigma Gamma and Olevian, and Alpha Sigma Nu with Todd Hall. The fraternities on campus however, have not been so fortunate.

In the past three years a number of fraternities have lost the on-campus residence they once called their own. After the houses at 702, 942, and 944 Main St were closed for renovations, only two houses with the freedom to register social events remain. According to Steve Larson, the disproportional ratio of female to male houses is no accident. He believes “all-male houses are the center of problems constantly,” and lists 702, 942, 944 and even Maples as common problem areas.

Excessive damage and numerous complaints from students, parents, and the neighboring community are just some of the reasons why all-male houses are nearly extinct on the Ursinus College campus. Steve Larson estimated between $5,000 and $6,000 in damages annually at both 942 and 944, while the renovations to 702 cost a staggering $13,000.

“The men on this campus have a lot less respect for housing,” Larson says, in comparison to three other colleges and universities which he has worked with previously. Interestingly, he states that once these “problem houses” become co-ed, “all the problems go away.”

When asked about the future of all-male houses on our campus, Larson replied, “that’s not our responsibility. Our responsibility is to provide the best high quality housing we can provide.” He also admits to numerous conversations regarding Maples becoming a co-ed house. Once 702 Main St. was renovated and became a co-ed quiet house, damages to the residence have stopped almost completely.

Steve Larson and Melissa Sanders also include the maintenance workers of Ursinus College in the reasons why all-male houses are disappearing from campus. “It’s a big morale issue when these workers spend the entire summer making renovations to a building and then halfway through the semester, you can’t even tell,” Larson says. Rather than patching up a hole in the wall or replacing a broken window, these maintenance workers could be further beautifying this campus.

Will all-male housing become a thing of the past here at Ursinus College? If things do not change soon it would not be unlikely. We must plan for the future. We have to be more respectful of our houses and our environment or certain privileges will be taken away indefinitely.
"American Gangster" (2007)

The phrase “based on a true story” is the biggest double-edged sword when it comes to movies. “The Perfect Storm” seems like a pretty great flick until you realize that the filmmakers have no idea what happened for about a third of it. For all we know the captain shot himself instead of going down with the ship (sorry if I ruined that for anybody. Think of it as me saving you $5 at Blockbuster). You see a similar problem with “A Beautiful Mind.”

It seems like a great story until you find out afterwards that Russell Crowe’s character was an incredible anti-Semite who once skipped an award ceremony to make him one of the most powerful crime figures in the city. Meanwhile, Detective Richie Roberts leads a special independent drug squad trying to bring down the major figures in the drug scene. Eventual­ly their paths collide, with explosive results for the city.

Both leads really brought their A-game to this flick. Denzel Washington delivers a very restrained performance in a role where a lot of actors would have chewed the scenery to shreds (Think Washington in “Training Day”). This ends up making his character that much more realistic and grounded. The other side of the coin is Russell Crowe, who creates a more flawed, very human persona. Crowe puts some nice touches in, like selling his character’s fear of public speaking, a big hindrance for someone who just passed the bar. One final side note is that it’s nice to see Cuba Gooding, Jr acting in something a little more high-quality than “Daddy Day Camp” and “Norbit.”

Although I loved this movie, I think there were a couple of flaws. Without giving anything away, Crowe’s character has a subplot about fighting to get child custody. Lucas’s character in “Mean Girls” posed to add depth to his character, but it felt tacked on and only served to slow the movie down. Beyond that, I highly recommend this flick, particularly when you look at all the other crap that is out there right now. “No Country for Old Men” excluded.

Looking ahead, I can’t wait for Seth Rogen’s new flick coming out next year, “Pineapple Express,” a movie he recently described in an interview as a “stoner action movie.” Frankly, I’m surprised no one thought of it sooner. That’s about this for this week, but before I go, I’d like to apologize for naming Rachel McAdams’s character in “Mean Girls” Regina King, rather than the correct Regina George. My bad.

Alex Ernst wonders if anyone even remembers “Vir­tuosity.” He’s pretty sure Crowe and Washington hope no one does. You can reach him at alerner@ursinus.edu.

This Week in Regrettable History

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November 12, 764: Tibet captures the capital of the Chinese Tang Dynasty. They occupy it for just over two weeks. China retaliates 1,200 years later by occupying Tibet for over half a century.

November 13, 1982: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated. All the lingering wounds left over from the Vietnam War are instantly healed, and all the politicians learn their lesson and become pacifists. In a related story, the Brooklyn Bridge goes on sale.

November 13, 1990: The World Wide Web starts. The most significant technological advance in human history is now used by millions largely for the purpose of uploading ten-minute video rants about how no one understands them, and/or forum debates about which anime character could beat up every other anime character.

November 14, 1995: A budget standoff in Congress forces the federal government to close national parks and museums and to run most offices with minimal staffs. This is the closest the United States of America has ever come to delving into a state of absolute anarchy.

November 15, 1990: It is revealed that Milli Vanilli lip-synched the album that won them a Grammy. Side note: this is the legendary “Day the Music Died” that Don McLean foresaw in his “American Pie.”

November 15, 2004: New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey leaves office. Pennsylvania chuckles self-assuredly, but they will get theirs. Mark my words...

November 15, 2006: Al-Jazeera English News is launched. Everyone but Al-Jazeera thinks this is really funny.

November 16, 1849: Russian writer Fyodor Dostoevsky is sentenced to death for anti-government activities, but his execution is canceled at the last minute when the Czar stepped out from the shadows and declared that the author of War and Peace had been “royally punk’d.”

But, don’t worry. Dr. Paul doesn’t take freedom too far. Indeed, he would protect American Christian values. Even though America is free, that doesn’t mean we want people to be free to have medically necessary partial-birth abortions, or scientists to be free to do stem cell research, or gay couples to be free to unite in a civil marriage or serve in the military. These freedoms are un-American. Ron Paul would support the American freedoms. In short, Dr. Paul would try to protect us from ourselves; he would protect us from those gay, pro-choice heathens. If that isn’t the description of what a government should do, then CJDF is not the finest satire column you have ever read.

Sadly, this article started with a small but important word: “if.” Indeed, if we were Republicans, we would help fight the good fight and get a certified gynecologist in the White House (that’s got to be better than that hobbyist we had eight years ago). But alas, we are Democrats, and once again we must settle for less. Although, there’s always Mike Gravel...

Matt and Dan are looking for assistants. You will work 80+ hours a week, and you will be paid one 10 dollar Wawa gift card per week. Assert your right to contract. Send resumes and letters of recommendation to mflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.

The Grizzly

November 15, 2007
Can you smell the chlorine wafting through the Helfferich halls yet? It can only mean one thing: the start of the Ursinus College swim season is upon us. The lady and gentlemen Bears kicked off their season with their first meet at Lebanon Valley College on Saturday, November 3rd.

Although it was a tough loss for the men with a score of 111-89, the women scored a crucial first victory winning 116-75. Junior Molly Cherson attributes the women’s win partially to their strong start to the meet: “We started off really strong by placing first and second in the medley relay. That relay set a great tone for the rest of the meet.”

Members of the winning medley team included Sophomore Elizabeth Gomoski, Freshman Kacie McCormick, Senior co-captain Kate Snyder, and Freshman Jess Saloky, who swam for a combined time of 2:13.97.

The Lady Bears went on to capture six more individual races, with Sophomore Emily Herman winning the 800 meter freestyle with a time of 10:22.31 and Sophomore Lyndsay MacFeaters beating out the competition during the 400 meter freestyle with a time of 5:11.52.

Although the men’s team did not come out on top this time, the members put up quite a fight and won several of their individual races. Juniors Andrew Pasecki and Ryan Kennedy placed first in their respective events.

Pasecki topped the 200 meter individual medley with a time of 2:23.31 and Kennedy washed out his competitors during the 100 meter backstroke with a time of 1:05.87. Lloyd Tannenbaum, a Freshman on the men’s team, also took first in an event, fluttering his way to a time of 1:05.12 in the 100 meter butterfly.

Despite their setback here, the Ursinus men hold their own with eight members in a conference where the typical male team size is near fifteen or twenty. Caps off to you guys!

With a combination of seasoned team vets and the fresh talent in the eight newcomers, four to the women’s team and four to the men’s, the Ursinus swim team has great potential to make the rest of the season a memorable one.

This is the first of twelve meets that lay ahead for the Bears. Amidst their meets and winter break, the teams will take a 10-day training trip before they return in the spring semester to finish out the season. The Bears competition culminates with Centennial Conference Championships held in late February.

With the continuing solid leadership in Coach Mark Feinberg, who has been with Ursinus for three years, both teams are ready to put in the hard work it takes to beat the clock and their competitors.

Co-captains and Seniors Allison Stouch and Kate Snyder also bring positive and effective guidance to the team members, especially through welcoming the new Freshmen members. When asked about her outlook for the rest of the season, Snyder commented saying, “The women’s team looks extremely promising this season. We’ll have a few very close meets, but we’re definitely strong enough to come out on top.”

As a strong supporter of the swim team, I encourage everyone to come out and watch the Bears’ superior aquatic skills at their first home meet on Wednesday, November 14th at 6pm. Good luck this season BEARS!

Field Hockey Season Comes to an End

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The Ursinus College field hockey team abruptly ended its season on Saturday, November 10 after a tough battle versus Juniata College during the semi-final round of NCAA regional playoffs.

“After the game I was in complete shock,” Katie Hunt, a sophomore defender, explained. “I did not expect the loss, it was so disappointing and upsetting,” she added.

The Ursinus field hockey team traveled to the regional host site of Lebanon Valley College to play for a chance to advance to the NCAA Championship. The grass field of LVC posed a challenge for the UC turf team, but they kept a positive attitude and did everything in their ability to try and not falter.

Ursinus out shot Juniata 26-9 and out cornered them 27-6. “We just couldn’t score,” stated forward Jen Hooven. “We had so many opportunities but the ball just didn’t want to go in,” she continued.

UC also missed two penalty strokes by a fraction of the cage and hit the post twice throughout the game. Ursinus did not give up for one minute and battled hard until the time ran out and the buzzer rang. The final score was 2-0 in favor of Juniata. The team respectively congratulated their opponent, but had a hard time coming to realization of what happened. Ursinus was recognized for their participation in the tournament and received a medal as a prize.

“Nothing is in place to go to the NCAA regionals,”orida Moore said. “We did not expect for this to be our last game together which makes it even harder.” Moore added.

The team was hoping to advance into next weekend’s NCAA Championship that will take place here at Ursinus. “We would have loved to play at home and had the support of everyone on campus, but things happen for a reason,” Nikki Thren said.

Even though the girls had a disappointing loss, no one can take away the incredible season that they had this year. For a relatively young team they overcame many obstacles and had a record that many could only wish for. Going into the regional tournament Ursinus was 18-2, only losing to Messiah College and Franklin and Marshall, and was ranked No.3 in the country for Division III.

“We had an amazing season,” Hunt said. “We became the first Centennial Conference team to win four straight conference tournaments which alone is a great feat,” she continued.

The Ursinus College field hockey team had a great ride this season and only wished to see it continue. “Although we hate to see this season end, it will give us one more motivation for next year, and we will prove it!” stated Stef Moyer.

Ursinus College is hosting the Division III NCAA Championship tournament on November 16 and 17; the teams will be determined after the Sunday, November 11 regional finals.

UC Swim Team Dives into Season

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Sororities Battle to Raise Money

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The Ursinus Bears were not the only ones playing football this past weekend. Three sororities, Alpha Sigma Nu, Phi Alpha Psi, and Tau Sigma Gamma held a flag-football tournament in order to raise money for the Linda Creed Breast Cancer Foundation.

The event is being considered a huge success by the sororities as over $200 was able to be raised. The Linda Creed Breast Cancer Foundation helps educate women in regards to proper detection of breast cancer, offers treatment resources, and also provides the necessary financial assistance to women in need during treatment.

On the field, Alpha Sigma Nu and Phi Alpha Psi squared off in the first game. Phi Psi was unable to overcome a long touchdown pass to Jill Alspach that eventually led to a Sig Nu win. In the second game, Phi Psi used an interception return for a touchdown from Katie Gallagher to top Tau Sig, in a game where both teams played stifling defense. Tau Sig then squared off against Sig Nu in the final game; however, they were tackled in their own endzone for a safety by Jill Proniewycz to give Sig Nu their second win of the day and a first place finish. Sig Nu managed to finish the day without surrendering a single point en route to both of their victories.

“The girls came out, played well and executed. It was a fun event that helped support a good cause,” stated Sig Nu coach and Ursinus football player James Sprulle after the game.

Many organizations came together to help support the event, including the Ursinus football players who helped referee the games and coach the Phi Psi and Sig Nu teams. Fraternity Delta Pi Sigma also played a big role in the planning and coordination of the event.

The event was so successful that a similar event for the spring semester is being planned in which they hope even more sororities will participate.

“It was really great seeing these sororities come together for such a great cause. Each team came ready to play. I was amazed to see how much of the campus came to support the cause, too. The sideline was packed with members of the Ursinus College community,” stated Phi Psi’s Courtney Fox after the game.

Phi Psi is tentatively planning to host a “chip-in” casino night for next semester in which all proceeds will also go to the Linda Creed Breast Cancer Foundation.

Bearly Reminders

Men’s Basketball
11/16 vs. Williams

Women’s Basketball
11/16 @ Virginia Wesleyan Tourney

Swimming
11/16 @ Lycoming

Wrestling
11/18 Fall Brawl @ Ursinus

The Grizzly
November 15, 2007