The Grizzly, April 8, 2010

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First Annual Backwards Beauty Pageant held

By Ashley McComeskey
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On Wednesday, Mar. 24, Sigma Sigma Sigma held their First Annual Drag Show to raise money for terminally ill children to receive play therapy. The 10 male contestants, dressed as women, participated in three categories: the talent contest, the question-and-answer session in their sleep wear, and formal wear.

According to Anna Larouche and Michelle Tetla, sophomore Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters who organized the pageant, "so much work went into this show." Planning began in February, after the idea was proposed by sophomore Abigail Robinson. Besides securing the venue, advertising, and selling tickets, male participants also had to be found and clothed.

According to Larouche and Tetla, "Our mass e-mail didn't seem to recruit anyone except for one man...so we sent out personal emails to the men we knew."

Meaghan Reid, a senior sister of Sigma Sigma Sigma, said, "Each sister had to try to find a guy who was willing to put his pride on the line for the night!"

Hosted by Cydney Vandyke and Toni Quintilian, the Drag Show, or Backwards Beauty Pageant, started at 7 p.m. in Bomberger Auditorium. The guys first showed off their talents, which included cart-wheels, dancing, "Backwards Beauty" is continued to News, page 2.

Ursinus senior to travel abroad for a year with Watson

By Caitlin Dalik
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Ursinus senior Andrey Bilko has been awarded the prestigious Watson Fellowship for 2010-2011. The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship is a one year grant for independent study and travel outside the United States awarded to college seniors nominated by participating institutions.

Ursinus College is one of 40 participating institutions who can nominate graduating seniors.

Bilko will spend his year exploring the rich Jewish tradition of the post-Soviet world, which is making a strong resurgence. He will visit the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Latvia, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Bilko explained that he became interested in applying for the Watson Fellowship his freshman year at Ursinus. He said, "After attending Watson presentations during my freshman year and learning about Watson for the first time, I decided to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime, unique opportunity."

Bilko explained that it was his personal experiences with rediscovering his lost Jewish heritage that pushed him to choose to study the Jewish revival in post-Soviet countries. Bilko grew up in Ukraine before moving to York, Pa.

Those who practiced Judaism in post-Soviet countries faced a period of harassment and persecution which caused many families to stop practicing for their own welfare. Bilko experienced "Watson senior" is continued to News, page 3.

Kappa Alpha Psi and Seismic Step emerge on campus

By Jarod Groome
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The annual Minority Overnight program held here at Ursinus aims to expose perspective students of color to several aspects of the Ursinus campus life.

They experience the food that they may eventually have to eat daily, see the students that they will potentially mingle with daily, sleep in the dormitories that they anticipate sleeping in, and most extravagantly experience the night life of our campus.

Always well-organized the perspective students are assigned to an Ursinus student, who is in charge of delivering the "inside scoop" on campus happenings and whereabouts.

By nights' end, there has always been an event for the perspectives to enjoy. The event that these High School students experienced was different from the events in past years as two new organizations on campus performed in Bomberger auditorium.

Seismic Step, the new and only step team on campus, performed intricate steps and dances for perspectives, awing many members of the crowd.

Started by junior Leticia Walston, Seismic Step has now performed a couple of times, and their buzz is becoming louder and louder as they show a dedication to African-Rooted dance tradition. There goals are to become a team of close-knit performers who can always be relied on to deliver crisp steps, original dances, and a "Kappa Alpha Psi" is continued to News, page 3.
**International News with Lisa:**

**Sandstorms hit Beijing, New nuclear arms reduction treaty**

*By Lisa Jobe*  
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**Saturday, Mar. 20**  
**BEIJING, China** — While Ursinus students enjoyed warm, sunny weather on Saturday, sandstorms blasted the Chinese capital of Beijing, causing authorities to give the air quality a rating of 5, or hazardous.

The sand came from desert areas of Mongolia, and is an example of the environmental concerns that analysts say will constrain China’s growth in the long term.

Environmentalists say that the sandstorms are caused by deforestation and other human activities, and that rising global temperatures and “increasing pressure on water resources” are only making the problem worse. The Chinese government has spent millions of dollars on programs to reverse the damage by planting trees and protecting remaining plant life. *(Reuters)*

**Monday, Mar. 22**

**UNITED NATIONS** — According to a new report from the United Nations, contaminated water kills more people than all forms of violence, including wars.

The report, written by the United Nations Environmental Program, says the world faces a crisis in terms of the quantity and quality of available water, due to “continuous population growth, industrialization, food production practices, increased living standards and poor water use strategies.”

The report calls for better management of wastewater, which it defines as a “combination of fertilizer runoff, sewage disposal and other animal, agricultural and industrial wastes.” The report also suggests that better waste-water management is an economic opportunity, citing lower fertilizer costs, management positions, and incentives for companies that work to conserve wetlands and marshes. *(CNN)*

**Thursday, Mar. 25**

**THE VATICAN** — According to newly released church documents, Vatican officials refused to defrock a priest who molested as many as 200 boys between 1950 and 1974 while working at a school for the deaf in Milwaukee. Letters between Wisconsin bishops and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, suggest that the ultimate goal was to protect the church from scandal.

**Friday, Mar. 26**

**WASHINGTON** — President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev have reached an agreement on a new nuclear arms reduction treaty. The treaty would limit both countries to 1,550 nuclear warheads, and replaces the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which was signed in 1991.

The documents have come to light as the Pope faces other, numerous accusations that he and his subordinates failed to alert law enforcement officials in sexual abuse cases or discipline errant priests “when he served as an archbishop in Germany and as the Vatican’s chief doctrinal enforcer.”

The Wisconsin case involves an American priest, Rev. Lawrence Murphy, who was still a priest when he died in 1998.

According to the documents, then-CARDINAL RATZINGER did not respond to letters from Milwaukee’s archbishop regarding the Murphy case in 1996. *(NYTimes)*

**The Grizzly**

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“Watson senior” is continued from front page.

According to a press release from the Ursinus College Communications Dept., Bilko has been an active member of the Ursinus community, serving for the revival and was able to attend a Jewish day school and religious services as a child in Ukraine. While Bilko is traveling through his chosen countries, he hopes to learn from elderly Jews who lived through the period of harassment in the Soviet regime and learn how the return of Judaism has affected them. He also hopes to hear from the younger generation to see how their Jewish studies have affected their lives, much like his own.

He said, “I wish to see what makes some Jews come back to Judaism after so many years of not practicing and to look for reasons why other Jews are not involved within their Jewish communities, still hiding their identities.”

AmeriCorps, participating in multiple organizations on campus, playing intramural sports, tutoring Ursinus students and students from the local schools in chemistry and math. Bilko, a chemistry major on the pre-medical track, wishes to be a doctor. With the opportunity to study for a year abroad, Bilko said, “Through the Watson, I will prove to myself that I can live on my own for a year in a foreign country, while meeting lots of new people and learning from them. I want to pursue my project and make more people aware of what Soviet Jews had to go through during many years of hardship.”

Bilko stressed that his main piece of advice for students thinking about applying for the Watson is to, “Do it!” He explained that it is important to create a project that you are passionate about and that is important to you.

Bilko said, “The Watson Foundation’s mission statement says that they invest into people not projects. If you can show that this project is important to you and convince them that you will be able to pull it off, you will get an opportunity of a lifetime!”

The Watson provides 40 selected students with a $25,000 stipend for 12 months of study abroad each year. For more information visit the Watson Web site at www.watsonfellowship.org.

UC welcomes new field hockey coach

By Jessica Zatwarnicki
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Spring sports are currently underway at Ursinus College, while fall sports are beginning their spring training to prepare their next season with bigger and better expectations. Field hockey is no exception to that, in fact this women’s team is in the process of a major transition that not only shocked the players but the campus as well.

Laura Moliken, head coach of the Ursinus College Field Hockey team for 11 years, recently accepted the position as Athletic Director. Moliken had informed the team that she would continue to coach for one more year with a co-head coach and then fully resign the following year.

So, the hunt for a new head coach was on, and after interviewing several candidates Moliken announced that Janelle Benner, an Old Dominion alumnae and current head coach at Manheim Central High School, had been offered and accepted the position.

Coach Benner, Coach Moliken, and the players know that the transition of a new coach will have its ups and downs, but most are optimistic that the change will be smooth.

“I am very excited to be working alongside Laura Moliken for this coming fall season. She is such an incredible coach and teacher. During this transition, the players will get a chance to really get to know me, which will allow the transition for the following year to go very smoothly,” states Benner.

Many of the players feel the same way such as junior Michelle Wimmer who will be a part of the senior class during this transitional year.

“Since Coach Moliken is staying one more year I think the transition will be a lot smoother than just having a new coach take over right away. I am sure there will still be some difficult spots along the way because Coach [Moliken] is leaving, but the team is good at adapting to new situations, so hopefully everyone settles in well with the change,” says Wimmer.

Coach Benner has been coaching at the high school level for a few years but has no previous coaching experience at the collegiate level. Benner knows that there will be differences between the two but is excited to take on the challenge.

“There will definitely be an adjustment as I move from coaching at the high school level to the college level. College players have more experience, are more focused, and have greater intensity. When you decide to play a sport in college, you are making a commitment to take your skills, work ethic, and competitiveness to the next level,” admits Benner.

The transitional year will definitely be a testament to the field hockey team, and even though there will be many adjustments to overcome, the team and the coaches still have the same and even higher expectations as they do for each season.

“I think this coming season will be a strong one, and I believe we will all, as a team, help Janelle understand and see how our team works during practices, games, and overall our style of play. The first year Janelle takes over I feel will be a big building block, but I believe the team is still capable of doing great things,” states Wimmer about the future of the team.

Coach Benner could not agree more.

“I am so honored to be part of the tradition of excellence at Ursinus College. My expectation is that each student-athlete will work hard to maintain a balanced college experience.”

Be sure to support the Ursinus College Field Hockey team during the transitional year and future years to come, and get a sneak peak of the action on Sunday, April 25th during the Alumni Game.
Career Corner:
How to play up sports in your job search

By Career Services
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According to the NCAA, only one percent of college athletes go on to play professionally, although most participate in the locker room as well as on the field. So what can you do if you're not going to make it to the pros?

According to their website, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children has a few out the most to me was at the hospital being treated for severe asthma symptoms. He kept saying that he was going home, and he was really excited. Unfortunately, he wasn't [going home].

Volunteering with St. Christopher's Children's Hospital

By Ashley McComeskey
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While some students are nursing their hangovers or catching up on sleep every Saturday, other Ursinus students are driving into Philadelphia to volunteer at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. According to junior Innocent Turner, who joined the program this semester, each student volunteer is paired up with a child who is a short term patient at St. Christopher's. "We do whatever the child wants to do," says Turner. On her first week at the hospital, she states, "I made melting beads and played Candyland.

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children has a few locations, but the main hospital is in Northeast Philadelphia. According to their website, St.

Sex on Wheels: Documentary screening

By Josh Walsh
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Last Monday, March 22, Jenny Worley screened her work in progress documentary, "Sex on Wheels," in Musser Auditorium. The film follows the trail of the Sex on Wheels tour, a Colonial Williamsburg style bike ride on the hilly streets of San Francisco, complete with actors role-playing some of the city's most infamous ladies of easy virtue dating back to the Gold Rush of 1848.

Worley describes the film as an ode to the sex worker industry that flourished in the city since the California Gold Rush. Worley, who also worked in the sex industry, wanted to explore the way that the industry developed throughout different eras of American history. For example, the first sex workers in San Francisco were Chinese women who would do the men's laundry during the day and then moonlight as prostitutes. As degrading as some undoubtedly view the world's oldest profession, "Sex on Wheels" provides a complex portrait of the sex industry in San Francisco history which vacillates between degradation and empowerment, often resting somewhere in between.

For instance, the tour takes us to the residence of a black prostitute who started working in the sex industry to support herself in California after escaping slavery. Not only was she able to support herself, but she also ended up as the lover of a popular brothel and a luxurious mansion (of which the actress playing her was standing outside in the film). Another sex worker, whose brothel was a favorite of the police, rose to become the mayor of the city. Such anecdotal tales complicate the notion of the sex industry as a last resort of desperation.

Prostitution, however, has always had its unsavory side. Included in the rough cut of the documentary are the Michelle brothers, Lance "Jim" Lloyd and Artie Jay, who birthed the tradition of the stage fees. Before the Mitchell brothers, girls were employed at strip clubs and were part of an actual facility. After them, more and more clubs decided that their sex workers were private agents and had to pay to work on the stages on which they performed. Now, stage fees can run upwards of $200 dollars a night. It may seem pointless to spend so much time discussing stripper financing, but it is actually a very pressing issue. High stage fees are one of the primary forces that drive sex workers into a life of prostitution.

After the screening, Worley participated in a reception where the issue of exploitation in the sex industry was explored. Worley emphatically stated that the sex industry could not and should not be boiled down into simple adjectives like "empowering" or "degrading." She discussed her own career in the sex industry. Her club was previously owned by a female-practiced racist division of labor and was of substandard quality. Worley helped unionize the strip club, turning it into a democratically run institution. Unfortunately, like many businesses, it has undergone "Wal-Martization." Large corporations have bought up huge chains of clubs and shut out local tized clubs.

Although unfinished, Jenny Worley's "Sex on Wheels" has huge potential to become a controversial foray into the history, morality, and impact of the sex industry. Conservative elements will likely find the openness of the film to the idea of prostitution as abhorrent. Nevertheless, if perfected, the film will open a window into a world often swept under the rug of history and will, hopefully, let in some much needed discussion on the reality of the sex industry.
Feeling good in the “Skin We’re In”

By Gianna Paone

On a college campus, all-nighters are far from uncommon—just ask the Campus Safety officers who close the library and check classrooms at night. Whether you’re a habitual procrastinator or someone who simply finds 24-hour days to be too short to accomplish your workload, the sleepless schoolwork marathons are usually not to picnic. Behind the bloodshot eyes, the coffee-coated stomachs, the persistent headaches, and the endless desires for an unattainable nap, however, may be symptoms that—though less obvious—are considerably more damaging to the sleepless warrior’s health.

A recent study performed at Carnegie Mellon University, for example, highlights how an all-nighter can affect a person’s immune system function. While the high numbers and rapid spread of common colds and viruses on college campuses are often blamed on close living and educating environments, the study’s conductors ruled out factors such as environmental or social backgrounds and still found those who slept less than seven hours nightly to be almost three times more likely to develop a cold than those who slept more. They concluded that poorer quantity and quality of sleep in the weeks leading to exposure to a rhinovirus—the cause of the common cold—appear to lower the body’s resistance to illness.

Beyond a mere cold, the researchers note, “Much of what we know about sleep and health derives from...studies that...suggest that the lowest morbidity (coronary heart disease) and mortality generally occur among persons who report sleeping approximately 7 to 8 hours a night.” The problematic physical health impacts of all-nighters, however, don’t necessarily sneak up on its victims, either. Junior Danielle Chmelewski is no stranger to sleepless school nights, and she recalls, “I feel like my body systems start shutting down. I feel sick...like the day before you get the flu.”

Such experiences can be just as damaging in terms of mental health; findings show a clear link between sleeplessness and depression. A study featured earlier this year in Psychiatry Research (for example) determined that depression symptoms were particularly high for undergraduate girls when their bedtimes— if any—exceeded 2:00 a.m. Combining a heightened risk of depression—which the World Health Organization (WHO) predicts to be the second leading cause of disease by 2020—with that of the common cold, the all-nighter is, essentially, a recipe for how to make one’s self ill.

Chmelewski recalls interesting psychological effects unrelated to depression but undoubtedly due to sleeplessness. Having been awake for over forty hours, she remembered a feeling of “losing consciousness” without actually doing so and explains, “My mind drifted into a dreamlike state and, when I regained consciousness, I saw words on my computer that I don’t remember typing. I typed the dream that I had with my eyes open!”

While all-nighters alone may be unsafe, many students put themselves at further risk for harm through various stimulants. Coffee and energy drinks are continuously debated in terms of safety, but growing concern lies in the use of prescription drugs. A 2005 study from The American Journal of College Health found that as many as more students reported “Helps me concentrate” or “Helps increase my alertness” compared to “Gives me a high” as reasons for using prescription stimulants, which are typically obtained from peers diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and often include methylphenidate (Ritalin®) or amphetamine and dextroamphetamine (Adderall). Are the tasks, papers, tests, and overall successes worth the gamble of the all-nighter’s health risks? Interestingly, students’ sleepless sacrifices often result in ironically fruitless efforts. In an article featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Joel J. Gold, a University of Kansas English professor, claims that he can almost pinpoint the hour at which sentences that he describes as “mushy, wandering, and chaotic” were developed. “As one idea slides illogically into another,” he explains, “I can practically see a clock registering 3:45 a.m.” In other words, an assignment may be complete, on time, and perhaps even decent work, but areas where a professor can detect foggy 4 a.m. brain functioning can send a message of procrastination that’s probably not in the student’s best interests.

Also concerned with what kind of payoff student all-nighters held, one psychology professor surveyed 120 students at St. Lawrence University and found that students who’d never pulled an all-nighter had average GPAs of 3.2 while those who had done so averaged 2.95. Thus, if knowing that you’re at higher risk for colds, viruses, and depression doesn’t keep you from limiting your all-nighters, perhaps the fact that they could actually hurt your overall academic performance will.
“Kyleigh’s Law” profiles drivers by age in New Jersey

By Caitlin Dalik
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New Jersey just passed a law that will require drivers under the age of 21 to display a red decal on their license plates to identify them as young drivers. “Kyleigh’s Law” will go into effect May 1, 2010. Drivers under the age of 21 who still have provisional licenses will only be allowed to drive between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. and only have one non-family member in the car. Provisional licenses are given to new drivers once they complete their learner’s permits. Provisional drivers can obtain their basic driver’s license at age 18 with one year of provisional driving complete. The law is named after Kyleigh D’Alessio who died in a car accident when she was 16 years old. The decals will cost $4 and will be placed on the left-hand corner of the front and back license plates. This will make New Jersey the first state to adopt such stringent rules for young drivers. As a New Jersey resident, I have a huge problem with this new law. First of all, it is simply profiling by age. Cops already target young drivers in New Jersey as it is. If we’re going to bring attention to teen drivers with obnoxious red decals, why not have decals for everyone else? If the state wants to profile by age, why not place decals on the license plates of drivers over 70 years of age? Do they not cause a lot of careless accidents? I honestly believe that drivers over 70 should be re-tested frequently. I had a great uncle who was driving at 97 years old. I cannot even explain how dangerous that is. And why not have decals for people with speeding tickets, DUIs, or multiple accidents? My fear is that if we keep placing decals on license plates in New Jersey that everyone is going to avoid driving near cars with decals for fear that they might get into accidents. However, this nervous driving could in turn cause accidents. According to an online petition against “Kyleigh’s Law,”

protestors argue that New Jersey residents can vote and die for their country at age 18, but if they have a provisional license they cannot drive past 11 p.m. How fair is this? You are telling me that we can send our young men and women to war but cannot let them drive when they please. When I was 17 and had a provisional license, I remember how frustrating it was to have to obey all the laws. Yes, I understand that I was an “inexperienced driver,” but did I need so many restrictions? I found it very difficult to only have one non-family member in the car. I remember my mom asking me if I could go pick up my brother and his two friends from basketball practice. I was not allowed, according to the law. I remember being asked if I could drive girls home from soccer practice so their parents would not have to come get them. Again, technically I could not. I also remember leaving work at midnight (the curfew was 12 a.m. when I was 17) and having to hope I did not get pulled over at 12:01 a.m. I think what many New Jersey residents are failing to notice is that many drivers under 21 have responsibilities. By 21, some people have children to take care of and jobs that require them to work late hours. Many of my friends make great money by bartending or waitressing late at night. With an obnoxious red decal on their license plates, it will be easy for people to follow young drivers home or stalk them in parking lots. This is a major concern for the safety of young drivers. I understand the state is simply trying to crack down on the amount of unsafe teens driving and all of the careless accidents that occur each year. I also sympathize with the family of Kyleigh D’Alessio and all other families who have lost someone to a teen driving related accident. However, I do not think enforcing stricter laws and profiling by age is the way to bring about change. As everyone is pointing blame at teen drivers, I ask myself, where are the parents? I know my parents took driving very seriously and made sure to educate me about how driving is a privilege and a big responsibility. But perhaps, more important than dialogue about driving between parents and teens is the need for more education in schools. We need to educate teen drivers in schools about the risks of racing and distracted driving, but more importantly about how to drive safely and responsibly.

Upper classmen off-campus living

By Stefanie Moyer
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With housing selection here, many people have been voicing their opinions about how our school goes about this process and the guidelines as to where students are allowed to live. Unlike most schools on the East coast, Ursinus does not allow all upper classman to live off-campus. It was not until two years ago that Ursinus offered an incentive to about 20 students to move off campus because the school did not have enough rooms to house all the students. With this incentive, students could live off campus without losing their financial aid which on average is $8,000 and they could still purchase an Ursinus meal plan. According to the residence life office, they had an outpouring of students two years ago who wanted to take advantage of this. Because Ursinus is continuing to bring in larger and larger freshman classes with no building additional dorms, the offer has been made available to a larger number of juniors and seniors. Unfortunately, not everyone that wanted to take advantage of the incentive was able to because of the limited slots. Why do so many people want to move off campus? Senior Katie Hunt wished she was able to move off-campus the past three years because “other than New and North, the dorms are disgusting. The paint and plaster on my ceiling is peeling off, the carpet is stained, and the windows don’t even fit the window frames letting in all the cold air. The bathrooms in my house just recently had soap dispensers and paper towels installed which does not make the house a sanitary place to live. I pay all this money to go to school here, the least the school could do is give us a nice dorm to live and sleep in.” Sophomore Arielle Leflar wants so badly to move off campus because of the lack of privacy she has with living in residential buildings. “I live in an all girls house and one would think that I could walk downstairs in a towel to go to take a shower but that isn’t the case. Even though an RA lives in my house, the school sends other RA’s to walk through the house a few times in a night. Too many times I have been in my towel walking to the shower when a male RA walks in the door and each time I have felt extremely uncomfortable.” Not only are students frustrated with the limited number of people allowed to live off campus but how the school goes about housing selection has also left many students disgruntled. Two days prior to when the class of 2011 is supposed to have the housing selection meeting, students still were unaware of what rooms were open for occupancy. Junior Emma Bacharach found this to be “extremely frustrating because I have less than 42 hours to come up with a list of back-up rooms incase my first choice is no longer vacant. And with only 42 hours, I don’t have a chance to go and check out the various vacant rooms that are of interest to me. If the school is not going to give us adequate time to look at the open options, then they should at least provide us with pictures or dimensions of each room available so that we know what room we are signing up for.” Even though this is a stressful time of the year, hopefully everyone is able to get the room of their choice for the 2010-2011 school year.
Hollywood relationships as a metaphor for what?

By Carly Siegler
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And the Oscar goes to... Jesse James for his heartrending performance in the role of devoted fiancé. By all rights Ms. Bullock should still be riding on high from her big win, should still have that post-Oscar glow. Alas, a lot can change in a month. SB is still America's sweetheart but what about her husband who "Entertainment Weekly" has deemed "The most hated man in America"? Nobody wanted to believe the girl in the Nazi paraphernalia. When, just days after the Oscars, she came out and said she had had an affair with James while his wife was off filming "The Blind Side," I, myself, would have liked to believe that stripper Michelle McGee was just looking for a quick fix of fame, but then Bullock backed out of the London premiere of her movie, the other women started lining up to tell their stories, and somewhere Tiger Woods breathed for the first time in months.

It is not my business to know what may or may not have gone sour in this picture perfect relationship. Nonetheless, I do feel that Mr. James felt the need to exercise such a gross lack of discretion. To be honest I have developed near immunity to the same sort of shock that most of America seems to feel over this recent instance in a string of high-profile affairs that include Reese Witherspoon and Jake Gyllenhaal (although these two were not married) and Kate Winslet and Sam Mendes. Don't half of marriages end in divorce these days? What are people so surprised about? That a spouse would cheat or that a spouse would cheat on Sandra Bullock? Women have always loved SB because they see themselves in her, so perhaps people are taking this so hard because if the girl-next-door can't make it work, then who can?

I was nine years old when Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston got married. By the time I was 15, Brangelina had three children with Angelina Jolie. Two boys and a girl later, Brangelina has been breaking up at least once a week, pregnant at least once a month, and if you are really following the tabloids closely, Jolie is currently engaged in an affair with costar Johnny Depp, while filming "The Tourist" in Italy. Despite all these rumors, it appears to be amore for Brad and Angie. Sure, their whirlwind romance beginning when Pitt was still married to Aniston provided more than enough fodder for the press, but after five years and all parties involved having seemingly moved on, why does the press still insist on picking apart this couple's every little unconventional- ity? How about TomKat? Despite regular reports of blowups on film sets, their sofa-jump- ing bliss does not appear to have ever really met societal norms of what a relationship should be that they completely miss it when America's Sweetheart is being quadruple-crossed. Of course, at this point, they act as if they have been privy to these problems all along. Maybe that is representa- tive of humanity as a whole. We worry so much about presenting ourselves to the world as normal that we forget that it is our quirks that make us interesting. It is when life loses its unconventionality that we should begin to worry.

Shamerica: The end of an era of acting and the world to all seniors

By Zach Shamber
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All good things must come to an end, right? Have you ever really thought about that expression? Well, faithful readers, that's what the Grizzly editors pay me to do.

When you think about it, "All good things..." may just be the saddest expression we use on a daily basis. It implies that the things we've done for a certain period of time or for the completion of a certain task must, at some point, conclude. It is like saying that all the work we've done or all the positives we've created and established must irrevocably end. And we have absolutely no choice in the matter. German pop group "Alphaville, creators of the song "Forever Young," asked, "Do you really want to live forever?" In other words, wouldn't you want to go out on top? Wouldn't you want things to end when you're living at an all-time high? It's why football players like Barry Sanders and Jim Brown retired. And it's why Michael Jordan, arguably the best athlete to ever play organized sports, retired in the prime of his career to pursue an ill-fated attempt at baseball. All good things come to an end because, if they didn't, our memories might not be so great. I, for one, am glad all good things come to an end. And I'll tell you why.

This past weekend, my theater career at Ursinus College came to a satisfying yet heart breaking end. On Saturday night, I walked onto the Black Box Theater stage for the final time. In front of what seemed like my entire extended family and many of my fellow classmates, I took a deep breath and spoke my first line of dialogue. And for the first time in my four years of performing at Ursinus College, I was terrified at the thought of leaving the stage. I've spent the better part of my last four years in the studios of the Kaledoscope, rehearsing scenes, memorizing monologues, or performing for my friends and family. I still remember nervously walking to the Black Box Theater as a freshman, did not fit with director Donnie Scudera's vision for the play. In short, I was a mess. I also told both Professors Scudera and Beverly Redman that my major was "pre-law," to which I was politely informed, "Um... we don't have a pre-law major here." But even with my horrendous appearance, my ignorance of the Ursinus curriculum, and my very "Monty Python" audition, the directors took a chance on me and cast me in "Two Gentlemen" as one of the lead characters. And I never looked back.

Four years later, I was speaking in a fairly refined British accent as Dr. Frederick Treves, personal surgeon to John Merrick in "The Elephant Man." The play, which went absolutely wonderfully, also marked my acceptance of the humanity within us all (check out John Moriarty's review and critique for a much more thorough plot explanation). In the previous three performances of "The Elephant Man," I simply entered and exited, spoke my lines, and bowed when the play was finished. All in all, I did my job.

This time, however, was unlike any theatre experience I've ever had. Everything I would do would be for the very last time. Before the play began, I walked through the halls of the Kaledoscope and took notice of the places I'd stood years earlier and the corners I'd found to recite lines just minutes before a show. I recalled pre-show warm-up exercises from previous plays: the freestyle rapping from "Picasso." The voice training from "Seuss's Double." The group huddle from "Sexual Perversity." And the endless reciting of the song I'm on a Boat" from "Anne Frank" (yes, you read that correctly). It all assisted me in one way or another. It all helped to create some of the best shows I've ever been a part of, and that includes my fourth grade production of "Wizard of Oz." (I was a Tony Award-worthy Scarecrow).

Sitting in the dressing room, moments before entering onto the stage, I looked around the room at the underclassmen who were as vital in bringing "The Elephant Man" to life. And at once, I was both jealous and extremely sadened. These men would have years before they would find themselves in my position. To those cast members: enjoy your time on stage at Ursinus, guys. It doesn't get much better than this. Standing on stage for those final few scenes, I took time to look out into the crowd and really take in the magic of theater. Nothing else on Earth can bring a group of strangers together quite like a compelling story and actors willing to tell it. When the story was over and we walked out to take our final bows, I was overcome with emotion. I stood there and bowed, and bowed, and bowed when the play was finished. All in all, I did my job.

But mostly, I was happy to have been a part of something truly good for the last four years. And like all good things, my theater life at Ursinus came to an end. Just like that. I could potentially defend this article to many different people, but I really want this message to reach the seniors of Ursinus College. Seniors: please, please read this and understand that, very soon, you'll be leaving this institution and entering grad school programs, places of work, or the front doors of your local unemployment office (I'll see you there). But I beg of you: instead of worrying about what lies ahead, relish the moments of your college career. Take a walk around campus and admire the blooming flowers and truly bizarre statues. Stop and take a good look at the buildings you enter and exit every day, the paths you walk to and from, and the places on campus you frequent more than others. Most importantly, savor the time spent with fellow club members, team members, colleagues, and close friends.

Theatre would not have been "theatre" without the amazing directors, designers, and cast members who worked with me on each and every show. Stop and remind yourself why it is do what you do: the activities, the classes, and the time spent with friends that you love. I'll miss Ursinus theatre for the variety of shows I was able to perform, the men and women who guided me through rehearsals, and the people who acted alongside me. From Domenick to Bev, from Scott and Boots to Brandon and Will, from Karin to Brooke—you all were there for me, and I, yes, I was there for you. Thank you for making a truly wonderful experience.

Seniors: take this next month to appreciate your last four years. Stop to smell the roses. Or, at the very least, stop by the Kaledoscope. I'll show you around.
**Phillies crush Nationals in wake of McNabb trade**

By Chris Michael
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On Easter Sunday, the eve of the Phillies season opener against the Washington Nationals in D.C., the Philadelphia Eagles traded franchise Quarterback Donovan McNabb to the Washington Redskins. The Eagles will receive a second round draft pick in 2010 (37th overall) as well as a third or fourth rounder in the 2011 draft.

After listening to trade offers for McNabb as well as quarterbacks Kevin Kolb and Michael Vick, the Eagles decided to part ways for McNabb after 11 seasons, six pro bowl appearances, five NFC Championship games, and a trip to Super Bowl XXXIX. Although the Eagles have traded McNabb inside the division, head coach Andy Reid felt that the quarterback's rich history with the Eagles was one that couldn't be topped.

McNabb may be better off on the Redskins than a team like the Oakland Raiders, the Eagles will now have to face McNabb twice in the regular season. The trade has not just improved a division rival, but sent away the best quarterback in Eagles history. The Eagles front office will have to work cut out for them in the upcoming 2010 NFL draft as they have 11 selections in the draft, including five of the first 87 picks. The 2010 draft class is considered to be one of the deepest classes in years, and the Eagles may not be done dealing yet. It would not be a big surprise if the Eagles packaged some draft picks together to move up in the draft, perhaps to take safety Eric Berry of the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

The Eagles seems to be in re-building mode despite going 11-5 last year as they will rely even more on younger players such as DeSean Jackson and Brent Celek. A new era starts in Eagles football as Kevin Kolb takes over the starting QB duties and the only player remaining on the roster from their 2004-2005 Super Bowl run is kicker David Akers.

The Phillies are no stranger to controversial trades themselves, as they made headlines this winter for trading prospects to the Toronto Blue Jays for Roy Halladay. After President Barack Obama threw out first pitch, the spotlight was all on the two-time defending NL champions and specifically new additions Halladay and third baseman Placido Polanco. Neither would disappoint.

Halladay pitched seven efficient innings giving up one run and striking out nine. Polanco, a Phillie from 2002-2005, had a great return with three hits, pinstripes going 3-for-5 with six RBIs, including a two-out grand slam in the 7th inning. Every starting player had a hit, even Halladay who certainly lived up to the high expectations placed on him. The Phillies won 11-1, and were finally victorious on opening day game after losing the last four opening games. Following the series in D.C., against the Nats, the Phillies play three games on the road against the Houston Astros where they will face former Phillie Brett Myers, Pedro Feliz, and Michael Bourn. The Phillies will make their 2010 home debut in Citizens Bank Park on Monday, Apr. 12 at 3 p.m.

**UC Gymnastics closes season with success**

By Gianna Paone
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Only four and a half tents of a point, or 0.450, kept Ursinus’ gymnastics team from achieving their season’s goal at the ECAC Championships: to qualify to compete as a team at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Championships. Nonetheless, closing with four individual event finals qualifiers, six All-American awards, and one first place All-Around Champion title, the team’s season undeniably offered a successful turnout.

Head coach Jeff Schepers explains, “We started out a little rocky with several injuries, but we progressed from there and remained on a steady incline throughout the season.”

Ursinus claimed individual qualifications on each of the four events. Senior Kira Oldham-Curtis, the team’s only gymnast to compete in all four, qualified as an All-Around competitor, joined by Freshmen Stephanie Schmidt and Johanna Warren as well as Sophomore Elle Kurz and Junior Veronica Perry on the Vault. Warren, along with Juniors Danielle Chelewiski and Jacki Clymer, also qualified on the Bar. Chelewiski and Sophomore Katherine Gelinne claimed spots on Beam, while Perry, Schmidt, and Sophomore Andrea DeToro received those on Floor.

Individual qualifications are weighted partially on how often and how successfully a gymnast performs on an event throughout the season and partially—but more heavily—on how she performs at the ECAC Championships. “We fell just short of qualifying as a team,” says Schepers, “but the individualists who made it were well-deserving.”

Many of their performances at the NCGA Championships proved just that. Tying the school’s record of 38.375, Oldham-Curtis claimed the gold in the All-Around competition on Friday, Mar. 26. The second of Ursinus’ achievements within this season, the feat qualified Oldham-Curtis into the following day’s finals competition on all four events. Warren joined Oldham-Curtis on Bars, while Gelinne’s Beam performance and Schmidt’s Floor routine earned each of them a qualifying spot—that is, one of fourteen spots per event—also.

The following day was no less victorious, with Oldham-Curtis capturing the gold on Beam—where Gelinne followed in ninth, earning All-American titles for each. Oldham-Curtis’s thirteenth place on Vault and fourth place on Bars, where Warren joined with a twelfth place finish, earned the weekend’s final three All-Americans. Additionally, both the team’s seniors, Oldham-Curtis and Schmidt, qualified to compete on Bars. \ hi

Warren was awarded All-American titles in academics based on their GPAs and academic performances at Ursinus for Oldham-Curtis, the competition—which Schepers describes as “the perfect way to hit the pinnacle of her sport and to leave as a senior”—secured the capstone in her series of top three All-Around finishes at the NCGA’s last year’s performance landed her in third, while 2008’s placed her in second. She also holds an NCGA Championship win on Floor from 2009 along with numerous All-Around and event winnings throughout seasonal competitions over the past four years.

The NCGA victory was climactic in her eyes as well. Recalling the team’s 2010 slogan—Go BIG or go HOME—she explains, “I gave it everything that I’ve been working for over the past years and thought to myself: Don’t hold back because this is the last meet of your life as an All-Arounder. I’ve been doing gymnastics since I was four-and-a-half-years-old, and I wanted to end my career with a bang.”

The national champ was certainly not alone in celebrating her feat. As soon as 2nd place was announced, she explains, “My teammates and I all started cheering and crying. I was so happy that I was finally able to accomplish my goal and that I had a bunch of teammates there to support me.”

Other gymnasts and coaches were eager to show their support, too; as Schepers explains, Kira will not only be sorely missed by Ursinus, but also—he suspects—by Division III in general.

Along with competitive achievements, Kira received Ursinus’s Linda L. McIntyre Award in 2008 for her attributes, involvements, and attitudes as a student-athlete. She has also achieved a high enough All-Around score to be eligible for Division I regional competitions if she’d been attending one of several other Division III schools.

Schepers explains that it’s been a pleasure working with the two seniors, and that while Kira has been a “rock” of the program, “our other senior has been one of the best bar workers to come through here and who probably leaves having done much more than she’d expected to.”

Along with a memorable conclusion, the Bears’ season encompasses a second place finish at Temple’s Liberty Classic, where they defeated both UPenn, a Division I team, and West Chester, a Division II team. At their last home meet of the season—Mar. 5—they succeeded in breaking the school’s record for team total on Bars, reaching a 47.350. Schepers looks forward to the several talented athletes returning next year.