The Grizzly, September 18, 2008

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Jersey in July: Not just another day at the beach for some

The Grizzly News Editor

Jersey in July: Not just another day at the beach for some

According to CNN, a father and son were stranded out in the Atlantic Ocean for more than twelve hours this summer. Walter Marino, 46 years old, and his son, Chris, who has been diagnosed with Autism, had been in the Ponce Inlet, which is south of Daytona Beach, when the ocean currents became too strong and pulled Chris further out to sea. Marino swam furiously to try to save his son. The U.S. Coast Guard in Volusia County immediately sent out a search party in an attempt to locate the father and son, after members of the family dialed 911. Luckily, after two days of searching, the Coast Guard was notified that a “good Samaritan boat” had found the father around 7:30 AM, the morning of the second day. Two hours later, Chris was found approximately three miles from where his father had been located. The two were taken to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach and treated for dehydration. Otherwise, the father and son were “in good condition.” Walter Marino was quoted saying as saying “the Coast Guard rocks... God bless the Coast Guard.” According to Lt. David Birky, however, the co-pilot of the rescue crew, “they [Walter and Chris] have amazing will power. Birky believed that Mr.

How Safe Do You Feel? A Campus Discussion About Safety

Kristi Blust
Grizzly News Editor

School shootings. Theft. Assault. How often have you thought about any one of these unfortunate events occurring on the Ursinus campus? Thankfully, our campus and community have been lucky enough to report few such incidences. In order to discuss the current level of safety on our college campus and address student questions, Director of Campus Safety, Kim Taylor, Dean of Students, Debbie Nolan, UC Resident Advisors (RA’s), and Residence Life staff held an open forum for discussion on Sep. 10, 2008, at 7:30 pm in Thomas Hall. Dean Nolan welcomed everyone to the discussion, thanking students and faculty for attending. She explained briefly that the purpose of the discussion would be to bring attendees up to date on incidents that have occurred on, or near the Ursinus campus, particularly those pertaining to student safety.

Additionally, those present were encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns about safety at Ursinus. Kim Taylor then opened the forum by showing a video created by students Kevin Bench and Eddy Almonte. In the video, Bench caught up with students, questioning them on their feelings of safety on campus, as well as their safety tips. Of the dozen or so students interviewed, every student admitted feeling secure and at ease at Ursinus.

Many of us have heard stories, both true, and potentially false, about a nonstudent on campus carrying a gun. On the night of Aug. 31, Campus Safety became aware of a nonstudent on campus, with a loaded gun in his possession. The police were immediately called, and arrived within five minutes. The individual’s weapon was seized by police and searched. The individual was then arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. While no one was threatened by this person, or injured, occurrences like this one bring to light the fact that tragedies can happen anywhere, at any time.

Following the video presentation, Kim Taylor addressed some safety concerns associated with alcohol overdoses on campus. A surprising number of students have been hospitalized for alcohol poisoning since the start of the fall term: an astonishing four, as of Sep. 12, 2008.

At this point, the discussion turned to interventions. What can our campus and community do in order to prevent overconsumption of alcohol? Several attendees suggested that students should simply look out for more for their peers at campus events. Instead of standing by while your suitemate drinks him/herself to the point of “passing out,” perhaps we should be stepping in and urging that person to “slow down,” or “take a break.” Another suggestion was made that alcohol education and

"How safe do you feel?" is continued on page 4.
News

News in brief: Bush pledges to bring troops home, Ike rips Texas

Matt Monteverde
Grizzly Staff Writer

September 9, 2008
WASHINGTON-President George W. Bush pledged Tuesday to bring home 8,000 combat and support troops by early next year, shortly before his term is up, according to an article posted on MSNBC’s website. Announced at the National Defense University, President Bush informed the crowd that the troop level in Iraq will remain the same until the next President takes over. Capitalizing on the progress in Iraq, President Bush said that if conditions on the ground continue to improve, he will consider bringing home more troops in what he calls “additional force reductions” in the first half of 2009.

As President Bush’s last day in office will be January 20, 2009, his successor will responsible for making the conflict-related decisions. In response to the news, Democrats in Congress criticized Bush for failing to send more troops and resources to Afghanistan, where a resurgence of Taliban continue to strike U.S. and NATO forces. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he was stunned that the President “could bring so few troops home from Iraq and send so few resources to Afghanistan.” The United States and its allies invaded Iraq in March 2003; over 4000 American and Coalition troops have died in combat-related incidents since.

September 10, 2008
PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA-MSNBC reports that North Korea’s second-in-command, Kim Yong Nam, denied claims that the country’s secretive leader Kim Jong II suffered a stroke, or is otherwise gravely ill. Mr. Yong Nam told Japan’s Kyodo News Service that stories about Kim Jong II’s declining health are “conspiracy plots.” Authoritarian dictator, Kim Jong II failed to appear at the country’s sixtieth Anniversary parade earlier this week. This noted absence, along with other odd disappearances, of late, account for the report that Kim Jong II’s health is in serious decline.

The White House and State Department were hesitant to make any public comments about Kim’s health, stressing that that the North Korean government is, and has been, secretive for quite some time. North Korea is a communist dictatorship, founded in 1948, dividing the Korean peninsula into two countries; the Stalinist North and the U.S. backed, democratic South.

September 13, 2008
GAVELSTON, TX-Hurricane Ike made landfall in the historic district of Galveston, Texas this Saturday, according to a CNN news source. The once-powerful storm is now considered a category one, a relatively minor, but still dangerous storm system, by the National Hurricane Center.

On Saturday, the U.S. Energy Department reported that about 2.6 million customers in Texas and Louisiana lack power because of Ike. Additionally, reports surfaced that flooding in up to 7 feet in the Galveston area, Ike is expected to weaken as it moves inland and only remain status as a hurricane through the afternoon. So far, Ike has claimed four lives in the Texas area.

"Daniel Mudd (L) president and CEO of Fannie Mae and Richard Syron (R) chairman and CEO of Freddie Mac listen to questions during a House Financial Services Committee hearing on Capitol Hill September 20, 2007 in Washington DC."

South Koreans gather to watch a TV report on the health of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il at a railway station in Seoul on Wednesday.
Studies suggest nicotine addiction linked to gene mutation

Gianna Paone
Grizzly Staff Writer

The destructive factors that can result from cigarette smoking, a habit currently taking about one in every ten adult lives globally, are no longer recent discoveries. Nonetheless, they continue to arise in frequent smokers, said to exist in approximately 80% of smoking, a habit currently taking about one in every ten

addiction. While addiction increases a person's risk of developing heart disease, emphysema, thyroid disease, various types of cancer, weakening of the senses, fertility problems, and a multitude of other health issues, recent studies have found that a specific gene mutation may further amplify such a risk.

Infamous for its role as a leading cause of lung cancer, smoking may be assisted through genetics both by making cells more susceptible to nicotine's effects and by creating increased difficulty in a person's abandoning a smoking habit. A gene mutation that enhances one's chances of developing lung cancer is said to exist in approximately 50% of all people with European ancestry. Likewise, Caucasians who carry the mutation are about 60% more likely to experience a satisfying rush or buzz upon smoking their first cigarette, a sensation that is psychologically linked to addiction.

Harry Potter: The boy who brought lawsuits?

Lisa Jobe
Grizzly Staff Writer

Like many people my age, I was sucked into the Harry Potter phenomenon as an elementary school student. I still remember cracking open the first book on the bus ride home from school. And though the books are over, the hype is far from ending.

There are countless Potter-centric websites out there, but none of them have reached the level of controversy as the Harry Potter Lexicon. As the name implies, the site is a massive conglomeration of all things Potter, from a bestiary, to a spell encyclopedia, to a character index. The site's creator and main contributor, Steve Vander Ark, has plans to turn his website into a book, but not anytime soon.

On September 5, a federal judge ruled that Vander Ark's book was too close to J. K. Rowling's original work, and would cause her "irreparable injury" as a writer.

A small Michigan-based publisher, RDR Books, was set to publish the work, and Rowling, along with Warner Brothers Entertainment (the company that produces Potter flicks), sued the company in 2007 to halt publication. RDR and Vander Ark claimed that the book was protected by fair use doctrine of U.S. Copyright law. Judge Patterson, the federal judge ruling on the case, said that the defendants (RDR Books and Vander Ark) failed to demonstrate fair use. Rowling and her publisher were awarded $6,750 in damages. Throughout the ordeal, Rowling has maintained that she plans to publish her own Harry Potter encyclopedia. And the ordeal may not even be over; an RDR lawyer has said the company may appeal the decision, according to reports found on CNN's web site. 

Christopher Marino was rescued after nearly 14 hours at sea.

...Marino and his son were the ones who received the most credit for their efforts.

In a separate instance, three men were overcome by violent rip tides and were not as fortunate. The incident occurred off the coast of Wildwood, New Jersey in July, after the lifeguards were off duty. USA Today reports that Juan Moore, age 28, had been out in the water with his brother-in-law, and a friend, when they were overcome by the ocean current. Moore's brother-in-law, Ismael, was found and pronounced dead while Juan's friend was brought to safety. Juan's body, unfortunately, was nowhere to be found. According to Moore's wife, "there was no warning. It all happened so fast." The Moore family and friends returned to the beach where the accident occurred to commemorate the loss of Juan.

Finally, Abdul Rasheed Ahmed, age 51, was caught in strong currents in Atlantic City, according to USA Today. Lifeguards responded and brought a boat out to try to save him. Ahmed reportedly was given a line to hold him; however, after Ahmed grabbed the line, he lost consciousness. Immediately, lifeguards began CPR efforts. Upon being taken to the hospital, Ahmed was pronounced dead.
Motion with emotion: Professional dancer Ruth Andrian arrives at UC

Eva Bramesco
Grizzly Staff Writer

Ruth Andrian, renowned dancer and choreographer, leading students in a dance class in a studio in Hellfriech last week. Andrian is an interim dance instructor at Ursinus.

Photo by Abigail Raymond

Though she has toured in 27 countries and 130 American cities with the Paul Taylor Company, Ruth Andrian has returned to Pennsylvania to teach at Ursinus College as an interim instructor.

Ruth Andrian, more commonly known as “Ruthie,” can be found in the Kaleidoscope or Hellfriech dance studios spreading her expansive knowledge and love for dance to some very lucky Ursinus students.

Andrian grew up on a farm in nearby Pottstown as one of 10 in a big Irish family. Andrian cites her Irish heritage as a source of her creativity and her imagination—something she finds very important in her work. While still in Pottstown, Andrian began at the age of 12 to take lessons from her first inspiration and mentor, Miss Dersh.

“She had a spirit that moved through her fingers, it was like watching gold come out of her body,” Andrian said of Dersh.

Dersh, now 82, was a professional dancer who believed strongly in bringing dance not only to youth in big cities, but to rural youth as well. This desire to educate and to share the power of dance is something Dersh has evidently passed on to her student.

After taking a brief hiatus during high school, Andrian returned to Dersh. It had never occurred to Andrian that she might be able to get a scholarship for school, so when the opportunity presented itself, Andrian found herself washing mirrors, waitressing, and dancing several hours a day in New York to study at the Alvin Ailey School.

Though she was scared to leave home, she reflects that it was the right path. “I feel like my feet have always carried me, sometimes kicking and screaming to where I was supposed to be,” said Andrian.

There Andrian found rigorous training, but with a playful side. At the Ailey School Andrian studied the techniques of Lester Horton, Martha Graham, and José Limón in addition to Parisian and Russian ballet, and jazz.

Soon, Andrian was pushed into auditioning for companies. She was nervous, and as she attempted to turn away from the subway, a woman said to her, “Where are you going, girl? That’s your train!” Andrian refers to this as her “karma day.”

She couldn’t have been better suited for the Paul Taylor Company, a company that looks for more than technique in a dancer. This was a perfect match for Andrian who “thought talent was strictly based on flexible bodies. But I knew when I moved, my soul was deeply engaged with my body.”

Paul Taylor has told Andrian that after a dancer proves her ability, he looks for something within her eyes, someone who empties a room after leaving, and above all, someone with imagination. Someone like Andrian.

Andrian was with the Paul Taylor Company for 10 years, or nine and a half as Taylor likes to remind her. Andrian eventually became exhausted from touring and settled down to have a family. She recognizes how lucky she is to have a husband who waited for her for 11 years to be married. Andrian says she has seen many relationships suffer or break under the strain of a dancer’s lifestyle.

Since her time with the Paul Taylor Company, Andrian has devoted much of her time to reconstructing other choreographers’ works. In reconstruction, Andrian likes to “translate what the dance means to you.” She believes strongly in bringing great works to students, because as she says “exposure and performance is what teaches.”

Andrian is in her own right an activist, trying to bring repertoire to all students, not just ones at schools that can afford the $20,000 price tag. In 2007, Andrian reconstructed Paul Taylor’s Esplanade at Florida State University, and Paul Taylor’s Aureille at Harvard University.

Andrian is thrilled to be here at Ursinus and considers it an honor to be working alongside Professors Cathy Young and Chris Aiken. She says they have “reputations as amazing people, performers, choreographers, and scholars.”

Andrian is an amazing dancer, and her love of dance shines through in her teaching. It is clearly her passion in life, and we are all fortunate to benefit from it. Andrian is a truly remarkable woman who has lived a fascinating life.

“My husband is always telling me I should write a book,” laughs Andrian. Well, any stories Andrian may write would certainly be a book worth reading.

Career Corner

Career Services
career@ursinus.edu

Ursinus College has partnered with the National Endowment for Financial Education to bring you CashCourse, an online resource tool that can help guide students and young alumni to build a prosperous and secure financial future. CashCourse is the ultimate resource for relevant personal-financial information for young adults trying to manage finances for the first time. Financial information accessible through the CashCourse website includes securing financial aid and student loans, how to save while still having fun, how to manage your credit card, buy a car, rent an apartment, and more!

Living away from the guidance of parents during college is often a time when many students make uninformed financial decisions due to lack of knowledge. They are confronted with easy access to credit cards, and spending decisions that go far beyond tuition, housing and food, including items such as spring break travel, fraternities and sororities, and other costs associated with college. Students also need financial tools for their transition to life after college including saving, investing, taxes and evaluating the financial aspects of job offers.

Cashcourse helps to fill in the missing gaps of financial knowledge that many college students have. Did you know that 80% of graduating college seniors have credit card debt before they even have a job? Invest in your financial future, pick up smart money tips and log on to CashCourse at http://www.cashcourse.org/ursinus

The Ursinus College CashCourse page is supported by the Ursinus College Annual Fund, the Alumni Office and the Career Services Office.
Post-hardcore band Leathermouth not for the lighthearted

Laurel Salvo
Grizzly Staff Writer

Picture this: you’re sitting on a balcony at the Theatre of Living Arts, staring down into a scene beneath dancing purple and blue lights. The pit has just been set off, having gone completely immobile to the rowdy and rambunctious state it’s currently in. Kids are slamming themselves into one another and slingshotting their bodies back and forth perpetually; the phrase “Human Pong” comes to mind. Pale arms and legs kick and punch the air in strange circular motions, painting invisible lines to the notes they hear.

On stage, Frank lero (guitarist of My Chemical Romance) provides the background noise, screaming along viscerally and strumming heavily. You can feel the vibrations from the instruments in the tiny little vinyl barstool you’re sitting on. You can sense the amount of rage that’s being let out in this room and you realize once again that music has the ability to be decadent enough to serve as catharsis for the masses. Forget being psychoanalyzed in an overpriced piece of office furniture before a stranger, go to a Leathermouth show and let it out.

Yes, Leathermouth. If you’ve heard of My Chemical Romance or listened to one of the many airplays their most recent and incredibly cinematic album The Black Parade has had this past year, chances are that’s all you’ve seen of guitarist Frank lero on stage. Leathermouth, however, is something quite different. A side-project quintet of himself and four close friends (some he’s had since high school), Leathermouth is the post-hardcore show you definitely don’t want to bring your grandma to.

The boys opened their set hanging flags atop their oversized amps, the stars crossed out on each one with a circle of white spray paint with a rudimentary line slashed through it. They wore uniforms of white tee-shirts and white pants, almost resembling a sort of “mental institution employee” look. They were loud, raucous, and the amount of screaming lero can do as a front man in a span of 30 minutes makes me think the guy has a throat made of steel.

Ironically, the amount of rage being put into lero’s performance seems to coincide with the amount that was let out from the individuals in front of the stage. A native of Belleview, New Jersey, it’s well known by fans of Frank that he was frequently bullied growing up as a teen and at the High School he attended. If you read some of his Leathermouth lyrics aloud, you can almost sense that he’s trying to simultaneously connect and disconnect to those experiences. The side-project seems to be all about getting in touch with those intense emotions, and thereafter setting them on fire with screams that make your vocal chords weary with angst and desperation.

Not having any of his Leathermouth tracks on iTunes just yet, you can still listen to a select few on their MySpace page. Aside from this, according to the official band website, lero recently revealed that “the (debut) Leathermouth record will absolutely see the light of day this fall”.

Oddly enough, Frank seems to be tackling a lot of things at once aside from Leathermouth. The hyper-tattooed and over-polite rocker has a lot more on his plate than just post-hardcore shows. Alongside Alysa Milano he was named this year’s “World’s sexiest vegetarian” by Peta2. His clothing line “Skeleton Crew” seems to be blossoming well considering the amount of teens I saw clad in his merch last Sunday night. He’s newly married, as well.

Having been their last tour date played with Reggie & The Full Effect, I’m certain I’d like to see lero on stage again outside of My Chemical Romance. His demeanor is incredibly positive and his stage presence as a front man is commanding yet sincere. To be openly honest with those of you reading this, I’ve never been someone who would be heavily attracted to such a “screamy” and raw group. I do feel, however, that bands like Leathermouth are needed desperately today.

The feeling of letting out emotions you’ve had churning inside of you in a dark room late at night with a guy who seems to be a part of the audience more than a separate entity, is like nothing else. Leathermouth has the unique ability to bring pain to everyone and show them how to stomp it out. If nothing else, the catharsis involved in that was beautiful, and I’m incredibly anxious to see what lero’s band will bring next.

Ursinus kicks off this year’s International Film Festival

Salia Zouande
Grizzly Staff Writer

This month the International Film Festival is back with the screening of six thrilling movies in virtually every major language taught on campus. This festival may even change your conception of foreign movies.

Initiated twelve years ago by the Language Department, the International Film Festival has become one of the biggest annual festivals at Ursinus, drawing curious crowds of students and community members alike to its movie screenings in Olin Auditorium.

In keeping with the tradition of Ursinus community spirit, a major mission of the International Film Festival has always been to expose students to classic and new cultural foreign films. The International Film Festival gives visibility to the language being taught at Ursinus and teaches students how to look at film not just from an entertainment perspective, but as a cultural artifact that can be analyzed.

Over the years, the International Film Festival screened some of The Cannes Film Festival’s award winning movies including the 2004 French musical “Les Choristes” directed by director Christophe Barratier. The Cannes Film Festival is one of the world’s oldest, most influential and prestigious film festivals annually held in the month of May in the resort town of Cannes (Southern France).

As for Ursinus’ International Film Festival, two films are on the screening menu for the dates of Sept. 11 and 25. The first film was shown last Thursday, the 2001 released Chinese movie “Beijing Bicycle” directed by director Xiaoshuai Wang. On Sept. 25 is the 2007 Arabic/French released movie “Caramel” directed by director Nadine Labaki. All films are shown in Olin Auditorium at 7:30 pm, followed by a conversation and refreshments in Olin 104. All films are shown with subtitles, making it easy for the spectators to follow along with the movie without having to worry about any translation problems while enriching their language vocabulary.

French professor Dr. Trout of the Language Department at Ursinus has been the coordinator of the International Film Festival since its debut. The success of the Ursinus International Film Festival comes from the collaboration and help of the language Department. Language Department Secretary Yvonne Kennon also has a major role in advising the films, while the French Teaching Assistant helps with the technical needs. As for her expectations from this year’s International Film Festival, Trout is hoping to have more students stay for the discussion after the film.

“There are usually community people who stay after the movie to take part in the discussion, however, it would be great if students could stay a little and mingle,” said Trout.

Moreover, Trout salutes the initiative by the College to create a film study course this year, an initiative that will definitely give a little boost to the International Film Festival. The International Film Festival will be running all semester long with different foreign movie screenings each month, so if you miss one movie, you can always catch another foreign film and become part of the excitement.

There will also be a Francophone Film Festival coming up in spring after the International Film Festival. The idea of the Francophone Festival started as a class project done by Trout, then expanded to the entire campus. The Francophone Film Festival had in the past received grants from the French Embassy who sponsored some of the movie screenings. Arts, culture and lecture on campus has also been a huge promoter of the Francophone Film Festival coming this spring.

For more information about the exciting movies that will be shown at the International Film Festival, please check out your weekly Gazette calendar and arts, culture and lectures calendar on campus. Look out for the movie screening dates, or you can contact ctrout@ursinus.edu

September 18, 2008
Opinions

A Democrat's perspective on potential VP Sarah Palin

Spencer Jones
Grizzly Staff Writer

When it was announced that Republican presidential hopeful John McCain had selected Sarah Palin as his running mate, news programs, periodicals and forums all across the internet were on fire with opinions from all political angles. Some praised McCain for selecting a woman who could potentially become president, while others criticized him for not taking the time to get to know Palin before putting her on his ticket. Some stated that there were others far more qualified for the position and that the only reason McCain selected her was to try and court the female vote, particularly Hillary Clinton supporters.

My initial reaction was one of excitement and pride in seeing an articulate, relatively young woman get selected for such a powerful position, especially, since not too long ago, we couldn’t even vote much less run for public office. Though I had no idea who Palin really was (she was virtually unknown to the rest of the American public as well), I viewed the selection of her as a step in a positive direction, one that would have made the women’s suffrage activists of the 1920s weep with joy. That all changed once I realized that she is, to quote Ariana Huffington, “George Bush dressed in a skirt, lipstick and Tina Fey glasses.”

Despite her short time in the campaign spotlight, Palin is seen as the darling of many a conservative voter. She was mayor of Wasilla, a small town in Alaska, from 1996 to 2002. She then became the first woman to be elected as governor of Alaska in 2006. Impressive, I’ll admit. But is she seasoned enough to take power if something were to happen to McCain while in office? What does she know about the economy, medical care, education, climate change, foreign affairs?

My primary gripe with Palin is how inconsistent many of her views are with reality. She echoes President Bush’s belief that the Iraq war is “a task from God,” a sentiment which is, frankly, disturbing. I’m also a little wary of someone who believes that creationism should be taught with evolution in schools, irrespective of the fact that there’s no evidence for it. Maybe she’d also like biology classes to be structured so that unicorns can be integrated into the curriculum along with horses.

Palin’s partial to abstinence over explicit sex education programs, but how realistic an expectation is that? By middle school and into high school, sex education should be as comprehensive and thorough as possible. Does Palin, who herself got pregnant with her first child before she was married, and who now must deal with a daughter in the same predicament, really think that most young people are going to wait until marriage to engage in sexual activity?

Palin, who gave birth to her son Trig just months ago, is firmly pro-life. The only time she believes an exception in abortion should be made is if it is medically proven that having a child jeopardizes the life of the mother. In November 2006, she said that even if her own daughter was raped, she wouldn’t support an abortion. I wonder how she would have responded if the rapist had AIDS?

In 1998, Palin supported a constitutional amendment banning marriage equality in Alaska, just as President Bush tried to do during his eight years in office. It’s a safe bet that her reason for supporting such a blatantly discriminatory bill revolves around the usual rhetoric that many religious conservatives use to blast homosexuality. Although she vetoed a bill that would have denied benefits to employees in same sex partnerships, she did this because it was unconstitutional, not because she’s an advocate for gay and lesbian rights.

Palin has found herself at the epicenter of scandal. She’s currently under investigation for a series of emails that were made public by Walter Mennon, a former Alaskan public safety commissioner who claimed that he was fired by Palin in July for failing to dismiss Mike Wooten, her brother in law, with whom she had a personal rift. Shortly before that came the announcement that her teenage daughter, Bristol, was pregnant. Hoping to placate ultra conservatives, Palin insisted that her daughter planned to keep the baby and marry the man that got her pregnant, even though he said on his MySpace page that he didn’t want kids.

Sarah Palin may be a pleasant “hockey mom”, but her politics are too similar to those of the Bush administration. Do we really need another four years of Bush? With the vice presidential debates just weeks away, the McCain camp is hustling to school her in of state? Let’s see if America wakes up this time and makes the right choice come November.

Barack Obama: The only right choice for US President

Christopher Orser
Grizzly Staff Writer

Barack Obama has been derided as the candidate of style rather than substance, of rhetoric rather than solutions. Yet, it is Obama, not John McCain, who truly shows an understanding of what makes a healthy economy. John McCain’s policies aid few other than the rich, while Obama’s policies will help to create a stronger country for years to come.

John McCain has promoted a seemingly reasonable idea that quickly devolves into absurdity when examined closely. He argues that it is absolutely essential that we balance the budget by cutting spending and taxes. Yet, McCain does not support a withdrawal from Iraq (the cost of which will end up in the trillions…that’s twelve zeroes for us non-math majors), and even supports tax cuts. McCain apparently relies on one major method to balance the budget: cutting wasteful spending, commonly known as “pork barrel” spending. Again, this is not a horrible idea, but relying upon it alone to solve our economic woes shows McCain’s lack of coherent domestic policies.

The projected US deficit for 2008, according to the non-partisan GAO, is $410 billion. CAGW, a fiscally conservative organization that opposes not just obviously wasteful spending like “the Bridge to Nowhere” but also more legitimate infrastructure programs, states on its website that it found $17.2 billion worth of pork. Clearly, the math here does not add up. McCain seemingly intends to balance the remaining $392.8 billion through tax cuts, which supposedly would lead to greater government revenue in the long run. Given how much the Bush tax cuts have “helped” our economy, and how few other ideas McCain seems to have, even the economically uninformed can see how harmful McCain’s policies could be. McCain, if elected president, would not save our economy, but rather would send our country further down a spiral of crippling debt, all the while cutting taxes only for the rich and comfortable.

Barack Obama, meanwhile, has shown a real desire to help the true foundation of this country: the middle class. Obama has promised to cut taxes or keep them at the same level for the middle class, while only raising them on the rich. Some might argue that this will discourage investment from the rich, but will tax an extra $40,000 to someone earning over $1 million truly make an appreciable difference?

The rich person might argue that he or she earned that money, but shouldn’t he or she help support the system that set him up for success? Few of the richest members of our society would have grown rich without a secure and sustainable environment, a competent and educated workforce, and great transportation, and keeping those areas strong is exactly the purpose of the proposed taxes that John McCain does not want.

Obama has also shown long-term wisdom in supporting such things as universal healthcare and increased subsidies for education. These two policy positions will both lighten the load on the middle class and create a healthier, better educated, stronger nation. Besides, in a country as prosperous as ours, how can we not try to ensure that everyone gets a fair and equal chance to succeed? Conservatives might argue that equality of opportunity comes from low taxes and minimal government intervention. However, “true” equality is hard to find in a world in which the rich have the money to pay for superior education and superb healthcare, while the poor are left to attend night classes and live in fear of physical injury. Obama’s position is both the moral one and the smart one.

John McCain is often viewed as the wise, experienced candidate. Yet his economic policies reveal him to have little substance to offer domestically. Obama, meanwhile, has a strong plan for the future, a plan that will strengthen the true engines of our economy while also helping the people who need help the most. John McCain and Barack Obama are both honorable men who represent an appreciable improvement over the current president. However, largely due to his greater wisdom regarding domestic issues, Barack Obama is the better choice.

Hey, do you think about things sometimes? Why not write those thoughts down and send them to zashammer@ursinus.edu. What’s the worst that could happen?
Forever... or never young in Hollywood?

Daniel Radcliffe

In my mind, he used to be a pretty cool guy. He went from playing a young David Copperfield in a made-for-television movie to landing the role of a lifetime as wizard Harry Potter in the film series based on the J.K. Rowling Harry Potter book series. There are probably like seven or eight Harry Potter novels in existence (sorry, faithful readers, but that fad just kind of passed me by), so there would have been no problem if young Daniel had just stuck to the Potter films and rode gracefully into the Hollywood sunset when he was finished. However, he has certainly decided to ride something in his career, and not in the way I or anyone else, for that matter, would like it to mean. On September 25, Broadway will welcome a revival of the play “Equus”, in which Radcliffe not only stands visibly made on stage for quite some time but also engages in intimate relations with a horse. Yes, a horse. Was it really necessary for him to do this? He could have had a charming, coming-of-age tale about a girl... who gets to perform as a corpse. It is really necessary for him to do this? He could have had a... and get himself recognized as a serious child actor. To accomplish this, she chose to star in “Juno”, which is nominated for an Oscar. Perhaps the real controversy of Foster’s role came after the cameras had stopped rolling. John Hinckley, a failed songwriter from Texas, became obsessed with Foster after repeated viewings of Taxi Driver. In an effort to impress her, he attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan. Whatever happened to candy and flowers?

Jodie Foster

You may know her as the star of the greatest movie about cannibalistic psychiatrists ever (The Silence of the Lambs), but Jodie Foster got her creepy start as a teenage prostitute in director Martin Scorsese’s classic Taxi Driver. Foster may have used her older sister as a body double in some of the more sexually explicit scenes, but this was definitely a role that made her seem mature in the eyes of Hollywood casting directors. Her performance caught the eye of a few Academy voters, too—she was nominated for an Oscar. Perhaps the real controversy of Foster’s role came after the release, but his career flourished: since September 18, 2001 (Kazaam, Hard Candy), he has played an array of roles in movies. Foster may have used her older sister as a body double in some of the more sexually explicit scenes, but you could see...”

Dakota Fanning

Although he was 25 when he starred as gay cowboy Jack Twist in Brokeback Mountain, Gyllenhaal certainly garnered some controversy and destroyed his “good boy” image forever with extremely graphic scenes with co-star Heath Ledger. Various theatres around the United States refused to show the film and media pundits called for Hollywood to stop pushing the “gay agenda”. Gyllenhaal would be the subject of jokes for months after the film’s release, but his career flourished: since August 29, 2004 (Zodiac, Jarhead) and award-worthy (Proof) films.

Ellen Page

And you thought you knew Juno MacGuff! Very few people realize that before her star-making turn as the title character of Juno, Ellen Page starred alongside Patrick Wilson in Hard Candy, a film about a teenage girl seeking revenge on a pedophile. It ain’t exactly the most controversial film ever made (Kazaam, anyone?), but it certainly isn’t appropriate for “family movie night”, either. Of course, Page followed Hard Candy with Juno, and she is poised to become the next great actress in American cinema. Maybe controversy does generate success after all.

Juno

You really want to see controversy? Check out Sexual Perversity in Chicago, starting October 1st in the BlackBox Theatre. That’s right—Zach is allowed to plug his own shows. E-mail him at zashamberg@ursinus.edu.

Opinions

Toads will Reign

Samuel Stahler

Grizzly Staff Writer

It is in the small cities where America’s heart beats, and her dreams truly take root. A famous saying goes “small town, small mind”, but it is in these small cities where true individualism shines, where local bands are an inspiring part of the community. In one small city, Scranton, Pennsylvania, is home to a plethora of music-creating talent. The music scene of Scranton is ever evolving with new creativity and originality. Yet aside from all the rest, the experimental/instrumental funk trio – the Reigning Toads – has been one of the most influential local music phenomena to impact the city of Scranton. Even without a vocalist, they captivate audiences by constructing a captivating wall of raw, powerful sound built with a variety of genres. Trust me, listening to this band will hold your attention better than Kermit the Frog ever could.

Both Toads have been playing together since the winter of 2004 and have a collective experience of over 30 years. Bob Gatto, on percussion, lays down the rhythmic foundation for the band drawing from influences that range from Primus to Zappa. Matt Mang, a graduate of the Marywood University music program, is trained in classical music and has performed in various jazz and rock groups in the area. His bass playing compliments Gatto’s complex rhythms, giving The Reigning Toads their funky, progressive sound. Guitar player, Dave Campbell, creates his bluesy textures and metal rhythms over this foundation, adding just the right vigor and soul to the mixture.

By dynamically integrating swirls of saucy guitar riffs, undulating waves of bass, and stout percussion the Toad trio zealously enraptures the listener on a sonic rollercoaster through time and space. The pummeling of each drum set and powerfully played bass create a profound musical interaction. Yet despite all it has going for it, the Scranton-based trio tends to be defined by what it’s lacking – mainly, a vocalist. The most ironic aspect of the trio’s short life is that the longer they played together without a lead singer, the harder it has become to incorporate one.

They went ahead in 2005 and released their debut album “Commercial Suicide” which exhibited rave reviews among Scrantonites and much of the NEPA music community. They are currently working on a follow-up which is due out soon.
With motivated teams gunning for Sports · grizzlY@lIfSiOl1S of the year. Coach Diana McNamee says she has high defense claims McNamee. “Everyone’s working together... Defense is what’s keeping us in these games,” she stated.

McNamee added that returning junior, Megan Mowrer, “has done well taking over the libero position, and [freshman] Lexie Hall is stepping up and showing me she can do it. [Hall] is all over the place and isn’t afraid to hit the floor, which is nice.”

Mowrer leads the team in digs with 56. Closely following her is sophomore Mary Kate Wilmoth, junior Jen Fargo, freshman Elizabeth Roth and senior Kelly Hosier. Each of these girls has contributed within the first 5 games. Defense is not the only aspect of the game that is working for this new team, however. Returning setter, junior Jen Fargo, leads the team with 153 assists. “She’s shorter for the position, but she worked really hard this summer and she jumps higher and moves faster than last year,” says McNamee. Ursinus has also accumulated a solid 197 kills and 32 aces. Wilmoth leads the team with 57, followed by Roth with 57. Roth contributed 8 aces to the team as well, while Fargo has served up 12.

A returning sophomore, Gabriella Gallo, would have been at the top of her game again this year if it weren’t for a back injury that is keeping her out of the game. “[Gabby] was a great asset to the team last year, but the girls are working hard to make up for the loss,” explains McNamee. She also hopes to see Gabby fully healed and back on the court before the end of the season.

Last year, Wilmoth and Gallo were two forces to be reckoned with. They did excellent jobs in the front and back row. This year, however, it seems that Roth is the one to look out for. According to McNamee, “She is an all around player. She can pass, set, hit, block and set well.

Two other forces may help lead this team to a winning season are Jamie Bodden and Phil Davis, the new assistant coach and manager. Davis has been with the team in the past and has always been there for the girls. But, this year, “He’s really stepping up as a leader rather than a friend,” says McNamee.

Bodden, on the other hand, is new to the team and adjusting very well. “She’s great. She has lots of energy and she was a setter at McDaniel so she knows the conference well. She helps me out a lot,” McNamee states.

Though Ursinus Volleyball may have been under the radar for the past few years due to its poor record, this season may turn a few heads. With all the young talent, it’s a quicker, stronger and more versatile team that will most certainly surprise us in the upcoming months. McNamee says “The girls really respond to having fans in the gym.” So UC, go support the women’s volleyball team at their next home match against Franklin and Marshall this Saturday (Family Day) at 1PM.

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The Scorebox

**Cross Country:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Invitational</th>
<th>Women first, men second</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wilmington</td>
<td>Lebanon Valley</td>
<td>31-19, loss</td>
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<tr>
<td>women</td>
<td>(home)</td>
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<td>first</td>
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**Football:**

| Field Hockey     | Rowan (home)        | 4-2, win                |

**Men’s Soccer:**

| Wesley (home)   | DeSales (home)      | 2-1, win with double OT |

**Women’s Soccer:**

| Richard Stockton (home) | Salisbury (away)   | 2-0, loss |

**Volleyball (Lebanon Valley Tournament):**

| Lebanon Valley   | PSU Altoona         | 3-0, loss               |

**Philadelphia Bible:**

| 3-0, loss        | York College        | 3-0, loss               |

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**UC Field Hockey prepares to restore remarkable reputation**

**Nick Pane**

Grizzly Staff Writer

Establishing a distinguished and vastly successful college program is difficult, to say the least. With motivated teams gunning for your own year in and year out, hoping to have just a small taste of your own success, it takes a lot of energy and effort to stay on top for so long. However, consider the following: a 49-1 conference record since Ursinus reached Division III status for athletics, four Centennial Conference Championships, four appearances in the NCAA Tournament, two appearances in the NCAA Final Four, and a National Championship in 2006. The consensus is that over the past ten years, Ursinus’ superb field hockey teams, led by Head Coach Laura Muliken, have not disappointed.

Coach Muliken, entering her tenth season as head coach of the field hockey team, has overseen a golden age for a field hockey program that is nationally ranked on a yearly basis. Muliken understands the game inside and out, and what it takes to be successful at the collegiate level. Possibly the most important factor is finding players who are able to dedicate themselves to the program and do what it takes to win. “We are fortunate to get the kind of students and athletes that are very self-motivated”, said Jennie Moore, and Kait Sutherland, the field hockey team has endless experience and leadership to feed off of.

With a combined 16 years of experience and 21 of the team’s 47 point this season, Mastoris, Thren, Moore, and Sutherland have clearly been the backbone of the team on the field. They were a part of the 2006 National Championship Team two years ago, and they know what it is like playing for the program at Ursinus. When asked about the national ranking (the Bears are currently ranked seventh in Division III), the captains gave it little mind.

“We were ranked first a couple of years ago, and it didn’t work out,” said Mastoris, “It’s not important. What is important is where we’re ranked in November.”

Nevertheless, the girls remain focused on the situation they are in. Muliken in regard of her players. “Winning is winning, but the fact that they like to work hard is the fun part, and the outcome takes care of itself.” The winning has indeed come in bunches, and the outcomes are consistently positive. Led by their four captains, Katie Mastoris, Nikki Thren, Jennie Moore and Kait Sutherland, the Ursinus field hockey program is poised to restore its reputation.

“Because we have a reputation, we want to keep that reputation up,” added Sutherland. It is not an easy, but the girls use strengths in multiple areas to be as effective as possible both on and off the field.

Coach Muliken praised the girls for their ability to compliment each other’s strengths while on the field. “They all provide different leadership qualities, but also compliment each to other. All of them have a ton of experience and have grown with the program over four years.” However, one of the main components of Ursinus’ game plan involves a quality in which each individual possesses: speed. The four captains all agreed that their ability to outrun opponents is one of their biggest assets.

Mastoris summed it up quite simply when asked about the team’s best asset, “Definitely our speed, and the way we utilize our speed.” Moore added, “We are all on the same page mentally, which makes us even faster.”

There is an obvious chemistry that enfolds this team, allowing them to execute their systems flawlessly, making them almost impossible to stop.

For this Ursinus Field Hockey Team, expectations are high, and they will remain high throughout the season. This team is built to win now, and go deep into the playoffs. However, the mindset is simply to take it one game at a time.

“It’s year by year, but you know what you’re striving for”, said Thren. “We’ve been on the losing end before so we know what we want. We want to be at that final game and we want to finish with a win.”