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The Grizzly, November 6, 2008

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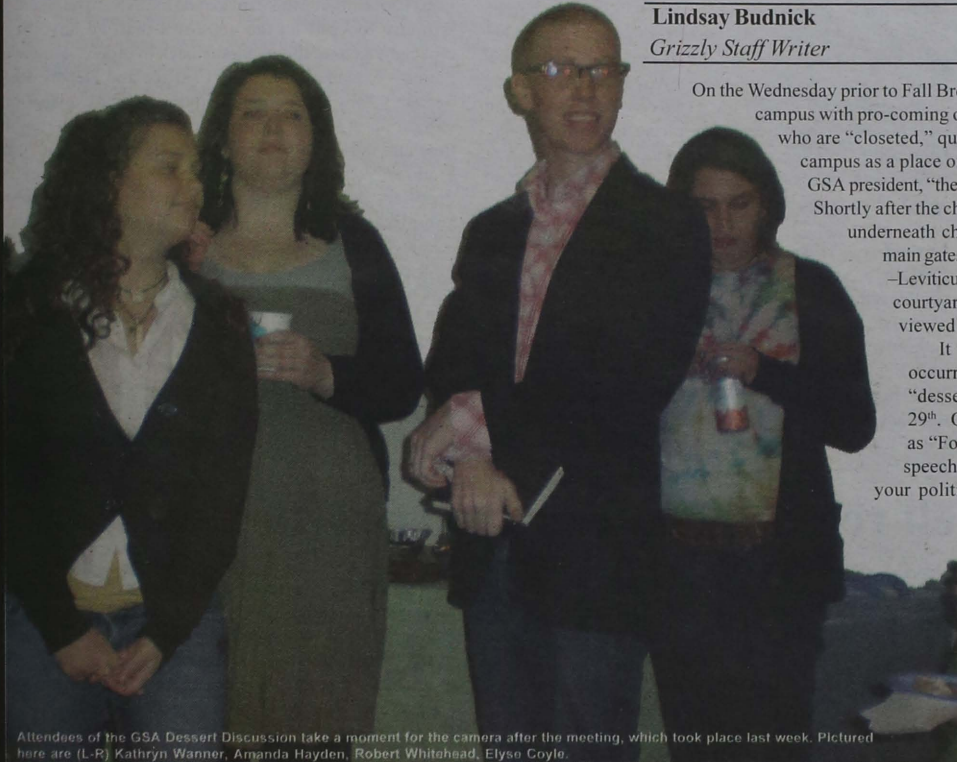
The Grizzly

Thursday, November 6, 2008

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Diversity... what's that? GSA sponsors dessert discussion

Lindsay Budnick
Grizzly Staff Writer



Attendees of the GSA Dessert Discussion take a moment for the camera after the meeting, which took place last week. Pictured here are (L-R) Kathryn Wanner, Amanda Hayden, Robert Whitehead, Elyse Coyle.

On the Wednesday prior to Fall Break, the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) "chalked" the Ursinus campus with pro-coming out and pro-acceptance phrases in order to encourage people who are "closeted," questioning, or hiding their sexual identity to see the Ursinus campus as a place of acceptance and warmth. According to Ryan Sullivan, the GSA president, "the chalking done by the GSA [was] to make people feel safe...". Shortly after the chalking was done, however, quotes from Leviticus appeared underneath chalking done by the GSA. In places such as Olin and the main gates, the phrase "You shall not lie with a male and with a female." -Leviticus 18:22 was chalked next to the GSA writings. Also, in Reimert courtyard an openly hateful phrase was scrawled in chalk, able to be viewed by the entire campus.

It was these actions that sparked both the discussion which occurred at the Town Hall meeting on October 22 and also the "dessert discussion" which was held on Wednesday, October 29th. On flyers handed out describing the event it was advertised as "For some, it's a religious commandment. For some, it's hate speech. Only *together* can we begin the discussion. Whatever your politics, your faith, your ideas, all are invited to join in the conversation." It was the purpose of the discussion to bring together people with all different beliefs and opinions, and that is what happened. The room was filled before the discussion even began, and people were filing in well after it had started. There were people from all different areas on campus and from many different organizations. Small group discussions occurred before the event even began. The room was alive with the exchange of ideas.

Robert Whitehead, a sophomore, led the discussion and was instrumental in the planning of the meeting. It was not just a one-person job, however, for many people were involved in the conversations which went along the planning of the meeting. The lead off question was concerned with deciphering the Leviticus quotes as either hate speech or a religious belief. This question sparked other topics such as intentions behind writings, and the question of freedom of speech. Safety on campus was another big discussion point, and representatives from the administration and Residence Life were there to field these questions, as well as professors to give their views on the matters. Kim Taylor, the director of Campus Safety, and a participant in the conversation had this to say about it, "I think last night was good. It was a great opportunity for

Photo by Lindsay Budnick

**YOUR VOICES DID
MATTER...
SO, THANKS FOR
VOTING U.C.
THESE GUYS
APPRECIATE IT!**



"Diversity... what's that? GSA sponsors dessert discussion" is continued on page 6.

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News in Brief: Chinese mudslide, George Bush's absence

Gabrielle Poretta

Grizzly Co-Editor-in-Chief

November 2, 2008

LONG BEACH, CA — On Sunday morning, at 8:30 a.m., an anonymous call led police to five bodies in a homeless camp in California. All five people died from what appeared to be gunshot wounds, but Long Beach Police officers were not yet able to provide any further information about the victims. The officers have also said they do not have any suspects or motives for the crime as of Sunday night. Though the call was anonymous, Deputy Chief Robert Luna said that police are attempting to get back in contact with the person who made the call. Police believe the person to know more than he or she let on over the phone. Officers investigating the case have urged anyone who has information about the crime to call LBPD.

November 2, 2008

JERUSALEM — According to Israeli newspaper Haaretz, internal security is concerned that extremists may attempt an assassination on an Israeli leader in order to disrupt the peace process with Palestinians. "We discern a willingness among the far-right to resort to using guns in order to prevent progress in the diplomatic process," head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, Yuval Diskin, told the Israeli cabinet. Diskin's comments were made at a closed session and were only released to Haaretz on a condition

of anonymity by a participant. These words came only two days before the anniversary of the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Prime Minister. According to the anonymous source, Diskin said the Shin Bet sees a group's willingness to use guns in an attempt to stop diplomatic processes and political leaders. United States President George Bush had hoped for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians before he leaves the office in January, but the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert resigned in September amid allegations of corruption. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's spokesman has said that Livni and Kadima Party leader gave up efforts to form a new coalition government and are seeking to hold early general elections in February. Until someone forms a coalition in the current Knesset or wins general elections, Olmert will continue to lead Israel as its interim prime minister.

November 2, 2008

CHINA — State-run media reported that landslides in southwestern China killed at least 20 people over the weekend. According to the Xinhua news agency and local authorities, 42 others were missing in the Yunnan Province after the landslide. Xinhua also reported that more than 1,000 homes collapsed under the mud or at least sustained damage. To support those affected, officials were delivering tents, blankets and clothes. As of right now, no other information is available.

November 2, 2008

WASHINGTON, DC — Media has noticed, in the last days of the election season, the absence of one man — George W. Bush. According to CNN, reporters began asking questions after the White House schedule last week showed Bush had no public events all week, but would spend most of his time at Camp David. White House Press Secretary Dana Perino offered this explanation to CNN, "The president is pretty focused on the activities that we have here, especially getting this economy back in order." However, Perino's explanation wouldn't suffice and Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto offered a more detailed explanation. "The truth is we're also trying to stay out of the public limelight during this period of the election season," said Fratto. "There are two individuals out there running for President of the United States, and we don't want to complicate that for them." Political experts have acknowledged the reality that Bush's unpopularity could be a political liability for Republican candidate John McCain. Stephen Hess, a veteran staffer of the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations and an advisor to Presidents Ford and Carter even told CNN, "You can be sure that if George W. Bush was more popular, he'd be out there." Perino also informed CNN that the Bush family will remain out of sight for the remainder of the election season.

Falling gas prices spell relief for drivers, oil profits drop

Sam Wildonger

Grizzly Staff Writer

The upcoming election has left the nation divided on many issues. There is one thing, however, that seems to please everyone: falling gas prices. After a long summer of watching gas prices rise, consumers are thankful to see them finally under three dollars, a low not seen since January. The same people rejoicing over the current low are also wondering why this is happening and how it will affect other commodities.

According to CNN, there are multiple reasons for the sudden decline.

One is the rapid decline in the demand for oil. With the downward economic spiral, people are becoming more and more cautious with their money. They are less likely to go on unnecessary trips; therefore, the demand from both the gas pumps and the airports has decreased.

In addition, some refineries, which were damaged in the south due to hurricanes, are reopening. Thus, more gasoline is being produced and an overabundance of gasoline is being introduced into an already dwindling market causing dirt cheap costs.

According to Save Energy, another reason gas has become more affordable is because of the change in season, some seasonal federal taxes have been eliminated. This means that gas becomes cheaper to both refine and import. Like most other companies affected by the falling economy, oil companies are also downsizing.

The Internet Post confesses that oil companies actually use many contractors to ship oil and do many other odd jobs than the average person expects. Many of these contractors are suffering credit

Although gas prices are on a steady decline, many other commodities remain at an all time high. CNN reports that companies who have lost money early this year are now sticking to their prices and allowing their profit margins to expand. Therefore, they can attempt to recoup some of their losses. This gives the companies who did well an excuse to keep their prices high as well. Therefore, consumers are paying much more for products than it actually costs to make them. As the holiday season approaches, some companies plan on advertising big sales. Really, though, they will just be pricing the items what it actually costs to make them.

Analysts say that in the upcoming months, gas prices will continue to decrease, hitting a low, some say, around \$2.00 per gallon. Some debate that the decline of the gas prices are actually a result of the upcoming election.



Photo by Matt Whitman

Dropping gas prices are a relief to consumers, but not oil companies.

problems due to the current market. Since no one wants to sell to someone with bad credit, the oil companies are forced to get rid of these contractors. Therefore, their costs decrease and so does their profit margins. The combination of all of these reasons has caused the sudden drop in oil prices over the last couple of weeks.

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Philly fans celebrate World Series victory at parade

Lindsay Adams
Grizzly Staff Writer

Anxiousness filled the car when we found out the trains were packed and stopped running. It was beginning to seem like it would be impossible to make it into Philadelphia for the Phillies victory parade last Friday. The only other way into the city was to drive—something that all news and radio stations were advising against. The excitement of the parade took over, as we spontaneously began to drive into the city—discovering a deserted Schuylkill Expressway. Everyone in the car's hopes became optimistic when we realized it was possible to share the excitement of the parade with tens of thousands of other people in Philadelphia.

When we finally arrived in the city, the streets were flooded with fans adorned in red, white, and blue. Philadelphia was brought to life with the Phillies excited fans—excited because it was the first sports championship brought to the city in 25 years. Freshman Ashley Cattai was one of the lucky Ursinus students who made it into the city for the parade and celebration. She said, "It was touching to see the whole city come together—strangers hugging and celebrating as if they've known each other for years!"

Gallup: Public interest and early voting

Lisa Jobe
Grizzly Staff Writer

With the presidential election upon us, a look at the national polls is more revealing than ever. Perhaps unsurprisingly, after a tumultuous year and campaign, the economy is the issue at the front of American's minds as they get ready to cast their votes. Fifty-five percent of adults rated the economy as "extremely important" in their decision. Immediately below the economy were issues such as healthcare, energy/gas prices, and the war in Iraq. Only about a quarter of adults listed the environment and immigration as their top issues. Interestingly, while Democrats and Republicans are in agreement that the economy is the top issue, the Republicans are almost equally interested in terrorism and moral values. The second most important issue for Democrats is healthcare; in contrast, healthcare is not in the top five issues for Republicans.

As a first-year student and first-time voter myself, I was very interested to see that out of 13% of registered voters, 65% were planning to vote for Obama, with 31% supporting McCain. Over half of these first-time voters are 18 to 29 years old. This skew of young people toward Obama could help come Election Day, as it looks like there will be a large turnout of first-time voters. In fact, the polls are looking pretty good for Obama—in general polls of registered voters, Obama has a lead over McCain by about 10%, and about 7 out of 10 Americans believe Obama will win, regardless of who they support.

Of course, it's too early to make any assumptions about the outcome of this race. There have been historic incidents of the candidate who was trailing behind

As the Phillies rode down Broad Street on flat bed trucks, noise echoed off the building's walls. Fans hung out of windows, climbed walls and trees, and watched the parade from balconies to try and catch a glimpse of the coaches and players that brought home the team's first World Championship in twenty-eight years. Freshman Chris Polster climbed up on a Hummer to see part of the parade. He said, "It was the only way possible to see the parade and avoid the chaos of the streets."

Leading the procession, Pat Burrell rode down the street on a horse drawn carriage, as numerous flatbed trucks followed filled with the players. The Phanatic, the team's mascot, got fans excited while Charlie Manuel, the team's manager, pumped the World Series Championship trophy in the air.



Photo courtesy of nytimes.com

Thousands of screaming Phillies fans flocked to the city for the Victory Parade on Halloween last week.

"The players loved every moment and it was obvious how much they appreciated the fans, she said. "I will never forget October 31, 2008!"

suddenly come up and win the election—the best example of this is the 1980 presidential election, in which Jimmy Carter was ahead of Ronald Reagan by 8 points in the last few weeks leading up to the election, but a last-minute debate changed all that and Reagan comfortably defeated Carter. And of course, all of us remember the 2000 election, in which Al Gore won the popular vote, but George W. Bush won the electoral vote and became the president. Furthermore, McCain still has a firm hold on religious white voters. Sixty-five percent of non-Hispanic white voters who say they attend church weekly are supporting McCain, while only 28% of that group is behind Obama. Conversely, 56% of non-Hispanic white voters who say they attend church rarely or never are voting for Obama, and 35% of this group is behind McCain. Interestingly, McCain's hold on religious white voters has remained fairly static since polls asking the same thing were conducted in August.

The polls are also a great indicator of voter turnout on Election Day. According to a recent Gallup poll, 92% of registered voters say they've given the election "quite a lot or some thought." Similar levels of attention were present in 1992 and 2004, which were both big turnout years. Conversely, the level of interest was 78% and 83% in 1996 and 2000 respectively, both of which were lower-turnout elections. There's also a significant number of voters who have already voted, either through absentee ballots or early voting—21% of registered voters. Another 12% say they still plan to vote before Election Day. Among these early voters, more seem to have voted for Obama than McCain (55% to 40%), but among those who say they'll vote on Election Day, the spread is much closer: 48% Obama, 45% McCain.

All polls and analyses come from Gallup, Inc.'s election website at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/election2008.aspx>.

Bored? Need to do some holiday shopping before you head home for break? Check out these Special Interest Housing (SPINT) events!

Musser Hall

*November 8, 2008
Japanese Festival
Held in Olin 107

*November 20, 2008
Arabic Dance Party
Held in Musser

*December 2, 2008
Christmas Event

Hobson Hall

*December (Dates TBA)
Operation Christmas Child

Donate a wrapped shoebox filled with small toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to help a child in need

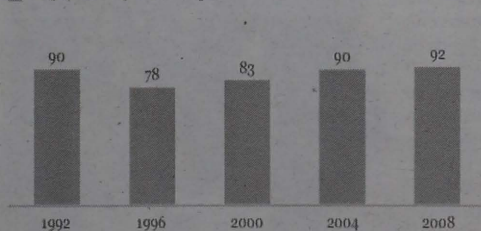
*December (Dates TBA)
Ten Thousand Villages Sale

Come purchase fair trade jewelry, home decor, and gifts from artisan groups from more than 30 countries!

Thought Given to the Election, Recent Presidential Elections

Based on registered voters

■ % Quite a lot of/Some thought



GALLUP POLL

Health insurers to pay therapy bills for Autistic Children?

Julia Fox

Grizzly Staff Writer

Rather recently, a debate regarding autism has been brought to the public's attention: many parents are unable to effectively help their autistic children lead healthy and happy lives because they lack the necessary assets. Some states now have laws in place that require health insurers to pay a substantial portion of therapy bills for autistic children, but a great number do not. Parents and autism lobbyists are working hard to change this fact.

According to AutismSpeaks.org, autism is a neurobiological disorder that affects 1 in 150 individuals. Boys are four times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with autism, and individuals of all races, social classes and religions are

equally vulnerable. Those with autism typically have trouble interacting and communicating with others. They may need to follow strict-routines and exhibit obsessive, repetitious behaviors. These symptoms range from mild to severe.

Presently, the Individuals with Disabilities Act guarantees autistic children a public education that will meet their special needs. By law, an autistic child's education must be free, appropriate, and allow for educational progress. Placement in the educational system

Lawmakers have to decide whether or not to allow these new bills to pass. By voting against them, they are "voting against parents who are struggling to do the best for their children."

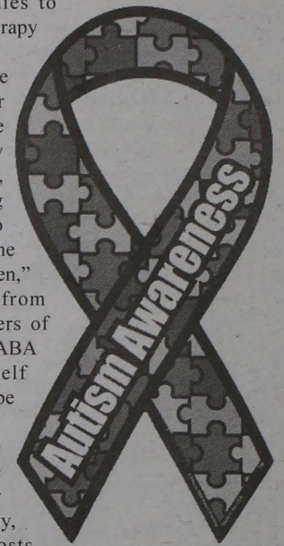
is determined by the Early Intervention Program. The Individuals with Disabilities Act guarantees grants to states that provide programs that deal with early intervention. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), speech therapy, occupational and physical therapy, and psychological evaluations are all helpful in minimizing the impact of autism on an individual's life, and they are all often included in the Early Intervention Program.

Today, a major problem for autistic individuals and their families is the cost of care. As aforementioned, children in all states are guaranteed a free education, and some states provide various forms of therapy to autistic children in the educational system. However, many children lack proper treatment outside of school. One of the most common and useful treatments for autism, ABA, teaches behaviors through a series of rewards and consequences. Unfortunately, ABA is extremely expensive. According to MSNBC, ABA can cost families around \$50,000 each year. Currently, Indiana, Texas, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Florida, South Carolina and Louisiana are of the few states that require health insurers to help

pay for autism treatment. In other states, families are expected to bear the burden of steep medical bills on their own. Many families are unable to incur this cost, and children go untreated. In cases where insurance covers ABA, families often end up paying only about \$3,000 each year. Following suit with the seven aforementioned states, some states are forcing health insurance companies to cover these costs. Autism Speaks, an organization that increases awareness of autism and helps protect autistic individuals, is currently endorsing bills in multiple states to require health

insurance companies to financially cover therapy for autism.

Lawmakers have to decide whether or not to allow these new bills to pass. By voting against them, they are "voting against parents who are struggling to do the best for their children," says a source from MSNBC. Supporters of these bills say that ABA has proven itself effective and would be well worth any cost. Although it would be pricey for insurance companies to cover this type of therapy, and insurance costs would rise (although less than 1 percent) the argument can be made that ABA made affordable through health insurance will save money in the end, when autistic individuals are capable of living outside of care facilities. The ethical issues concerning the passing of these bills revolve around the argument of whether autism is an educational or a medical challenge. Of course, if it is simply an educational issue, systems already in effect are legally adequate. If it is decided that autism should be treated as a medical malady, than these bills should surely pass.



TV responsible for teen pregnancy? Rand Corp says yes

Kristi Blust

Grizzly News Editor

Contraceptive use education, absent parents, peers, declining religiosity- who's to blame for teen pregnancy? According to the Rand Corporation, a nonprofit institution specializing in research focused on social and economic issues, racy television is to blame. Their findings, the first to uncover a link between exposure to sexual material on TV and teen pregnancy, show that teens exposed to the most sexual programming were twice as likely as teens, watching less of this material to become pregnant before they reach 20 years of age.

The study's author, behavioral scientist, Anita Chandra and her colleagues interviewed 1461 teens ages 12-17 over the phone, speaking with them between 2001 and 2004. According to an article posted on MSNBC, the interviews focused on the television watching habits of teens, their sexual knowledge, behavior, and attitudes. Respondents were asked how often they watched 23 programs popular with teens at the time of the survey. Some of the programs included "Sex and the City" and "That '70s Show." Chandra remarked that of all the programs, sit-coms had the most sexual content, both in dialogue and the behavior of the characters.

While only published Monday, this study has already gotten its share of criticism. Elizabeth Schroeder, executive director of Answer, a teen sex education program based at Rutgers University, says the study fails to account for the roles of self-esteem, family values, and income on teen

pregnancy. Schroeder contends, "the media does have an impact, but we don't know the full extent of it because there are so many other factors."

While the authors of this study do not deny the role of such factors in teen's decisions to become sexually active, Chandra and her colleagues stress the importance of monitoring the TV habits of teens. Becoming familiar with the types of shows teens are watching, and taking the time to watch those shows with them is a great opportunity for parents to talk to their teens about sex.

While it would be impossible to shield teens from every sexual display in the media, limits on when teens can watch racy programming and how much may be appropriate says Chandra. According to the researchers, many TV programs fail to show realistic repercussions of sex, such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The teen pregnancy rate in the United States has decreased considerably since the early 1990s, but the rate remains one of the highest among the world's industrialized nations. Nearly 1 million teen women between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant each year in the U.S. What is not often shown on TV or in the movies is that pregnant teens are more likely than other teens to drop out of high school and live in poverty.



Photo courtesy of www.thesun.co.uk

Carrie and pals responsible for teen pregnancy? New study links sitcoms to increased sexual activity among teenagers.

So, do UC students think steamy TV programs are causing teens to go out and get freaky? Junior dance and communications major, Roger Lee, has mixed feelings, "I think it (TV with sexual content) does encourage sexual behavior in adults, but not in children. I think it's important for adults to monitor what teens are watching. Parents should also talk to teens about the difference between sexual encounters on TV and in real life."

Holly "Gains" Attention for the UC Jazz Band

Roger Lee

Grizzly Features Writer

Ursinus College's music department is reaching new heights with its growing jazz band. This attention-getting ensemble is growing with the help and direction of Professor Holly Gaines.

This is Gaines' sixth year at Ursinus as a music professor. Over the past few years, she has seen an amazing growth within the college's music department and clubs catering to instrumentalists.

"In the 6 years I've been here, there has been an immeasurable amount of growth," says the jazz band director. Gaines explains that this fall is the first time the jazz band is comprised of all students. In the past the band included community members and outside musicians to help fill seats. Now the jazz band is full of eager and talented students ready to perform.

"It's a great energy this year!" said an enthusiastic Gaines. She is proud of the accomplishments of Ursinus' growing jazz band. The wind ensemble is gearing up for an off-campus performance taking place this April. It will be at a local church in downtown Philadelphia.

"From their perspective, performances like this just deepen their commitment," Gaines comments.

The wind ensemble is not the only section in jazz band getting attention this year. The jazz combo, a talented group of 5 to 6 students are really active in the performance circuit. They are scheduled to appear at many off-campus events and paid gigs. Professor Gaines explains that this type of performance schedule gives students a small glimpse into the world of a professional musician.

"It's been lucrative for them this fall," she added. The performing students are profiting from both money and experience.

Professor Gaines understands all about the joys of performing. She followed her childhood dream of becoming a professional musician. Growing up Gaines was fortunate to have a supportive family that supported her dreams of music.

"There was no pressure or negative force about it," laughed Gaines "my parents just wanted me to do something I loved."

Holly Gaines did something she loved by becoming a professional musician who performs and records while instructing college students. Gaines understands what it is like being in a collegiate level music program since she graduated from college with a music major.

Professor Gaines is working with co-director of the music department, John French on further developing the program. She hopes that music will soon become a credited

major at Ursinus that offers classes in music theory and technology. The department currently instructs students on traditional music theory. However, Gaines would love for the music department to work closer with the digital media production, learning about recording and digital music production.

"That's our next big challenge," said Gaines.

Professor Gaines would like the Ursinus community to know that we have a strong music department that performs quite regularly on and off campus.

"It's something that the campus should realize we do have. We should all be supporting the arts here," smiled Gaines.

When the jazz band is not off performing, they are practicing in the newly renovated Bomberger building. This is the fourth semester the band has practiced in the new facilities. Since the practice rooms, college choirs, bands and offices are all on the same floor, it really consolidates the music department.

"This integration allowed us to grow," said Gaines.

The Ursinus College jazz band rehearses twice a week and is open to any interested student. Look out for their spring concert slated for April 4, 2009 in the Kaleidoscope's Lenfest Theater. For more information, contact jazz band director Holly Gaines at hgaines@ursinus.edu.

Rise Against- Third time around turns out to be a charm

Laurel Salvo

Grizzly Staff Writer

Compared to the last time I saw Rise Against at the Electric Factory, this time around felt like a mid-summer vacation. I can recall their tour post during June 2007- "Sufferer and The Witness" album debut, I was front and center of the barricade and for over 90 minutes, was perpetually bombarded by a swarm of flailing legs and arms. Three other friends and I did nothing but duck and cover our heads from crowd-surfers for the span of their set, begging for water from the security guards in front of us and struggling to hold our spots.

Repeatedly being slammed into metal bars from rushers behind our bodies, we were barely able to give recognition to front man Tim McIlrath, who was intermittently leaning right over us screaming with angry enthusiasm through the night. The entire experience felt like Survivor's version of a live concert, to say the least. Although it was a rough ride, we enjoyed ourselves immensely. Earlier this month however, I got to experience the music much more, having arrived late to a sold out show and standing close to the back of the pit, where it was safe.

Oct. 16 was a great night to be a Rise Against fan in Philly since the band had agreed to tour two nights back to back at the same venue. On the road with openers Gaslight Anthem, Thrice, and Alkaline Trio, the evening was a combustive burst of pumping fists and cathartic shouts. With their usual monochromatic uniform of black jeans and black tee-shirts, they took the stage and from end to beginning, the atmosphere was a raw ball of energy in constant motion.

Although their sound has met the ears of fans from an entirely new direction with "Appeal to Reason," their latest album named after an 1897 Socialist Party of America newspaper, it's good to hear that there lyrics are still responsive to the current state of the world and political issues that affect everyone. Singles from their previous album, with songs like "Ready to Fall" (catalyzing awareness about degenerative environments) and "Prayer of the

Refugee" (attempting to expose child labor cruelty in third-world countries), the same heartfelt emotions seem to be present in lyrics this time around. Their newest single "Re-Education (Through Labor)", seems to repeat the same cries with a different tone of scream. The meaning behind the lyrics is similar to "Prayer of the Refugee," mirroring the same desolate and activists moods, yet the words are delivered in an entirely different manner.

Not just outspoken through their lyrics, I wasn't surprised to find PETA2 fliers being handed out at their show. Promoting their vegan lifestyle whenever they seem to have the chance, Rise Against have also partnered with Vans shoes to create vegan footwear as well as take part in PETA DVD's in the past that bring to light the horror of meat packing industries and chicken-farm cruelties.

As an observer, I've noticed that these forthright ways of influencing their listeners has been met with a mixture of dissent and open embrace. Some fans feel that bands should only be about music and not be a sort of megaphone of political voice that's trying to lead or direct others towards one mentality. Then again, there were others at the show wearing PETA pins with slogans like "Meat isn't green!" Some were even wearing a brand of Vans shoes labeled as eco-friendly and animal-product free.

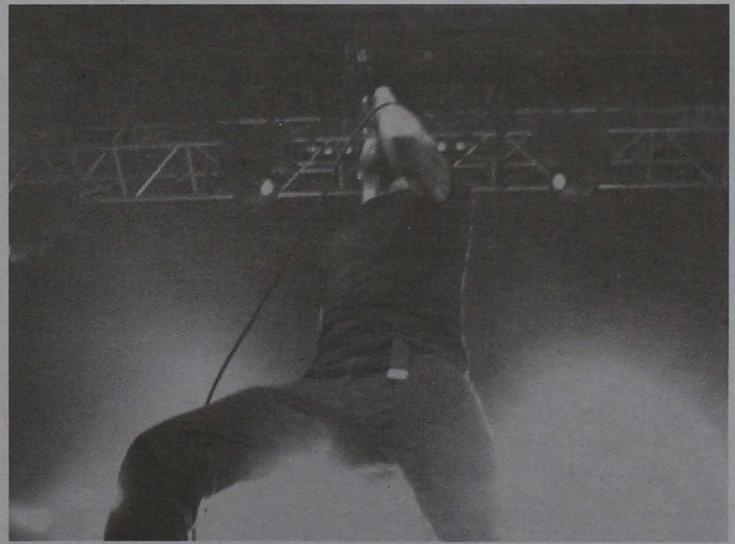


Photo by Matt Whitman

Enthusiastic frontman for Rise Against, Tim McIlrath, performing recently at the Electric Factory in Philadelphia.

Whatever their message seems to be and whether or not it's coming from the tracks of an album or straight from Tim's mouth, one thing remains to be true: the message is getting through. Speaking to the audience after the first song of the night earlier this month, McIlrath cleared his voice and paced back and forth slowly saying, "This isn't about me, this isn't about you, this isn't about the opening bands, tonight is so much bigger than that. Everything...is so much bigger than this." As a long-time fan and probably jaded a bit by this profound statement, I completely agree with what he said. As much of a bomb of emotion music and lyrics have the potential to be, there will always be something that exists outside of the stage and neon lights that swing back and forth over the bleeding ears of fans.

Jennifer Hudson family matters continue to unravel

Brandon Biel

Grizzly Staff Writer

The childhood home of actress, singer and American Idol alum Jennifer Hudson was turned into the scene of two gruesome murders in the late evening of October 24, 2008. Jennifer Hudson's mother and brother were found shot to death in their South Side Chicago home by her sister, Julia Hudson. The seven year old boy and nephew of Hudson, Julian King, who was missing for two days after the attacks was also found shot to death on Monday in a Chevrolet Suburban, about 10 miles away from the crime scene.

A single suspect in the case has been arrested. William Balfour, who has been romantically linked to Hudson's sister, was taken into custody Friday but has not been charged with the murders as of yet. Balfour is no stranger when it comes to being involved in criminal activity. In 1999, he was sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to attempted murder and vehicular hijacking.

Hudson flew home to her native Chicago shortly after hearing the news to be with the rest of her family including her sister, Julia. The next day after the murders Julia Hudson issued an emotional plea urging that her only son Julian be returned safely. Jennifer Hudson also issued a substantial

\$100,000 reward to whomever lead to his safe return. These pleas were quickly withdrawn Monday after police were notified of a suspicious car resembling the Chevy SUV that was also missing from the crime scene. The body of seven year old King was found inside the car with a fatal gunshot wound.

Jennifer Hudson positively identified the bodies of her mother, Darnell Donerson and her brother, Jason Hudson. On Monday night Hudson was forced to relive this horror when she had identify the body of her seven year old nephew, whom her family still had hope for a safe return.



A statement from the medical examiner's office on Tuesday, October 28 revealed that all three victims died of multiple gunshot wounds.

These gruesome murders have been shocking not only to the Hudson family but to others who personally know Jennifer Hudson as well. Jennifer Hudson is probably best known for her run on season three of

American Idol and her remarkable Academy Award winning role as "Effie" in the movie "Dreamgirls".

Hudson and her family have received an outpouring of

support among Hollywood celebrities who have had the experience of working with the rising star. Sarah Jessica Parker who starred with Hudson in the recent "Sex and the City" film offered prayers for the family, "My heart goes out to her and her family in their time of anguish and grief," said Parker in a statement to *Access Hollywood* on Saturday. "I pray for the safe return of her nephew."

Presidential hopeful, Barack Obama and his wife Michelle also offered their condolences for Jennifer Hudson and her family, "Michelle and I were absolutely heartbroken to learn about this unimaginable tragedy, and we want Jennifer to know that she is in our thoughts and prayers, during this very difficult time," said Senator Obama to *Access Hollywood*. Hudson, an Obama supporter was personally asked by the Obama campaign to sing the National Anthem at the Democratic National Convention, where Senator Obama was formally named the party's nominee.

During Hudson's rise to fame she often spoke of her normal family life and how all of the newfound fame was not going to their heads. Hudson often returns to her mother's home in Chicago when she is on break and relishes in the normalcy of being with her family. "When I go home to my mom, I'm just Jennifer. And I love that. I don't like when people tell you everything you want to hear. I want to hear the truth, you know what I mean," said Hudson in an interview with *The Associated Press*.

An investigation is still being conducted with William Balfour as the only suspect. Balfour, who is currently on parole, missed a meeting with his parole officer the day of the murders. He is currently being held on a parole violation pending the investigation of the murders.

Trick-or-Treat reaches a new height at Ursinus

Laine Cavanaugh

Grizzly Staff Writer

Were you surprised to see little goblins, cowgirls, and firefighters scurrying around on campus last Wednesday night? If you've checked out the decorating skills of some Ursinus students, you had to have known where they were headed!

A Trick or Treat night, sponsored by the Ursinus Residence Hall Association, was held on October 29th for the local community from 7:30 to 9:00pm. Local children walked through various houses and dormitories that had been spookily decorated by students.

"It's a great way to get Ursinus involved with the Collegeville community," junior Margie Papa says. A previous Main Street resident, she recalls the many hours her housemates spent trying to make the house as

frightening as possible. "We made a maze in the living room that the kids could go through that was full of cobwebs and scary decorations. We even had people inside it in costumes that scared them," Margie laughs.

Besides a maze, the houses have many other activities intended to keep the kids' attention. "I loved watching the kids' faces as they stuck their hands into different boxes with stuff inside!" says Sara Smith, a former resident of the

Wellness House. These boxes contained items such as cooked spaghetti, which was labeled "brains," a glove stuffed with popcorn, tagged "witch's hand," and peeled grapes, representing "eyeballs."

Upon entering the residences, cobwebs covered the railings while black lights created a creepy atmosphere. Students in costumes popped out from unexpected places, scaring other students along with local children. "I had no idea this was even going on," said a junior resident of New Hall, Alyce Rasmussen. When the kids piled in, however, there was no denying the excitement such an event stirred up.

Pushing and shoving, the kids ran ahead of their exhausted parents, scampering up the stairs. "Let's do it again!" one police-boy yelled as his mother rolled her eyes. By the end of the night, the parents were weighed down with

the extra accessories from their children's costumes, and the kids were weighed down from their heavy candy buckets, generously filled by Ursinus students.

Outside of New, junior R.A. Kyle Fox stood to admit the eager children into the dorm of terror. "I think this event finally opens Ursinus up to a community that doesn't really know us," said Kyle. "It's good for the kids. It would be better if everyone got more involved!" he explained.



Photo courtesy of Lucy McNamara

Two Hobson house residents, Gabi Poretta and Lucy McNamara pose for a creepy photo during the Residence Hall Association Haunted House Contest last week. Hobson was the winner of the contest.

Each year, participating residences are given \$25 by the Residence Hall Association. Residents stretch this money as far as it can go by coming up with creative ideas in order to make the houses as creepy as possible. Popular items purchased are cobwebs, black lights, and skulls. With their decorating skills, residents hope to win the title of "best haunted house."

Last year's top three winners (in order) were Fetteroff, Olevian, and Hobson. Joining in on the event this year were Omwake, Wellness, Cloak, Olevian, Duryea, Shreiner, Hobson, Art House, Clamer, BPS lounge, New 2 and New 3. This year, Hobson rose to first place, New 2 made its debut, winning second, and Duryea placed third.

"Diversity... what's that? GSA sponsors dessert discussion" is continued from front page.

people to talk. Conversation is the way for things to change...overall it was very respectful...as we continue to have good conversation and allow people to express their views; understanding can come from that." Dean Nolan, another attendee and supporter of the meeting was quoted as saying, "It was heartwarming to have so many diverse people from different parts of the community come together to work towards the goal of equality and respect for difference. Overall, there was quite a bit of warmth, support, and an atmosphere of safety and honesty. I dream of the day when all of us, no matter who we are or where we come from, can feel equally accepted and respected on this campus and in this world. We have a long way to go."

The meeting proved to be an accepting exchange of ideas, where everyone who spoke was heard.

City Council Member Andrea Baptiste speaks to students

Salia Zounde

Grizzly Staff Writer

Last week, faculty, staff and students were invited to come out to hear Collegeville city council member Andrea Baptiste's discussion on the importance of voting among young people in what will probably be the most anticipated and crucial election in the history of the United States. The event which was at 6:30 pm at the Unity House was sponsored by Sankofa Umoja Nia Club (SUN).

Council member Andrea Baptiste started her first term as a Collegeville Borough Council member in January 2008. She is the Chairperson for the Business Liaison Committee, and served on the Finance Committee and the Public Safety Committee. Baptiste was selected to serve as a Board Member for the Collegeville Economic Development Corporation as well as being appointed to the Central Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Commission. Presently, she is the Collegeville Democratic Committee Municipal Chairperson.

Baptiste is a graduate of Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio where she earned a B.A. in History and Spanish. Baptiste has always been devotedly interested in community groups and committees. She was a member of

the Marietta College Student Body Executive Board and Chapter President of the Beta Xi Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. For three years, she served on the Norristown Parks and Recreation Committee.

Baptiste's speech at the Unity House pertained on the delicate subject among young adults of being learners and lifters; everyone looks up to somebody at a certain point of his or her life. Baptiste mentioned that not all lifters were meant to be leaders and stressed on the importance of always lending a hand to someone in need. This could be someone you know on campus who is going through a difficult semester and could use a word of encouragement. This person does not have to be a family member. Such a positive impact could be achieved through mentoring and tutoring. A lot of the first year students look up to those who have gone before them and might need counseling on how to deal with a particular academic issue.

On campus SUN has a big brother and big sister mentoring social program that allows incoming first year students to be taken under the wings of an older students. Most first year students who have reached the age of 18 will have the opportunity to vote on Nov. 4. It is crucial since young people are the future on this country and need

to take part in major decision making that affects them and those around them.

Each year, Ursinus attracts thousands of students nationwide and abroad from different social and economic backgrounds who for nine months will become part of the Collegeville community. A helping hand can make a difference in your peer's life just by listening to them and showing your appreciation for their hard work. There is a tutoring program sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Services and Tutorial Programs on located in the Unity House. It is the little White House by Corson Hall, stop by and sign up to tutor someone in an academic subject. There is always a need for on-campus tutors in different subjects.

SUN meets every other Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Unity House. For more information on SUN's upcoming activities please e-mail Jennifer Thompkins at jethompkins@ursinus.edu. If you would like to sign up to become a tutor please e-mail tutorial tutor coordinator Carolina Contreras at cacontreras@ursinus.edu. There are many clubs on campus that provide ways in which you can make a difference in your peer's life, so do not hesitate to get involved in them.

The Top 5 Scariest Movies of the day

Kristen Gallagher

Grizzly Staff Writer

It's funny how people will go to the movies, and pay ten dollars for a ticket so they can get scared out of their mind. Scary movies have this special place in all of our hearts. We love to cuddle up under a blanket with

some friends, or if you're crazy, alone and dim the lights to watch through our separated fingers. Horror films are usually released sometime in October, due to the horrifying holiday known as Halloween. For some reason, when the leaves on the trees change and the air becomes slightly more brisk, a good scare is what everyone needs. The question is "what movies should you turn to in order to receive the maximum scare?" To assist you with

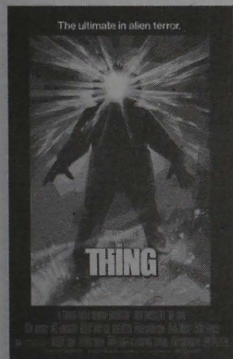


Photo courtesy of ff.org

this, *The Boston Globe* has put together a list of the 50 scariest movies of all time. We are going to run through the top 5 most horrifying films ever made.

The fifth scariest film ever made is ranked more horrifying than the 1978 classics *Dawn of the Dead* and *Halloween*. The movie *Alien* according to *The Boston Globe* is the fifth most terrifying film ever made. The use of Science Fiction mixed with grotesque and bloody creatures makes for one heck of a scream.

The fourth most terrifying horror film of all time is the 2002 hit *The Ring*. The idea of such a beautiful little girl turning into one that is terrifyingly distorted and hungry for blood is truly horrifying.

Rec made horrifically scary movie ever made. This movie was so scary it was remade by Hollywood and named *Quarantine*. But scream rankers over at *The Boston Globe* attest that sticking with the original is the best way to go for the maximum scare! The plot involves a reporter who follows firefighters to a creepy building where she finds things that will haunt her for life.

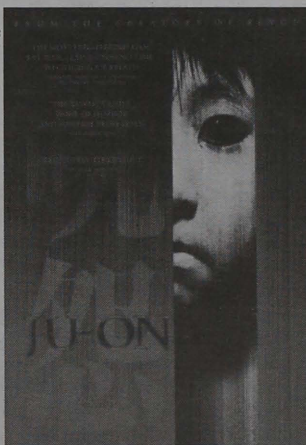


Photo courtesy of nipponcinema.com

The number two scariest movie of all time is *Ju-on* a Japanese movie that came out in 2000. *The Grudge* was based off of it, but didn't even come close to living up to it.

The story of a jealous husband, results in the murder of a family and a terrifying haunting. This movie is one that will have you diving under your covers.

According to *The Boston Globe*, the number one most horrifying movie of all time is *The Thing* (1982). This film is about a crew in an Antarctic base that is followed by a metamorphosing alien. The viewers and the crew members don't know who the alien is until its too late. This is a must see—that is if you are up for it!

"According to the Boston Globe, the number one most horrifying movie of all time is The Thing."

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Election rewind: the second debate

Spencer Jones

Grizzly Staff Writer

The second presidential debate took place at Belmont University with Tom Brokaw of NBC moderating. Aside from the change in venue, one of the most noticeable differences between this debate and the first was the Town Hall format. Eighty uncommitted voters were permitted to ask the candidates specific questions, many of which dealt with the same subjects as before: the economy and foreign policy. Obama and McCain skipped the podiums and paced across the stage with microphones, courting audience members directly.

The first question came from a man, who, like so many Americans, expressed concern for the staggering economy and wanted to know what the fastest course of action was for getting back on track. Neither candidate responded with anything that was strikingly different from what they had been saying all along, except for some mild variations in word choice. I lost count how many times Obama has used the Great Depression analogy, but as I expected, he opened up his response with that very comparison. "I think everybody knows now we are in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. A lot of you, I think, are worried about your jobs, your pensions, your retirement accounts, your ability to send your child or grandchild to college." Obama jumped on the opportunity to take a jab at President Bush and his tanking ratings: "I believe this is a final verdict on the failed economic policies of the last eight years, strongly promoted by President Bush and supported by Senator McCain. We've got to take some

decisive action." He devoted the rest of his answer to blasting corrupt CEOs and emphasizing the need to give the middle class rescue packages.

McCain's response was predictable as well, except what he had to say dealt with the foreclosures taking place across the country. "We've got to have a package of reforms that leads to prosperity and peace in the world. This problem has become so severe that we're going to have to do something about home values."

When Brokaw asked who he had in mind for secretary of the treasury, McCain said, "Not you Tom," which didn't quite amuse the audience as much as he hoped. He named a few people, such as Meg Whitman, the former CEO of Ebay and one of his top campaign advisers. Obama suggested Warren Buffet, the chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, who had years of experience in the marketplace.

I had to feel sorry for Brokaw. No matter how many times he mentioned the time limits, both candidates went off on their tangents time and time again. That said, I think that Obama's got an incredible gift as an orator. You'd never know that he was under any pressure, because he spoke with such eloquence and smooth sophistication. McCain was formidable enough and armed with solid facts, but I thought calling Obama "that one" was very condescending on his part. I watched some of the post debate news coverage and even some Republicans thought that the word choice wasn't great. In saying what he said, McCain not only established a sharp divide but seemed to insinuate that Obama had no business sharing the stage with him. It would be in his best interest to be more mindful of how he phrases things in the future.

HBO: Pay-Per-Snooze television

Zach Shamberg

Grizzly Staff Editor

It has been almost two years since David Chase's mafia masterpiece *The Sopranos* concluded with a simple fade to black: the perfect ending for one of the greatest television shows ever. A few years before that, the series *Six Feet Under* finished its last episode with a final montage that was so beautifully heartbreaking it made fans out of people who had never seen a single episode. *Sex and the City* (no explanation necessary) had such a rabid fan base that the film version of the show, which was released this past summer, grossed well over \$100 million. And last year, *The Wire* closed its doors to a very small but loyal audience, quite possibly becoming the most underappreciated program ever aired. What is the single bond that holds these brilliant shows together? The television network HBO, at one time, aired them all on the same night.

The Sopranos was an Emmy powerhouse, racking up dozens of awards for acting and writing. *Six Feet Under* was nominated for countless Emmy and Golden Globe awards, while *The Wire* had the respect but no gold to show for it. Sure, HBO has released some plagues onto the television world (*John from Cincinnati*, anyone?), but the network has mostly relied on sharp writing, terrific acting, and creativity that have accomplished what was once thought to be impossible: it has rendered network television irrelevant.

That is, however, until recently, as it seems the creative river has run dry over at HBO headquarters. Viewers are now subjected to fare such as *True Blood*, a vampire-themed series that makes *Twilight* look like *The Matrix* on steroids. *Flight of the Conchords*, while oddly amusing, is

just far too "out there" for any cable series that doesn't air on the Sundance Channel. Let's not forget a travesty such as *Little Britain U.S.A.* that wouldn't make the fall schedule on The C.W. The fact is that HBO has turned to quantity and forgotten entirely about quality. When the network lost shows like *The Sopranos* and *Sex and the City*, they figured that more would be better. More programming would make viewers forget about the works of art they were used to seeing every Sunday and Monday night. The people who subscribed to HBO all those years ago were basically spoiled—it was like watching "Must See TV" on NBC in the mid-90's.

The network has now fallen behind other cable outlets, such as Showtime and (gasp!) Starz. It was HBO which originally started showing television series and not just old movies that had long been forgotten. It was HBO which originally produced and premiered movies such as *John Adams* and *Recount*. The successes of the network have become a distant memory, a faint glimmer in the foggy primetime sky. Showtime's *Dexter* and *Californication* beat any type of programming HBO can possibly air. Even Starz's *Crash*, with Dennis Hopper's gross overacting, beats a night in front of the Home Box Office.

What pains this writer the most is HBO's primary series, *Entourage*, seems to be slowly sliding down the same slope to television obscurity. Once a terrific show about four friends from New York making it in Hollywood has now become a Jeremy Piven vehicle with no plot and little heart. If *Entourage* was the life preserver, this network may have just drowned. The only saving grace to the decline of this once-prolific cable powerhouse? You can still catch *Sopranos* reruns on Wednesdays.

Bridesmaid EP II

Abigail Raymond

Grizzly Staff Writer

Let me start this review by stating something most who know me will roll their eyes at—I sort of have a giant crush on Colin Meloy, the lead singer of The Decemberists. Maybe it has something to do with me being an English major and liking the kind of artist who uses words like "bagatelle" and "consumptive" regularly in his music. So, for journalistic purposes, it might be worth your while to take what I say with a grain of salt.

That being said, let us get on with the review.

In a move that caters to those of us who love getting things in the mail and vinyl records, The Decemberists have released three singles on vinyl that are titled *Always the Bridesmaid I, II, and III*. From October till December, they ship out one single a month to the devoted fans who shelled out the money for a pre-order. These songs are available for download through iTunes, but a true fan will really want that colored vinyl.

This past Tuesday, while the polls were clogged with voters, the group from Portland, WA shipped out their second release. This volume features the songs "Days of Elaine" and a cover of The Velvet Underground song made popular by the movie *Juno*, "I'm Sticking With You".

"Days of Elaine" is more than just a typical Decemberists romp. With each release of an album, there has been a progression and growth in the music of the group and this song appears to fit right in. Though many fans have bemoaned a decrease in whimsy, it's nice to see Meloy move somewhat beyond the shanties of *Picaresque* and into the realm of respectable indie pop. "Days of Elaine" is a bouncy indie rock tune that features some lovely piano work and a solid chorus.

"I'm Sticking With You", on the other hand, is something of a disappointment. Not only has the song been ruined by its inclusion in the movie *Juno* (if I ever see it on a mixtape again, all I will be able to think is that the person who made this has unoriginal tastes in music) but the music just doesn't compliment the voices of Jenny Conlee and Colin Meloy. It lacks the complexity and depth that even their acoustic work usual contains. It just feels like someone decided to cover this because it might catch the attention of fourteen year old girls who want to hear Colin sing "I'll do anything for you", which is arguably the only believable sounding part of the song. Stick to the English folk singers and Morrissey guys, it's just more your speed.

Round one was good and round two suffered from a certain lack of creativity. Let's just hope that the December release will redeem this trio and keep fans excited for the release of their next full album, *Hazards of Love*, this coming April.



Zack and Miri make mediocre porno

Kristi Blust
Grizzly Staff Editor

I have to say, I had high hopes for Kevin Smith's latest brain child, *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*. The hype generated by the film's showing this past September at the Toronto Film Festival had left me on the edge of my seat for weeks. Being a big fan of the *Clerks* movies, I expected something epic, something that would make me giggle even harder than I had watching Jason Mewes (Jay) apply chapstick and dance to "Goodbye, horses" in *Clerks II*. I have to say, though, other than one or two touching moments and a scene that left me both intensely fascinated and completely uncomfortable, the movie was just ok.

The film opens with Miri, played by Elizabeth Banks, waking up late for work. In a gesture of kindness, she wakes her roommate, Zack, played by Seth Rogen (*The 40-year old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*, *Pineapple Express*) so he won't be late for his job at a Starbucks-like coffee joint. Rogen and Banks play friends since high school, both aimlessly stumbling through life with no real ambition and no money to pay their bills. Portrayed more like a mischievous brother and sister duo than could-be lovers, the knowledge that they will eventually make a porno left me slightly unsettled during the first half of the movie.

Sticking to Rogen's usual antics, the first few scenes do not pass without some choice language, especially from one of his co-workers, the very loveable Delaney, a thirty-something African-American man who tries to convince himself throughout the movie that he still loves his nagging, high school sweetheart wife. After viewers have been adequately introduced to the main characters and the story has been set in motion, Zack and Miri fall short on their rent and utility bills, causing their water and electricity to be turned off. Unable to come up with the dough at his slacker job, the idea of making a porno comes to Zack at his and Miri's ten year high school reunion. Chatting up an

unfamiliar face, Zack discovers that the mystery man is actually the boyfriend of a guy Miri had liked in high school. Shortly after, Zack and Miri learn that the two lovers are in the adult film industry. Cue light bulb ting! When asked if she'll star alongside him in an adult film, Banks' character is apprehensive; however, dire money circumstances eventually lead her to agree.

I found the casting scene for the porno movie to be one of the most entertaining of the film. Several big and surprising names make their way into Zack and Miri's casting session, among them, veteran porn actress, Traci Lords (Bubbles), current adult film star Katie Morgan (Stacey), newcomer Ricky Mabe (Barry), and Jason Mewes (Lester). While Zack's co-worker Delaney cannot act in their film (his wife would kill him), he agrees to help with casting. Other than ridiculously cheesy porn dialogue, there is nothing particularly special about the porno that Zack and Miri make.

While the two friends agreed in the beginning that they wouldn't let sex interfere with their friendship, it inevitably does, creating the only real conflict in the entire movie. While the sex between the others in the porno is stereotypical and chuckle-inducing, the exchange between Zack and Miri is the only genuinely sincere moment in the film, which Smith creates without graphic snapshots or foul language (bravo!). Things aren't quite butterflies and rainbows for Zack and Miri instantly; jealousy and tension brew between Banks' and Rogens' characters as they gear up to work on scenes with the other actors in their film. It is clear after the intimate time Zack and Miri share that they are meant to be together; however, it takes both of them some time to come to terms with the new direction their relationship has taken. All ends well enough, and for those interested, there's full-frontal nudity (of the male variety) thrown in at one point. So while I didn't find the movie quite as enticing as other Smith films (I'm a sucker for the familiar), I recommend giving this one a try.

Blurst of times: be a true individual

Christopher Wierzbowski
Grizzly Staff Editor

The truest battle fought is the struggle for identity. I am not talking about the simplistic measures taken to distinguish oneself physically from the common man; rather, I am talking about our desperate attempt to create an academic identity, an identity bereft of bias and outside the sphere of influence. One of the biggest things I have learned throughout my experiences within academia is that in order to sound-

legitimate, in order to sound intelligent, one must relinquish

control over one's own ideas and simply excrete a neatly packaged pile of relevant quotation and a work's cited page. To me this seems dirty. Like the popped collar or the Juicy sweatpants, academic conformity is safe.

I believe this disgust stems from my trolls through academic databases like JStor. Maybe it is just a form of jealousy, but everything I ponder has already been discussed and written. Who really wants to simply repeat something somebody has already said? We are essentially beheaded if we plagiarize someone else's work; however, if we are supplying quotes from esteemed critics which say the same thing we think, is it not plagiarized thought?

Originality is something we should all strive for. The primary problem is that everything has already been written,

"We are stuck in a cycle of interpreting others work in a desperate attempt to pump out something [new]."

and we are stuck in a cycle of interpreting others work in a desperate attempt to pump out something, anything new. But new is not necessarily good. This new material spawns from the frustration which has risen from our failed attempts at greatness. Greatness defined as making a mark upon society through the presentation of material foreign to the populace. Life on Mars. A new disease. Hippies. The Internet. Essentially anything which initiates a paradigm shift within the confines of our minds. Therefore, we must attempt a new level of consciousness in order to further

the development of proper discourse. This means there has to be an attempt to address

this struggle we are all facing.

So, what are we to do? Embrace the struggle? Fight the proverbial man? Whatever. I do not ask you to do anything. It is up to you. Satisfaction through complacency is safe. What I do ask of you is to consider everything. Think for yourself. In our struggle we can find our voice. As the years pass, as the voices get louder, we must distinguish ourselves from the peanut gallery. I love peanuts, I love shellin' those suckers. However, it gets boring—admit it. And if you believe your research is original, get over it. Give the world something new. Give the world something it can believe.

Escape Velocity: "Eternalmotion"

Carolyn Martin
Grizzly Staff Writer

Escape Velocity once again left the audience in awe after a night of "Eternalmotion" in the Helfferich Dance Studio. Showing on only two occasions, October 30th and the 31st, students and family were lucky if they were able to purchase a ticket for a show of constant motion (as suggested by its title). Perhaps it was the title of the show or the conveniently cheap pricing of tickets that filled every single seat in the studio. The constant, complex dancing intrigued many people and spurred talk of the great skill and hard work. Escape Velocity, under the guidance of dance professors, was solely student-run and based on student choreography.

The first performance of the show, "Strengthening Stability," consisted of a group of performers who danced both in unison and individually under the choreography of Escape Velocity's President, Roger Lee. The next piece was an improvisation of what it was to be free flowing and showed various types of moves and motions. Roger Lee and Nathan Dawley competed in a back-and-forth dance routine to contribute to the idea of eternalmotion. Although "Hey Big Spender," under the choreography of Danielle Lehtonen, was a provocative number similar to the dance routines completed in shows like "Chicago," it was an audience favorite and got many laughs from the crowd. The next piece consisted of three dancers who performed "Exotic Fusion", which looks exactly how it sounds. The title prepared the audience for an intriguing performance. The "fusion" consisted of belly dancers and a bit of Indian cultural dancing.

Before the intermission, there was one more piece that no one would have wanted to miss. "Your Eyes" was performed by Catriona Whitehead and Brandon Kamin who, through their dancing, expressed the effects of relationships. Every little motion indicated a specific feeling toward the other person and the dance kept the audience captivated. Their chemistry on the dance floor was so strong that the relationship and situation poured out to the viewers. In my opinion, this was the best part of the show. It was a great way to end Act I because it left the audience yearning for more.

To start Act II, dancers performed a routine composed of various moves relating to the Indian culture. "Calling Everyone: Move to the beat," was a fun, energetic piece which engaged everyone to move to the beat. The next performance, "Life," was choreographed under Sophomore Amy Hartl, who thankfully has plenty more opportunities to grace Ursinus with her choreography and dancing talents. This piece conveyed the energy released during relationships. Following that was "One of Those Days," a duet performed by Lee and Sarah Anne Rosner. The song title and dance were a great way to relate to the audience who has in fact had "those days." "Shout out to Sarah Palin!" was the final performance of the night, and was the highlight for many due to the fun, expressive motions. The large group of dancers allowed dancing and movement to occur on every part of the stage.

Many people are already looking forward to Escape Velocity's next performance in the spring. Consider me one of the converted.

John McCain waves the white flag on "Saturday Night"



ZACH SHAMBERG
Living in Shamerica

Any publicity is good publicity, right? Barack Obama purchased a 30 minute advertisement slot last Wednesday that not only delayed a Philadelphia Phillies World Championship but made his entire life seem like a Lifetime Original Movie. I haven't sat through a duller, more pointless documentary since *March of the Penguins* premiered on Animal Planet. But, of course, the advertisement reached almost 25 million viewers and gave Democrats

even more "hope" than they had before.

It comes as no surprise to this writer that the situation is completely different on the other side of the political spectrum: the Republican hopeful and his running mate now seem like they're auditioning for a sitcom entitled "One Guy, a Girl, and a Bridge to Nowhere". The more we hear about Sarah Palin's antics and John McCain's speeches, the less likely Republicans have become in believing one of their own will be elected Commander in Chief for a third straight time.

Publicity, in this election, has been nothing but negative for the Republican Party. The worst part is that John McCain seems to be accepting the disappointment and counting his losses like Joe the Plumber at a Thursday night card game: "Well, a pair of two's wasn't good

enough...I'll get 'em next time". Never before (or at least not since Bob Dole graced America with his presence and Viagra commercials) have I seen a worse campaign than John McCain's this year. You want to be compared to Bush? Alright. You want to release pitiful ad campaigns? Fine. You want to choose a running mate who has become a running joke for the liberal media? No problem. Nothing seems to deter McCain when it comes to the reality of the election: the American people are suffering because we need a leader who everyone can truly believe in. The only "change" we really need is someone who we can trust. Barack Obama, with his corrupt Chicago politics, has never been that person. You, John McCain, have known that all along. You had your chance and you blew it, likely costing the Republicans an election and America a great leader.

My biggest problem with this year's election strategy is how blatantly the Republican ticket has admitted defeat. Not since Adam Corolla and his partner took the stage on last year's "Dancing with the Stars" has a team of people so ungracefully bowed out of a competition. Last weekend's "Saturday Night Live" appearance was the clincher: John McCain and his wife, Cindy, opened the show by auctioning

off items from his campaign. Alongside was Tina Fey, dressed as Sarah Palin, who had a certain gleam in her eye that seemed to say "After this week, I'll never have to do this again".

Later in the show, McCain appeared on the "Weekend Update" segment, and oddly enough, it was almost like he was saying goodbye. Not to the television audience, but

to the American people who have watched CNN, caroused at political events, and stayed current with the election for so

many months. It was sad to see a man who I had admired for so long stoop to this level three days before the election. It was not even a ploy to get some last minute votes in the battleground states. No, this was a farewell address to Republican supporters. There was no 30 minute commercial before an important sporting event. There was no primetime build-up or anticipation. Instead, John McCain admitted defeat on a show that has ridiculed him and disagreed with his politics for months. He went out with a silent whimper, the mark of a man who knew the end was near. Tuesday is almost here, and for Republicans, it will most likely be a day of mourning. I, on the other hand, have not yet admitted defeat. But is quite disheartening to know that the man I plan to vote for has.

Not since Adam Corolla and his partner took the stage on last year's "Dancing with the Stars" has a team of people so ungracefully bowed out of a competition.

"Condemned: Criminal Origins" perfect for Halloween

Shaun Frank
Grizzly Staff Writer

As the heat of summer gives way to the chill of autumn, thoughts inevitably turn to the most representative holiday of the new season: Halloween. Candy, costumes, and the chance to enjoy a rousing scare are all among the tantalizing possibilities that each October brings. While some might prefer the non-interactive terror of a horror flick, actually being part of the action can make a frightening moment all the more spine-tingling. So sit back, turn down the lights, and get ready to enter the world of "Condemned: Criminal Origins."

The story in "Condemned: Criminal Origins" is vague, largely unexplained, and inherently creepy. The player takes on the role of F.B.I. agent Ethan Thomas, who is charged with investigating the crimes of a serial killer known as "the Matchmaker." Thing quickly go awry, however, when another killer, "Serial Killer X," takes Ethan's gun at the scene of the latest Matchmaker crime and kills two police officers. Through a series of ten levels, the player must try to track down X through rotted, dilapidated environments in order to prove Ethan's innocence, all the while battling the unnamed city's bizarre, increasingly violent homeless and gang members.

The game plays like a first-person shooter in the vane of "Halo," but instead focuses mainly on melee combat. Unarmed at the start of each level, Ethan can pull pipes, conduits, and a number of other weapons out of the very walls and floors of the level environments in order to defend himself. Using the right and left triggers, the player can either attack or block with their weapon. Guns are featured in the game as well, but usually only consist of a single clip of ammo or less, forcing the player to rely more heavily on hand-to-hand combat. The combat is satisfying, and just as it starts to feel repetitive, the game's campaign ends.

Almost all of the action takes place from Ethan's perspective, including some disturbing psychic visions and being tossed down an escalator, enabling the game to really draw in the player.

Although the graphical prowess of the game has since been surpassed by more recent titles on the Xbox 360, for a launch title (ie, a game that came out on the same date the system was released) the graphics are, for the most part, very good. The environments, particularly the lighting effects and level of interactivity the player has with the background, are extremely well done and serve to further immerse the player into the numerous, decrepit, literally "condemned" levels. The character models, however, are more on par with a late Playstation 2 title, but it really only stands out during the in-game cut-scenes, when the player is taken out of Ethan's first-person view.

The soundtrack for "Condemned" is very understated, but effective. The lack of music in the majority of the game only accentuates the brilliant sound effects: the game will keep you guessing as you approach every dimly lit corner. The sounds of a bottle falling over or the creak of a floorboard might be nothing but a rat scurrying by, or it could be a crazed hobo waiting to bash your skull in with a lead pipe. Each and every sound effect is sickening in its realism: glass shattering is an easy task, but one has to wonder what Monolith did in order to reproduce the sickening sound of a human skull getting crushed with a 2X4 covered in rusty nails. Additionally, the voice acting is excellent, despite some weaknesses in the script on occasion.

Having been out for several years, used copies of the game can be found at your local

Gamestop for \$12.99, which is quite a bargain for those looking for a good, seasonal scare. If the prospect of trick-or-treating isn't immersive enough for you, pick up a copy of "Condemned: Criminal Origins," dim the lights, and make sure to have a fresh change of boxers close at hand as Monolith sucks you into the disturbing, violent world of "Condemned."

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3 on 3 b-ball touney

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equipment: \$100.00 per team
prizes: \$250 per team
\$100 per player

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ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Women's Basketball looking for another championship

Katie Callahan
Sports Editor

As the Ursinus College Women's Basketball team enters its 2008-2009 season, so do six freshmen players. The Lady Bears, who finished 13-12 overall last season, are looking once again to reign as conference champs as they did in 2006-2007.

The team brings back a strong base of six players: sophomore forward Jenna Poligo, sophomore guard Jaelyn Hilf, junior center Carolyn Konstanzer, junior forward Julie Bown, junior guard Lauren Krieger, and senior guard Lauren White. These six players will be holding most of the experience for the team and are going to help lead the women to a conference championship. Alex Shivers, a sophomore, is out due to ACL surgery for the season. Although the team is young (three fourths of the players are sophomores and freshmen), the expectations are as strong as in years past.

"We want to win the conference," said Coach Buckley.

During the 2006-2007 season, the UC Lady Bears beat Dickinson 61-55 in overtime, giving them the Conference

title. Standards have been set to win the Conference each year since then.

Lauren White will help lead the team to hopefully do just that. This year's lone senior and captain, White's determination and leadership has proven helpful thus far in the pre-season months. Out during her sophomore year due to health issues, Coach Buckley could not say more about her willingness to get right back on the court and help push her fellow teammates to their fullest potential.

"[There's not] a bad bone in her body," said Coach Buckley when commenting on her character, "She's a great person."

Coach Buckley also mentioned that this is the most athletic team they have ever had which should help raise the team to the competition. Buckley mentioned that a lot of the team played in summer league, which not only helped on the court, but also helped with morale off the court.

It has also helped that the freshmen have integrated into the team successfully thus far. The freshmen have created a lot of depth to the team and are helping to push

the upperclassmen because of their already high skill level. Although the team is young, Buckley is confident that the team will pull through and has a good shot at the Conference title.

"If the freshmen continue to progress the way they are now, we will have the kind of team we want,"

said Buckley.

The other teams in the conference have a lot of returning players, making the competition more experienced than the UC Bears by just a fraction. No less, with about four starters back on the team, it seems like the Lady Bears will be great contenders this season.

"It's really about the player. Our job as coaches is to give the best opportunity [to the player] to be successful," said Buckley. "It is important that they are putting forth the effort and as coaches we do too."

The team is preparing for their first game against Grove City on Fri Nov 21st at Messiah College's Tip-Off Tournament at 5:30PM. If Messiah is too far, the Lady Bears will be playing three home games right before winter break that you will not want to miss.

"We want to win the conference."

Men's and Women's Swimming splash into new season

Katie Callahan
Sports Editor

Coming off of a big win this past Saturday against Lebanon Valley, the Men's and Women's Swim team is stepping up to the other competition after years of under par performances.

Each year the swim team has been growing in strength and numbers. This year's team welcomed ten new freshmen, four men and six women. The freshmen are already making an impact on the team.

At Saturday's meet, freshmen Christopher Smith won the 200-yard freestyle and Kevin Tallon won the 200-yard medley relay. On the women's freshmen side Danielle Yentz won the 100-yard butterfly. The rest of the team took up wins left and right to beat Lebanon Valley 155-77 on the men's side and 130-69 on the Women's side.

Coach Feinberg admitted to being happily surprised, along with the rest of the team, on their great performance. He mentioned their continuous improvement throughout the last few years and is excited to see where this team takes the season this year.

"[We are looking to] continue to climb centennial conference standings," said Feinberg.

Although not looking for a conference championship title quite yet, the swimming Bears are

looking to take a good amount of the swimmers to conferences.

Returning MVP Lloyd Tannenbaum, sophomore, was fourth place in the mile last year at conferences. Coach Feinberg mentioned he has a great chance of winning the event this year. Another sophomore, Jessica Saloky, will also be a swimmer to look out for. Last year she took first in the 200 breast stroke and third in the 100 breast. If she works hard, Coach Feinberg believes she can take both events this year.

Swimming is one of those sports that the athlete cannot necessarily control the other team's performance for the day. The only thing they can do is improve upon themselves individually and be there for one another to reach those individual goals and team goals.

With that being said, this is the first year Coach Feinberg is a full time coach on the Coaching Staff of

Ursinus College. This is giving him the opportunity to scout stronger athletes, be a resource for current athletes, and keep the pool in better condition.

He mentioned recruiting as one of the most important aspects of creating a strong team. Not only does it draw in more swimmers, but it makes the current swimmers work harder for their spots. Conferences allow for 18 swimmers for both the men's and women's team. Right now, Ursinus has ten men and 18 women. With those numbers, there is no competition between the athletes for a spot at conferences. Coach Feinberg is hoping to challenge his athletes more by finding them better competitors.

To keep the pace going in the pool regardless of the "free ride" to conferences, senior captains Mollie Cherson and Ryan Kennedy are helping to lead the swim team to their best season yet.

"[They are] good role models, good swimmers, and they learned how to balance a social life," said Coach Feinberg, "And that's what I hope for all of [my athletes]".

Coach Feinberg mentioned how dedicated all the athletes are and how much time it takes for them to get to where they want to be.

"[It's a] hard sport and a time commitment [they dedicate themselves to] for no scholarship money, it's admirable," said Feinberg.

To catch the team in the pool, come out to their next home meet on Nov 15 against McDaniel at 1PM.



photo courtesy of Matt Whitman

Have an opinion about Ursinus Sports? Want to see your team featured? Have a player that deserves a spotlight? Write for the Sports Section! If you are interested, please email the sports editor at kacallahan@ursinus.edu!

In Times of Test, Family is Best: UC Men's Basketball

Nick Pane

Grizzly Staff Writer

Kevin Small, head coach of the Ursinus Men's Basketball team, admitted that he expected to be in a slight rebuilding mode at the beginning of the 2007 season. If rebuilding results in an appearance in the NCAA Division III Final Four, Small would probably want to rebuild every year.

The Ursinus' men's team experienced one of its most successful and exciting seasons last year, going 17-0 at home, and 20-0 in the Centennial Conference. They ended the season 29-4 en route to an appearance in the Final Four led by Small and Centennial Conference Player of the Year Nick Shattuck. Last season saw quite a few accomplishments. On February 13, 2008, Small became the all-time leader in wins at Ursinus. The 2007 season also saw Shattuck become the all-time leading scorer in Ursinus' history, surpassing Dennis Stanton, who set the mark in 2004. In short, the bar has been set very high after last year, and Coach Small has a lot of confidence in his team.

"I tell the guys not to lose the plot of the season, which is trying to improve each day, and it's not always about winning basketball games. We place a tremendous premium on this being a great family experience", said Small, "There is room to say that we've lost quite a bit. Our guys have confidence, but they are clearly aware that they have a lot of work to do."

Small puts a ton of emphasis on the kind of experience that his players receive while a part of the basketball program, which is clearly evident by the trip the team took to Brazil this past summer.

According to Small, the NCAA allows a team trip every third summer. Instead of going somewhere that the players could at least slightly relate to, Small took an entirely different approach. The basketball team packed their bags and headed to Brazil, an experience that Small described as, "incredible". While there, the team did service projects in addition to playing some top competition.

One of the players they played against included NBA star Leandro Barbosa, a member of the Phoenix Suns, and former 6th Man of the Year award winner. Small and his players definitely took a lot from the trip, both on the court and off of it.

"We chose Brazil because we have an unusually high amount of business majors right now. It's an emerging market, and it's an exciting time in the Brazilian culture. The cookie-cutter trip for most teams is Europe. I really wanted to try to do something a little different, and Brazil lived up to it. It was a great time for our guys; we saw a beautiful country and learned a lot about a different part of the world," said Small.

Again, it was obvious that there is a lot of weight and importance on the family atmosphere with this team that definitely results in a strong bond and chemistry between the players and organization. Another great example is the opportunity that each player has to present himself to the team in hopes of being named a team captain.

Coach Small believes in his players being able to speak to their peers if they wish to be named a captain. While Small oversees everything, the entire organization gets involved in choosing their leaders. This year, the three seniors, Matt Brundage, Eric Burnett, and John Noonan, have taken the reins, and are expected to lead Ursinus back to the "Promised Land". Small talked about the importance of being a captain, and what it means for the program.

"[Being a captain] has a pretty important impact on our dynamic when we talk about being a family. Leadership has to be at the cornerstone and having a really empowered sense of leadership because everyone has the opportunity to vote, to hire someone, as well as apply for that job. We have grown, because eight years ago, Ursinus wasn't very good, and that model has sustained us, because more and more it's a state of the union about what we're all about. This is what it means to be part of the Ursinus' mens basketball family," said Small.

Clearly the model has worked, and the program has gone through the roof since Small's system has been incorporated into the program and mindset of the players. The team is 145-74 since Small took the head coaching

position, and the philosophy has been successful through and through. However, for Small, there is more to it all than winning basketball games when it is all said and done.

The basketball team prides itself on the success it has had over the past eight years, but a much deeper message is sent to the players by this program. Small understands and knows his players, which makes his job that much more enjoyable. He is proud of the academic success that his players have achieved, especially his captains. When asked about what he wants his players to take from their experience, Small had a near perfect answer.

"When [the players] leave our community, I want something to be very authentic in what they learned. That they were a part of something bigger than themselves. In addition hopefully they will have a genuine and real passion for life. I hope that when they walk across the stage, hard work matters. A genuine sense of commitment will get you somewhere. How you handle yourself in failure will define your sense of character. I hope that they've learned to embrace differences. I think our kids have learned and embraced that the world is changing, and they want to meet and appreciate a lot of differences in people. To have courage to take risks, having learned the value of courage. And at the end of the day, they should not to take themselves too seriously, and to learn to laugh, and laugh at themselves," said Small.

Clearly the program is in the right hands, and the players are better because of it. This team deserves all of the success they earn and Ursinus has a lot to be thankful for in terms of getting behind their basketball team. To catch the team in their home opener, stop by Helderich Gym on Fri Nov 21 at 6pm to watch the Bears take on St. Lawrence.



photo courtesy of Matt Whitman



photo courtesy of Matt Whitman

THE SCOREBOX

Football	Sat. 11/1	at Moravian*	17-7L
Swimming	Sat. 11/1	Lebanon Valley	W:130-69W M:115-77W
Men's Soccer	Sat. 11/1	Muhlenberg*	3-0L
Field Hockey	Sat. 11/1	at Johns Hopkins*	8-3W
Women's Soccer	Sat. 11/1	at Johns Hopkins*	4-0L
Cross Country	Sat. 11/1	at Centennial Conference Championships @ Gettysburg	W: 7 th place M: 8 th place

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's and Women's Swimming	Wed. 11/12	at Drew	6:00 p.m.
Wrestling	Sat. 11/8	at Messiah Invitational	9:00 a.m.
Football	Sat. 11/8	at Muhlenberg*	1:00 p.m.