



9-25-2008

The Grizzly, September 25, 2008

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Recommended Citation

O'Brassill, Kristin; Poretta, Gabrielle; Zouande, Salia; Cooper, Jameson; MacDonald, Elizabeth; Monteverde, Matt; Raymond, Abigail; Smith, Erec; Mithboakar, Serena; Bramesco, Eva; Schaeffer, Christopher; Lee, Roger; and Shamberg, Zach, "The Grizzly, September 25, 2008" (2008). *Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper*. 760.

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The Grizzly

Thursday, September 25, 2008

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Another fantastically fun-filled Family Day for Ursinus College



Parents, siblings and various relatives joined their Ursinus relations for a day of fun and relaxation on Saturday, September 20.



Above: A child enjoys the inflatable slide put up in front of BWC. Right: A child contently sips lemonade as his father enjoys the UC student newspaper. Far Right: Family Day food thrills students and guests.

Salia Zouande
Grizzly Staff Writer

Inflated castles for children to jump around in, live musical entertainment and a free buffet amid buzzing bees under the cool breeze were part of the spectacle on Campus last Saturday.

Family day is about getting together and celebrating families along with a strong sense of community at Ursinus. On this day, families come together and celebrate, allowing the visiting parents great insight into the academic, athletic and social environment of Ursinus.

Family Day has long been a tradition at Ursinus College. Every year around the same time, parents and children come together for one gigantic fiesta encompassing live music, games and interactive activities.

This year, the adults and young ones enjoyed a wide array of activities. The



Family Day activities ranged from a magic show for the children in Wismer Lower Lounge to a candlelight dinner and jazz performance for the parents. Sports fans had the opportunity to cheer on Ursinus College athletic teams as they took on rival schools. UC Football played Juniata College on Patterson Field whereas the Men's and Women's Soccer teams went up against Gettysburg and Franklin & Marshall College respectively. In the Helfferich Gym, Franklin & Marshall also took on the UC Volleyball team. The Leadership Development & Student Activities Office coordinated family day this year, as well as the previous

"Another fantastically fun-filled Family Day at Ursinus College" is continued on page 4.

So long Shea Stadium

Jamey Cooper
Grizzly Staff Writer

The New York Yankees are already the wealthiest franchise in baseball, and now it looks like they will only widen the gap. Although their brand new stadium will cost New York about 1.2 billion dollars to build (that's right, billion), experts claim that it should increase the Yankees value dramatically.

"The cash flows coming out of the new building as compared with the old one are going to be ridiculous," says one Yankees source. Team Owner George Steinbrenner prefers building a new, modern era stadium as opposed to undertaking a second major renovation.

What will this mean for ticket and concession prices? The answer is bad news for fans. As if current prices are not high enough, it looks like the most expensive ticket will rise from \$1,000 to \$2,500. The cheapest tickets will rise to about \$20-25, with the average ticket costing

"So long Shea Stadium" is continued on page 8.

Worcester high school pregnancy pact fact?

Elizabeth MacDonald
Grizzly Staff Writer

In the movie Juno, which hit theaters last January, Vanessa Loring (Jennifer Gardner) says to Juno (Ellen Page) "Your parents are probably wondering where you are" to who Juno replies "Nah... I mean, I'm already pregnant, so what other kind of shenanigans could I get into?" Hilarious as the movie was, there is some curiosity as to whether or not the success of the film had an impact on the already incredibly naïve minds of teenage America.

As many of us were letting out for the summer months, eighteen teenage girls at Gloucester High School in Massachusetts were expecting their first child. According

to the *New York Times*, the number of pregnant girls in the school was quadruple the number of pregnancies that had occurred the previous year. The school documented that many girls were showing up to the school clinic for free pregnancy tests. Oddly enough, some girls actually cried when they found out they were not pregnant, while some girls were noticeably happy upon hearing the news that they were expecting. It was soon disclosed that these girls, who were no younger than sixteen years of age, had "made a pact to get pregnant and raise the babies together." The principle released even more shocking news later: the father

"Worcester high school pregnancy pact fact?" is continued on page 2.

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...of one of the unborn children was in fact, a 24-year old homeless man.

Following the news of the pregnancies, many critics claimed that movies such as *Juno*, *Knocked Up*, and even the national media attention Jamie Lynn Spears’ pregnancy received, were the culprits. The Center for

“Many critics claimed that movies such as *Juno*, *Knocked Up* and even the national media attention Jamie Lynn Spears’ pregnancy received, were the culprits.”

Disease and Control stated that there was a 3% rise in teenage pregnancies as of 2006. They argue that Hollywood has “glamorized” the idea of being an “unwed mother.” Other critics believe that the decline in the economy is associated with the rising number of teenage pregnancies. These critics explain that because there was a steep decline in what was once a strongly, independent fishing industry, many families are now “broken.” The lack of family structure in American society is cited as a possible reason for so many teen pregnancies.

Contrastingly, an article in *Marie Claire* entitled “Inside the Gloucester Pregnancy Pact” denies that such

a pact ever existed. Sixteen year old Kyla Brown explained that she was in complete shock after she took a pregnancy test. She stated that her pregnancy was unintentional; however, abortion was not an option for her either. Brown said that she plans to complete her high school education with help from the day care on campus. As of right now, she has no plans to attend college.

Amanda Ireland recently graduated from Gloucester High School. She gave birth to her daughter, Haley, when she was a freshman in high school. She has dreams of attending college to make a better life for her and her daughter. In the *New York Times*, Ireland says that many of her peers have commented about how fortunate she is to have a child. They describe her fortune as a way to finally have “someone to love them unconditionally.” However, Ireland tries to tell the girls that there is a flip side to having a child at an early age. Ireland was quoted saying “I try to explain it’s hard to feel loved when an infant is screaming to be fed at 3 AM.”

As for the school, administrators are unsure of what to do. The principal, Joseph Sullivan, was apprehensive about distributing birth control to the students, whereas a

local pediatric doctor, Brian Orr, started to distribute contraceptives with or without parental consent.

Over the summer, the school board was expected to come to a decision about how to handle the situation. As of August 2008, according to *WBZTV*, Joseph Sullivan resigned after ten years as principal of Gloucester High School. *Time Magazine* reported him referring to the sudden increase in teen pregnancies as a “pact.” The mayor of the city, Carolyn Kirk, held a board meeting concerning the recent ridicule the town has faced due to the media coverage. At a meeting, Kirk reportedly defamed Sullivan’s reputation and thus, caused him to resign. There has been no word on who will fill the new position. The mayor explained the communities’ desire for the controversy to settle sometime before the new principal position is filled and assumed.

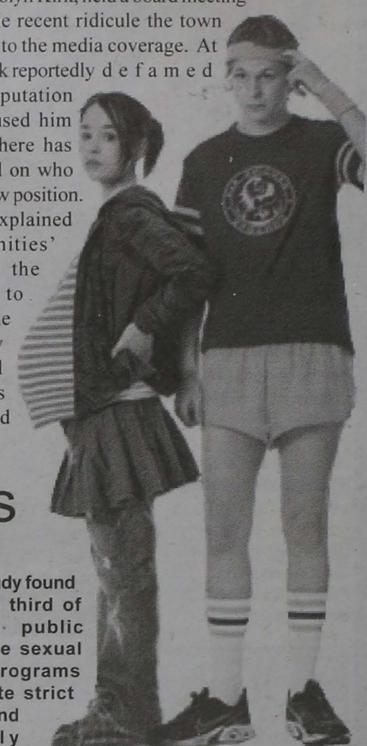


photo courtesy of imdb.com

Did you know? Sexuality in American teenagers

--Nearly 60% of sexually active teen females' first sexual partner is 1 to 3 years older than themselves. Girls with partners six or more years older account for 8%.

--Of all 15-19-year-olds in the United States, 46% have had sexual intercourse at least once.

--Sexually active teens who do not use contraceptives have a 90% chance of becoming pregnant within 12 months.

--15-24-year-olds represent 1/4 of the sexually active men and women in the U.S., but account for nearly half of all new STIs each year. Human papilloma virus infections are the most diagnosed STIs among this age group. Though HPV is very common and often harmless, certain types, if left undetected or untreated, may lead to cervical cancer.

--Teen pregnancy rates are much higher in the U.S. than in other developed countries.

--Teen births account for 11% of all U.S. births in a single year.

--About 57% of teen pregnancies make it to birth, 14% are miscarried and 29% end in abortion.

--According to USA Today, about 14% of sexually active girls have attempted suicide while only 5% of sexually inactive girls have. Similarly, only 1% of sexually inactive boys have attempted suicide, but 6% of sexually active boys have.

--A study in Illinois public schools found that 30% of the men and women teaching sexual education have never received training.

--In 1999, a study found that about a third of American public schools have sexual education programs that advocate strict abstinence and completely overlook contraceptive information.

--When teens and their parents were asked if the teens had been sexually active, half the parents answered incorrectly. Those who believed their children to be sexually inactive were wrong.

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.

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 33, Issue 4

grizzly@ursinus.edu

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News in brief: African President steps down, US Embassy in Yemen bombed

Matt Monteverde

Grizzly Staff Writer

September 16, 2008

NEW YORK-The Federal Reserve Board has decided to lend \$85 billion to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to prop up crumbling insurance giant, American International Group (AIG), according to an online article posted on CNN.com. In return for the \$85 billion, the Federal Reserve Board will get an 80% stake in AIG. This decision was made so that a potential global insurance catastrophe could be avoided, as AIG has \$1.1 trillion in assets in 130 countries worldwide. This news follows last week's announcement that the Treasury Department has pledged over \$200 billion to save Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

September 17, 2008

YEMEN-CNN reports confirm that Al Qaeda-affiliated militants have been implicated in the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Yemen on Wednesday, disguised as security officials. The attack involved two car-bombs and a suicide bomber with a bomb-vest. Ten Yemeni police and civilians were killed in the attack; no official count of those wounded was released. A newlywed couple from the United States were among those killed. No U.S. embassy officials were killed in the attack. Six of the attackers were reportedly killed in the bombings as well. Yemen is not new to Al Qaeda or other Islamic extremist attacks. In late 2000, the USS Cole was attacked by a suicide bomber off the coast of Yemen.

September 21, 2008

JOHANNESBERG, SOUTH AFRICA-Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's longest serving President, has resigned from his post, but did not say when he will leave office or who his successor would be reports a CNN news article. The second post-Apartheid President of South Africa following Nelson Mandela, Mr. Mbeki announced his resignation in a televised address late Sunday. In his address to the nation, Mr. Mbeki cited the need to unite his party, the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC was divided between longtime political rivals Jacob Zuma

and Mr. Mbeki. While Mbeki spoke glowingly of the substantial economic boost seen under his term, he reminded spectators that South Africa still faces significant obstacles in the economy, crime, and corruption.

Mr. Mbeki had been facing political isolation within the ANC from Mr. Zuma's strong supporters, who include the communist party and trade unions. Jacob Zuma had been in court for charges of corruption and accepting bribes from a corporation involved in multi-billion dollar arms deals. The charges were dropped in 2006 and re-filed recently by the National Prosecuting Authority of South. The presiding judge, however, ruled that the charges against Mr. Zuma were illegitimate and probably motivated by Mr. Mbeki and his supporters. Mr. Zuma replaced Mr. Mbeki as president of the ANC last year. Mbeki's resignation paves the way for Mr. Zuma's own run in the Spring of 2009 as president of the ANC.

September 21, 2008

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN-A CNN world news article has reported that a massive truck-bomb containing more than 1300 pounds of explosives was detonated Saturday outside the Marriott Hotel located near the Pakistani Parliament. The daring attack killed 57 people, including two U.S. Military personnel and the Czech Republic's ambassador to Pakistan. In total, 286 people were wounded in the attack. The explosion created a 24 foot wide by 60 foot deep crater in the ground. The blast also caused a natural gas leak which soon led to a large fire that engulfed the entire top floor of the Hotel.

While no groups were officially named as suspects in the bombing, Pakistan's interior minister Rehman Malik said that the attack bears the marks of the Pakistani Taliban. The Pakistani Taliban is an offshoot of the Afghani Taliban and has recently been the target of controversial cross-border military strikes from the United States in Afghanistan.

Recently sworn-in Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari called the attacks the worst in seven years "volume-wise." Mr. Zardari, the widowed husband of slain former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said of the attackers, "these people are not Muslims", referring to the fact that the attack happened during the holy month of Ramadan.

Lower draws crowds

Salia Zouande

Grizzly Staff Writer

Ever wished for an alternative to the campus party scene? Look no further. This semester welcomes the new *Late Night Lower*, featuring a wide array of games, free popcorn, soda and affordable specials bought to you by the Student Activities Office (SAO). The Leadership Development and SAO is located in Wismer Lower Lounge between Zack's and the bookstore. SAO is operated by Todd McKinney and his assistant director Gregory Striano. The SAO is open most week days to listen to the concerns and club ideas of students. SAO has a mission to always try and make a connection with students and faculty so that both parties have an enjoyable time on campus during the school year.

The Leadership Development, SAO, and Multicultural Services work with different groups on campus, including the Campus Activities Board, Ursinus Student Government Association and other clubs on campus to host educational, cultural and social events.

The newest addition to the SAO activities list is *Late Night Lower*. It is an effort to make campus life more enjoyable for everyone. The Lower Lounge becomes a space where gamers can abandon themselves to their best free-time activity by playing Rock Band, tennis, boxing, pool, Dance Dance Revolution, and sing-along on Karaoke. Board games are also available to make everybody feel like a winner while having a great time enjoying the company of others. For people who are looking for more than just popcorn, they can use their dining dollars and choose from a delicious menu including BBQ chicken pizza, breakfast wraps and pizza wraps.

Late Night Lower has the sole objective of providing a center another social option during the weekends. "Late Night Lower is not to prevent people from going to parties on campus; we just want to give more options to students during weekends," said Jared Rodrigues. "Late night food, incentive for people, gives more opportunity for complexity and option," added Greg Striano. Dean Nolan has been actively participating in *Late Night Lower*, making sure students enjoy themselves. *Late Night Lower* runs every Thursday through Saturday, from 10 pm to 2 am.

Ursinus students to attend activist workshop at Swarthmore

Abigail Raymond

Grizzly Staff Writer

In just a few days, nine Ursinus students will travel to Swarthmore College to attend the first "D4D on the Road," debating for democracy, workshop. The goal of D4D, scheduled for Sept. 27, is to give new and experienced political activists training in ways to work more closely with the government and politicians to achieve goals that are meaningful to them. Additionally, participants will learn how to interpret federal and state legislation and ways in which to contact elected officials and the news media. The event is coordinated by Project Pericles, a non-profit organization that seeks to increase civic involvement in the political process. Ursinus, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Widener University will be co-hosting.

The workshop is traveling to 11 college campuses this fall and will be led by Christopher Kush. Kush is the head of Soapbox Consulting, a Washington DC based organization that has provided training seminars and workshops for the American Cancer Society, the Human

Rights Campaign and others. Kush is also an author, his book *The One-Hour Activist*, provides guidelines to help passionate individuals with a cause achieve more. All attendees will receive a copy of his book. A nonpartisan independent film about young voters in the upcoming election, *18-in-'08*, will also be shown by David Burstein. Burstein is a sophomore at Haverford college and director of the film.

Assistant Director of Project Pericles, David Rippton, is pleased that 22 schools were able to participate in the event.

"We are confident," said Rippton "that these workshops will provide hundreds of people around the country with the skills they will need to influence candidates and elected officials before the election and in the long run."

Organizers hope that students, faculty, and staff who attend the workshops will be able to bring the skills they

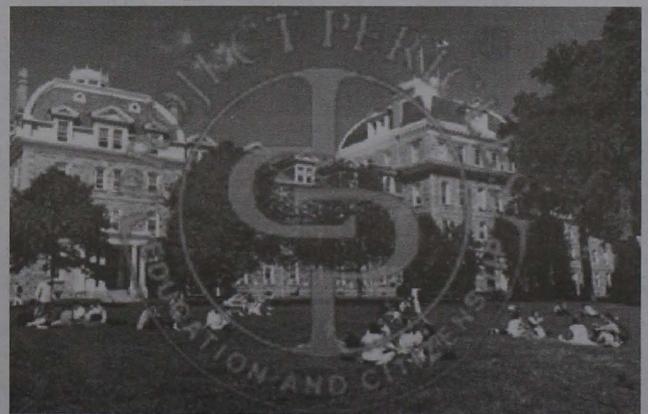


Photo courtesy of www.swarthmore.edu

learned back to their respective campuses and inspire their classmates and peers to be more politically active. Additional information about the D4D conference can be found on the Ursinus College website.

Features

"Another fantastically fun-filled Family Day at Ursinus College" is continued from front page.

...years. Students with the UC Ambassadors title, dressed in bright blue shirts, were also part of the excitement as they answered any questions from visitors and made sure everybody was having a good time. UC Ambassadors play an important role in serving the college campus, so they should be recognized for their participation because they helped make Family Day possible. These students go through several training sessions before they are given the opportunity to represent Ursinus College. Sessions include participating in college nights and events and volunteering during freshmen orientation.

UC Fringe Cabaret strikes a chord with music, improv and acrobatics

Abigail Raymond
Grizzly Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the talent of Ursinus came out to showcase their skills at Ursinus Fringe Cabaret '08. After a week of performances from professional groups from the Philadelphia area, ten Ursinus acts took to the stage, displaying a range of talents from improvisational comedy to aerial acrobatics. The house was full and late comers had to settle for seats in the aisles. New faces mixed with old, as performers and hosts from Ursinus' past and present shared the stage for a night of entertainment.

Three of the acts came from the newly minted class of 2012, who produced a singing instrumentalist, an actor with some writing chops, and a ballad-singing vocalist. Stephen Brenner kicked off the show by performing the Nirvana song, "Dumb." Alex Harwood performed an original dramatic monologue about the world being a stage, drawing some appreciative chuckles from the audience. Chris Smith wrapped up the show with his rendition of the song "Angels."

Musical performances were not just limited to the freshmen, however. Matt Whitman and Justin Cunard performed wonderfully the rendered songs, "Immortality" by Pearl Jam and "Like a Rolling Stone" by The Rolling Stones. Meg Dawley also impressed the audience with her lovely voice when she sang the classical vocal piece by Mozart, "Voi Che Sapete."

The show also featured some stunning physical feats. Nathan Dawley and Roger Lee performed the original dance piece, "Free Flowing," an improvisation piece set to ambient

Family day is the opportune time to express familial appreciation. It allows each student the chance to show parents how much they care by giving their family something nice to remember the school by.

For example, the sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma were selling roses for a good cause in Olin Plaza. The proceeds of the sale were to benefit the Robbie Page Memorial Fund, a national philanthropic organization that supports play for hospitalized children with the goal to make a child smile. The organization has funded many facilities specialized programs and the training of many

electronic music that was hypnotic and poetic to watch. Olivia Oller amazed the audience when she took to the air and performed an array of acrobatic skills using only two pieces of long (and obviously sturdy) fabric hung from the rafters of the Black Box Theater.

But it was the comedy of the night that had the packed theatre howling with laughter. The ever popular ZBS improv group performed twice, each time drawing the audience into their madness and leaving them with stitches in their sides. Also making a return to the Cabaret was Josh Steinhouse and his balloon creations: The entire

audience and some artfully shaped balloons were called upon to help Josh create a fairy tale that was less than picturesque.

The icing on the cake were the surprise guest hosts, Grey Johnson and Katie Nunn. The duo returned from the 'real world' to host the Cabaret one last time. As usual, Grey and

Katie just couldn't seem to get any respect from the cast, crew and world in general. Questions to the stage manager were ignored, stories of answering phones for work were exchanged and biting self deprecating comments uttered. For their final skit, ZBS paid homage to Grey by exchanging increasingly exaggerated tales from his life and even sending troupe member, Jeff Thomas on to stage as Grey Johnson.

The Cabaret was an entertaining end to another successful Ursinus Fringe Festival. Though both the Philadelphia and Ursinus festivals are over, many of the performers can be seen performing on campus and in the area. We can only hope that next year's Fringe Fest can match or exceed the caliber of this one.

"Family Day is the opportune time to express familial appreciation... to show parents how much they care."

graduate students and fellows. So, on family day, a student could pick up some roses to share with their family and to support sick children across the country.

For more information about upcoming activities on campus, please contact the Leadership Development & Student Activities Office at studentactivities@ursinus.edu

The UC Writing Center? What's that?

Dr. Erec Smith
Writing Center Director

Writing: some people love it, some people hate it, some people are quite indifferent. Regardless of your attitude toward it, you have to do it! Whether you have to write an essay for a college course, a personal statement for law school, or a memo for your boss, the ability to write well is an invaluable skill.



Photo of Dr. Erec Smith courtesy of www.drew.edu

Fortunately for you, there is the Ursinus College Writing Center, a place where ALL writers can work on their writing.

-Love writing? Great. Come to the writing center to get feedback on your writing and get advice on persuasive strategies, paper arrangement, style and research. Every good writer can benefit from another pair of eyes.

-Hate writing? We sympathize and have ways of making the writing process a little less daunting. Our tutors (your knowledgeable peers) can help you with the rules and tricks of the trade for college-level writing—it's not that scary once you know what it's made of.

-Indifferent to writing? Too bad; you have to do it, anyway. Take solace in the writing center's ability to make the task go a bit more smoothly. Here, you can learn to make your writing more concise, efficient and less of a burden when a paper is due.

The best thing about the writing center is that it is staffed by fellow students who are skilled at writing but also know the stress that may come with having to write, in the first place. Writing tutors are not mini-teachers meant to tell you what to do. They are good writers meant to guide you along in the writing process, taking your intentions and ideas seriously as they assist you in conveying them in the clearest way possible.

So utilize the fabulous resource that is the Ursinus College Writing Center! Schedule online at http://www.jiffenow.com/grp/UC_writingcenter. Make an appointment at X4431, or just drop in during open hours. The Center is located on the third floor of Olin, room 302, and the hours of operation are Mon-Thurs, 11-3 and 7-11, Sun, 7-11.



Photo by Abigail Raymond

Juniors Justin Cunard (L) and Matt Whitman (R) in the process of performing "Immortality" by Pearl Jam at the Fringe Festival Cabaret last Saturday.

grizzly@ursinus.edu

Abroad In Germany: Culture shock!

Serena Mithbaokar
Grizzly Staff Writer

It is a common assumption for most people during their pre-study abroad time to think that their semester is going to be a vacation. That's half-true, considering the continuous field trips and being away on the weekends, especially if you decide to study abroad in Europe. Most people I have talked to consider Europe, or maybe, even still the English-speaking part of "West," in some ways to be even easier than studying in the probably the most generalized collective group of "third world countries." In Europe, most don't expect much of culture shock, if at all. A possibility of a change of lifestyle is out of consideration.

Before I arrived I had these preconceptions as well. For me, coming to the United States from India two years ago presented a huge culture shock that I am still getting used to. Was Deutschland a shocker? Yes, after three weeks, I am starting to feel like less of a tourist and maybe more of a local.

Returning back to the vacation aspect of study abroad, after studying in Japan and currently staying in Germany, I can say that it is impossible for someone to integrate into all aspects of life in a foreign country without having to experience any hardships. For instance, the workload may seem less on the surface, but in fact, the emotional load, is a lot more and is often underestimated.

The first two weeks mostly consist of classes. In Tübingen, we took classes with the Sprachinstitut

Tübingen Language Institute. The language instruction that I received in Germany was a lot different here than in America because America has a more conversational approach in teaching language. I took classes with other international students and then later, German being our common language—the first few days and began speaking German every waking hour. Because of this, I can feel my English writing getting choppy, and it feels weird to answer all those Facebook messages.

Most other shocks include dealing with locals and little friendly shocks such as dealing with how easy it is buy 1 Euro wine bottles from the supermarket and then drinking anonymously and carefree in public. I've experienced for the first time 20% tipping at a restaurant (they usually just round it up).

The biggest culture shock is being treated like a foreigner, because you are never treated like one in America, even if your appearance shouts "tourist." Political scenarios make perceptions by others even all the more confusing, and interesting, because most German people seem to enjoy a stimulating political discussion.

But I will take up this topic some other time, there is too much to cover. Right now I am in Berlin, so next week maybe I'll write about something more corporeal—one of the liveliest cities in Europe.



Photo courtesy of Megan Kaylor
The UC in Tübingen group poses for a fun shot on a recent excursion in Germany.

Up 'Til Dawn Awareness Week at UC

Eva Bromesco
Grizzly Staff Writer

Up 'Til Dawn, a small but dedicated group with a mission to spread awareness about St. Jude Children's Hospital, is celebrating its awareness week at Ursinus from Sept. 22-26.

St. Jude is the only hospital in the country that offers all services not covered by insurance free of charge. According to the St. Jude mission statement: "All patients accepted for treatment at St. Jude are treated without regard to the family's ability to pay."

It costs an estimated \$1.3 million to operate the research hospital every day, and much of this sum comes from the donations of the public. St. Jude specializes in

"Fight the yawn- stay awake to cure childhood cancer."

pediatric cancer treatment. Recent news from the hospital includes development on treatment that will not only slow the growth of brain tumors, but also turn those tumor cells into brain cells. Every day, thanks to the generosity of others, St. Jude makes progress in its quest to find cures for tragic pediatric diseases.

The way to get involved with this program is to join an Up 'Til Dawn team.

"This is a great service project for Greek organizations, sports teams, residence hall floors, and various organizations on campus," says Executive Director and Ursinus junior Zina Habib.

In the next few weeks, a representative from the hospital will be visiting campus to talk to students about different ways they can involve themselves in the admirable organization.

Up 'Til Dawn awareness week will offer fun activities for the campus intermingled with information distribution. Activities will include a Dormstorm on Thursday Sept. 25 during which members of Up 'Til Dawn will storm dorms to spread the word about St. Jude.

Friday will cap the week off with a "fun and wacky high heel race," says Habib. There will be prizes for this race, in addition to raffle prizes offered earlier in the week.

Up 'Til Dawn offers tons of ways for students to get involved in an extraordinary cause. The hospital's website refers to the program as "the coolest philanthropic program to hit college campuses across the nation", touting the program's motto: "Fight the yawn - stay awake to cure childhood cancer."

"Getting involved is easy and gratifying," Says Habib, "We want to stress awareness right now and just let people know we are here and that this is a great cause."

For more information on Up 'Til Dawn and this year's awareness week, e-mail Zina Habib at zihabib@ursinus.edu, or visit stjude.org for further information about volunteer programs that benefit the hospital and its patients.

Career Corner

Career Services
career@ursinus.edu

Focus on your major and career

When you were a kid, you probably knew exactly what you wanted to be when you grew up. Today, you may not be so sure. The good news is that if you haven't yet declared your major or zeroed in on a career you'd like to pursue, there's still plenty of time. Better yet, you don't have to agonize over these decisions. Career Services can help.

Talk to a career advisor. Consider using a career assessment tool. Assessment tools can tell you a lot about yourself, including things you aren't aware of or haven't thought much about. Or, they may verify what you already know. In general, assessment tools help you:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses—what you do well and what you could do better.
- Pinpoint your interests and match them with your strengths.
- Clarify your values, specifically what matters to you, e.g. making a lot of money or feeling that what you do makes a difference, working alone or as a part of a team.
- Look at the overlap among your strengths, interests, and values to identify corresponding majors or careers.

There are a number of assessment tools available to help you. One of the most accessible tools used at Ursinus College is called FOCUS. FOCUS is a self-paced, online career guidance tool used to assist you in self-assessment and career exploration. FOCUS is a comprehensive and easy to use program that helps you explore and analyze occupations based on your interests and work values. Just log on to the career services web page at www.ursinus.edu/career and click on FOCUS in the career exploration tab. Follow directions to create a new account and when asked for your "keycode" type bears. This keycode is the same for all students.

If you've put off career planning until now, it's time to take stock of your situation—to figure out where you are and where you'd like to be beyond graduation. In fact, this may be the best time to do it. Your degree is within your reach. Now is the time to embark on a voyage of self-discovery and figure out where you want to go.

Come to the FOCUS tutorial TODAY at 4pm in the Career Services office- Bomberger 110.

The staff of *The Grizzly* would like to thank Phi Kappa Sigma for kindly distributing *The Grizzly* to campus each week. Thanks, Phi Kapps!

David Foster Wallace: A fantastic author says farewell

Christopher Schaeffer

Grizzly Staff Writer

David Foster Wallace was never the sort of author who shied away from the heavy stuff—death, depression, despair. His stories and essays are riddled with suicides, crushed aspirations, and boiling lobsters. Yet his confrontation with these issues moved far beyond the adolescent way in which most writers deal with life's ironies. Death is never an ending in Wallace's works, it is never a sigh of self-pity and release in the fashion of Young Werther, it is another event in a series of events, a catalyst for grief and confusion and growth and questioning. In *Infinite Jest*, his most famous work, the suicide of patriarch James Incandenza is the inciting incident, not the climax. The 1170 page novel deals with the fall-out.

In a recent address to Kenyon graduates, Wallace explained (why in a graduation address? I don't know) that most adult suicides shoot themselves in the head. "They shoot the terrible master", the eidolon pulling the strings upstairs. On September 12th he was found dead. Hanged. Someone only vaguely familiar with his work may not be surprised. His oeuvre tends to the ironic and bleak. He had a history of depression, and the sensitive, alienated intellectuals in his work rarely got their happy endings. "His life was one long suicide note," wrote reviewer and UB professor Mark Schechner.

In that same Kenyon address, he also said, "The really important kind of freedom involves attention and awareness and discipline, and being able truly to care about other

"[The really important kind of freedom involves] being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them over and over in myriad petty, unsexy ways every day."

people and to sacrifice for them over and over in myriad petty, unsexy ways every day."

See, here's what really separated Wallace from his peers in the world of contemporary letters. While nobody did irony better than him, much of his career was an attempt to escape from irony. Irony, to him, was a temporary narcotic, a way of sidestepping the big questions that, he argued, deserved to be confronted rather than "transcended" or "subverted". What is hope? Why are we here? Is it foolish to believe in something greater than yourself? We're conditioned to think these questions are "trite", or at best unanswerable. Wallace, holding up the late masterpieces of Dostoyevsky as an example, argued that our modern cult of irony is simply a snide armor against the vulnerability created by staring at these terrifyingly large questions. Where, he asked, were the writers willing to look stupidly earnest, sincere like dopey high-schoolers,

brave enough to risk literary exile in order to probe what was really important, instead of merely satirizing or trivializing it? He holds up Hippolite's "Essential Statement" as an example of a beautiful, honest, and searching piece of prose that, in a modern novel, would be a punch-line, put in the mouth of a pedant or overblown child.

What Foster missed, though, is that he was exactly the writer he was looking for, the pure antidote to the toxicity he saw in literature's ironic smoke-screen. Through all of his satiric, hilarious observations, his trenchantly observed stories of failute and travesty, he never stopped searching for a meaning. Even his most trivial journalistic

assignments he uncovered profound truth. Covering the Adult Video Awards in Las Vegas he shined a light on male vulnerability, the tender self-loathing of self-loving. Writing about the Maine Lobster Festival for *Gourmet*, he wound up asking about the definition of pain, and sentence, and the morality of self-interest. Extraordinarily, literally asking, beseeching readers of the article to send in their own takes on the issues.

He never pretended to know, to hold a special knowledge over his readers. In fact, he was often gently self-deprecating about his prodigious childhood. He asked, he wondered, with a beautiful wit and honesty. One of the biggest problems he ever tackled was that of pain, psychic and physical. What it meant; how to deal with it. In *Infinite Jest*, he wrote that "the so-called 'psychotically depressed' person who tries to kill herself doesn't do so out of quote 'hopelessness... the person in whom... agony reaches a certain unendurable level will kill herself the same way a trapped person will eventually jump from the window of a burning high-rise.'"

I can't begin to guess what was going through his mind on his last night on earth, whether he felt like a tortured artist or a lobster clawing at the lid of his pot. As for us, the American readers, what can we do but feel angry, and betrayed, and sad, and sympathetic?

One of America's great teachers is gone. The tide is way out.



Photo courtesy of wordpress.com

The Era of Tyler Perry: Movies, Television, and Stage

Roger Lee

Grizzly Features Editor

Tyler Perry has become a household name in the entertainment industry. His overnight success has pushed him into the limelight as a full-fledge entrepreneur. His credits include a wide range of movies, television shows, and musicals where he has served as creator, executive producer, actor and much more.

Looking at the life and career of Tyler Perry has helped me realize the importance of well-roundedness in any profession. It is the key ingredient in reaching superstar status in the entertainment industry. Nowadays, it takes more than just talent or creativity to have longevity in the business. It takes that special "it factor", as Simon Cowell would put it. If anyone has "it," it would have to be Tyler Perry. He has broadened his horizons by dabbling in writing, directing, producing, and almost every production aspect of his plays and television shows. The man even finds time to make special appearances and occasionally have a leading role in some of his works.

Mr. Perry is most famous for his portrayal of Madea, the elderly woman featured in many of his plays. Madea has a loud mouth, a short temper and carries a handgun for protection. Once Madea takes the stage, this 6-foot towering "woman" exudes comic relief, making audiences forget that she is in fact Tyler Perry. He is a master of disguise, playing characters of different ages, occupations,

and sexes. His acting credits include numerous Madea movies, *Why Did I Get Married* and *The Family That Preys*.

His newest flick, *The Family That Preys*, has a lot of promise as a modern day soap opera written for a modern day audience. In the high-end business and technological society we live in today, Perry masterfully draws on the business world as inspiration for his newest film. This is a new avenue for Perry as he usually draws on more personal themes such as relationships and family. However, the new business world scenery gave Perry a chance to take a profession sometimes portrayed as cold and inhumane and manipulate it into a personal environment where "real life" occurs.

This is one of Tyler Perry's strengths. He has the ability to take any plot or focal point of a play or movie and make it personable. His next work could involve a hospital or an insane asylum, yet Perry would find a way to transform that drab environment into a social and entertaining place.

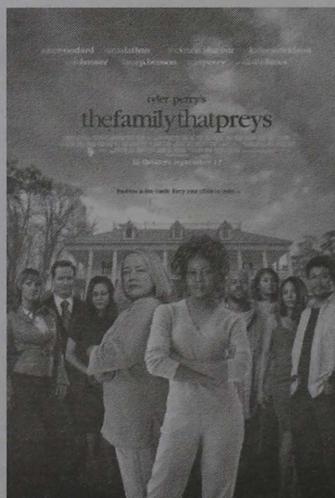


Photo courtesy of imdb.com

He is truly a modern day transformer. This, coupled with Perry's strong sense of music, religion, and a moral for every story, he is able to produce something great for the entire family.

As if musicals and movies weren't enough, Tyler Perry has even taken his work to the small screen with the-TBS station's hit "Tyler Perry presents House of Payne". This family-oriented comedy features an ever-growing plot line that thickens within each episode. To me, the series is a play within a television show. This is most likely due to Perry's strong theatrical background. It may also have to do with his dramatic childhood and life situations that serve as inspiration in most of Perry's projects.

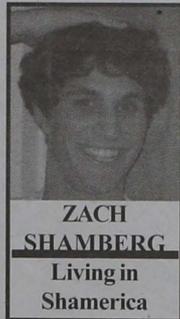
His first play, "I Know I've Been Saved" focused on adult survivors of child abuse and came directly from Perry's personal experiences in the matter. He wrote personal letters to himself to get rid of all the pent up anger and aggression from his childhood. This practice of writing out your past was examined on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 1992, the time Tyler Perry decided to give writing a try. The rest was history. Whether it is a play, movie, television show or personal letter, Tyler Perry is truly a creative icon and a force to be reckoned with.

Auto-tune and the demise of rap music

Chris Brown has done it. Lil Wayne just discovered it. T-Pain's entire music career revolves around it. And Kanye West is supposedly creating an entire album about it. No, it's not women, booze, or fancy cars. The most popular commodity in rap music at this very moment is Auto-Tune, a mechanical device that corrects a singer's pitch and covers up inaccuracies in timing and tone. Am I the only listener who feels slighted by this twisted audio mechanism? The cassette disks I've purchased and the thousands of songs I've downloaded illegally no longer mean anything, because they reek of superficiality and forgery.

Let me put it this way: If I can do it myself, I have no reason to buy it. I'm not going to purchase *The Right Stuff* on DVD if I have a one-way ticket to the moon. When it comes to music, I cannot in good conscience buy an album from a performer who makes me sound like one of the Four Tenors. Have we all forgotten the musical horror that was Milli Vanilli? Granted, those guys had bad hair and dressed like two of MC Hammer's disgraced backup dancers, but we're still in the same general ballpark when it comes to Auto-Tune. The fact is, this is a device that masks inconsistencies and corrects a singer's mistakes. Anybody who makes a living as a vocalist and charges the general public \$17.99 for an album (in a supposed "economic crisis") should certainly not be making any mistakes. In fact, it should be the best damn singing money can buy. However, in a world full of Hannah Montana, the Jonas Brothers, and The Killers, music fans have certainly not demanded much from the artists they love. Case in point: one of the most successful musicals of all-time, *High School Musical*, sounded more like NASA was mixing sound waves from a distant planet than a typical show-and-dance spectacular. Why are people "stars" if they can't sing in the first place? If rappers claim to be poor singers, keep them away from a piano and pitch-device! Let them do what they do best: spit rhymes and buy machine guns from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (sorry, T.I.). No one listens to rap for unbelievable vocals. Do you see what's beginning to happen? Auto-Tune will be the downfall of rap music...no, **all music**. Here's why:

Let's face it: rap music is all about street credentials. And just because you're from the streets doesn't guarantee a solid career, either. 50 Cent was shot **nine** times, and even he can't stay at the top of the music charts. With such a fickle audience, artists must make a strong impression through their music. Auto-Tune, however, may



ZACH
SHAMBERG
Living in
Shamerica

not be the right way to do that. We are talking about a trend that didn't exactly begin in the inner cities or the nightclubs. In 1998, the artist Cher recorded her hit song "Believe" with Auto-Tune as the primary singing device. While she would forever change the way I felt about pop music ("Mom, turn that off, now!"), Cher set into motion a series of events that would conspire to alter the predestined course of rap music. Here's my question: how can a rapper like Lil Wayne be proud of the fact that he's beginning to sound like the lovechild of Cher and Eric Cartman? When I think of crazy drugs, ridiculous instances of spending money, and lots of booze, I don't necessarily think of...no, wait, I do think of Cher. She is the Godmother of Auto-Tune, and the one responsible for your favorite rapper's new sound. How's your street cred now?

The beauty of rap is the artist's scratchy voice and angry grumble. It is the act of pouring one's heart and soul into a piece of music without worrying about pitch or tone. Those days, music listeners, are over. You now have guys like Kanye West who will debut a song at an awards show, hear back from fans about their displeasure with the music, and head straight for Auto-Tune to fix up everything in time for an album release. Granted, "Love Lockdown" is a side of Kanye I never thought we would see, but what happened to rapping "Through the Wire" with his jaw completely wired shut? I don't think anyone really listens to rap for the production values. If they did, how can we possibly explain the explosion of "freestyling" in underground clubs and city streets? Rap is not about sounding pitch-perfect, nor is it about pleasing fans. It revolves around the idea of getting a certain message out to the people, whether they like it or not.

Soon, no one will care about a rapper's street credentials. Anybody who purchases an album won't even look at the song titles. Not even the world's greatest lyricist, Jay-Z, will be able to release a recognized beat to the public. Auto-Tune will change the way we listen to music and what we expect of it. Rap will be transformed into pop, with artists like David Banner, The Game, and Ludacris making amends by singing duets with the likes of Pink and Duffy (it's already happening now). I have no problem with crossing over music boundaries, but when those boundaries are completely obliterated by Auto-Tune, people will realize just how great the old days used to be. Until then, enjoy your "Lollipop" and "Bartender". We'll all be listening along soon enough.



Photos courtesy of google image search

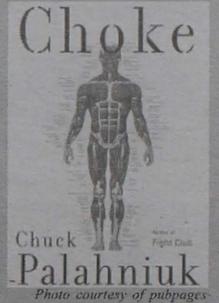
Do you think about movies, music, politics, or books? Do you love to write? Are you currently single? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, e-mail Zach Shamberg at zashamberg@ursinus.edu today!

Choke on Screen

Abigail Raymond

Grizzly Staff Writer

It is rare when people who love movies and people who love books can become one and appreciate something together. Usually, one hates the other for ruining their favorite work, because apparently no one in Hollywood understands literature and vice versa. But now we finally have a reason to rejoice! This fall, the film adaptation of the Chuck



Palahniuk book, *Choke*, will be hitting movie screens.

Choke is not a tale for the weak willed or those with an over-developed sense of propriety. The central character, Victor, is a recovering sex addict with an abusive childhood. But Palahniuk isn't the kind of author who will give you these facts and expect you to infer the rest. Oh no, he enjoys giving you the full details of Victor's relapses and flashbacks. And I mean *full* detail. This is not to say that the book is pornographic, but Palahniuk does not shy away from the more carnal aspect of his character's life. This does take some getting used to and clogs the narrative at times by distracting you from what is going on beyond the sex.

In anyone else's hands, Victor's life could easily end up as fodder for some sort of Hallmark Channel movie. Palahniuk crafts a story of a man searching for direction and happiness in his life, without ever stating that it is the heart of the story. Victor wants to love a woman without letting sex get in the way first. He wants to make amends with a dying parent. He's working multiple jobs to pay for care for his mother and return to med school. Feel good story, right? How about the fact that the woman he loves wants to have sex with him and in return she'll help his mom live longer? Or that his mother is a former addict who kidnapped Victor from foster homes each time she got out of jail? What about the fact that one of his 'jobs' involves conning people out of money at restaurants by choking on food? Nothing is as black and white in Palahniuk's world as we might like it to be.

As far as the nitty gritty of the writing, *Choke* is able to stand among other contemporary works without shame. The chapters in which Victor flashes back to his past paint a vivid and heart wrenching portrait of an unhappy childhood. Palahniuk excels at character description and snapshots of the lives of those on the fringes of society. Again, the narrative does suffer from this at times, but it also allows the book to be read in short chunks, like individual short stories. Palahniuk, like others of his ilk, seems to write for those with short attention spans.

If you are a fan of his other well known work, *Fight Club*, *Choke* should be right up your alley. If you are a first time reader of Palahniuk, then it may be better to start with something more accessible, such as *Lullaby* or *Survivor*. And certainly if you plan on seeing the movie this fall I recommend picking up *Choke* from the Myrin Library or your local bookstore.

"So long Shea Stadium" is continued from front page.

...anywhere from \$30-\$70. If trends continue as they did from 1997 to 2005, when growth in stadium revenue far outpaced the rise in attendance, seat and ticket revenues will make the Yankees an additional \$253 million. This enormous increase does not even account for concession and sponsorship revenue, which combined could net the Yankees front office more than \$100 million a year.

The new stadium certainly seems like a gold mine for the Yankees organization, but baseball fans will always have a special place in their heart for the old Yankee Stadium. Dubbed "The House that Ruth Built" by a Philadelphia native sports writer named Fred Lieb, the storied ballpark has seen the likes of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe Dimaggio and Mickey Mantle. It has hosted the most postseason and World Series games ever, including 26 World Series Victories by the Yankees. It is only fitting that Steinbrenner chose to build a new stadium at the very end of his career. He probably will always work with the Yankees in some capacity, but it looks as though he is ready to step away from the grind and hand the owning duties to his son, Hank. What better time to tear down the most historic stadium ever, right? Seems like Mr. Steinbrenner wanted to go out with Yankee stadium, ending two eras at once. He has been highly criticized for his massive ego, but his commitment to winning has never been questioned.

Unfortunately for the Yankees, it looks like they have played their last postseason game in

Yankee Stadium. All but eliminated from postseason play, the Yankees will miss out on October baseball for the first time in 13 years! As weird as it is to imagine postseason baseball without the Yankees, they are still making history this year. Star shortstop and future hall-of-famer, Derek Jeter, recently broke the all-time hits record in Yankees stadium, passing Lou Gehrig for the top spot. Jeter's run at the record was one thing for fans to get excited about in the last season of the park's existence.

People will always talk highly of Yankee Stadium, but the same cannot be said for the home of the New York Mets, Shea Stadium. Ever since its inception in 1964, Shea has been condemned for its unsanitary conditions and referred to by many as "The Dump", because it was built on ground that was originally a marshland and dump site. The stadium has had major trouble with drainage, plumbing and rodents. Pipes burst from time to time, when it rains there are constant leaks in the press box, and the dugout

often smells like sewage (not quite an alluring place for a professional to want to play). Shea was also built right next to La Guardia Airport, causing delays as players waited for the loud planes to pass by.

Despite all of its deficiencies, the stadium is fondly remembered by many. The Mets won two World Series Championships at Shea Stadium, the first in 1969 and the second in 1986. Who could forget the 1986 World Series and Bill Buckner's famous error that lead to the Mets game six win? With the game all but won by the Red Sox, Mookie Wilson hit a routine grounder to first basemen Bill Buckner, who let the ball go right through his legs, allowing the winning run to score. The Mets then proceeded to win game seven and then captured the World Series Crown. It was one of the most unforgettable moments in the games history, one of the few memories the Mets can say they were a part of.

The Mets will replace Shea Stadium with the brand new Citi Field. Mets fans will be sad to hear that it will not be as expensive or extravagant as the New Yankee Stadium. The projected cost is \$400,000 less than the \$1.2 billion monstrosity being built in the Bronx. It will most closely resemble Ebbets Field, former stadium of the Brooklyn Dodgers, not coincidentally. Mets owner Fred Wilpon grew up in Brooklyn and went to school with Sandy Kauffax, a former Dodger and one of the most dominant pitchers of all time.

Unlike the Yankees, the Mets are still in a good position to make it to the playoffs this year. But even if they do not, both New York teams can look back and boast very successful tenures at their stadiums. Fans will undoubtedly have trouble letting go of the memories created in both stadiums. The Yankees' and Mets' owners, on the other hand will have an easier time letting go come 2009.



THE SCOREBOX

date	sport	opponent	results
9/20	Football	Juniata	21-17, win
9/20	MSoccer	Gettysburg	1-0, loss
9/20	WSoccer	F&M	2-1, win-2OT
9/20	Volleyball	F&M	3-1, loss
9/20	Field Hockey	Haverford	10-2, win

UPCOMING GAMES

date	sport	opponent	time
9/27	MSoccer	at McDaniel	1 pm
9/27	Field Hockey	Dickinson*	12 pm
9/27	Cross-Country	at Belmont Plateau	W:1230 pm M:130 pm
9/27	WSoccer	Dickinson*	2 pm
9/27	Volleyball	Dickinson*	1 pm
9/28	Field Hockey	at West Chester (Snell Cup)	12 pm
9/30	Volleyball	at Bryn Mawr *	7 pm
10/1	WSoccer	at Bryn Mawr *	4 pm

*centennial conference opponent

Interested in writing for the Sports Section in *The Grizzly*? Email Katie Callahan at kacallahan@ursinus.edu.