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The Grizzly, November 12, 2009

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Picasso at the Lapin Agile draws in audiences

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Anticipation was high for last week’s Ursinus College Theater production; by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4, tickets to see Picasso at the Lapin Agile were sold out for both Friday and Saturday nights. According to a campus-wide email sent from the box office, several requests didn’t make the reservation list.

Among those unable to attend was sophomore Sarah Dougherty. “I had planned to attend Saturday night’s performance but didn’t realize it would sell out so quickly,” said Dougherty, who was drawn to the production upon learning it was a comedy.

“I think the fact that it’s a comedy is drawing in a lot of people,” said junior Ed Minelli, one of the show’s 12 cast members. Written by actor/comedian Steve Martin, the play “incorporates a lot of the comedy from his movies,” said junior Jeff Thomas, cast as Pablo Picasso. Set in 1904, the show revolves around a fictional encounter between Picasso and Albert Einstein, played by senior Zach Shambler.

“The characters are very big,” said Thomas, “he’s [Einstein] more of a nerd and I’m more of an artist, we really play it up.”

The two meet at the Lapin Agile, a bar in Paris, on the brink of developing their renowned masterpieces; in 1905, Einstein will publish the special theory of relativity, while in 1907, Picasso will develop some immunity.

H1N1: How Ursinus is Battling the Swine Flu

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This little piggy went to market… and he brought a new bug back to Ursinus: the H1N1, or “swine,” influenza A virus. On Oct. 30, 2009, all students learned—through an email from the Dean of Students, Debbie Nolan—that the first few cases of the much-anticipated bug had been identified among Ursinus students.

The Wellness Center was informed of the initial cases less than twenty minutes before the campus-wide email was sent, and as of Friday, Nov. 6, forty-two was the latest reported count. Dr. Doghramji, M.D., the school’s medical director, found cases in his own practice about a month ago and says that it’s already worked its way through the surrounding schools.

Should we be alarmed? This particular strain, after all, has never circulated among humans before, and it’s unrelated to the seasonal flu strain for which, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), people may have experienced immunity.

Dr. Goodman, who serves as the liaison for Ursinus and is a member of the Planning team, said the groups are trying to answer “The Big Questions.” The “big questions” are focused around the development and assessment of diversity on campus, and the perceptions surrounding diversity—questions such as “How is diversity received by students, faculty or staff?” and “What are the learning outcomes of a diversity course, and are they expressed and shared?”

The Washington team also spent time in Wismer and Wismer Lower Lounge to observe the atmosphere on campus and interact with different students. On Friday, both teams had a final breakout meeting, to discuss the visiting team’s observations of the campus.

“The visiting team is “trying to learn how things are seen from the perspectives of students, faculty and staff here…” it’s a proactive approach,” said Goodman. Essentially, the grant allows the colleges to deal with...
Xinhua News Agency, the Chinese government’s official press agency, Caiping shined a light on how organized crime affects local government and business through bribery and blackmail. Since leading a criminal organization, running gambling dens, sponsored anti-American rally in Tehran and other cities.

News
International News with Lisa: protests in Iran, new global warming treaty

Lisa Jobe
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Tuesday, November 3rd

BEIJING, China – Xie Caiping, known as the “godmother of the underworld” in China, was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Tuesday by a Chinese court. Besides the jail time, Caiping was also ordered to pay 1.02 million yuan (about $150,000). According to Xinhua News Agency, the Chinese government’s official press agency, Caiping “was convicted of organizing and leading a criminal organization, running gambling dens, illegal imprisonment, harboring people taking illegal narcotics and giving bribes to officials.” A massive crime crackdown in China’s Chongqing province has implicated millionaires, gangsters, and even police in crime, and has shined a light on how organized crime affects local government and business through bribery and blackmail. Since the crackdown began in June, police have made over 4,800 arrests and confiscated 1,700 firearms. (CNN.com) 

Wednesday, November 4th

BEIRUT, Lebanon – Members of Iran’s opposition movement showed up to protest the annual government-sponsored anti-American rally in Tehran and other cities.

“We have a very limited set,” said Thomas, “the characters are basically the set in this show.” According to Thomas, it is this “minimalistic aspect” that makes the show unique, along with the style of acting. “The script contains vintage style Steve Martin comedy, which requires broad physical and vocal work,” said Director Beverly Redman, “but it also requires strong definition of the dramatic moments throughout the show.”

According to Thomas, it was this sort of “big” acting that proved challenging: “this style is a lot of fun, but it’s hard to get it to the point where it’s a performance instead of just realism. That was hard for us as an ensemble; we’re so used to this realism type of deal.” For Shamberg, the greatest challenge was staying in character throughout the performances: “The parts are so well-cast and everyone is so hilarious that it’s almost impossible to keep a straight face and maintain your character throughout the entire show.”

Audiences, however, seemed oblivious to any sort of mishap or struggle on the actors’ parts; everyone really seemed to enjoy the show and understood the humor presented.

“We’ve received a lot of positive feedback so far,” said Shamberg, who insisted that more than the comedic elements were needed to sustain the audience’s interest: “an audience cares about the acting and direction, if you have a great script but poor direction and/or acting, it makes the script almost obsolete.”

The annual rally takes place on the anniversary of the takeover of the United States embassy by Islamist students and militants. Two-thousand and nine marks the 30th anniversary of the crisis. In Iran, the American embassy has been referred to for decades as a “den of spies”. However, protestors stood in front of the Russian embassy, chanting, “The real den of spies is the Russian embassy.” Many opposition members are angry with Russia for being quiet to accept Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s disputed victory in June’s election. Indeed, this protest is the biggest turnout from opposition supporters, clad in their trademark bright green, since the violent protests surrounding the June election. (NYTimes.com)

Thursday, November 5th

KABUL, Afghanistan – The United Nations administration in Afghanistan has announced plans to temporarily relocate hundreds of staff members, in the wake of an attack last week that killed five U.N. workers. In the attack last week, three insurgents lay siege to a guest house; besides the five U.N. workers who were killed, two Afghan security personnel and the brother-in-law of an Afghan politician were killed before the attackers were shot. Adrian Edwards, a spokesman for the U.N. said that about 600 staff members would be either relocated within Afghanistan or moved to other locations such as Dubai and other East Asian nations. He hopes the staff members will be able to return to their posts within three weeks to a month, but it may take longer to acquire more secure housing. He stressed that the relocation is only temporary, and that the U.N. is not reducing its presence in Afghanistan. (NYTimes.com)

Friday, November 6th

MADRID, Spain – A new international treaty designed to curb global warming may be ready next year, according to Yvo de Boer, a top U.N. official. Next month, 40 world leaders will meet in Copenhagen to discuss global warming, and de Boer hopes this meeting will be a “turning point.” He said that some nations thought a legally-binding treaty could be hammered out at Copenhagen, but others believed that the Copenhagen meetings would just be a place to agree on certain elements that would be worked into a treaty at a later date. The treaty would replace the Kyoto Protocol, the current treaty designed to reduce carbon emissions thought to contribute to global warming. De Boer also called on the United States, which has not signed the Kyoto Protocol, to become a member of the new treaty. (CNN.com)

The annual rally takes place on the anniversary of the takeover of the United States embassy by Islamist students and militants. Two-thousand and nine marks the 30th anniversary of the crisis. In Iran, the American embassy has been referred to for decades as a “den of spies”. However, protestors stood in front of the Russian embassy, chanting, “The real den of spies is the Russian embassy.” Many opposition members are angry with Russia for being quiet to accept Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s disputed victory in June’s election. Indeed, this protest is the biggest turnout from opposition supporters, clad in their trademark bright green, since the violent protests surrounding the June election. (NYTimes.com)

Xie Caiping (above) was sentenced to 18 years in prison. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

The Grizzly
The student newspaper of Ursinus College

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Health Stats on the Ursinus Campus

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The Chronicle of Higher Education states that Asperger's syndrome, first listed in the American Psychiatric Association's manual of mental disorders in 1994, affects two to six in every 1,000 Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health.

What does this statistic mean for the Ursinus student body? Even on our small campus, up to 12 Ursinus students suffer the symptoms of Asperger's syndrome.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, about one in four adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. Mental Health is important and the Ursinus student body needs to be aware of the overwhelming statistics regarding mental disorders. For instance, UNC Chapel Hill's Campus Health Services posted an article on their website about suicide statistics among college students. It is shocking that the second leading cause of deaths of college students is suicide. "The American college Health Association, in a survey of over 46,000 college students across 74 college campuses, found that 10.1 percent of students reported that they were seriously considering attempting suicide and 1.4 percent reported attempting suicide in the prior year."

More relevant in the Ursinus community is the effectiveness of our Wellness and Counseling center on campus. More than 75 percent of students surveyed said that they had previously visited the Wellness Center. And 100 percent of the students polled thought that Ursinus provided adequate mental health support for its students. When asked what would students do differently Jane Doe replied, "More appointments... some students are in desperate need of care." And another student who wished to remain anonymous commented, "Wellness should have two different sections... one for ill students and another for routine visits."

The Wellness and Counseling Center does provide many tools and helpful services for students. Remaining strictly confidential, students feel comfortable talking about their feelings and struggles during the college experience. Furthermore, Ursinus provides accommodations for students who struggle with mental illness. For example, clearly outlined on the Ursinus Web site is the procedure to ensure that students with certain disabilities are adequately cared for: "Ursinus College is a highly selective, independent coeducational liberal arts college committed to ensuring that all students with documented disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations enabling them to have access to college programs and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act guidelines."

The Chronicle of Higher Education goes on to state that many students with Asperger's have often a higher-than-average IQ. It states that during campus tours or orientation, the college or university should point out the tutoring center, as well as public safety, and the counseling services. This will ensure the student's familiarity with the school's disability services and make him or her feel more comfortable.

No student should feel vulnerable during their college experience. With high suicide rates at various universities, Ursinus is doing an excellent job ensuring that students are healthy and mentally aware. High school students with disabilities, aspiring to attend college should have an equal opportunity to succeed. At Ursinus, they do.

"H1N1!" is continued from page 1.

includes links to expert health organizations' websites, symptoms of the virus, advice on handling it if you're infected, and means of prevention. The school has also increased the number of hand sanitizer dispensers around campus and, according to Dean Nolan, has changed the cleaning staff's policy to include more antisepic cleaning in frequently-touched parts of buildings and to be available for special cleaning requests, such as an H1N1-infected suite. Additionally, the Wellness Center ordered a supply of 2000 vaccines—plenty to cover the student population—that are pending arrival, but Residence Life and SERV have several doses secured for emergency situations.

Prevention is just as important on the individual's part. Both Dean Nolan and Dr. Doghramji emphasize the importance of isolating yourself—in your room or, if possible, at your home—if you have the symptoms. Some schools have established quarantine zones; St. Joseph's University senior Mary Cantwell admits that her infected roommate is temporarily using one. Ursinus, however, lacks the space for such areas—even more of a reason to go home if you're sick—but has N95 masks on-hand for RAs so that they can check up on sick residents, if necessary. Another suggestion is to utilize the sick-tray policy, which, according to Dean Nolan, was carefully established by Dining Services, who researched CDC recommendations for the best food items to include, although they may be substituted upon the sick student's request.

Students aren't sick are advised to stay at least two arms-lengths away from those who are, to use hand sanitizer often, and to keep their hands away from their faces. Staying home from parties is also stressed; Dr. Doghramji explains, "After this weekend with all the Halloween parties, the rates of swine flu shot up dramatically." No worries, though—while Greek organizations have been encouraged to cancel events or procedures, if they feel that H1N1 may endanger those who attend, the school is willing to adjust the calendar for rushing if the virus continues to affect it.

Academics, likewise, shouldn't keep a genuinely ill student from isolating himself or herself from the rest of campus. A faculty meeting on Nov. 4 addressed the issue, and professors will receive a confirmation email once a student reports having the H1N1 flu via flureport@ursinus.edu. Because close quarters, such as classrooms, rapidly increase illness spreading, they have agreed to modify attendance policies for the infected students.

If you think that your symptoms and stiffs might be H1N1, the information at http://www.ursinus.edu/netcommunity/H1N1 and at CDC or WHO's Web sites provides the necessary information for you to make an assessment and take the necessary means of precaution to recovery without infecting others.

Guest speaker addresses urban (dis)order

Rebecca Smyth
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On Wednesday, Nov. 4, guest speaker Waverly Duck conducted a presentation entitled "The Orderliness of Urban Disorder" to an audience of both students and professors. While the presentation's title conveys a contradiction of sorts, Duck did an extensive job of explaining his experience observing the "order" of a low-class urban community and its many distinctive facets, including accepted drug dealing "spots."

Duck used PowerPoint slides to illustrate his observations, utilizing pictures as well as typed information to portray the community he's been living in. Before he began describing the neighborhood as well as his interactions with its inhabitants, Duck first explained the difference between the two types of disorders that he witnessed; the first type, physical disorder, included graffiti, broken windows, etc., while the second type, social disorder, included people falling into the categories of drug dealer,乞丐, and mentally disturbed, etc. Acting as a "community outreach organizer," Duck explained how he utilized interviews and participant observations of the predominantly African American and Latino neighborhood he selected to understand the dynamic of the community.

Duck gave the audience a basic background of the neighborhood and its population statistics in recent years, including descriptions of decreases in the population, as well as an increase in "white flight," a term referring to the current black majority where the past had consistently presented a white majority.

Describing the community as "one of the first suburban neighborhoods in the country," Duck began illustrating the drug dealing dynamic that the area did not have to put up with, but also not to exist for the purpose of bringing money into the home. According to Duck, two drug spots were regularly open for business, one block apart from each other. The business that was run, he explained, was not simple; there were "actors" in the drug scene. Duck then went on to paint a picture of children as young as twelve aiding in the selling of cocaine.

It is here where the confusing title of his presentation falls into place. What may appear to be disorder to some, may only serve as a means to maintain order to others. "I thought the lecture did a great job in portraying how different communities have different ways of making a living and surviving," said sophomore Greg Kristofor. "In some communities it is survival of the fittest," agreed junior Kathleen Murley. Other students expressed discomfort with the idea of a neighborhood utilizing drugs and the area would be responsible for it. Another student agreed that it was a difficult concept to understand because of a difference in points of view. "Personally, it worries me how people can use the selling of drugs to create a stable economic system," said a junior who chose to remain anonymous. "But what I view as disorder is different than how others view it; everyone was raised in different locations, with different families, and no one has the same growing-up experience."

Duck's presentation had much more behind it than simply a desire to portray a neighborhood's economic system; showing pictures of himself with children in the neighborhood in the PowerPoint, Duck made sure his presentation was not limited to the black and white of what is good and bad, but instead touched upon the idea of remembering.
Features

Four students hope to pursue their dreams with Watson Fellowship

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Rarely students are given the opportunity to truly pursue their passions, no strings attached, lead only by their own creative genius. However Ursinus College is one of 40 small liberal arts schools that offer seniors the chance to compete for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, a grant which offers finalists one year of independent study and the chance to compete for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship.

This year Ursinus nominated four incredibly talented students: Laura Prahlad, Andrey Bilko, Ashley O’Connell and Serena Mithbaokar. Their final project proposal and personal statements were due this past Wednesday, but they will not find out if they are granted the fellowship until March 2010.

From fashion shows in Cape Town, South Africa to non-profit clinics in Dublin, Ireland these students have extremely diverse projects that will take them all over the world. A double major in English and French, Bonner Scholar, and member of the Whitian honor society, Laura Prahlad has wanted to apply for the Watson ever since she was a freshman. It was further reinforced after she studied abroad in Paris for a semester and was able to attend their fashion week. “I’ve always loved fashion, and spending a semester in Paris only added fuel to my fire. I love the fusion of tradition and trend, and the blending of cultures in modern garments” she explained. If given the chance to become a Watson fellow, Prahlad hopes to spend a year in three countries South Africa, Morocco and Ghana studying at fashion institutes, interviewing designers and attending fashion shows.

Traveling farther east than Prahlad, Andrey Bilko plans to study Judaism in post-Soviet countries such as the Baltics, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Always wanting to create a project worthy of a Watson, Bilko an immigrant from Ukraine finally realized what he wanted to focus on this past summer. “I was astonished by how obvious my project should have been to me. The topic of my project, the rebirth of Judaism in the post-Soviet Union, is very personal to me, since I am a witness to the Jewish revival in Ukraine,” he said. If given the opportunity Bilko wants to visit synagogues and Jewish centers in order to speak with older and younger generations of Jews in his various chosen countries with the hopes to better understand their circumstances.

Andrea Magnolo
It’s something you dream about,” Serena Mithbaokar said of the Watson. Mithbaokar a young aspiring journalist has written for the Grizzly and spent this past summer in Germany working for a newspaper. Coining the term “indie journalism” Mithbaokar states, “I wanted to open the project to every possibility and any creative independent form of journalism that is outside of government or corporate establishment. My emphasis is more on ordinary people who have taught themselves journalistic methods.” She will do this by traveling to South Korea, Mongolia, Ukraine, Iceland, and South Africa focusing on investigative journalism, local political movements and independent news outlets.

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It has been many years since pop-punk phenoms Blink 182 debuted on the music scene with their catchy guitar riffs and songs about girls and unrequited love. They paved the way for many others with a musical style that was a refreshing change from the rap music and alternative rock of the late 90s. Well, things haven’t really changed. Rap music is still played at every house party from here to the Jersey Shore and Nickleback, for some mystifying reason, still exists.

Thankfully, there are those who grew up listening to bands like Blink 182 and because of that, are more than ready to carry the torch to stages and venues across the Philadelphia region for the enjoyment pop-punk fans everywhere. Practically Single, one of Philadelphia’s pop-punk torchbearers has been working endlessly since the start to promote not only their own music, but to help support the genre they love.

The band’s roots began in western Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh with singer Bill Janes, guitarists Brett Weaver and Cory George, bassist Zach Vucic, and drummer Brian. While making a name for themselves in Clarion, the band recorded and released their first full-length album entitled “Charmed and Dangerous,” which led to their touring in 2007 with Rookie of the Year, a folk-acoustic act from North Carolina. After making the decision to move to the Philadelphia, and losing their drummer to the band in the process, Practically Single picked up drummer Nick Costa. "I always wanted to be in a pop-punk band, so I had to take their offer," Nick said. "After the first rehearsal, we all noticed that we clicked instantly."

The band has done extensive touring within the New Jersey and Philadelphia areas and has done shows at North Star Bar, The Trocadero, Balcony, The Khyber, and Crocodile Rock Café in Allentown. Recently, Practically Single has also been featured on Radio 104.5’s “Live at 5,” where they played songs at the station live on the airwaves. “It’s mainly local artists,” said Nick, “but sometimes they will have touring acts come in and play.” The Live at 5 set can be accessed through their Myspace page at www.myspace.com/practicallysingle.

Currently, Practically Single has two CDs out, a demo entitled “Playing Label” and their full-length CD “Charmed and Dangerous.” Both are available on iTunes and amazon.com. They are also working on a five-track EP set for release sometime soon. “It’s taking a little longer than expected to finish, but it’s going to be totally worth it,” Nick says. In terms of immediate goals for the band, Nick has only one word: “Tour, tour, tour!”

On November 11, the band will be partaking in a battle of the bands show to open for the Philadelphia date on the PacTour, headlined by rock band Saosin, who will be at the Trocadero in Philadelphia on November 25. “It all started as an online battle of the bands where people could log onto a website and vote for their favorite band,” according to Nick. “We ended up being one of the top six finalists to compete for the opening slot and the winner of the November 11 show gets to open for Saosin.”

For Nick, playing music is something very unique. “It’s an unbelievable feeling to look around at the crowd and see people jumping around and being fully absorbed in your music.”

Practically Single will be doing a set of shows during November across the Philadelphia region. Visit their Myspace for more information.

November 13: Ursinus College in Collegeville
November 14: Media Coffee Club in Media
November 20: Chaplain’s in Spring City

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Veterans: the brave who allow us to be free

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It is commonly encouraged that you make a wish when the clock strikes 11:11.

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, peace was the wish that was granted. Veterans Day, celebrated on the 11th of November each year began as “Armistice Day” to commemorate the armistice which ended the fighting in the “war to end all wars,” World War I. “Armistice Day” was made a national holiday in 1938 and, in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially deemed the holiday “Veterans Day” to honor those who served in all wars.

The purpose of Veterans Day is to provide “a celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good,” according to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs official Web site.

For those of us lucky enough to have enjoyed this “common good,” it can be easy to ignore how all that is “good” in this country was obtained.

The ways in which the United States military operates have changed over the years, but one thing has remained constant: the quality of the people who have comprised it.

Winfield Guilmette, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Ursinus, spoke of a “whole different time,” growing up after World War II, during which many of the men he knew, including his uncles, were involved in the military in some respect.

Guilmette, who served in the Navy on a nuclear submarine, spoke of the draft which provided a “democratizing aspect” to the selection process, but also said that, as a result, “every male had to deal with that issue.”

For Facilities Director, Andrew Feick, serving in the Corps of Engineers in the U.S. Army “afforded me some much needed focus and direction in college and clarified my previously clouded understanding of ethics and honesty.”

In light of our country’s current war, anti-war sentiment is, perhaps, more prevalent than ever. What some fail to realize, however, is that celebrating Veterans Day, in too way, propagates further violence. It is about respect.

Brian Thomas, Ursinus College Emissary and Head Men’s Baseball Coach, offered a reason for why there may be misunderstanding regarding military involvement today, citing that this generation’s students “does not get much support through education” as “the curriculum tends to be against war.”

Guilmette also touched upon anti-war stigma, particularly as it was attributed to soldiers who returned from Vietnam, calling it “unfair.”

“Veterans” is continued to page 6.

Ghost Hunter gives presentation on campus

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While the celebrations of the dead are over, the spirits of those long forgotten are still breathing down your neck. That is, if you can call it breathing, or if you believe in that sort of stuff. But with the evidence shown by Chris Fleming during his presentation on Nov. 3, you may want to rethink what’s real and what’s just a trick of the mind.

“Ghost Hunter” Chris Fleming, who has been featured on a numerous amount of television shows, came to Ursinus on Nov. 3 to give a presentation about his life as a ghost hunter in Olín Auditorium. His Web site “Unknown Magazine” states he “was prone to experiencing extraordinary encounters in the form of ghosts and unexplained phenomena.” He talked about experiences from his early childhood, going into vivid detail about the ghosts that haunted his home and shaped his ideals. He had audio recordings of EVPs, which the

Journal of Scientific Exploration says is “electronic voice phenomenon,” which has been said to be a way for the dead to contact the living. The EVPs ranged from his childhood to his mainstream work with the Sci-Fi’s “Ghost Hunters” and so on. Also included in his presentation were illustrations to help describe what he had seen from his childhood until now. Coupled with eerie music and well thought out slide placement, he even managed to get a few audience members to jump and scream, making the presentation even more enjoyable.

Fleming showed some pictures and video as well, setting up situations and showing evidence of the paranormal in less popular areas but also in tourist trodden locales like the Eastern State Penitentiary, widely believed to harbor the spirits of the dead. Images of strange blurs filled the screen, which skeptics would simply call photo flaws but some of the images could send a chill down your spine. His videos included his work on “Dead Famous” where he went out to investigate the spirits of famous people said to haunt certain areas.

He then went on to give a few theories as to what ghosts may be and then followed it all with a question and answer session.

“Ghost Hunter” is continued to page 7.

Features

Career Corner:
Finding success on the job by treating people right

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Getting along with others in the workplace can influence your success on the job. You may be technically competent and do what is expected in the job description—but if you are difficult to work with or have a bad attitude with co-workers, you may have trouble getting promoted, moving up the ladder, or making your part-time job or internship turn over to a full-time gig.

Not to mention—that in most full-time jobs—you often spend more time with your work colleagues than with your own friends and family. For your own personal sanity—building powerful relationships at work can be critical. Here are some tips for building positive relationships at work:

1. Relate well to your boss. Give him or her your undivided attention. Ask intelligent questions and be involved and responsive.

2. Connect with your coworkers. Be alert to special sensitivities and needs of your coworkers. Diversity in the workplace requires you to exhibit tolerance and have an inclusive attitude.

3. Extend courtesy to your subordinates. Treat everyone from the secretary to the supervisor with respect. Remember to always praise in public and criticize in private.

Through all the stresses of the workplace...be kind. Manners are your trademark. Greet others joyfully, participating in workplace activities, helping colleagues when they need it, and conducting yourself pleasantly and cheerfully can contribute to your reputation as a person. Say thank you to those who help you. Apologize when you have made a mistake. All the good manners you were taught as a young child really do carry over to your workplace—where the impact of your behavior can play a very significant role in your on-the-job success.

(Read more about workplace etiquette in Etiquette for Dummies by Sue Fox.)

“Teagle” is continued from page 1.

December 11, 2009

The Grizzly

November 12, 2009
Hamid Karzai: further complicating issues in Afghanistan

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Eight years after the American invasion of Afghanistan, decent strides have been made in stabilizing a focial point of fundamentalist, radical Islam. Following the removal of the Taliban in 2001 as Afghanistan’s ruling regime, Hamid Karzai was installed as President of a new parliamentary government under NATO and UN auspices. Thus, up until recently, NATO forces have had democratic hopes underpinning their relentless counter-insurgency campaign. A continued war in Afghanistan meant not only stabilization of a strategically crucial Middle-Eastern government, but also the upkeep of a fledging democratic government.

However, things look quite different in Nov. 2009. Now the ideological aims underlying sustained conflict in Afghanistan have taken a sizeable hit as news broke of electoral fraud and ballot-stuffing in the Aug. 20, 2009 presidential election. Karzai denied these claims and begrudgingly agreed to an international assessment and recount of the questioned election, which ended up voiding one third of votes tallied in his name. With his vote total falling below the fifty percent mark necessary for the avoidance of a runoff, a new election was scheduled for Nov. 7, 2009.

At this point democratic prospects in Afghanistan had surely been weakened, but an upcoming free election meant a return to democratic legitimacy.

Hold on. Scratch that. On Nov. 1, 2009 Karzai’s primary election opponent, Abdullah Abdullah, dropped from the race. Abdullah explained to his followers and the international press that he couldn’t participate in an election that he suspected would have even a portion of the widespread corruption and electoral fraud that tainted the first electoral attempt.

Now what? Such a simple, yet frighteningly, complex question. Without a free election to legitimize the Afghan government under Karzai, politics from the U.S. and the international sphere have to rethink their strategic stance regarding Afghan politics and maintained conflict in the region. President Obama, already under fire from Democrats and Republicans alike for his lack of clarity in his Afghanistan policy, now finds himself in an increasingly difficult situation. Supporting Karzai would mean supporting a fraud and would thus garner criticism, but withdrawing support for Karzai could mean backward movement in an already politically unstable region.

According to The New York Times, President Obama has already begun to distance himself from Karzai, calling him “unreliable and ineffective.” Despite his distaste for Karzai, it may be in Obama’s best interest to tolerate the Afghan president for the time being. A voiding of Karzai’s election could frustrate the populace of Afghanistan who would have had to deal with months of electoral drama, all of which would amount to nothing but [perceived] failure. Politically disillusionsing the voter population could weaken hopes for democratic consolidation, that being the acceptance of and belief in democratic ideals and processes in a politically transitioning nation such as Afghanistan. Could America really afford that, considering that most of the indigenous tribal populations and Taliban/Al-Qaeda forces in Afghanistan already despise its Western occupiers? The coupled effects of anti-American sentiment and frustration with an ineffective democratic political system could further stimulate insurgency movements in the region.

In summation, things remain complicated and increasingly unclear in America’s Afghanistan policy. Karzai’s highly controversial and illegitimate election serves only to add to the confusion. Many, including Commander of American forces in Afghanistan—General Stanley A. McChrystal—have called for an increase of troop shipments to Afghanistan; however, a seemingly equivalent number of voices have called for American withdrawal from a nearly decade-long entrenched in a foreign nation that doesn’t necessarily want us there. Both sides provide adequate and convincing arguments, making it tough for me, let alone the President of the United States, to form a specific and finalized stance. That’s why he’s the president of the United States and I’m just a dude with ideas.

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Two months have already passed this semester. After the mid-term season, Ursinus students are getting more assignments and having stressful days. Even if students are not English majors, most of the classes expect them to write essays as an assignment, and keep them staying in front of a computer screen. When I face a blank paper, I always wonder whether there is a good way to reduce the stress of writing paper. Then I reached one answer - why doesn’t Ursinus require students to take a basic writing course?

Students like me struggle with gathering enough information for the papers, organizing the ideas, making an attractive introduction, writing enough words and making an appropriate citation. As students continue studying their majors, they develop more knowledge about it. At the same time, developed writing skills would be necessary for them to organize a large amount of the information and to describe their opinions to readers more coherently. Although it is true that I could learn how to write papers by doing those assignments, writing papers takes time and makes students stressed.

Overall, college writing is more advanced than high school writing. College writing always asks students to have a deep thought about the topic. On the web site of the University of Chicago’s writing program, English professors Joseph M. Williams and Lawrence McFereny explain the differences between high school writing and college writing. They state that college instructors often require students to write “not just something better, but something different.” They say most importantly that students should clearly state what their main point is in the paper. Then to support the point, describing evidences, reasons, and analysis are necessary.

In fact, Ursinus has a class where students could learn technical skills for writing papers. The class called “Art of Writing” in English department teaches how to write different types of essays, such as comparative paper, argumentative paper and also teaches citations using MLA style. But the number of students who can take the course is, of course, limited, and I assume students who do not have interest in writing would intentionally not take it.

When students enter Ursinus, they have to take classes of CIE, mathematics, lab science, social study, art, language, global, domestic, and humanity as the core requirements. I believe these classes are a part of what makes Ursinus “a liberal arts college” and students develop their ideas and opinions through these various fields. If this is the case, a writing class could also be a core requirement. I expect not all students want to take a class of writing. But still, writing skills are necessary throughout life even after students graduate from the college, and by gaining basic knowledge in a class, students would certainly improve their skills. It would help their paper assignments too. A professor of English Literature at the University of California at Berkley made a memorable quote about writing: “Like stones, words are laborious and unforgiving, and the fitting of them together, like the fitting of stones, demands great patience and strength of purpose and particular skill.”

Seika Ueda '12

November 12, 2009
The Grizzly

“Veterans” is continued from page 5.

Jane Helmick, a sophomore media and communication studies major and whose father currently serves in Army and recently returned from Iraq, describes anti-war stigma in this way: “Some find it hard to support the soldier because they believe that they are supporting the war too, when in reality you can be against the war, but can support the soldier because they are fighting for our freedom.”

Thomas, who acted as First Lieutenant and Infantry Platoon Leader, served in the US Army for six years, three of which he spent in active duty.

In considering the value young people place on Veterans Day, he added: “I don’t think young people know what it really means...the military has helped keep us where we are. That’s the beauty of Veterans Day. We fought for our freedoms that no one else has.”

Feick comments on those entering the military today, affirming that “there is a selflessness” to their decision, and Thomas provides support to that claim: “Most people don’t join the army to kill people. It’s not glorious.”

Although war may not be glorious, one should be reminded each Veterans Day of the glorious actions of the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Those who feel comfortable going to mass or temple can thank these brave Veterans, for freedom of religion. Those who organize meetings, conventions and rallies can thank these brave Veterans, for freedom to assemble. And those who speak out vehemently against war can thank these brave Veterans, for freedom of speech.

Thomas, in his concluding remarks, made one point clear: “It’s not about me. It’s about the soldier. The people who served. I am one of many. Veterans Day is one day out of the year to remember and honor all soldiers.”
In my first column earlier this year, I wrote about the Academy Awards expanding their Best Picture nominees category to ten films. That's right, ten films. I argued that this might present a real "quantity vs. quality" issue: sure, we all want films like "The Dark Knight" and "Wall-E" to receive nominations, but not if it means that films like "White Chicks" get nominated as well. Trying to pick such a large sample of movies could prove difficult for Academy voters, especially in a relatively weak "Bunch," this year.

For my money, the best movie of the year has been "Drag Me to Hell," but then what the hell do I know? With the award ceremony a little more than three months away (and the deadline for voter's ballots even earlier than that), it's time for the Academy to really buckle down and find some movies worth nominating. But where are these movies? Have studios decided to wait until the last possible moment to release them? In a word, maybe.

James Cameron's "Avatar," which is making the hype for last year's "The Dark Knight" look like the hoopla leading up to the release of "Gigli," is set for a Dec. 18th release. "Up in the Air," which stars Oscar-mainstay George Clooney and Vera Farmiga, is set to bow on Dec. 4th. That film has received some of the loudest Oscar talk of the entire year, and director Jason Reitman would be more than happy to claim at least one Oscar statue after being shutout two years ago with "Juno." Clint Eastwood's "Invictus," the story of Nelson Mandela and the South African Rugby team, will surely receive some acting nominations for stars Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon, but the film won't be released until Dec. 11th. "The Lovely Bones," one of the most anticipated films of the last decade, is also set to be released on the same day.

With director Peter Jackson and stars Mark Wahlberg, Susan Sarandon, and Saoirse Ronan, this film is certain to receive some love from Academy voters. And finally, the film "Nine." Starring one of the most prolific casts in modern film, including Daniel Day-Lewis, Nicole Kidman, Penelope Cruz, Judi Dench, Kate Hudson, and yes, Fergie from the Black Eyed Peas, this film has to be nominated for something. I don't care if they only win the costume or technical awards. With a cast like that, this is a movie that needs to be honored.

So what are we left with? The supposed Oscar "locks" are all being released in the month of December, leaving moviemakers to twiddle their thumbs while watching dull fare such as "The Men Who Stare at Goats" (trust me, you'll want to skip this one). Let's say that "Avatar," "Up in the Air," "Invictus," "The Lovely Bones," and "Nine" all receive Best Picture nominations this year. At this point, I wouldn't bet against any one of those films, but you just never know with the Oscars (remember when "Crash" upset "Brokeback Mountain"? I still can't understand it). So with five films receiving a nomination, that leaves us with five more to choose from. In my mind, the five films I just named would make a damn good Best Picture category by themselves. However, in the world of expanded categories, we have to somehow scour the multiplexes for five more award-worthy films. For my money, here they are:

"Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire"

This is the movie Oprah Winfrey wants you to see. This is the movie Tyler Perry is begging you to see. It's the movie that big-name movie stars and directors are telling the public to go see. "Precious" is the kind of movie that only comes around once every few years—it's like a well-reviewed Ben Affleck film. Boasting a powerhouse performance from comedian Mo'Nique that is said to be a lock for an Academy Award, "Precious" should also receive a nomination for Best Picture of the Year. Though I am hesitant to see the film (I get nervous whenever everyone in Hollywood starts endorsing one single product), it will surely do very well from now until Oscar night.

"Up"

I'm finally convinced: Pixar cannot make a bad film. With the release of "Up," a film about an old man and a little boy flying across the world in a house propelled by thousands of balloons, the studio famous for animated fare like "Toy Story" and "Finding Nemo" proved that they could make any scenario work. With no famous actors or director, they managed to create an emotional tale of redemption and happiness. This film should be the first animated work since "Beauty and the Beast" to receive a Best Picture nomination.

"The Hurt Locker"

Audiences don't usually flock to war films, especially war films about Iraq or the conflict in Afghanistan. We see so much violence and death every night on the news—why do we need to see even more in the movie theatre? One thing the Academy loves, however, is anti-war films. "The Hurt Locker", a story about the head games that take place overseas among a group of American soldiers, the Academy may have found this decade's signature anti-war film.

"Inglorious Bastards"

Quentin Tarantino's World War II revenge fantasy about a group of Jewish-American soldiers brought into Europe to wreak havoc among the Nazi army is sure to score Christoph Waltz a Best Supporting Actor nomination, and I think it may also receive a Best Picture nom as well. With stars Brad Pitt and Mike Myers, witty dialogue, and tremendously paced action scenes, don't be shocked if this is one of the frontrunners for a nomination come January.

"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen"

A guy can wish, can't he?

All images taken from Google Images.
Field Hockey hoists C.C. trophy for sixth consecutive year

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The Ursinus College Field Hockey Team saw another great weekend of success. For the sixth year in a row, the Bears took the Centennial Conference trophy.

The morning game on Saturday against Haverford was windy and brisk, but this did not stop the avid fans from supporting the Bears. The small, but enthusiastic crowd screamed, "Let’s go girls! Eight to none by the half!"

Although Ursinus did not shut out Haverford, the game was in the Bears’ favor. Ursinus scored early in the first half (goal by junior Jennifer Bayziek) followed by another quick score from Megan Yoder (assist by Taylor Weidensaul). Senior Sarah Brant scored her first goal of the season off an assist from Michelle Wimmer. Haverford attempted to rally with 12:38 left in the first half with a lone goal, but Megan Yoder and Alyssa Thren kept Haverford in a check with two more goals to finish up the first half (5-1).

The whistle blew at the beginning of the second half and Haverford scored a goal that went in between senior goalkeeper Erica Scott’s pads. The Bears showed they were unphased when Megan Yoder scored her third goal of the game three minutes later. Three more goals by the Bears were scored (two from Jessica Zatwarnicki and one from Taylor Weidensaul) to finish up the game. Ursinus won 10-2.

Yankees snatch 27th World Series; Matsui named MVP

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The New York Yankees defeated the defending World Series Champion, the Philadelphia Phillies, in six games, for their 27th World Series victory. No team in American professional sports has as many championships as the Yankees.

Game 1 of the 2009 World Series took place on Wednesday, Oct. 28th, deeming it the latest start in World Series history, due to the 2009 World Baseball Classic (which took place in March, ending with Japan winning their second straight World Baseball Classic) and pushed the MLB schedule back one week. Game 1 featured a marquee match-up of the teams’ two left-handed aces, Cliff Lee for the Phillies and CC Sabathia for the Yankees. The game was a pitching duel until the Phillies were able to score 2 runs in both the 8th and 9th innings off the Yankees bullpen to win Game 1, and take a 1-0 series lead. While Sabathia pitched well, the big story of the night was Cliff Lee. Lee dominated, pitching a complete game, giving up no earned runs or walks, striking out 10 batters, and only allowing six hits en route to his third win of the 2009 postseason. The starting pitchers in Game 2 were right-handers AJ Burnett and Pedro Martinez. Martinez was a familiar foe to the Yankees when he was part of the Boston Red Sox from 1998 through 2004. Martinez pitched well giving up 3 runs in six innings and recording eight strikeouts, but Burnett shut down the Phillies offense allowing only one run in seven innings and striking out nine. The Yankees won the game 3-1 and tied the series.

With the Series now even at one game apiece, the crucial Game 3 took place at a hostile Citizen’s Bank Park in Philadelphia on Halloween. Andy Pettitte, who had already won the World Series four times with the Yankees, took the mound against the 2008 World Series MVP Cole Hamels. Hamels got hit hard early and left the game in the 5th inning after giving up five runs. The persistent Yankees offense kept hitting even after Hamels was gone, tallying three insurance runs against the unstable Phillies bullpen. The Yankees won Game 3 by a score of 8-5 and took a crucial 2-1 series lead. Game 4 presented Sabathia on just three days’ rest against Phillies starter Joe Blanton, since Cliff Lee had never pitched on short rest in his career. Manager Charlie Manuel didn’t feel it was time to try it, claiming that, “If it ain’t broke, why fix it?”

While Blanton was not great, giving up 4 runs in six innings with seven strikeouts, but the Phillies within striking distance for Pedro Feliz to tie the game in the 8th inning with a dramatic home run. However, Phillies closer Brad Lidge could not stop the Yankees who put up 3 runs in the 9th inning to win the game 7-4 and take a commanding 3-1 series lead.

The Yankees tried to finish off the Phillies in Game 5 by pitching AJ Burnett on three days’ rest against Cliff Lee. The Phillies offense came alive early against Burnett, tagging him for six runs and forcing him to leave the game after only two innings. Cliff Lee pitched well before running into some trouble in the 8th inning against a Yankees offense that refused to give up. The defending champs were able to escape with an 8-6 win, though, and send the series back to New York for Game 6.

Andy Pettitte was on the hill for the Yankees trying to close out the series despite pitching on three days rest while Pedro Martinez tried to force a Game 7 for the Phillies. The potent Yankees offense showed up once again, helping the Yankees to win the game 7-3, earning them their 27th world championship.

The World Series MVP was Designated hitter Hideki Matsui, who went three for four with a home run and a record-tying six RBIs in Game 6. Matsui became only the second DH to win the MVP award, the first being Paul Molitor for the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1993 World Series, coincidentally against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Ursinus College will once again host the NCAA Division III regional championships this coming weekend (Nov. 14th and 15th). Ursinus will play the winner of the Lynchburg/Juniata game this Saturday at 11 a.m. The other game will be against Trinity College and the winner of the Middlebury/UMASS at Dartmouth game at 2 p.m. The winner of those games will play each other at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts for the semi-finals the following weekend. Tickets for this weekend are $5 general admission and $3 for seniors and students with an ID.

Upcoming Events
Friday, November 13
Swimming hosts Drew, 6p.m.
Saturday, November 14
Wrestling hosts Fall Brawl, 9:30a.m.
Field Hockey at NCAAs, TBA
XC Regionals at Lehigh, 11a.m.
Football at Dickinson, 1p.m.

The Grizzly is getting a face lift. Be a part of it, e-mail us at grizzly@ursinus.edu