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Activities Fair brings light to organizations

By Rosie Clark
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The Activities Fair last Wednesday, Sept. 8, offered just a taste of what campus life has to offer for new and returning students alike.

For Ursinus students, the start of another school year means fresh opportunities to get involved, to be active, and to try new things on campus. Ursinus boasts nearly one hundred organizations and clubs that provide political voice, creative outlets, community, and, most importantly, countless ways to make the most out of your college experience. From French culture to Ninjutsu, there is a club or organization for every passion and interest.

If trivia is your game, ask the president, Helen Sekrak, about the Ursinus College Quiz Club’s annual intra-school Quiz Night, to be held this semester just before final exams. Ursinus’ numerous organizations for the arts offer exciting opportunities for creativity. Anyone with an appreciation for "School Clubs" is continued to News, page 3.

Robert Whitehead introduces a passing student to the Ursinus Gay Straight Alliance at the Activities Fair. Photo courtesy of Rosie Clark

Computer Science students begin exciting new projects

By Christine Dobisch
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The digital world has established a firm grasp on the members of our generation. It is very rare to find an instance where the internet has not penetrated some area of our lives. However, many of us overlook the source for this phenomenon—the ingenuity of computer scientists.

Dr. April Kontostathis, an 8-year veteran of the Computer Science department at Ursinus, is inspiring her Object Oriented Design and Systems Development (CS-375) class to embark on a variety of innovative projects for the fall semester. After serving in the work force for 13 years, Kontostathis returned to the world of academia to earn her doctorate. This change in career paths eventually led her to Ursinus, where she now specializes in information retrieval and data mining.

According to Kontostathis, basic information retrieval entails finding, "a little nugget of information in this huge corpus of potential interesting stuff." In its most basic sense, information retrieval is comparable to the widely-known Google search. In some way, Ursinus students participate in some form of information retrieval with every click of a mouse.

Among the current projects in the mentioned class is one in which students will join forces with the Environmental Studies department to create a webpage that features data gathered from a campus weather station. The station, located on top of Myrin Academic Center, and the always popular Casino Night, to be held this semester just before final exams.

"Computer Science" is continued to News, page 3.

UC United Society of Leaders emerges on campus

By Katie Callahan
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New regulations on campus involvement brought mixed feelings from the student-body this past Thursday evening, Sept. 9th. Senior Bridget Reseto announced at the USGA meeting that UC United Society of Leaders would be mandatory for all AFAC funded club/organizational presidents.

The society, which was formally known as UC United in the start-up of its debut in fall 2009, is led by senior (unlected facilitators Tony Ubertaccio, Davis Howley, Kyle Shelton, and Reseto. The four students hope to bring together leaders of the campus to strengthen communication between members of the Ursinus community and create inter-group collaboration.

The group follows the mission statement, "To build, focus, and unite student leadership through education, civil engagement, and inter-group collaboration by providing a forum for leadership discourse and community development," and was started after a grant from the Teagle Foundation found that students felt communication was lacking between groups on campus.

The society was built around the presidents of clubs/organizations on the notion that someone thought of that person as a leader.

"The idea is not to make people do what they don’t want to do but to convince them that it is in their best interest to be there," says Reseto in regards to the mandatory meetings. The meetings will be "Leaders" is continued to Features, page 5.
International News with Lisa: Mudslide in Guatemala kills dozens

By Lisa Jobe
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Nearly 100 Guatemalans missing after mudslide

Sunday, Sept. 5
GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala - At least 28 people are missing after mudslides caused multiple mudslides. Many of the deaths occurred as a result of accidents along the same highway. The first highway slide occurred on Saturday; 12 people were killed when a bus was partially buried in mud. President Alvaro Colom declared a national emergency and called for the closure of the highway. However, another slide occurred on the same highway a few hours later. Officials reported that some of the people who came to rescue those caught in their vehicles became caught in the mudslide themselves. A Civil Defense official told reporters that 60 people were missing, while a regional fire chief told reporters that 150 individuals were missing after the mudslides. (Associated Press, hosted by Google)

Australia elects first female prime minister

Tuesday, Sept. 7
AUSTRALIA - Julia Gillard became Australia's first elected female prime minister after independent lawmakers broke the parliamentary deadlock. Gillard, the leader of the center-left Labor Party, now has the votes to form a government, after the August 21 election did not produce a clear winner, resulting in the first hung parliament since Australia's 1940 federal election. Gillard ran against conservative Tony Abbott. Independent parliament members Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshott both cast their votes with Gillard, giving her the 76 votes needed for a parliamentary majority.

The candidates campaigned on issues such as immigration policy, Australia's aging labor force, and balancing urban and rural interests. (CNN.com, with additional information from Wikipedia)

Suicide bomb kills 16 in Russia

Friday, Sept. 10
NORTH OSETTIA, Russia - A suicide bomber detonated a car full of explosives in Russia's North Ossetia republic on Thursday morning, killing 16 people and injuring at least 100. The bomb exploded in a market in the republic's capital of Vladikavkaz at 11:30, when the market was most busy. According to an interior ministry spokesman, the body of the bomber was found inside the car. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Thursday evening the chief of Russia's Federal Security Service said that three suspects had been detained. There has been conflict among the region's many nationalities for years. According to experts, attacks have increased in numbers recently. (Los Angeles Times)

France continues to deport Roma immigrants

Friday, Sept. 10
FRANCE - France will not stop deporting Roma individuals, despite mounting European Union pressure to change their policy. On a visit to Romania, the French Immigration Minister said that France would help Roma integration within Romania. In return, Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi said that Romania would draw up integration plans and send additional police to help fight crime committed by Romanians.

The Roma, or Gypsy, are an ethnic group widely dispersed across Europe. Since Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU, many Roma have come to France in search of a better life. However, French President Nicolas Sarkozy has claimed that the Roma people resort to crime, prostitution, and the exploitation of children. European Members of Parliament called for France to immediately suspend its deportations. Their resolution says that the mass expulsions of Roma amounts to "discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity." However, Besson says that France will not comply with the resolution. (BBC News Online)

Brandon Kamin launches into MC role for ABC's show "Eaglemania"

By Artemis Pagan Collagian
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"You grow up doing dance, theater, radio and sports, and it’s hard to make them click," says UC's own Brandon Kamin, but he has managed to do just that. A 21-year-old senior media and communications major, with dance and theater minors, Brandon "The Kid" premiered as the lead MC of ABC's new show "Eaglemania" this Saturday, Sept. 11.

The show airs every Saturday night at midnight, competing with Saturday Night Live, with reruns Fridays at 1 a.m.

Brandon Kamin poses with the team that makes his weekly radio show possible. Photo courtesy of Brandon Kamin

How this all came together deals with connections, hard work, and professionalism.

As Kamin shared, "My mom told me, 'Brandon, it really is what and who you know — but damnit it's how you perform!'" Kamin started working for 610 WIP Sports Talk Radio when he was 14-years-old, and all the midnight coffee runs he was sent on paid off.

When he started his radio show in high school, which he later brought to Ursinus' WVOU, he started asking people from WIP to come in as guests, and from there, along with his ties from the theater and dance world, he would ask for references.

Professionalism was important from the start. "I like to have guests call in first so they can hear my voice," Kamin says. He takes these calls as a chance to show his guests that he is personable and will not ask the same old questions.

When Tony Luke, the host of "Eaglemania," was first invited onto the show, he was surprised at Kamin's knowledge of his music and theatrical career. Tony Luke came back a couple more times, and even performed in Relay for Life last year. Kamin made quite the strong impression, and was offered an audition with ABC.

As an MC in a live audience show at the Trocadero Theatre in Philadelphia, Kamin opens the show on camera, entertains the audience with the band during breaks, and does segments at the Eagles' games and around the city.

He says he's very thankful to Domenick Scudera for getting him involved in workshops with Tongue 'N Groove, an improvisational group that visited Ursinus last year. Now that he will be dancing and joking on live TV, a bit of improv training will go a long way.

Back at Ursinus, Kamin is still doing his radio show — but he's making it bigger. Since big college-based radio shows are not very common, he says he has personally designated his show "the Nation's #1 ranked college TV/radio program," and plans to make it so.

His program can now be heard either via audio stream at wvu.ursinus.edu, or in a video "Brandon Kamin" is continued to News, page 3.

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"Computer Science" is continued from front page.

Library collects information such as the local temperature, rainfall, and humidity. This data not only provides the means necessary to create an up-to-date weather forecast, but can also be used to compare weather trends in previous years. If the project is successful, the website will be available to the Ursinus community by the end of the semester.

"A lot of the projects are student-driven," said Kontostathis, "Often, a student will come to me who expresses interest in a particular area." The students contributing to the weather monitoring project include Amos Almy, Jennifer Bayziek, Brad Bazow, and Magdalena Parks.

"The way the class works is that they’ll put us in a real-life situation, like we’ll sit down with a client and they’ll tell us exactly what kind of project they want," added sophomore Ben Kelly. "It’s what we would be doing if we were to go into business."

Indeed, many of the projects in this class provide solutions to real-life problems, such as cyber bullying. Members of the department are in the process of using data mining techniques, such as scanning the internet and chat logs, to crack down on online predation.

Another project in the works is a music-related venture with Professor Holly Gaines. Gaines asked the class to convert a music diagram she created into an electronic format. According to Ben Kelly, "The diagram consists of a tree, where the trunk is a specific genre of music, the roots being what contributed to this genre, and the branches of the tree being what the genre has contributed toward." This project will allow music students to access this information in a much quicker and simpler manner.

Although the endeavors in the Computer Science department are far too often out of earshot for many Ursinus students, their projects this semester will undoubtedly expose the connections between student use and student innovation.

"School Clubs" is continued from front page.

with mental disabilities, creating one-to-one friendships and great learning experiences.

Anyone with a green thumb can take a walk over to the organic garden, a student project turned community program that gives the disadvantaged access to fresh, chemical-free produce. Environmental Studies major Julia Bull says the garden has been life-changing.

"There is nothing like planting a seed and watching it grow into a beautiful ripe tomato," she said, "or pulling a fresh carrot out of the ground."

Ursinus' political action organizations offer students a voice in today's most contentious issues. The campus chapter for STAND, Students Taking Action Now, works to raise awareness of genocide as well as global humanitarian efforts.

This year, the organization as led by Lindsay Hogan will focus on the crisis occurring in the Congo.

Ursinus College's Gay Straight Alliance "provides a family community" for LGBTQTA students. President KG, as their new voice of reason.

A television concept is already in Kamin's post-graduation plans which is currently being filed to be patented with his New York City lawyers. Kamin says, "It involves traveling to different schools... and if I told you anything else I’d have to kill you."

"Brandon Kamin" is continued from page 2.

version through Ustream at www.bradonkamin.com - which has the added fun of a viewer count and a chat room. Brandon's Ursinus-based show will air Friday nights 7-10pm.

The radio show's raison d'être is to give people an artistic look at Philly, stay up to date on sports, and to give students a feeling of connection to campus. As a result, his wide reaching programming is bringing in sponsors from all over.

There is no money exchange for these sponsors. Kamin receives gift cards from different companies in exchange for his crediting them. He gives the cards away during different segments of his show, for instance the 50th caller or to the caller with the best joke.

Although the show is named after him, Kamin credits "his incredible team" for the program's fluidity. His show is a well-greased engine, with six other students as, "partners in crime," and the occasional visits from the "Beertones," a group of six singing football players. The show is like a little fraternity, he tells us, with Kristen Gallagher, or Miss KG, as their new voice of reason.

Robert Whitehead calls the GSA "an open, fun-loving group that just wants to promote the message of equality at Ursinus College." With the countless awareness organizations taking a stand on campus, students of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and convictions are sure to have their voices heard.

This fall semester, dare to try new things and become more involved in UC student life. One is sure to discover new friends and new insights into one's self and the world around him/her. With student life at Ursinus, the possibilities are endless!

News - 3

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Calorie counting hits Zack's

By Elizabeth Burns elburns@ursinus.edu

At the beginning of this semester, calorie counts were posted on the new menus in Zack's in order to follow the trend of offering nutritional information at national food establishments, explained Ron Wood, the General Manager of Ursinus College Dining Services.

Currently, the calorie counts are only available on Sandella's Flatbread Café and Subconnection's menus; however, So­ dexo, Ursinus' dining services provider, supplies the menus and is responsible for adding the calorie counts to the boards.

Wood commented, "[Calorie counts are] obviously something that people would like access to and I think that our company realizes that and is trying to provide it in an easy to use format, meaning on the menu boards."

Even so, there are mixed reviews among the student body as to whether the calorie counts will even affect the student's mealtime decisions.

Junior Nick Grajewski stated, "I go strictly for deliciousness and calories really have no effect on my decision. Especially if I'm living an active lifestyle and not like being over­ eating chicken or beef or pork."

And yet, Chelsey Nehila, an admittedly health conscious junior, feels the opposite, "You know, even though I like the chicken, broccoli and cheddar bowl, it's 850 calories. That just turns me away from it. I no longer want to eat it."

Despite the wide range of personal reactions, most agree that the calorie counts were a good addition to the menu for those who are calorie conscious.

Clearly, the calorie counts will affect each student differently. So far, dining services has not seen any change in student's ordering habits that would suggest the calorie counts have had an impact. Although, Marianne DiEgidio, Retail Director for Zack's stated, "We have kiosk ordering here. No one really looks up at the menu boards."

Therefore, the unchanged ordering at Zack's may not only result from the student's meals time decisions, but also their lack of realization that the calorie counts are easily available to them.

Even so, it is not surprising that eating habits vary throughout campus. According to "Avoid the Freshmen 15," by Diana Rodriguez, from EverydayHealth.com, making nutritionally sound choices is more difficult for college students because of their lifestyle. Not only are students stressing, getting inadequate sleep and eating at irregular times, but the variety of foods available, both healthy and unhealthy, pose an issue.

Students often choose to eat foods they like instead of foods they need or they will eat larger portion sizes then necessary, as explained in "Healthy Dining Hall Habits" by Teen Health from Nemours.

Even a person's friends can affect their nutritional habits. "Since I live with a bunch of dudes who order just out all the time, no offense to them, but I just eat more than I should," explained Grajewski.

But in the end, each person must choose their eating habits for themselves. According to Wood, Zack's and Wismer Dining Hall can be equally healthy, "It's based on the individual's choices... We try to provide a lot of different choices for a lot of different tastes out there."

Both Wood and DiEgidio believe calorie counts will eventually be posted in Wismer Dining Hall as well. But for the time being, students can go to the Dining Services website and check the entire nutritional break down of the menu in Wismer for that day.

If any additional nutritional information is needed in either Zack's or Wismer, Dining Services would be happy to provide it upon request.

Theater preview

By Kevin Tallon ketallon@ursinus.edu

On the playbill for this semester are two shows that are sure to please the audiences. First up, Professor Beverly Redman is directing The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare in November. As all Ursinus students may be aware The Merchant of Venice is one of the books that freshmen read for CIE.

Professor Roger Florka will be playing Shylock, the only male casted role. The other roles will strictly be played by women. There is also an experimental side to the show: the setting has been changed to present day New York City, and the majority of the cast will be kids from the Hamptons.

Professor Redman stated, "I love the willingness to play, and the fearlessness that those who auditioned have already shown."

The Merchant of Venice will be open to the general public, but it will also serve the campus as a CIE event. Show dates for The Merchant of Venice are Nov. 17th-20th at 7:30 p.m. in the Lenfest Theater.

The second show being put on by the Ursinus Theater Company is One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Dale Wasserman based on the novel by Ken Kesey. This show is being directed by Professor Domenic Scudera. Scudera said one of the reasons he picked this show was to balance the large female cast that would be in The Merchant of Venice, being that the majority of the roles are male.

He believes that this show is very dynamic because it is presented differently than the movie that many are more familiar with. He believes that the cast will be presented with a rewarding challenge of developing and crafting the complex characters that make this show work. Scudera believes that the audiences will respond well to the show, mostly because of the character dynamic. This show also promises some intimate set work that will allow the audience to feel as if they are not just watching the show, but that they are really a part of the production.

Along with some unique lighting techniques, the show is sure to be amplified in excitement. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the film adaptation of the novel that starred Jack Nicholson.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest will be in the Black Box Theater of the Kaleidoscope from Oct. 6th-9th at 7:30 p.m.

Make sure to reserve your tickets early by calling the Box Office as seats fill quickly for UC theater productions.
Meet up with two new professors on campus

By Joshua Walsh
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Anyone who has ever taken part in the Ursinus community and had the opportunity to ask how a given student or faculty member came to work here would probably agree on one thing: there are more pathways leading to and from Ursinus than there are cracks in the deserts of Arizona. On that note, Meet the Professors will cover two new professors: Dr. Julia Koepp, PhD at University of California San Diego with undergraduate studies at Hope College, and Dr. Eric Gaus, PhD of University of Oregon with undergraduate studies at Boston University.

Dr. Julia Koepp

always knew she wanted to teach, but she wasn’t always sure about exactly what. Koepp says, “I’m a little longer to figure out what I wanted. In college I decided that I liked research too, so I decided that college teaching would be best for me.” So, Koepp went ahead and received her degree in chemistry and biochemistry at Hope College before getting her doctorate at UC San Diego and doing postdoctoral research at Oxford University.

But Koepp is more than just a biochemist and scholar. Among her many hobbies are reading and baking. “I read a lot of books – mostly fiction and mysteries,” she says. Koepp is very generous with her conceptionary talents, “my colleagues at San Diego and in Oxford were treated to a lot of cookies, cakes and pies.” Also, she not only bakes but has performed in shows.

Her journey to Ursinus only seemed natural, “I attended a liberal arts college similar to Ursinus, and I found that to be very rewarding as a student. I liked having access to my professors and being in smaller classes. I try to provide students the same attention I received as a student,” she said.

One of her future dreams is to travel, “I want to see Central America and Australia. I would like to make it to all the continents – I’m well on my way, but I haven’t quite made it yet!”

Dr. Eric Gaus

brings his own skills and journey to the table. His journey to Ursinus was a little cloudier than Dr. Koepp’s. He was not as certain about his teaching prospects as she was, saying that, “when I started college I wanted nothing more than to be in college as a student for a living.”

So how and why would someone like Gaus end up teaching at Ursinus? He wanted to live and work in a college, one he himself had attended, and, “the closest thing to that is becoming a faculty member.”

Gaus shared a story that taught him a lesson that he hopes to instill in students at Ursinus, “When I went to BU one of the first courses I ever took was very similar to CIE here at Ursinus. The first discussion class I had, the professor had a fantastic lecture on the fundamentals,” says McNamara, “I went to BU thinking I didn’t have to get people together, they would just show up...”

According to Resetco, if a member of the society has an unexcused absence from a meeting they are given a warning. After that, it is possible they could lose their title as president. “They could lose their title as president,” says McNamara, “This is a society built around the average person can enjoy.”

“You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to follow your dreams,” DeFrain said.

Features - 5
Point: Music video is controversial as it is important

By Sara Sherr
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Eminem and Rihanna’s new music video to their song, “Love the Way You Lie,” premiered on MTV on Thursday, Aug. 5th, and has been stirring up controversy ever since. Perhaps that’s what the Eminem and Rihanna duet intended all along. The video is a rendition of what can happen when a relationship takes a turn for the worse and a couple uses violence to solve their problems. Domesticviolence.org defines domestic violence as, "Behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other," which is certainly what is depicted in this highly controversial music video, which brings to light the horror of being trapped in an abusive relationship.

Directed by Joseph Kahn, the video stars actress Megan Fox and Lost star Dominic Monaghan as the deeply troubled couple. When the violence is troubling, the video is important, and Rihanna says that making the video was something that, “needed to be done” (thehollywoodgossip.com).

Whether it did indeed need to be done or not, it was done, and it is grabbing the country’s attention. The video is number one on iTunes and the video is number one in America. People are clearly intrigued, including many of my fellow Ursinus students.

"The whole time I was wondering why she was staying with a guy who was like that," Senior Alex Shivers says, "but so many people do.

"It’s definitely thought-provoking," Ursinus sophomore Madeline McEvilly says, "I’ve watched it multiple times and I’m still interested.

“It’s so good,” Junior Kristy George says, “it was so real and intense.”

The video was filmed in order to spread awareness about the terrible occurrences in some relationships. Domestic violence is something that Thehollywoodgossip.com quotes Rihanna as saying, “[I] and Eminem have both experienced... on different sides... [Eminem] broke down the cycle of domestic violence, and it’s something that people don’t have a lot of insight on.”

Longislandpress.com reports, “Critics have mixed views about the message that the video is sending, but are agreeing on one thing.” This common ground is expressed by Stephanie Nilva, executive director of sexual assault and trauma resource center Day One, for as she told MTV news, “the most important thing that the video is doing is raising the topic of dating violence among young people.”

Personally, I find it very necessary to be raising this topic, to be encouraging conversation about it. The National Coalition against Domestic Violence (NCADV) reports that one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, and of this 25%, females who are between 20 to 24 years of age are at the greatest risk.

It just so happens that the people who are most likely to be victims of domestic violence are also the people who will most likely be watching the music video. They’ll be thinking about it, talking about it, and maybe it’ll help them recognize symptoms. ‘It’ll definitely keep this subject from being ignored.‘

“I don’t think it was wrong at all of Rihanna to want to sing a song about what happened to her,” Sophomore Abigail Rude says, “People go to therapists to talk about what happened to them, Rihanna is singing about it.”

Part of the song is Eminem acknowledging and admitting the faults of the song’s persona, the abusive boyfriend. At no point does Eminem state or imply that this persona thinks what he’s doing is right, and even says, "Who’s that dude? I don’t even know his name. I laid hands on her; I’ll never stoop so low again."

This admittance could help listeners acknowledge that, perhaps if someone is abusing them, it’s wrong. Eminem’s lyrics also act as a warning: “You don’t get another chance, now you get to watch her leave out the window, guess that’s why they call it window pane.” Hopefully abusive partners out there will take that as a warning that they really won’t get another chance.

The best part about the music video, according to PerezHilton.com is that Megan Fox donated her appearance fee to the Sojourn House, a shelter for abused women. If nothing else, the video was productive in that an undisclosed amount was donated to Sojourn, which “provides battered women and their children a safe space to regroup, rebuild, and reestablish their self-esteem and lives.”

Counterpoint: New Eminem song is catchy, but unsettling

By Chris Capone
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I have been an Eminem fan ever since the "Slim Shady L.P." so I am not very used to criticizing his work. Yet, even with my undeniable bias, I find it hard to be in love with his new song, “Love the Way You Lie.” I think it is well done with its instrumentation and vocals, but it is difficult to look past some of the harsh lyrics. It’s a song about an abusive relationship, something Eminem has rapped about many a time during the span of his controversial career.

I do understand if you like the song overall, because it is very catchy, but when you look deeper into what is really being said, you might reconsider whether it’s something you can agree with...

"I do understand if you like the song overall, because it is very catchy, but when you look deeper into what is really being said, you might reconsider whether it’s something you can agree with..."

Eminem talks about so cavalierly, but what about the small group of people who aren’t as logical or levelheaded? What if someone who really hates their significant other as much as the male in, “Love the Way You Lie” listens to the song and can relate completely to what is being said in its literal sense? Will that justify what they are doing? If someone who is the victim of an abusive relationship listens, are they going to relate to the female chorus and think that it is OK to be lied to and mistreated?

Like I said, not everyone can understand the weight behind the argument against this song because they’re probably too removed from the situation that it presents. However, while there may be freedom of speech in this country, it is important for Eminem and other artists to realize the impact of their words and subject matter.
Primaries are more overrated than they are important

By KyuChul Shin
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Not too long ago, primary elections were custom-made for the political junkie. Nobody, absolutely nobody, except the diehards would ever care to follow them. That does not seem to be the case anymore.

Recently, the media has kept a close watch on Nikki Haley's struggle, and eventual triumph, as the Republican gubernatorial candidate for South Carolina, as well as the high-profile defeat of incumbent Senator Arlen Specter (D-PA). The shockwaves created by these events echoed not only throughout the political world, but throughout mainstream America as well, raising the question: How important are the primaries?

While the media is telling us that the primaries are now an important part of the American electoral system, as opposed to being a simple nuisance leading up to election day, we need to ask ourselves if it is really worth the average American's time to become invested in primaries.

Though they can be interesting to watch, the fact of the matter is that no one wins anything in a primary. The primary is in essence just a qualification match. We all cheered on and watched the United States soccer team during the World Cup, but how many of us can say that we watched a World Cup qualification match between the United States and Honduras?

While Presidential primaries are always the most relevant, the candidates play out, these gubernatorial, Senate, and House primaries simply do not have the same intensity as John McCain's surgery from nowhere to capture the 2008 Republican presidential nomination or Democrat Howard Dean's high-profile fall in 2004. Non-presidential primaries simply do not have the same intriguing storylines that the presidential primaries have, and to be honest, it usually seems that the candidates of the same party feel and look almost exactly the same.

Besides, the incumbent has such a huge advantage in any election that it does not seem worth anyone's time to watch how something so predictable is going to play out. The advantage is even larger when the incumbent is up for his or her second term in office. This "sophomore surge" seems to ensure that an incumbent will score a victory. Watching a primary with an incumbent involved is about as suspenseful as a 41-0 football game in the fourth quarter.

Americans want primaries that are worthy of primetime: titanic clashes between two, or three, bitter rivals who will do anything to win the nomination. One does not want to see one candidate winning 78% of the vote. That is just boring.

Besides, are these candidates really going to make a difference in the long run? Say a politician running for the Senate, House, or Governor's House somehow manages to pull off a victory. A single member of the 435 member House of Representatives or the 100 member Senate just does not have the power to make a large difference by his or herself, particularly if he or she is a freshman politician. Instead of watching one small fish in a sea of politicians, it is more important to look at the bigger picture.

So let's stop wasting our time on watching these primaries unfold and flip to a different channel for some real news. No matter how we look at it, primaries do not deliver any sort of tangible outcome and do not decide anything. As long as they do not play a role in choosing the actual politician who will take his or her seat in office, my attention and hopefully yours, will be on something else.

The unpredictable turmoils of the unreliable Ursinus WiFi

By James Shelton
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By the time I am writing this, the wireless connection seems to be up and running around campus, but I'm sure that everyone around here has noticed that the wireless connection has been spotty (to put it mildly) these past two weeks. I am also sure that I am not the only one that this has been a huge inconvenience for. When the internet was out, I could not check my e-mails or log onto Blackboard to check for assignments. I had to use the Ethernet cable to go online. Sometimes, I had to use my friends' computers. I remember when the wireless network was first being set up all around campus, I lived in New Hall my freshman year, right as the wireless connection was first being expanded to provide service for the whole campus. I remember the connection in New Hall was limited or nonexistent probably through the first half of the year. The wireless connection began working consistently by my second semester here, but I used my Ethernet cable constantly while I lived in New Hall, because I didn't know when the connection was going to work and when it wasn't.

The first week-and-a-half of this year has been like déjà vu to my freshman year. I didn't know when the wireless was going to work and most of the time, it was simply not connected. The first day I arrived on campus, the wireless was not connected. Then the next day, it was connected and I thought the problem had been fixed. The next thing I know, the internet is out again and it's out longer than I thought it would be.

As I am writing this, the wireless has been connected for a few days and I have wireless in my room, but I can't help feeling a little anxious. I'm still not sure how long this wireless is planning to stick around. I guess I'll have to go through a few more weeks before I feel confident that the wireless is here to stay.

During the summer I have a wireless connection at my house and once I got my laptop connected to that wireless network, the internet continued to work, and work well. I got used to my internet connection at home, and many days I would spend hours relaxing on my couch, surfing the internet, and watching videos online.

Whenever I return to campus, I'm not sure how the wireless is going to work. I feel like there have been problems with the wireless network for my entire time here at Ursinus. I thought the bugs with the wireless network would have been worked out during my freshman year, but I am now a junior and there seems to be the same old problems every time I return to campus to start a new year.

I am curious about why it is so difficult to keep the wireless internet working. I hope that the issues we had last week around campus have filled our quota for the year.
Ursinus Women’s Volleyball heads into promising season

By Kaitlyn Ott
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After sweeping Immaculata and Widener this past week, the Ursinus Women’s Volleyball team holds a winning home record. The Bears defeated each team in just three games to win the matches.

Their record stands at four wins and two losses. Head Coach Diana Clavin has six years of experience as a collegiate coach, five of them as head coach for the Bears. She is extremely happy with the team.

Assistant Coach Melissa George joins the team again for her second year.

Nine women make up the volleyball team this season, with seven returning players, a rookie sophomore, and one freshman. Senior captains MaryKate Wilmoth and Gabby Galleo, along with junior captain Liz Roth help to motivate their team.

“I like to try to stay positive and make sure everyone comes in the middle after each play,” says Roth, “I think the best way to keep everyone’s heads up is by everyone being together and communicating with each other, so each person knows that the whole team is there for them.”

Similarly, Wilmoth adds, “I try to lead by example. I try to stay positive and communicate throughout the whole match. I like to get really excited when we have a good play, hoping my excitement will pump up the rest of the team.”

Although the roster has changed only slightly, the team is seeing a difference in play on the court. “People are playing different positions than what they are used to,” says Calvin, “for example [Galleo] is playing the libero position rather than outside, and we’re getting more out of other people than we have in the past. We are a lot more balanced in our stats, which is nice.”

Regarding the most recent games versus Immaculata and Widener, everyone was pleased with the outcomes. Galleo and Wilmoth agreed the match against Immaculata was, “a good first home game win.”

All three captains felt that part of the game got a little slow, but the team was able to pick it up and come out with the win. Coach Clavin adds, “We expected Tuesday wins against Immaculata, but last night’s game [against Widener] was a pleasant surprise.”

The team could not have been happier with the outcome of the match against Widener.

“Since my freshman year, we have never even taken a game from Widener, let alone win the match in three,” says Wilmot.

“Everyone gave everything they had, passed well...[Roth] was all over the place giving great sets to everyone, and the front row was really swinging away; being smart placement.”

Considering the team’s future, Galleo, Roth, Wilmoth, and Coach Clavin are all hoping for a great season. Roth states, “Already it’s just much more positive this year, not just winning but all aspects of the team. I think if we can keep each other together we can win a lot of games.”

With already half as many wins as last year (8 and 25), Coach Clavin does not see any reason why the team cannot make playoffs, and the senior captains agree with their coach, adding, “We’re predicting the best season yet. We may have a small team, but everyone plays their part really well. Everyone gives their all; we have a lot of heart. We’re going to surprise a lot of teams this year.”

Eagles open season with injuries, but hopeful

By Shane Eachus
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Stagnant and worrisome: two words that could be used to describe the Philadelphia Eagles pre-season efforts. Of course, off-season storylines were plenty for the Eagles, as 2010 marked the end of the Donovan McNabb era in Philadelphia. McNabb out, Kevin Kolb in, and with this, the Eagles looked to move their offense in a new direction.

This direction would be one of a more traditional West Coast style: short, quick completions and offensive efficiency.

Despite this supposed adjustment, through the course of 3 pre-season contests, the Eagles hardly looked efficient, with their first team offense failing to register a touchdown.

On Sunday, the Eagles opened the regular season at home against the Green Bay Packers, and the pre-season struggles appeared to continue and perhaps worsen. The Eagles fell to the Packers by a final score of 27-14, as both teams scored 17 points, before buckling down in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, the Eagles looked strong early and throughout much of the contest as they held the high powered Packer offense to just under 300 total yards. Swarming tackles and a great deal of pressure on Packers Quarterback Aaron Rodgers, highlighted the first half.

Overall, the team notched three sacks, two of which came from Juqua Parker, and two interceptions, one apiece for Joselio Hanson and rookie Safety Nate Allen. However, the defense staggered in the third quarter allowing 14 points, before buckling down in the fourth quarter, by which time it was too late.

The Vick-led Eagles of the second half made a run at a comeback victory in front of a sold out crowd at Lincoln Financial Field, however Andy Reid’s team was unable to pull out the win.

The Birds must head back to the proverbial drawing board, and the trainer’s room, in an attempt to clean things up and get healthy before their next game, which is this Sunday at 1:00 p.m. against the Detroit Lions.

Upcoming Games:

Friday, Sept. 17, 2010:

FHockey vs Haverford
4:00 p.m.

Neumann Tournament:

Volleyball vs Penn State Altoona vs Chestnut Hill
1 p.m 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010:

m/w XC @ Cedar Crest
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Football vs Juniata
1:00 p.m.

M Soccer vs Gettysburg
3:30 p.m.