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Junot Diaz speaks to Ursinus campus

By Josh Walsh
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Junot Diaz visited Ursinus on Monday October 25, to discuss his Pulitzer Prize winning novel The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao. In a private, intimate setting with select students in Olin, and a reading and question and answer in Lenfest Theater, Diaz answered questions about his style, his themes, his philosophy, and, most importantly, his footnotes.

“Guys, ya know, I’m Sorry! We’ve forgotten what reading means!” said Diaz after being questioned about the much-maligned footnotes used to outline the historical context of Oscar and his family’s homeland, The Dominican Republic. “There’s multiple levels of reading,” he explained, and, more to the point, the fact that many people found the language shifts and footnotes in his texts off putting was the entire point of the process of reading the book.

In fact, in both discussions Diaz noted that no one group understood all of the various languages spoken in the text. Dominican’s had trouble identifying what most would call “geek references” to Tolkien and The Watchmen. English speakers had trouble dealing with the constant language shifts between English and Spanish, and many Ursinus students had trouble with the footnotes.

Diaz stated goal was to force the various groups depicted in the novel to seek each other out and communicate with each other—to work out the complete meaning of the text as a communicative group, with all the members in said group becoming more knowledgeable in other “languages.” Though some people undoubtedly found his text difficult, Diaz was steadfast in his belief that the text rewards questioning. Some people might not like his book because of its language shifts and footnotes, but that, for Diaz, is the name of the game: “I write books for people who are ready to roll.”

Active Minds talks about mental illness

By Sara Hourwitz
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College can be a stressful time for young adults. But for students who suffer from mental health issues, the stress of college life tends to be a lot more overwhelming and sometimes negatively impact individuals’ college experiences. In our society, the topic of mental illness can make people uncomfortable. Ursinus College’s chapter of the Active Minds organization is working to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health problems and encourage students to learn more about these issues.

Active Minds was brought onto the Ursinus campus during the 2008-2009 school year. Students active in bringing the organization on campus, including current Active Minds co-president Laura Faith, understood that there is “such a stigma with mental illness.” Faith wanted students to realize how important it is to be aware of mental health issues because so many individuals struggle with them. Active Minds started as an Interest Group at the Wellness Center and once approved, it became an official chapter. Ursinus College has achieved in a mere two years a five-star rating from the Active Minds headquarters, which is the highest rating a college chapter can achieve.

Now in its third year on the Ursinus campus, Active Minds continues to gain new members,
International News with Lisa: Murder and riots in Europe

By Lisa Jobe
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Saudi prince guilty of murder
Tuesday, October 19
LONDON, ENGLAND – A Saudi prince was found guilty on Tuesday of murdering an aide in a London hotel in February. The victim, Bandar Abdulaziz, suffered swelling in the brain, broken ribs, a broken neck, and bite marks on his face, ears, and arms, inflicted by Prince Saud Abdulaziz Bin Nasser Al Saud who was found guilty of murder and grievous bodily harm.

According to prosecutors, the bite marks on Abdulaziz had “an obvious sexual connotation.” Al Saud never denied killing Abdulaziz, but claimed that he never had any intention to do so.

The jury in the case was then called on to determine whether Al Saud was guilty of murder or manslaughter. Police said that the prince showed no remorse for Abdulaziz’s death, and later tried to claim diplomatic immunity, which he did not qualify for.

(CNN.com)

Riots in France over pension
Wednesday, October 20
PARIS, FRANCE – Scattered clashes between police and protesters of a new pension law continued in France on Wednesday. President Nicolas Sarkozy’s government has vowed to go ahead with an overhaul of France’s pension system, despite widespread protests from public workers in “key sectors” such as sanitation, transportation, and power.

Gas stations throughout France are still without fuel, despite police action to end blockades at three fuel depots. Many sanitation and power workers are on strike as well.

In an attempt to curtail government spending, Sarkozy has been making efforts to raise the minimum age to receive a partial pension to 62 from 60 and for a full pension to 67 from 65. Sarkozy argues the measure is necessary because of changing demographics in France.

(NeW York Times Online)

Nine killed in bus explosion
Thursday, October 21
PHILIPPINES
Nine people were killed on Thursday when a bomb exploded on a bus on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Over 50 people were aboard the bus when the bomb, which had been hidden in an overhead compartment, exploded. Several other passengers were injured in the blast.

Police said that it was not yet clear who was behind the attack; however, kidnappers, extortion gangs, and Muslim insurgent groups inhabit parts of Mindanao. Police also said the company that owned the bus had received threatening letters from armed groups. Other gangs in the area have tried to extort money from bus companies and have been blamed for attacks on vehicles in the past. (BBC News Online)

Cholera runs rampant in Haiti
Friday, October 22
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI – Haiti’s president and top medical officials confirmed Friday that an outbreak of cholera north of the capital of Port-au-Prince has killed “scores of people.” Officials now fear the outbreak may reach camps around Port-au-Prince where many displaced survivors of the January earthquake still live.

More than 1,500 people have been infected with the disease, an intestinal bacterial infection that causes severe dehydration, and kills quickly if left untreated.

However, cholera is easily treated with rehydration and antibiotics. Cholera spreads through contaminated water and food.

Local hospitals were “overwhelmed” and a number of patients had to be transported to other medical facilities. According to the World Health Organization, this is the first outbreak of cholera in Haiti in over a century. Haiti’s president, Rene Preval, said that his government is “making sure people are fully aware of precautionary measures they have to take to prevent contamination.” (BBC News Online)

“Diaz” is continued from front page

he said, which improves the more that it is exercised. No matter how you exercise the muscle, it still counts as a workout. For Diaz, almost any kind of reading will suffice to exercise reading muscles, be it manga, comics, or poetry, and according to him, that does not necessarily mean literary canon.

Whatever the missings about the text itself, the student reaction to Diaz’s discussion was unanimous. “Junot Diaz is the man,” said Danny, a Sophomore who attended the private discussion with Diaz in Olin.

Ursinus Senior Abigail Raymond “thought it was great,” and liked Diaz’s response to her question about his relation to his audience, about how writers “ask people to interact with the language we use in different ways.”

Different responses to the text, rather than being the unintended side effect of what some might think of as a poorly selected topic for intellectual discussion, was the entire reason behind choosing Oscar Wao as the genesis of the “Ursinus is Talking About…” program. Professor Paul Stern explained that the entire point of the program was to create an intellectual environment through “focusing on the text,” including the different reactions to the students. In fact, many of the most interesting aspects of discussion around Oscar Wao began with questions of why Diaz wrote the way he did. Art History Professor and driving force behind the program, Elizabeth Kessler, concurred. She was intrigued by Diaz’s suggestion that he was “in the business of making mirrors for those who don’t have any.”

In keeping with that theme, next semester’s portion of the “Ursinus is Talking About…” program will focus on a photography exhibit.

All in all, Junot Diaz’s visit to Ursinus was one of the highlights of this year and will be looked back to fondly by the students who participated in both discussions he attended. Regardless of what you might think about The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, the book certainly caused an intellectual stir on campus, if only in reaction to Diaz’s artistic choices. But it is what Diaz did with that reaction which should be focused on. He questioned the nature of what art was and is, and what it should do to us as an audience, and how we should engage with it; questions which will continue to perplex us for many years to come.
Ursinus Music Department active on campus

By Danielle Chmielewski  
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While the festivities of Homecoming were settling, Bomberger Auditorium resounded with the sounds of a Heifer Organ Recital series entitled "John French and Friends." This performance included the Danoff String Quintet, Holly Gaines on the saxophone, Dr. Holly Gaines on the organ, John Pinestead, and Tom Poe, all accompanied by John French on the organ.

Dr. French, who holds degrees from the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts, Westfield State College, and the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, said that they were trying to show not just the organ, but the wide variety of musicians it can accompany and highlight. This is only one of many events to be performed by the Music Department.

As for Dr. French, he hosts two concerts per semester with the College Choir, which will be performing a 19th century French romantic piece called Vierne on Nov. 6 with internationally known organist Alan Morrison. Mr. Morrison will also be accompanying the annual performance of the Messiah on Dec. 4.

The Messiah is an incredible long standing tradition at Ursinus College. While Dr. French is in his 32nd year conducting the Messiah, next year will mark its 50th performance at Ursinus.

This year during Spring Break the Meistersingers and Wind Ensemble will travel to Ireland to perform in Cathedrals and other venues in Galway and Dublin. Ursinus tries to set up an international trip every 4 years, so that every music student gets a chance to experience performing abroad.

In past years, they have travelled to Germany, the Czech Republic, Prague, Budapest and England. "It's a way for us to get to know students that have a lot of talent," Dr. Gaines says.

Music at Noon allows students the chance to showcase their musical talents through singing or playing an instrument. Students that are taking private music lessons often take this chance to showcase what they have been working on. The next Music at Noon will be happening on Nov. 19 in Bomberger. Interested students should contact either Dr. French or Dr. Gaines.

The music department at Ursinus has many exciting upcoming performances, and hopes that many people will come out to support them and enjoy a fun afternoon of incredible music.

UC Homecoming 2010

By Kate Kelhoe  
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The Ursinus Community was out and about this past Saturday for the many Homecoming festivities around campus.

From noon to 5pm, the attendees mingled between the many tents in the Commons Plaza and with reunions for such organizations from athletics to clubs to Greek Life. In addition to the organization tents, there were three special tents to celebrate Women's Athletics at Ursinus, Women's Soccer at Ursinus, and Men's Soccer at Ursinus.

While the football team pulled in another win, the women's field hockey team defeated Cortland State, 6-0. The volleyball team also added another win for the weekend as they triumphed over Rowan. After an exciting game, women's soccer won in overtime over Immaculata.

In addition to the traditional athletic competitions, there were various campus tours, the Berman Museum's Open House, a dance performance and organ recital, children's activities, music and lots of food.

Saturday turned out to be a memorable day for the Ursinus community with victorious sports teams, time for alumni and friends to catch up, and individuals taking full advantage of the clear day.

Dr. French and Dr. Gaines held the Ursinus Music Department and often perform several times a year. Photo courtesy of J. Stapey Photography.

Open House is continued from front page

have here are being facilitated by members of our core who first got together around this project in the workshops with Spiral Q," said Shifrin, "and are now passing on what they learned from community members."

Spiral Q is a Philadelphia-based activist organization which teaches simple art and craft techniques to community groups with the goal of representing themselves creatively. Shifrin and other museum and community members have been working closely with Spiral Q to make the parade run as smoothly as possible.

The different arts and crafts people could participate in included a community banner with open space for colorful decorations, cardboard cutouts of prominent buildings in Collegeville, kids' design your own faces, and a spot to make large cardboard hands to be worn by parade marchers in symbolism of the program's motto, "Reaching In/Reaching Out."

"We came up with the idea of big, giant hands that suggest how the museum and the community can work together," said Gary Heidt, a teacher at East Perkiomen Valley Middle School, "because we work with our hands, and that's how we reach out to each other."

Meanwhile, Jessica Neuman, a junior, oversaw the decora-tion of a banner with the word "COMMUNITY" spelled out in colorful letters, where anyone could inscribe their own words, quotes, and other museum-hosted events, featuring a workspace for t-shirt design, cardboard cutouts of prominent buildings in Collegeville, including Love, Respect, Loyalty, Hope and Faith, concepts which they will be demonstrating artistically during the parade.

Even former Ursinus students were present at the Berman workshop, such as Doren Peterson, who graduated in 2007 as an Art and Business double major. As a part of the 20th Anniversary Committee, Peterson joined the Partnership Project where she helped adults and children alike decorate t-shirts to be worn during the parade. "We're encouraging kids to come over and design a t-shirt with something about community or friendship," said Peterson, as she sported her own shirt blazoned with numerous smiley faces. "We want them to know a museum is a friendly and fun place."

Indeed, many visitors had a wonderful experience touring the Pfeiffer Wing, or taking in the beauty of the Karl J. Kuerner exhibit. Bill Scheellok, who attended the open house, commented, "I think it's a wonderful event. I'm no expert, but I'd like to see more of it going on."

Lisa Hanover, the Berman Museum Director, was thrilled to see as many as three hundred guests visit the museum, and was busy most of the day chatting with old friends and newcomers alike. "Ursinus College is based in a living and working town with lots of housing developments and school districts," she stated, "and this is our opportunity to share all our treasures with them."

Hanover was equally thrilled about the many art projects aimed toward the Partnership PA, commenting, "This is a way for us to get into the community and say we have a relationship with the church, with the school district, and we want to continue and celebrate that."

The Partnership Parade will take place Nov. 7, with many more partnership workshops, as well as museum-hosted events, scheduled to highlight the importance of art in the community.
Senior explores Middle East

By Elisa DiPrinzio
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Ursinus students have earned a reputation for their educational pursuits beyond the classroom. Those that do participate on outside tours and summer study programs always come back excited to talk about their adventures, and highly recommend the trips to others. Such programs are especially relevant to students interested in culture, tradition and society.

For Midori Intrator, studying culture is a hands-on experience that took her to one of the earliest sites of civilization—the heart of the Middle East. In a five-and-a-half-week excavation in Tel Dor, Israel, this adventurous senior had to quite literally leave behind the comforts of home.

This exciting trip was not a school requirement, but a personal venture that helped Intrator expand her own range of knowledge, and challenge herself socially and physically. As an Anthropology major and Art minor, she said that Israel was a natural choice for her because of the country's extended religious and historical significance.

Intrator discovered the University of Haifa's Field School through the internet and chose this program because it offered a blend of active work on-site and informative daily archeology lectures given in English, which is spoken by most of the country. Participants, Midori told me, came from countries all across the world, including Canada, Israel, England and Spain. "I really admired most of the people that were there," said Intrator. "I never would have met any of them without this kind of experience."

Tel Dor was once a wealthy port city and a center for trade, making it the perfect place to uncover relics from a wide range of locations. Although team members found common artifacts like bone and pottery, every once in a while they discovered statues, scarabs and even part of a giant olive press. One girl, Intrator told me, found an almost-complete pot filled with traces of cinnamon and nutmeg, proving that Dor traded with the Far East. The school hired several experts to train the team on the tools used for digging and on proper care procedures for artifacts. Depending on the ground layers, they sometimes used heavy tools like pick axes, and at other times scraped with tiny dentistry brushes.

In order to make time for eight hours of digging per day and two hours of bone and pottery washing, the team was on site at four every morning. "Waking up so early every day was challenging," Intrator admitted with a smile. Yet, since the Israeli deserts are at their hottest and in the summer, of all seasons—she can not wait to go back on a second trip. "I have never worked so hard in my life," she told me, "but I've never had so much fun either. And I want to do it again even though it hurt!“, Intrator said that the journey left her with a sense of accomplishment, and also made her appreciate her chosen major.

Students that elect to travel overseas or go abroad on their own are able to actively participate in other cultures, as opposed to simply studying them. Regardless of your major, these independent programs provide an opportunity to branch out and test your own limitations.

"Active Minds" is continued from front page

especially with the help of its monthly event called the Daily Grind. For each Daily Grind, a topic is chosen for which all in attendance will discuss. Over a cup of Starbucks coffee, Daily Grind participants learn more about the subject matter related to the different mental illnesses. In addition, Active Minds invites a speaker to each Daily Grind session to provide students with greater specificities on the particular topic of mental health issues being discussed. As an example, Ursinus Active Minds previously invited Dr. Paul Doghramji from the Wellness Center to “talk about stress and a lot about how to improve sleep habits,” says Faith.

For students who want to become more knowledgeable about mental health issues, Active Minds is always looking for new members. In addition, Active Minds acts as a liaison for students seeking assistance with their mental illnesses by providing referral sources to assist with their specific issues. Faith hopes that with the help of the organization, “students feel more comfortable talking about it,” and that Active Minds helps make Ursinus a “more open community.”

Word on the Street

Kira Personette
Arlington, Vermont
Junior: Bio and Psychology

Kyu Chul Shin
Fort Lee, New Jersey
Freshman: Politics

Nataasha Davis
New Bloomfield, PA
Sophomore: Biology

Josh Tanenbaum
Massachusetts
Senior: Psychology

"What's your lucky number?"

7

4

24

1
Students celebrate writing

By Sara Bollert
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In celebration of October 20th’s National Day on Writing, Ursinus’ own Center for Writing along with CAB (Campus Activities Board) sponsored an open mike night at the coffeehouse on Main St., Blend Cafe. The evening featured readings of excerpts from novels, short stories and poems, and included students’ own works.

The first student to take to the mike was Vice President of CAB, Jordan McIntyre, who used to envisioning. McIntyre got the audience into a philosophical mood when he discussed ideas such as “the human imagination cannot invent something that’s never been seen or never been done.”

Following under the theme of imaginative inventions, sophomore Carly Clayman, a double major in Neurology and Psychology, who is interested in creative writing, read the poem “Eternally Ephemeral,” which she wrote her junior year of high school.

Some students who had come to the event did not anticipate doing a reading or sharing a story at the mike, but since so many carried their laptops with them, when the mood struck, they were able to find a poem or work online, which they then shared with the audience.

Freshman Nathaniel Mollen read his own short story from his Facebook Notes. He was searching for something to read while in the audience he took the mike when he realized he had the work saved on the Facebook application. He was later interrupted during his reading when a notification popped up on his screen.

Center for Writing Director, Dr. Erec Smith, also read aloud from his own work, the novel, Creamy Nougat. In a latter interview, Dr. Smith claimed the number of tutoring appointments made this semester at the Center for Writing has gone up. He also mentioned that the Center for Writing is not only about tutoring or workshops, but sponsors events as well. One of the Center’s upcoming events will be November 2. Diamond Ruby author Joseph Wallace will be on the Ursinus campus to give a reading, talk about the writing process, and also do a book signing.

In case you were not aware, Wednesday the 20th was the National Day on Writing. Why “on” writing? It’s not certain. The reason for choosing such a preposition eludes the best of us. But according to the National Council of Teachers of English website, this day has been put in place “because we, as a nation, are writing like never before—through text messages and IMs, with video cameras and cell phones, and yes, even with traditional pen and paper. Whether it is done in a notebook or on a blog, writing, in its many forms, has become daily practice for millions of Americans.”

Internship Spotlight: Jason Ward

By Sara Bollert
of Career Services

Jason Ward, a senior Media and Communications major with a minor in Film Studies, received career advice from Katie Couric this past summer. Ward, who snagged himself a ten-week internship at CBS News in New York City, was able to hear the stories and advice of the president and executive producer of CBS News, along with many other powerful people in the company, as a part of his internship program.

Aside from the typical photocopying assignment and the unavoidable paper jams, Ward exercised his skills in writing, research, and perhaps most importantly, learned the art of networking and making good impressions.

Ward worked on the show “48 Hours Mystery” in the News Production Division at CBS, which was an experience he “wouldn’t trade [sic] for anything.” Some of his jobs included working at the front desk and taking down messages and phone calls. It was here he recalls using his skills in writing to format appropriate emails to higher-ups, notifying them of the calls. Concerning these interactions, Ward says, “Tone was always very important. I had to be very polite and very respectful.”

Research skills came in handy for Ward when he worked as a fact-checker. It was his responsibility to ensure that the claims in a “48 Hours Mystery” script accurately cited events. His research-savvy, he claims, “was definitely useful at any time.”

The role of networking and keeping in touch in business was something “a lot of the employees talked about,” Ward says. You never know when you may need a recommendation or a reference, and Ward realizes how important maintaining an agreeable demeanor is, especially when you may be expecting that sort of help in the future. Ward advises, “When you get the internship, just be nice. Be nice to people. Be nice to your superiors. Have a pleasant look on your face. Don’t look like you don’t want to be there after you get the internship.”

Ward, who would like to be in the entertainment business one day, feels that “hiring this internship on [his] resume is a plus.” From this experience in the working world, he “definitely feel[s] more confident now.” In terms of his future, he says, “I won’t be like a deer in the headlights when I graduate wondering what am I going to do or what’s the working world like... So I have an idea of what’s ahead. I have an idea of the competitive nature that the entertainment business or journalism offers — what I’m going to have to deal with in the future years.”

Ward’s advice to Ursinus students is: “Just apply. It’s not going to hurt you. You’d be surprised of what type of feedback you get if only you just apply.”

CALL FOR LANTERN SUBMISSIONS!

Work is to be submitted to lantern@ursinus.edu by Oct. 30th, 11:59 pm.

All UC students are welcome to submit work to this year’s Literary Magazine. There is a limit of 5 pieces per writer and digital artwork or photographs should be attached as JPEGs.

For more info, email Abbie Raymond at abraymond@ursinus.edu!!
Finally, Ursinus creates an arena for race relations

By Tracie Johnson
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Last Thursday, Ursinus College hosted the screening of the award-winning documentary "Traces of the Trade," in Pfahler Auditorium. The heart-wrenching and thought provoking documentary evoked a very emotional, but much needed, dialogue about race.

"Tracesofthetrade.com" offers this summary: "In the feature documentary 'Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North,' filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.

Browne and her cousins found that their family's empire of elite status and wealth was a result of their ancestors' heavy involvement in slave trade. Eight out of the nine cousins are graduates of Ivy League institutions of higher learning such as Brown and Harvard. All but one of the cousins was able to draw a direct link to their success as the trickle-down effect of their family's success in the exploitation and enslavement of Africans.

After the film, Dain Perry, one of the nine cousins, and his wife Constance facilitated a discussion based on race and racial reconciliation. Audience members were asked to shout-out one word that summed up their feelings after watching the film. Words like frustrated, anxious, powerless, overheated and consumed were used. These words were later explained and quite conducive to the conversation, which escalated to a dialogue about white guilt and white privilege.

The conversation began when three white students stood up and stated their opinions about white guilt and why whites today should not feel guilty. The argument behind this assertion was that it was not their fault, that they are not to blame for their ancestors' actions, or that their ancestors aren't even from here, so they should not feel guilty. These arguments led to the height of what became a very emotionally charged debate.

A student of color stood up and, in tears, expressed her disappointment in the white students' inability or "incapacity," as she said, to acknowledge their privilege. She was disappointed that the students had chosen to assuage white guilt rather than acknowledge white privilege. In harmony with this student, I stood and verbally expressed my sentiments. My argument basically concluded that these students' parents or grandparents may have dodged the bullet of white guilt because they are not "from here"; however, they do not have to be originally "from here" to enjoy the privileges of having white skin.

The facilitator, Dain Perry, touched on a great point that the larger community seems to never digest well, which is the fact, "Black people cannot be racist."

The real definition of racism is a combination of prejudice plus institutional and societal power, and black folks do not have institutional or societal power, so they can't be racist... When many people say racist they mean to say prejudice..."

Initially, there was a certain amount of fear and tension in the room. The black kids did not want to seem like they were lashing out, and the white kids did not want to seem racially prejudiced. Surprisingly, despite this, a genuine dialogue did take place.

To learn more about the documentary, visit "tracesofthetrade.com." To learn more about white privilege, Mr. and Mrs. Perry suggested an article titled "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack."

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Glee: What's the hype about?

By Stephen Hayman
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After a cover story in "Rolling Stone," titled "Glee Gone Wild," it is impossible to deny that there is an increasingly loud buzz about the popular musical television series "Glee." After all, season two of the show has only just begun, and it has already gotten itself renewed for a third season. However, there does appear to be a large contingent of TV-viewers that does not agree with the hype.

"Glee" features remarkable performances and singing by the show's characters, and the more famous the song, the more risky it is to cover it. Chris Santoro, a junior at Ursinus College, commented on "Glee" season one cover of Journey's "Don't Stop Believin." "It's stupid. Why would anyone want to take such a good song and ruin it?"

Other students I have spoken to did not seem to care that actors singing the song had great voices; they were still imitations. "People think that covering a song like that is a tribute, but it's just an insult," said Santoro. "Glee" can be described as a musical variety show in that it has a fiercely loyal following, one that is growing substantially, but there are plenty of dissenters as well. Shane Eachus, also a junior at Ursinus, said, "As far as Glee goes, I just don't really get it, it's not my kind of show. I feel like it's just another show meant to mock high school. I guess it just seems cheesy to me." He added, "After seeing a few minutes of it, I just realized I could not do it. It was horrible. It was corny; I didn't really find it funny, or entertaining."

Considering that "Glee" will air for at least a third season, the producers are clearly confident that their show will continue to be one of the most popular kids in school. When asked if he thought it was as much of a phenomenon as some magazines are claiming it to be, Shane said, "I think the show is really popular but I think it's just a trend, kind of a fad; people watch it more so because it is played out to be cool, by magazines and other people, as opposed to because it is actually quality programming. I really doubt it will last too long. I have a feeling it will die off in a year or two."

In today's market you have to do something new and exciting in order to keep your show on the air. "Glee" was successful in separating itself from every other high school-set show during its first season, because it was innovative enough to take classic songs and transform them into "High School Musical"-style entertainment. With almost no plot at all, "Glee" was able to keep a strong fan base.

Based on the start of the second season, "Glee" plans to add more storylines to try to expand along with its audience. This is a necessary move because without new and interesting plots, "Glee" will fade into the background and lose its relevance.

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Once upon a potty...

By Gretar Martin-Kainen-Watcke
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It was Sunday night, and I was partaking in the weekly college ritual of doing all of my homework at the last possible moment. I set up camp in Myrin, preparing myself for the long night that lay ahead, and realized that I had to go to the bathroom. Well of course I wanted to pee before I got started, after all, who can concentrate with a full bladder? Anyway, I entered the Ladies' on the second floor, and was faced with a Goldilocks situation. The first stall had pee all over the seat, the second was unflushed, and the third was out of toilet paper. Luckily the fourth and final stall was up to par, and I was able to return to my homework with all my wits about me.

However, this bathroom epidemic has spread throughout campus and is quite troubling. Aside from the lack of toilet paper all of these issues are highly preventable, and it is rather disgusting that college students do not know how to have "bathroom manners." Some people have always had mom and dad clean up after them, and while we do have a cleaning service, they go above and beyond with the bathrooms and there are certain things they should NOT have to deal with. Some basic rules...

1. FLUSH. As much as I love to conserve water flushing the toilet is necessary in college. I do not want to see what you had for breakfast, or know if you are 'on the rag' or not. Gross.

2. Pee IN THE TOILET. Boys—lift the seat of toilets when you pee, and if you are not in any state to properly aim, man up and sit down. Rather have you sit down than piss all over the stall.

3. If you sprinkle when you tinkle, please be neat and wipe the seat. If you can't aim (male or female) wipe off any excess.

With the help of each and every one of you, I have faith that we can turn the crappers into sparkling commodes.
Dear Main-Street-boys-whose-mothers-should-feel-shame-and-girlfriends-should-reconsider,

Towards the beginning of the year I was walking down Main Street. When I approached your house I saw a bunch of friends hanging out on the front porch, having a good time. My first instinct was to smile at your obvious revelry, it seemed like you were all really enjoying yourselves. As I passed the front of the house an obvious call was made in my direction:

"Walking alone, somebody's going to get raped tonight..." and then everyone laughed.

My first instinct was to approach the porch and tell you off as morons who have probably never read an entire book in your whole lives. However, I abstained because as boys you were just in a certain "Saturday-night-mindset": a mindset that you have been conditioned to because of your societal position as males.

Or possibly you'd argue that you were just drunk and were just having a good time; and part of having a good time for you is asserting yourself in a loud, domineering manner, at the expense of others. Perhaps, through this form of self-expression, you were merely trying to affirm your identity by doing something shocking and subsequently memorable – as is common during the nighttime revelries of all of us who are caught in the delicate limbo between adolescence and adulthood.

Well, I thought you should know that the next time I passed your house, someone walked out of it, and to my surprise, my heart started to pound. I couldn't believe how fearful I felt. So congratulations! Your self-expression is lasting; so in return, here is something I'd like you to remember: In general, the feeling of security, physical and sexual, by fault of biology - and subsequently history - is a male-dominated privilege. Men can take it away from women, even when they are just joking around with friends. Your joke - or what I'd kindly assume, for your sake, was a joke - the night I passed your house is actually part of a larger reality of sexism - that as men you may not be aware of, for you have never had to deal with it.

So I figure there are four likely ways this letter will be received:

1. You actually are a group of sexist, power-hungry, evil males, and you will be proud of yourselves.
2. You are not a group of sexist, power-hungry, evil males, but you'll still think I am overreacting and will laugh this letter off as nonsense from some radical, condescending, feminist, because (sadly) you clearly do not understand the larger continuum of the oppressive sexist reality that you directly and indirectly propagate through such behavior because fortunately for you - as males - it is not your reality.
3. In fact, you have never ever read an entire book in your lives, and will surely not read this article. Or (and hopefully):
4. This letter will open you up to a perspective that is not your own. You will think something like, "Hey I didn't realize how powerful my words were; next time I will be more conscious with my actions and act more considerately!

Possibly, if this fourth reaction is indeed your reaction, you will feel a little ashamed because as boys - who all have mothers, possibly sisters, and most likely female friends and even girlfriends - you should feel a little ashamed for acting so callously. Please realize that you can make a choice to be just a little more thoughtful of other peoples' positions in life, and realize that what you say really does matter. Plus, a little shame that motivates you to make a conscious choice to be a more considerate person is not something that anyone should ultimately be ashamed of.

Sincerely,

Annie Re

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Hey UC, give me a [fall] break

By Jessica Orbon
jorbon@ursinus.edu

Last week the UC community took a long weekend for some much needed rest and relaxation after midterms, but did that R&R ever really come?

Four days is not long enough! That was the attitude of disappointment on our campus as we returned from a four day fall break. There was an overwhelming feeling of fatigue and stress that filled the air as the remainder of this week brought tests and leftover midterm assignments.

The overall response from students when asked how they spent their fall break was "definitely not relaxing!" Whether students shopped 'til they dropped, were up and out doing family activities, catching up on homework and studying, partying with friends from home or working at their summer jobs, there was nothing "break-like" about this long weekend.

Senior Bobby Oikowitz talked about how he spent his last fall break at Ursinus: "The four day fall break literally felt like a single day. I had so much work to get done that I barely had time to spend with my family; I live at the Jersey shore and I couldn’t even visit the best part of my life, the beach!"

Sophomore Mike Dunlea didn’t even get a chance to go home. However, his thoughts were not so negative. He stated, "I'm from Massachusetts, so I stayed with a friend in Doylestown, which was fun but there wasn't a lot of down time. I guess I would have liked more time to get work done but it was a great break."

With all the stress of midterms and all the excitement and preparation that goes into homecoming, the UC community did not feel ready to be thrown back into the week, especially this particular week. In college, procrastination is an art form. Ursinus students could all major in this, and over fall break, the situation was no different.

Junior, Lindsay Hogan, who is in the process of finalizing her study abroad plans, had this to say: "There's always so much going on this time of the semester. I feel as though fall break has never been at a good time. They should have given us off the week between homecoming and Halloween."

Sophomore Jarod Groome talked about how four days is never enough. When asked why his fall break fell flat he didn't put it so lightly: "rather have no break, than a cease at a bit I'd rather have no break at all than the tease that they called fall break."

Overall, student reactions have not been positive. It is true that our fall break was much needed, but did it come at the right time? Sports teams had barely any time off and the entire student body was immersed in their schoolwork. It is safe to say that our campus is counting down the days until our next moment free from our busy schedules.

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Weekly Comic

drawing by Michael Delaney & words by Tara Leszkwicz

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Excuse me, are these hotdogs organic?

Well, they do have organs...
Bears travel in packs during cross-country season

By Katie Callahan
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When the leaves start to turn and the grass becomes brown, there is always a guarantee that runners can still be found on the Perkiomen Trail trudging away through the changing seasons. As outdoor track and field starts up for the 2010-11 season, cross-country is coming to a close.

This upcoming weekend the men’s and women’s cross-country teams are headed to Johns Hopkins for the Centennial Conference Championship meet. While there, each team will take on fellow conference runners to see where they line up before the Nov. 13 regional meet at Carnegie Mellon followed by a trip to nationals during the weekend of Nov. 20 in Waverly, Iowa for qualified runners.

Unlike the wild, these Ursinus Bears try to run in packs. The men’s side has been fortunate enough to keep their runners healthy and working hard throughout the season. Out of the eight overall top times in UC cross-country history for the men, four of those times were hit this season. Sophomore Sam Stortz currently holds the number two spot while the top seven runners continue to stay between 20-40 seconds of each other in races.

Coach Chris Bayless credits the men’s team on their work ethic at practice and their continued intensity day in and day out to their success so far this season. He said, “I had high expectations, and I think the team had high expectations...it helps that 3-4 of the top guys are in the same training mindset,” Bayless also mentioned that members on the men’s team, “have to lose,” and that determination rubs off on the others.

“Upperclassmen understand the training methods and training philosophy,” Bayless said while continuing to mention that it is a good way for the underclassmen to learn what is expected of them at practice and outside of practice.

Unlike in years past, the team is maturing faster and taking care of their bodies, diets, and attitudes to focus more on their sport rather than their social ranking. Bayless predicts the team grabbing fifth overall in the conference meet but coming back even stronger next year.

On the women’s side it has been a daunting journey; leaving 5-6 of their original top ten runners injured for the majority of the season, top marks at conferences may not be in the team’s future. After the initial “welcome back” time trial in August, the times looked promising for the women to finish in the top three at conferences. The mentioned injuries set them back dramatically.

“It’s frustrating,” said Bayless, but he says he understands that injuries happen and he tries not to dwell on them. He continued with, “You have to decide are you injured or hurt or is it just an ache or pain?” Knowing the difference could make or break an athlete’s season.

Last year’s women’s team didn’t lose anyone to graduation but the injuries of strong veteran runners gave room for other runners to push themselves closer to the top of the running chain. Bayless mentioned that this is what they will need for next year when they lose two out of the top original seven runners come May. He is convinced that what will be left is a, “young nucleus” ready to grow.

With so many injured athletes on the women’s side it is hard for a coach not to think about the “what-if” factor, but Bayless maintains that, “You can’t think about people that are not here [and you] have four years—if you get hurt, you get hurt. It is what it is.”

Running, unlike most sports, gives you one chance to make your mark on conference standings. Traveling mainly throughout the metropolitan area during the regular season, the conference meet gives the runners a chance to really put their necks out on the line.

Coach Bayless mentioned that the conference has gotten harder overall, and that one year can’t necessarily estimate the upcoming year. He offered the example of Haverford’s women’s team from last year when they weren’t making headlines to now where they are ranked 3rd in the region. Recruitment, team attitude, and the health of the athlete are all factors in making a strong team.

Bayless is convinced that each runner believes in the program and is willing to work to make it that extra step. If you are in the area, check out each team run this Saturday and Johns Hopkins.

UPCOMING GAMES:
Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010
W Soccer vs. @ Johns Hopkins
11:00 a.m.

M/W XC Conference Championships
@ Johns Hopkins
12:00 p.m.

Volleyball vs. @ Johns Hopkins
1:00 p.m.

Football vs. @ Moravian
1:00 p.m.

M Soccer vs. @ Muhlenberg
3:00 p.m.

Are you ready to be the next sport’s writer? Contact section editor Nick Pane to find out what you can be a part of.

Women’s rugby takes on Scranton this Saturday

By Sara Sherr
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The women’s rugby team has had a tremendous first half of the season so far, and the results have left the team with a 3-1 record. This record has been sparked, among other things, by more players than the team has seen in previous years.

“The biggest difference in this team from when I started coaching in the spring of 2009 is the number of players,” Coach Jared Good says. “When I joined, the majority of the team was freshman that are now juniors and seniors were sophomores and freshmen who were forced into the roles. We’ve been working the same system for over a year now, so we’ve finally been able to take control of matches and use our advantages.” Obviously, one of these advantages is having a larger number team which means a lot of girls are starting to play as their own team.

“I think a large aspect of rugby is team chemistry,” Good says. “It’s a lot easier coming to practice when you’re beaten and bruised in the rain, heat, and snow when you know that all of your friends are going to be there too.”

“We’re a close-knit group that shares a lot more than an interest in rugby,” Personette says, “We spend three hours a day and half of Saturday together, and that makes us pretty close. There really isn’t an age separation at all, either.”

In addition to team cohesion, O’Connor attributes the successiveness of the season to Good. “Another aspect of the team’s successes is the fact that we’ve had a great coach for the past two and a half years,” she says. “We’re finally starting to see the results from all the hard work he’s put into us.”

“People might not realize the amount of hard work, dedication, and toughness needed to play rugby,” Good says. “This team has formed the type of tight bonds that are really sort of unique to rugby.”

And with this hard work, dedication, and perhaps most important, toughness, the Lady Bears have been racking up confidence by beating teams that would previously have beaten them. The team started the season by beating Lehigh, a team that proved victorious over Ursinus last spring.

“Beating Lehigh was a nice emotional win for us,” Good says. “Opening the season by beating a team that had done the same to us to finish last spring was important.”

The season’s games haven’t all been beating up other teams. In fact, the game against Franklin & Marshall was close, ending with a 10-7 Bears victory.

“My favorite game so far was the F&M game,” Personette says. “What I found most impressive was that, since it was such a close game, the other team was losing their head and screaming at not only us, but their own team. We were able to hold it together. While it wasn’t the prettiest rugby we have ever played, we did show that we, as a team, have character.”

The team was able to come away with some important lessons in the match against F&M, but what’s perhaps more important than a win is what the team takes away from a loss.

“My favorite match was our loss to Millersville,” Good says. “Mullersville beat us by a good margin in both the spring and fall last year, so it was good to see us keep them out of the try zone and keep it to 0-6 on two penalty kicks. We kept the ball in their half of the field for the vast majority of the first half...it’s one more broken tackle, one ball bounces a little bit differently and we beat our division’s most proven team. The Lady Bears take on Scranton on Saturday.

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