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"The Brandon Kamin Show" premieres

By Liz Kilmer
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Despite phone-related difficulties, the second semester premiere of "The Brandon Kamin Show" received positive feedback, satisfying listeners with new guests, new segments and new commentary. The premiere aired live on the WVOU station last Tuesday, Jan. 26 from 6-11 p.m. Typically the show runs from 6-10 p.m., however an additional hour was needed in order to accommodate a large guest lineup.

Tony Luke Jr., actor, musician, and cheesesteak authority, co-hosted the show, discussing everything from sports and entertainment to his upcoming "Man vs. Food" appearance. Other in-studio guests included Eagles “Time’s Yours” contest winner/Eagles ETN Reporter Beth Curlett, Starting Villanova LB National Champion Terence Thomas and Club Risque "shot girl" Ginger.

Berman premieres ‘Min(d)ing the Landscape’ exhibit

By Mike Delaney
midelaney@ursinus.edu

On Thursday, Jan. 28, the Berman Museum was met with numerous visitors coming to view the newest exhibit, titled “Min(d)ing the Landscape.” Featuring the work of photographer Edward Burtynsky, Burtynsky’s work captures instances in which human interaction shapes the landscape, drawing a fine line between the industrial and the natural world. Organized by Professors Leah Joseph and Patrick Hurley of the Environment Studies department, the purpose of this exhibit is not only to display art but also to encourage conscious reflection on the impact humanity has on the environment.

The idea for this exhibit began when Professors Joseph and Hurley realized they shared an interest in the works of Edward Burtynsky, including books featuring his photography as well as his movie, “Manufactured Landscapes,” which they show each year to their environmental students. With the cooperation of Susan Shifrin, the museum’s Associate Director for Education, they soon found themselves in communication with Burtynsky’s studio coordinating an exhibition.

“What I hope people get out of this exhibit is the human scale,” said Joseph. “Most people don’t see huge oil fields, and don’t even know they exist.”

Indeed, Burtynsky’s photograph entitled “Oil Fields #10” captures a scene of seemingly hundreds of oil drills clustered together in the Californian desert.

“Berman” is continued to News, page 3.

Students leading Haiti-relief initiatives

By Alexandra Peters
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Only 12 days into the New Year, Haiti suffered a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake. The International Red Cross estimated that about three million people were affected, with hundreds of thousands of lives tragically lost and hundreds of thousands of homes destroyed.

While it can be easy for those not directly affected to hear this horrifying tale on the news or watch the updates in Lower Wissmer, not many of us have made the decision to reach out and do something about it. After all, we live in Pennsylvania, nowhere near Haiti, there’s nothing we could possibly do to help them, right? Wrong.

Here on our own campus many organizations are getting involved such as the Women’s Soccer team, Residence Life, the Track team and Phi Alpha Psi sorority. One in particular however, seems to be leading the efforts.

UC UNICEF, run by junior Bridget Resetco, is an organization that supports UNICEF’s global efforts to reduce the number of preventable deaths among children across the world.

All of the money raised by the group goes directly to the United Nations Children’s Fund and they have many events in the works for the coming month of February and possibly the rest of the semester. Today there will be a pretzel sale around campus also organized in part by the UC Women’s Soccer team. The freshman centers, along with Freshman "Haiti” is continued to News, page 3.

Movie Reviews

By Brandon Kamin
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Brandon Kamin (left) hosts a radio show for Ursinus’ WVOU. For the semester premiere, Kamin invited guests such as Tony Luke, Jr. (right). His show also has a staff of students like Martin Guy (center). Photo by Brianna Gokul

Kamin also conducted several interviews via his own iPhone, seeing as phone lines were down. “This is the most ghetto thing I’ve ever done,” joked Kamin while talking to actor Terrance Harrison, star of the soon-to-be-released “Step Up 3.”

Other phone guests included pool pro Jennifer Barretta and former Eagles defensive end Hugh Douglas. Rapper Neeko also called the studio, discussing his upcoming show "...?--" and his "Ill State of Mind" single (the popular Philly version of "Empire State of Mind.").

Kamin played the song, in addition to several other songs. "Kamin" is continued to News, page 2.

INSIDE:

Haiti Earthquake
Page 3

Reducing, Reusing, Recycling
Page 4

Avatar
Movie Reviews
Page 6

NFL All-Star Game
South Florida
Page 8

NFL
Page 8
Iraqi prison chief Nabil al-Majeed was hanged by the government on Monday, Jan. 25, in Baghdad, Iraq. Al-Majeed, an ethnic Kurd, was the cousin of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. He received the death penalty for the murder and disposal of hundreds of tourists in a gas attack on the town of Halabja that killed around 5,000 Kurds. The attack was carried out by the Iraqi military in 1988. Though many were happy about the execution, some questioned the fact that it occurred only six weeks before Iraq's parliamentary elections and wondered about the political implications. (From Reuters.com, with additional information from Wikipedia)

Wednesday, Jan. 27

SEUL, South Korea — According to media sources, North and South Korea exchanged fire along their disputed maritime border on Wednesday. South Korea claims that North Korea fired artillery shells into the waters off of the South's western coast, and South Korea fired a few warning shots in return. No injuries were reported. North Korea claims the shots were part of a routine military drill, but South Korea called the incident "provocative." Just Tuesday, North Korea "declared a no-sail zone" in a region off of its coast. Seoul's defense ministry has said that this declaration is a "gravely provocative act." The dispute ties into the Northern Limit Line, an invisible border drawn up by the United Nations at the end of the Korean War. The line attempts to designate which parts of the waters off the western coast of the Korean peninsula belong to North Korea, and which parts belong to South Korea. While South Korea recognizes the line, North Korea refuses to. (BBC News Online)

Thursday, Jan. 28

PERU — Hundreds of tourists are currently stranded in and around Machu Picchu, due to mudslides caused by record amounts of rainfall in the area. All in all, 2,000 homes in the area have been destroyed or damaged by the rain and floods, and at least seven people have died. Martín Pérez, Peru's Foreign Trade and Tourism Minister, said Wednesday that children, the elderly, and pregnant women were being evacuated first, and he also denied accusations of showing preferential treatment to foreigners. He went on to say that continuing poor weather has greatly hampered the evacuation efforts. Food and water are being delivered as Peruvian authorities also work to clear the railways blocked by the mudslides. One American tourist told CNN that "there's stress, but we're comfortable." (CNN.com)

By Lisa Jobe
ljjobe@ursinus.edu

Monday, Jan. 25

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq has executed Ali Hassan ai-Majeed by hanging on Monday, Jan. 25, in Baghdad, Iraq. Al-Majeed was Saddam Hussein’s cousin and earned the nickname “Chemical Ali” because of his use of poisonous gases. He was executed by hanging on Monday, Jan. 25.

By his son, the other a parody of Jay Sean’s “Down,” written and performed by his son, the other a premiere produced the hip-hop song for the past, has been typical for an entire show alone.

A third for the murder and disposal of hundreds of tourists in a gas attack on the town of Halabja that killed around 5,000 Kurds. The attack was carried out by the Iraqi military in 1988. Though many were happy about the execution, some questioned the fact that it occurred only six weeks before Iraq’s parliamentary elections and wondered about the political implications. (From Reuters.com, with additional information from Wikipedia)

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Friday, Jan. 29

BRITAIN — Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair admitted to the Iraq inquiry that the threat of Saddam Hussein’s chemical and biological weapons had not increased after 9/11. By admitting to the panel, led by Sir John Chilcot, that the threat was overstated, Blair has “opened himself up to a charge of misleading Parliament.” He told the panel that while Hussein’s weapon capabilities had not “objectively” increased, “our perception of the risk had shifted.” This seemed to contradict comments that Blair made on Sept. 24, 2002, when he presented a dossier on Iraq’s weapon capabilities to Parliament. That dossier, among other things, claimed that Hussein could deploy a WMD in 45 minutes, a claim that has since proven false. The inquiry occurred as hundreds of protesters surrounded the Queen Elizabeth II conference center, chanting slogans such as, “Jail Tony” and “Blair lied.” (Times Online)

Retraction:

The article, “Spring dancing brings fundraising and events,” was by Katie Halderman; the front cover photo was by Matt Whitman; not Brianna Gaddy; and the photo of the drug, RPA, was by Matt Whitman, not Google images.

The Grizzly sincerely apologizes.

We expected more listeners because our whole team did an amazing job of advertising for the show but we didn’t expect that many people ‘off-the-bat’ and were very upset that the phone line was ‘shot’ but, the crew and guests handled it very well and like they say "the show must go on," said Kamin.

Currently that team includes 3 Executive Producers: Junior Jamall “The Preach” Edwards, Senior, Jonathan “Justice” Barber and Senior Bryan “B-Twice” Borek, as well as an update commentator: sophomore Liz Kirilmer, and, of course, Jendoubi, the staff prank caller. Senior Martin “G-DOT” Gay works security to “make sure nobody gets out of order in and out of the studio” said Kamin, “especially being that we’re dealing with celebrity guests who have taken the time out of their evenings to come up to our campus.”

Some guests, however, include members of the Ursinus community. For instance, Varsity Basketball Coach Kevin Smal and Varsity Football Coach Peter Gallagher often come in for the “Coach’s Corner” segment and discuss on-goings with their teams. For the premiere, however, the crew instead talked to several student-athletes: junior Nate Murren (wrestling), senior Remy Cousart (basketball), senior Kevin McGarvey (basketball) and senior Matt Hilton (basketball).

Also in the studio were video officers from UNC, junior Kevan Cousart (basketball), senior Kevin McGarvey (basketball), senior Matt Hilton (basketball), and Elghawy, who filmed the entire show. The show is scheduled to be aired on the Ursinus channel Friday and Saturday at 610-409-3777. Can’t tune in to that time? Listen later at www.brandonkamin.com. (‘The Brandon Kamin Show’ is sponsored by Sweat Fitness, EmbroidMe and Luigi’s Pizza of Trappe.)
"Haiti" is continued from page 1.

The lack of coloration, save for an overwhelming amount of brown, gives a sense of desolation, among other emotional responses.

Other themes present in this exhibit include pictures of railroad tracks, quarries, ship deconstruction, silver mining, and rivers tainted red with nickel. Another piece of art, "Uranium Trailings #12," shows the devastation done to the land as a result of mining for uranium. These evocative images were picked out of hundreds of photographs from Burtynsky's collection that the museum was allowed to choose from, and were framed by the Elaina Fine Art Gallery located in Trappe.

Lisa Hanover, the Berman Museum Director, commented that she feels this presentation is fantastic. "I love the scale and the aesthetic composition," she said, "and the content definitely reflects environmental concerns. Most visitors are bowled over by what they see."

According to Hurley, "Burtnynsky captures the dynamism of the scale and scope of humanity with the Earth's surface. The [exhibit's] title is intentional and inspires students to use their skills at art to tell a story."

Furthermore, Hurley pointed out how one of the "ugliest" pieces of Burtynsky's work on display, Ferrous Bushling, which samples a collections of rusted pieces of scrap metal, is in fact the most uplifting as the metal in this image is actually being recycled, proving that people are doing something to ease the tension on our planet.

Along with numerous visits by CIE, environmental, and photography classes, "Mind(d)ing the Landscape" will also be opening its doors to two guest speakers in regards to both the environment as well as art. Petra Tschakert of Pennsylvania State University, will present on March 30 at 4:30 on the subject of human-environment interactions, and Christina Miller of Millersville University will speak on April 8 regarding contemporary art through the use of old materials.

"Mind(d)ing the Landscape" will remain at the Berman Museum through April 11. The museum is open to visitors on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on the weekends from noon to 4:30 p.m.

What's most important to remember in the wake of events such as the earthquake in Haiti was best summed up by Reisette when asked what she felt was the most important part of getting involved: "I like to think of it as doing something small that can make a big difference. If after all our combined efforts we save at least one life, then I believe we've done our part." If interested in helping with any of the mentioned fundraisers, offering ideas or even joining UC UNICEF, please contact Bridget et at bresette@ursinus.edu.

"Berman" is continued from page 1.

February 4, 2010

Ursinus alumnus, J.D. Salinger, dies

By Nikhil Popat

J.D. Salinger, author of celebrated novel Catcher in the Rye, and reclusive Ursinus alumni, has passed away due to natural causes. The author had lived for decades in isolation from a world he felt increasingly disenchanted with. Although he only briefly attended Ursinus for a semester in the fall of 1938, his impact was significant enough that his passing sparked renewed interest in Salinger's attendance at Ursinus.

Salinger attended classes in Biology, History, French III, English literature, and composition. Along with his classes and work for the school newspaper, Salinger also reviewed theater at Ursinus, often prompting, according to one alumni, an unknown individual to walk across the stage with a sign, "Jerry Please Be Kind." As the drama critic, he was unusually sophisticated in his review of plays, among them L.B. Priestly's Time and the Conways and Turner Bullock's Lady of Letters. While at Ursinus, Salinger wrote a column in the Ursinus Weekly, precursor to the current school newspaper, titled The Skipped Diploma: Musing of a Social Soph, issues which still remain in the Myrin Library archives. Salinger became known for the humorous column, in which he remarked on movies, books, and experiences that had left a particular impression on him. Salinger was known to devote an unusual amount of energy into his work, as the quality columns he wrote were a product of vigorous rewriting. Salinger's writings were occasionally shocking in their content, albeit humorous; one passage detailing a fictional girl's refusal to kiss a boy and his tantrum-like response.

Although Salinger eventually chose to leave Ursinus, his impact was such that the campus still considers him an important influence on the character of its students. Accordingly, students who demonstrate a considerable aptitude for creative writing are eligible for a scholarship, The Ursinus College Creative Writing Award, and are allowed to live in Salinger's old room in Curtis Hall. The annual award was developed by English professors Jon Volkmer and Matthew Koziusko and is geared towards creative writers with "quirky brilliance." The scholarship serves to honor and foster the "unusual perspective" Salinger brought to Ursinus with his work here and the millions inspired by the literature he produced thereafter. Professor Volkmer said, in a statement: "As many great writers, including Salinger, have shown, the best writers are often not the best students. In the spirit of Holden Caulfield, we're looking to help out the quirky kid with unique vision. This is not just another award for the high SAT crowd."

Salinger's attendance at Ursinus was documented in a 1998 BBC documentary commemorating his 80th birthday, some of which was filmed at Ursinus. Salinger eventually chose to drop out of Ursinus and return home to New York. Despite his brief stay at Ursinus, Salinger, according to a memoir written by his daughter, admired the "lack of pretension" at Ursinus and a framed letter in Ursinus' admissions office, dated March 15, 1963 and signed by Salinger, writes that he looks back "with a great deal of pleasure on my own days at Ursinus."

News - 3

Ursinus College

Job & Internship Fair

February 10, 2010
12-2:00 PM
Floy Lewis Bakes Field House
In the spirit of Valentine’s Day: top 6 anti-love songs

By Ellen Bernhard elbernhard@ursinus.edu

It’s that time of year again. Time for flowers, heart-shaped candy, and a perpetual feeling of nauseas, the direct result of the saccharine-sweet overabundance of romance and sentimentality that lingers in the air like a dense fog. Because of this, Valentine’s Day often leaves a bad taste in the mouths of many.

1. Alkaline Trio, “Love, Love, Kiss, Kiss.” Known for their songs about unrequited love and romance, this track leaves nothing to interpretation. “You’re making me sick/I wish you would just stop/showing off to the rest of us that no one wants to love,” bassist Dan Andriano sings, proving that subtlety is not a necessity in this song off their 2008 release “Agony and Irony.”

2. J. Giles Band, “Love Stinks.” Made popular during Adam Sandler’s meltdown in The Wedding Singer and more recently in those annoying Sweeper commercials, “Love Stinks” provides an anthem for everyone who has ever had a broken heart. The song reprises the brokenhearted and reminds all of us that love ain’t fair and is often unreciprocated.

3. Reel Big Fish, “Everything Sucks.” Aptly titled, Reel Big Fish’s song “Everything Sucks” provides listeners with a not-so-optimistic outlook on love. Served up with a handful of trumpets and saxophones, the song tells the story of someone who has given up on love because, well, everything sucks.

4. Ramones, “Listen to my Heart.” Donning leather jackets and sporting long hair, New York City punks the Ramones proved that their outward tough-as-nails appearance was a striking contrast to the defeated attitude toward love in their song, “Listen to my Heart.” Though short and to the point, the song offers wise advice, telling listeners to listen to your heart to avoid the inevitable upset that can result from love.

5. Social Distortion, “Making Believe.” It often seems like lead singer Mike Ness suffers from a permanent case of broken heart. In their song, “Making Believe,” Ness comes off a bit creepy as he laments the loss of a loved one to someone else.

6. The Ataris, “Bad Case of Broken Heart.” The song title says it all. Known for their anthems about heartbreak and young love, the Ataris really drive it up in this song off their 2001 album, “End is Forever.” “I’ve got a bad case of broken heart/And you’re the only one/Whose got the cure,” singer Kris Roe confesses. The song borders on obsessive and reeks of dependency, but hey, some girls love that kind of attention.

Everyone has experienced a broken heart at one point or another. For those with bitter sentiments toward Valentine’s Day this year, make yourself a mix tape with these songs, write a few poems, and realize that you’re not alone.

Like writing about music, the environment, clubs and other issues on campus? Interested in writing for the Features section? E-mail elbernhard@ursinus.edu or gipaone@ursinus.edu.

TCE Air Monitoring: Ursinus student research with the DEP

By Maryanne Berthel mberthel@ursinus.edu

For the past few years, students have been working with the Environmental Studies Department and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to monitor concentrations of the chemical Trichloroethylene (TCE) here in Collegeville. What is TCE? Why are we monitoring it? And why should we care?

TCE stands for Trichloroethylene, which is a solvent found in industrial degreasing products used for cleaning things like metal tubing. Superior Tube up Germantown Pike and Accel­ lent down 7th Avenue of Trappe are two companies in the area that have used TCE for cleaning things like small metal tubes, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environment. So why are we monitoring it? If it is just some sort of cleaning product why and how does this affect people like us here in Collegeville? As with any industrial activity, there is waste, and once chemicals get into the air we are not able to be contained.

TCE has been shown to have adverse health effects on humans, with both acute and chronic exposure. TCE can cause several types of cancer, affect the central nervous system, the immune system, the liver, kidneys and even have developmental effects. Animals have also been shown to have increased lung, liver, kidney tumors and lymphoma. These are a few of the reasons why TCE is important to monitor, especially in areas that show high concentra­tions, like Collegeville. Studies of TCE and its effects continue to be conducted by both the EPA and other scientists.

Since the DEP detected high concentrations of TCE in Collegeville in 2004, the point source pollution has not been regulated but monitored within the borough at several different sites. One of the air monitoring sites is right here on the Ursinus College Campus, on the roof of Myrin Library. With the highest concentrations of test for concentrations of 55 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including TCE. Each week this process continues, as the student records the data collected at the sampling site, then sending the canisters back to the DEP for further testing.

Since the first study in 2004, levels of TCE have been shown to go down to much lower concentrations. Superior Tube has since eliminated its use of TCE, switching to a chemical known as nPB, or n-propyl bromide. Accel­ lent has reduced its use of TCE by 50 percent. This was all done voluntarily, with no laws or regulations being passed, as the DEP did not pursue any at the time of initial findings. Both Superior Tube and Accellent voluntarily took measures to cost effectively reduce their use of TCE, and in doing so, helped reduce levels of TCE pollution. Students here at Ursinus College will continue to work with the DEP to help monitor the air quality of Collegeville by collecting air samples on top of the Myrin Library. Every six days the student conduct­ing the research replaces evacuated stainless steel canisters that collect air samples that are then shipped to the DEP, where they

Ursinus came in 2nd place for recycling the most bottles and cans last week! Keep it up!

We are ranked 98 out of 179 schools in the competition division this semester. We are 7th place in per capita totals, paper recycling, and organic recycling. We placed 14th for cardboard. Ursinus has really gotten in the game and we have a chance to win this competition, so keep recycling everyone!
Mighty Mighty Bosstones: “skanking” their way into the new decade

By Ellen Bernhard
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Put simply, the album radiates nostalgia. The Bosstones’ new CD takes few chances—but that is not necessarily a bad thing.

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones have been around for years—since 1983, to be exact. These Boston-area musicians have spent many years on the ska-punk circuit, performing worldwide with bands like Dropkick Murphys and Aerosmith. The band’s claim to fame, however, occurred in 1995 when they made an appearance in the beloved Valley Girl comedy, Clueless, playing their tracks “Where Did You Go?” and “Some Day I Suppose.”

Their newest album, “Pin Points and Gin Joints,” showcases the band’s talents as a ska band, while perpetually reassuring fans that they have something to prove after all these years. The album’s 14 tracks are laden with saxophone and trumpet pieces, truly solidifying the upbeat, dance-worthy sentiments behind the ska genre.

Singer Dicky Barrett’s liquor-soaked voice, to this day, still defies definition. Dicky Barrett’s liquor-soaked voice, to this day, still defies definition. The Mighty Mighty Bosstones. Photo courtesy of last.fm

“The Bosstones’ new CD takes few chances—but that is not necessarily a bad thing.”

Put simply, the album radiates nostalgia. The Bosstones’ new CD takes few chances—but that is not necessarily a bad thing. Many of the songs are very reminiscent of their last record “A Jackknife To A Swan,” with quick beats and sing-along choruses. The first track, “Graft-Fit Worth Reading,” starts the lineup off on an upbeat note, followed quickly by a personal favorite, eloquently titled, “Nah, Nah, Nah, Nah, Nah.” The song is filled with catchy hooks and simple lyrics—the perfect track to blast in the car on a hot summer day.

Though the album starts out strong, I have a few qualms regarding the middle tracks, including “I Wrote It” and “Sister Mary.” I can’t quite put my finger on it, but as a fan of mosh-inducing, fast-paced music, the slower songs don’t catch my attention when skipping around the album on my computer. Suffice it to say, I guess a little variety is often necessary, and these songs are far from horrible.

Saving the best for last, the Bosstones finish the album with three horn-laden tracks, ending their newest release on a memorable note. “The Bricklayer’s Story” features a highly addicting chorus, proving Barrett has one of the most dynamic voices in the ska world.

Time to bring out the lighters for the final song. “A Pretty Sad Excuse,” takes the intensity down a notch, but not the excitement. Though it starts out with a slow tempo, it picks up for the last half. The change-up is completely surprising and is probably one of the standout tracks on the album.

Since its release, “Pin Points and Gin Joints” has been on a constant loop, both in my head and on my iPod. And the five-year wait has been well worth it.

Final Grade: A-

Career Corner: Career Fairs “Spring” into action

By Career Services
career@ursinus.edu

It is that time of year when Philadelphia and surrounding areas are just bursting with Job and Internship Fairs. The Career Services office recommends job and internship seekers consider attending some of the events listed below. Most importantly—don’t miss the UC Job & Internship Fair on Feb. 10th!

Feb. 10, 2010: Ursinus College Job & Internship Fair @ Floy Lewis Bakes Field House. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The Ursinus College Job & Internship Fair is an excellent opportunity for talented students in ALL MAJORS & ALL CLASS YEARS to meet employers searching for full-time, part-time, and summer workers as well as interns. Represent Ursinus! Show employers why Ursinus is the premier place to recruit new hires! www.ursinus.edu/career

Feb. 15, 2010: 3rd Annual Internship Fair for the Arts @ Harman Center for the Arts, Washington, D.C. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Connect to the Washington D.C. arts scene and find internships in Arts Management, Artistic, Technical, Community Outreach, Graphic Design, Media Relations & Production internships. Harman Center for the Arts 610 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20004 (near the Gallery Place/ Chinatown Metro station) Questions? E-mail sjameson@shakespearetheatre.org

Feb. 19, 2010: Philadelphia Not-For-Profit Career Fair @ Founders Hall, Haverford College, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 50 representatives from a variety of not-for-profit organizations will be ready to talk about their opportunities—summer and permanent—and to provide career information.

http://www.haverford.edu/cee/services/recruiting/nfp.html

Mar. 10, 2010: Greater Philadelphia Teacher Job Fair @ West Chester University, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tickets $5 in advance - purchase in Career Services; $10 for on-site registration. School district representatives will be there to speak with you about their anticipated needs and your interests and qualifications. You will have the opportunity to submit your resume, ask questions and schedule individual interviews. www.dyeec.net

Mar. 24, 2010: Celebrate Diversity! Career Fair @ Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA

Don’t miss the largest and most prestigious diversity career fair in the region - everyone is invited to attend! Take the next step in your job hunt and speak to dozens of companies in one day! www.philly.com

Apr. 20, 2010: Philly Magnet Career Fair @ Philadelphia Marriott Downtown 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Connect yourself with Greater Philadelphia’s top employers! Be part of the PhillyMagnet Career Fair, powered by the greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Daily News and Philly.com/Monster to meet with companies looking to work with diverse job candidates throughout the region. No fees or registration required. go.philly.com/careerfairs

Stop in Career Services for more information.
Realizations and confessions of a film critic

By Carly Siegler
casisiegler@ursinus.edu

I do not remember when I first stopped believing in Santa Claus, and as for the Tooth Fairy, those seeds of doubt had been planted long before I caught my mom slipp ing money under my pillow. I am still recovering from the disappointment that those precocious twins from “The Parent Trap” were in fact one person, and I will continue to live in denial that they - I mean she - grew up to be Lindsay Lohan. These have been the disillusionments of my young life. It is only in recent years that I have found a new target for my cynicism: the movie critic.

Allow me to explain: I am not a hypocrite. I see movies. I review them. I recommend them, and on occasion, I advise against them. Movies are my philosophy (Cinematic Intellectual Experience, anyone?), and I relish the opportunity to share with others a film that has enlightened me on some level. However, I am well aware that in essence, I am merely providing my own opinions for others to interpret however they may choose.

I do not believe that there is any such thing as objectivity in this world. We humans have been blessed with the capability to feel by such profound degrees that even when we try out best to be unbiased, we will never truly succeed. The point is that I am not currently being paid to critique movies (although I am completely willing to re- negotiate that), but I do not believe that I am any different from professional critics in that when I go into a movie, I do not leave my opinions at the door.

I am not saying that movie critics are wrong, or that reviews should be disregarded. If something is praised or panned across the board, then it is worth thinking that you may be one of the majority. Then again, those never-ending horror franchises such as the “Saw” films have gotten progressively worse reviews with each sadistic sequel, but that does not stop people from seeing the films or from liking them. Quality and fun are not always compatible. If nothing else, a movie review is useful for the brief synopsis it provides, as well as information as to MPAA ratings and film length. The New York Times has the right idea in that their reviews are not based on a star or grading system, so that it is necessary to actually read the review to get the feel of the film, and make a more informed decision as to whether it is worth seeing. It may seem trivial, but really, if you are going to spend two hours of your life and your hard-earned money, hopefully it will be worth it.

This week I saw “The Lovely Bones”, based on the novel by Alice Sebold. Directed by Peter Jackson of “Lord of the Rings” fame, the film about a 14-year-old girl (Saorise Ronan) who is savagely murdered by a neighbor (Stanley Tucci), and watches from a sort of limbo between Heaven and Earth as her family attempts to piece together the crime, and their lives, was given a whole one-and-a-half stars by “The Philadelphia Inquirer”. As someone who had loved the book, I walked into the movie expecting to be disappointed, and instead came out of it thoroughly moved.

Of course, the book was better; it usually is, but any movie that makes tears well up in my eyes deserves more mediocr e reviews. Then again, that’s just my opinion.

Happiness is...whatever we want it to be

By Zach Shamberg
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I’m going to try something new.

There’s all kinds of people who make resolutions and bucket lists and even “The Bucket List” itself (Rob Reiner, what are you thinking?), and they promise themselves that they’ll do things that, only days earlier, they would have been scared to try. Ever see those “Maury” shows in which America’s favorite daytime talk-show host forces people to confront their fears and face up to the insects, fruits, and even cotton balls they’ve been scared of their entire lives? Do you think Maury forces the guests to be there in the first place? No way. People choose to face the things that scare them because, in the end, they emerge as a much stronger human being (and, in the “Maury” cotton ball case, a YouTube legend).

As a college senior who has been spending every waking moment either reflecting on the previous three years or looking towards the next thirty, I want to be one of those people. I want to be the guy who starts a “50 days, 50 dreams” website and documents every crazy thing I do on video. I want to get over my fear of spiders. I want to conquer my hatred of heights. I want to be able to watch Shaquille O’Neal’s “Kazaam” (although I am completely willing to re-negotiate that), but I do not believe that I am any different from professional critics in that when I go into a movie, I do not leave my opinions at the door.

I am not saying that movie critics are wrong, or that reviews should be disregarded. If something is praised or panned across the board, then it is worth thinking that you may be one of the majority. Then again, those never-ending horror franchises such as the “Saw” films have gotten progressively worse reviews with each sadistic sequel, but that does not stop people from seeing the films or from liking them. Quality and fun are not always compatible. If nothing else, a movie review is useful for the brief synopsis it provides, as well as information as to MPAA ratings and film length. The New York Times has the right idea in that their reviews are not based on a star or grading system, so that it is necessary to actually read the review to get the feel of the film, and make a more informed decision as to whether it is worth seeing. It may seem trivial, but really, if you are going to spend two hours of your life and your hard-earned money, hopefully it will be worth it.

This week I saw “The Lovely Bones”, based on the novel by Alice Sebold. Directed by Peter Jackson of “Lord of the Rings” fame, the film about a 14-year-old girl (Saorise Ronan) who is savagely murdered by a neighbor (Stanley Tucci), and watches from a sort of limbo between Heaven and Earth as her family attempts to piece together the crime, and their lives, was given a whole one-and-a-half stars by “The Philadelphia Inquirer”. As someone who had loved the book, I walked into the movie expecting to be disappointed, and instead came out of it thoroughly moved.

Of course, the book was better; it usually is, but any movie that makes tears well up in my eyes deserves more mediocr e reviews. Then again, that’s just my opinion.

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"Avatar" stirs up daily debate, criticisms

By Serena Mithbaokar
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Fog me, but I am going to bring out the debates that have surrounded James Cameron since his film "Avatar" was released. I've been much more fascinated by the Pandora's Box of criticisms that followed the release of the film, rather than the film itself.

I remember scrolling down a list of the heavy praises and a criticisms every time I logged onto my Facebook homepage: "Amazing", "Best movie ever", "Racist", "Unoriginal", "Hyped", "Stunning", "A Visual Beauty", "Phenomenal", "A movie for the video game generation" read the countless status messages.

While many of my Facebook friends did not quite dive into the subtleties of the film, the critics panned the use of political metaphors in "Avatar." These metaphors of colonialism, militarism, environmental degradation, and corporate establishments are quite clear on the first viewing. But I am much more interested in how much the film has been analyzed by so many different cultural interpretations. It seems like the barrage of criticisms just hasn't stopped.

Most recently, I came across an article reporting on the film by a critic for a Vatican newspaper who said that the movie is too busy with the idea of worshiping nature, and how the film was merely reduced to "a very simple story of anti-imperialism and anti-militarism." Before that there was the interpretation in the Chinese blogosphere, saying that the film was too Eurocentric. Some Chinese bloggers even interpreted the Na'vi community as a metaphor for the Chinese government, where hierarchy was established over democracy. Some people compared the idea of how Nelson Mandela interpreted the idea of the Chinese government to the imperialist humans that forcefully evicted the ordinary Chinese for land redevelopment.

I'm not sure how I got fascinated with these criticisms. I guess I was searching for a voice that would echo mine. I would say I enjoyed the film, and I was quite taken by its stunning graphics. But I could not sit well with how I couldn't relate to the film at all. Even when characters talk about political themes, it does so in a very "inorganic" way. Though the film was beautifully stunning, I found myself thinking how Cameron's imaginary universe didn't feel desirable. Even with the aesthetics of the floating heaven-like "Hallelujah Mountains", the fight scenes with monstrous floating tanks looked rather grotesque. I wonder if, in building his fictional universe, Cameron worked too hard to make sure that his film consisted of too many biologically unfeasible creatures and he missed the human element altogether.

Reflecting on that, I wondered if such a lack of humanness in science fiction films bothered me. A word of caution - I don't mean to attack all science fiction films, just some where fictional technological become so central to the plot of the film that the plot lacks a coherent story and emotion. I've loved films like "E.T." or "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind", where the story feels original, the characters are relatable, and there's not some kind of mindless scramble of technology. Even with its heavy portrayal of a supposedly "spiritual" element - a buzzword for my generation that separates itself from the idea of religion and hinges on the idea of spirituality - the film still reeks of hackneyed ideas.

Student Perceptions of CIE: what do students take from course?

By Sara Hourwitz and Allison Cavanaugh

CIE, or the Common Intellectual Experience, is a mandatory program for freshmen that focuses on discussion-based learning, centered on philosophical ideologies. It has contributed to Ursinus' already strong reputation. However, the class of 2013 has varying opinions on this highly regarded course. They came here with different expectations, left the first semester with different experiences, and have different hopes for the second.

Before the start of his first semester, freshman Brett Hillsberg looked forward to the course, hoping to broaden his views and challenge his beliefs. He found CIE to be simple in terms of the workload. The material forced him to reanalyze his opinions and ideas regarding religion. Although he appreciated the knowledge he acquired, he is looking forward to studying more relevant material in CIE 200.

Some students, like freshman Justin Sciamanna, were not particularly enthusiastic about the course. He would prefer to focus on his academic goals. He wanted to spend his studying time on biology rather than on papers regarding religion and philosophy. Similarly, freshman Katie Fegan was not looking forward to CIE, but since it was a requirement she hoped it would improve her writing skills which could help her advance within her major.

Unlike those who were relatively indifferent towards the course, an anonymous freshman dreaded the idea, almost preventing him from attending Ursinus. He did not believe that the subject matter should be included in the curriculum for a mandatory course. After taking the course, he did not feel like he gained anything from it. He was under the impression that the purpose of the course was to expand the views of the students; however, he found that certain ideas were promoted more than others. On the other hand, freshman Michelle Finnegan had high expectations for the course. She took literature courses throughout her high school career and enjoys reading. She found the program unique and it drew her to the college. Unfortunately, she was dissatisfied with the material in CIE 100 and is hoping that the modern texts of CIE 200 will be more intriguing.

Although CIE 100 did not fulfill the expectations of many freshmen students, there were aspects of the course that impacted students and their ideas and values. It is nearly impossible to have a required course that interests every student, but the diverse spectrum of material covered allows many to gain some sense of perspective that they might normally overlook. The more recent and relevant material covered in CIE 200 will hopefully encourage students to want to participate and further their knowledge in the topics discussed.
Super Bowl Sunday dwarfs Pro Bowl

By Chris Michael
chmichael@ursinus.edu

Usually the weekend before the Super Bowl is a bye week for players to rest up for the biggest game of their lives and nothing football-related happens besides practice and interviews. This year, however, is different since the NFL decided to play the Pro Bowl the Sunday before the Super Bowl instead of the week after. The reason for the date change was to allow Super Bowl XLIV to be the final game of the season.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell commented on the new Pro Bowl date, “I think it’s anti-climactic when you come back with the Pro Bowl the week after the Super Bowl.” The problem with having the Pro Bowl the week before the Super Bowl is that players of the two Super Bowl teams such as Peyton Manning and Drew Brees were unable to play for their respective league’s in the all-star game. The 2010 Pro Bowl was the first to be held before the Super Bowl and the first to be held outside Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii since 1979. Although the next two Pro Bowl games are planned to be held back in Hawaii, it has yet to be finalized when and where the future Pro Bowl games will be held.

The Colts and Saints each had seven players who did not participate in the Pro Bowl because of the Super Bowl next week. There were another 17 players who did not participate due to injury, including Quarterbacks Brett Favre and Tom Brady and Wide Receiver Larry Fitzgerald. As a result there were many spots on both the AFC and NFC rosters which needed to be filled. The Dallas Cowboys and Philadelphia Eagles took advantage of the opportunity and were both able to send nine players each, tied for the most players participating in the Pro Bowl from one team this year. Eagles WR DeSean Jackson who ran for 26 yards on 4 carries including an 11 yard scramble. The leading passer for the NFC was Green Bay Packers QB Aaron Rodgers who threw for 197 yards and had 2 TD passes. The top rusher for the AFC squad was Baltimore Ravens RB Ray Rice who had 42 rushing yards. Running backs Maurice Jones-Drew (Jacksonville Jaguars) and Chris Johnson (Tennessee Titans) each had 1 TD a piece. Vincent Jackson (San Diego Chargers) was the AFC’s best receiver catching 7 passes for 122 yards and a touchdown. A key interception by former Philadelphia Eagle safety Brian Dawkins (currently a member of the Denver Broncos) helped the AFC seal the victory 41-34. The MVP of the game was Houston Texans QB Matt Schaub who completed 13 of 17 passes for 189 yards and two touchdowns.

The NFL has had an all-star game in some way going back to 1939, but its current format of having the best players of the American Football Conference and National Football Conference play each other started in 1971 after the 1970 season. The all-time series between the AFC and NFC is now tied at 20-20. The 2010 Pro Bowl was played on Sunday Jan. 31st at Sun Life Stadium, the regular season home of the Miami Dolphins, in Miami Gardens, Florida. Sun Life Stadium will also be the site of this year’s Super Bowl XLIV between the AFC Indianapolis Colts and NFC New Orleans Saints on Feb. 7th at 6 p.m. The National anthem will be sung by Queen Latifah and Carrie Underwood while the halftime show will be performed by The Who.

On this day in Sports...

1969 - John Madden is named head coach of NFL’s Oakland Raiders
1990 - Lyudmila Narozhni-Lenko runs world record 60m hurdles indoor (7.69)
1990 - NFL Pro Bowl: NFC beats AFC 27-21
1990 - St Petersburg Pelicans beat West Palm Beach Tropics 12-4 to win 1st Senior Professional Baseball Association Championship
1993 - Marge Schott suspended from baseball for 1 year due to racism
1996 - NFL Pro Bowl: NFC beats AFC 20-13
1997 - Mario Lemieux is 7th NHL player to score 600 goals.

To write for Sports, contact Matt Campbell: macampbell@ursinus.edu.

Ursinus Sports this Weekend

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Track hosts Colden invite at 9 a.m.
Swimming hosts Bryn Mawr at 1 p.m.

For more information, visit the Ursinus Athletics Web Page

Ursinus Men’s Rugby looking forward to 2010

By Katie Haldeman
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While the majority of athletes and people of all ages work to spend their winter season inside, the men of the rugby team are outside, preparing for their upcoming season.

The Ursinus College club Rugby team has been working hard since the semester started to get themselves ready for their upcoming matches. Rugby, which is a combination of soccer and football, is just becoming a popular sport in the United States, has only been a part of Ursinus College since it was started in 2001.

The sport, which consists of 15 players on the field at a time, is one that has had quite a bit of controversy surrounding it over the years. While many people think this sport to be extremely violent and have a lot of anger behind it, it actually is a rather "laid back game" as back Aaron Leitner, a sophomore explained. "We’re able to be really violent on the field and then head out for drinks, ‘theoretically,’ with the other team after.”

After having the opportunity to watch some of their practices, and spend time with the team, I have seen this to be true. They are a great group of men, on and off the field.

During some research of the sport, I found the idea of a tight knit group of people as something that is a parallel for a large number of rugby teams around the world. It’s the intensity of the sport, as well as the fact that the 15 people on the field at a time have to be in constant communication with each other, that keeps their connection strong and legitimate.

"Rugby teams are definitely very close, we have to have a tight knit group, as we rely on each other not only to play the game well but to protect each other on the field. When you get hit you have to know one of your guys will be there to pull the other team off of you," junior, and captain, Rich Werkmeister explained to me in a brief interview. To prepare for an extremely effective semester and for many wins, the team has been practicing off loading the ball, improving their running skills, and maintaining possession. All of these things are what they are compiling to make their strategy a more effective one.

While the team is about to suffer a few big losses from their graduating seniors, they are looking forward to quite a few new faces to join the crowd.

The next big game, and the first game of the semester, is Feb. 21, 2010 against Swarthmore. While very few games are held at Ursinus, look for local games and to get a group of fans to go and support our rugby team! You can also follow the team by going to their website, www.ursinusrugby.org or join their Facebook page, Ursinus College Men’s Rugby.