The Grizzly, April 3, 2008

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Collegeville, Pennsylvania

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The Grizzly
The student newspaper of Ursinus College

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Crude Awakening: Ways to Beat Surging Gas Pump Prices

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Gas prices hit an all-time high in American history last Monday at $3.26 a gallon. (Lundberg Survey: Pressure on consumer, companies). While this is a shockingly high number for Americans, there really is no reason to complain. Europeans are paying twice as much per gallon than Americans. According to NBC auto drivers in Germany are paying $8.60 a gallon to fill their tanks. The rising gas prices are affecting families across the globe. Americans have started to change their driving habits and daily consumer decisions.

Families interviewed for an MSNBC article reported that they have been forced to cut back on their typical driving habits. Some have reported to using public transportation more frequently or carpooling with neighbors and colleagues. Others are cutting back on luxuries such as eating out, skiing and extracurricular activities for their children. Some individuals have made more dramatic changes such as trading in their gas guzzling trucks and SUVs for smaller, more fuel efficient cars.

What is difficult to understand is why these prices are so high and what we can adjust our lifestyles to account for the increase. According to an article written by John Wilen the “prices [of gas] are a function of the open market, as manifested in the trading of futures contracts on the New York Mercantile Exchange, or Nymex (http://www.courant.com/business/hc-goodquestion0326.armar26,0,4437174.story).” Simply put, gas prices are not determined by the gas stations which sell the product, but by those who have used oil as a form of investment (largely foreign investors who are using gasoline as a stable form of investment).

Laura Coffey, contributing writer for MSNBC, gives gas consumers suggestions for how to take control of the rising gasoline prices. First off, consumers can increase their gas mileage by removing excess weight from their cars by emptying the trunk and removing a superfluous roof rack.

Secondly, do not allow the car to remain in idle position to allow it to warm up or to wait for a friend. Keeping the engine burning too long uses more gas then restarting the car.

Third, get regular car tune-ups and use the correct grade motor oil. Fourth keep all tires inflated. Correctly inflated tires can improve your gas mileage by about 3.3 percent.

The fifth point Coffey makes is to drive the speed limit and avoid excess breaking (such as tailgating). Her last few points combine the concepts of running errands efficiently; instead of driving around all afternoon try to complete errands in one stop. Also, carpooling and limiting the need to drive are great ways to cut back on gas consumption.

The final, and most important, point is to be conscious about improving gas mileage when purchasing a vehicle. Smaller engines and lighter cars are simple ways to improve gas mileage. To find out which cars are the most fuel efficient check out: FuelEconomy.gov. For a complete list of Coffey’s suggestions check out: http://www.courant.com/business/hc-goodquestion0326.armar26,0,4437174.story.

News in Brief: Prison Riot, Olympics, Obama Endorsements

TERRENCE KELLEY
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Thursday, Mar. 27, 2008

One inmate was killed and 15 were hospitalized after a riot at a federal prison in South Texas early last Thursday. How the inmate died is still being investigated, said the Federal Bureau of Prisons spokesman Deborah Denham. She did not believe that guards used any potentially lethal force to break up the fight. No staff members were injured. Seven inmates were treated at the prison for minor injuries.

A pair of fights broke out in two housing units at the prison around 7 a.m., when breakfast was wrapping up and the community was never in danger. The incident was brought under control quickly, and this month. Houston police and firefighters were called to the federal prison in downtown Houston two weeks ago Thursday, Mar. 27, 2008

The riot was the second at a federal prison in Texas this month. Houston police and firefighters were called to the federal prison in downtown Houston two years ago after receiving reports that up to 80 inmates were fighting. A stun grenade was used to stop that brawl.

Thursday, Mar. 27, 2008

The riots in Tibet two weeks ago have turned into a major challenge to China’s leaders, whose decision to use military force and restrict media access has cast a shadow over hopes for an unblemished Olympics this summer. The uprising in the remote Himalayan region lasted for barely more than a day, but it generated a worldwide swell of concern.

Now the Olympic Games, intended to be a festive coming-out party for modern China, could become a dramatic reminder that the Communist Party still relies on Leninist police tactics and Orwellian censorship to enforce its monopoly on power.

The fallout from Tibet has not subsided. In ancient Olympia on Monday, pro-Tibet protesters disrupted a ceremonial light the Olympic torch. On Tuesday, French President Nicolas Sarkozy suggested there might be a boycott of the Games’ opening ceremony. On Thursday, as Chinese authorities led foreign reporters on a tour of region in an effort to demonstrate that it had been tamed, a group of monks confronted the journalists, shouting that they were being denied religious freedom.

Criticisms of China on human rights issues have been longstanding among foreign activists and some governments, analysts noted, but the Tibet crisis raised their global prominence just as the Olympic Games provided a ready forum to push the message.

Friday, Mar. 28, 2008

A college student has apologized for causing a scare on a subway train when his science project short-circuited and started smoking in his backpack.

Gregory Kats, 29, said the device was just a model of an elevator’s inner workings, but it frightened passengers last Thursday on the New York City subway. Kats said he tried to reassure his fellow passengers that it was a school project, not a bomb, but people scrambled for the exits nonetheless.

The box Kats was holding had a small battery, wires and a motor. “They were panicking, and I realized their fear,” an apologetic Kats said.

He said he tried to disassemble the contraption on the platform even as he reassured passengers that it was his science project.

Kats was questioned by police and later released. He is a computer engineering student at the New York City College of Technology. “I’m very sorry for what happened,” he said. “I hate to scare people. Next time, I’ll be more much careful and keep my electronic projects at home.”
Thomas James and his older brother Frank became leaders of a group several of the James brother’s most loyal followers were status as an American outlaw, began his career early. At age 15, James joined a Confederate guerilla band and approximately 2,000 took part in brutal civil warfare in Missouri and Kansas.

Prior to the Pony Express, telegraph and railroad lines did not extend west of St. Joseph. Mo.

Any mail destined farther west had to be taken by stagecoach or wagon: a trip that could take months. The first Pony Express service begins to 15 miles, at which point the parcel was handed off to another rider until the destination was reached.

The New York Times ran the manifesto. Surprisingly, Kaczynski was caught after his brother David recognized the ideas in the manifesto as his brother’s, and contacted authorities. (http://www.time.com/time/2007/crimes/19.html). Kaczynski managed to avoid the death penalty, but is currently serving consecutive life terms in prison.

Well, that’s all folks. For more random facts and useless trivia go to www.history.com/ or www.infoplease.com.

Airband Turns 25

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Airband is reaching new heights this year as Ursinus celebrates its 25th annual performance. With a new 2008 logo, new hosts and new acts, this year’s Airband will be one to remember.

Each year the Airband committee, made up of Ursinus’ Residence Life staff and dedicated students, work together to create a fun-filled event. After last year’s “Big in 07” theme, the committee has a hard act to follow while preparing for this year’s show. A new addition to the Airband team is Resident Director Jared Rodrigues. The new RD is excited to be a part of Ursinus Airband and is anticipating the upcoming creative acts.

The “acts” are a major part of the Airband tradition at Ursinus. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to choreograph creative dance numbers and lip-synced sketches for the campus wide event. Some groups show off their technical choreography while others leave you laughing during a hilarious skit.

In either case, Airband can appeal to almost anyone. “It’s like a full performance. From comedy to dance, there is something for everyone,” says senior Sabrina Peele. She reminisces about his previous Airband experiences. “One year the show was the day before my birthday. It was like an extra birthday present,” laughed Peele.

The event is also a present for incoming Ursinus students. The admissions office plans a major overnight event for prospective students. The prospective stay on campus during Airband weekend. This gives our visitors a glimpse into the social scene at Ursinus while introducing them to our college community.

Many of this year’s freshmen fondly remember their first Airband experience. “It was great!” smiled freshmen Janaee Holmes, who is now making her Airband debut in tomorrow night’s show. “I can’t wait to perform!” smiled Holmes.

Airband also works to give back to the community through an annual charity event. For each organization participating in the show, there is a $100 non-refundable registration fee. This money is donated to a new charity each year.

This year, all Airband proceeds will be given to the Laurel House, the only women’s shelter in the Montgomery County that caters to women and children. This important cause has fueled the hard work and hours of practice done by the campus acts. The charity aspect helps the Airband participants work harder, knowing that their money and efforts are going to a good cause.

The festivities kick off tomorrow night in Wissm Dining Hall. The cafeteria will be transformed into an exaggerated performance space for the evening. There will be bleachers, lights and booming sound filling the entire dining hall.

Most importantly, there are campus organizations competing for creative titles, trophies and the overall win. The winners are decided by a panel of Ursinus faculty who look for creativity, technical precision and several other factors. However, the competitiveness is all in good fun. The supportive audience often cheers so loud that performers forget they are competing.

Airband will open doors tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the door or purchased in advance outside of Wissm during the lunch and dinner hours. Please keep in mind that tickets bought in advance are $5, while those bought at the door are $7.

Don’t miss this must-see event at Ursinus!
Features

The Herpes Hindrance: Part Two

Last week, we discussed oral and genital herpes (Herpes Simplex Virus 1, HSV 1, and Herpes Simplex Virus Two, HSV2) as infections by looking at their symptoms and transmission, leaving prevention and treatment for us to tackle this week. Therefore, we’re looking at the summit of Everest and are only a few feet away from achieving a complete understanding of the herpes simplex viruses (yes, that cheesy metaphor just happened).

One of the reasons that I’ve had encountered difficulty in decoding herpes is due to the fact that in spite of its misleading name: herpes simplex virus, it’s fairly complex in comparison with many (not all) sexually-transmitted infections. One issue that sets herpes apart from other sexually-transmitted infections is its transmission. While many sexually-transmitted infections (i.e. Syphilis and Gonorrhea) can be transmitted to a partner even if the infected person shows no symptoms, these infections do not go through a period of inactivity. In other words, when one does not experience symptoms during a herpes infection, it could mean one of two things: the herpes infection is currently dormant within the body (inactive), or the infection is growing, and the individual is most likely going to experience an outbreak within a few days.

This complicates prevention, because many individuals believe that it is safe to engage in sexual activity between outbreaks, thinking that herpes can only be transmitted when symptoms appear. Unfortunately, this is not the case. If you have herpes, Planned Parenthood recommends abstaining from any sexual contact if you feel that you are about to experience an outbreak (you may feel tingling, itching, or burning, at the sight of a future outbreak) and to refrain from sexual activity for seven full days after the sores have healed. Also, it is important not to touch the sores because that is when the virus is most transmissible; if you do touch a sore, wash your hands immediately afterwards, and refrain from touching other areas of your body. Using condoms between outbreaks can also help reduce the risk of transmitting herpes to a partner, but because herpes may occur in areas not covered by a condom, they are not always effective. It has also been found that taking daily preventative medication can greatly reduce your risk of transmitting the infection.

Because prevention may be difficult in cases where a partner is unaware that they are infected with herpes, the best manner in which sexually-active adults can prevent the infection is by having an open and honest relationship with all sexual partners and using condoms every time you engage in sexual activity.

Fortunately, there are treatments for herpes. While there is no cure for herpes, oral medications (often taken either daily or during outbreaks) can greatly reduce the number of outbreaks. These medications may also cause the sores to heal at a faster rate. Planned Parenthood also suggests a variety of tactics for dealing with outbreaks, including warm baths to soothe the sores (being careful to dry them properly afterwards because moisture may inhibit healing) and aspirin, ibuprofen, or acetaminophen to help relieve any pain one might experience. Cotton clothes can help reduce chafing, and ice packs or cold compresses may also soothe the sores.

Understanding herpes may have been a daunting task for me, but hopefully I’ve grasped it enough to share and impart the important facts with you. If you have any other questions regarding herpes, contact your health care provider or visit www.plannedparenthood.org.

Lou’s Too: The Charming Steak Shop

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Once again escaping the confines of the small town of Collegeville, I have entered the remote town of Trappe. Yes, it is a different town than the one in which we are currently staying. So those of you entering the Trappe Plaza have in fact exited Collegeville and have entered the mysterious and nearby (fused) town of Trappe.

Lou’s Too is another cheese steak-hoagie place, but of the many that populate Trappe and Collegeville, it stands out in two ways: one, it doubles as a convenience store; and two, it is the oldest of said cheesesteak or hoagie shops in the area. Having been in business for over eight years it really isn’t relying on the college crowd to drive sales; it instead has a large number of regulars that are guaranteed to come.

The restaurant itself is nice in that it exemplifies its age rather than hides it (this is reminiscent of a balding man shaving his head instead of trying to grow out his remaining hair and using it to cover the bald spot). The problem with this and many other methods is that often times it makes the problem worse rather than fixing it; however, in our youth-driven culture, many people feel that it cannot function if they aren’t youthful. In other words, it always impresses me when someone decides to stick up for old age and embrace it, because the truth is, we’re not getting any younger ourselves.

The above ramble just means that Lou’s Too is an old restaurant and it knows it. It hasn’t been refurbished in awhile and that gives it a unique charm that I’m sure is what has kept locals coming back to it time and time again.

Upon entering the restaurant, you will understand why it is a restaurant and convince store; it’s like a Wawa in many ways, complete with the snacks and sandwiches for whatever your craving (its missing the free tellier though, so in many respects it is nothing like a Wawa). The restaurant itself is unique, using props that it has probably featured since the restaurant was founded. Still, as I said before, I like this old world charm (Appearance 7/10).

As for service, I had two lovely ladies help me with whatever I ordered. The service was counter-based. Customers order and pay at the counter up front. The meal arrived in a timely fashion and I had no complaints (Service 7/10).

As for the food, I ordered a cheesesteak and fries. The cheesesteak was very good, containing plenty of meat and not too much cheese. I only regret not checking the options available at the shop, because I normally like my cheesesteaks with onions and sharp provolone. With that aside, it was a pretty good cheesesteak and it was reasonably priced, so no regrets in that department.

The French fries were pretty dry, however. When one orders French fries they can get thin ones, thick ones, and sometimes curly ones (do not take that the wrong way, though I’m sure you already do). It doesn’t really matter how they are made or what shape they are; it just really helps when I don’t have to feel the need to douse them in vinegar or ketchup in order to eat them. First rate fries should be able to be eaten plain without any additions. Now one may want to add stuff anyway, but that is only to enhance the experience (Dining 23/30).

Overall, Lou’s Too is a nice, relaxed place for people just looking to buy a sandwich and actually meet some of the locals who live here (Total: 72%, a solid good).

Literary Food Fest

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Creativity was overflowing last Thursday, March 27, during Ursinus College’s fourth annual Edible Books Festival. The festival ran from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Myrin Library and out of 23 entries, six were chosen as winners.

From the faculty/staff category, first place went to Heather Brown, Carolyn Moatz, Marci Stehman, Ginny Bradly and Linda Wacker from the Annual Fund for their representation of “The Secret Life of Bees.” In second place were Diane Raymond, Nathan Cartellini, and Beth Nicholson from Dining Services for their entry, “The Magic School Bus Gets Baked in a Cake.” Third place went to Diane Skorina from the Library, for her depiction of “Don Chipotle & Nacho Panza.”

From the student entries, first place was awarded to Georgia Julius for her creation “Lord of the Pies.” Second place went to Katie Simmons, for “Moby Marshmallow.” In third place were Kelly Gasser and Emily MaCoy for “The Devil’s Bride.”

The festival was open to all faculty, staff and students. Rules were simple: the entry had to be both edible and bookish.” Entries could be submitted by an individual or as a team. Entries this year included everything from a Rice Krispy “Marley” dog to “Cheaper By the Dozen” eggs. Cakes were baked in all sorts of styles, rice krispies and marshmallows were abundant, and even juice boxes found a place in one presentation. The crowds seemed impressed overall with the entries. According to Lindsay Sakmann, student coordinator, there were a lot more participants this year than last. By 3:00 p.m. participants and spectators alike were waiting to hear the winners be announced, and of course, to eat the entries.

Cash prizes were rewarded to both the student and faculty/ staff categories. For more information on the Edible Books Festival, which is a world wide event, visit their website at: http://www.livremangeable.com/livremangeable/index.html
“Fully Loaded” EV Performance Attracts Full House

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Two excellent performances in a row brought Ursinus the Sixth Annual Escape Velocity Dance Company student production, “Fully Loaded,” in the Black Box Theatre. The show was just that, loaded with many different styles of dance presented by creative and engaging performers. Individual pieces presented included jazz, modern, hip-hop, lyrical and more. The entire production was student-run, from the dancers themselves to the choreographers, as well as all of the behind-the-scenes workers. It was produced by Roger Lee and Marianne Conway, as well as a host of technical operators and directors backstage.

Stand-out performances filled the entire evening. One common feature of all the acts was the innovative dances associated with very different songs which especially showcased the versatility of the dancers in the company. One interesting choice of music kicked off the entire production with creativity, humor and excellent choreography to go along with the song “Lady Madonna” by The Beatles. This piece stood out with its inspired interpretation of a classic song, and the ingenuity continued with the fantastic duo of Kaitlyn Myers and Brandon Kamin in the piece entitled, “Fuego,” where the two dancers used robotic movements to coincide with a hip-hop song for a truly original performance.

The piece that perhaps caused the most buzz was titled “Feminism Is,” choreographed and filmed by Katie Fritz and Danielle Langdon. The performance was a part of Fritz’s year-long senior project exploring dance and nudity. It featured a projected film of a fully nude woman and man while Langdon danced on stage. The depiction of the movements between genders was free of pretense and intriguingly presented. The accompanying music added to the study and reverence of the female body with Bobby McFerrin’s unique interpretation of The 23rd Psalm.

The performance also included interesting interpretations of cultural elements in dances, including dance choreographed by Anjali Barve to a song in Hindi. The dance was enhanced by vibrantly colored saris and also made very humorous by Mark Dennis’s interaction with the female dancers. This theme was furthered with the closing number of the night, “The Roots of Hip-Hop,” choreographed by Leticia Walston and Jessica Rhodes. This piece was filled with attitude and spark, and the dancers made it look positively and naturally effortless.

The success of the all-student event was apparent by the completely full house; the audience extended onto the stairs alongside the seats, having attracted fellow students, family, faculty and members of the community.

“You may think the production was excellent and really kept the audience in tune with what was happening on stage,” said Ursinus Freshman, Megan Kaylor. “It was filled with all the performances. I really enjoyed the African and Indian style dances, especially.”

Anyone can join Escape Velocity, and current participants are always looking for new recruits; no experience necessary. Hip-hop classes are taught by Roger Lee and all are encouraged to check into it. Escape Velocity is not the only dance company on campus, though; keep in mind that the Ursinus College Dance Company (UCDC) also has a spring concert coming up at the end of the month.

Catch any of three performances from April 24 to 26 in the Kaleidoscope.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Goldsmith

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Wharton scholar, world traveler and Assistant Professor of English at Ursinus College, Dr. Meredith Goldsmith has been doing great things since her arrival in 2005. In her short time here at Ursinus College, Dr. Goldsmith has taught several wonderful, thought-provoking, courses, some of which include: American Literature, Literary Theory, and she is set to teach a course entitled, The New Woman in the 1920’s this fall semester. This course will focus on the rise of the independent, artistic and professional woman of the early twentieth century.

Dr. Goldsmith received her bachelor’s degree and Ph.D. from Columbia University, with her dissertation focusing on turn of the century American literature. Prior to her arrival at Ursinus College, Dr. Goldsmith taught at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., and Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. Both schools are small, liberal arts colleges, much like Ursinus.

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After attending and graduating from a large university, Dr. Goldsmith found herself gravitating to smaller, liberal arts colleges. She explained that she enjoys the personal and close-knit atmosphere provided by smaller schools. So, what prompted her to come back to the east coast? Dr. Goldsmith explained that, after teaching at Whitman College and living in a small town, she yearned to be closer to the city. She and her husband now reside in Philadelphia.

When thinking about the leisure activities in which an accomplished professor of English participates, of what activities come to mind? Reading. In my spare time, Dr. Goldsmith responded quickly, “I love novels and poetry and I like to travel.” Following this, she explained that she has traveled to Turkey for a year, as well as in Croatia. Additionally, Dr. Goldsmith has motorcycled through Italy, visited France and has recently traveled to Morocco, a country in North Africa.

As mentioned earlier, Dr. Goldsmith has studied the work of Edith Wharton extensively. Currently, she is working on a book manuscript about Wharton’s attitudes about the rise of consumer culture in early twentieth century America. Dr. Goldsmith is slated to take early leave in the Spring of 2009 to do more research and work on her book.

Among some of her other achievements, Dr. Goldsmith has published an article about Jewish masculinity in Wharton’s The House of Mirth, an article on Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby, and she has also published articles on Nella Larsen and Anzia Yezierska.

Since her arrival to the Ursinus Campus almost three years ago, Dr. Goldsmith has brought excitement and enthusiasm for scholarship and excellence to the English Department as well as to students. Her accomplishments are numerous and we should be proud to have Dr. Goldsmith on our faculty.

Career Corner: Non-Profit Option

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Non-profit organizations do pay a salary and offer benefits! Most students know little or nothing about non-profit work, and may have stereotypes about what it’s really like working in this sector. A non-profit organization is a legally constituted organization whose primary objective is to support or to actively engage in activities of public or private interest without any commercial or monetary profit purposes. They are active in a wide range of areas, including the environment, humanitarian aid, animal protection, education, the arts, social issues, charities, early childhood education, health care, politics, religion, research, sports, or other endeavors.

Non-profit organizations often provide rewarding work. Many non-profit organizations have a positive impact on the health and welfare of people. People who seek meaningful work find that non-profits provide an excellent job match! Much of the work of non-profits is very interesting and exciting. Arts, cultural, historical, community-educational, social service, advocacy, political, and business and professional organizations engage in some of today’s most important work.

Most non-profit work environments are “feel-good” and positive. If you like working with people who share your values, a non-profit organization may be the right type of work environment for you. Non-profits offer excellent opportunities for acquiring work experience. Recent college graduates often find non-profit organizations to be more responsive to their job search initiatives than government agencies and businesses. And, career advancement opportunities are strong since you gain a lot of experience quickly.

Consider work in the non-profits and attend the Non-Profit Job Fair sponsored by Idealist.org and the Non-profit Career Fair consortium (which includes Ursinus) on Thursday, Apr. 10, at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. For more information on the organizations attending, go to www.idealist.org.

Interested in writing for The Grizzly?

Then please attend our weekly meetings at 5:15 PM in Olin 101.

Contact Editors-in-Chief
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The Grizzly
April 3, 2008
Opinions

Fed Bailout?

Fed, Butt Out!

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On Sunday, Mar. 16, people on Wall Street feared for their jobs. The collapse of the 85 year old investment bank, Bear Stearns, created a potential financial crisis, similar to the one that started the Great Depression.

Investors were fearful that if Bear Stearns didn’t find a buyer who would guarantee Bear’s holdings, a financial panic would spread. These investors were concerned that other financial companies such as Lehman Brothers, already reeling from losses on mortgage investments, could potentially go bankrupt as well (The New York Times). If these huge financial companies started going under it would cause a severe crisis and most people would pull their investments from Wall Street.

Bear Stearns, however, did find a buyer on Monday, Mar. 17 in JP Morgan Chase, who agreed to buy all of Bear Stearns for a bargain price of two dollars per share. The purchase price is less than one-tenth of the firm’s market price on Friday, Mar. 14. The purchase is a big risk for JP Morgan Chase who was able to escape the mortgage crisis without any significant losses compared to other financial firms (The New York Times).

Bear Stearns was driven to the brink of bankruptcy because of a pull out by investors. The investors considered Bear’s investments to be too risky and the investments seemed likely to fail. Moreover, the company ran big losses on investments linked to mortgages. Therefore, the investors and customers pulled their money out of the firm, resulting in Bear Stearns losing almost all of its value.

In order to keep the company from going under, JP Morgan stepped in and bought the company for a bargain price of $270 million (Alex Rodriguez has a contract worth more than that from the New York Yankees). Some people may believe $270 is a large sum of money. It is until you understand how much Bear used to be worth only a short time ago. Only a year ago, Bear’s shares sold for over $170 a share and are now being bought for only $2 a share (The New York Times).

Throughout its history, Bear Stearns was able to persevere and prosper through hard economic times. The company had weathered the Depression and 12 recessions but met its downfall in the mortgage crisis. The firm’s fast and loose culture finally caught up to the company. Bankers inside of the firm were known for their expensive suits and luxurious lifestyles. In this culture, taking risks was regarded. In fact, the Chairman and former CEO of Bear, Alan “Ace” Greenberg, openly discussed gambling with the firm’s money by making investments in extremely risky holdings. As a result, many of Bear’s employees may be looking for employment. It is estimated up to one-third of Bear’s 14,000 employees will be laid off when the firm is integrated into JP Morgan (The New York Times). Moreover, the employees owned a significant portion of Bear’s stock and consequently lost a large amount of their personal investment because of their fast and loose investment strategy.

What is extremely unusual about the collapse of the firm is the bailout by the government. The Federal Reserve is providing finance for JP Morgan to acquire Bear Stearns. Moreover, the Fed is guaranteeing as much as $30 billion of Bear’s less-liquid assets (The New York Times). As a result, many people see the Federal Reserve as trying to expand their power beyond their boundaries. People are skeptical of the Fed redesigning which companies are vital to the economy. In essence, the Fed now determines which companies are too important to go under and in response they bail those companies out (Bloomberg.com). Why should the government bail out financial firms and not bail out all the manufacturing firms that have gone out of business, which resulted in millions of Americans losing their jobs?

Clearly, a firm that acted so carelessly with people’s money should be allowed to fail. By bailing Bear out, the taxpayers of the United States will have to pick up the burden of the irresponsibility of a few. Granted, the collapse of Bear would cause additional hardships in the housing and credit crisis. The whole point, however, of a capitalist economy is to have the most efficient companies replace companies that can’t keep up. In this case, Bear Stearns culture of gambling with investments got them burned and companies who were more smart and careful with their government official. The press, totally not in on the joke, spoiled it for everyone and force him to resign.

2008: John McCain, in an attempt to garner support among those Americans still stupid enough to support President Bush, jokes with reporters that he thinks Americans wouldn’t mind if U.S. forces remained in Iraq for up to “10,000 years.” A reporter at the scene later described the room as getting “chilly, but chilly on your insides.”

2008: The Obama campaign received a call on Tuesday from a Hillary spokesman, claiming that the New York senator had conceded defeat in the race for the Democratic nomination. “We’ve come to the conclusion that Sen. Clinton is just too much of a divisive figure in the current political climate,” the spokesman was quoted as saying. “For eight years, our country has been factionalized and polarized. Our national visage has been scarred by battle lines and trenches. This cannot continue if America hopes to survive long into the 21st century. Senator Clinton has decided to rally the Democratic party behind Senator Obama, who represents the best hope for progress and unity come November.” Through muffled snickering, the spokesman went on to offer the Obama campaign “a great deal on a bridge in Brooklyn…”

2008: President Bush jokingly vetoes a bill banning the use of waterboarding as a CIA interrogation technique, sarcastically saying, “This is no time for Congress to abandon practices that have a proven track record of keeping America safe.”

Wait, he was being serious? Screw this, I’m getting drunk.

Dan Sergeant and Matthew Flyntz told you your secret crush liked them as an April Fool’s joke. No amount of emails to dsergeant@ursinus.edu or mflyntz@ursinus.edu will ever buy you back your dignity.

April Fools and Communist Dummies

There’s nothing we at CJD love more than April Fool’s Day. Well, okay, we love Gary Glitter more. But April Fool’s Day is a close second, beating out family, country and even you, our faithful readers. (If you want to increase your standing for next year, send us e-mails complimenting our hairstyles. We work very hard on them).

But April Fool’s Day is also a holy day, the day we commemorate one of the Bible’s most solemn practical jokes. Join us in a silent prayer of remembrance: “And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: thou hast been punk’d, royally” (Genesis 22:9-11).

Unfortunately, due to a conspiracy on the part of our editors and the sun, this Grizzly is being published two days after April Fool’s Day. In the spirit of looking backwards and keeping with April Fool’s Day’s glorious origins, we present to you this list of great April Fool’s Day pranks, past and present:

1517: Martin Luther, a German monk, nails an extremely humorous list of 95 tongue-in-cheek “complaints” about the Roman Catholic Church to his local church door. Everyone has a good laugh and no one is burned at the stake.

1589: A Spanish diplomat aboard the U.S.S. Maine presents to the captain, as a token of goodwill, a box of Cuban cigars. Unbeknownst to him, a well-intentioned but dimwitted sailor had replaced the priced cigars with prank exploding ones. Upon lighting one too close to the massive holds, the ship blows up. 30,000 human lives are extinguished in the ensuing war. Ha ha!

2004: New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey, as part of an elaborate prank on his wife, has gay sex with another man. He released a statement saying he had made a "mistake" before resigning.

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Communism for Dummies

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“Murder Party” (2007)

I'd like to start right off and apologize for the lack of more recent film reviews these past couple weeks. I'll be honest and say there are two distinct reasons for this: one, it's a lot easier to write a review for a movie you really enjoy as opposed to a movie you're indifferent to, and lately I haven't been really impressed by much, and b), I'm not getting paid enough to review crap like “Superhero Movie” or “Drillbit Taylor” (when you think about it, I'm actually losing money seeing these flicks thanks to the Grizzly's generous and nonexistent reimbursement policy). Incredibly long run-on sentences aside, this week I'd like to give some exposure to a flick that was both one of the best indie and best horror flicks I've seen in a long time. With that, here's “Murder Party.”

Loser Chris (Chris Sharp) finds an invitation to a Halloween “Murder Party.” Upon arriving, he finds himself taken captive by a group of artists gathered together to try to kill him in the most inventive and meaningful way in order to win a large grant. Guts, gore and hilarity ensue.

Man, talk about catharsis. There's nothing like seeing a bunch of pretentious artists maim and murder each other in the name of esoteric pieces loaded with “meaning” to give you that good old vicarious thrill of seeing a real jerk get what he (or she) deserves. Speaking of maiming and murdering, for a microbudget film, the effects hold up really well, giving us horrific burns, stabs, a great set piece involving a room literally soaked in blood and a poisoning due to preservatives in raisin bread. Throw in the humor throughout the film and you have a flick that manages to walk the fine line between laughs and scares.

One of the reasons the film works so well is the strong character development across the board. As much of a loser as our hero Chris is, the filmmakers manage to win you over in subtle ways, particularly through a hilariously embarrassing monologue about getting stuck in an elevator at a convention. Even the villains, although each is more dark and twisted as the next, are given small touches of humanity that prove poignant and insightful. Whether these touches are an unrequited crush, open jealousy about another’s talent or flat out frustration, all of these are much more than we as an audience have come to expect from your standard, run-of-the-mill, slice ‘em and dice ‘em horror flick. Quite frankly, it's refreshing.

A last note about “Murder Party” is the nice little movie geek touches. When the characters dress up for Halloween as Darryl Hannah’s Pris from “Blade Runner” and a Baseball Fury from “The Warriors,” you know that someone put some care and thought into the picture. Although you may have a hard time tracking this one down, I highly recommend it for anyone looking for something different in a horror flick.

For the pick of the week, I’m going with my other favorite indie horror movie, “Evil Dead.” Despite being made on a shoestring budget, having a cast of complete unknowns and being directed by then-rookie Sam Raimi, this movie still manages to thrill and chill almost three decades later. An absolute must-see, if only because Bruce Campbell is, was and always will be the freakin’ man.

Alex Ernst worries that he enjoyed stuck up artists bumping each other off in gruesome ways a little too much. You can reach him at aлерnts@ursinus.edu.

Olympic Controversy

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The Olympic Games were founded on the principle of bringing the nations of the world together to compete peacefully. Of course, this is rarely the case as the amount of politics involved in becoming the host of the Olympics can get fairly intense. There have also been some extremely controversial moments throughout the history of the games, namely Adolph Hitler turning the 1936 summer games into an Aryan pride rally and the United States and Soviet Union boycotts of the 1980 and 1984 games, respectively. The 2008 Olympics in Beijing, however, are quickly becoming the most controversial games in a long time and they haven’t even gotten underway yet.

By hosting the Olympics this year, China wishes to show the world how far they have come over the years. The country is a much different place than it once was and the Chinese government views hosting the Olympics as a chance to demonstrate this growth; however, China’s hosting of the Olympics is not without controversy. The state imposed several new laws in preparation for the Games that have drawn fire from human rights organizations from all over the world. The largest one is the apparent lockdown of Beijing while the Games are going on. The government has issued laws that would remove any Chinese not holding residency permits from the city. Homeless people have been kicked out of the city while an unknown number of people have been evicted from their homes to make way for the construction of attractions for tourists. Residents who protested these actions were arrested on the grounds of disturbing the peace. Another move by the government has been to declare the Olympics a special holiday which will essentially require all Beijing residents to stay home while the Games are taking place. Added on are strict rules barring Chinese citizens from using new restrooms being built.

The greater issue that looms over the Beijing Games is Tibet. The Chinese stance on the region has been a constant source of controversy around the world. About three weeks ago protests began in Tibet which gradually grew in violence as the Chinese government attempted to quell the civil unrest. The violence led to many European nations threatening a boycott. Pro-Tibet protesters are also planning demonstrations along the route that the Olympic torch is going to take. They made their presence felt at the start of the torch’s run by unfurling anti-Chinese flags and also called for a boycott of the Games with more expected as the torch makes its way to Beijing.

There are some extremely valid points of criticism that can be directed at China. The Tibet situation and the displacement of citizens of Beijing are two troubling events and have already cast a shadow over the proceedings. Other criticisms I have seen are not quite as pressing. For instance, the United States team will be bringing their own food supplies with them, which has upset Olympic organizers. While the American team is known for doing this over the past few Games, it can still be taken as a slap in the face to a host nation. Even worse was a report I have seen where some French groups calling that China ban the eating of dogs by the time the Olympics start. Comments like these are just outright stupid as they’re attacking a cultural difference in food choices rather than a human rights violation.

What people need to keep in focus during this year’s Olympics is that if they are going to critique, make sure it is over in subtle ways, particularly through a hilariously entertaining description of an atypical Beijing man.

Alex Ernst

The Back Row

Seabound and Iris at Nocturne Night

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Spring Break marks a time of some sort of mini-celebration for everyone. Although I didn’t have the pleasure of sunning myself in Cancun or heading to Florida with a group of friends to wreak havoc on Disney World, I opted to see Seabound and Iris perform at Shampoo.

If you’ve never heard of them, Seabound are a Synthpop/Futurepop duo that hail from Germany. Having just recently discovered them, I can attest to the wide range of sounds they produce. The songs they create are diverse; some showcasing ambient and reflective moods through mellow and sometimes heart-wrenching lyrics, and others that are aggressive and dance-y, reflecting an internal love for creating a guttural sense of purpose. Drawing influences from New Wave, Dance, Industrial bands, Seabound’s artistic efforts work to combine what’s inside the heart of a liquid Depeche Mode song, and the heavy pulsations of what’s found on an atypical Covenant album. Seeing them live truly feels like experiencing night and day through sound. One moment the crowd around you is swaying silently to the smooth love song lyrics of “Watching Over You,” and the next moment in your place, you find yourself in the center of a dance party during songs like “Tor” or “Domination.”

And “Domination” isn’t something they’re just using as a song title either. Their 2006 release and most recent album “Double-Crosser” has been a huge success in Germany, comping to number one on the German Alternative Charts as well as the German Electronic Web Charts. The future certainly looks bright for Seabound, no matter what type of listeners they’re drawing in. They plan to release a live album very soon titled “Come Forward,” which will be a mixture of recordings from their recent tour in Berlin.

As for seeing Iris that night, I was impressed with their performance as a Nocturne night opening band. They exuded less of an ecclectic mixture of sounds but tended to lean toward the dynamic of a rock band slightly more than Seabound. Texas-based, they’re not what you’d expect them to sound like. They didn’t display any sort of Industrialized or Electronica aesthetic and even for a synth-pop group, I was surprised at how “regular” their looks were. It left more to be absorbed from their music however, and with tracks like “Annie, Would I Lie to You” or “Hell’s Coming With Me” being performed, it was still easy to get lost in their set. I would recommend them to anyone who likes eighties music or is a heavy collector of New Wave.

Not to be outdone by Seabound’s plans to release a live album, Iris will also be giving their audience something to look forward to with the release of their first ever DVD, accompanied with a remix album and studio tracks some time during 2008. All things aside, even though it only took me on “vacation” for one evening during Spring Break, Nocturne Night with Seabound and Iris managed to feel like an island away from Ursinus, which is most definitely live music success.

Opinions

Seabound and Iris at Nocturne Night

The Grizzly
April 3, 2008
Sports

Dubble Vision: Big Week in Sports

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Alright team, big week in sports! Huge week! Two of the greatest events of the year occur this week: opening day for the Phightins and the Final Four. Teachers be forewarned, there may be a large drop-off in academics this week (probably not by me, because I’m pretty dumb to begin with) but with your students of a higher IQ who also happen to be sports fans...

Does anybody remember when Brett Myers tossed his glove up in the air last September in celebration of their first win in fourteen years. They did kind of let us down in the playoffs though, so we won’t go into that.

But you know what’s awesome? I was watching Sportscenter last night and Scotty was doing a pre-commercial plug for what was coming up on the show. They were going to have their analysis debate who was going to the World Series this year, and S squared goes “who will it be the Yankees, the Red Sox, the Mets, the Phillies?” Our analysts will give you their picks after the break.” They named the Phillies as a preseason candidate for the World Series! When has that happened before? When wasn’t it our own MVP short-stop? The Phis have never had so much potential since Darren Daulton, John Kruk, Lenny Dykstra and Pete, Inavcigila had mullets.

It’s time to hop on the bandwagon now folks. I’m holding the reigns, first stop - Juno’s! Where me and my boy Eric Requa will be “watchin’ the game, havin’ a Bud” due to the fact that Ursinus chooses not to support Comcast SportsNet. But if you are to join us please be sure to have valid drivers license or state ID. Plus, Eric said if Pat Burrell makes a diving catch he’ll buy the whole bar a round. But that probably won’t happen.

Then, as if that wasn’t enough, we have the Final Four this weekend! All four teams have seeds in the semi-finals for the first time in history (yeah, I called it…check my bracket on Facebook). North Carolina vs. Kansas and Memphis vs. UCLA, and then, if everything goes according to plan, North Carolina vs. Memphis in the championship. I’m telling you right now, Tyler Hansbough will not lose. He told me

Not in words, because I don’t actually know him, but I saw it in his eyes. Yes, that is kind of weird, but I swear it happened. But anyway, even if I’m wrong (which I won’t be) one thing is for sure. The three games that will be played this weekend are certain to be all-timers.

So, faculty, like I said, please don’t be too upset with your students. Maybe move back a few deadlines (cough Volkmer), let a few unexcused absences go excused or perhaps allow walkmans and small radios in class. Sound good? Great, let’s get it done Ursinus.

P.S. If there are any teachers out there willing to work with my propositions, please email me your name and class. I will be certain to take those next year, if I do happen to still be here. Thanks in advance.

Women’s Lax Shames McDaniel

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Breaking out of their four-game losing streak, the women’s lacrosse team defeated McDaniel (5-3, 1-2) 11-10 last Saturday afternoon. With an overall record of 5-3, 1-1 the lady Bears needed a solid win under their belts to help lift the team’s spirits.

Sophomore midfielder Elizabeth Cannon and senior midfielder Kaitlin Glenn were assets to the team’s victory, each scoring three goals.

Cannon scored two of her three goals in the second half; one of which was the game winner with eight minutes left in the game. Glenn scored two of her goals with just 9:17 minutes left in the first half. Freshman midfielder Lindsey Urban has found her niche on the field already proving her strength by adding two more goals, while her fellow freshman attack, Hannah Kuranz, also made an impressive shot. Junior midfielder Lisa Clark and junior attack Catie Cameron brought in two more points helping to bring home the win.

The Bears were looking good at halftime holding onto a 7-6 lead until suddenly the Green Terror racked up two goals and allowed the Bears only one. The score went to 8-7 in the first 5:34 minutes of the half, putting McDaniel in the lead. The unwavering Bears struck back with three goals in a row taking the lead for good.

Cannon started off the shooting streak with a free position shot with 18:37 left in the game. Glenn then stepped up and scored another goal taking the score to a nail biting 9-8. Cameron followed suit taking the Bears advantage up 10-8 with 15:48 minutes left in the game.

UC senior goalkeeper, Allyson Shicora, made an inspiring 18 saves out of 34 shots. Glenn, Clark and Cannon also stepped up defensively picking up groundballs and gaining three draw controls.

Earlier in the season, the women’s lax team defeated Lycoming 15-14 with two overtimes and brought home a win against the Redlands 12-5.

The Bears plan on improving their season and continuing on this winning streak first by traveling to Bryn Mawr to play their third Centennial Conference game. Ursinus embodies this track for success on Thursday, Apr. 3 to take on the Owls.

Retraction: Last week’s issue listed Raymond Clark as the Men’s Tennis assistant coach; however, he is the Men’s Golf assistant coach. The editorial staff sincerely apologizes for this error.

Men’s Lax defeats McDaniel

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During a blustery game on Saturday afternoon, the Ursinus Men’s Lacrosse Team pulled out an impressive win at home against McDaniel College. With a final score of 7-4, Ursinus’ record moves to 5-4 overall, with a record of 3-1 in Centennial Conference play.

The first half of the Bears season has been filled with many ups and downs. After starting off the season with two big wins over both Moravian College and Drew College, the team hit a wall with three tough losses. Not to be discouraged, the men set their sights on the start of Centennial Conference play with their match-up against Swarthmore College. Their focus and determination led the team to a stellar win, dominating with a final score of 13-3. Flying high after their match-up with Swarthmore, the Bears pulled out another victory at Franklin and Marshall. Despite stumbling a bit during a road game at Washington College last week, Coach Carter and the team worked furiously the rest of the week to prepare for their home game against the Green Terror.

First quarter play opened with McDaniel landing two goals putting Ursinus down from the start. The Ursinus men answered back in the second with a fierce attack which gained them three straight goals and moved UC to a lead of 3-2. Sophomore Dan Monzo scored the first goal on an assist from senior Eric Hoffman with 12:22 on the clock. Monzo managed to strike again and land another goal with 6:48 left. Just seconds later, freshman midfielder Tony Umbertino secured the third goal of the quarter. McDaniel countered the Ursinus streak with one more goal before the half and tied the score at 3-3.

Both teams fought hard during the second half, and the score remained tied into the third until freshman midfielder Jason Smith scored with 9:25 left on an assist from freshmen Jeff Leonard. Ursinus took the lead against McDaniel once again with a score of 4-3. McDaniel managed to come back with one more goal before the end of the third, tying the score at 4-4. The fourth quarter was scoreless for both teams until the last five minutes when Ursinus bombarded McDaniel with a flurry of goals which sealed their victory. Ursinus senior midfielder Dane Mangin scored a remarkable two goals within the last 4:05 of the quarter. In a thrilling moment, senior attack Justin Rauke scored the final goal with less than a minute on the clock.

Ursinus dominated in defense against McDaniel as well. Junior goalkeeper Tony Aquino made 19 saves against McDaniel’s 34 attempted shots, and picked up seven ground balls. Senior defensemen Eric Hoffman picked up five ground balls which resulted in four turnovers for Ursinus. Senior Kevin Wallace commented about Ursinus’ performance against McDaniel; “Our defense was really crucial in this game. Their hard work allowed the offense to do their job and score goals.”

The Bears hope to carry their enthusiasm and momentum into their upcoming away match-ups with Messiah College and RPI. “We’re really excited to be 3-1 in the conference, but the hardest part of our season is still to come. If we can finish strong, I think we’ll have a great shot at making Conference Playoffs,” Hoffman said.

Come out and support the UC Men’s Lacrosse Team at their next home game against Haverford on April 9 at 4 p.m.