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By Mike Delaney
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On Saturday night, Mar. 20, the Lenfest Theater hosted this year’s 2010 Airband competition, presenting several tremendously entertaining dance pieces by the college’s Greek community and dance clubs, among others. Airband is an annual event where students compose musical performances to a medley of songs and compete for a number of awards. The money raised by Airband is donated to a local charity.

This year, all proceeds for Airband went to Dignity House, a nonprofit organization which provides housing for homeless families, as well as after-school activities for children while their parents are assisted in finding work or a home.

This year’s Airband opened with the Dignity Housing Drumline, in which instructor Michael Stevens led a group of children in a rousing performance of percussive proportions, which had the audience on their feet clapping along. The Dignity House was then awarded with a check of $2,500, and the children each got a chance to thank the Ursinus community for their contributions.

Hosts Brandon Kamin and Davis Howley entertained the audience in between acts, trading witty remarks about recent campus news and getting the audience excited for each dance routine.

“Airband” is continued to News, page 2.

Ursinus College Theater presents “The Elephant Man”

By Liz Kilmer
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Ursinus College Theater premiered its latest production last night, Bernard Pomerance’s “The Elephant Man”, and will continue with the show through this Saturday in the Kaleidoscope. The 90-minute production begins each night at 7:30 in the Black Box Studio Theater, and is “set up in-the-round” according to the show’s Director, Associate Professor of Theater Domenick Scudera. This is Ursinus’ first-ever arena-style production, providing a “new acting challenge” for the show’s 12 actors, said Scudera.

Among these 12 actors is junior Brandon Kamin, who leads the show as Joseph (John) Merrick, a man who, during the late 19th century, became known throughout London as “The Elephant Man.” Merrick suffered from a disfiguring birth defect; his body was entirely covered by massive skin and bone growths, which led to "constant humiliation and torment," says Kamin, deeming his performance “the most rewarding role” of his acting career.

Apart from overcoming the challenge of constant, justified rotation for the encircling audience’s sake, Kamin is faced with “the challenge of physicality” for his role, as he is required to distort his face and body without the help of makeup or costume enhancement. Though physically demanding (the script even suggests that the lead receive a doctor’s approval), Kamin felt that this approach “fully exposed [his] acting capabilities.”

“The Elephant Man” is continued to News, page 3.

Bank robber flees to Ursinus campus parking lot

By Mac Kilduff
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In the past years, spring days at Ursinus have always been a time to go out, get some sun, play some games, and bond with fellow students. So usually they’re quiet, undisturbed days. But in the past years there haven’t been many police chases rocketing through a campus parking lot while students stood only yards away.

According to a press release by the East Norriton police, Frank Maley, 44, robbed the National Penn Bank in East Norriton claiming he had a gun.

He fled the scene with an unknown amount of money. After police saw his truck fleeing by the police and not Maley. His chase eventually led to the lower Wismer lot where police successfully cornered him next to the side door of North. Helen Ann Coin, a senior, witnessed the situation first hand on her way to class, “I was walking out the side entrance of North when I heard cop sirens and screeching tires and the truck came whizzing around the parking lot and I saw several cop cars following it. I thought it was a drug bust,” she said, “The cop yelled and told me to go.” But at that point many students had already started flocking to the scene. The suspect was dragged from the car and held down by police and eventually taken until “Bank robber” is continued to News, page 3.
By Lisa Jobe
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Monday, Mar. 15

Tbilisi, Georgia – The leaders of a Georgian political opposition group denounced Saturday’s fictional television news broadcast stating that Russia had invaded the country and killed Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili. A disclaimer stating the fictional nature of the half-hour broadcast was shown at the beginning and end of the footage, however most Georgians missed it, sending the country into a panic over the fake news bulletin. Opponents of President Saakashvili and his government decried the broadcast, which was directed by a former aide of Saakashvili. “Saakashvili needs to have a permanent threat from Russia, it’s the last argument for his staying in power,” said one opponent. The incident shows the long-term damage done by the Russia-Georgia military conflict that took place in summer of 2008 over South Ossetia, a territory whose ownership has long been in dispute. (Associated Press)

Wednesday, Mar. 17

Bangkok, Thailand – Anti-government protesters managed to break through a police barrier and throw bags of blood at the home of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on Wednesday. Abhisit was not at home at the time, but was instead visiting drought-stricken regions of Thailand. No violence was reported at the Prime Minister’s residence. The day before, protesters poured a small amount of blood at the government’s headquarters in Bangkok. The blood comes from the protesters themselves – the protesters are drawing 1,000 liters of their own blood each day in order to splatter it on various government buildings. The protesters are part of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, which seeks “to force Abhisit to dissolve parliament and call new elections.” Abhisit took over in 2008, when former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Sinawatra was removed from power in a bloodless coup. Protesters say that Abhisit was not democratically elected. (CNN.com)

Thursday, Mar. 18

Islamabad, Pakistan – Sahil Saeed, a 5-year-old British boy kidnapped two weeks ago while visiting family in Pakistan, has been reunited with his father and is on his way back to his home in Britain. The boy was freed unharmed on Tuesday after a ransom of €110,000 (approximately $168,000) was paid. Three people in Spain, and another two in Paris, were arrested in connection with the kidnapping. Sahil was taken from his grandfather’s home during a robbery on the morning of Mar. 4. Investigators from Pakistan, the UK, Spain, France, and Interpol worked on the case. Some news reports have suggested that the Greater Manchester Police force played a role in “facilitating” the ransom payment, but the reports remain unconfirmed. Sahil’s father, Raja, told reporters that “Sahil is doing well, he is in good spirits, and can’t wait to return to the UK to see his mum, his family, and join his friends back at school.” (BBC News Online)

"Airband" is continued from page 1.

The night’s entertainment started off with an energetic performance by Escape Velocity, whose act mimicked the story of Cinderella, sending a young girl on a search for love at the local dance club. Their skills and enthusiasm had the audience worked up and excited, making way for the seven following pieces.

Performances by Greek life got started with the men of Phi Kappa Sigma in their rendition of “Ursinus Side Story: BPS vs. BWC.” The two opposing teams, representing Ursinus’ own infamous freshman dorms, faced off dancing to the greatest hits of the past three decades, while two of their fraternity brothers explored the boundaries of forbidden love. The sisters of Kappa Delta Kappa, whose act was titled “Night at the Museum,” brought to life themes of enchantment and mystery as they danced to a number of popular dance songs, including “Sweet Dreams” by Beyoncé Knowles, loosely based on Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” The Tau Sigma Gamma sorority fashioned their routine in the style of a variety show, paying homage to such famous songs as “We Go Together” from “Grease”, “I Will Follow Him” from Sister Act, and “Everybody Dance Now” as seen in the movie “Superstar.”

Finally, Sigma Sigma Sigma had their own dance party on stage in an act titled “Bootylicious,” with songs ranging from Ke$ha to “Baby Got Back” by Sir Mix-A-Lot.

Airband also featured an ambitious group of sophomores who crafted a provoking rendition of Tears For Fears’ 1984 hit “Shout” (i.e. ‘let it all out’). Dressed as a soldier, a business man, a fast-food employee, and a homeless man, together they rose up against a metaphorical tyrant keeping them oppressed.

The school’s own step team, Seismic Step, also had the chance to perform, clapping and stomping their way through their rhythm with a can-do attitude. And even the campus’ Resident Advisors put on their own show, closing out the Airband competition.

By the end of the night, several of the performances were awarded a trophy, which recognized their accomplishments in one of several areas.

Tau Sigma Gamma was awarded first place for Best Costume, while Kappa Delta Kappa were given an award for Best Creativity, and Seismic Step received the trophy for Best Choreography. However, it was the brothers of Phi Kappa Sigma who took both first place in Best Comedy Act as well as Best Overall Performance.

Airband was an overall fun and exciting night both for dancers and for the audience. Contributors to the show included faculty and students alike, who helped set up, manned the technical booth, shot video, or acted as judges to the performances.

Many felt this year’s Airband was a huge success, and look forward to what surprises next year’s competition has in store.
By Sara Hourwitz
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Recently, Ursinus College was awarded a spot on the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Ursinus is one of the 700 universities recognized for its commitment to community service. Factors used in bestowing this award include the percentage of students involved, incentive for services, and the variety of projects offered.

There are many service organizations on the Ursinus campus dedicated to community service, which allow students with many opportunities to get involved. Groups that don't emphasize community service still devote time to help those who are less fortunate. For example, the InterVarsity group organized a service trip to Camden, New Jersey over spring break. InterVarsity is a non-denominational Christian group on campus. Although the trip was open to all students, most who participated were already involved with InterVarsity.

The work the students did while in Camden was overseen by Urban Promise, a non-profit Christian organization that guides children and teenagers academically, religiously, and socially. Liz Presuti, the InterVarsity advisor at Ursinus, participated in a program with Urban Promise while she was a campus minister at William and Mary College. As a result, she believed that Ursinus students would have an experience as fulfilling and enjoyable as she had with Urban Promise. While in Camden, students were presented with a busy itinerary that included a variety of service projects. During the mornings, they went around the city picking up trash and cleaning the dirty school buses. Students also spent a lot of time demolishing a basement that will eventually be turned into a recreational room for children.

In addition, students helped prepare gardens for the Urban Promise School children, who will have the opportunity to plant seeds, grow and maintain the gardens, and harvest the fruits of their labor. Some of the students on the InterVarsity trip built sailboats for the children. Once completed, the children will get to go sailing and experience what it is like to be out on the water. In the afternoon, students volunteered at the after-school programs at the Urban Promise School, working with the kindergarteners. Junior Erin Gormley said that tutoring and playing with the kids was the most enjoyable part of the trip.

Gormley really liked being able to talk one-on-one with kids, allowing her to truly get to know them. The people in Camden, according to Gormley, were extremely friendly and seemed very appreciative of the work that the students were doing. Even though these people were stuck in disagreeable circumstances, they did not allow it to be a damper on their lives. While they were volunteering, students were able to meet students from other schools that were working with Urban Promise.

Other universities that participated included the College of William and Mary, Pepperdine University, and Bowdoin College. In addition, Ursinus students shared a house that had actually been remodeled by "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" with students from the College of New Jersey in Ewing.

Freshman Liora Mor said the part of the experience that had a major impact on her was how a city so close to Ursinus College could be in such a poor condition. She thinks that it is really important for people to know that this country has a number of cities, like Camden, that have extreme poverty and need assistance.

"The Elephant Man" is continued from front page.

"The Elephant Man" is continued from front page.

The chemistry between himself and his two fellow leads; chemistry that was achieved despite the "difficult rehearsals" that resulted from "depressing material."

Perhaps this difficulty was partially owing to the show's constant movement; several scenes last for only two to three minutes, whereas a play is typically constructed of 10-minute scenes.

There's a lot of movement in this show," said Scudera, a fact which is accounted for with a relatively simple set, consisting of a raised platform with four moveable columns.

This constant motion likewise affected the music, seeing as frequent transitions require its presence. Scudera opted for a more contemporary sound, in order for audiences to better relate. Either way, however, it is hoped that the audience "will gain an appreciation for this compelling story," said Shamborg, "it's a story that needs to be told."

Tickets for the production may be reserved by phoning the box office at 610-409-3795, or via email at boxoffice@ursinus.edu. Ticket reservation is recommended.

Frank Maley, 44, robbed the National Penn Bank in East Norriton before driving onto Ursinus' campus. Police followed him into the Women's parking lot where Maley was caught and handcuffed. Maley had no affiliation with Ursinus and no students were harmed.

"Bank Robber" is continued from front page.

he was compliant and escorted into the back of a police wagon.

As this is not a common occurrence on campus, the reaction of the police and the suspect's tasing brought up questions about the suspect's treatment. Students, like Walker Merritt, a senior, have pointed out, "It was a serious situation that spilled onto a college campus, so the police probably needed to be more forceful in the situation. I mean, it's an armed man on a college campus in the middle of the day, not some abandoned parking lot without people around." There were a few puddles of blood near the first row of cars in the aftermath.

At the scene, cell phone cameras were snapping pictures and video, and soon after, Facebook was busy with the news of what had happened.

Cathy Hauk, a senior who had no affiliation with Ursinus and no students were harmed.

"The Elephant Man" is continued from front page.

The rumor mill was in full swing even as he was being arrested but some police refused to comment and others could only say what people had already speculated.

Many news sites have reported that the chase ended before he could make it onto the campus but a large number of students who watched a man get arrested on their doorstep say otherwise. Coin also said that she didn't appreciate how the press misrepresented the event.
Career Corner: Create a Killer Cover Letter

By Career Services

A cover letter introduces your résumé to the person who reads it. A good cover letter drives home your qualifications and serves as your best advertisement. Consider these tips:

1. Keep it short. The ideal cover letter is about half a page long. A concise letter demonstrates that you are focused and have strong communication skills. Aim for two to four brief paragraphs.

2. State the position. Clearly state the job title in the first paragraph of the letter, preferably in the first sentence.

3. Explain why you want the job. Ask yourself how the position fits into your overall career plans and what you find exciting about the organization. A genuine show of enthusiasm and knowledge will set you apart from those sending generic form letters.

4. Clearly describe ways in which you will contribute. After carefully reading the job description, write a paragraph outlining one or two specific examples of how your skills and experiences will fit the company’s needs.

5. Match—but don’t reiterate—your résumé. Your cover letter shouldn’t simply restate your résumé. When you explain the ways in which you will contribute, refer to experiences on your résumé but be sure to expand on how you will add value to the organization.

6. Don’t say that you’re not qualified. Even if you think the position is out of your reach, your job is to convince the employer that you are qualified. Keep the letter positive by focusing on your transferable skills and accomplishments. Do not point out your weaknesses.

7. Keep the tone and content professional. Attempts at humor or personal stories are forbidden!

8. Tell the reader what you’re going to do next. Too many job seekers never follow up after sending a résumé. State your intended action! If the job post lists a phone number, indicate that you will call within a specified time to arrange an interview. You may also consider following up by e-mail if you send your résumé electronically.

9. Proofread. Again and again. Using a spell checker is not enough. Reread your letter two or three times, and then give it to someone else who you trust as a good writer. Even if your letter is free of typos, poor grammar can put you under.

A dangerous risk to multi-tasking

By Jess Zatwarnicki

Ursinus College intramurals are currently in their last session before the academic year ends. One of the sports being offered for the spring is field hockey, which happens to be one of the most popular intramural sports on campus for numerous reasons.

Megan Yoder, Intramural Coordinator and Ursinus College Field Hockey member, believes that she knows the secret as to why field hockey is so well-liked, stating, “I think intramural field hockey is so popular because it’s a sport that not everyone gets a chance to play anywhere else. Guys don’t really have much of a chance to play it on campus, and it’s a less competitive atmosphere and not as time consuming for girls who didn’t want to play at all college.” Art Cohen, a participant in field hockey intramurals, could not agree more. “It also allows kids who used to be athletes to get back into somewhat of a competition, especially if they chose not to play for the school’s teams,” Cohen states. “As for field hockey in particular, I think there are a couple reasons why it is so popular. For some kids, I think it is the experience of playing a new sport and learning the rules. For others, it is a way to put your athletic abilities back in use. For me, it is a lot of fun because I grew up in Holland where it is a really popular sport,” Cohen continues.

Field Hockey intramurals consist of weekly, 45-minute co-ed games that bring out the best competitive spirit in both boys and girls alike. Cohen believes that one of the reasons that he enjoys it so much is simply because he does not have the skill to play at a varsity level. “I think the fact that there is no varsity field hockey for guys does add to it for some of the guys, although I’m not sure how many of them would actually dedicate their time to the team if it was an actual varsity sport. I think a lot of guys first hear about intramural field hockey and jokingly sign up because they think it is a girl’s sport but then end up finding that they really enjoy it,” states Cohen.

The referees of the games are members of the Ursinus College Field Hockey team who not only try to teach the rules of the game, but also give advice and show new tricks and skills for interested intramural players. “I always love when people ask me how to do something to better their play or just to learn the sport in more depth,” says Nicole Hanby, a sophomore Ursinus College Field Hockey team member.

Intramural games take place between 7 and 10 p.m. in the field house and are sure to please the spectators. Do not just think that these are light-hearted games; they can definitely get intense. Yoder concludes, “The games are really interesting to watch because there is such a variety of ability, and it is fun to see who’s really good at it and who picks the sport up quickly. It’s very entertaining to watch because most of the games can get pretty competitive, sometimes a little too competitive.”

4 - Features

Ursinus field hockey intramurals are open for Spring

By Jess Zatwarnicki

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March 25, 2010

The Grizzly

I know that it is naive to say this, but I think that I text and drive because I feel that I am an exception and that I will not get hurt or hurt someone else.”

Textecution™ also produces a variety of voice-activated applications such as the ability to record a short message that can be transcribed to email or text and sent to a recipient via voice command. These technological advancements combine both safety and efficiency and are features that many major cell phone companies are looking to implement in the near future.

We have to remember that driving is a privilege and not a right and that we each have the ability to kill someone or be killed due to reckless or distracted driving. Technology has been a blessing and a curse for our generation, but hopefully you will reconsider answering that text message or phone call when you are behind the wheel, and—possibly—your life or someone else’s will be spared.
Men's baseball win over Penn State - Abington. 
Photo courtesy of Ursinus Athletics.

Sarah Stofla speaking in Olin as part of the Distinguished Artist Lecture series. Photo by Matt Whitman.

Students perform in Escape Velocity piece by Roger Lee. Photo by Matt Whitman.

The beautiful warm weather allows Professor Seranton to hold his Intro to New Media class outside. Photo by Matt Whitman.

Ursinus students embraced the spirit of St. Patrick's day last week. Photo by Brianna Gaddy.

Students assemble outside of the Unity House for Bear Tracks. Photo by Matt Whitman.
Digesting four films: Mirren, McGregor, Pattinson, Dakota

By Carly Siegler
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I recently got to thinking about the so-called Seven Deadly Sins, and if I have been innocent of any of them since starting college. Let’s see: We have pride. Check. Envy. Check-plus for lust. Greed. Check. Sloth. Well, I am writing this article at 12:30am the night before it is due. What does that tell you? Lastly, there is good Gluttony. This one stamps me. The Wismer bowl and spoon glinting maliciously from my desk suggest a check, but that was not gluttony so much as the Fruit Loops I begged my friend to bring to my 9am class for me. Feel free to mark me down twice for sloth. I was just started to consider myself safe from accusations of gluttony when I realized that I have seen four movies in the past fourteen days. Then I had a thought: I am not a movie gluton, but a cinematic gourmand.

Helen Mirren did not win an Oscar for her role in “The Last Station,” but after seeing the movie, I realized that she could have had easily, and deservedly, taken home the Award. Now, I am not be judging Sandra Bullock her win (especially not with her picture-perfect marriage crumbling just days later), but Mirren as Sofya, the devoted wife of beloved ninth century writer Leo Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer), once again utterly transports herself through space and time in order to tell the story behind the man who what is argued by many to be the greatest story of all time.

The movie finds the author and his wife old and at odds, he deep in his Tolstoyan Movement, in which greed and lust are both big no-nos, while she is fighting with all her gusto to secure her children’s inheritance. Like Mirren, Sofya is a powerhouse, but a fragile one, built on the foundations that her husband has provided for her, so when Leo begins to turn away from her, the foundations crumble, and so does Sofya’s tough countenance. Her only consolation comes from a young man named Valentin (an adorable James McAvoy), at first planted in the Tolstoy house by the Tolstoyans to make sure that Sofya did not interfere in their plans to will away the rights to all of Tolstoy’s work to the Russian empire, but in an ironic turn of events, Valentin becomes a double agent for Sofya. The film itself is phenomenal, but two weeks later, I am still putting myself in each character’s head, trying to decide whether or not Sofya’s desires to maintain her husband’s property against his wishes was a show of greed, or one of strength. With Mirren in the role, I am very inclined to say strength.

Moving on to Roman Polanski’s latest film is set almost entirely in New England. That is in the United States. Take a moment to soak up the irony here. “The Ghost Writer” stars Ewan McGregor as the lucky replacement for the man who was ghostwriting the memoirs of former British Prime Minister Adam Lang, played by Pierce Brosnan (it seems a shame that McGregor could not be the ghost-singer for Brosnan for “Mamma Mia!” while he was at it). Of course, all is not fair in love and politics, and while McGregor becomes deeper involved in Lang’s personal life, i.e. ending up in bed with his boss’s wife Ruth (an understated Olivia Williams), he is also digging himself into what looks increasingly to be the same grave his predecessor ended up in by delving into some photos that he finds that may explain recent allegations that Lang was guilty of war crimes while in office. “The Ghost Writer” is one part pride, with a small side of lust, and just a pinch of a dig at the country that will still not readmit one of the most talented directors working today.

“Remember Me” is not a question. It is a command, and we would all be wise to follow it. This, at least, is the message I took away from the NYC-set drama, starring Robert Pattinson and Emilie de Ravin as college students Tyler and Alyssa who work to share the heavy burden of their old memories while trying to create new, better, ones. Tyler still struggles with his older brother’s suicide years ago, while Alyssa is still coping with watching her mother be mugged and then murdered on a subway platform when she was 10. Tyler is both a father and a brother for his quirky little sister (Ruby Jerins), while Alyssa is both a wife and a daughter for his police officer-father (Chris Cooper). Tyler has a little anger problem, and Alyssa is proud. Pattinson is not really given much range with this role from what the fangirls have come to know and love: brooding, but even so, I was impressed with Ed-I mean Rob’s performance in this movie, and by the end, I had been brought to tears, fittingly enough, of remembrance...

Bringing you some morning sunshine

By Deb Yannessa
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There’s a favorite t-shirt here at Ursinus that reads: “Ursinus College, where everyone knows your name… and what you did last night.” At a small school, it can be hard to escape the feeling that other students know personal details of your social life and are inwardly laughing/passing judgment on your actions.

It brings to mind the bright morning of Nov. 1, 2009. On this day, I witnessed one individual wandering the campus in a full-body duck suit (still in his Halloween costume-presumably he maintained anonymity… but his dignity? Questionable.) On this same morning, I crossed paths with another student, clearly an upperclassman, dressed as a Ninja Turtle and doing what appeared to be proverbial “walk-of-shame” from a freshman chemistry lab. Luckily, it was still pretty early in the day, so maybe no one else saw him. Or maybe he didn’t care. Or maybe he didn’t care at the time, but now he’s reading this article and wishing in shame are over. You can now be escorted discreetly back to your own room, free to nurse that hangover as long as you desire.

“But wait,” you say. “Won’t you, the driver, then be clued-in to my indiscretions?” Well, yes. But isn’t this better than EVERY-ONE knowing? I promise to keep the information I find between us. And of course my twelve closest friends. Besides, I’m pretty sure my editor won’t let me print names of people in here without their consent. Ninja Turtle guy, you know who you are.

Deb Yannessa is a celebrity guest columnist for “The Grizzly.” You can send your comments or future article ideas to grizzly@ursinus.edu.

GODD IDEA:

Earning money to go to college.

BAD IDEA:

Robbing a bank and then going to a college.

The Grizzly
March 25, 2010

In “The Runaways” Dakota Fanning snorts cocaine, dons a corset, sings a microphone cord around her leg, and sings the lyrics “I’ll give you something to live for/Have ya, grab ya till you’re sore.” Some people may call this lustful. I have read newspaper reviews in which disclaimers are given that watching America’s favorite child star reach, and then way surpass, maturity may be disturbing for some folks. People need to stop confusing Sin with talent. It is not fair to judge Miss Fanning for growing up and testing her limits as an actor by trying out a character who has no limits. It is not fair to judge the fifteen-year-old Cher Currie, Fanning’s character, who was also one of rocker Joan Jett’s (a suitable Kristen Stewart) first band mates for hard drugs and semi-nude photo shoots, when she had a mother that deserted her to up and move to Thailand and a manager that... Well let’s just say that Michael Shannon’s Kim Fowley was guilty of all seven Sins, and then some.

Chew. Swallow. Digest. Repeat. While in real life, I am a very fast eater, when it comes to movies, I like to taste and to break down the food I am given, especially when it is of the highest quality, as these four sin-ematic delicacies were. Like I said, I am a gourmand, not a gluton.
The Academy Awards recap: tars, awards, and surprises

By Olivia Minick
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The 82nd annual Academy Awards took place on the evening of Mar. 7, and as usual, did not fail to surprise its loyal viewers. Various filmmakers, actors, and actresses gathered to honor each other in an extravagant fashion. Hollywood’s most popular stars considered it a chance to finally reunite with their fellow stars after a highly demanding and busy year. An important aspect—although it has nothing to do with the voting of the awards—was the fashion. As always the stars definitely outdid themselves in that regard. In case you may have missed that fabulous night of surprises and special performances, this recap should help to fill you in.

The night began with Neil Patrick Harris giving a surprise performance in a black sequined tuxedo, looking dapper while he amused the audience with a song and dance routine referring to the night’s stars. This opener was a perfect way to introduce the night’s hosts, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.

Baldwin and Martin left the audience with a memorable spoof of the year’s most frightening movies, “Paranormal Activity.” Just as the couple decided in the movie to film themselves in the middle of the night to catch any “paranormal activity,” Martin and Baldwin are in bed together as the film fast forwards showing them in various hilarious positions throughout the night. Just as in the actual movie, Martin stands over Baldwin for a long period of time while he slept, slightly leaning over him. This spoof along with the clever skit where they poked fun at each actor concerning some of their past movie roles, was also very memorable. Also, their references to Meryl Streep’s unmatched Academy Award nomination tally (sixteen nominations, two wins), helped to add to the comedic atmosphere as the three recently starred in the film together, “It’s Complicated.” Perhaps this was the reason why Baldwin and Martin seemed to have such endless chemistry onstage!

Although “Avatar” may have failed to meet the expectations of many as far as awards go—only winning for its visual effects, cinematography, and art direction—it was most assuredly the center of attention when it came to parodies. Perhaps the most memorable was Ben Stiller’s impression of the character Na’vi, with a long braid and blue painted face spoofing the infamous line from the movie, “I see you”. The hosts, Baldwin and Martin, also contributed to the “Avatar” spoof theme by swatting computer generated jellyfish images from the film which earned them their usual laughs.

The award for Best Adapted Screenplay was definitely a well deserved one. Much critical acclaim has been given to the movie “Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire”, a tale of poverty and abuse starring newcomer Gabourey Sidibe who definitely used her talent wisely. Geoffrey Fletcher’s acceptance speech was an emotional one as he thanked those who helped the film get to where it was, and showed his uncanny appreciation for a long, generous applause.

Also, the film which generated so much attention, “The Social Network”, received an award for Best Supporting Actress in her first dramatic role as Precious’ emotional and physically abusive mother. Well deserved and appreciated, Mo’Nique is the twelfth African American to individually win an Academy Award for acting.

The year’s Best Director category was won by Kathryn Bigelow, for the movie “The Hurt Locker”, which marked the first time a woman ever won for Best Director. Her acceptance speech, where she included a thank you shout-out to all the soldiers overseas, was emotionally heartfelt and a climax of the night. The film also took home five other awards, including Best Picture. “The Hurt Locker” is an independent film following a team of United States bomb detonators throughout the Iraq War. The win for best picture was a triumphant one over nine other films. This was the first time since 1943 that ten films were nominated in this category, when “Casablanca” took home the award.

The Best Actor and Best Actress award introductions were beautifully done this year, bringing out the uplifting spirit of the film. A close friend or colleague each gave a heartfelt or comical speech that honored the nominee. One that left a lasting impression had to be Tim Robbins’ words to Morgan Freeman who was nominated for “Invictus”, referencing their time spent together working on the Academy Award winning film, “The Shawshank Redemption” back in 1994. The award for Best Actor went to film veteran Jeff Bridges for the movie “Crazy Heart”, his first Academy Award. The award for Best Actress went to Sandra Bullock, widely known for her romantic comedies. Bullock left the stage in tears after humbly thanking all her other fellow actresses who were nominated for the award, yet she definitely deserved the win due to her touching role in “The Blind Side”, the true story of the NFL’s Baltimore Ravens player Michael Oher who faced adversity in his impoverished upbringing. He is later adopted by Sean and Leigh Ann Tuohy, a wealthy couple from Tennessee whom Bullock and country singer Tim McGraw portrayed. Each award throughout the evening was an important milestone in each actor’s career.

So there you have it, for those who missed the memorable evening, hopefully this recap filled you in, but make sure you tune into next year’s ceremony! These actors and actresses worked hard and used their talents endlessly to get to the Academy Awards and their entertainment was as always, greatly appreciated.

The Academy Awards recap: tars, awards, and surprises

The Grizzly

March 25, 2010

Bedazzled bras and g-strings make for the best music videos

By Katie Callahan
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When I first watched the new Lady Gaga video, “Telephone,” I had to turn it to a different channel when my dad walked into the kitchen. I am twenty-one-years-old, but my dad still doesn’t like the idea of me watching things like a highly sexual scene where a woman is running around a jail cell in a g-string.

The video, in general, is awesome. I mean, yeah, it is highly sexual, but isn’t that the best part? I’m okay with saying that I love Lady Gaga and how she flaunts her stuff all over television. If you haven’t seen the video yet, I’ll give you a brief synopsis.

Sophomores Kirsten Keinig and Lady Gaga this past Halloween

Photo courtesy of Kirsten Keinig

It starts out with a graphic jail scene and goes into her being bailed out by Beyonce. They travel to a nearby town to kill all the guests of a rundown diner, and then they dance around their dead bodies in Americana outfits. It sounds pretty ridiculous, especially if you listen to the lyrics. Aren’t they just singing about being at a club?

If you are as curious as I am, you may have realized that there was more to the video than one would suspect. I did some research, because I know my brain waves are much higher than hers, and I stumbled across a blog on vigilantcitizen.com where the writer fully analyzed the song. I was a bit skeptical but his claims definitely make sense and are well researched.

The basis of the video and song is actually about mind control and the way the media, the film industry, or even one’s initial path. It’s all based off of the CIA scandal that came out in the 1970s with the MK-ULTRA mind control experiments that occurred in the 1950s. “Telephone” is a metaphor for a bigger issue. The “telephone” is her brain, and the club is the illusion or the altered state of reality. The blog goes much deeper, really pointing out the symbolism and characteristics of the song and her overall persona that fit the theory.

When it comes down to the actual video, the costumes, dancing, and effects are great. The jail scene in which Lady Gaga gets together with a few other inmates to dance around in bedazzled bras and g-strings is my favorite. I bet parents all across the country are cringing in disgust. The storyline is pretty cool also, regardless of the symbolism behind everything. “Telephone” is a continuation of “Paparazzi” and shares the old school film attributes in the first installment of the series of videos.

When Lady Gaga first introduced herself to the music world, I was all for it. When she performed her blood gushing “Paparazzi” song on stage I took my love away just a bit, but now I am all for her again. Researching her intentions and hearing her interviews, it is clear that she is the most steps ahead of all of us. I would easily say she is becoming a revolutionary woman within the music industry and has a lot more to offer in the upcoming years. At a time where female sexuality on television is becoming more acceptable, she hits the market at the perfect moment. Obviously, there is a chance she has me fooled and anyone else that believes in the symbolism behind her music. Regardless, she has proved to be one of the top artists at this time with consistent number one hits and tabloid fascinations.
UC Baseball makes best of Florida trip

By Stef Moyer
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The Ursinus baseball team was “very excited about finally getting away from the snow-covered Northeast and finally getting outside and playing in beautiful weather” in Florida to start their season off, according to senior captain Tom Clarke.

When asked what the expectations for the trip were, Clarke stated that “our team came off a very good season last year, so we were eager to get the season started off on a high note and set the tone for the year, and send a message to the rest of the conference.”

Straight off the plane, they headed to the field for a game against La Roche College with senior pitcher Corey Weaver being the first to take the mound. Spending the day traveling did not affect Ursinus’ play because they were still able to beat La Roche 9 to 4. The following day, the bears faced La Roche for the second time and proved that Ursinus truly was the better team by beating them again in extra innings, 12 to 8.

After only a few hours of rest, the bears geared back up to play Penn State Behrend. After putting forth a great effort the bears unfortunately did not come out with a win, losing 11 to 5.

The third day into their trip, the bears had a double header against New Jersey College. After losing the first game by 2 runs, the bears came out to their second game of the day fired up and ready to give Northwestern a run for their money again. Pitcher Ryan Furlong threw all seven innings only giving up six hits and helping the bears get the win.

The following day the bears had a double header against Westminster College, splitting games with them. In the second game of the day, the bears had 9 hits and scored on 8 of them. Freshman pitcher Allen Weaver started the game for the bears and gave up 5 earned runs in 3.1 innings. Sean Grimes relieved him keeping Westminster to 2 hits and 1 earned run. The bears were able to just sneak by winning by 1 run.

Ursinus had the day off on Wednesday which was followed by a double header against Elizabethtown College. Unfortunately the bears lost both games to Elizabethtown showing that having the day off does not work in their benefit. Ursinus was scheduled to have a double header again Mitchell College on Friday but the weather was not in their favor having both games rained out. After the week in Fort Pierce, Florida Ursinus ended with a 4-5 record.

In terms of what this season holds for the bears, Clarke said “our goal is to finish in the top four, make the conference tournament and compete for the conference title, just as we did last season”.

Need a reason to come out and support the baseball team? According to junior Danny Ludwick “the team took a poll, and #2 looks the greatest in baseball pants.” Don’t know who #2 is? Go to the doubleheader this Saturday against Johns Hopkins.

UC Alum coaches Cornell to Sweet 16

By James Wagner
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An economics major at Ursinus, he played basketball and baseball for the Bears, under coach Skip Werley, and helped the Bears advance in 1980 to the Final Four of the NCAA Division III tournament, and was captain his junior and senior years.

Read more about Steve Donahue, and what made a difference for Cornell, in the Spring Ursinus Magazine, coming in late April.

Men's Lax vs. McDaniel 4 p.m.

Softball vs. Cabrini 3:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Muhlenberg 4 p.m.

Baseball vs. Johns Hopkins 12:30 p.m.