The Grizzly, September 4, 2008

Kristin O'Brassill
Gabrielle Poretta
Julia Bull
Nathan Humphrey
Matt Monteverde

See next page for additional authors
Authors
Kristin O'Brassill, Gabrielle Poretta, Julia Bull, Nathan Humphrey, Matt Monteverde, Liz Kilmer, Serena Mithboakar, Laurel Salvo, Jeremiah Long, Matt Whitman, Samuel Stahller '10, Christopher Schaeffer, Zach Shamberg, Abigail Raymond, Nick Pane, and Jameson Cooper
Democrats deem 2008 election “a fight for the future”

JULIA BULL
Grizzly Staff Writer

Last Monday, 4,400 delegates gathered in Denver, Colorado to kick-off one of the most controversial Democratic National Conventions in the history of the United States. The battle for the Democratic presidential nominee would finally be official on Thursday night. Most delegates were curious to see what Hillary Clinton would have to say about her former competition’s, Barack Obama, nominations. Nonetheless, Monday night was an exciting night for all, as Senator Ted Kennedy, who was recently diagnosed with brain cancer, delivered an unexpected speech.

“Nothing is going to keep me away from this special gathering tonight,” stated Kennedy, who received a warm, sentimental welcome from the audience.

Following Senator Kennedy, Michelle Obama, wife of the democratic presidential nominee, took the stage. She spoke of Barack’s past and told stories of when the two first met, and of Obama’s constant idealism and community involvement. She said an incredible impact on the audience, eliciting much applause.

“All of us are driven by a simple belief that the world as it is just won’t do – that we have an obligation to fight for the world as it should be... That is the thread that connects our hearts. That is the thread that runs through my journey and Barack’s journey and so many other improbable journeys that have brought us here tonight, where the current of history meets this new tide of hope,” she stated, enforcing that the campaign is all about hope and change for the better.

The highlight of day two of the Democratic National Convention was former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s much anticipated speech. Many Clinton supporters do not embrace the current presidential candidate, Obama. Some are furious with the outcome of the primaries, and have gone far enough as to say they will not be voting in the 2008 Presidential Election.

“Whether you voted for me, or voted for Barack, the time is now to unite as a single party with a single purpose. We are on the same team, and none of us can sit on the sidelines. This is a fight for the future. And it’s a fight we must win together,” stated Senator Clinton.

There has been a lot of speculation among voters about what Hillary Clinton would say regarding the Obama nomination. She made it obvious who she thought her supporters should vote for in November: “No way. No how. No McCain.” Clinton’s speech may have swayed a few opinions, and helped to unite the Democratic Party once more.

Wednesday night was bound to be controversial with Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Joe Biden slated to speak. The audience expected to learn more about Biden’s stand on present issues, but also to hear his notorious attacks on the Republican Party. Biden, for the most part, played fair. Focusing on McCain’s proposed platform, that mirrors the Bush Administration policies, Biden hammered home the point that if we want things to stay the same, keep the Republicans in office.

“That’s not change, that’s more of the same,” stated Biden in response to McCain’s proposed policies. His point was blatant: for change, vote Obama.

Finally, the suspense was over: the night when Barack Obama would accept America’s presidential nomination, arrived. Former presidential candidate and environmental guru, Al Gore, made an exemplary speech, giving Obama his full support. He even went as far as to compare the current democratic candidate to Abraham Lincoln by stating that both Obama and Lincoln share the same political experience and moral beliefs. “Obama, like Lincoln, seems to be entering the office at a time when our country is in desperate need of change or even a “new beginning”, stated Gore.

Gore’s speech was a great way of opening the final night of the Democratic National Convention. He spoke highly of Obama’s ideas for change in the country, all the while putting a smile on every face in the crowded audience with his wry sense of humor. “McCain...is now openly endorsing the Bush-Cheney White House and promising to actually continue them - the same policies - all over again. Hey, I believe in recycling, but that’s ridiculous!” said Gore.

Barack Obama seized the stage and the stadium

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Collegeville, Pennsylvania

Volume 33, Issue 2
“America, we cannot turn back. We cannot walk alone. At this moment, in this election, we must pledge once more to march into the future. Let us keep that promise—that American promise—and in the words of Scripture hold firmly, without wavering, to the hope that we confess.”

The 2008 Republican National Convention will conclude today, Sept. 4, after four days of speeches by notable Republican figures, including George W. and Laura Bush, John and Cindy McCain, and also presumptive Republican Vice President Nominee Sarah Palin. The Grizzly will contain more details next week.

**A current look at issues surrounding Iraqi sovereignty**

**NATHAN HUMPHREY**

*Grizzly Staff Writer*

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri Maliki, has upheld his statement that the United States should complete the withdrawal of all troops by 2011. According to the LA Times, he has continued to push the point that Iraq must attain a “full sovereignty,” and no conditional withdrawal can ensure that.

In contrast, the United States has consistently said they support a withdrawal based on the ground conditions in Iraq. The Iraqi defense forces have grown considerably from 266,000 in May 2006 to 479,000 in May 2008. This surge of domestic defense forces minimizes the need for large numbers of U.S. troops; however, the U.S. would like to ensure political stability in Iraq prior to the withdrawal of all troops.

A tentative proposal was drafted to replace the U.N. mandate passed in 2003 to be a legal basis for U.S. occupation of Iraq, but no agreement has been reached. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently made a trip to discuss the details of a withdrawal plan with PM Maliki, but Iraqi officials have said that the Prime Minister is uncertain about the deal.

Maliki has been receiving pressures from numerous directions, not just the United States. Members of the Shiite Muslim coalition believe the Iraq forces do not need American assistance. The grand ayatollah in Iraq’s shrine city, Najaf, is also putting pressure on the Prime Minister to move things forward in a favorable manner. The grand ayatollah could oppose the proposal if they believe it impedes Iraq’s progress toward full sovereignty. Even Maliki’s United Iraqi Alliance is split over their desire for American support; many questions must be answered within the Iraqi leadership before a deal will be complete.

In light of this issue, Iraq has made many strides toward developing as a functional democracy. A June 2008 report from the Department of Defense to Congress describes gains in many of the troubled departments of the government, including the security environment, the economy, and the ministerial capacity.

The security forces in Iraq have made large strides towards becoming self-sufficient. A volunteer group, the Sons of Iraq, have begun defending local neighborhoods against attacks and locating extremists in their communities, the report states. The Sons of Iraq has grown in number to 103,000 citizens and has become accepted in many different ethnic communities. This increase is leading the Iraqi government to train many of these volunteers for the armed forces.

The Iraqi police have now gained support from a greater number of Iraqis. They now have responsibility for community security, and have begun to stabilize into a cohesive group. The military, although still somewhat reliant on coalition forces, have been successful in running counterinsurgency operations. These recent successes have given the armed forces a stronger sense of confidence and more support from local Iraqis. One major issue Iraq forces have run into is a shortage of military leaders, which the Department of Defense believes will take years to fix.

Iraq’s economy has begun to rebound, growing a reported 4% in 2007; it is projected to grow 7% in real terms with inflation dropping from 32% to 12%. The economy is being aided mostly by Iraq’s oil production, which has increased 10% this year, producing about 2.5 million barrels of oil a day.

The most troublesome issue for Iraq at this stage of reconstruction is their ministerial capacity. The Dept. of Defenses’ report states, “Coalition efforts to enhance ministerial capacity have generated only marginal improvements in performance.” In the report, they cite uneven gains in delivery of essential products such as electricity, clean water, and sanitation as one of the many issues the government is facing. They also have concerns over the government’s failure to pass its budget as well as a hydrocarbon law package.

The State Department has sent in 30 teams to support the development of ministries’ capacities, aide them in deliveries of essential resources, and execute their budget at all levels of government.

Iraq remains a fragile environment but has made many steps toward self sufficiency, the Department of Defense concludes.

**COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW**

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

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:

- Professor Chris Aiken, Theater & Dance
- Professor Mark Ellison, Chemistry
- Professor Holly Gaines, Music
- Professor Leah Joseph, Environmental Studies
- Professor April Kontostathis, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Professor Matthew Kozusko, English
- Professor Shannon Mudd, Business & Economics
- Professor Kelly Sorensen, Philosophy & Religion
- Professor Cathy Young, Theater & Dance

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Dean Judith T. Levy, Office of the Dean by October 10, 2008.

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Dr. Rebecca Jaroff
Political news in brief: Stevens’ scandal, VPs announced

MATT MONTEVERDE
Grizzly Staff Writer

August 23, 2008
SPRINGFIELD, IL—Senator Joe Biden (D-DE) was chosen by Democratic Presidential nominee Barack Obama as his running mate. The Obama campaign’s decision to select Biden as VP came after a week of suspense; names such as Indiana Senator Evan Bayh, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, and Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius were all flouted for the spot. The news was leaked early Saturday morning to CNN, breaking the anticipation. The choice was confirmed the next day when text messages were sent out to Obama supporters.

Biden was sought after for his knowledge and experience in dealing with foreign policy, as well as his national security credentials, as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

August 25, 2008
DENVER, CO—Senator Ted Kennedy spoke at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado on Monday night. Absent from the public scene for some time, Kennedy had been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor on May 20, 2008. The convention marks his first public appearance since undergoing surgery on June 2nd. His speech was preceded by an introduction by Caroline Kennedy, as well as a videotaped tribute by documentary director Ken Burns.

Kennedy is already under investigation for allegedly lying on Senate records about receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts from VECO Corp. Steven’s defense attorneys claim that the Justice Department is laying charges down indiscriminately, in order to damage his character at the forthcoming trial of the long-serving Republican Senator. Stevens is also up for re-election this year and is expected to make it past the state’s primaries, the Associated Press reports.

The changing face of Ursinus: recent renovations

LIZ KILMER
Grizzly Staff Writer

Although both buildings are currently functional, renovations in Corson and Ritter will continue until mid and late September, respectively. Both projects began on May 19, the day after commencement, and had a similar goal in mind: “provide additional space,” says Andrew B. Feick, Ursinus’ Director of Facilities.

Corson, home to Admissions, Financial Aid, the Dean of Faculty, Alumni Affairs and more, was becoming particularly “snug,” according to Feick, who attributes this to the growing “notoriety and popularity of the college.”

Such overcrowding was found predominantly in the admissions department, and renovations were primarily to accommodate admissions guests, said Deborah Nolan, Dean of Students and Associate Dean of the College.

Rejuvenation occurred exclusively on the first floor— the area that was once occupied by Nolan is now “waiting space and application processing space” for the admissions department, says Feick. Student Financial Services was also renovated, and the entire building was adapted to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities) requirements. The building is now, according to Feick, “completely handicap accessible” and less than a month away from completion. So what’s left?

“The finishes are not done,” says Nolan, “cosmetic and aesthetic enhancements are still needed.” Such enhancements include handcrafted wood panels and furniture, which in the mean time are replaced with a “please pardon our appearance sign”

Ritter, Ursinus’ Art and Communications building, is a little further from being completed, yet still remains on schedule. In order to accommodate the “growing art program,” two new drawing and painting studios have been created, as well as four new art faculty offices, says Feick.

A wood shop, meant to house the sculpture program, is also in the making; additionally, a handicap lift was recently installed. Despite ongoing construction, students and faculty are excited to see the results.

“It’s fabulous,” says Admissions Receptionist Barbara Mulroy, “Once it’s finished, it will be wonderful for admissions.”

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Construction is ongoing at Ursinus, yet the majority of work is performed during breaks. Unless it’s an emergency, administrators strive to renovate while classes aren’t in session, so as to not hinder the learning environment.

“Every summer it’s very intense,” said Feick, who explains that constant modernization, although disruptive, is necessary with such a small campus. It requires “a great deal of understanding [from faculty and staff working in the summer]” he says. Fortunately, most share a similar perspective to Mulroy.

Other upcoming renovations include an addition to the Berman Art Museum. Construction for the museum is set to begin in May, and will take an entire year to complete. Sooner than that, however, Wismer’s dining hall will be receiving a new salad and deli station.

“Over winter break we plan to demolish the station” says Feick, who explains that Wismer will be undergoing a total of seven renovation phases. So far, the convenience store has been added, as well as Sandella’s, the latest component of Zack’s.

Aside from Wismer, two campus houses (942 and 944 Main Street) were also renovated this past summer. “It’s great to see how much the college cares about updating its buildings,” says freshman Melissa Rutkowski, “especially the residence buildings, that’s important!”
A look back at Linkin Park’s Projekt Revolution of 2008

LAUREL SALVO
Grizzly Staff Writer

Revisiting all of the footage I shot from Projekt Revolution this past summer makes me want to go back to that blissful day in August. As an avid concertgoer, summer festivals are becoming one of my favorite events to attend. Fans are out in droves during the day, wearing hip urban styles, sipping ice cold water and listening to classic rock tunes. Aside from the beautiful backdrop of the Old City in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Projekt Revolution of 2008 was filled with incredible acts of all genres.

After their set, my friends and I took to the main stage. Aside from Linkin Park ending the evening with songs from their debut album, Projekt Revolution had the main acts consisting of Street Drum Corps, The Bravery, Ashes Divide, Busta Rhymes, and Chris Cornell. Admittedly, Billy Howerdel’s solo project “Ashes Divide” was my main reason for going that day, having seen them in Allentown only weeks before they joined the Projekt Tour.

For those who aren’t aware, Howerdel is typically known for his role in the super group known as “A Perfect Circle.” Ashes Divide, however, is something set far apart. His debut album “Keep Telling Myself It’s Alright” is incredibly diverse and for anyone who enjoyed APC, I’d definitely recommend hitting iTunes to check it out. Music and lyrics alike were composed by Howerdel and I can attest that there’s something for everyone on his album; tracks that are upbeat and perfect for a summer day, contemplative ones you can listen to in your room at night, and songs for a myriad of other moods. It’s all there and the vocals are just as enjoyable. Based out of New York, they deliver a mixture of indie and alternative vibes. Their front man for some reason always tends to me like typical German food. I am just surprised at how much I have come to like German food. I am surprised by how many vegetarian options have been added to the Germans palate. This is great for me since I have been vegetarian for almost ten years. In fact, most culture shock when it comes to eating in Germany during World War II.

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Photo of Tuebingen Old City courtesy of the Ursinus in Tuebingen website.
Another season of reviewing begins with a “shining” culinary success

JEREMIAH LONG
Grizzly Staff Writer

Welcome back! I hope that your summer was as fun and engaging as mine. I also hope that all of you are in good health and high in spirits. School has started again and you need to be ready for the grind. As for me, I was given one request over the summer to do a review of the restaurant Amada.

Found in old city Philadelphia, Amada is an authentic Spanish Tapas restaurant. Tapas restaurants serve Mediterranean cuisine, so the food could be closest compared to Italian. Although there is no pasta on the menu, Amada serves flat breads and thinly sliced meats as well as a number of cheese plates. A tapas restaurant requires you to order multiple entrees since each one is small in portion size.

Together, each entree makes up one nice sized meal. The concept is that you will be sharing all meals equally with everyone at the table. This means that even though you may only be able to go to Amada once in your life time, you will have tried almost half of an entire meal in that one single visit.

As far as appearances go, Chef Jose Graces has excellent taste, or a wonderful interior decorator. Wood and stone flooring as well as the use of drapes and wide tall windows looking into the street give the restaurant a classical appeal. Chef Jose Graces also tries a couple of rather odd things; one table near the window has a pebble flooring and is quite the surprise the first time you step on it (as well as the second).

My favorite oddity though is the hall leading to the restroom. It's about three times as long as any restroom hallway should be and someone took upon themselves to line one entire wall with candles. This is what I would like to call the “Shining” look. (Appearance 9/10)

One way Amada really shines is through its service. Our waiter was friendly and courteous, always ready to help us out with translating the menu or suggesting an item to try. However, it was the promptness at which we were served that was astounding.

As soon as we finished ordering our appetizers they arrived, and when we had finished eating them our main course was served. Amada is able to do this because none of its items are made to order instead. For each dish the kitchen has a different station. They are constantly baking these dishes one after another, insuring that whenever you order something there is a good chance someone has just finished making it. (Service 10/10)

As for the meal itself, Amada had its ups and downs. Some of the food was fantastic and some it was merely okay. All of the cheese platters were exquisitely prepared with their own sauce that complemented it perfectly. In addition, any of the flat breads that were available were well made and wonderful to try. Sadly though many of the entrees were just okay, particularly the goat cheese stuffed lamb chops which were coated in so many bread crumbs and stuffed with so much cheese that one wondered if there was any meat in them at all. (Dining 24/30)

If you are an Ursinus student you probably can’t afford to eat at Amada’s, but if you ever are in the mood to take out another loan and want to know a good place in Philly to spend your new found wealth, Amada would be an excellent choice.

Amanda’s Total: 86% a solid great

Incredible Medical Internship for senior

MATT WHITMAN
Grizzly Staff Writer

For a Biology major and aspiring medical student, a summer of hands-on experience in the world of medicine is certainly a valuable one.

“I loved everything about my internship,” exclaimed Eva Alex, a senior at Ursinus. Eva spent the past summer working as an intern with the Medical Affairs Writing Group at Centocor in Chesterbrook, PA. The company is a division of Johnson and Johnson, the makers of Tylenol, Band-Aids, and Baby Shampoo. They develop important drugs to help treat a myriad of diseases.

As an intern, Eva’s duties ranged from writing and working with multiple drafts of work under a deadline to digging up information and doing online research – skills undoubtedly useful to a college student. She also had the opportunity to work and interact with many professionals in the pharmaceutical industry and developed contacts for references or recommendations. The summer seemed to fly by in just three months for Eva, but the experience brought her new insight on the subject that she has studied for the past three years.

“This internship taught me to look at medicine in a different perspective. It taught me... how a job in the corporate world will be,” she explained.

With future plans that include working at a hospital with patients as well as medical school, Eva’s time at Centocor truly helped round out her work in the classroom. “This internship gave me valuable tools, lessons and advice that I can use in the future, which were not necessarily taught in school and is impossible to find in books.”

Features

Career Corner:
Your on-campus partner in career panning

CAREER SERVICES
www.ursinus.edu/career

Put Career Services on the top of your “to do” list. Our staff eagerly awaits your visit and looks forward to working with you. Our comprehensive program includes meeting individually with students, providing career and major exploration activities, facilitating workshops and programs, maintaining internship opportunities, offering job search guidance, graduate school advising, and more! Whatever your need - we are committed to helping you design a four-year plan that will help you compete successfully in today’s marketplace, realize a satisfying career and lead a rewarding life.

Check us out at www.ursinus.edu/career or in Bomberger Hall Suite 110

- Schedule individual appointments to assess interests and explore career options
- Get assistance with job searching, resume writing, or interviewing skills
- Access resources and advice on the graduate/professional school application process
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- Visit UC CareerNet- the UC web based job & internship management system - where you can even locate campus jobs!
- View VAULT- a comprehensive online career library
- Attend Workshops and programs on career-related topics
- Participate in the Annual UC Job & Internship Fair in February 2009
- And lots more!

Career Services office hours are Monday – Friday 9-12 and 1-5. Appointments are strongly encouraged except for WALK-in WEDNESDAYS - where we welcome you on a first-come, first-served basis all day!

New this summer... an enhanced UC CareerNet, the Ursinus job and resume management system. (http://www.uccareernet.com) A recent partnership with the National Association of Colleges and Employers, has resulted in a more robust job listing feature for students & alumni.

Check out the new look and feel of UC CareerNet and visit often. Contact career@ursinus.edu with questions... and join our facebook group called UC Career Services!
Opinions

Music community mourns death of DMB saxophonist

SAMUEL STAHLER
Grizzly Staff Writer

Charlie “Bird” Parker played jazz saxophone more intense and crispier than any saxophonist to touch the instrument. Maceo Parker defined the way funk saxophone should be played. John Coltrane made the high registers look like child’s play and was known for his dark tone with clear definition and body. Stan Getz was nicknamed “the Sound” because of his sweet perfect control of his instrument. Time makes the difference between just “saxophone players” and the really great ones. LeRoi Moore stood the test of time and transcended himself, his instrument, and a band (the Dave Matthews Band, that is) to a level of greatness that reshaped the way jazz music was heard, played and understood.

The versatile saxophonist, whose signature “staccato fused jazz and funk overtones” embroidered the eclectic sound of the Dave Matthews Band, passed away last Tuesday, August 19th 2008, from complications stemming from an ATV accident on his Charlottesville, Virginia farm in late June. Moore was 46. He suffered from several broken ribs along with a punctured lung. Though Moore was contrasted by his raw and emotionally charged soloing, he became an integral part of the band’s signature sound; a fusion of jazz, funk, Cajun, and blues. Moore was the quiet member of the Dave Matthews Band, a large man with a laconic nature whose calm demeanor was contrasted by his raw and emotionally charged soloing. During band interviews he did not speak unless he is spoken to. When he did speak, he tended to be thoughtful, humorous and witty while holding a “mischievous grin”. When he was not with the band, he remained hidden somewhere in the heart of America waiting for the next gig. Moore seemed to value his privacy. He could always be found performing behind a pair of sunglasses during performances. The glasses helped comfort a horrible case of stage fright that plagued the saxophonist. He claimed that he used the fear from the stage fright and turns it into an adrenaline rush that helps him perform.

In a recent article, Matthews described Moore as “a tortured soul, but man, when he plays...he plays the most pretty melodies in the world, instantly. And LeRoi plays melodies that a brand new [to me] that sound as if he’s been playing them forever.”

A classically trained musician, his love of jazz infused the Dave Matthews Band’s music with jazz and funk overtones that helped define the group’s eclectic and trademark sound. His untimely passing is a loss to music fans everywhere, and my heartfelt sympathies go out to the band, his family and all who were moved by his music.

Summer Music Review: Weezy, Weezer, and M.I.A.

CHRISTOPHER SCHAEFFER
Grizzly Staff Writer

Now that I’ve gotten ABBA out of my system, I’m ready to get back to the roots of this column, that is, music a little less likely to be associated with Meryl Streep. I guess this’ll be a sort of Summer-In-Review thing, as well as a look at what’ll be coming up.

I mostly look back on the last couple months as the period where everybody who didn’t like M.I.A. yet came to their senses, probably owing to the sudden ubiquity of “Paper Planes”, which, miraculously, almost made Pineapple Express look pretty good for about a minute and a half.

Despite Maya not doing much this summer other than giving up touring, listeners into catchy internationally-flavored dance-pop had plenty to turn to, including Philly’s own Santogold. Her eponymous debut LP was, honestly, a little bit uneven, and I think she’s actually admiringly distant from Maya in terms of her approach and sound, but the album’s slick Diplo production lent it a kind of sonic continuity with M.I.A.’s work. Brazilian electroclash group CSS (Cansei de Ser Sexy) gathered a lot of hype leading up to the release of their first album, but unfortunately nothing about them really lives up to the manic energy of their first big single, “Let’s Make Love and Listen to Death From Above”. Without a little more growth and polishing, they’re basically just a couple of girls jumping around having a good time, which is still... pretty cool, I guess.

Props to Vampire Weekend for making the fastest transition from band on a CD-R some guy in a Willie Nelson t-shirt gave me at Siren” to “band my mom listens to” in recorded history. I guess when Paul Simon dies they can inherit the title of “America’s Whitest soukous fans”.

Festivals! Siren was inexplicably this summer’s highlight for me. Other big events, such as Pitchfork and ATP, were a bit less fun because I didn’t go to them. Lil’ Wayne gave the world The Carter III. A creation destined for CIE inclusion. Not only is it a landmark among hip-hop albums for promoting harmony between earlings and Martians from Planet Weezy, it also answers the age-old question, “What’s a goon to a grizzly?” Answer: Nothin’.

In terms of jazz (bear with me), after thirty years of silence and obscurity, Return to Forever came back with a break-neck tour, and were rewarded with slightly less obscurity.

For my money, the best release of the summer was Bug’s London Zoo, an astonishing masterpiece of dub-step, grime and even dancehall that took me completely by surprise. The album is peppered with guest-appearances by artists legendary in their genres, and, hopefully, soon to be legendary to the broader music-listening public. It’s an album that’s so deeply entrenched in the codes and rituals of London dub that it sometimes feels like music from another planet; at the same time, it’s darkly universal and, at times, proves that “danceability” is global language.

After months of joking that Obama should adopt “Mr. November” as his campaign song, I was pretty happy about The National’s endorsement of his campaign and their lending of arguably their most popular song to a pretty damn slick Obama shirt design. It’s always nice to see music and politics meet in a way that doesn’t hinge on missing the point of Bruce Springsteen songs.

Finally, Weezer’s Red Album: apparently an album nobody cared about but everybody bought.

So that was the summer. How about the fall? Aside from continuing to provide a mix of straight review and broader articles, I’m pretty interested in finding more about the bands and musicians here at Ursinus. If you have a demo or an album and want to see it reviewed here, send me an e-mail. If I get it, I will write about it, for better or worse.

September 4, 2008
The Grizzly
Randy, Paula, Simon...and Kara?

The unthinkable has happened. In what can only be described as the most shocking development in television since Flavor Flav chose Hoopz instead of New York on the first season of "Flavor of Love," "American Idol" has added a fourth judge. Songwriter/producer Kara DioGuardi signed onto the eighth season of FOX's ratings juggernaut early last Tuesday morning. If you're hearing this news for the first time, chances are you probably are just as shocked as I was. Having been a loyal supporter of the show for seven seasons, I wanted my "Idol" to stay just the way I like it: three judges, thousands of contestants, and one ambiguously gay host. The controversial move by the FOX network sets the stage for either the best television season since "The O.C." season 1 or the worst season since "The O.C." season 3. I've pondered the judging addition for quite some time now, and I think the following are some things we can come to expect from the show when "Idol" returns this January.

Gender equality—finally!

Not since women were given the right to vote in 1920 has a victory for the ladies seemed so historic. Kara joins Paula Abdul at the judge's table to make it an even split: two girls, two guys. No longer will Randy and Simon be able to gang up on the poor, ill-spoken Miss Abdul. However, this could create a monumental problem in regards to sexual relationships with contestants. With two women now calling the shots, will it still be Paula having all the lurid affairs with singers like Corey Clark in season two? Kara will most certainly have to compete in that respect if she plans on keeping her job another year.

Randi Jackson will be forced to purchase a thesaurus

As far as I know, Merriam-Webster does not include any synonyms or antonyms for the word "dawg". Nor do they have any translation for phrases like, "Dawg pound, we got a hot one tonight!" Apart from the millions of viewers who turn on the closed captioning whenever the cameras switch to Jackson, adding a fourth judge will open the possibility of finally understanding what the hell it is he's saying. Maybe Kara will ask for clarification when he utters lines like, "For me, man, that was real corny." Hopefully, she will be able to help the audience interpret Randy's amazingly intellectual comments.

Paula might stop drinking (as much)

It doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out when Paula Abdul shows up to work intoxicated. We all remember the end of last season when she conveniently forgot how many singers had performed and which song number she was currently critiquing. I wholeheartedly support people who say she just "spaces out" at the most inopportune moments, but come on—I've sat through some of the most boring lectures ever, and I never once slurred my words or forgot which U.S. state I was in. I'm hoping Kara and Paula become good friends, if only for the possibility that Kara will say something like, "Dude, please stop pouring vodka into your Coke during the commercial break!"

There will be something to look at other than Simon's chest hair

Let me be the first to say it—Kara DioGuardi is cute. Real cute. She's still relatively young (thirty-eight, never looked so good!) and, as far as I know, very available for male suitors. However, Simon has already begun to make his advances on the new judge. I can only hope that his biggest turn-offs are tiny GAP v-neck sweaters and box-shaped hair.

DioGuardi has worked with...uh...talent?

After researching the mysterious Miss DioGuardi, it was apparent that she has kept herself busy over the last few years, writing songs and producing tracks for countless pop and rock artists. However, I would hesitate to call many of these musicians she has worked with "talented". Sure, you've got Carlos Santana, Kelly Clarkson, Christina Aguilera, and Faith Hill. But scrolling farther down the list, we start to see the likes of Britney Spears, Ashlee Simpson, Nick Lachey, and (gasp! he's still alive?) Taylor Hicks. Talk about the gap between the rich and the poor. Do we really want to hear critiques from a woman who helped produce and write "I.O.V.E.?" It will be interesting to see if she sees talent the same way Simon does.

Will there be any time left for contestants to sing?

With DioGuardi fighting to get her words in, Simon and Ryan Seacrest constantly bickering, Paula shurring her explanations, Randy yelling things that would make an English professor's head explode, and the regular movie, music, and Coca-Cola promotions, will there be any time left for the contestants to actually sing? The "American Idol" season finale already lasts a staggering two hours. On a regular night, the show can barely be contained in its one hour time slot. Will DioGuardi get a chance to add her input, or will she be pushed aside to make time for the singing? After all, we don't call or text our vote for the judges of "American Idol".

Zach is seriously thinking about auditioning for the show...anybody have any song ideas besides Michael Bolton's greatest hits? E-mail him your suggestions and comments to zashamberg@ursinus.edu.

Opinions

"Twilight” Zone

ABIGAIL RAYMOND
Grizzly Staff Writer

This November, when we'd normally be seeing hoards of Harry Potter fans gathering around the cinema to catch the latest film, we will instead be greeted by a new sight: Twilight fans. While Fangirls are swooning over the handsome Edward and envying his love interest Bella, the rest of us have to wonder, what's this all about?

The film is based off the first in a four book series by Stephanie Meyer. Book one tells the story a Bella Swan, a teenager in Forks, Washington, who falls in love with the vampire Edward Cullen. Edward is a 'vegetarian' vampire, meaning he only drinks the blood of animals and not humans. The baddies of the tale manifest themselves in the form of other vampires who want to drink Bella's blood. There's also the issue of Edward's struggle not to succumb to the scent of his girlfriend, lest he attempt to suck her dry as well.

Twilight debuted in 2005 and has since sold a total of 8 million copies worldwide, 7.7 of which were in the US alone. Fans have flocked to the internet, creating over 100 websites dedicated to fanfiction, theories about what's coming next, and gushing over their favorite characters.

Many librarians and critics have begun referring to Twilight as the new Harry Potter. Anita Singh of the UK Telegraph declared "Bella Swan is set to challenge Harry Potter in the battle for teenage hearts." Though both series share supernatural themes and the movies even share a star (the actor who plays Edward in Twilight also played Cedric Diggory in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire), the books target very different audiences. Harry Potter is read by all ages and genders, even though some of the later tomes have more mature themes. Twilight, on the other hand, seems to have hit tweens and teenage girls with a greater force. Many attribute this to the intense romantic relationships within the novels and a female character at the center of the plot.

Warner Bros., the company producing both the new Harry Potter and Twilight films, recently bumped Potter's release date to July 2009, allowing Twilight to slip from a December release into an earlier Nov. 21 position. Many Potter fans have cried foul, but others see this move as a sign that Bella and Edward have taken Harry's top spot on the pop culture throne. The three trailers that have been released have earned over a million views on YouTube and spawned countless fan-made variations.

The true test of Twilight's popularity will come this November when critics and fans alike will be waiting to see if it's going to be as much of a box office behemoth as Harry Potter has been. Until then, we're just going to have sit back and watch the fan frenzy unfold.

Last week's issue contained an article called "Obamonomics for the United States? No thank you" which was credited to Christopher Scheaffer. In actuality, the article was written by Andrew Winters.
UC Men’s Soccer team intends on silencing the critics

NICK PANE
Grizzly Staff Writer

Athletes of all kinds will tell you that respect is not simply handed out, it is earned. Respect does not come from what you achieve over the course of a couple of days, but rather a long period of time: consistency, hard work, and dedication. On many occasions, respect is earned when you prove others wrong about their assumptions. Unfortunately, almost every sports team anticipates disbelievers year in and year out, regardless of past performance. The Ursinus Men’s Soccer Team is no different. It appears that the Bears will be fighting for respect all year long after making great strides in 2007.

Picked ninth out of ten teams in the Centennial Conference preseason poll, the Bears find themselves being completely overlooked after vastly improving last season under Coach Kyle Rush’s first year as the head coach. After just 5 wins in 2005 and 2006 combined, Rush led the Men’s team to a 7-8-2 record in ’07. Rush said he expects bigger things in 2008.

“We’re looking to continue the path that we’re on. I think we all have aspirations to improve, which means being above .500 this year, and making the playoffs,” Rush mentioned. Rush is also impressed and excited about his captains and what they are bringing to the table. Rush explained that, “John [George] and Justin [Faust] are pretty vocal leaders, and they lead by example both on the field and off the field.” The two captains, midfielder John George, and defender Justin Faust had mutual feelings about their coach. 

“Coach Rush is a great coach, very assertive, and he prepares for games much more”, said Faust while continuing, “People thought we had fluke wins last year. It gives us even more incentive to win this year.” The Bears will also have experience on their side when they take the field this season.

Only two seniors were lost to graduation, and the Bears return all eleven starters from last year, including their leading point scorers: George (9 pts.), sophomore Abraham Cabello (6 pts.), senior Othmane Boutayeb (4 pts.), and Faust (4 pts.). With that said, the two captains were puzzled with the decision to rank the team ninth.

“We beat Washington, McDaniel, and Haverford last year, and Haverford is the only team behind us. We have our entire starting lineup returning, so we take it as an insult,” George pointed out. The team was so infuriated with the lack of respect that it has been their motivation all preseason. But the team understands that the most important factor to being successful is to never give in.

The men’s team prides itself on its ability to come back late in games. Last year, the team learned not to become discouraged, and it paid off. Faust spoke about the team’s desire to keep playing, “We have no quit in our team. A lot of our wins were come-from-behind. We scored a lot of late goals, and we fight to the very end.”

As a result, the team now has the confidence they need, knowing that they will be in every game this year regardless of the score. If the team’s energy, desire, and no-quit attitude can carry over from last season, the Bears can expect to put the preseason poll and their ranking in the backseat.

While the team understands that consistency will be crucial for this season, the coach and captains seem to have the team motivated and focused. With Rush at the helm for his second year, the Bears expect better results in 2008. Rush is proud of what the team has done in this two-year period to put themselves in a position to succeed.

“We’ve changed the persona of the program. Students now respect the players with how they carry themselves, and we’ve worked hard to change.” Now the Bears expect to make a name for themselves away from campus. When it came to being underestimated, Faust put it best, “We know it wasn’t a fluke season. People don’t realize the quality of the team we have this year.”

Will Phillies and Eagles prove to be beasts of the East?

JAMESON COOPER
Grizzly Staff Writer

Now that the Olympics have concluded, a sense of normalcy has returned to the world of professional sports. It certainly was a very memorable two weeks, headlined by Michael Phelps breaking virtually every swimming record, as well as the U.S. basketball team redeeming themselves from an embarrassing third place finish in 2004. But now that the book has closed on the 2008 Beijing games it is time to focus on what is really important: Philadelphia sports.

Philly fans have it tough. No one denies that. But regardless of how long our championship drought persists (over 25 years, or 100 seasons for those of you keeping count), it is still an exciting time to be a fan in the city in brotherly love. The Phillies are on the doorstep of another NL east title, and the Eagles season opener is right around the corner. As expected, both are drawing much hype.

It is hard to imagine the Phillies and Mets being any more evenly matched. With less than 5 weeks to play, only a single game separates these two bitter rivals. When the Mets appeared to be falling apart midway through the season, general manager Omar Minaya, fired Willie Randolph and gave the coaching job to Jerry Manuel, who has posted an impressive 40-25 record since then. Manuel has rejuvenated the club despite injuries to many key players including Pedro Martinez, Orlando Hernandez, Moises Alou, Ryan Church, John Maine, and star closer Billy Wanger (everyone’s favorite ex-philly).

The Phillies, on the other hand, have not had to overcome injuries as much as their own internal struggles.

With a lineup that features three MVP candidates in Utley, Rollins and Howard, as well as all-star snub Pat Burrell, no one could have guessed that the offense would be the Phillie’s biggest flaw this year. Surprisingly, the starting rotation has more than held its own; keeping the team in the game this season performances.

Brad Lidge, who has converted 31 of36 save opportunities, is a great coach, very assertive, and he prepares for games much more”, said Faust while continuing, “People thought we had fluke wins last year. It gives us even more incentive to win this year.” The Bears will also have experience on their side when they take the field this season.

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Jason Avant to play larger roles, especially with the injuries to Reggie Brown and Kevin Curtis.

2) SPECIAL TEAMS: The special teams unit cost the Eagles too many games last season, most notably week 1 when the Eagles handed the Packers 10 points on two fumbled punts. David Akers also needs to improve on what was his second straight sub par season. From a punt and kick return standpoint, DeShean Jackson and Quinten Demps seem to have eased any concerns with strong pre-season performances.

3) FORCING TURNOVERS: The Eagles’ defense has to make some big plays and put the offense in a better position to score. The signing of CB Asante Samuel should help quite a bit; the all-pro corner has been a mainstay in the Patriots secondary for a number of years and is a proven shutdown corner. If Lito Shepheard remains healthy, the Eagles have no quit in our team. A lot more offensive firepower on this team to put up such feeble numbers.

As entertaining as the 2008 baseball season has been, Philadelphia is a diehard football town. And with the season opener rapidly approaching, Eagles’ fever is in the air. All indications are that star QB Donovan McNabb is an healthy and spry as ever, and with a now healthy (and quite wealthy) Brian Westbrook in the backfield, there is no reason to think the Eagles cannot make one more run in the Reid/McNabb era. But the Eagles MUST improve in a few areas if they want to compete with the much more talented Cowboys, reigning Super Bowl Champion Giants, and a pesky Redskins team. They are:

1) RED ZONE OFFENSE!!! Last year the Eagles were ranked in the bottom third of the league in this category. The Eagles will depend heavily on their tight ends in the red zone, so it is essential for L.J Smith to rebound from an injury plagued season. Also look for Hank Baskett and Jason Avant to play larger roles, especially with the injuries to Reggie Brown and Kevin Curtis.

4) Another playmaker on offense: The Eagles are known for making trades late in the pre-season (the acquisition of Dante Stallworth in ’06), but it is tough to say if they will pursue another receiver this year. Andy Reid has openly stated that he is comfortable with his current receiving core, but that could just be aploy to gain leverage in trade talks. But one thing is for sure, acquiring a quality receiver could take a lot of pressure off McNabb and Westbrook.

Eagles’ players, coaches and management have set their sights high for this season. Rightfully so? Only time will tell. Personally, I find myself remaining cautiously optimistic, given the strength of the NFC east.