The Grizzly, April 2, 2009

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Mathilde, spicy, stimulating aphrodisiacs: fact or fiction?

Caitlin Dalik
Grizzly News Editor

On the evenings of Mar. 24 through Mar. 26, Bomberger Auditorium was transformed into an educational forum for the Ursinus community as they watched "The Vagina Monologues," presented by Breakaway Student Productions and the V-Day Committee.

Vagina is a word that usually makes teenagers giggle in health class, but the cast of "The Vagina Monologues" told the story of women from around the world. Junior Abbie Cichowski made her directorial debut with this production written by Eve Ensler.

"The Vagina Monologues" was produced in conjunction with V-Day events which also included a kissing booth fundraiser, all night sporting event, and more. V-Day also celebrated International Women's Day on Mar. 18 by setting up displays in Wismer Lower Lounge about women's issues around the world. Some of these issues included women's rights, violence against women, labor rights, and more. Spread throughout the area were "fast women's facts," which enlightened the Ursinus community with statistics and little known facts about women's issues.

Monologues give vaginas voice

Caitlin Dalik
Grizzly News Editor

When people walked into Bomberger Hall for the show they were greeted with some of the same fast facts and displays in the lobby to look at before watching the show. The Laurel House also set up a display, an organization that benefited from the proceeds of Ursinus' V-Day events. The Laurel House is a safe haven for local abused women and children; in addition they also raise public awareness about domestic abuse throughout Montgomery County. Proceeds from V-Day events across the nation benefited The Republic of Congo, in hopes of ending violence against women.

The show featured 10 monologues, each presented by a different cast member. The monologues spoke to the audience about things women rarely ever speak about, and included such things as looking at your own vagina, orgasms, rape, masturbation, going to the gynecologist, birth, and much more.

In the director's note, Cichowski wrote that after reading through the "Vagina Monologues" was produced in conjunction with V-Day events which also included a kissing booth fundraiser, all night sporting event, and more. V-Day also celebrated International Women's Day on Mar. 18 by setting up displays in Wismer Lower Lounge about women's issues around the world. Some of these issues included women's rights, violence against women, labor rights, and more. Spread throughout the area were "fast women's facts," which enlightened the Ursinus community with statistics and little known facts about women's issues.

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Smelly, spicy, stimulating aphrodisiacs: fact or fiction?

Caitlin Dalik
Grizzly News Editor

What do chocolate and oysters have in common? They're both supposedly aphrodisiacs. But can certain foods really stimulate sexual desire, or is it all in our heads?

Throughout history, different cultures have created these aphrodisiacs in their minds. Strange, I know.

But what brings aphrodisiacs to present day? Scientists argue that it's our relationships. They claim that some married couples are so overwhelmed with things like job stress, money, and busy schedules that they're barely having sex. That's where these "magical" aphrodisiacs come in. While no food has been scientifically proven to stimulate the sex organs, food and the act of eating can suggest sex to the brain which then stimulates the body.

Historically, aphrodisiacs have been broken down into five categories, according to WebMD. These include:

- Foods that are spicy or create warmth and moisture which were thought to arouse passion, such as chili.
- Foods that have imitative magic or ones that look or feel like a sexual organ, such as oysters.
- Foods that came from reproduction organs, such as fish roe, or were animal genitals. They were thought to increase sexual desire and potency.
- Exotic foods. It's thought that foods that are rare, and therefore more expensive, must be more sexually exciting. However when some of these rare foods become more readily available (i.e. the potato) they lost their reputation as aphrodisiacs. Cocoa has still been able to hold onto its reputation.
- Any foods that stimulate the senses, such as smell.

Throughout history, cultures have created these aphrodisiacs in their minds. In 14th century Europe, new products from the spice trade from Asia added herbs and spices such as ginger, cinnamon, and thyme to the list of aphrodisiacs. By the 18th century, foods that resembled a phallus, such as eel, carrots, and asparagus, were also added to the list. Various bulb vegetables, which were thought to resemble testicles,
News

26th Annual Airband

Eva Bramesco
Grizzly Staff Writer

Students flocked to the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center’s Lenfest Theater on Mar. 27 for a sold-out performance of the 26th Annual Airband produced by the Residence Hall Association.

Airband 2009 featured eight acts which ranged from fraternity to faculty, sororities, hip-hop dance groups, and more. Each group performed a skit comprised of one, usually several, songs, which lasted for approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

The event was organized by the Airband Committee which included Resident Advisors, Brigid Bleaken, Robyn Clarke, Kate McGirr, Tony Ubertaccio, and Whitney Woodall, with Airband Advisor Dana Pienta, more well-known as the Reimert Resident Director. All proceeds benefited The Friendship House, which is a local organization in Pottstown that places at-risk and in need children with foster care and adoptive families.

The crowd was entertained between acts by MC’s Davis Howley and Kevin Bench, also Resident Advisors. The dynamic duo got things started off on a humorous note with a quick skit about MC rivalry. Howley amused

“26th Annual Airband” is continued on page 4.

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News in Brief: China blocks YouTube

Lisa Jobe
Grizzly Staff Writer

Tuesday, Mar. 24
WASHINGTON (CNN) – On Tuesday, President Obama’s administration announced that it is sending hundreds of extra troops and high-tech crime-fighting equipment to the US-Mexico border in an attempt to combat recent waves of drug-related violence. According to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, drug cartels were responsible for 6,500 Mexican deaths last year. She said the administration’s involvement is “about border safety and security and making sure that spillover violence does not erupt in our own country.”

The new plan calls for double the amount of border security teams and more federal agents, equipment, and resources at the border. Another goal is to try and prevent cash and weapons from entering Mexico and aiding the drug trade. On the U.S. side of the border, the plan will provide for task forces that bring together agencies such as the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security “to dismantle drug cartels through investigation and extradition and the seizure and forfeiture of assets.” It will also provide money to state, local, and tribal border enforcement units.

Wednesday, Mar. 25
BEIJING, China (CNN) – The Chinese government has blocked YouTube in the country but has not given a reason for the ban. Google, YouTube’s owner, said it noticed a decrease in traffic in China on Monday, and users were receiving a “Network Error” message by Wednesday. A spokesman for Google reiterated that the company does not know the reason for the ban and is “working as quickly as possible to restore access to users.”

China has blocked YouTube before in March, 2008, during the riots in Tibet. In the subsequent crackdown, 18 civilians and one police officer died, according to the Chinese government, while Tibet’s “self-proclaimed government-in-exile” claimed the death toll was 140. Many speculate that the current ban was put in place to filter footage, uploaded by a Tibetan political group, which supposedly shows Tibetan citizens being beaten by Chinese police after the riots.

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February 2, 2009
Spring break fun in the sun with Habitat for Humanity

Julia Fox
Grizzly Staff Writer

During spring break, many of us relaxed at home or spent time visiting tropical destinations and beaches. Meanwhile, volunteers from Ursinus were busy across the country building homes for those who need them most with Habitat for Humanity.

Over spring break, three groups of students went to work on Habitat projects: one group went to York, Pennsylvania, led by Karen Boedecker and Lauren Daley; another went to Miami, Florida, led by Lauren Scholwinski; and the last group went to Mississippi and was led by Professor Christian Rice and the Bonner Leader Program.

According to Habitat’s website, Habitat for Humanity has built over 300,000 homes and provided shelter for 1.5 million individuals. Habitat uses volunteers and donated supplies to construct homes which go to families who need them. To earn the homes, recipients spend hundreds of hours helping build, as well as put forth a down payment and low monthly mortgage payments. They are selected based on need, willingness to participate, and ability to pay back a loan.

Some students also learned to work on odds and ends of the house they were constructing. Professor Rice’s group built in Mississippi, and was able to do as much as possible before the lack of volunteer support was holding up the project.

Boedecker and Daley led 16 students to York, Pennsylvania where they sanded and leveled the walls. Some painted, and others even constructed a scaffold. The York group ended up staying for only four days, as opposed to the originally planned five to six, because of a lack of projects which unfortunately stems from a shortage of funds. Money is not readily available to buy supplies, and this causes projects to be put on hold.

"Due to the lack of money and materials, Habitat didn’t want us to complete any more projects because they had other groups coming in after us and they needed work to do as well," said Junior Carolyn Martin who was part of the York trip. "The house we were working on was taking two years to complete when they usually only take one," she added. "The owners have to put in a certain amount of hours total which helps a lot, but for this house there was no owner lined up so the lack of volunteer support was holding up the project."

"Habitat is a great organization for students to participate in because it allows them the opportunity to help the community, experience and learn new things and meet some amazing people," Scholwinski said.

"It was really a great way to spend spring break," Martin said. "It was very rewarding to see how much the Habitat people appreciated our help. One night they even cooked dinner for us and sat and thanked us all personally." Martin added that the York group discussed continuing to support Habitat through fundraising so they could complete their projects in the future.

Blender magazine folds

Owners announced last Thursday, Mar. 26, that the April issue of Blender magazine will be the music publication’s last. Steve Duggan, CEO of Alpha Media Group, released a statement which explained that “the current economic climate” is to blame for the fold. According to Foliomag.com, an Alpha spokesperson said that in the last year, the magazine’s newsstand sales had fallen 17.8 percent, while ad pages had plummeted 30.6 percent. About 30 staff members have been eliminated; a few, however, will be integrated into the editorial staff at Maxim magazine, also owned by Alpha Media Group. Maxim’s editor-in-chief, Jim Kaminsky, is leaving the company, and will soon be replaced by Joe Levy, the former editor-in-chief of Blender. According to Duggan, he is grateful for the Blender staff’s “hard work and commitment” to the magazine, which he believed provided “unmatched music coverage and entertainment news in its unique voice.”

Shawn Johnson stalkers charged with felony

The alleged stalker of gymnastics Olympian Shawn Johnson has been officially charged with “one felony count of stalking and two misdemeanor counts of carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle,” reports TMZ. Robert O’Ryan, 34, was arrested last Tuesday, Mar. 23, for allegedly jumping a fence at the CBS studio, where Johnson was filming the network’s hit, “Dancing with the Stars.” When approached by security, O’Ryan admitted that he was trying to meet the 17-year-old girl. However, it was soon learned that she knew nothing of O’Ryan, who, according to People magazine, told the LAPD that he had “packed all his belongings and permanently left Florida to drive out here to be with [Johnson].” Police found Johnson memorabilia, love letters, duct tape, a loaded shotgun, and a loaded Colt .45 handgun in O’Ryan’s car. Johnson’s parents were granted a restraining order the following day, and released a statement that said, “this incident has caused us severe emotional distress, we have been on the move ever since and have not been able to rest at all for fear that this disturbed person will attempt to make good on his statements and attempt to harm our daughter and possibly us as well.”

Madonna files adoption papers

Madonna has once again filed adoption papers in Malawi, the African nation home to her 3-year-old adoptive son, David Banda. Despite controversy around his 2006 adoption, E! News reports that Madonna is set to arrive in the country before the end of the month. It is rumored that the application is for a 3-year-old girl named Mercy James, who Madonna met at the Kondanani Children’s Village in October, 2006. Currently, James’ only surviving relatives are grandmother, Lucy Cekechiwa, and uncle, John Ngalande, who “initially resisted the adoption,” says E! News. According to the source, Madonna will appear before a high court judge within the upcoming days. “Madonna will appear without a partner or spouse.”
America's favorite show returns!

Roger Lee
Grizzly Features Editor

American Idol season 8 is officially underway. This year there is new management, a fourth judge, bigger performance spaces, and more contestants.

The new season debuted in January, 2009. As millions tuned in, host Ryan Seacrest announced "This is American Idol!" The judges searched far and wide in numerous cities to unveil the brightest new talent of our time.

Along for the ride was record producer Randy Jackson, more affectionately known as "The Dawg." Jackson has an impressive resume, working alongside legendary artists like Mariah Carey. More recently, Jackson has created the new MTV hit "America's Best Dance Crew" where he also serves as executive producer. Paula Abdul returned as the charismatic and fun-loving judge. She has danced for the likes of Mariah Carey. More recently, Jackson has created the new MTV hit "America's Best Dance Crew" in which he won a major producer’s award on stage via skateboard.

The Best Costume Award went to the sorority Tau Sigma Gamma for their creative "Toy Story" skit. They simulated a toy store experience with a young girl and a mother who was overly flirtatious with the sales clerk. Their costumes represented the toys in 5 aisles of the "toy store": G.I. Joes, stuffed animals, racecars, the board game Candyland, and Barbie dolls.

Most Comedic Performance went to the UC D.I.M.E.S. who put on a "So You Want To Can Dance" themed production in which dance groups became eliminated as the rounds progressed. Their performance kept audience members laughing and impressed with their hip-hop choreography. They even incorporated a mock television commercial in which a cast member biked across stage to represent Honda.

Everyone was on edge waiting for who would be granted Crowd Pleaser; this award is for the Overall Best Performance. Everyone was certainly pleased when it was announced that the sisters of Kappa Delta Kappa were taking home the gold. The girls blew the crowd away with dancing to hip hop and hip hop songs. Unique to their performance, they incorporated a step routine which had audience members laughing about during and after successful performances such as "Dream Girlzzz."  

After all of the acts came to a close, the most important part of the evening arrived, which was handing a check over to representatives from The Friendship House. Airband Committee Member Robyn Clarke said, "We wanted to keep up a great Ursinus tradition, and the best part was that we raised nearly $3,000 for a great cause."

Some things changed in season 8, like a new judge, the loss of long-time executive producer Nigel Lythgoe and increased power for Simon Cowell and current executive producer Ken Warwick. American Idol has also added more contestants. Last month, Ryan Seacrest announced that season 8 would feature a talent peak 36 semi-finalists. The show returned to its old semi-final round format where three groups performed each week and America voted in the top three contestants. The catch is that only the top vote-getting male and female are secured a spot followed by the next highest vote recipient to round out the top three. This was set in place to avoid the uneven gender balance that took place in season three. That year the top 12 consisted of 8 female contestants and four males. However, with the new format, by the end of the voting weeks only three females were secured spots in the top 12. On the special judges' wildcard show, the judges selected three final contestants to round out the top 12. Two more female contestants were added along with two males, making a surprising top 13 finalists!

Now American Idol is underway with the finalist rounds where contestants work with a different theme each week and a guest mentor from that particular genre. Week one was Michael Jackson week where 16-year-old wildcard winner Jasmine Murray and Jorge "Nunez" were eliminated first. The following week Grand Ole Opry (country week) sent talented single mom Alexis Grace packing. Last week's Motown episode said goodbye to Michael Starver, leaving only 9 contestants to battle it out for the title of Idol.

The new voting twist in place to avoid major upsets like the pre-mature eliminations of Tamra Gray, LaToya London, Jennifer Hudson, Chris Daughtery and Melinda Doolittle, now affords the judges the power to save one contestant from elimination during the course of the season. If they use the save, then two contestants will be eliminated the following week. The judges have yet to use the save on anyone this season. After all, they only get one!
Jeremiah Long with Restaurant Reviews

Irish Joe’s Cafe: Punching out breakfast in record time

Nothing helps end a nice night of staying up like a greasy, artery choking breakfast that only a diner can provide. Sure the food will taste good even if it’s low quality (deep fried, pan fried- either way it’s hard to go wrong), but don’t always jump to a quick conclusion about these places. Some take their jobs much more seriously than others.

Enter Irish Joe’s Café located on Main Street in Phoenixville. It is just another feather in the cap for this town (If you don’t get the reference ask you grandfather or someone from the 1850’s. I don’t know it seemed to be the appropriate way to acknowledge the high class of restaurants found in this town). Owner Michelle Long named the cafe in honor of her father, “Irish” Joe Rowan, a former mid heavyweight boxer who was at one time rated the fifth best in the world. Opened only for breakfast and lunch, this location was harder for me to get to, but one weekend, I mustered up the energy to wake up before noon and took a peak at what they had to offer.

As I had said before, I was not about to be disappointed. The atmosphere of the restaurant was similar to the last restaurant I had been to in Phoenixville. Shops and restaurants in the town are not very wide, but they are very long. It also has an open air kitchen that you can see right over the counter. You can watch your food as they cook it. It’s like hibachi, but more practical and you don’t get food thrown at you. Overall it is practical and casual, just a normal restaurant. Bonus points of the full length windows (Appearance 5/5).

Why do people order diner food? Is it the variety? (you can get just about anything), the price (its normally pretty cheap), or is it just to remember those bygone years where everyone ate high cholesterol foods everyday (well they also died at around 40, but two out of three isn’t too bad). I don’t think it’s any of these. I think the reason we keep going to diners is because we know deep down that somewhere out there, in between the vats of congealing grease and towers of unwashed plates, their exists diners that take pride in their work and put some heart and soul into their cooking (they also serve good coffee). Irish Joe’s Café is one such place; they chip their beef well and serve scrapple without even trying to identify what it’s made of.

Southern cuisine has their Po-boys and fried candy bars, the West has its taco and burritos. California has bits and piece of cuisine its stolen from every corner of the globe and then fused to gather to make many wonderful dishes and some areolutely atrocious ones. In the north we have breakfast foods covered in gravy and unidentified pieces of meat. This is something we should be proud of. Irish Joe’s Café does our tradition proud and anyone who finds themselves awake at an ungodly hour on a Sunday (9-10:00a.m.) would do themselves well to start their day off with a trip to Irish Joe’s (try the coffee it is pretty good). (Dining 4/5)

“Smelly, spicy, stimulating aphrodisiacs: fact or faction?” is continued from front page.

...like the onion, were thought to increase a man’s potency. Heavily seeded fruits like pomegranates and figs were even compared to the “seeds of fertility.”

Some may think that alcohol is an aphrodisiac in today’s society but as far back as the 16th century, they could have told you that “less is more.” One scientist of this time wrote that “excessive alcohol is a sexual depressant rather than a stimulant, and wine taken moderately does the opposite.” They say that as little as three drinks for a man or two drinks for a woman can serve as a sexual depressant.

Aphrodisiacs don’t always have to be food, for we usually underestimate the power of smell. A study has found that men respond strongly to the scent of cinnamon and vanilla while women find licorice, cucumber, and banana sexy.

All of these historical aphrodisiacs are just in people’s minds. Scientists explain that it’s the placebo effect; anyone can create their own aphrodisiacs. Foods that you eat before or during a sexual encounter can stick in your mind. Or you can introduce foods that you will remember which is why many people consider things like strawberries and champagne, whipped cream, or hand-feeding grapes to be sexy. The power of aphrodisiacs doesn’t rely on the sexual nature of these foods but the power the mind has to associate sexual pleasure with them. Scientists say that the best way to stimulate sexual feelings is to stimulate all five of the senses.

Rock Bottom Brewery: pricey but worth the money

Rock Bottom Brewery is not located in Phoenixville, instead it can be found inside of the King of Prussia mall. For those of you who don’t know where this is someone should be able to tell you about it. It’s the closest thing we have to entertainment in the area. Well, bleakness aside, I can’t help but, compare Rock Bottom to the Iron Hill Brewery in Phoenixville. Now maybe Rock Bottom came first and Iron Hill is the copy, but I visited Iron Hill first so that’s why I make the comparison.

The reason for this is because both of them serve what is properly known as New American cuisine, and both of them brew their own beer on premises. Yes, you can buy bottled beers if you have to, but everything they have on tap is made right inside of the restaurant in the large fermenting vats you can see as soon as you walk in. Rock Bottom though seems more geared for an older crowd, while Iron Hill has been designed with kids in mind (it’s still a brewpub just a kid friendly one).

Rock Bottom has an excellent setting, sitting on the ground floor of the King of Prussia mega mall it sits to the side of the building allowing you to enter and exit the restaurant without ever having to set foot inside of the mall. The interior is exquisitely planned with well placed lighting, making each table fell as if it is an island all to its own. The pictures of the odd rock formations of the Midwest are a nice touch; they are fun to look, but not distracting. The bar is also a nice piece of work, large with a dash of neon and dark just the way a bar should be, but not dingy or black. It’s the comforting dark of a nook or cranny in your own home. Just dark enough to give you the feeling that you’re obscured from others but not so dark as to induce the night terrors normally associated with dark places (Appearance 4/5).

The dining itself is fantastic, but a little pricey. All of their beers are great, though I still can’t enjoy their light beer, it just tastes watered down. Starting with a bowl of French onion soup (if you’re seeing a pattern here it’s because if I see French onion soup on the menu I have trouble not ordering it) is always a good idea. The rich, dark color of their soup is of particular note; the fact that it tastes fantastic also helps. No croutons in this soup, but they use slices of toasted bread. I don’t know how they get it to stay crunchy but, it’s always a plus. As for their actual dishes I tried a lemony chicken dish that reminded me of my favorite pasta dish, chicken piccata. There is nothing quite like ordering a new dish that tastes like a favorite old one (4/5).
Opinions

Wavves: New Cali Surf Punk

Kevin Bendis
Grizzly Staff Writer

After years of California producing nothing but throwaway emo acts, the state has finally hit its stride. Let’s face it: this decade has been dominated by mind-numbing acts like Fall Out Boy, My Chemical Romance, and Taking Back Sunday. These bands claim to follow in some kind of punk rock succession, when really their roots lie more in heart-on-sleeve 90s groups like Sunny Day Real. California isn’t a stranger to this scene, but within the past year or two they’ve started to get their act together. Bands like Health, No Age and now the fabulous new respect to Cali-surf rock, with a blend of noise and unconventional pop melodies. Hopefully, this is a new page for California music that doesn’t revert back to producing angels and Airwaves.

In any case, we can all enjoy the new self-titled release by Wavves. This group is only a two man outfit, but their sound is pretty large. "Wavves" is Wavves’s first release. It’s a record that smoothes its melodies in reverber and lo-fi distortion, giving it an early Jesus & Mary Chain feel, but not quite as down in the dumps as the Glasgow shoegazers.

Instead, Wavves throw in some classic surf-pop melodies that give the album a bounce and familiar Beach Boys-esque feel. The first track, "Rainbow Everywhere," is an instrumental tune with what sounds like a microKORG springing through some heavy fuzz. The song soon fades into "Beach Demon," a little ditty spitting with abrasive guitars and crashing drums. It’s amazing that a melody can be found in this song, but somehow the falsetto moans and repeated "Goin nowhere" chorus finds its way through. If this track brings you back to your favorite two minute punk songs, then the next one will really get your attention. "To The Dregs," is crammed with heavy guitars and a boom-chik, boom-chik drum beat that almost forces you to nod your head. The album is literally packed with catchy, three minute songs. "Sun Opens My Eyes" and "Gun In The Sun," are both perfect examples, but I’d rather point your attention to the latest single, "So Bored." The jam opens with tribal-like tom toms that give way to more falsetto whining that verges on Weezer territory. The lyrics compliment the simplicity of the song with lines like, “Skin like dirt/ Christian Death shirt/ sun kissed and curved/ those guys were jerks/ I’m so bored life’s a chore.” If the words remind you of something like early Green Day, it’s not a mistake. Everything about this band screams California, including the lead singer’s surf-drawl that forces an image of a beach blonde guy who says things like "Surfs up, Dudes!"

The album continues with perfect pop tunes. "Weed Demon," is ballad-esque and reminds me a little bit of Nirvana. "California Gots" is another bouncing punk tune, with disturbing harmonies...perhaps a play on "California Girl?" The album ends with "Surf Goth," a psyche-out ghost anthem that creeps along at a mid-tempo.

This record isn’t for everyone. It’s full of distortion and creepy Cathedral echos that might seem a little obnoxious. But if you’re a reverb junky, then this should be your next purchase. Wavves isn’t your typical indie-outfit and they’re not another My Bloody Valentine cover band. Rather, they combine influences of sunny Cali-pop and ambient goth-rock into the perfect ‘09 release.

The George W. Bush Legacy

Chris Capone
Grizzly Staff Writer

I logged onto CNN.com the other day and read an article concerning the relationship between former President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. It was interesting because the article first discussed how George W. Bush was planning to write a book about the twelve most difficult decisions he had to make in office. The author then made a note that Bush did not intend to criticize Barack’s administration. Bush said that Barack Obama “deserves my silence” and that “I love my country more than I love my politics. I think it is essential that he be helped in office.” This statement, albeit a political one, coupled with the decision to critique his decisions in a novel, suggest that the judgment of Bush may have been too harsh.

I understand, as a moderate-leaning-liberal politics major, that some of the decisions Bush made were not altogether “complete.” Nearing the end of his presidency, many Americans were against the war in Iraq, including myself. However, we must not forget that in 2003, most citizens were probably in favor of war. It was not until the U.S. lacked the evidence of W.M.D.s in Iraq that we began to turn on the administration. In addition, he had trouble dealing with the open criticism. He constantly tried to back a war in Iraq because it was part of the “war on terrorism.” Moreover, his diplomatic tactics with Iran and North Korea helped deteriorate the relationship between the U.S. and the two nuclear-bound nations. Bush had trouble sending aid to the site of Hurricane Katrina, leaving New Orleans to a state of anarchy and destruction. And of course, with a year left in his presidency, the economy collapsed, sending the U.S. into another depression. All of these major factors most definitely had a positive impact for the Democratic Party, who now controls the Senate, the House, and holds the presidency.

Looking back, however, I believe that the Bush administration also had many positive impacts. Yes, his administration did push the U.S. deeper into economic turmoil. But I believe the reason Bush is writing this book is to hopefully show that being the leader of a country is not easy. In today’s society, globalization forces leaders to deal with problems abroad and at home. Sometimes, international problems may pose a threat to the nation, thus forcing leaders to put national problems on hold. Only a year ago into George W. Bush’s presidency, this country suffered a devastating terrorist attack. Not only did Bush’s approval rating improve in the following months, but most believed he did the right thing attacking Iraq and searching for Osama Bin Laden. His international aid policy, in Africa and in other impoverished nations, helped pave the way for new international organizations. Even more convincing is the fact that while there continues to be dissidence in Iraq, the government, especially in northern Iraq and Baghdad, has already started to flourish. The Kurds are living a democratic lifestyle and are becoming more legitimate each day. Baghdad and the surrounding cities are also moving rapidly toward the same lifestyle. Without the presence of the U.S., the government in Iraq would not be so close to legitimacy and democracy. Yes, there is too much spending on the "War in Iraq," but hopefully the U.S. will soon enjoy the benefits of a strong, democratic Iraq.

I cannot argue that Bush’s economic policy has not been the downfall of his administration. Frankly, his decisions have forced the Republican Party to rethink platforms and reform current members. However, as a new presidency begins, I urge students here at Ursinus to realize that now we enjoy the best of both worlds. President Bush’s “War in Iraq” will succeed, with help from Obama’s economic plans. For Bush to not get involved in Barack’s decisions shows me that he is content with his presidency. He had his chance to change this country, whether positively or negatively, and we, as Americans, should realize that we gave him that chance for two terms. We must allow ourselves to use the past as a crutch and not a burden. Then we can move on without the Bush Legacy.
Opinions

Codrescu’s “The Posthuman Dada Guide: Tzara & Lenin Play Chess”

Chris Schaeffer
Grizzly Staff Writer

“The culture-heroes of our liberal bourgeois civilization are anti-liberal and anti-bourgeois; they are writers who are repetitive, obsessive, and impolite, who impress by force...by the sense of acute personal and intellectual extremity.” That’s Susan Sontag talking, and that’s Simone Weil she’s talking about, but the point is universal. There’s nothing sexy about history’s mediators and compromisers, the men and women who in times of turmoil suggested everybody just sit down and cool it for a couple minutes. Case in point—Andrei Codrescu’s “Posthuman Dada Guide,” a book whose heroes are dada pioneer Tristan Tzara and Soviet founding father Lenin, a pair for whom “anti-liberal and anti-bourgeois” would be an understatement. The set-up goes like this: the book revolves around a (fictional?) chess match between the two in Zurich sometime during 1916, setting up an exploration of the various dichotomies between dadaism and Communism, the two poles, Codrescu argues, of 20th century thought.

So far so good—Codrescu convincingly sets the two ideologies against each other as opposite reactions to class and racial marginalization, one cerebral, inclusive, and mechanized, the other emotional, alienating, and mystical. One can see in his outline the clear signs of struggle between the Apollonian and the Dionysian that troubled Nietzsche and Camus and continues to play itself out in art and politics today. One can also, with a stretch, see the way things turned out as a kind of Hegelian synthesis between the two. However, none of this will be thanks to Codrescu: “There are some vague commandments about transgression in a virtual age and whatever, but it comes off as half-backed, an afterthought cribbed from Steven Shaviro, and Codrescu seems unable to make up his mind whether Dada died out or just transformed: “The destruction of jails for art was a chief mission of Dada, and its utter failure in this regard testifies to the triumph of its own self-destructive impulse. Dada erases not just its products, but its intentions.” Uh-huh.

The Dadaists occupy a funny sort of space in the popular imagination, somewhere between excitingly transgressive and somewhat embarrassingly adolescent, either a presursor to post-modernism or an aesthetic dead-end. Codrescu takes this disparity and runs with it, underscoring again and again Tzara’s youth and the squeamishly teenaged energy driving the movement, almost like a sort of proto-punk. The book isn’t perfect, but for a dada primer that admirably captures some of that good old “acute personal intellectual extremity,” Codrescu’s “Guide” is fast enough, funny enough, and perhaps most importantly, flawed enough.

Letter from a local resident
Thurs. March 26, 2009

Dear Dr. Strassburger,

This evening I was fortunate to attend a terrific performance in Bomberger Auditorium. Although I have lived in this area for several years, I have never had the opportunity to visit your campus. I am writing this note to let you know how impressed I was with the beautiful campus and especially with the wonderful students. I was amazed at how polite and helpful they were. While leaving the coffee shop, I had doors held open for me and gentlemen stepping aside to let me pass. Rarely do I see that these days. I also had to ask for directions twice. The first gentleman I stopped could not have been more polite or helpful. Although he seemed to be headed in a completely different direction, he stopped and walked me onto the correct path to Bomberger Auditorium. Upon leaving for the evening, I stopped at the library and was greeted by the wonderful staff at the coffee shop. To top off my evening, upon leaving it was dark and I was a bit turned around, so while looking around a lovely lady stopped and asked if she could help me. She was already speaking to someone on her phone, and to my surprise, asked them to hold so she could direct me to the parking area. I am still amazed and in awe that I encountered four wonderful students in a matter of only three hours on your campus. I wish I knew their names to thank them. I want you to be aware that they made quite an impression. I look forward to attending more events at Ursinus. You should be proud that your students display such wonderful attitudes.

Thank you,
Pat Zijlstra
Harpersville, Pa.

The Grizzly
February 2, 2009
Pre-Season update: UC Men's Golf gears up for new season

Chris Capone
Grizzly Staff Writer

Led by their fearless coach, Ted McKenzie, the Ursinus College Men’s Golf Team starts their season April 1. They will kick off a very important season with a home match at Stonewall. The team trained very hard in the Dominican Republic and hopes to translate their improvements into successful tournament play. Last year, the men’s golf team had a disappointing sixth place finish in the Conference tournament. However, Austin Anthony, then a freshman, had a solid tournament, finishing amongst the top 15 with a team-best 239 strokes (23rd over par). The team will hope to build on solid performances, like Anthony’s, as they enter the 2009 season.

In the Dominican Republic, the team was led by sophomore Brian Lutzow, whose long drives and impeccable short game helped propel him to the number one spot. However, not far behind was team’s newest member, junior Matt Stehman, who shot the round of the week with a 75. Their successes are only part of the story, however. In competition, golf teams play five members and count the four best scores. Without a solid group of 5-7 exceptionally well, and with a bit more tournament practice, the team has an impressively talented group of freshman and sophomores who are working hard to potentially claim a Conference spot. Freshman, such as Anthony Todaro, Bob Linneman and Matt Yuros, hope to improve this year as they see their first action in college-tournament golf. Returning sophomores Davis Howley and yours truly, Chris Capone, also look to improve with a combination of experience, a week of non-stop golf in the D.R. and additional weekly practices. These five will be important in forcing the top five players to maintain their high level of play and hopefully will translate all the hard work into a few solid golf tournaments.

I had a chance to talk to the team’s captain, Dave Kargman, and sophomore Brian Lutzow, about the upcoming season. Both were very optimistic about the team’s potential successes in the 2009 season. “If [the team] continues to improve I truly believe we can do some damage and surprise some people in the Conference Championships” Kargman told me. The captain also notes that “If we use our heads and take one shot at a time, I see no reason why we can’t do big things this year.”

Dave Kargman

Spring brings showers, flowers, and major league Baseball

Jamey Cooper
Grizzly Staff Writer

For sports fans, March is the time of year when headlines are dominated by college basketball. March Madness in 2009 has been no exception, especially considering that the local Villanova Wildcats’ incredible run has earned them a date with North Carolina in the Final Four. Nova’s run has been so exciting that even the most diehard Philly fans seem to have forgotten all about the team that stole our hearts last October in an unforgettable World Series run, one that ceremoniously ended Philadelphia’s quarter century championship drought. So as you watch Nova take on UNC this week, don’t forget that the Phillies begin their quest to become repeat champs this Sunday night at Citizen’s Bank Park.

Heading into the 2009 season, the Phillies pitching staff appears stronger than ever. Although ace Cole Hamels has been slowed of late by a tender elbow in his throwing arm, the Phillies insist it is only a minor setback. They are being very cautious with Hamels given that they will need him to last the entire 162 game season, but they seem fully confident he will return to the form that made him one of the elite young lefthanders in all of baseball. The major question mark coming into the spring was the type of stuff to be a dominant, strikeout pitcher, but he has self-admittedly let his desire to be the team’s closer get in and filling this void, at least for now. Finally, you can’t overlook the offensive firepower this team possesses. With guys like Jimmy Rollins and Shane Victorino setting the table for Ryan Howard and Chase Utley, this team has the ability to lead the league in runs scored. The Phillips will definitely miss Pat Burrell’s right handed bat in the middle of the order (he signed with the Rays this offseason- BOO!), but they like the potential of Jayson Werth, who they see as a rising star. His success will be crucial in a lineup that is very left handed heavy. In the past, critics have argued that the Phi’s excess of left-handed hitters leaves them vulnerable to good left-handed pitching late in games, but for some reason not a word was said about this “liability” after October. Hmmm.

Once again, the Phillies biggest competition this season figures to be the New York Mets. In the offseason, the Mets filled their biggest holes by signing relievers J.J. Putz and Francisco Rodriguez, one of the most dominant closers in all of baseball. The feeling in New York is that these two signings will catapult the Mets back into prominence in the NL East, but don’t tell that to the Phillies. This year, Jimmy Rollins doesn’t need to proclaim the Phillies as the team to beat in the NL East. Their status as defending champs will do all their talking for them.

Romero for the first 50 games of the season. Romero was suspended for violating the league’s substance abuse policy even though he claimed to have gotten the okay from team doctors to take the illegal drug that showed up in his random drug test. Ryan Madson, who came on strong at the end of last season, is more than capable of stepping in and filling this void, at least for now.

Gettysburg. While the tournaments are sometimes far away, the team strongly urges supporters, especially during Conferences. If you want to come see a match, contact any golfer for dates, directions and times.

“The Bridges” in Gettysburg. While the tournaments are sometimes far away, the team strongly urges supporters, especially during Conferences. If you want to come see a match, contact any golfer for dates, directions and times.

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Grizzly Staff Writer

The rotation certainly did do an excellent job last year, but it was the bullpen that got this team over the hump. Thanks to closer Brad Lidge, who was a perfect 47 for 47 in save opportunities, the Phillies never blew a game in which they lead after 8 innings. Pretty impressive. One minor concern is that the Phi’s will be without setup man J.C.

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