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The Grizzly, September 17, 2009

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Recycling team takes action against campus waste
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Ursinus College's initiative to create a greener campus has been developing over the years as many people of the Ursinus Community strive to act on their common passion to create a more sustainable and conscious world, starting on campus. Students, faculty, and staff all came together this year during move-in for freshman and upperclassmen to try and reduce the amount of waste that, in the past years has proven to be overwhelming. Anyone who has been here during both move-in and move-out, knows that the hall trashcans are bursting at the seams, sometimes even onto the sidewalks outside, and red dumpsters are overflowing all over campus with the remnants of one day's choices, forever lost to landfills.

Leah Joseph, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies got together with our new Sustainability Coordinator Kyle Rush, also Men's Soccer Coach, to begin building an action plan to try and reduce the mass amount of waste that accumulates during the move-in/move-out session. They also enlisted the help of Sara Lee, a senior here at Ursinus who took responsibility as the student coordinator. This was no easy task, and Ursinus is lucky to have many wonderful people that are more than willing to become part of the many "green teams" that help put projects like this together, coordinating and cooperating interdepartmentally to try and tackle programs in the most functional, successful way.

Mike Dengler and Miguel Cruz from Facilities Services provided experiential knowledge about the outflow of the trash, and helped to figure out the most efficient way for the team of recyclers to work hand in hand with their staff. Melissa Sanders, Interim Director of Residence Life, helped suggest ways to advertise the event, to make sure people were aware of what was going on and what they could do to help, and she also helped to get the RA's involved. Sara Lee was in charge of helping get all the necessary supplies together and doing a lot of the leg work involved in getting this initiative going.

For freshman move-in the seemingly endless amounts of cardboard and Styrofoam piled around the outside of BWC and BPS. Even with box cutters it took a decent amount of time and labor to retrieve and break down everything. The RA's were a great help in spreading the word about what was going on, and many people began breaking down their own boxes, and some families would even stop to help out for a few minutes. The facilities staff was also very helpful, lending hours of helping hands and bright smiles to get us through the day. Most of the facilities staff was busy getting rid of all the other trash and doing their own jobs, and the recycling team was really there to help them and make sure we could reduce the waste as much as possible. On Upperclassmen move-in day the team reunited with the addition of the men and women's soccer teams and their coaches.

The community effort was inspiring, bringing together students, professors, staff and volunteers, all uniting in a common cause to help make this world a better place than it might have been yesterday. This event provides living proof that in addressing the larger environmental issues we face as a society, the small steps when walked together cover more ground than apathetically standing by, and before you know it you've come a long way from where you've started.

The success of waste reduction alone was substantial, with no overflowing dumpsters to be seen, and the big red dumpster wasn't even full by the time the team got done with it. Just recycling cardboard, Styrofoam, plastic bags, and paper made such a difference. But it doesn't stop here, there is always more we can do as Ursinus community members to come together and make this campus a more environmentally conscious place to live.

Annual activities fair starts the year off
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The annual Activities Fair was held this past Wednesday, Sept. 9, in Wismer Lower Lounge, showcasing the countless student-run organizations on campus. Students set up booths decorated to direct students (freshman in particular) in their direction, in hopes of sharing information about their organizations.

Students running booths crammed their tabletops with candy, Ria's water ice, free pencils, pens, and cups, as well as flyers with organization information and email sign in sheets. Behind the booths sat representatives of the organizations, ready to answer questions any student may have had; many presentations included pictures of the clubs' members, as well as background information and history of the organizations themselves. Booths present at the Activities Fair included - but were not limited to - Relay for Life, Greek life, Escape Velocity, CAB, Best Buddies, V-Day, Gay-Straight Alliance, as well as clubs varying from French Club to All of the Above, an a capella singing group.

Overall, mingling students seemed to enjoy the fair, although some disliked how the fair, although some disliked how the fair, normally outside, took place in Wismer. According to sophomore Josh Ecker, the fair was "too hot and crowded; I felt like I couldn't really enjoy looking around."

Kerri Sullivan, a junior who helped run the booth for the sorority Alpha Sigma Nu, agreed that it was too bad the weather had not held up. "I like when the fair is outside there's a lot more space and it gives organizations more room to spread their booths out. I think the fair went really well, though."

Freshmen seemed to agree, although one exclaimed that she was "overwhelmed" with the number of clubs and booths crammed into Wismer Lower Lounge. Upperclassmen, too, enjoyed the fair and took the time to visit most booths. "The CAB [Campus Activities Board] "Activities fair" is continued on page 3.
News-in-Brief: kidnapped reporter freed, former Taiwan Pres. sentenced to life

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Wednesday, Sept. 10

TAIPEI, Taiwan (CNN) – On Friday, Taiwan's former President Chen Shui-bian was sentenced to life in prison for corruption and money laundering. He was also fined 200 million New Taiwan dollars (equivalent to $61 million). Chen's wife, Wu Shu-chen, was earlier convicted of lying to prosecutors, and was also sentenced to life on charges similar to Chen's. She was ordered to pay 300 million New Taiwan dollars (91.1 million). Chen was not present at the courthouse when the charges were read, because he had asked to be excused. Chen's supporters gathered around the courthouse, and riot police stood by to make sure the crowd did not get violent. Prosecutors say Chen embezzled the equivalent of 17.7 million U.S. dollars, took bribes, laundered money, and removed classified documents from his office. Chen has denied the charges all along, claiming that the bribes were political donations. Chen says the charges are political; he favored an independent Taiwan, while his successor, President Ma Ying-jeou, favors closer ties to China.

(All stories taken from CNN.com)

Campus safety, police relations: battle of jurisdiction

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Unlike prior years, the Collegeville Police have another tool to help maintain peace on the Ursinus Campus. In the past, the police could only monitor Campus Safety's main radio broadcast, then in the spring of 2009, Kim Taylor, Director of Campus Safety, considered that "If they are going to be able to hear us, let's make it so we can actually talk to them." Because of this change, the communication lines between the Ursinus Campus and the Collegeville Police Department have become even stronger. The presence of police typically makes a person feel safer; however, students at this private institution must answer to two jurisdictions whenever there is an infraction, the Judiciary Board and the Judge. If a student is to consider this campus his or her home, would a higher comfort level be attained if this private institution banned the Collegeville Police from the campus? Kim Taylor's responded in asking, "Why would we want to create that animosity by saying 'nope, you can't come to our campus,' when they are here to save us if we need them? What would be the benefit of doing that?"

Residential Advisors (RAs), in the past, have been taught to keep everything in house, and to find ways around reporting incidences which could compromise the privacy of their fellow students. When an RA requests SERV (the Student Emergency Response Volunteers), they are told to leave out names and buzz words which could incur police involvement. Melissa Sanders, the interim director of Residential Life, explains that "RAs go through 10 days of intense training... We talk all the time about the way they use the radio. They're supposed to give locations, but they are not allowed to use names." Recently, a first year RA said "unresponsive" on the walkie-talkie line, and the police acted as they saw fit and arrived at the scene in a timely fashion, indicating that they had heard the broadcast.

During Residential Advisor training, Kim Taylor made sure to emphasize the point that there was another entity on the airwaves; this was done in order to convey that the RAs should not "muddy up [the safety office] channel," with what an experienced RA called "Radio Chatter," this chatter being the discussion of location and movement. The RAs sometimes bypass the use of radios completely, simply using their cell phones whenever they need to make sure that their peer's confidentiality will remain intact, and that police involvement stays at a minimum.

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Berman’s new exhibit: “Muriel’s Moorses”

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On Thursday, September 10, the Berman Museum opened its newest exhibit entitled “Muriel’s Moorses: Works on Paper by Henry Moore,” a collection of sketches and lithographs created by artist Henry Moore and owned by Muriel Berman herself. While Moore, one of Britain’s most notable sculptors, is famous for his abstract statues of human figures and other organic shapes, his illustrations exhibit a similar interpretation of the body and the natural world.

Lithography is a type of printmaking and artwork which uses different oils in conjunction with ink and paint to make colors appear to rise up from the flat image. Moore’s lithographs, which are often simple sketches of human and animal body shapes using black ink on white parchment, frequently feature a collage of simple colors, such as blue, red, or yellow, to add to the background or enhance the dominant figure.

Two of Moore’s lithographs, entitled “Figures With Sky Background,” feature rough human shapes standing before a gray backdrop, but are colored with such a unique blend of skin tones and blue shading that it gives the illusion of three dimensions.

The walls of the Berman upper gallery each feature their own particular series of images by Moore, including his “Mother and Child,” “Animal,” and “Reclining Figure” collections. His “Mother and Child” lithographs range from realistic sketches of a woman holding a baby which emphasize shading and contours of the body, to abstract assumptions of the human body which resemble random geometric patterns.

His “Reclining Figure” images follow a similar pattern of serious organic composites and vague abstract doodling, and at the same time display ongoing experimentation with different degrees of boldness with his shading and outlining. Many of Moore’s sketches share the same unique structure of his larger bronze sculptures, including the use of blank space to suggest parts of the body. In fact, a certain number of Moore’s lithographs were initially studies in preparation for future bronze work.

Lisa Hanover, the director of the Berman Museum, is the one who decided to put together a display of Muriel Berman’s collection. “We have between four and five hundred pieces of Moore artwork in our vaults,” she explained, all of which were donated by Mrs. Berman. “It was a challenge selecting different images which we felt would honor our donor.”

Some of the other themes Moore explored during his career that are on display at the Berman Museum are represented by just two or three sketches at a time, such as his study of elephants and other animals, or even his sketches of tree trunks. Both series pay particular attention to the detailed grooves, wrinkles, and wedges one might find either on tree bark or on the skin of an animal.

Arlene Reynolds, an art admirer from Manhattan, is a great fan of Henry Moore, and makes a point to visit as many collections of his work as possible. “When I studied art at Hunter College, I was told to look and learn to see,” she commented, “and I love to see Moore’s work.”

Anthony Morgan, a senior, first became interested in the Moore exhibit while working at the Berman Museum over the summer. “I got to see the exhibit be set up, and I was excited to see the finished project,” said Morgan. “I think Moore’s work is very interesting, especially his ‘Mother and Child’ pieces which are my favorite.”

The Henry Moore exhibit will remain open until November 15, and many of these images may be relocated to the Berman Museum’s main gallery upon completion of the current expansion project. Information on the “Muriel’s Moorses: Works on Paper by Henry Moore” display and other Berman Museum exhibits can be found on their website, www.ursinus.edu/berman.

news

Is the Power Plant damaging more than our eardrums?

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Imagine that you’re back in the first week or two of your first year at Ursinus campus (which, I realize, may have been earlier this month). Around 2:00 p.m. on that Sept. 1st Monday, you were perhaps in a dorm, in class, at work, at practice, or someplace else. Why would you remember such a specific moment?

Well, each year, Ursinus freshmen are introduced to a blaring sound that disturbs napping hours, forces a momentary pause in teachers’ lectures, or wakes some who’d never heard it before into panicked confusion over the noise: the Limerick Nuclear Power Plant’s Emergency Alert System. Although disruptive, the monthly 2:00 p.m. sounding tests the alarm that would be set off if an evacuation became necessary for residents within the plant’s 10-mile radius. Situated 21 miles northwest of central Philadelphia, it houses 2 of the 13 reactors, within 90 miles of the city, equating Philadelphia with northern Illinois as an area with the largest concentration of reactors in the nation. Whether the statistic fascinates or bores you is irrelevant; the more critical detail is the emissions that the reactors produce and their potential effects on our health, given the plant’s close proximity to our campus.

Limerick’s power generating station houses two General Electric Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs), one that has operated since 1986 and one since 1990. According to Exelon Corporation, who owns the facility, they can produce enough power to provide electricity to over two million average American homes. The company also indicates that the facility exemplifies both technological and economic advancement, costing less to operate than other forms of electrical plants and contributing sizably to Montgomery county through taxes, wages, and sponsorship toward community events. In fact, they presented a $150,000 check—the first portion of a $500,000 donation—to Limerick Township in February to benefit its parks and recreation department, police department, and fire companies.

Each year, however, may come another cost to area residents. An arguably environmentally-eficient energy source, nuclear power prevents 700 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions—equivalent to exhaust from about 100 million cars—per year, a comparison raised by Dr. Megli Ragheb, University of Illinois’ Professor of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering. At a visit on-campus activities. With the large number of organizations presented at the fair, students with all different interests can be sure to find something that will allow them to become active on campus. “Once I saw all the booths,” said freshman Amanda Laurito, “I couldn’t wait to look around and find something that I was interested in.”

The Grizzly

September 17, 2009

comments sought for tenure review

In accordance with the Ursinus College Faculty Handbook, student comments on teaching effectiveness and student-faculty interaction are invited at the time of a faculty member’s review for tenure. Although student letters must be signed to be considered, student names may be withheld, upon request, when their comments are shared with the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the faculty member.

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:

Professor Meredith Goldsmith, English
Professor Walter Greason, History
Professor Codrina Popescu, Chemistry

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Dean Judith T. Levy, Office of the Dean by October 9, 2009.
Ever wonder who is behind that ice cream social held during the first week of classes each year? How about the lemonade stand in Olin Plaza? Wonder no more, Ursinus, for these fun-filled events are sponsored by the InterVarsity (IV) Christian Fellowship. While InterVarsity is not a new face on campus, most students are unaware of this inspirational, service group. Also known as IV, InterVarsity is an international organization that reaches out to college students to give them an opportunity to grow in their faith. Within this creative group, students can learn about the Bible, worship God, and simply feel what it’s like to be loved. Now ask yourself, what kind of fun-filled Spring Break mission trip.

Led by Ursinus’ staff worker Liz Prescutti and her husband, Dominic, InterVarsity consists of about 40 students, although their numbers seem to be continuously growing. Between classes and studying, IV members participate in service projects in the community and plan a Spring Break mission trip. On a more personal level, the organization spends a lot of time building a sense of community among its members, in hopes that they can then spread their efforts into the outside community, and one day, the world. Trying to help the world become a better place? Sounds like a band of superheroes to me.

According to Erin Gormley, a junior at Ursinus, “InterVarsity has been a big part of my life. I remember walking in the door and just feeling so included and so loved from the first day. College can be a hard transition, but it is also a time with a tremendous potential for growth.” For those students who feel they are in limbo, like Gormley, InterVarsity will provide that wanted sense of belonging. Just take Gormley’s favorite IV moment as an example. “My favorite IV memory,” Gormley beamed, “is Chapter Campevery summer. InterVarsity hosts a weeklong camp in New York where college students go to hang out and study the Bible. It is always a great time where tons of growth takes place, and I look forward to that every year!” Spending the summer in New York surrounded by other college students who share similar interests? There is no doubt in my mind why Gormley so fondly appreciates this memory.

Now I know what most of the readers are thinking when reading this article; “What does this Christian group have anything to do with me?” Well the answer to this question is one of the main goals that IV hopes to fulfill this school year. By giving back to campus as much as possible, Gormley wishes to “dispel the myths that Christians are unapproachable and hypocritical.” The group recognizes that not everyone shares the same beliefs, but they still hope to share their positive values and love to the campus in any way possible.

Large group meetings are held on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in the Wismer Parent’s Lounge. In addition, Bible studies occur on Monday nights, along with various events and service projects throughout the semester.

Community. Individual growth. Creativity. Love. If any of these ideas put a smile on your face and appeal to you, come check out InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Contact IV President, Samantha Slusser, saslusser@ursinus.edu.

Restaurant Review: The Iron Hill Brewery

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It’s the second week of classes, and already I’m bored with the food at Wismer. Naturally, in order to escape another night of mediocre food and long lines in the cafeteria, it was decided that a restaurant meal was absolutely necessary. The plan was set: we’d head into Phoenixville and eat at the first restaurant that caught our attention and hungry stomachs. Phoenixville’s Bridge Street, loaded with restaurants of all varieties, promised food a-plenty as senior Steve Moffett and I made our way into town.

One of the very first restaurants we spotted deemed fairly hopeful. Parking, however, not so much. With lots of side-street parking, and one-way streets, finding a parking spot on Bridge Street was nearly as tedious as looking for one in Center City. After finding a parking spot, Steve and I made our way to the Iron Hill Brewery, located at 130 E. Bridge Street. Immediately seated upon entering the restaurant, I had a chance to check out the place. Both inside and out, the restaurant has a very chic, metal-inspired theme; there is no kitschy sports memorabilia emblazoned on the walls, which was to my relief. Big TVs near the bar showed sports highlights from ESPN and popular music played unobtrusively in the background. Well-dressed businessmen sat at the bar, and I have to say, I felt a little underdressed and casual wearing jeans and sandals. Shortly thereafter, our waiter, fortunately not bedecked in 11 pounds of “flair,” presented us with a thick, leather-bound menu and a list of their seasonal beers. After much deliberation, Steve and I decided on our menu for the evening. The beer sampler and cheese steak egg rolls to start; I ordered the Roasted Chicken Pizza, and Steve, always the traditionalist, ordered a burger and fries.

First things first—beer and fried food. Our waiter brings out the beers, 8 of them in 4 oz. glasses. Going from light to dark, we tried all eight, both of us agreeing that the lighter beers, including the Iron Hill Light Lager, Vienna Red Lager, and Raspberry Wheat had the best flavors and easiest drinkability, especially when washing down our appetizer of cheese steak egg rolls. My hopes were very high for this appetizer. After all, what could be tastier than grilled meat, cheese, and onions wrapped up in fried, bite-size portions? Upon taking a bite, my hopes were slightly dashed. I expected the cheese to be much gooier and prominent, along with the onions. The horseradish dipping sauce did a fair job at giving the appetizer more punch, but at nearly $10 for two egg rolls, I should have taken the money and had mine “Wiz Wit” down on Passyunk. Shortly after, and before my hunger struck again, our meals made their way to the table. My pizza, piled high with onions, jalapenos, bacon, grilled chicken, barbecue sauce, and Gouda cheese looked devilishly tasty, with all of the major food groups (bacon, cheese, and chicken) accounted for. Steve’s burger, smothered with grilled onions and cheese looked and smelled just like a burger should: smoky and grilled to perfection. I immediately dove into the pizza, breathing a sigh of relief that the jalapenos didn’t have too much kick, yet something was amiss. With all the veggies and bacon, I expected much more crunch than was actually tasted. The pizza did not live up to the crunchy standards I had set upon ordering. Steve, whose expansive repertoire and experience in the burger world felt his burger was “good,” but definitely not the “best.” The grilled onions and cheese that topped the burger, however, made the cut, providing a smoky and grilled taste that the burger itself failed to deliver.

After paying for the meal, which had a fairly steep price for college students on a limited budget, I left the Iron Hill Brewery, slightly disappointed in my meal choices, yet rather delighted in my drink choices. Maybe next time, we will just go for a beer.

A Grizzly Book Review

Lamb: The Gospel according to Christ’s BFF?

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Laughter can come from many different places. It is often times the best medicine on a bad day. We can find laughter in movie, a comedy club, and maybe even a book.

Author Christopher Moore’s “Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ’s Childhood Pal.” is a comical novel that can provide that dose of medicine we need for a study break or a bad day.

Christopher Moore is the author of eleven novels, including three international best sellers. His fictional style of writing is absurd and comical. His characters are fun and witty and usually have to overcome some sort of unseen ridiculous conflict or unexpected experience. His talent didn’t truly surface until later in life. He decided that his good humor could be put to work by making others feel good through the writing of his books. He sold his first book, “Practical Denonkeeping,” to Disney in 1992 and immediately had a group of followers who did not want to have to wait for his next book. He immediately went to work on his next masterpiece, “Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ’s Childhood Pal.”

In “Lamb,” Moore uses actual Bible characters and events and puts his own spin on the idea of Christ’s life. In many ways it is sick and twisted, but the comical value of the book makes it worth the read. There is a disclaimer on the title page that reads, “This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are products of the author’s imagination or are used fictitiously and are not to be construed as real. Any resemblance to actually events,

"Lamb" is continued to page 6.
Features

Career Corner: Steps to your career

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Determining your career path takes time, reflection, action, and work. Think thoughtfully through the following steps that can help you move forward with your career planning.

Step 1: Self Reflection:
Before you can choose a career that "fits" you, you have to know what you’re looking for. Try to identify and articulate your skills and experience, your interests and values, and your personality type and style. Visit the Career Services Web page to access FOCUS-2, the online assessment tool that can get you started. Follow-up with conversations with career advisors and consider taking additional assessments to help narrow down your options.

Step 2: Exploration and Reality Check:
Most students don't know what careers and jobs are out there and have not had an opportunity to test-out their skills. To explore your career interests begin reading and doing research. Participate in extracurricular activities, pursue internships, or volunteer. Choose related coursework and conduct informational interviews to learn more about different fields. Use the Career Services Web site to conduct career research.

Step 3: Take Action (Do Something!)
Knowledge of yourself and knowledge of the world of work will only lead to career opportunities if you take action. Just do it! Make a conscious decision to learn more about yourself or a career. Write a resume or draft a cover letter. Set up informational interviews. Attend career workshops and programs. Develop a plan and follow it.

Step 4: Career Management
Getting a job or career is just the beginning. Making a life requires work as well. Think through issues such as balancing professional and personal life, developing support groups and mentors and nurturing your network.

Let the Career Services Office be your partner in the process! Seek assistance in Bomberger Hall—room 110. Email career@ursinus.edu

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Hidden treasures in the Berman and Myrin

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Stories of secret and powerful collections housed in libraries and museums have been the subject of movies and television shows for decades. Well, Ursinus College is no different. Okay, so we may not have the Arc of the Covenant or a wish-granting tea kettle, or really even a secret collection, but the college still has in its possession some impressive, little known items stored in Myrin Library and the Berman Museum.

The vaults in the basement of the Berman Museum are filled with thousands of works from around the world and many dating back hundreds of years. There are racks of 9th to 11th century pottery from South East Asia and Tibet, modern sculpture, a few bins of prints and quilts from local Pennsylvania Dutch artists as well as original works by such artists as Andy Warhol, Salvador Dalí, and former companion of Pablo Picasso, Françoise Gilot.

Currently these works are accessed by art classes, but can only be seen by individuals doing research and even then, only museum staff can handle the art. However, Collections Manager Julie Choma notes that the vaults will be available to public viewing upon completion of construction early next fall. The workroom will be caged off so that visitors can view the museum staff’s work restoring and preserving pieces with the intent that Berman will become a sort of learning museum. Additionally, the museum is planning to launch an educational website that will, as a pamphlet explains, “give users access to the over 3,500 works of art in the Berman Museum’s permanent collection” and will be available for class use this semester. Currently the beta version of the website has roughly 130 works chosen for their relevance to educational programs.

There are two such locked away collections in the library. The first is known as the Ursinusiana Room and contains works created by the college. It archives editions of The Ruby and The Lantern, honors and summer fellows papers and projects, the alumni magazine and The Grizzly, formerly known as The Ursinus Weekly and The Ursinus College Bulletin before that, from as early as 1885. All of these materials are available by appointment with the library’s archivist Carolyn Weigel.

The second library collection is The Rare Books Room. Items are stored here because each item is somewhat unique, valuable, and/or incredibly fragile. Like the Ursinusiana Room, this is not a place students can poke around at their leisure. An appointment and legitimate reason, like research, is needed to access it. Even then, there are restrictions: there are no pens allowed in the room and, for some items, the presence of either Weigel or the library’s director Charles Jamison is necessary to handle the delicate documents.

So just how unique are books in this room? One of the library’s most prized possessions is the Linda Grace Hoyer Collection named for their author, an Ursinus alum and mother of John Updike. It consists of shelves of acid free boxes filled with all of Hoyer’s diaries, short stories, published and unpublished, correspondence as well as a few autographed copies of her published works. Jamison stresses that this collection is “absolutely unique.” These documents exist in no other place on earth and are extremely valuable. Another compilation housed are again items of close relationship to the college itself: the personal library of the college’s founder, Reverend John Bomberger.

Jamison points out that “we’re not just storing stuff; it’s being used.” He goes on to explain that for some people these items have been invaluable research tools. A scholar from England spent much of his summer poring over the Linda Grace Hoyer Collection as research on his book about the influence of the woman on the works of her son. People who have done research on the origins of Ursinus College and Rev. Bomberger have also sought access to The Rare Books Room.

Though the staff of both the Myrin and Berman are very readily available to discuss their precious items, and all items are on record, no one really seems to know what they have. It makes one wonder what other treasures Ursinus College has tucked away.

“Power plant” continues from page 3.

to the plant in 2006, former U.S. President George W. Bush highlighted Dr. Raghed’s point and added, “... nuclear power is safe...” and encouraged increased construction of nuclear plants. A study published in 2003, however, challenges Bush’s optimism, revealing in-body radioactive levels in area residents that correlate with nuclear radiation exposure.

The study measured levels of strontium-90 (Sr-90), one of the radioisotopes of nuclear fission, in teeth donated by residents of states near nuclear reactors and by a small number from with no reactors. The researchers, belonging to the Radiation and Public Health Project (RPHP), focused on residents born after 1979, allowing them to rule out effects of former atomic bomb testing. Their findings showed repeated patterns of—get this—consistently higher Sr-90 levels for those closest to our neighbor, the Limerick plant, than elsewhere. Of the 5 states—plus one smaller group representing other states—from which residents donated teeth, Pennsylvania took the lead in Sr-90 concentrations. Even closer to home, each state and/or group of states showed that counties within 40 miles of a nuclear reactor had noticeably higher Sr-90 levels than the rest of their state.

A corporation in Stowe, PA, called The Alliance for a Clean Environment (ACE), characterizes the plant as part of a “Toxic Triangle,” or trio of toxic- or pollutant-producing sources impacting the Greater Pottstown Area. The other two components being Pottstown Landfill and Occidental Chemical. The group has compiled statistics that reveal higher leukemia and lung, cervical, and childhood cancer rates in the Greater Pottstown Area than in Pennsylvania overall. While the numbers are somewhat dated, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides information on Sr-90 that correlates with some of ACE’s claims. For example, they explain that the chemical tends to deposit in bone and bone marrow and is linked to leukemia, bone cancer, and cancer of soft tissue near bones, and they state, “Risk of cancer increases with increased exposure to Sr-90.”

The EPA reveals that both municipal landfills and nuclear reactors make Sr-90 impossible to avoid in at least minimal amounts. When Kaitlin Andersen, a Kutztown University senior, admitted, “Those things were one of the main reasons I didn’t consider going to Ursinus. They seriously scare me,” she was referring to their intimidating size and monstrous clouds, while their toxic emissions—evidently—were the true place for concern.

A Sept. 1 notice offered area residents free potassium iodide pills to take in case of a nuclear accident (and yes, Ursinus does have a supply!), and NBC Philadelphia titled the article “Get Your Worst-Case Scenario Pills.” The worst case scenario, however, may be a never-never solution to the potentially carcinogenic strontium exposure.

The Grizzly

September 17, 2009
Liberal arts, limited choices?

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It is common knowledge—or it should be, at least—that all Ursinus students must take a lab science to fulfill the college’s core requirements. Part of the appeal of a liberal arts school is the fact that students are strongly encouraged to take a wide range of courses, thus making them well-rounded, informed citizens. What initially was created to benefit us has proven to be a challenge for some. For those attending Ursinus without hopes of entering the fields of medicine or laboratory research, finding a science class to fulfill that requirement can seem like a semester’s worth of work in and of itself. That is, a science class that we actually want to take and has space for us.

Popular opinion on this campus is that, for people who are a bit intimidated by test tubes and lab coats, a student should enroll in geology. Each and every semester, humanities majors hold their breath as they wait to see if the class registration gods will smile upon them. I myself tried to take geology my freshman year only to be waitlisted. I attempted to take forensic chemistry (a class designed for non-majors) only for the class to be cancelled. Despite numerous attempts, I am a senior who has yet to complete her lab science. And I am not alone. In casual conversations with my fellow classmates within the first week, I learned of at least four other students who are in the same predicament.

Yet, what I believe to be even worse is the fact that some students feel that they are forced into taking a science they normally would not have because of the lack of open spots in desired courses. MaryKate Sullivan, a senior English major, took Bio102Q to fulfill her science requirement. She said, “I decided to take biology because I was actually good at it in high school and I figured that since this was a 100-level course it wouldn’t be too hard.”

When asked about the result of the class, MaryKate admitted her dissatisfaction: “This class affected my GPA negatively...grad schools will see. I worked very hard and did all of the homework, studied for the tests, and went to the review sessions when they were held...The part that disappointed me the most was that I did not have many choices when it came to picking a lab science.”

I direct your attention now to the fall semester 2009-2010 class schedule the Registrar produces. Looking only at the column entitled “waitlisted,” one can see that it is Environmental Geology which displays the highest number of members who did not get into the class, 6, as opposed to the occasional one or two found in departments like English, exercise and sports science, anthropology, and interdisciplinary studies (go to UC InfoNet for this information).

Please allow me to make clear my intent in writing this article. By no means do I want to use this as a chance to vent my own personal frustration. Moreover, I am in no way wish to diminish the credibility of geology and similar courses by judging them “easy.” I simply want to bring the issue of limited course sections to the attention of this institution, as this will only prove to be more problematic as we continue to matriculate larger freshman classes. At present, it appears as though there is hesitation in opening more sections of geology, rather than excitement over having so many students interested.

I, along with MaryKate Sullivan and every other student here at UC, realize the importance of a liberal arts education. If you type in the word “liberal” into any word document, a list of definitions will surface, and among them the following descriptions: “favoring reform” and “not limited.” We are hoping for reform. We are hoping that future UC students are not limited. For, as a result of that limitation, we may sacrifice an opportunity to take a class which interests us for one that just happens to have open seats.

The Philadelphia Inquirer says, “Moore’s storytelling style is reminiscent of Vonnegut and Douglas Adams.” One reader told me, “It’s the funnest book I’ve ever read!” So if you’re looking for a great read or something to brighten up your mood while studying, check out Christopher Moore’s “Lamb.” Also, check out some of his other best sellers: “A Dirty Job,” “You Suck,” and his newest novel, “Fool.”

The part that disappointed me the most was that I did not have many choices when it came to picking a lab science.”
Opinions

The following are responses to the Grizzly article: “The Barack Obama dating game: ‘Czar’ power” written by Zach Shamberg in the Sept. 10th issue. Several responses were received and not all could be published. Thanks for writing in!

Obama’s administration and the takeover of the Communist Czar Regime

Patrick Hayakawa

Kudos to my friend Zach Shamberg for his entertaining and forceful op-ed published in last week’s Grizzly. It’s an encouraging sign and a testament to Ursinus's established (yet ever-evolving) culture of open, civil discourse that a conservative columnist can speak out even when he feels “all alone at a school so afraid of conservative opinions.”

But in the same breadth that Zach bemoans that his campus fears his conservative opinion, he expresses a deep fear of our political leaders and their supposed associations with leftist thinkers and organizations. So are opinions something to be feared, or are they not? At first Zach would have us believe opinions (particularly his conservative ones) are not to be feared but rather discussed and analyzed openly, whereas he later warns that “opinions, particularly liberal ones, are scary enough that they ‘kept me awake at night’.”

Well, when I was a little kid, and the monsters under the bed kept me awake at night, my father put me at ease by flicking on the light and exposing the monsters for what they really were: shadows and dust balls. And while reading Zach’s article, I couldn’t but help hope Zach would do the same: turn on the lights and show us exactly what sort of monsters we are dealing with. To my dismay, he kept his lights out. I now almost never did. He relied on a hyperbole combined with a few select quotes, neither of which really illuminated the true nature of the leaders in question nor how it is that they pose such a risk. I did learn a few interesting things, however:

1. While every other president in history from George Washington to George W. Bush has had a small army of specially trained, directly appointed advisors whose job it is to serve and counsel the President, Barack Obama enjoys the distinction of being the first President to have “a parade of czars whispering in his ear” who “want to destroy our country and what we stand for as efficiently as possible.” I fail to see why members of Obama’s cabinet (the positions of which are determined and defined by the Constitution), regardless of how they started out or of who hired and fired them, are more akin to malicious Russian autocrats than well-meaning but ill-informed public servants.

2. Not only are his advisors czars, but they are the worst kind: Communist czars! (Think about that for a second...) Oh, and they’re terrorists, too. It seems all things evil and un-American (no matter how contradictory) have been tossed into one big Bill-o’-Rights-hating blender. The tasty product: a government’s cabinet of Communist, Socialist, and Marxist terrorist czars who “want to destroy the freedoms this country has fought so hard to protect.” Zach’s columns often display his taste for irony, but this characterization takes the cake.

But beneath the humor and the name-calling, Zach makes the very serious and very disturbing assertion that the behavior of our current leaders gives reason to fear not just that America is on the wrong track, but that our Constitutional rights and personal security are imminently threatened. So, is he right? It’s all too easy to believe the constant hammering on our ears by the Corporate Media that our leaders are Marxists and Communists, that they want to “fundamentally change the system,” but then neglects to discuss why that necessarily and categorically makes them unfit for public service. Giving someone a nasty name and calling for their immediate and permanent destruction is not a productive way to respond to the ideas we fear.

Let’s accept, for a moment, that someone like Van Jones, Obama’s former Special Advisor on Green Jobs and one of the chief targets of Zach’s article, does want to fundamentally change the system, or that he is a self-proclaimed Marxist. That fact in itself is not evidence that he’s incapable and undeserving of holding public office, and it certainly isn’t un-American, as Zach states. On the contrary, the ability to use the system to improve the system is one of the greatest and most essential aspects of our society; it’s what makes us free, and it’s what makes us capable of progress. It’s not enough to call Jones a Marxist and tell us to fear for our rights. A discerning observer needs to assess how Jones wants to change the system, why he wants to do so, what the likelihood that he will succeed is, and what the positive and negative effects of that change might be. Zach does not provide substantive analysis of any of these issues.

Call me naïve, but our political leaders have each taken an oath to preserve and uphold the Constitution of the United States. I find Zach’s assertion that our leaders (particularly those like Van Jones, whose resume is comparable to any in terms of personal commitment to social improvement) are bent on the destruction of our freedoms not only implausible, but offensive.

Socialism is the new word for progress

Emily Mercadante

I felt compelled to write a response to Zach Shamberg’s article because I am so exasperated with conservatives’ efforts to discredit Obama by labeling him as a “socialist, Communist, Marxist.” First of all, of drudging up this old (second) Red Scare tactic, born in the 1950s when everyone feared that communism would infiltrate and ruin the country, is a pathetic. I had thought that the country had come to its senses and finally realized that the spread of accusations and incitement of public fear is used by weak politicians as a means of hijacking and controlling the people’s minds.

As we saw with George W. Bush-era policies, creating a target toward which hatred and fear exist allows the creator to provide a solution to the alleged threat, and so they become a savior of sorts. Thus, anyone that dissents against this paradigm is labeled disloyal to the cause or the country, providing an easy way to dispel criticism. This is Bush and Cheney’s default position; terrorism hovered over their heads and was conveniently invoked as justification for the nonsensical decisions the administration made, as well as to the breaches of civil rights that we citizens incurred. Threats of terrorism seemed to lose some efficacy as they were beaten to death with repetition by the previous administration. So now, with President Obama’s liberal ideologies the conservatives have had to resort to claims that he is a socialist trying to change America for the worse.

This is just simply not true. Zach’s article, while it does not necessarily directly attack Obama or his policies, works on the assumption that Obama is being fed dangerous ideas from his “self-proclaimed Marxist advisors.” Obviously Zach is a fan of Fox News (no surprise there) where he heard the label “czars” for Obama’s advisors. Fox News anchors such as the hypocrites Sean Hannity and Glenn Beck have made it their personal missions to “get rid of the czars.”

As for the claims against Van Jones, who resigned recently from the position of Special Advisor for Green Jobs, nothing suggests that he was unqualified for this job. The only reason he was ever hired was due to the combined efforts of the pundits and publications that are found in Zach’s article that refer to one or two aspects of Van Jones’ history. Van Jones signed a piece of legislation calling for investigation into the Bush administration’s role in the 9/11 attacks, made a disparaging remark about Republicans, and was previously associated with the group STORM which embodied some Marxist principles. This was the basis for why he needed to be removed from office. Is this really justification for his removal? If so, how many republicans should be removed from office because of their radical pasts or subscriptions to problematic ideologies?

All politicians have a past that can be scrutinized. Throughout our lives we may espouse varying beliefs or political ideals, but these morph and evolve and change as we mature. Even if Van Jones still agrees with the beliefs of STORM, so what? Some of these incoherent opinions (like police brutality, revolution, feminism and democracy) are not a criterion for evaluating someone’s qualifications for public office. Still, none of these means that Obama embraces the same ideals as Van Jones, but that he finds the man well-qualified to perform his job. I believe that it is insulting to Obama’s intelligence to say that he adheres to whatever flows into his ears from advisors (that was Bush!). Besides, we should be judging our politicians on their current performance and statements. Now on the Cass Sunstein front, I think conservatives are agnologer about his stance on regulations or hunting rights more than anything else. When you try to take away their guns, watch out! It’s about time we recognize animal rights as part of the environmental movement – this is not radicalism to any sensible person. The third target, Mark Lloyd, Chief Diversity Officer of the FCC, is under attack because he wants to promote fairness and diversity in the media. Obviously that would be a threat to Fox News and to the tactics currently being implemented, the result of which has been Van Jones’ resignation. Comparing this to Hugo Chavez’s attempts to control media in Venezuela and suppressing opposition is far-fetched.

Finally, the comment made by Hugo Chavez about Obama’s relative liberalism compared to his own policies seems to have been misconstrued in Zach’s article. The joke was made in the context of the U.S. government’s purchase of General Motors due to bankruptcy; in comparison, Chavez’s government controls 60% of the Venezuelan economy. However, this is a false parallel; Obama has stated that GM will be sold off when possible. We are still a capitalist country; Obama is bringing needed reform and change but is constantly fraught with false claims, accusations and outright lying. Why are critics of Obama so eager to halt progress? The status quo has us left in debt, with high unemployment, a failing healthcare system and an inadequate education system. Call it socialist if you want – but I call it necessary change that will happen with or without Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity, or Zach Shamberg’s assent. The majority of America is still behind Obama and believes in his agenda to better our country.

The Grizzly

September 17, 2009
When I heard that Ursinus had made the Head Coach of Men’s Soccer Kyle Rush full time I was very interested in learning more. It is not very common anymore for division 3 sport teams to have a full time coach in any sport. I got a chance today to sit down with Coach Rush and ask him questions about his new full time position as Men’s Head Soccer Coach and Sustainability Coordinator. A graduate of Wilkes University with a degree in Environmental Science and Technical Writing, Rush was a two-time All-Conference player in the Middle-Atlantic Conference his junior and senior year.

The first thing I noticed upon meeting Coach Rush was his genuine nature, enthusiasm and high energy level. Going into his third year as Head Coach, Rush has already made an impact on the program. He took a team with a losing record to competitors for a playoff spot. When asked about his coaching style Rush said, “I have high expectations of my players. I try to get as much out of them as I can, but there is a personal side that is more important to me. I want to teach my players accountability and how to be successful both on and off the field.” - Coach Rush

Outside of class. Projects like the Move-in Move-out. Many of you may have noticed the students coming around during move-in day collecting recyclables, such as plastic and cardboard. That was one of Rush’s projects that he put into effect to cut down of the massive waste that gets accumulated during the hectic move-in days so if students have an idea of an environmental project, Kyle Rush is the man to contact. I asked Ursinus Sophomore Nora Noland how she felt about having this new position Sustainability Coordinator on campus. “I’m glad to be a part of a school that wants to make a change on how it is affecting the environment, It’s nice to know that if I have an idea of a way to help environment, I have a place to go to.”

I asked Coach Rush if his change from part-time coach to full-time coach had made a difference in improving the soccer program. “No question. This year the guys have really benefited. I am more available for the players and as a coach I have more time to be organized for practice and games.” What can we expect for the Men’s Soccer team this year? Rush said, “Our goal is to make it to the playoffs. We are fielding the best team since I have been here and now that it is my third year as coach the players understand my expectations.”

I asked Coach Rush if there was anything else he would like the readers to know. He told me, “We are always looking for new fans. I would like to encourage the students and faculty to come to our games.” The Men’s Soccer team’s next home game will be Wednesday at 4 p.m. against Cabrini so Ursinus sports fans mark your calendars, get painted up and cheer for the Bears.

Positivity and friendship, staples of the UC Women’s Volleyball team

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There is undoubtedly a common theme that runs through the Women’s Volleyball team and that’s the bond they share with each other. Whether it’s spending time traveling to games, practicing multiple times a week or just “being goofy” by Wismer, the Lady Bears can be seen together on and off the court enjoying each other’s company. In fact this year the team welcomes a new assistant coach, Melissa George, who spent 4 seasons with the bears from 2003-2007. Interestingly enough George grew up with the bears head coach Diana McNamee Clavin. They have known each other most of their lives since first meeting in grade school, competing with each other in high school volleyball and then against each other at the Collegiate level. Coach Clavin was named head coach for the Lady Bears when George was entering her senior year at Ursinus in 2006, which she admits was “a little weird at first”.

George is now a high school math teacher in Boyertown, PA where she commutes to Ursinus daily, sometimes working over 15 hour days. However the long days are all worth it for George, since she has always wanted to coach and has a passion for the game. George hopes that this season the girls will start feeling more comfortable playing with each other and play as a whole, which is sometimes difficult being such a young team with 10 players. In fact the Lady Bears have a total of 4 freshman, 2 sophomores, 2 juniors and 2 seniors.

Although George spent her 2006 season at Ursinus playing with seniors Jennifer Fargo and Chelsea Lutts, she feels that, “It’s not different (coaching them). They’re both awesome girls and they take every piece of advice I give them.” It was not surprising that both Fargo and Lutts feel the exact same way. Not only was George a volleyball player at Ursinus, but she was also a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, a sorority in which Fargo and Lutts also belong.

When asked about their new assistant coach Lutts replied, “Melissa is a great addition to our coaching staff; her positivity and knowledge of the game are helping bring our team to a new level.” Fargo also feels that, “Having played with us I think she can relate to us a little bit more.”

Aside from the new addition of an assistant coach, the Lady Bears just recently named Fargo and sophomore Liz Roth as captains for the 2009 season. Fargo, back for her final season with the Lady Bears hopes to, “Have a lot of fun and leave everything I have out on the court, I want to make the best of my last year, and do what I can to get us as far as possible.” Roth, who has been playing volleyball since she was 9, is the team’s setter and also plays right side hitter. As a young player Roth notes that she, “Feels so comfortable around all of the upperclassmen; they’ve been so accepting from the very beginning of freshman year, and nothing has changed from new changes on the team.”

Youth is another common thread that runs through the Ursinus Women’s Volleyball team, especially with the addition of 4 freshmen. Kristin Hantratty is one such freshman who played in high school and for the South Jersey Volleyball Club her senior year. Right away Hantratty noticed “how the team meshed together both on and off the court.” One of the reasons she chose Ursinus’s Volleyball program was because, “They (the girls) reminded me of my high school team and I thought it would be a good fit.”

This past weekend the Lady Bears participated in the Moravian College Tournament where they went 2-2. Although the team lost their home opener to Cabrini 3-0 on Tuesday, their positive attitudes and team spirit will surely lift them to start winning games in the near future.

Upcoming Games

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<td>Football</td>
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Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Web Site