The Grizzly, November 20, 2008

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The real question is how do we cope with the stress at the end of this week? Stressed? Worn out? Sleep deprived? I think that we all have felt that stress creeping up, especially as the end of the semester quickly approaches. The question is how do we cope with the consequences of stress so that it does not interfere with our lives academically, socially, and emotionally?

On Nov. 11, the advocacy group for mental health on campus, Active Minds, provided some helpful suggestions during their first session of the Daily Grind. Dr. Doghramji supplied valuable information concerning stress and how to cope with its consequences. Dr. Doghramji explained that long term stress results in serious problems such as heart attacks or strokes. For us college students, “too much stress can cause medical and psychiatric problems via bad sleep.”

The second act follows Zero through the afterlife, in which he finds freedom from his wife and happiness with the object of his affection, Daisy. He begins to truly understand his life, and where he fits into the universal scheme. Not to drag in the ever popular CIE themes, but this work deals directly with the famous “Why am I here?” and “Where am I going?” queries.

For those readers who couldn’t make it to a performance, the two act expressionist play written in 1926 deals with the final days of main character Mr. Zero. Zero works for 25 years adding figures in an accounting office. On the day of the 25th anniversary of his position he is fired, to be replaced by an adding machine. Zero snaps, and murders his boss. After a surreal courtroom scene and an absurd scene in which a group of tourists visits Zero in jail to watch him like an animal in a zoo, Zero is put to death.

Doghramji explained that long term stress results in serious problems such as heart attacks or strokes. For us college students, “too much stress can cause medical and psychiatric problems via bad sleep.” (Sleep, remember that word?) Doghramji states that when we are stressed out we “have to break the cycle to get healthy again.” He believes in “making something into a good stress.” One means of eliminating stress is “redirecting.” By redirecting stress, the brain no longer focuses on a certain issue. For example, the doctor states that if a certain course is causing a student stress, after careful consideration, if that student still experiences large amounts of distress, the course should be dropped.

Active Minds encourages students to relax: Stop stressing!

Active Minds encourages students to relax: Stop stressing!

Elizabeth MacDonald
Grizzly Staff Writer

Have you ever experienced that lump in your throat or nervous feeling studying for a test? How were you feeling at the end of this week? Stressed? Worn out? Sleep deprived? I think that we all have felt that stress creeping up, especially as the end of the semester quickly approaches. The real question is how do we cope with the consequences of stress so that it does not interfere with our lives academically, socially, and emotionally?

On Nov. 11, the advocacy group for mental health on campus, Active Minds, provided some helpful suggestions during their first session of the Daily Grind. Dr. Doghramji supplied valuable information concerning stress and how to cope with its consequences.

According to Doghramji, there are two kinds of stress: good stress and bad stress. A student who experiences good stress can enter into a mode which is productive and beneficial to various tasks which need to be completed; however, bad stress can also have negative ramifications. It all depends upon the individual and how he or she responds to the pressures that accompany stress. Stress occurs when the activity which a person is involved in “get[s] to the point where it is not fun anymore” and that is when one’s “flight or fight” mechanism kicks in, causing stress. Additionally, Doghramji explained that long term stress results in serious problems such as heart attacks or strokes. For us college students, “too much stress can cause medical and psychiatric problems via bad sleep.” (Sleep, remember that word?) Doghramji states that when we are stressed out we “have to break the cycle to get healthy again.” He believes in “making something into a good stress.” One means of eliminating stress is “redirecting.” By redirecting stress, the brain no longer focuses on a certain issue. For example, the doctor states that if a certain course is causing a student stress, after careful consideration, if that student still experiences large amounts of distress, the course should be dropped.

Now, that is not to say that every course which is stressful should not be followed through, but if it reaches a point where the stress becomes unmanageable, something definitely should be done about that situation. Another common problem concerned rooming situations. He suggested that in the event that rooming situations cause problems, one person should attempt to remove him or herself from the situation by leaving the room or taking a walk. “The best thing is to get it off your plate.”

The presentation of the play was highly stylized to evoke the feel of the 1920’s era. “This is supposed to have the feel of a silent movie,” says director Professor Domenick Scudera. This was accomplished by projecting footage from the 1920’s on the screens that comprised the back wall and sides of the set in between scenes. Cast members also worked at incorporating realistic, old timey “Noo Yawk” accents to give their characters authenticity.

This production of The Adding Machine was evaluated by a respondent from the American College Theatre Festival. In this festival, colleges compete by presenting their shows, and are able to win awards. The Adding Machine was not entered in the festival, but it was entered to be evaluated, and for two students to win the right to attend the Irene Ryan Acting Festival. The two students chosen for this honor were leads Nadine Burt as Mrs. Zero, and Josh Aungst as Mr. Zero. Helen Ann Coin as Daisy was chosen as an alternate. The respondent was effusive with praise.

"Adding Machine makes explosive debut on UC campus" is continued on page 5.

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Holman visits UC
Fashionable First Family
Always a Review
Field Hockey Success

Vol 33, Iss 12

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
**News in Brief: Schoolgirls attacked, planets discovered**

Lisa Jobe  
Grizzly Staff Writer

**News**  
Nasa's Phoenix Mars Lander in action.

Photo courtesy of FoxNews.com

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008**

SAQQARA, Egypt (AP) — Archeologists have discovered the remains of a pyramid in Saqqara, an ancient Egyptian burial ground located south of modern day Cairo. Saqqara served as the burial ground for rulers in Memphis, which was the capital city of ancient Egypt during the Old Kingdom period. So far, only about one-third of the area has been explored. The pyramid is 4,300 years old and most likely belonged to Queen Sesheshet, the mother of the founding pharaoh of Egypt's 6th dynasty. All that remains of the pyramid is a 16-foot tall structure that had been buried under 65 feet of sand. Archeologists are close to actually entering the base of the pyramid, where they hope to find proof of the owner. They doubt they’ll find much more than that, due to a gaping hole in the top of the structure that indicates extensive looting.

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

KABUL, Afghanistan (CNN) — A group of teenage girls walking to school were attacked by a group of men wielding water pistols full of acid in Afghanistan on Wednesday. Two of the girls were blinded in the attack. The men responsible escaped after the attack and no groups have claimed responsibility, but Al-Jazeera speculated that Taliban insurgents were responsible. Under the rule of the Taliban, which lasted from 1996 to 2001, girls were forbidden to go to school. General David McKiernan, the top U.S. official in Afghanistan, condemned the attack, calling the insurgents “dishonorable.” “No one can honestly say they are fighting for the people, then purposefully attack innocent women and children.”

**Friday, November 14, 2008**

(CNN) — In other space news, four planets outside of our solar system have recently been discovered. Using advanced direct-imaging techniques, astronomers at NASA and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory took pictures of these planets, which orbit stars that lie outside our solar system. None of these planets are habitable by any means, as they’re mostly gaseous. However, the studies suggest that direct-imaging will aid astronomers in the search for another Earth. Three of the four new planets orbit around the star HR8799, which is 1.5 times larger than the sun, 130 light years from Earth, and a star in the constellation of Pegasus. The star is believed to be undetectable by the naked eye, but a pair of binoculars or an amateur telescope would probably do the trick. These three planets, known as HR8799b, HR8799c and HR8799d, were discovered by British, Canadian, and American specialists using telescopes atop the Mauna Kea in Hawaii. At about the same time, NASA astronomers discovered Fomalhaut b, a planet orbiting around the star Fomalhaut, using the Hubble space telescope. This star is 16 times brighter than the sun and part of the constellation Piscis Australis. A total of 326 planets have been discovered outside the solar system, but these four are the first to be captured in pictures.

**Creative writing author John Holman visits UC students**

Christopher Schaeffer  
Grizzly Staff Writer

Ursinus’ visiting writers series continued this week with a reading and Q&A session by author John Holman. Mr. Holman, the author of a collection of short stories, Squabbler, as well as the novel Luminous Mysteries, read to a packed Unity House Tuesday evening. After an enthused introduction by Creative Writing professor Tajie Silverman, Mr. Holman read a selection from Squabblle, “I Did That,” a story which aptly sums up many of his themes. The story deals with growing into a sort of solipsism in a small rural town, grappling with the issues of racial identity and invisibility most famously dealt with by Ralph Ellison.

His next selection, “The Wave,” introduced another important facet of his work to the audience, the way in which characters turn outside objects (friendly pedestrians, miserables drunks) into highly charged signifiers in their own quiet internal struggles.

The Q&A session following was brief and spirited, with Holman fielding questions about his writing career, his history with the written word, and the importance of triggers to his work—“I’m still trying to figure out how to write a novel,” he admitted.

It isn’t difficult to pick up on the influence of Raymond Carver in Holman’s stories of discontented working class men and women and their unexpressed melancholy, but in Luminous Mysteries, in particular, he throws several complicating elements into the picture that make his writing profoundly strange and rewarding. First is an element of understated absurdism, never quite breaking into the narrative but constantly poking at the margins. For example, in Luminous Mysteries the character Butter notices a kangaroo in the door of a house during a drive, looking back long enough to confirm its existence but not long enough to figure out what it is doing or to convince her companions of its existence. Earlier on, we are briefly introduced to a mask-wearing barber, allergic to hair. These little details set ripples on the intimately-rendered depiction of southern life Holman sets up, but never disturb the surface too much. More importantly, Holman introduces race to the Carver-esque paradigm of class struggle in unexpected and thought-provoking ways, from the Protean lawyer-cum-crack-addict-cum-graphic-designer Lonnie Welcome to the tense woodland walk of two elderly men, one black and one white, in “Why They Named the Baby Black.” Holman directly addresses the fact that the conversation about race and class in American literature has changed dramatically in “Ground Effects,” in which Lonnie and Butter (one of the focal characters in Luminous Mysteries’ swirling, wandering narrative) meet each other at a Cultural Conference full of intellectuals engaged in re-inventing their blackness for a post-modern society, or in redefining blackness from a position of white hegemony. “There seem to be a lot of white folks who keep talking about black people as products,” Lonnie says of the convention. He seems to sum up the book’s verdict when he says shortly thereafter, “I don’t confuse the image with the actual—which is what they’re doing.”

Holman’s reading provided an excellent introduction to his prose, a lyrically and tensely written collage of characters tied together largely by the importance of place. Although you may not have heard of him until recently, his work is as complex and rewarding as any of today’s major authors, and the economic beauty of his style is impossible to describe without selling it short. Holman’s work, and Luminous Mysteries in particular, is a real gift to contemporary literature, proof that social relevance and passionate, dream-like artistry can go hand in hand.
Is the economy affecting your waistline?

Gianna Paone
Grizzly Staff Writer

You’re a college student, you’re hungry, and your room doesn’t exactly look like an aisle at Acme. Sound familiar? Like many Americans, you might find yourself deciding between who gets the better treatment: your body or your wallet. With food prices increasing and the economy slumping, is it possible to eat healthily without going broke?

Recently, first-hand and research studies show that for many—not just students—it may not be. While the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 increased Federal Minimum wage to $6.55 per hour, our country’s poverty rate for that year was about 12.7%, or 37.3 million people. Within this portion lie many who rely on food stamps, which average $1, is it surprising that many choose a soft drink over a liter of milk that costs $1.59.

Time and preparation pose another issue for many. In a study featured in The New York Times, one couple spent a month eating on $1 per day. Finding that they had to give up many store-bought items and dinner out, they explained that one of the most significant changes that the lifestyle brought was food preparation time. Attempting to eat nutritiously, they had to purchase more raw foods, such as oatmeal, rice, and beans. More time for cooking and preparing meals was needed, and the couple noted how they lacked the drive to spend it after a long workday. To meet such concerns, America continues to produce easily prepared, inexpensive options (does “Ramen” ring a bell?), many of which children can make when working parents are busy or which workers can prepare quickly. Furthermore, fast food franchises are not only becoming more abundant, but also are increasing their convenience levels to appeal to the busy or cost-conscious American via 24-hour drive-thrus, dollar menus, and other more-for-your-money deals.

The problem is not only economic. Researchers worry that cheaper, convenient, unhealthy foods will continue following the same trends relative to inflation, expanding the already-severe obesity issue. With only one of our 50 states having an obesity prevalence under 20%, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. is facing the same issue as Canada, who determined that costs of healthy options, such as milk,... and certain meats rose about 20% above inflation, while... their fatty... counterparts, such as desserts..., fell below by 10%...

Britney’s Son Hospitalized

After suffering from an allergic reaction, Britney Spears’ youngest son, Jayden James Federline, was hospitalized at Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center on November 9. According to People, Jayden was admitted at 1:30 p.m. and kept overnight. A source told the magazine that he “had hives, was itchy and irritable.” According to a statement released on the singer’s official website, Jayden is “doing fine” and the reaction was the result of something ingested. Prior to the event, Spears had been spending the afternoon at the family’s Serenity mansion in Louisiana. According to People, “this was the boy’s first trip out of California with their mother” since January, when the pop star lost custody.

Kanye West Arrested in England

Following a performance at the Metro Radio Arena in Newcastle, rapper Kanye West was arrested on suspicion of assault around 2 a.m. Friday. According to E! News, West allegedly became physical with photographer Terry Blackburn after leaving Tup Tup nightclub in Newcastle.

Bachelorette Split

Nearly four months after the nationally aired proposal, Bachelorette DeAnna Pappas and fiancé Jesse Csincsak have called it quits. Initiating the breakup was Pappas, who told In Touch Weekly that she “slowly came to realize that it wasn’t going to work out.” According to MSN, Pappas had agreed to release a joint statement, however ended up leaking the news early. Chris Harrison, host of The Bachelor, told Entertainment Tonight that this decision left Csincsak feeling “a little bit up.” In a YouTube video blog, Csincsak explained that he did “everything in [his] power to try and make this [the relationship] work” and that he was “sorry” to fans of the show. The two had planned on tying the knot on May 9 of next year.

More Bailout News: AIG

Nathan Humphrey
Grizzly Staff Writer

AIG, or the American International Group, has been the keystone of the financial bailout package directed at Wall Street, with the Associated Press reporting AIG received approximately $85 billion in mid-September from the Federal Reserve. For this sum the federal government accepted a 80 percent stake in the company, which paid dividends. AIG is insufficient, and was followed by a second loan of close to $38 billion in very early October, according to the Associated Press. The third attempt at stimulating the economy was to extend the $70 billion in guarantees to banks, which AIG profited in the sum of $38 billion. The fourth attempt, aimed at providing $47 billion in government guarantees for AIG, has also collapsed. The government is handing out a year’s worth of losses of $38 billion, which New York Times reports is more money than AIG has profited in the last three years. The Fed’s now have thrown more currency at the situation, this time a sum totaling $150 billion.

In this step, the second long of $38 billion will become instead a $52.5 billion aid package to purchase the mortgage-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations (which are complex debt-based financial products). This will clear AIG of its assets that are driving the company’s losses. The Federal Reserve is reducing AIG’s interest rate and extending the time AIG has to pay off the original $85 billion loan, from two years to five. The second step is for the Troubled Asset Relief Program to purchase $40 billion in preferred AIG shares, which takes AIG to a slightly more equity position (meaning the government does not have a controlling interest in the company but gives them priority in being paid dividends).

If AIG failed, the Associated Press reports, it would create a domino effect with numerous other financial institutions. Officials are confident that the last surge of aid to AIG is enough to stabilize the company and restore investor’s confidence as well as the rest of the economy.
Features

Malia Obama: Rising young fashion icon?

Spencer Jones
Grizzly Staff Writer

One of the future first daughters of the United States is already turning heads and she isn’t even in the White House yet.

Barack Obama’s oldest child, 10-year-old Malia, is quite statuesque for her age and is already being called a “trendsetter in the making” by some. On election night, she wore a 110 dollar red silk dress from Bisciotti Inc, a high end children’s retailer. Since then, other little girls from across the country have been begging their parents to buy them the same dress, which was already on its way to being sold out long before Malia even wore it. However, due to the high popularity of the style, Bisciotti recently announced that it planned to make between 150 and 200 dresses of the same style in time for the holidays.

In today’s society some kids have some say over what they wear because their parents know how important it is for them to be fashionable and “hip.”

I’m sure Michelle Obama, as the mother of a girl that is very close to being a teenager, is cognizant of that as well.

Inside the busy life of Senior Laura Ng

Danny Tomblin
Grizzly Staff Writer

A blur of color blazes past me while I walk into Wismer Lower to contemplate my lunch options. “Busy today Laura?” I ask jokingly. Despite having a daily schedule that often makes sleeping merely a leisure activity rather than a necessity, she just laughs and continues on her mission. The Ursinus College senior, Laura Ng, is arguably the busiest human being alive. She puts the bees to shame, her home speaks primarily English, however she wears out the sun. Myth has it that she has even outdone the Energizer Bunny.

Laura Ng was brought up in Phoenixville, PA for most of her life. Her home speaks primarily English, however the Italian roots are strong, and her Grandmother who lives with her speaks her native tongue. One wouldn’t have to inquire about her home life to learn about her love of Italy. Just ask Ng about her best college experience. She will not hesitate to tell you her experience studying abroad in Florence was by far the best. After that she is almost at a loss for words to describe this highlight of her college career. Apparently it was enough to motivate her to make plans of returning to Italy after graduation.

“If I student teach for a semester I want to go back to Italy and teach Italian to American University students who are studying abroad.” Judging by the specific details provided, it seems that Ng has already started the planning for the year following graduation.

Unfortunately the close of the semester is near, and only a few more months remain to be inspired by the non-stop pace of Laura Ng’s daily life here at Ursinus College. Over ten clubs, groups, and activities will miss her resilient commitment and positive attitude that she brings to the table. The post college dilemma for Ng is not what her job is going to be; rather it seems that she might struggle with not having enough to do. There are few places in the world that offer opportunities for constant involvement like college. Though, for Laura Ng, it is hard to see this being any hindrance. Going back to school as a teacher should blossom into plenty of more opportunities in sports like college. Though, for Laura Ng, it is hard to see this being any hindrance. Going back to school as a teacher should blossom into plenty of more opportunities in sports like college.

The Safe Six: A helpful feature from campus safety!

1. AVOID THEFT - The best way to protect yourself and your “stuff” is to keep your doors and windows locked. Whether leaving for a few minutes or a few hours, locking your door is the best defense against theft. Popping exterior doors allows access to anyone...that “anyone” may be a person interested in stealing your laptop, Ipod, or cash. With the start of the holidays coming up the average thief is looking for extra cash, so be sure to KEEP YOUR DOORS LOCKED.

2. KEEP ALL VALUABLES IN A SECURE PLACE - Do not leave your valuables in the car! This is one of the most accessible places for thieves. Also, while the library may seem a safe and quiet place to leave your beloved laptop or textbooks, it is not. Campus Safety gets numerous reports of stolen items from the library. Don’t let yours be next!

3. COMMUNITY WATCH - Be part of the solution on campus. Say no to vandalism, theft, and destruction. 1500 sets of eyes are much better than 1 or 2. We need your help to keep our campus clean and safe. If you see someone causing damage or taking something that does not belong to them, let us know. And even better - let them know that you won’t put up with it.

4. SNOW IS COMING - When snow arrives, ice is usually there too. Be sure to have warm clothes and sturdy shoes with good tread on the bottom. Watch where you walk, and pay particular attention to stepping off curbs. Walk on sidewalks that have been shoveled and allow plenty of time to get to your destination. If you have a car on campus, be sure it is completely clear before driving. State law requires the top of your car to be free of snow so it doesn’t fly off and block the vision of a driver behind you. Snow shovels are available in Campus Safety. Bring your I.D. to borrow one.

5. MAIN STREET CROSSWALKS - Did you know that cars are required to stop when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk? This doesn’t mean you can jump out in front of a car and expect them to slam on their brakes...but they do have to stop if you are already crossing. It may take a little longer, but we encourage you to use the crosswalks at 6th and 8th Avenues. It is particularly hard for drivers to see you at night if you are crossing in the middle of the road. Stay safe - use the crosswalks.

6. TRAVEL WITH A BUDDY - While our campus may seem safe, there is always the possibility of bad things happening to good people. Remember in Kindergarten when you were told to always travel with a buddy? It is still true! Traveling in pairs (or more) is always the best way to go! It’s more fun that way anyway. So when walking around campus at night and especially when using the Perkiomen trail please travel with a buddy!

On behalf of Sodexo, I’d like to thank everyone who donated cans last Wednesday, November 12th for Cans Across America.

Ursinus collected just under 200 lbs of canned goods that will feed the hungry; Each and every pound will be given to Trinity UCC, right across the street.

Thank you for participating... you helped to better lives!

-Gabrielle Poretta Co-Editor-In-Chief-

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November 20, 2008

The Grizzly
Plummer speaks about importance of election

Salia Zounde
Grizzly Staff Writer

Last week, faculty, staff and students were invited to come out to hear speaker, writer and educator Joel Plummer's speech on what the election of Senator Barack Obama meant to America and minorities, particularly African-Americans. Joel Plummer has dedicated his time talents and professional life to serving the youth of African American and Latino students across New Jersey. He currently teaches at Plainfield High School along with a class at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Last week's event took place at Unity House was sponsored by Sankofa Umoja Nia Club (SUN) and the Office of Multicultural Services.

As an undergraduate student, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and graduated with College Honors and Rutgers University High Honors. Plummer was the recipient of the 1997 Wendell A. Jean-Pierre Award for being the top graduating African and African-American Studies major and completed a Master's of Arts degree in History at Rutgers Graduate School Newark with 20th Century African-American history as his area of concentration in 2001.


Plummer is devoted to the betterment of his community, his people and the youth. He spent three consecutive summers from 1997-1999 teaching at the W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars Institute where he taught African-American History and served as the Director of Residence Life. He also created the African Centered Educational Services, LLC under which he has conducted workshops and lectures for schools, organizations, conferences, and many other programs. Two years ago during one of these lectures and conferences at local community centers and churches in the tri-state area that Plummer Hudson Jervis met Plummer. Hudson showed up at Plummer's Bethel Presbyterian community based Church in Plainfield, NJ to give a speech about black people and how slavery still affects them today.

Plummer did not hide his enthusiasm to live to see the first ever African-American President to be elected into the White House. However, he is not too eager to celebrate because he still thinks that there are lots of issues and problems plaguing African-American communities that haven't been addressed by Elect-President Barack Obama. Plummer would like them to be addressed in a coherent way. He does believe that this is a giant leap for America in breaking racial barriers and putting to a halt the legacy of 300 years of slavery.

Freshman Hudson Jervis graduated from Saint Joseph High School in Metuchen, NJ. His fortuitous meeting with Plummer at his church had a lot of impact on Hudson. He kept contact with him and had Plummer give a speech at his High School.

Plummer has been Hudson's mentor and role model. If you are interested in attending more events such that celebrate African-American culture and history, Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN) meets every other Wednesday of the month. For more information on SUN's upcoming activities and events please e-mail club President Jennifer Thompkins at jethompkins@ursinus.edu or Activities Coordinator Shakeeta Parker at shparker@ursinus.edu.

Ottinger fights child illiteracy in cold

Gabrielle Poretta
Grizzly Co-Editor-In-Chief

Try to imagine sitting outside Wismer for 48 hours in the cold with no food, no sleep and no conversation. On Oct. 24, sophomore Colin Ottinger set out to do just that. Inspired by his need for a SPINT project and in order to raise money for childhood literacy, Ottinger set up a table in front of Wismer with no more than a jacket, hat, radio and candy incentives in hand. Behind him hung a poster on the window that read "Help Fight Child Illiteracy - no sleeping, no eating, no talking for 48 hours."

"I set up," Ottinger said, "not really knowing what to expect, whether I was going to end up a pile of ice or if I was going to starve to death or if broke college kids had any change whatsoever to spare."

All of his concerns were valid. Anyone who has tried to raise money at Ursinus knows how difficult convincing college kids had any change whatsoever to spare. As for starving, any human can understand the pain of extreme hunger. Going two days with absolutely no food would be difficult for anyone. Freezing to death was possible too, as the temperature stayed below 50.

Still, Ottinger claimed that he felt "good" the entirety of his sit-out. The weather wasn't great and he may have wanted to chew off his own arm from hunger, but what plagued him most those 48 hours was boredom.

"You can only watch squirrels swinging from trees for so long," said Ottinger. "After so many hours I got too tired to read anymore and I was kinda just stuck there in the cold with nothing to do."

Trying to quell boredom, Ottinger would move around in his seat, finding the position that kept him warmest. His radio also helped a great deal in keeping sane. Natural human urges also tested him that weekend.

"There were a few instances where I almost got derailed," Ottinger admitted.

On that Saturday morning, he found himself nodding off in the chair. But, fear of an embarrassingly public failure forced Ottinger to shake himself awake. He claimed, after his near-failure, to be wide-awake during those next 24 hours.

Later that day, another temptation came in the form of warm, freshly baked soft-pretzel bribery. A state-wide radio and candy incentives in hand. Behind him hung a poster on the window that read "Help Fight Child Illiteracy - no sleeping, no eating, no talking for 48 hours."

"It's really knowing what to do."

"I've never seen anyone give away free soft pretzels and there I was, without food for about 24 hours... and a box full of fresh baked soft pretzels right in front of my face."

Even with all of the temptations presented to him, Ottinger never gave up. By the end of the 40th hour, though, he could barely pick up all the things he had carried down two days prior. So, he called it a day and packed up his things to go home. Ottinger's sit-out raised about $250 for the Bring Me a Book Foundation. The money will go towards purchasing new children's books for under-privileged areas, as well as provide training for people to participate in group readings.

The kind and appreciative person he is, Ottinger asked that a thank you be placed in this article as well.

"I'd like to thank all the donors for their generosity, and I'd like to thank Roger Florka in particular, for not only donating money himself, but collecting donations from other teachers and giving them to me."
Opinions

Play N Trade: New store for gamers

Shaun Frank
Grizzly Staff Writer

Being a modern day gamer can be a tough proposition. Aside from the fact that the economy’s sudden decline can make keeping up with such an expensive hobby difficult for those not among the exceedingly wealthy (myself included), there are increasingly few places where one can go to purchase video games. Major retail chains like Wal-Mart, Target, and Kmart will carry the newest releases and the most expensive games, but if a game’s sales are less than stellar, its shelf life is limited. The lone remaining major game-specific chain, GameStop, has two locations near Ursinus, but the stores are cramped, their used game prices are often quite close to that of new games unless the product you’re looking for is a couple years old, and their selection only goes back as far as the early 1970s.

For those of you who enjoy a blast of nostalgia and are looking to satisfy the inner retro gamer, much like myself, here’s the real kicker: unlike GameStop or a big retailer, Play N Trade carries a large selection of older games, from video game consoles long forgotten like the Nintendo Entertainment System, the Super Nintendo and the Sega Game Gear, for very reasonable prices. Additionally, for all those unfortunate souls who might still have old-school games but no working system to use them on, the store not only carries used systems, but also stocks an interesting third-party device called the “Retro Duo” that can play both NES and SNES cartridges, a godsend for any 20-something gamers like myself who remember the unreliability of Nintendo’s original 1985 console.

The drive from Ursinus to the store’s location in Chalfont is a little over a half-hour, but well worth it for any gamer looking to escape from the cramped quarters of GameStop, the impersonal cool of a big time retailer, or just searching for a bit of old-school gaming. I heartily recommend Play N Trade for any and all gaming needs, and will be returning there myself early and often.

For more information on the Play N Trade franchise, you can visit their website at www.playnteade.com. If you’re interested in the Chalfont store specifically, you can take a peek at www.myspace.com/playnteadechalfonta or www.playnteade.com/chalfonta.

A Sunny review

Josh Krigman
Grizzly Staff Writer

The reason I chose to go to Ursinus was because of the show It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia. So when it premiered on FX, I knew that I had to go to college somewhere near Philadelphia. When Danny DeVito joined the cast in the following season, I knew that Ursinus (close enough) was the perfect fit. Despite all my hopes and dreams, I haven’t run into any of the cast members or accidentally walked onto set yet, but at I now recognize all the iconic imagery of the city in the show’s opening credits.

Described by many critics as ‘Seinfeld on crack’, Sunny dives into the depths of human depravity in a way that Jerry and Elaine never could. Where Seinfeld found success by using the banalities of everyday life and exploiting their absurdity, Sunny has made its characters so void of morality that they are able to commit acts and create problems that the viewers would otherwise never encounter. Despite being only 7 episodes long, the gang had already covered issues such as racism, abortion, cancer and molestation by the end of the first season and they had made all of them funny.

Now in its fourth season, Sunny seems to be keeping its fans entertained and enthusiastic from week to week. Part of it is due to the chemistry that the main characters all have together. The three main male leads, Glenn Howerton, Charlie Day and Rob McElhenney, were all close friends prior to the shows inception and now write and direct the show that McElhenney created. Kaitlin Olsen, who plays Howerton’s sister on the show, is McElhenney’s wife. And Mary Elizabeth Ellis, who plays a re-occurring character known only as ‘The Waitress’, is married to Day.

The cast of unknowns was rounded off in season 2 by adding Danny DeVito as Howerton and Olsen’s father. But the father figure archetype was quickly cast aside as DeVito became more involved in the Gang’s degeneracy. For instance: In this season, DeVito’s character Frank poops the bed on purpose.

Whether dealing with poop or dumpster babies, as they do in season 3, the Gang confronts issues head on and with no mercy. Their one-camera style of filming also gives the show an inviting feel, making it easy to get lost in the story line. At the same time, each character has a very unique delivery of their lines, making the show almost unquotable. This, combined with a title card and song combination reminiscent of the beginning sequence to The Little Rascals, Sunny has found its niche in the 10 o’clock Thursday night time slot and has made it a guarantee that I will be in front of my TV at 9:55, just so I don’t miss a thing.

Letter to the editor

Julie Tran
Grizzly Staff Writer

There were two shortcomings on campus after the traditional Coming Out Daychaking from GSA. One was hate speech and the other was a bible quotation. In response to these strong words were meetings and discussions. But discussions can only be beneficial when both sides of the issue are there. And at the USGA meeting there were two sides. Three gentlemen courageously took the side that is politically incorrect, and highly intolerant, but protected by the 1st Amendment. A discussion was able to take place. However, at the dessert discussion, there was no one who spoke that believed as those gentlemen had, nor said it with such conviction. Others attempted to play devil’s advocate but did not, and perhaps could not, bring the passion that those individuals brought forth. And so, the dessert discussion was not “alive with the exchange of ideas” as the article “Diversity... what’s that? GSA sponsors dessert discussion” claimed. What is needed is a discussion between two different groups of minds. Not the same group of people agreeing to the same thing.

This opinion of the anti-gay community is a prevalent one throughout the country, as seen when California became another state to ban gay marriage. So where are they on this campus? Why have they not come out to talk about what they believe in? I worry for this community when the dominant heterosexual culture does not come out and have discussions that are needed for a safe and open community. This hypocrisy intolerance is not fair, and does not champion the values of this community.

I can think of no reason for them not to come and express their opinion unless they are merely indifferent or afraid. If they are indifferent, I challenge them as a peer to let their voices be heard. It is worrisome that we do not care enough about our beliefs and values to defend them. This discussion will not end here. As we leave college for the rest of the world, this is not an issue that will fall by the wayside.

This letter to the editor is not to complain about the inaccuracy of the original article. It is to point out that there are two sides of every story and one is not being heard. Despite any personal beliefs about either side, they are both protected by the 1st Amendment. Also, this other side is the dominant one in our culture. The indifference on this campus needs to remedied. This is not a passion for a certain cause or a certain subject. This is a passion for one’s own individual belief, to have the conviction to stand up for what one believes in. We need to have both sides of this passion to have an engaged intellectual community.

The Grizzly

November 20, 2008
The year of the Hollywood comeback: Old names, new movies

Nobody loves a comeback more than Hollywood. In this town, no one's ever really out of the business, and there's always a chance, no matter how small, that someone will make a comeback. Some of these comebacks are more successful than others, but they all have one thing in common: they give people hope that they can still make it in Hollywood.

Dracula’s Ball recap: The ideal Halloween destination

For me personally, there's no other place I'd rather be than on Halloween. Dracula's Ball at Shampoo was the perfect place to kick off the Halloween season. The party was packed with people in costume, and the atmosphere was electric.

The Grizzly
November 20, 2008
Sports

Hockey prepares for on-campus Nationals this weekend

Emily McCloskey
Grizzly Staff Writer

It is that time of year again. Bust out your brackets and make your final picks for the championship. No, it is not March Madness, but it is the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championships. This year, Ursinus hosted the first rounds of the championships and this coming weekend will host the semi-final and final games; which they will also be competing in.

The Ursinus team has had a strong showing in the first two rounds of post season play. They first faced off against Lynchburg College of Lynchburg, VA, where they asserted their dominance early in the game. Only four minutes into the game junior Jen Hooven scored the first goal. Three minutes later, senior Jennie Moore, all time leading scorer in the Centennial Conference, scored another goal, putting the Bears up 2-0. Lynchburg's freshman Jordan Warrington scored two goals to tie the game. The game stayed tied until the very end. With less than five minutes left, senior Kait Sutherland scored a goal, giving Ursinus the lead and sending them to the quarter finals against SUNY Cortland.

On Sunday, the Bears faced the Cortland Red Dragons. The game started with a goal by Sutherland. This was the first of two goals early in the game by Sutherland. The Bears out shot the Red Dragons 38-4. The Red Dragons' Emily McCloskey scored her second goal of the game and tied the game. The Bears came back for the second half and asserted their dominance throughout the game. With 25 minutes remaining in the game, Sutherland scored her third goal, putting Ursinus up by two. The game remained 3-1 the remainder of the game. Ursinus earned their victory over TCNJ in the last two minutes of the game, to earn their first trip to the Final Four.

The other Final Four teams are Messiah and Tufts. Messiah is the top ranked team according to the Final STIX NFCHA Top 20 Poll. They also won their 500th victory when they beat Eastern in the first round.

The Eagles leave the championship title to the Phillies

Jamey Cooper
Grizzly Staff Writer

The Philadelphia Phillies' World Series victory may have provided the city with some much needed celebration, but the fact remains that Philadelphia is a diehard football town and the real party won't begin until the Philadelphia Eagles bring home the Lombardy Trophy. Unfortunately for Eagles' fans, Andy Reid's birds are struggling yet again in a season that appears to be anyone's for the taking.

The 2008-09 NFL season has brought about some interesting story lines, and seeing them play out has been an interesting experience. The week one injury to star quarterback Tom Brady drastically shifted the balance of power in the AFC. As the league has been so successful in the past two seasons.

The Philadelphia Eagles are a different story. After finishing last season with a disappointing 8-8 record, this year has been more of the same for Birds' fans: heartbreaking losses and head-scratching play calls from head coach Andy Reid. The Eagles' biggest worry coming into the year was red zone offense. Despite finishing last season at #500, the Eagles did move the ball on offense but had trouble scoring when getting inside the 20 yard line. Even though much emphasis has been put on improving in this area, the Eagles have faltered. In three crucial games against the Bears, Redskins and most recently the Giants, the Eagles found themselves in a position where they needed only one yard to either get the winning score or a first down that would prolong the game. In each one of these instances the Eagles had at least two plays to gain one yard but came up short. Some of the blame should be placed on the players for lack of execution, but Andy Reid's predictable play calling is mostly at fault.

The bottom line is that Reid is not putting his team in a position to win games, and it's been sucking the life out of this team for the last 2 seasons. It's time for management to re-evaluate their coach of the last 10 seasons and realize the Eagles have no chance at a Super Bowl if Reid stays.

For too long his stubborn offensive game planning, poor play calling and laughable game management skills have held back a team more than capable of winning a Super Bowl. What makes it so frustrating this year is that anyone has a shot at hoisting the trophy. With 7 games remaining, the Eagles are 5-4 and mathematically very much in the playoff picture. But considering they're 0-3 in divisional games, a Super Bowl run seems most unlikely. Looks like Philadelphia will have to cling to the World Series victory for a little bit longer.

Upcoming Games

Swimming
Sat. 11/22 at Gettysburg* 1:00 p.m.
Tue. 11/25 Swarthmore* 6:00 p.m.

Field Hockey
Sat. 11/22 Bowdoin* 2:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball
Fri. 11/21 vs. St. Lawrence* 6:00 p.m.
Sat. 11/22 vs. Williams/Southern Vt.12:30 p.m.
Tue. 11/25 Drew 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 11/30 at Lebanon Valley 4:00 p.m.
Wed. 12/3 Washington* 7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball
Fri. 11/21 vs. Grove City& 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 11/22 vs. Messiah Easton 1:00/3:00 p.m.
Tue. 12/2 Washington* 7:00 p.m.

*centennial conference opponent

Congratulations
to Christa Johnson who placed 1st at the NCAA Division III Mid East Cross-Country Regional meet this past Saturday! Good luck at Nationals this weekend.

The Grizzly

November 20, 2008