4-9-2009

The Grizzly, April 9, 2009

Kristi Blust
Gabrielle Poretta
Spencer Jones
Gianna Paone
Caitlin Dalik

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzynews

Part of the Cultural History Commons, Higher Education Commons, Liberal Studies Commons, Social History Commons, and the United States History Commons

Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Authors
Kristi Blust, Gabrielle Poretta, Spencer Jones, Gianna Paone, Caitlin Dalik, Lisa Jobe, Liz Kilmer, Salia Zouande, Jeremiah Long, Laurel Salvo, Christopher Schaeffer, Roger Lee, Matt Monteverde, Chris Capone, and Nick Pane
Art enthusiasts burnin’ the midnight oil

Spencer Jones
Grizzly Staff Writer

On Friday April 3, 2009, the art marathon took place in the new drawing studio at Ritter. It was my third and sadly last marathon, which lasted from 7 p.m. Friday night to 7 a.m. Saturday morning. There were noticeably less people this time around, probably because the Ball at the Bellevue was being held on the same evening. I went to the ball as a freshman and was especially helpful to art majors with the student art show only weeks away.

Students participated in a 12-hour-long art marathon this past weekend in the Ritter drawing studio. The night offered many students an opportunity to express themselves, but it was especially helpful to art majors with the student art show only weeks away.

With the student art show just weeks away, all us majors are hustling hard to get our pieces done and the

Who says you need machines to stay fit?
Keep the pounds off without the pricey gym membership

Caitlin Dalik
Grizzly News Editor

Let’s face it. No one really loves to go to the gym. Lacking any motivation, it takes energy to get up and walk to the gym or just make time for it in the day. When you get a free moment in your already busy life, you’d much rather take a nap or watch some television. So here is a list of 10 very simple ways to burn calories that don’t have anything to do with the gym.

- Laugh more. It sounds silly but laughter has always been the “best medicine,” and now it can be one of the easiest ways to burn calories. A study at Vanderbilt University found that real laughter (like hysterical, knee-slapping laughter) for about 10 to 15 minutes a day can help burn 10 to 40 calories. It may sound insignificant but this can help you lose up to four pounds in a year.

- Stand up and walk around. When you stand up you burn twice as many calories as you would sitting. Something as simple as standing while talking on the phone can help you burn up to 50 calories or more an hour. It’s even better if you pace around which can help burn an additional 35 to 40 calories.

- Chew gum. Researchers have found that the jaw action can burn 11 calories an hour. It doesn’t just freshen your breath.

- Play with kids. Ever wonder how some moms can stay so fit? Just being around kids can be exhausting as they pull you in every direction and make you play games with them. Just playing with some cousins or babysitting can help you burn twice as many calories as you would

Birth control and breast cancer:
Is the link between them real?

Gianna Paone
Grizzly Staff Writer

Your cell phone goes off, and you know what that daily ring means: pill-popping time. With all the flying rumors saying, “birth control causes cancer,” though, should you really sub today’s pill with a mammogram? According to recent studies, that might not be a ridiculous idea.

Oral contraceptives (i.e. “the pill”) were introduced to Americans in the early 60s, and researchers have been studying their potential link to breast cancer, as well as other cancers, since then. Currently, the National Cancer Institute recognizes oral contraceptives as factors that decrease chances of endometrial and ovarian cancer and heighten those of breast and cervical cancers. Within the last twenty years especially, studies continue to provide evidence of a positive correlation between oral contraceptive use and breast cancer. Most recently, Dr. Lynn Rosenberger from Boston University’s Slone Epidemiology Center had a study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology supporting the link. The study observed 907 women with incident invasive breast cancer and 1711 without breast cancer between 1993 and 2007. The results not only suggested an increased risk of breast cancer from oral contraceptive use, but also displayed a higher risk for those who used within the most recent decade, those who used for longer duration, and those who were of color, though these additional factors were not statistically significant and require further research.

According to the National Cancer Institute, the risk factors are hormone-related. Ingesting contraceptives provides synthetic derivatives of the female sex hormones, estrogen and progestosterone, which inhibits ovulation and thus prevents pregnancy. A woman’s breast tissue growth is linked to her hormones, which is why even more significant evidence than that suggested for birth control shows that hormone replacement therapy increases breast cancer risks.

Genetics may also come into play. A study performed by an international research group and published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found that women
Tasty titles that are good enough to eat

Myrin celebrates 5th Annual Edible Books Festival

Caitlin Dalik
Grizzly News Editor

Students, faculty, and staff got creative in the kitchen in honor of some of their favorite books for Myrin Library’s 5th Annual Edible Books Festival on Thursday, April 2.

The Edible Books Festival is a contest where an individual or group enters a creation that is entirely edible which represents a book in some way. It is an international event that takes place each year around April 1st. This date is the birthday of French gastronome Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin who is famous for his book “Physiologie du Goût,” a witty meditation on food. The festival was created by librarians Judith Hoffberg and Beatrice Coron. Hoffberg got the idea over a Thanksgiving dinner with book artists in 1999 and Coron created the festival’s website, www.books2eat.com. After the two librarians reached out to friends and colleagues, the first event was underway in 2000. Since then the festival has occurred across the globe in countries such as England, China, Australia, and Russia. The festival’s popularity is ever increasing and will continue to spread. Myrin reference intern, Lindsay Sakmann, explained that the festival is held at other college libraries such as Duke and Alvernia.

At Ursinus the Edible Books Festival brought in nearly 20 entries, split into two categories: students and faculty/staff. The entries were judged between noon and 2 p.m. with the reception and announcement of prizes beginning at 3 p.m. Diane Skorina, Myrin’s Information Literacy Librarian, explained that entries were judged on four categories: intersection of food and literature, presentation, how edible, and how impressive it looked. Skorina and the other reference intern, Abby Raymond, said that they have had some impressive and memorable entries in the past which included “The Magic School Bus” baked in a cake and “The Secret Life of Bees,” which created a sculpture out of rice crispy treats.

This year was no exception. Awards were presented in both the student and faculty/staff categories for first, second, and third place. Winners were awarded with cash gift cards.

First place in the student category went to an entry entitled “The Devil Wears Produce,” a play on words from the book and hit movie, “The Devil Wears Prada.” It crafted a devil with a pitch fork out of cupcakes, fruits and veggies. Second place went to an entry entitled “Dewey the Cat,” and third place was awarded to “Pane-tonement,” a pun of the popular book and movie “Atonement” which used bread.

First place in the student category went to an entry entitled “Rainbow Fish,” which used a cake shaped like a fish decorated with colorful icing and candy to represent the popular children’s book. Second place went to “Tree grows in Cookie-land,” based on the novel “Tree Grows in Brooklyn.” The entry used graham crackers to create a sidewalk which an edible tree sprouted out of it. Third place went to “Lord of the Peach Rings,” which used an action figure with peach rings to represent the popular trilogy series.

The best part of the event may have been once the winners were announced and all of the entries could be eaten. Skorina mentioned that this event is so much fun because “it’s one library event where students and faculty can participate.”
News in Brief: Tensions with North Korea and Global Summits

Economy columnist Lisa Jobe
Grizzly Staff Writer

Tuesday, March 31

(CNN) - High winds and tough waves capsized a boat filled with African migrants en route to Europe off the coast of Libya on Monday, March 30. Over 200 are feared dead, reported the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Tuesday. Details about the incident are still scarce, but it is certain that a boat carrying 250 migrants capsized near Libya, with at least 20 confirmed dead and 23 rescued. Three-hundred and fifty migrants, traveling in a different boat, were rescued from the deadly conditions by an Italian tugboat. The IOM also reported that there may be two more boats of migrants in the Mediterranean. The boats left Sunday carrying people from a variety of African and Asian nations, including Egypt, India, Nigeria, and Bangladesh. The boats were believed to be heading for the Italian island of Lampedusa, where 37,000 migrants landed last year. Antonio Guterres, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said that "the tragedy reflects the desperation of people to escape poverty and persecution."

Wednesday, April 1

LONDON, England (CNN) - Thousands of protesters — anti-capitalists, anarchists, environmental campaigners, and more — gathered in London's financial districts Wednesday, as world leaders gather for the G-20 summit. Police and protesters engaged in a number of minor skirmishes outside the Bank of England in London. The London Summit this week brings together leaders of the world's top twenty economic powers, known as the Group of Twenty, to discuss the global financial crisis and possible solutions. In regard to the protests, a police spokesman said, "On the whole, it's not been too bad," while demonstration organizer Marina Peper held a different view: "They [the police] definitely came looking to cause trouble." Protesters carried signs with phrases such as "Arrest the War Criminals," "One Currency, One Country, One World," and more—gathered in London's financial districts Wednesday, as world leaders gather for the G-20 summit. The summit is being co-hosted by Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany, two cities situated on opposite banks of the Rhine River. Obama arrived in France on Friday and is expected to use the summit to call on the alliance for more help in Afghanistan. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer affirmed that Afghanistan and Russia will be top priorities at the summit. Relations with Russia reached a low peak last year, during Russia's military invasion of Georgia. Obama called NATO "a pillar of American foreign policy" and pledged to affirm it. The optimistic mood was marred only by NATO protesters, 300 of which were jailed Thursday night. One hundred and five were still being held in German prisons on Friday.

Weekly Entertainment News

Madonna adoption request rejected

A Malawi court has denied Madonna's adoption request of Chifundo "Mercy" James, a 3-year-old girl whom the singer met at the Kondanani Children's Village in October, 2006. "I must have to decline to grant the application to Madonna," said Judge Esme Chombo in a ruling last Friday. Chombo cited residency requirements, explaining that prospective Malawian parents must be observed by welfare officials for 18 to 24 months. Madonna, she said, last visited the nation in 2008 and "jetted into the country during the weekend just days prior to the hearing of this application." In 2006, the pop star and then-husband Guy Ritchie adopted now 3-year-old David Banda from the African country, and E! News explains that this residency relationship was "skirted" at the time. Perhaps it was the subsequent controversy that led Chombo to stick to the law, despite Madonna's support from the Malawian government.

7 students punished at Oprah's school

Oprah Winfrey's school for disadvantaged girls in South Africa is facing its second controversy since the institution's opening in 2007. Four students were expelled and three were suspended for what the surrounding media is alleging involved sexual misconduct. According to the Associated Press, the seven girls "were accused of trying to force students into relationships and to engage in sexual contact." This, however, will not be confirmed by the academy, said spokeswoman Lisa Halliday. According to Halliday, the incident is "a confidential school matter" and details will not be disclosed. "I'm disappointed that several of our students chose to disregard the school's rules," said Winfrey, in a statement released through Harpo Productions. "It's disheartening when any student has to be suspended or expelled and it's a process that involves serious review and consideration."

Wax Celebrities put up for Auction

For the first time in its 44-year history, the Hollywood Wax Museum will be holding an auction of various celebrity wax representations. Bill Clinton, Tiger Woods, Will Smith, and Cher are among the nearly 200 figures up for sale. The auction, set for May 1, is being administered by Profiles in History. Bids can be placed live on www.LiveAuctioneers.com, as well as in person or over the telephone. A fraction of profits will go to the preservation of Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

George Harrison awarded Walk of Fame star

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce announced last Friday that former Beatle George Harrison will be awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame this Tuesday, April 14. Expected to attend the unveiling are Olivia Harrison, the late rocker's widow, and his 30-year-old son Dhani. Harrison's star will be the Walk of Fame's 2,382nd. He already shares a star with The Beatles, and will now become the second band member to have his own—John Lennon was first awarded a star in 1988. Harrison, according to the Associated Press, was "one of the group's most powerful forces." Some of the Beatles' very first songs were composed by Harrison, including "Here Comes the Sun," "Something" and "Within You, Without You." Harrison died of brain cancer in 2001. He was 58 years old.
Features

Opening the evening

Features

Collegeville Diner: sometimes you gotta go back home

Jeremiah Long
Grizzly Staff Writer

Collegeville, it has been awhile since I have done a review in our fine hometown. Such a small town and one the college desperately wants to grow up. The area is basically made of two strip malls, one of which just lost its Acme. Maybe it’s just the times we are living in, or maybe it is the new Wegmans set to open near route 422 next fall.

The rest of the food is typical diner fare, which is to say that anything and everything that you could ever want deep or pan-fried is available. These kinds of rib sticking meals are what America was built upon, back when most of us were still working construction or other manual labor based jobs. Today these meals are what many health experts think is leading to expanding waist lines and the complications that come with them.

The performance was close to being cancelled because of some unforeseen circumstances involving one of Alex’s crew members, but thanks to the help of S.U.N., CAB liaison, fresh man, Latifah Waddy, and the dedication of Mrs. Patton at the Multicultural Services Office, I was able to bring the guys on campus.

Performance brings Brazilian heat to UC

Salia Zouande
Grizzly Staff Writer

Last week, faculty and students were invited to welcome spring on campus in Olin Plaza with a stunning Samba performance by the folks at the International Capoeira Angola Foundation Philadelphia Chapter (ICF-Philadelphia). This event was co-sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB) and Sankofa Umoja Nia Club (SUN) and has been a part of two-year planning effort.

Every year, Brazil kicks off its mega Rio Carnival event with roars and clapping from millions of Brazilians. The spectacle traditionally begins with the symbolic relinquishing of control of the Brazilian city to King Momo. Samba is a ballroom dance with strong African influence that is now associated with Brazilian cultural and artistic identity along with soccer and Capoeira. There are over 70 Samba Schools in Rio De Janeiro and every year those schools compete against each other at the Carnival for best attire and dance moves in front of thousands of visitors from around the globe.

I wanted to bring Samba to Ursinus and share the Brazilian culture with the whole campus.

There are over 70 Samba Schools in Rio de Janeiro and every year those schools compete against each other at the Carnival for best attire and dance moves in front of thousands of visitors from around the globe. I wanted to bring Samba to Ursinus and share the Brazilian culture with the whole campus.

As for the restaurant itself, have you ever seen a diner that specializes in that kind of cuisine. It has the power to shine through the clouds.

The Collegeville Diner is an eyesore to some and a beacon to many. This is an actual Greek owned diner. Though common in New Jersey, a diner actually owned by Greeks in Pennsylvania is hard to find. It gives the place a real dash of spice and insures that the menu will always have some fantastic Greek specials. Whether it is their selection of kabobs or the standard Gyro, you can find some interesting dishes livening up the margins and specials menu.

The International Capoeira Angola Foundation (ICF-Philadelphia) was introduced to the Philadelphia area in 1993 with the goal of spreading the rich heritage of the martial art form known as Capoeira Angola. There are two types of Capoeira although they are pretty much the same, just slightly distinct in acrobatic movement styles: Capeo Angola and regional. While Capoeira Angola focused more on ground movements, Capeo Regional is all about back flips and high kick moves.

I first met Alex Shaw, a Capoeira dancer, during one of his performances at our annual International Day event while I was a sophomore at William Bodine High School for International Affairs in Philadelphia. I already knew about Capoeira and was thrilled to see him have a Samba workshop with steel drums with Bodine students while singing Capoeira songs. I recently contacted my former World Affairs liaison advisor to see if it was possible to have a Samba performance at Ursinus and he gladly accepted to do so. The performance was close to being cancelled because of

As for the restaurant itself, have you ever seen a classic diner? If so skip to the end. If not, read on to find out. A diner is neon, chrome monolith, and awe-inspiring to all who see it. Those who dare to enter and probe its depths will fall prey to its eye searing white lights designed to beguile any who are drawn within. In most cases, the moments of civilization and its regions. ICAF-Philadelphia is a non-profit organization headed by Mestre Cobra Mansa through their headquarters in Washington, D.C. and is managed locally by President Kamau Blakney. There are many Brazilian Capoeira Associations in the Philadelphia area, if you would like to learn more about Capoeira Angola and check out some or class schedules, please visit http://home.znet.com/capoeira_list/PA_philadelphia.htm.
Lady Gaga: glamorous, sexy and rock & roll

Laurel Salvo
Grizzly Staff Writer

Said by Lady Gaga in a recent evocative interview by Blender Magazine, “When you make music or write or create, it’s really your job to have mind-blowing, irresponsible, condomless sex with whatever idea it is you’re writing about at the time.” After reading this quote by Gaga (real name Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta), I found myself wanting to learn and listen more than just her Grammy nominated single “Just Dance.”

An explosive pop sensation that she may be now with ticket sales hitting the roof for her current tour and hoards of parody-kids clinging tightly to her debut album “The Fame,” there’s a depth to what she’s doing in the music industry and her accomplishments thus far at the young age of 23 speak for themselves. Growing up in Manhattan and excelling with songwriting and piano from a very young age, Germanotta began performing at local clubs as a young teen. Later, on finding herself heavily immersed in the lower east side’s (not-so-underground) realm of drag queens, drugs, glitter, and budding musicians who sought the same dream as her, she frequented open-mic nights where she played her own songs; already displaying a vivacity for theatrical and budding musicians who sought the same dream as her, world to get early acceptance to the esteemed Tisch School for powerhouse performers Britney Spears, Fergie, Akon, influenced by androgynous glam-rock superstars David Interscope at the ripe age of 20, and has since penned tracks by Lady Gaga in a recent evocative interview by Laurel Salvo

...burn some calories. You can burn 80 to 130 calories every ten minutes by playing impromptu games like kickball or tag.

- Have sex, or even just some good foreplay. Everyone has heard the saying “sex is the best exercise.” Thirty minutes of sex can burn 85 calories or more. May not sound like all that much but 42 half-hour sessions will burn 5,570 calories, more than enough to lose a pound.

- Dance. Stop being a wallflower and get out on the dance floor and go all out. Twenty minutes of dancing at a moderate pace can burn up to 100 calories and is a lot more fun than the treadmill.

- Cleaning. Wonder why you work up a sweat from just vacuuming? Twenty-five minutes of vacuuming will burn a little more than 100 calories. Other household chores like mopping the floors or washing windows can also help burn calories. Raking leaves can burn almost 60 calories. You already have to clean anyway, so you might as well put on the iPod and get a good workout.

- Go window shopping. This doesn’t break the bank— which no one can afford in the present economy— and gets you out and about. Just walking from stores in the mall, especially the gigantic King of Prussia Mall, can add up to a mile or so. About 15 minutes of vigorous walking can burn up to 100 calories. For some added exercise, park the car far away. Skip the escalators and elevators and take the stairs. Walking the stairs for twenty minutes a day, obviously not all at once, can burn about 100 calories.

- Get enough sleep. Probably the easiest one on the list, sleeping burns calories even if you think that you are doing nothing. On average you can burn about 50 calories by sleeping for 8 hours, which is all the more motivation to get more sleep.

All of these easy ways to burn calories obviously shouldn’t replace your regular workout routine; they are just some simple bonus ways to burn calories with little effort. They can be fun too; things like laughing or dancing with friends, which you probably already do, can help you burn a few extra calories. So feel a little sense of accomplishment next time you finish a long cleaning session, conquer the stairs, or even just get a long night’s sleep.
Opinions

Going back to Hitchcock: “Lifeboat” a great war story of survival

Spencer Jones
Grizzly Staff Writer

Before there was Spielberg and Tarantino, there was Alfred Hitchcock, who paved the way for all of today’s revered directors. Few can boast a career as illustrious and diverse as his: his films revolve around countless themes and subjects. His 1944 film “Lifeboat,” based on John Steinbeck’s novel of the same name, is masterfully filmed on a single set and deals with the human determination to survive. The film is inescapably political—the protagonists are all of the Allied forces, and the antagonist is a murderous, conniving and highly intelligent German. The special effects, which include bombs and missiles detonating in the water, are extraordinarily convincing for the period of production.

We first meet the brazen journalist Constance Porter, played by my beloved Tallulah Bankhead, who sits in a lifeboat clad in mink, smoking and looking quite bored. She is soon joined by another American, John, who she manages to turn off within minutes because of her apparent indifference to their circumstances. More “allies” come on board and the last to join them is a German named Willie, who, unbeknownst to the others, is one of the Nazis responsible for sinking their ship.

As easy as it is to poke fun at Denby’s starchy image and wonder at what exactly his point is, I have to admire what he’s trying to do here. It can’t be easy to sit down and try to write a book about, well... whatever snark is; an attitude, a malaise, a social pall. There are moments where I forgot about the glaring flaws of the book and found myself nodding my head, or thinking reflectively about some of the pot-shots I’ve taken in my own writing. Even if Denby fails at defining his target, he succeeds at issuing a clear and urgent call for better, less lazy writing. We live in a time when someone can pass off personal attacks and condescension as wit, when it’s easier to cross your arms and smirk at everything from an artificial vantage point of superiority than to actually think about things and bother with those, what do you call them, convictions.

Denby is at his most convincing when digging into the contemporary culture of flip sarcasm and, on top of that, subtitile his treatise “It’s Mean, It’s Personal, and It’s Ruining Our Conversation,” it’s hard not to imagine a crotchety old man slipping rapidly out of touch with the times. He also doesn’t help his case by being so vague about what exactly separates “Snark” from supposedly more benign forms such as satire, invective, parody, and burlesque—each of them just peachy with Mr. Denby.

“Snark” is “poisoned arrows within a closed space,” or maybe “a strain of nasty, knowing abuse,” and it isn’t Jon Stewart, or Colbert, or Jonathan Swift, which is all good to know but not much for the folks at the OED to go on. What it seems to come down to is cheap, easy satire, badly written comic writing, and particularly wink-wink-nudge-nudge smear campaigns (“At what point do we write snark out of the book of life—or at least out of the book of style? When it lacks imagination, freshness... —all the elements of wit.”). Why not, one has to wonder, just cast the net a little and say “hey guys don’t write like a drunken third-grader?”

Having been deprived of proper sustenance for days and with little hope of being rescued, the allies find themselves weak and increasingly irate with their situation and with each other. While they bicker, Willie calmly rows the boat for hours on end, without a trace of exhaustion. John’s suspicions about him are constant throughout, but the others only catch on after Gus, an American amputee, is mysteriously pushed off of the boat in the middle of the night.

One of the great things I love about “Lifeboat” is that there’s so much action taking place at the same time. In the midst of all the turmoil and confusion, two relationships develop. Alice, the sweet natured nurse, falls for Stanley, the Englishman. Meanwhile, Constance quite literally throws herself into John’s lap and, after noticing the initials of his past girlfriends tattooed on his chest, boldly inscribes her own with lipstick. Amused, John returns her kiss, but promptly shoves her aside, unable to get past her vanity.

Despite the stellar reviews, I likely wouldn’t have heard of “Lifeboat” had it not been for Tallulah Bankhead. In a sense, she was definitely typecast; the character she plays is a smoker, a drinker, and a scandalous flirt. The other actors are equally outstanding and it was nice to see that they each came from different professions, cultures and walks of life. I definitely rank “Lifeboat” as one of my all-time favorite films and would encourage anyone with an interest in adventure, war based drama and, of course, Hitchcock, to see it.

Opinions

David Denby’s “Snark” misses mark in big way

Chris Schaeffer
Grizzly Staff Writer

David Denby, speaking relatively, has it kind of rough. Not only is he best-known for being the New Yorker film critic who isn’t Anthony Lane, but his latest book, the slim essay “Snark,” has been taken from corners as diverse as book blogs, “New York Magazine,” and the collective voice of Amazon’s reader reviews. Let’s be fair--on many levels, Denby is at his most convincing when digging into the contemporary culture of flip sarcasm and, on top of that, subtitile his treatise “It’s Mean, It’s Personal, and It’s Ruining Our Conversation,” it’s hard not to imagine a crotchety old man slipping rapidly out of touch with the times.

As easy as it is to poke fun at Denby’s starchy image and wonder at what exactly his point is, I have to admire what he’s trying to do here. It can’t be easy to sit down and try to write a book about, well... whatever snark is; an attitude, a malaise, a social pall. There are moments where I forgot about the glaring flaws of the book and found myself nodding my head, or thinking reflectively about some of the pot-shots I’ve taken in my own writing. Even if Denby fails at defining his target, he succeeds at issuing a clear and urgent call for better, less lazy writing. We live in a time when someone can pass off personal attacks and condescension as wit, when it’s easier to cross your arms and smirk at everything from an artificial vantage point of superiority than to actually think about things and bother with those, what do you call them, convictions.

As much as I found myself admiring and wanting to like this book, then, I could never quite get there. In setting out to write a book about what the text itself suggests is a red herring, Denby has shot himself in the foot and perhaps obscured an enjoyable, perhaps even great, plea for the caretakers of language to take more care, behind 128 pages of flailing against a phantom target. It’s a bit like watching a world-class boxer getting stuck in a bed-sheet halfway through a match—it’s absurd, and it’s funny, and it’s kind of a debacle—but there’s beauty there too, and sadness at it going to waste.
Want to make it as a singer but can’t carry a tune? No problem!

Roger Lee
Grizzly Features Editor

Today’s music industry is based primarily on the “image” rather than the “substance.” With many of today’s artists, we are being spoon fed a dose of carefully calculated pop-culture instead of raw talent. Take a small dose of singing ability, add a drop of sex appeal, mix it all together with some scandal and you have the brightest singing superstars of 2009. When did the industry begin catering to image over sound?

The 1960s and 1970s were a time of hits and happiness. You had The Beatles, Earth Wind and Fire, Donna Summer, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder. These decades were about having hit records. Catchy soul songs and disco classics came and went. It seems like hits came from a wide variety of artists in a wide variety of genres. You never knew where the next hit was going to come from. The surprise is what made these decades so musically intriguing. You always had to wonder “who is going to have the next hit?” It could come from anywhere or anyone.

Of course, there were the standouts that had longevity and a series of hits during this time period. Aretha Franklin, 66, the Queen of Soul and an American musical icon, stayed current with all of the disco and soul hits flowing around her attention. And a series of hits during this time period. Aretha Franklin, Franklin and Stevie Wonder come from what I like to call the overflowing talent commanded audiences to pay her. Her voice did the trick. With such a God-given gift, all You always had to wonder Franklin had to do was sing. Once she opened her mouth, the overflowing talent commanded audiences to pay attention. Outstanding technicians and artists such as Franklin and Stevie Wonder come from what I like to call the “Singer’s Generation.” A young Michael Jackson also came from this era before stepping out on his own as a solo artist.

In fact, Michael Jackson, 50, serves as a prime example. He is a singer who crossed over into the pop realm during the early 1980s. Michael Jackson went from being an amazing singer to being a good singer with “star quality” and an image that would take him on to becoming the best selling solo male singer of all time. He is one of the first to be transformed into a hit-producing pop machine. Michael still had the amazing gift of song, but he was given hit after hit to sing and “sell.” He was given an “image” to keep up, choreography for music videos, and given the title the “King of Pop.”

Whitney Houston, the pop sensation, has a long line of music in her family. Growing up singing in the church with her mother Cissy Houston (who served as a background singer for Aretha Franklin) and singing cousin Dionne Warwick, Whitney was bound for musical success. She was first discovered performing covers at a basement underground-type of event. Music mogul Clive Davis saw her and signed her to his label. She produced an outstanding debut CD that came out on Valentine’s Day in 1985. The amazing singer has produced hit after hit, sold out arenas worldwide, performed in countless music videos, and even dabbled in modeling early on in her career. Houston truly embodies an original female 80s pop star, one with a great voice and a great image to produce chart-breaking record sales.

The 1980s and 1990s version of the pop star still featured great musical talent like Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, and Mariah Carey. The pop machine took great singers, gave them a great image, cashed in on the now popular music video, and had them sing chart-topping material. Their huge success in the pop music genre served as inspiration for many of today’s artists.

However, today’s artist seems to have lost the concept of “voice first, image second.” Britney Spears makes it obvious that sex sells. She is about body image first, hit records second, and voice quality a very distant third. Even Rihanna is cashing in on her looks. She has a great image and great songs, but her voice pales in comparison to today’s more genuine singers like Beyonce’ and Christina Aguilera. Even Chris Brown was cashing in on his “boy next door” image until a recent scandal became the focus. What is happening to our music industry? Why can the “stars” be counted on one hand?

A long over-due shift in the War on Terror

Matthew Monteverde
Grizzly Staff Writer

I believe that Obama’s re-defining of America’s fight against terrorism, specifically against al-Qaeda, is a much needed shift in our foreign policy. Switching from a primarily militant posture to that of diplomacy, foreign aid, and infrastructure repair, Obama has signaled that he intends to march to the tune of a different drum. Military responses to terrorism abroad have only weakened our reputation and increased the image of the U.S. as imperialist and un-caring. Instead of attacking terrorism directly, we need to attack the symptoms of terrorism.

Terrorism exists when people are economically depressed and see that the only way to enact change against imperialist and un-caring. Instead of attacking terrorists.

The Grizzly
April 9, 2009
Wildcats fight but fall to champion team, UNC Tar Heels

Chris Capone
Grizzly Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 19, at about 8:30 p.m., intense followers of March Madness sat in confusion, searching for answers. The Villanova Wildcats were slowly making their way to the locker room, down 41-31 to the 14th seeded American Eagles of the Patriot League. Twenty minutes of game time later, fans let up on the death grip they had on their brackets as the Wildcats stormed back in the second half for a 13-point victory in the tournament’s first round. However, the Villanova and basketball faithful were concerned. Many people had Villanova beating UCLA in the second round, and upsetting Duke in the Sweet Sixteen. After those two games took place, the American game looks even more puzzling.

Villanova, led by senior forwards Dante Cunningham and Shane Clark, and junior guard Scottie Reynolds, proceeded to blast UCLA and Duke by a combined 43 points. While UCLA never seemed to have any real chance, Duke was down by only three points at halftime. However, for the second time in three tournament games, Villanova put on a clinic in the second half, getting 16 points from Reynolds and 14 points and 11 rebounds from Cunningham, as the Cats outscored the Blue Devils by 20 and finished with a 46-32 edge in rebounds. The Wildcat faithful were ecstatic as Villanova, the overlooked team of the loaded Big East, were staring at a spot in the Elite Eight and a date with Big East rival Pittsburgh.

Pitt had been ranked number one in the country for a total of three weeks, and had one of the most physical styles of play in the tournament. Considered a number one seed before the tournament, a lot of pressure was being put on Pitt to win their first ever national championship, and many felt that this was a different Pitt team from years past. Reynolds and Villanova would have none of it.

In what is widely considered the best game to date of this year’s tournament, Pitt’s multi-talented point guard, Levance Fields, hit two free throws with just over five seconds to go to tie the score at 76. Reynolds took the inbound pass and drove down the court, as three of Pitt’s players were caught behind the play. Reynolds drove into the lane for a bump and run floater that had just enough touch to go down. After a desperation heave from Fields with half a second to go clanked off the backboard, Villanova’s players stormed the court in celebration of knocking off their Big East rival, and the first number one seed to go down in the tournament. In addition, Villanova had advanced to the tournament’s Final Four for the first time since they won the national title in 1985 over heavily favored Georgetown. Villanova, a number three seed in the tournament, is the lowest seed remaining, and although it isn’t necessarily a Cinderella story, there are some surprising storylines that come with the success.

Women’s lacrosse looks to keep playoff winning streak intact

Nick Pane
Grizzly Staff Writer

It has been almost a decade since Ursinus’ Women’s Lacrosse team missed out on the Centennial Conference playoffs. Although it will be difficult to get back into the race, the Bears have no intentions of breaking the streak any time soon.

The women have struggled coming out of the gate this year, beginning the season 1-8. Coach Erin Stroble, an Ursinus college graduate, said that the team had to learn from their early competition to improve for the remainder of the season.

“The past three games [against TCNJ, F&M, and Salisbury] have been against top teams in the country, so we have focused on using these games to push us to have to play better because our competition is so good. We are back into our conference schedule, and we are looking to continue the progress and not let up in what we have done,” said Coach Stroble.

Ursinus figures to be a force in the Centennial Conference based on their history and recent 20-1 blowout over conference rival Bryn Mawr.

Ursinus has seen the Lady Bears go over a decade without a losing record in the Centennial Conference, which bodes well for the rest of the season, as five of the final seven games come against conference competition. Behind senior captains Lisa Clark, Laura Patton, and Jenna Werley, the team hopes to use the final seven games to keep the playoff streak running. Coach Stroble believes that such a run is definitely possible with the group that has been assembled.

The fact that Coach Stroble now coaches for her Alma Mater is a big advantage for the team and the recruiting process. Coach Stroble said that her recruiting strategy involves a multitude of attributes, but none more than academics.

“The first thing we have to look at is academics. But if I am looking at a player playing in a game or tournament, I am looking for speed, their body language, their attitude, their work ethic, as well as how they relate to teammates and coaches. I think we are looking for players who have the ability to play for a Division I program, but have a desire to challenge themselves both academically and athletically while still being able to take advantage of the college lifestyle that Ursinus offers,” she said.

Strong recruiting has certainly been the backbone to the team’s success over the years, as Ursinus boasts one of the top women’s lacrosse programs in Division III. While the team has dipped slightly over the past couple of years, the team is still a very dangerous opponent for their conference foes.

Behind Coach Stroble is a young, but talented nucleus that features 17 underclassmen. Ursinus does not figure to have many problems in the years to come.

“I think the commitment and choosing to be a part of the team, knowing what’s expected, committing to fulfilling those expectations, and a willingness to do more when necessary is very important to take from being a part of the team,” said Coach Stroble, “We try to focus on, don’t just do enough, do more to make the team better.”