The Grizzly, November 19, 2009

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WVOU Gains Notoriety

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Ursinus junior Brandon Kamin started in his field just like many other kids – fetching coffee for senior workers, making photocopies, and filing papers. However, there was one difference: he started much younger. “People are doing at my age what I started doing when I was 15,” he says.

Nowadays, Kamin hosts a weekly radio show, “The Brandon Kamin Show,” on WVOU Ursinus College Radio on Tuesdays from 5-8 p.m. His show tackles all of the topics Ursinus College students care about – movies, music, social life, sports, professors, and more. Kamin credits his neighbor, Glen Macnow, as a mentor. Macnow is a radio down on dead air, and provides entertaining commentary. Kamin learned from Macnow that for every hour on the air, you should spend an hour and a half researching and preparing in advance. “I live by that rule.”

Kamin has separated himself from other radio show hosts by sounding like a natural on the air. Ursinus basketball coach Kevin Small observed that “Brandon looked like a 25-year veteran.” Kamin’s guests recognize how professional his operation is. “Honestly, his show puts college radio to shame,” says student Zach Shepperd. Mark Smedberg, a senior, elaborates on what makes Kamin’s show special: “He keeps things moving, cuts down on dead air, and provides entertaining commentary. Music, talk, interview, and humor all share in his air time.”

For more information about WVOU, please visit chwierz@ursinus.edu.

Ursinus involved in Main Street program

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Seated behind a desk in what used to be a barber shop, The Collegeville Main Street Manager Linda J. Flederbach looks out the first floor windows of the Art House, gazing at the bustling street which she will steward. Flederbach grew up in Windgap, about an hour north of Collegeville, and currently resides in Boyertown, where she had served as the Main Street Manager for four years.

After 14 years of lobbying for membership, Collegeville was accepted into the Main Street program in October of 2008. The Collegeville program started officially in April 2009. The funding for the project is given by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center acting as a liaison between the borough and the DCED, as well as offering training and support. The Main Street Four Point Approach is considered by the program as the “Foundation for local initiatives to revitalize their districts by leveraging local assets—from cultural or architectural heritage to local enterprises and community pride.” This foundation consists of Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring. The four points have been melded into four committees whose group members are comprised of volunteers from the Collegeville community.

According to Flederbach, the goal of the Main Street program is to refocus the consumer’s attention from the businesses which have been popping up outside of towns due to urban sprawl and development, to a community’s primary business district. The goal is not just about making more money; the program manager explains that Collegeville looks to festoon an abstract idea: “There is a sense of place here that people want to have some when you look to develop it, you look to develop that sense of place.” Flederbach explained that elements such as Ursinus College, WIP’s studios in Philadelphia, where he eventually earned the position of on-air assistant. “I would go on four or five times per show to update them on news.” Kamin learned from Macnow that for every hour on the air, you should spend an hour and a half researching and preparing in advance. “I live by that rule.”

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, members of UCTV, the Ursinus campus cable station gathered together at the second lounge of New building. Proceeding with a calm and fun mood, the members developed their ideas for the next broadcasting.

The meeting started with reviewing their first show and talking about plans for the next show. The members watched the DVD of their first show and exchanged their ideas about what was good and bad in the show, what kinds of programs should be on next, and how to gain more audience and members.

In this semester, the first show of UCTV was broadcast at the beginning of November. The show was about 30 minutes long and broadcast on channel 11. The show was composed of news and comedy programs, along with fake commercials. Roger Lee, the General Manager of UCTV, said that most of the feedback from viewers was positive. However, the members think the first show was just a warm up. “The biggest thing is to try to eventually make the thought of UCTV into an entire station instead of just a single show,” said one of the members, Hassan Elghawy.

The meeting concluded with the goal of separating the program into two different shows and putting an emphasis on entertainment/comedy. Lee plans two different programs by himself, and Elghawy and Justin Cunard plan to make “something that’s spontaneous and entertaining.” Lee explained that both of his programs are going to be entertainment shows. He intends to gather up a fake audience and entertainers, and finally make a reality show. He also plans to make a comedy-based news program. “I want to target Ursinus students,” he said.

“For the next show, there will definitely be a second Campus Security Special Unit episode,” Elghawy explained about one of the programs that he works on. The Campus Security Special Unit is the main program that Elghawy and Cunard made in the first show. Reflecting the high popularity of their humor and comedy sense, they will bring the program back to the second show. Cunard said the segment of their program will be based on scripts written by the people who will be involved, and they will shoot the program within a

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UCTV prepares for second show

Thursday, November 19, 2009

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Collegeville, Pennsylvania
International News with Lisa: American hikers charged, Blackwater bribes

Lisa Jobe
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Monday, November 9

TEHRAN, Iran – Iran will charge three American hikers, detained in the country since July 31, with espionage, according to an Iranian prosecutor. The three Americans were detained on charges of illegally crossing into Iran through Iraqi Kurdistan, an autonomous northeastern region of Iraq. The hikers’ family and friends insist that the trio did not realize they were close to the Iranian border, and made an honest mistake. The United States, having no diplomatic relations with Iran, has depended on Switzerland to negotiate with Iran for the release of the hikers. A Swiss diplomat has met twice with the Americans: Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal. The most recent visit occurred on October 29, and the diplomat reported that the three were in overall good health, but that they seemed nervous and scared.

(CNN.com)

Wednesday, November 11

WASHINGTON – Top officials of the security firm Blackwater Worldwide gave Iraqi officials $1 million in bribes in order to silence criticism and buy their support, according to former Blackwater employees. Specifically, the bribes were intended to stifle criticism of Blackwater following a 2007 incident in which Blackwater security personnel shot and killed 17 Iraqi civilians. The shootings, which occurred in Nisour Square, increased Iraqi hostility towards the company and its sometimes reckless behavior. Both Iraqi and American investigators determined that the shootings had been unjustified, so Blackwater officials used the bribes in order to avoid losing their extremely lucrative defense contract with the U.S. Government. The payoffs were approved by then-president of Blackwater, Gary Jackson. A spokeswoman for the company claimed the allegations were “baseless.” (NYTimes.com)

Thursday, November 12

JAPAN – Japanese prosecutors have dropped the charges against an American man who allegedly kidnapped his children from his ex-wife in Japan. The charges were essentially dropped once Christopher Savoie, a Tennessee native with Japanese citizenship, was released from prison in October, but Thursday’s statement has made it official. Savoie and his ex-wife, Noriko Savoie, went through a bitter divorce in January, though they were still living in the United States at the time. Noriko received custody of the children, but promised to stay in the United States. Savoie had visitation rights. In August, however, Noriko fled to Japan with the children. A Tennessee judge granted custody to Savoie, but Japan did not recognize the arrest warrant that was issued for Noriko. Savoie’s current wife was doubtless that an agreeable resolution could be reached by both parties. (CNN.com)

Friday, November 13

PETAWAWA, Ontario – When Prince Charles, the son of Queen Elizabeth II and the next in line for the British throne, ascends to the throne, one of his many roles will be the king of Canada. Canada and 52 other sovereign nations (many of them former British colonies) share Queen Elizabeth II as their current monarch. However, Prince Charles’ tour of Canada with his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall, was not exactly met with pomp and circumstance. The tour ended just as it had begun – unremarkably. Most of the groups who came out to see Charles were fairly small in size, only a few dozen; this is a huge contrast to the groups of thousands that turned out to see Prince Charles and Princess Diana in the 1980s. Even in Quebec, where separatists often greet royal visits with large-scale riots, things were calm. Only a few protestors were present for Charles’ visit. A few Canadians, however, were supportive, and some disappointed by the suggestion that royal visits no longer spark interest. One woman blamed the media: “In the past when we had royal visits, we heard all about it. Now, it’s just a flash.” (NYTimes.com, with additional information from Wikipedia.)

“Main Street” is continued from page 1.

The Grizzly

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November 19, 2009

The Grizzly
Train hopping: an adventurous way to travel

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College students like things that are free; free pizza, free t-shirts, free beer...the list goes on. This article isn’t about free things. It’s about free experience and people who see the country, part of it anyway, from a different perspective: from the back of a steel beast. By steel beast I mean freight train. Popularized during the great depression as a means of free transportation, the motives behind freight hopping today have clearly changed. It’s not a matter of transportation so much anymore, but adventure. Those who partake in train hopping are no longer just hobos. Rebellious youths, college age people and even slightly older look to train hopping for a sense of adventure as well as a temporary escape from reality.

Train hopping has become also more popular. Many hoppers videotape their trips. Some of those videos end up on YouTube. My personal favorites are done by Wizehop in Canada. Others choose not to make their videos public as they fear freight companies are stepping up security as a result of this practice. Security in and around freight yards was, and still is, especially tight post 9/11. Chicago for example uses infrared cameras to spot stowaways. This is why freight hopping because they usually call the railroad police to report freight hoppers. Also, most don’t have the guts to jump on a freight train and take a ride and therefore are considered chickens by freight hoppers.

The most adventurous part of the trip is usually catching a train and avoiding rail road police. Punishment usually ranges from simply being asked to get off the train to a several hundred dollar fine and a night in jail. It all depends on who catches you and if they are having a bad day. Some engineers don’t mind having a rider as long as they know they are there. Of course there are far more dangers than just getting caught. Getting flattened by a train or loosing limbs is always a risk.

Train hopping is extremely dangerous and illegal. This piece in no way encourages one to become a freight hopper. The Grizzly and its affiliates in no way support this practice.

Cuts for a Cause

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Are you interested in helping out a charity that supports people who have been affected by cancer? Or simply looking around for a new style for the semester? Well, look no further! Tau Sigma Gamma sorority is hosting Cuts for a Cause, an on-campus community event where you are asked to donate ten inches or more of your hair and, in return, you will receive a brand new hairstyle cut by professionals. Even if you’re not sure about a drastic change, you can still receive a simple trim for a small monetary donation. Or, if you’re willing, collect sponsorships in the months leading up to the event and invite them to come and watch you shave your head in honor or memory of someone whose life has been touched by cancer. The donated hair will go towards creating wigs and other hair prosthetics for people who have suffered hair loss during their medical treatment.

Tau Sig brings ‘Cuts for a Cause’ to UC

The Grizzly November 19, 2009
Features
Faculty and Staff challenged to improve their health and fitness

Gianna Paone
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Pumping iron, burning calories, heading to class at Hellferich—are these things you’d expect to hear from hall? With Ursinus' latest faculty and staff healthcare options for and a more on self-discipline: the NEW U Fitness awareness is titled NEW U, standing for exercising for at least 30 minutes—though only one hour per day can count—by whichever means they desire, according to NEW U’s Web site. Additionally, blood pressure checks, classes for various fitness activities, seminars, a walking club, assistance by UC Fitness Center staff, and numerous other activities are offered, strongly explains that Fitness promotes nutritional health; through several e-mails, the organization advertised a Weight Watchers at Work program—which would meet right on campuses—that can begin once at least twenty members commit. Additionally, the organization held a Wellness Fair on Sept. 22 to kick off the employee health initiatives. Featuring around 35 local vendors, according to NEW U’s Web site, faculty and staff were offered cholesterol and glucose screenings by the Blue Cross as well as Fitness Center tours and information on fitness, mental and physical health and wellbeing, nutrition and supplements, dental, visual, and hearing maintenance, and massage therapy.

While NEW U poses an assortment of beneficial opportunities for professors and staff employees, some students wonder why they’re not offered the same ones. Senior Mac Kilduff highlights the role of incentives, explaining that students might be more likely to attend health and fitness events if they knew that, like the employee events, free stuff was involved. The SPINT Wellness Fair on Nov. 4, for example, offered an abundance of free items and health information, but—as Kilduff notes—didn’t advertise that component, so many students were unaware. Research indicates that professors’ health habits may be particularly important at UC because health science- and premedical-oriented students compose a considerable portion of the student body. A study published in the journal Preventative Medicine observed that among medical school faculty, behaviors made toward self-efficacy and enthusiasm for health promotion were likely to foster future commitment to preventative care among students.

The Fitness Challenge currently has over 90 employees signed up but could certainly afford more, Dr. Borsdorf explains, “given how helpful the program can be to enhancing the health of our personnel.” Thus, don’t be surprised if you’re around the field house and start to notice a few more Bears added to the pack.

“UCTV” is continued from page 1...

Brandon found the song and mixed it in!

As organized and professional as the show is, it was the questions which most interested some guests. Professor Roger Florka says he felt like he was on “The Howard Stern Show.” “Brandon was looking for titillating information. I liked the daring questions, and I gave him what he wanted, I think.” Senior field hockey player Kelly Becker was also impressed by Kamin’s questions. “I was nervous that he would be interested in women’s field hockey, but he shows a genuine interest in getting to better know the personality of the team and what makes us tick.”

Kamin’s two assistants, freshman Ronak Darji and junior Jamall Edwards, sit in during each episode and field phone calls, cut sound clips, and cue audio and intros. Edwards says that he has inquired about the possibility of earning credit for a Media and Communications internship by working on the show. Darji, Edwards, and Kamin produce the show from the radio station center in Ritter. Sharma recently began hosting the show with Kamin and says he is just thankful to be involved. “For Brandon, that show could very well be the start to his career. I’m just along for the ride.”

Kamin’s most famous guests have been hit musicians Shae Ryan and Neeko, sports radio personalities Brian Startare and Marc Faretta, NBA Hall of Famer Dolph Schayes, and NFL Pro Bowler Hugh Douglas. He also interviewed Ursinus President John Strassburger on the show. Strassburger, Kamin recalls, has known his first name since he was a freshman. “I think people are fearful of actually requesting something of him. I thought, ‘What do I have to lose?’” President Strassburger said about Kamin, “He’s energetic, he’s a little unpredictable, so I didn’t try to predict.” Little could anybody have expected that while on the show, Strassburger would end up telling a story about meeting Kevin Bacon.

It is unpredictable instances like that which makes Kamin’s show special. One of his weekly traditions involves asking each guest to share a joke. Although Ursinus basketball team point guard Kevin McGarvey was caught off guard, he came up with a suitable answer. “I gave him the first thing that came to mind. ‘Why does Snoopy Dogg carry an umbrella...? ‘Fo Drizzle!’”

“The Brandon Kamin Show” show reaches beyond the realm of entertainment, though. Gallagher believes that the show exemplifies “how Ursinus is a leader in liberal education” and how it “fosters student achievement.”

Kamin also recognizes the educational value of the show. “When I came to Ursinus, I wanted to really put myself out there and not be fearful. I want to be able to say when I graduate that I pursued and took advantage of all Ursinus had to offer.” The way he is going, Kamin is going to have plenty of positive memories from his radio show by the time he graduates.

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Ursinus students rethinking, to recreate

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The abundance of the world’s resources is being realized as finite, and in the face of this transition people are being forced out of their luxurious, careless ideals as consumers, into new realms of ingenuity and practical imagination.

We live in a world where objects become meaningless the moment they stop performing the functions they were designated to by the companies that made them. It is hard to think of a soda can as serving a purpose outside of holding our daily dose of caffeine, or to think of broken mirror as worth more than the reflection staring back at us from the bottom of the biffy. But indeed, when thought about creatively, these objects can transform themselves into artistic translations of the world around us, challenging us to redefine and realize the role of objects, beyond their primary purpose.

Randall Cleaver is an artist who does just this within his art, transforming discarded items into functional sculptures...building clocks! Cleaver’s clocks are often referred to as timekeepers, harnessing the moment and bringing meaning to it temporally and spatially. Who knew trash could be so cool? These clocks record the very era we are living in, where we are forced to rethink the way we do things and harness the moment and creative problem solving to campus on a whole other level, in art form, from trashy, to classy.

Chris Aiken stumbled upon Randall Cleaver’s artwork in an airport, and did not hesitate to contact him to see if he was interested on sharing his artistic skills with the Ursinus Community. Chris Aiken has always been a wonderful representation of what someone involved not only in campus life but the enrichment of that life can do.

The progress that has been made in the short amount of time the group has had to develop their clocks, is truly extraordinary, a testament to what innovative thinkers can come up with when they put their heads together. So make sure you make your way over to the Berman Museum between Friday, Nov. 20 and Sunday, Jan. 24, and see all of these fantastic visions translated into timeless records of expression and transformation.

Career Corner:
Intern out of comfort zone

Career Services
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Recent and soon-to-be college graduates often find themselves between a rock and a hard place when looking for their first job. Most jobs, even entry-level, require prior work experience. The challenge: how do college students gain professional skills if every job requires prior experience? One solution is to work as an intern. Internships allow you to gain valuable work experience which can help you jump start your career.

Some of the best summer internships can be found right in your backyard. Consider the businesses and organizations located near your family home and do your research on their internship hiring process. Brainstorm all of the people you know, and all the people they know and set-up an informational interview (a 20 minute conversation where you ask: How did you get to be here...? Do you have any tips for someone starting out?).

Thanksgiving and winter break are excellent times to network with these professionals.

If you are up for an adventure and would like to try a summer where you work outside your comfort zone, check out some of the internships below. Career Services can help you map out your plan and get your resume, cover letter and networking in order.


MTV networks - across the US
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Philadelphia’s own revival tour hosts Chuck Ragan as guest

Ellen Bernhard
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A few weeks ago, I bought tickets to see the Revival Tour in Philadelphia. No, it was not a religious event fueled by prayers, hymns, and “Amens!” Rather, former Hot Water Music frontman Chuck Ragan and several other artists collaborated for what was a unique and rare opportunity to see several musicians in popular punk and indie bands shed their rock roots and focus on an entirely different genre—folk music, while playing only acoustic instruments and harmonicas.

Together with his wife Jill Ragan, guitarist and harmonica player Chuck Ragan brought the second revival of the Revival Tour to the area. The show was a perfect venue for Chuck Ragan to perform and promote songs off his newest acoustic folk CD, “Gold Country,” which dropped this past September.

This is not the first time fans of Chuck Ragan have seen his talented mastery of the folk genre. With three other acoustic albums under his belt and several more available only on vinyl or iTunes, Ragan has certainly spent a great deal of time focusing on his post-Hot Water Music solo project, showing fans the diversity of his musical talents. Ragan’s music is not just for fans of his old band, however. His folk projects and CDs would easily fit anywhere in the CD collection of fans of Johnny Cash, for example.

“Gold Country” is a 13-song compilation of some of Ragan’s most passionate music to date. Every song, in one way or another, radiates a passion for the simpler things in life. “Call me crazy, but all these old ways of living simple are simply fading,” Ragan croons in the album’s first song “For Goodness Sake.”

Rather than traveling down major highways, moving at an ultra high speed to get to the end result as quickly as possible, “Gold Country” takes the back roads—taking its time and carrying on at a much slower, more purposeful and meaningful pace. Every song bleeds of heartfelt feeling and emotion—Ragan’s raspy voice is in perfect harmony with his acoustic strumming and Jon Gaunt’s breathtaking skills on the violin. The wail of Ragan’s harmonica is something rarely seen in today’s music, but he plays it perfectly—adding it when necessary and never letting it take away from the meaning of the song. Fellow musicians, many of whom were with Ragan on the Revival tour, join in here and there, adding backing vocals and instrumental talents that give the album great variation to Ragan’s acoustic guitar and harmonica.

Like any journey through winding roads and uncharted territory, Ragan’s album almost stays the full course—but gets slightly off track toward the middle of the track list. “Don’t Say A Word,” isn’t necessarily a bad song, but for my personal tastes, moves at an almost painfully slow pace, standing out from the rest of the tracks in a backhander way.

“Gold Country” takes listeners back to the roots of folk—presenting a distinct alternative to what is popular on the airwaves these days. “It definitely feels like a progression to me and I love it; it feels good and it feels natural,” Ragan tells interviewer Jonah Bayer in the Revival Tour’s playbook. Ragan has done more than just bring the Revival Tour back to Philadelphia—he has sparked a new revival of folk music for a younger generation.

Standout Tracks:
“Let It Rain,”
“Ole Diesel,”
“10 West”

Sounds like: Tim Barry — Rivanna Junction,
Tom Gabel — Heart Burns,
Frank Turner — Love, Ire & Song

The Grizzly

November 19, 2009
**Opinions**

**Men are from Mars; women read *Cosmopolitan***

**Abbie Cichowski**  
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The battle of the sexes is one which has been waged as long as there have been women and men to engage in it. John Gray, author of the book “Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus: A Practical Guide for Improving Communication and Getting What You Want in Your Relationships”, attests that, “We mistakenly assume that if our partners love us they will react and behave in certain ways - the ways we react and behave when we love someone.”

This is a dangerous thing, as most women have found. The female tendency to sweat the small stuff does not to liberate women in regards to free expression about if our partners love us they will react and behave in certain ways.

Women, whether truthfully or not, have typically been portrayed as the following. We like to talk. We like to think. We are guided by our heads, rather than...well...other parts.

Most often, this is a good thing. But, if taken too far, this could spell disaster.

Open up any edition of this magazine, and you will find a wealth of articles devoted to helping women “decode” men’s behavior.

Nov. 11th’s spread on the magazine’s homepage promised to let the viewer know just “What His Cuddling Tells You.”

And it gets better.

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**“Hello, I’d like you to meet my...”: dating vs. friends with benefits**

**Helen Ann Coin**  
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A twenty-one year old college senior should have plenty of experience about dating by now. But as I try to sit and give advice about dating, I discovered the shocking fact that I never truly dated. I’ve hung out with guys, went to parties, and even went to movies with guys, but each time, they stressed how it was NEVER a date. I told myself time and time again that these guys were interested, but these “outings” were never dates because dating is, well, out-dated. It simply does not exist anymore. People just hang and make-out, right? Yet, my friends in relationships confessed they went on actual dates before getting seriously involved with their partners. None of my “outings” lasted, and each guy eventually gave me the boot. Flash to my ground-breaking, earth-shattering realization: If he claims it’s not a date, wake up because you just fell into the “friends with benefits” category.

Dating still exists, especially for young people. If you go to a movie on a Friday night, you are bound to see a guy pay for a girl’s ticket and popcorn, and then push his arm around her shoulders while they watch the movie. Does this seem like a foreign concept to you? Then, like me, you’ve probably never been on an actual date. You’ve only “dated” guys who used you for company, whether physically or emotionally. More and more naïve women get manipulated into being a “friend with benefits.” What does this category entail? Basically, he gets all of the perks of having a girlfriend, such as physical needs or emotional support, without ever having to be a boyfriend. What does that mean for us, ladies? Well, it means we get sucked into a “relationship” without ever being in an actual relationship. Make sense yet? Honestly, it’s very easy to get manipulated into this sort of relationship. The only thing to do after falling victim is to catch the signs early enough to get out.

Ladies, if you are going to take away one thing from this article, let it be this: The Signs of Being a Friend with Benefits. A red flag should pop up in any of these following circumstances. First, he never wants to take you out. He claims that it’s easier and cheaper to stay in and watch a movie. FALSE. He really just does not want people to ask questions about you if you are seen in public and watching a movie in your basement can easily tum into making-out. Second, if by chance he does take you out in public, he makes you pay for yourself. Why should he pay for you? It’s not like he’s trying to impress you. Third, and most importantly, he tells you he cares for you, but he does not believe in committed relationships. RED FLAG LADIES!

It’s not that he had his heart broken before and is scared. He honestly just cares about you as a friend. As long as he tells you he cares, he knows you will most likely stick around, and he will inevitably continue to reap the benefits you give.

Do I want to scare other women from getting involved with men? Not at all. Do I want to help women realize if they are being tossed around and used for fun? Absolutely. I wasted a year and a half of my life in what I thought was a relationship to then find out one day that he was getting involved with someone else. How can he get away with that? Because we were never a couple. Trust me, it makes the “break-up” that much harder when you realize you were fooled the entire time.

Take my advice and run with it. Don’t trick yourself into believing dating doesn’t exist anymore because honestly, it does. When you finally have a guy treat you the way you see women treated in the movies, you will know he means more than just a hook-up. Don’t let yourself settle for anything less than what you deserve. The more credit and respect you give yourself, the more credit he will give you in return.

This article was written for a relationship writing contest for GetontheCouch.com, which Coin won. The article is located on the Web site at http://www.getontheceouch.com/relationshipsadvice/articles/112- girlfriend-friend-with-benefits. The Grizzly would love to hear from you about this article and about relationship advice that you have. If interested, email Zoch Shambarg at zashamberg@ursinus.edu with your thoughts!
ABC creates fresh and witty sitcom through a “Modern Family”

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Grizzly's hit-of-the-nineties, that's so standout; Jay responds: delivery, however, comment to which conflicts and even keeps the couple is that of Ed O'Neill, known for his role as Al Bundy on somethings with interesting families of their own. Mitchell has been dating his gay partner Cameron for five years and the two have just adopted Lily, a baby girl from Vietnam. While raising Lilly, the two struggle with general parenting challenges, in addition to those unique to a gay couple. But whether they’ve locked Lilly (and the keys) in their car, or knocked her head during a Diana Ross homage photo shoot, it’s impossible not to love and accept these two as responsible and fit parents.

Perhaps representing the more traditional family is the Dunphy’s, composed of Claire, her husband Phil and their three adolescent children. Phil is a self-proclaimed “cool dad,” a title he deemed appropriate upon perfecting the High School Musical choreography. Played by Ty Burrell, Phil is a favorite; he’s an awkward, whipped goofyball, and according to Tim Goodman of The San Francisco Chronicle, Burrell is already “an immediate Emmy threat to [30 Rock’s] Alec Baldwin.”

The three families are each given an even amount of air time, and it’s when they converge that the show really entertains. The dynamic between the three is so charming and so hysterical that it’s nearly impossible to change the channel. Each episode is as witty and hilarious as it is honest and inspiring. According to variety.com, the show “makes a point about the evolving nature of what constitutes family.”

There’s essentially something here for everyone – for all family members and all senses of humor. And those who enjoy the mockumentary style will be happy to hear that “Modern Family” is yet another sitcom to adopt that faked non-fiction feel, found with popular shows like “The Office.” Let’s hope that Modern Family gains that same success shared by Steve Carell and his crew; it’s the success “Modern Family” deserves.

Opinions

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 is finally released in stores

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The fears of end of the last century were ended when the Soviets had disbanded, marking the end of the cold war. That is until the war is brought to the living rooms of millions of people in 2009. This isn’t the news we’re talking about, it’s “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2” released on multiple platforms.

The game, according to Telegraph, has broken sales records in US and Britain, selling 4.7 million copies on the first day alone, making $310 million dollars. Twenty some years ago they were bungling copies of the Atari game “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial” in the desert. Now they’re selling copies of their games with working night vision goggles, which sells out before the game is available. Video games have come a long way, and this game is a testament to that. The game has yielded positive critical reception garnering several five out of fives from game reviewers like X-Play but rarely, if at all, dropping below a 90 percent with other reviewers.

The new features are vast and numerous. Infinity Ward stuck true to the idea of “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” but instead they just built on what worked. The graphics and character animations are so rich that other game companies should start looking into Infinity Ward’s process for making them. The storyline, as Greg Payton, who bought the game for the PS3, said is full of “unpredictable plot twists,” and gives it “a five out of five.” The storyline is helped if you’ve played the previous game, though it’s not necessary. Neighbors in UC residence halls have complained of the intense sounds that emanate from the game. The controls are easy to use and almost “flow” with the game play.

There have been some changes in multiplayer but none for the worse. The game gives you much more of what you didn’t have in the previous game, choices. You can choose to put a silencer on your sniper rifle, or you can choose to sacrifice aiming down the sight of a sub-machinegun by carrying two of them side by side. This all depends on if you unlock these options of course. But none of the added features are for the worse. You can mold your experience and change all those little aspects to help you win a match. They also got rid of the pesky lack of server lag in multiplayer, choosing missions that aren’t short of forward too.

The single player campaign is epic. There’s quite a bit more than simple running and gunning. The missions range from stealth to defense and everything in between. You’ll find yourself doing things that aren’t typical of a first person shooter. And to add some mixed reviews amongst UC players. Some have said it was too short which was a little upsetting, some beating it in 5-6 hours but the fact it was so epic helps to make up for it. So epic in fact, some disregard the length, Eddy Almonte, a senior, said, “it’s [really] amazing.”

Overall I’d be lying if I said the game deserved less than five stars. Gold ones mind you, not cheap silver ones. This isn’t the Call of Duty of the past, this is the gaming of the future.
Sports

Ursinus Men’s, Women’s Swimming remain undefeated

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This past weekend proved to be a big weekend for the Ursinus College Men’s and Women’s Swim Teams. With great wins over Drew and McDaniel, the teams seem optimistic about the season ahead.

The Bears faced Drew at home on Friday, Nov. 13th and displayed great diversity through a variety of strengths and abilities. Racing in events they do not regularly compete in, the swimmers switched their events to test different strengths and abilities in the pool. In the end, both teams proved to be rather well-rounded and came out with the win (women: 108-61 and men: 107-68).

Saturday’s meet at McDaniel proved to be the true test of strength and ability for the Bears. McDaniel notoriously is a competitive team; however, Ursinus tends to trade wins with them on a regular basis. McDaniel’s pool has only five lanes (as opposed to Ursinus’ traditional six-lane pool), therefore the point system is slightly different than what the Bears are accustomed to. Most of the time, Ursinus wins at home, as does McDaniel in their pool. This meet broke the pattern.

The Bears were optimistic from the start when both men’s and women’s relay teams picked up early wins. Specifically, the women’s 400-yard medley relay came in at 4:36.68 with great efforts by Sarah Ryan, junior Bridget Wint, sophomore Kathryn Pall and senior Melissa Krupa. Conversely, the men’s 400-yard medley relay finished in 3:35.78. Freshman David Wagner, freshman Philip Quick, sophomore Chris Smith and sophomore Christopher Doyle all contributed to the big win.

Great performances throughout the meet kept Ursinus ahead of the McDaniel. Junior Jessica Salokey in the 200-JM with a time of 2:23.99 and freshman Scott Paine in the 100-free with 10.29.57 gave special great performances. Finishing either first or second in most races, Ursinus’ presence was definitely felt. Kathryn Pall said proudly of the meet, “It was a big deal that we beat them in their pool.” Ursinus took home the win, women 59-35 and men 51-43.

When asked about the team this year, Kathryn Pall says that the freshmen definitely added to the program. “They alone have doubled the size of the team and we’re building a much stronger team because of them,” she asserts. She looks forward to a competitive season where different swimmers will have the opportunity to show off their talent in the pool.

As far as the competition, this weekend will be tough. Ursinus faces Gettysburg this coming weekend. The Gettysburg team seems to be fierce competitors and are always a challenge to the Bears. In fact, Gettysburg has been the one of the best teams in the conference for a couple of years in a row. But Kathryn Pall is confident that the team will swim well.

The Bears are now 4-0 for the season and 1-0 in the conference. They will see Gettysburg at their home pool on Saturday, Nov. 21st at 1 p.m. Come out and support the Bears!

Buying success: how much is too much in college athletics?

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There are eight Division One schools hoping to earn more than one hundred million dollars in fundraising for their athletic departments in 2009 according to the Jan. 23, 2009 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

These figures are just endowments making numbers almost seem surreal. The University of California at Berkeley is leading the pack with a target of half a billion dollars in fundraising. While these figures are high, the question remains, is it a problem? People are willingly donating their money so that student athletes have better resources. According to the Nov. 6 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, the issue is that this high level of athletic spending will eventually exceed the budget even with the large endowments.

When one looks at Division One college sports as a business the problem becomes apparent. Businesses have good years and bad years. This means that on a bad year all of the students are effected, not just the student athletes. For some schools it could even bankrupt them if they are not financially stable enough.

Senior Sam Alexis commented on the spending saying, “Teams are trying to do whatever it takes to succeed and I understand that, but the additional funding is not necessary to make a winning team.”

That being said, right now sports are typically one of the most lucrative parts of a college and what may happen later does not change the here and now.

Associate Sports Manager Junior Joe Obenshine supports the athletic spending. “Not only is it revenue building, it builds school spirit like nothing else can.”

Putting aside the fact that banking on college sports as lucrative may be dangerous financially, the other issue is that it seems to take away from the true purpose of going to college. After all, the purpose of a college or university is to educate, not to produce professional athletes.

It seems that some of these schools have forgotten this. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill spends $485,126 per student athlete and only $122,784 per student. That means they are spending four times as much on athletes as other students.

Sophomore wrestler Connor McNamara commented on this statistic with a bit of concern. “It shows a shift in priorities and not necessarily for the better. I’m not sure college sports are preparing students for life after college like better academic facilities would.”

It does not seem fair. No question, the student athletes have a tough task. They are going to school like the other students and then working hard at their sport to earn success for themselves and for their school. For this they should have the resources they need to succeed. At what point however does it become acceptable for a student who is an athlete to become an athlete who is a student?

Ultimately it comes down to perspective as to whether or not you believe that this increased spending is acceptable because while it is certainly possible that so much vested spending in sports can be financially dangerous, it may not be as well. Numbers can’t lie, but they can’t tell the future either.

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 20
Men’s Basketball vs. Keystone Hamilton Tip-Off Tournament
Saturday, November 21
Women’s Basketball vs. Rowan Albright Tip-Off Tournament
Field Hockey at NCAA Semis, TBD
South Hadley, Mass.
Swimming vs. Gettysburg, 1 p.m.
Football @ Kean, 1 p.m.
ECAC Southwest Bowl

The Grizzly
November 19, 2009