The Grizzly, February 10, 2011

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Bonners give insight on organization

By Tracie Johnson
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Often the question is asked, what is a Bonner? And often an understated answer is given along the lines of “Oh... that’s the community service group on campus.” Yes, that’s one aspect of Bonner but I can assure you, as an active Bonner Leader, we do a little more than that.

As you can find on the Ursinus website, “The mission of the Bonner Scholars and Bonner Leaders Programs is to transform the lives of students and members, the life of their campuses, their local communities, and the world through service and leadership.” This is well said and very true, but maybe answers from actual Bonner Leaders here at Ursinus will help students better understand.

Ursinus Freshman, and Bonner Leader, Nadir Ali-Young says, “Bonners give insight on organization

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity to participate in Spring intake

By Allison Nichols
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The Ursinus College Greek community will expand this spring with the addition of a chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, a national fraternity.

After an inactive period since 2004, Kappa Alpha Psi is back. The process started last year when four boys; Rod Coplin, Jer-vis Hudson, Jarod Groome, and Luke Wagner, became members of the national chapter of the fraternity. This year, they are going through the same process that they did in 2004 to start a chapter on campus.

In order to start a chapter on campus, the boys had to work with alumni from Kappa Alpha Psi, Ursinus Student Government Association, and Kim Taylor, Assistant Dean of Students. Kappa Alpha Psi received special permission for spring intake this semester, so that they could get the required number of students to start a chapter on campus.

With so many new restrictions on Greek life and the new member education process, it may come as a surprise that Kappa Alpha Psi received permission for spring intake, which is denied to other sororities and fraternities on campus.

“It is not fair for only one organization to educate freshmen; “Greek” is continued to News, page 3.

Future UC President Dr. Bobby Fong receives national award

By Michael Delaney
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On Mar. 15 this year, future Ursinus president, and current president of Butler University, Bobby Fong, will be presented with the 2011 President’s Award by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. The NASPA is the largest organization in the United States dedicated toward student affairs and the administrators who oversee them, and for President Fong to receive such an award stands as recognition of his dedication to service to student excellence.

Fong received the regional President’s Award from the NASPA in 2009, and was nominated for the national award last year. This year, he was re-nominated, and eventually named its recipient, in part thanks to letters of recommendation from Board of Trustees member and Butler alumnus Clarence Crain.

“This is such good news for students that the field is recognizing him as somebody who really cares about students and their achievement and their development and their wellbeing,” said Dean Deborah Nolan, who is also the Vice President of Student Affairs. Nolan mentioned how President Fong has proven his commitment to student affairs at Butler by strengthening the...”

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Food prices are currently at all-time highs. Photo courtesy of gettyimages.com

Tuesday, Feb. 1
JORDAN – The effects of the Egyptian protests are spreading through the Middle East as Jordan’s King Abdullah replaced Prime Minister Samir al-Rifi after weeks of protests calling for al-Rifi to step down. On Tuesday, King Abdullah appointed Marouf Bakhit as prime minister and called on Bakhit to form a new government. However, opposition movement Islamic Action Front called the appointment “inappropriate,” accusing Bakhit of “presiding over corruption, electoral fraud and mismanagement” during his first term as prime minister, which lasted from 2005 to 2007. The Islamic Action Front was quick to point out that there are differences between the protests currently rocking Egypt and the Jordanian protests that led to al-Rifi’s dismissal. “The people there [in Egypt] demand a regime change, but here we ask for political reforms and an elected government,” said the Islamic Action Front’s leader, Hamzeh Mansur. (The Guardian Online)

Thursday, Feb. 3
WASHINGTON – Food prices have reached record highs, the United Nations announced Thursday. The U.N. said that its Food and Agriculture Organization Food Price Index rose to 231 in January, topping June 2008’s record high of 224.1. It is the index’s highest level since the organization began tracking food prices in 1990. Rising food prices are a tough problem for leaders contributing to political turmoil in countries with large instances of poverty and unemployment. Such turmoil has been seen in Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen in recent weeks. Recent natural disasters around the world have contributed to the shortage of food, which has driven prices up. In the United States, a massive snowstorm has affected the growth of wheat and other grains, while flooding and the threat of Cyclone Yasi in Australia have led to a sharp increase in sugar prices. (Reuters, hosted by NewsDaily.com)

Thursday, Feb. 3
HAITI – Election officials in Haiti announced Thursday that former First Lady Michèle Manigat will face singer Michel Martelly in a runoff presidential election that will take place next month. The electoral council’s decision forces government-backed candidate Jude Celestin out of the running. Celestin was hand-picked as the successor to President Rene Preval, but many Haitians are disappointed with Preval and his recovery efforts after last year’s massive earthquake. The Organization of American States found rampant fraud in their analysis of Haiti’s presidential election on Nov. 28 and advised that Haiti’s electoral council stage a runoff between Manigat and Martelly. (The Washington Post Online)

Friday, Feb. 4
CAIRO – Further protests are planned in Egypt on Friday, after violence escalated this week following Tuesday’s announcement from President Hosni Mubarak that he will not seek re-election. Mubarak has claimed that he would like to step down right away, but doing so would only plunge Egypt into further chaos. Since the announcement, protesters and government forces have clashed repeatedly in Cairo’s Tahrir Square. Eight people have died in the violence, and at least 850 were injured. Thursday also saw an increase in attacks on journalists covering the unrest. Vice President Omar Suleiman told state-run TV that he partially blamed the media for the violence, claiming the media has “intensified the youth against the nation and the state.” Suleiman and other top government officials have also vowed to “hold accountable” those using violence. (CNN Online)

International News with Lisa: Protests and Food Prices
By Lisa Jobe
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"Fong" is continued from front page

institutions, Butler and Ursinus, as well as his family, and all at his own expense. He has already promised to visit campus at least twice a month to continue developing a relationship with the school, most of which is aimed toward students, as evidenced by the four and a half hours he spent last week answering student questions in a USGA sponsored town hall.

“Everything we heard [from students] has been really positive,” said Nolan. “He’s very eloquent and very bright, very well versed on higher administration and best practices nationally and internationally. He’s a leader in his field.”

President Fong has clearly dedicated much time and energy to dealing with student initiatives at both Ursinus and Butler, even though his presidency here does not begin until July 1, a fact which, if it does not deserve an award from NASPA, then it surely deserves our recognition.

“We’re here not simply to teach subjects, but to teach students,” Fong conveyed, “and all of a sudden then mastery of a subject becomes an important subset of a whole Ursinus student.”

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Ursinus College plays host to W. R. Crigler

By Joshua Walsh
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This weekend, Ursinus hosted Dr. W. R. Crigler, the first black graduate of Ursinus. In a reception in Wismer Parent’s Lounge and a speech in Sunday’s chapel service, Crigler, class of 1956, spoke on his experience at Ursinus, developing leadership, and opening up to new experiences.

“I’m the most unlikely person in the world to be standing here based on what my youth was and where I came from,” said Crigler at his Reception on Friday. Crigler grew up with his great-aunt and uncle, neither of whom could read nor write. As a result, college was not on Crigler’s radar until he got drafted.

He was recruited to be an “ice breaker” for minorities on campus; other African Americans had come to Ursinus, but none had stayed long enough to graduate. Crigler was the first to break that mold.

His achievements did not come without challenges, however. Like many African American students, Crigler had substandard educational expectations in school which crippled him when it came time for the stringent demands of college academics: “I had a lot of ground to make up, a lot of ground,” said Crigler of his pre-college education. For example, he had not had sufficient training in a language prior to enrolling in Ursinus.

He took Latin I and II in six weeks in private classes with a local black activist to be on track to graduate. Because his guardians could not read or write he had to monitor his own academic progress: when he got his first biology grade back, he knew that college was going to be a lot harder than he thought.

Ultimately however, Crigler succeeded where others had failed, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1956. He continued on, earning a Masters of Public Administration from Pepperdine University in 1975, and finally a Doctor of Philosophy in from Claremont Graduate School in 1979.

He has served as the Executive Director of the Chapparral Treatment Center, Chairman of the Division of Humanities and Social Scientists at Benedict College, and more. But no matter how far Crigler came, he always held a special place in his heart for his alma mater. “There is nothing on this planet that I would trade for what Ursinus did for me,” Crigler emphasized to the audience of students, administrators, and professors at his reception. Most of all, Crigler urged the students present at the reception to make the most of their short time at Ursinus.

“Use every second of this experience to build upon yourself and to do the things that you planned to do and some things that you hadn’t planned. It’s invaluable, there’s nothing like it. It gave me a foundation and it was a good foundation.”

Two quotes epitomized the core of Crigler’s beliefs: “Here I am. Send me,” and “It is finished.” Using these quotes, Dr. Crigler stressed the importance of taking up difficult tasks, even if one feels unprepared at the time, and finishing said tasks, as did Moses, Jesus, and himself. Yet Crigler does not consider himself to be anything more than a man. “I am not the exception,” he said emphatically to the congregation. “Every one of you can do more than I have done, because you have so much more than I had when I was where you all were.”

Students were proud to have had the chance to meet the first black graduate of Ursinus. Kayla Tapia, Class of 2014 said “It’s interesting to see where we’ve come from.” “It’s just really neat to see how much we’ve grown… and how far the college has come.”

Brendan Irving echoed Kayla’s sentiment, saying he thought it was great because he’s not only the first black graduate of Ursinus but he’s a well-accomplished graduate of Ursinus and it just shows what Ursinus can do to someone—[that someone can] come from Ursinus and be a doctor.

All minority students owe some debt to Dr. Crigler, who came to Ursinus when there were no supports for disadvantaged minority students and did what no one had done before. His example shines for all students who come after him—challenging us to excel despite adversity.

“Greek” is continued from front page

Kappa Alpha Psi had the same opportunities in the fall as the rest of the Greeks, because they were already chartered. They attended Greek Week, so why couldn’t they rush and educate in fall 2010? said Chris Capone, a member of Sigma Rho Lambda. Capone expresses the feelings of many Greek members on campus, who feel they should have the same right to spring intake if their organization is struggling to acquire new members.

When asked why Kappa Alpha Psi was given permission for spring intake, Taylor said, “This is what we have done for every Greek organization to help them get started. It can be very difficult to start an organization.” Kappa Alpha Psi is especially in a rush to become an officially recognized organization because the fraternity is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Jarod Groome, the president of Kappa Alpha Psi, agreed that the process of starting a new organization can be very difficult.

“We did not do full recruiting and new member education because we did not generate enough interest within the time frame of when we were initiated in the spring and the time in the fall that new member education would begin. The interests that we did have did not meet the 2.5 grade point average requirement. Now we have a larger amount of interest, and they are qualified. It is our 100 year anniversary and we are excited to add members on campus,” said Groome.

Despite many recent restrictions, administration and Greek members still want the Greek community to flourish. Taylor stated, “Greek community adds something right to the campus. It gives students an opportunity to get involved. We just want Greek life to continue safely.” Kappa Alpha Psi will be an excellent addition to the Greek Community at Ursinus. They list one of their goals for the Ursinus College campus as, “To serve as an example of social and fraternal leadership and brotherhood to the Ursinus College campus and community.” In addition, the national organization hopes to see its African American heritage will help promote diversity at our school. “This is a possibility to bring more diversity to our school. Kappa Alpha Psi is a well known national fraternity so maybe if a high school student has a father or uncle alumni it would attract them to our school,” said Taylor.

Although they will definitely be a positive addition to the campus, some of the Greek community is a little wary about the reappearance of Kappa Alpha Psi. “Part of the concern was they kind of appeared out of nowhere,” said Taylor when Kappa Alpha Psi introduced themselves in front of the Inter-Greek Council.

Kappa Alpha Psi will have a short period for new member education this spring. They have their first paperwork meeting Feb. 19, and by Mar. 20. Kappa Alpha Psi will officially have new members to start their chapter at Ursinus College.

Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award:

For many years Ursinus has recognized faculty members for outstanding teaching by awarding the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award. The award is given, as part of Commencement ceremonies in May, to a full-time faculty member in recognition of teaching excellence. The recipient is selected from among faculty members nominated by students, and recommended by a faculty committee comprised of previous recipients of the distinguished teaching award.

Any student may nominate one or more faculty members. Individual nominations must be submitted on separate forms to the Office of the Dean of the College by Friday, March 18, 2011.
GRE makeover and helpful hints to ace the test

By Sarah Bollert
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The GRE (Graduate Record Examination), an admission requirement for many graduate schools, is getting a makeover for August 2011. According to ets.org, Educational Testing Service, “the GRE revised General Test will replace the current GRE General Test, giving you the advantage of a better test experience.”

So as a student applying to graduate school, maybe your standardized testing skills need a makeover as well? The last experience you had with this kind of test was probably when you took the ACTs or SATs. Of course, preparation costs time, and could be costly monetarily as well — but there are free resources available.

At ets.org, “Free, official test preparation materials for the computer-based and paper-based GRE® tests are available to anyone who registers for the GRE tests worldwide or who visits [the] website.” These materials include Powerprep® software which consists of “two computer-based GRE General Tests, sample Analytical Writing topics, scored sample essays and reader commentary, test-taking strategies, a math review, and test tutorials.”

PDFs are also available off of the website. They include the General Test Practice Book, and introductions to and preparation for the Analytical Writing Section, Verbal and Quantitative Sections, and Math review. If you’re looking for more help, you can also check out Kaplan’s website, kaptest.com.

Kaplan’s website includes a helpful blog entitled “Getting into Grad School.” The blog features various writers and consistently updated entries which include tips and questions from the test. The most recent entry compares preparing for the GRE to training for a marathon with pieces of advice like: “Don’t be afraid to move on. The key to a marathon is making it to the end of the race... Don’t treat each question like a personal crusade. Stay focused on your overall score, NOT on each individual question.”

Ursinus will be hosting a free practice exam at through Kaplan, Saturday, Feb. 26 at 12:00 pm in Pfahler. There will also be a Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions GRE Information Session on Feb. 22 at 7:00 pm; the location is to be announced. Pay attention to Career Services emails for more information as these events approach.

However, one Ursinus senior took the opposite approach to preparation. He says: “For the GREs I literally did nothing. I didn’t crack a single practice book or brush up on my vocabulary or anything. I just treated it as something I should, as a college senior, be prepared for. And I think I was. And I think the reason I did so well is because I didn’t allow it to become a frightening test that determines the rest of my life. I didn’t get stressed over it.”

Perhaps the best approach is realizing what kind of test-taker you are, and what kind of preparation (or lack thereof) makes you most comfortable and confident when tackling a test. Don’t forget the simplest of approaches either, which is to eat a hearty breakfast and get a good night’s sleep before attempting to tackle this marathon of exams. Do what works best for you, and best of luck!

Calvin Levels performs one man show in the Blackbox

By Tracie Johnson
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Last Tuesday in the Blackbox theatre, Tony Award Nominee Calvin Levels performed his one-man play Down from the Mountain. The play depicts the life of James Baldwin—novelist, playwright, civil rights activist and essayist.

Levels take the audience on a journey of Baldwin’s life beginning with his early childhood up until the day of his death. He reveals the passion, as well as the social and political consciousness behind James Baldwin’s repertoire of essays, novels and political statements. However, Levels has said this performance “is not about him, it’s about the spirit of Baldwin coming down from the mountain to tell his story and, in the end, relay a message of hope and redemption for America.”

“The main message is a message of love, which first involves self-love,” says Levels. With the words of Baldwin resonating in his speech, Levels said a part of loving yourself requires not lying to yourself or buying into lies. Baldwin once said, “Our opulence is so pervasive that people who are afraid to lose whatever they think they have persuaded themselves of the truth of a lie, and help disseminate it.” In this quote from Nothing Personal, Baldwin speaks to America.

But how did this one-man play come about? “I don’t know. I wanted to do a new project and out of nowhere Baldwin came to me,” said Levels in response to the question, feeling that America could use a bit of Baldwin. In effort to embody Baldwin’s manerism, charm and essence, Levels read all of Baldwin’s works, watched documentaries and interviews.

Levels’ performance recount many of Baldwin’s personal affairs, including past loves, friendships and rivalries. These associations include the likes of: James Baldwin’s mentor Delaney, his idol Richard Wright, various friendships with the likes of Marlon Brando, Lorraine Hansberry and even rivalries with the likes of Langston Hughes. Levels also drew attention to Baldwin’s personal relationships with civil rights activists, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and his zealous dedication to the civil rights movement.

What struck most of the audience, was Levels dramatization of Baldwin’s unapologetic discourse on America’s failure to eradicate social oppression in all forms. Reciting one of Baldwin’s most famous quotes, Levels really grabbed the audience with the line “I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.”

This performance was made possible by the help of Multicultural Services, Bonner, UCARE, the Student Activities Office, and Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN). Continuing with Black History Month, the first African-American to graduate from Ursinus was honored in celebration of Black History Month last Friday in Wismer Parents Lounge. There are more events scheduled to take place later in the month. To find out more contact the Director of Multicultural Services, Paulette Patton, at ppatton@ursinus.edu.
New program brings students and professors closer

By Katie Haldeman
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Ursinus College always tries to provide their students with on campus jobs that not only pay but are interesting and enjoyable. The most recent one, known as TLI, the Teaching and Learning Initiative, began this year. Sophomore David Wagner, gives the inside scoop on what the TLI is, who is involved, why it began, and how others may be able to participate.

The TLI is a new program on campus aimed at creating dialogue between professors and students about creating the best educational environment possible here at Ursinus” Wagner explained. Professor Goldsmith, an English professor, is the director of the program at Ursinus. Professor Goldsmith “was interested in the program at Bryn Mawr and worked with one of their consultants last year to see the merit of the program and how it worked” Wagner shared. Once Goldsmith felt she knew the ins-and-outs of the program she decided to start our own program here at Ursinus. Professor Goldsmith gained support from the Dean’s Office and last semester the TLI began here at UC.

So far there are four consultants, Dave Wagner, Jess Neumann, Jen Beigel, and Sara Hourwitz. Also, there are currently three in the process of being trained. But what do these TLI consultants do? Wagner explains: “Consultants are paired with a faculty member and observe their class once a week for the semester. During each observation consultants take notes on the professor’s teaching methods and everything that goes on in the class. Afterwards the pair meets to discuss the consultant’s notes and what worked and what didn’t.”

The goal of this new program is not to be critical, it is to make classes the very best they can be by working together, student and teacher. “It is important to note that this is not at all punitive” Wagner stresses. “By participating these professors are going above and beyond what is required of them so as to be the best they can be. They should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication to excellence.”

“You’re curious how to become part of the TLI? Well, the process to become a TLI is starting to change a little bit and the specifics are still in the works. The current consultants and professors are currently working to see if an application can be made and there can be an application/ interview process — since not only is this an important role to play but it is also considered a paid position here on campus. Students who are involved are expected to be held to high standards since they are around to provide professors across campus with important and intellectual feedback. “By understanding why professors to what they do in class, we can understand the importance and reasons behind each activity. So next time you’re in class and don’t understand why you’re doing this stupid pointless exercise take the time to stop and think about what the professor is trying to accomplish” Wagner said.

The TLI is a new and upcoming program on campus that truly will provide new successes to our community. It is a matter of making our campus a stronger place, and always bettering ourselves and this is exactly what the Teaching and Learning Initiative is working to achieve.

Bonners is continued from frontpage:

Social Justice, Civic Engagement, Spiritual Exploration, Diversity, International Perspective, and Community Building. These commitments are carried out through service done with community person, individual Bonner projects and the two service trips abroad Bonners embark upon every spring and summer break.

Lindsay Budnick, Bonner Leader and Senior Intern, along with Amanda Finch, does a lot administrative work, working closely under Liz Cannon and Bonner Director, Christian Rice. Budnick and Finch serve the student contacts for Bonners, including helping to send Ursinus Bonners to conferences and helping organize Bonner’s annual Summer Leadership Institute. All Bonners are required to log hours on Bonner’ web based service website, where they are to create community leadership assessments and maintain an order and fairly relevant Bonner student profile.

So, what is a Bonner Leader? Well, there are many answers you can get from that question, both over and understated. But, like any other leadership position on campus, i.e. Resident Advisor or UC ambassador, Bonner is a program where students test their leadership abilities through helping others first. There’s administrative work to be done, amazing opportunities presented, and irreplaceable friendships and bonds essentially formed, but we, as Bonner leaders, never forget the six common commitments held dear by the foundation that has made service and advocacy possible for us.

For students considering becoming a Bonner, there is an application process which is fairly selective and competitive, with fairly large applicant pools. There is an application form to be completed, with two letters of recommendation and an interviewing process included. To give those considering a head up, the interviewers look for students who know how to manage their time fairly well.

Bonners' student profile.

The Jones award recognizes faculty members for outstanding advising and mentoring. The award will be given as part of the Commencement ceremonies in May 2011 to a full-time faculty member. The recipient will be selected from among faculty members nominated by students and recommended by a committee composed of faculty and administrators.

Any student may nominate one or more faculty members. Individual nominations must be submitted on separate forms at the Office of the Dean of the College in Corson Hall by Friday, March 18, 2011.

Internship Profile: Matt Angle

By Sarah Bollert of Career Services

Matt Angle, a senior Biology major with a minor in Exercise and Sports Science, interned with the high school age Central Maryland Lacrosse Club, Team DMC, as Head Coach this past summer in Westminster, Maryland.

A normal work day consisted of making “practice plans,” and handling “all the team communication.” Angle says: “I sent emails and answered any questions that parents [of the players] had.” Angle also “worked with the program coordinator to develop team policies.” As a Biology major, Angle hopes to teach high school students in private or boarding schools, and ideally would like to work as a lacrosse coach for the school’s team.

Angle says that the internship was “a really good learning experience. I learned a lot of what it takes to actually be a coach. People see coaches just for an hour or two a day and they say they’re just out there having fun, they’re just directing things, but there really is a lot more work involved and a lot of time and effort spent.” Angle also found that some aspects of being a coach can be “frustrating because you don’t get the commitment that you’re putting in return [from the players].” The internship “definitely helped my communication skills,” Angle says. “Talking to one on one, communicating with large groups, talking to people who see things in different ways and trying to get everyone on the same page even though we have different ideas of what is actually happening are some of the experiences Angle had in his position as Head Coach. Angle says that the internship and his realization that he’d like to teach and coach, have helped him to be more motivated as a student. He says “I have a passion for coaching, and I saw firsthand that when you’re passionate about something, you’re willing to put that much more effort into being good at it. I’m willing to work a lot harder at the upper level in college than I was freshman or sophomore year because [then] it wasn’t as interesting, it wasn’t something that I really had the drive to be good at.”

Angle says: “I think the internship helped me a lot because I want to teach. The practice and a day’s lesson are very similar in theory. Practices are much more successful when you prepare as much as possible for them. Applying that to a teaching lesson means knowing all the material and being prepared for any questions students may have.”

Angle’s advice to students is that they choose an internship based on their interest and not solely on the fact that it will look good on a resume. He says: “In hindsight I’m glad I chose an internship that I would learn from and is something that I had a great interest in. I’m glad I didn’t try just to choose an internship that would look good on a resume.”

Jones Award for Distinguished Advising and Mentoring, 2011:
America misses the mark when recreating Skins

By Katie Callahan
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Over winter break I decided to do pretty much nothing so I could fully enjoy my potentially long extended vacation. While doing “nothing” I watched the first three series of the British show Skins. Instantly I felt like I had found a hidden treasure on Netflix, and I couldn’t wait to dive into the fourth series.

Before I could do that however, the show premiered in America. Now it’s nearly halfway through MTV’s new American version of Skins, and I can currently say I am a bit disappointed. Besides the surprising amount of similarities between the newly adapted American version and the previous British version, there is just something missing.

It might be the British accent and dialogue that gave the show a certain sense of intrigue and curiosity, or it could have just been the vulgar, sexualized, and manipulative mindsets that these college-age kids seemed to live throughout their daily lives overseas. Regardless, America missed the mark on this one throughout the themes, language, and character adaptation.

Maybe the most disappointing part of the new version was its complete deletion of Maxxie; the completely adorable, blonde-haired, hip-hop dancing, homosexual male. The easy-going, seemingly happy Maxxie was replaced by a lesbian who seems lost with who she is. I am happy that they kept the topic of homosexuality going in this version, but the difference is astounding.

Maxxie and her bestfriend Anwar went through difficult times when Anwar told Maxxie he couldn’t accept that he was gay due to his religion. Instead of Maxxie questioning himself he stayed secure in who he was and faced the situation at hand. It was empowering and in the end things worked out well. It was a shame that this theme couldn’t carry over.

There were a couple differences I did enjoy a bit; like in Monday’s recent episode where Cadie meets up with Charlie and exchanges a few words on pill use. But, there’s something about Cadie that is off from her British character, Cassie. In the British version, Cassie’s parents were never really introduced to the audience. This left a large void where the viewer couldn’t really connect to her. Cassie’s parents give the viewer the impression that maybe her obvious mental illness is perpetuated by the lack of patience of or acceptance being exhibited by her parents. Cassie has this disconnect from the world but where she differs the most is that Cassie continuously looked lost, confused, and ultimately not present in the present. Cadie just falls short of Cassie’s quirky, quirky personality.

In other characters, one thing for sure is that Tony is still a prick. I’m not sure if I can say that in this paper, but it’s the truth. Second generation Tony seems to be a bit more aware of his actions compared to the first version. British Tony seemed to be kind of lost in his adolescence and completely full of himself. This second Tony seems like he is completely full of himself and aware of it.

Besides the mentioned character and theme changes, America automatically “Americanized” every aspect of the show. Generally I wish American television could accept the accent barrier and keep shows in their original context. Although America did well when adapting The Office from the British version, creepy older men to unrealistic hot young moms in the American version are just coming up a few steps too short. My suggestion: stick to the equally unrealistic British version of Skins so you can not only watch a better show but pick up a few slang words as well.

UC Town Hall Meeting proved a bit disappointing

By James Shelton
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It is a terrible occurrence that the recent hate crime committed on our campus was discovered in the wake of celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day and on the eve of Black History Month. I attended the Town Hall Meeting held on Monday, Jan. 31, and I was able to witness many members of the Ursinus community come together in an attempt to address this hurtful issue. I thought it was very promising that so many of us came out to support an attempt toward a solution to this problem.

However, while I believe that the Town Hall Meeting had good intentions, I also believe that its focus was misguided. Around 300 students and faculty gathered together in Olin Auditorium and Dean Nolan described the facts of what the administration knows about the incident. As soon as that was addressed, the discussion was prompted by the question: “What does it mean to live in a diverse community?” When I heard this question, I thought to myself: What does this have to do with what happened? I thought the purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was to address the incident that transpired. The discussion veered away from the topic at hand—that the n-word was carved into a wall in a classroom on campus. I must express my disappointment that the discussion failed to address this incident as a racial issue because that’s what it was. It was not an attack on the diversity of Ursinus, it was an attack on a specific racial group of people that are a part of this community.

I can recall an incident from my time in high school. My high school actually had a community very similar to Ursinus, except on a smaller scale. In my senior year, there was an incident much like this one that occurred. The student body was called together for an assembly where the incident was revealed to us. Then we had an open group discussion much like the Town Hall Meeting, but I remember that some of the students that spoke in the discussion voiced their reactions to what had happened. There were feelings of hurt and fear for being safe in the community that were expressed, but we also expressed an optimism for progress from the event, which I felt was expressed at the Town Hall Meeting as well. After the school assembly, we broke up into smaller groups to discuss the issue further. It was addressed in the school newspaper as well.

These were all good things to really try to deal with such an upsetting event that shook up our community. However, I remember feeling a frustration that after this period of healing and coming together was over, the community returned to the status quo. We acted as if nothing had happened to begin with. I thought it was good to talk about what happened, but I wondered what we were going to do differently to ensure that something like this didn’t happen again. I did not feel that this part of the issue was addressed and the issue itself essentially faded away from our thoughts.

This is the lesson I offer for our Ursinus community: We must not sweep this under the rug and continue to believe that these incidents cannot happen at Ursinus. We cannot continue to avoid the discussion of race and how it affects our community. We must continue to engage in conversations on race so that all of us can truly learn to understand how race shapes all of us, because it does. We cannot ignore this. We cannot assume that truly moving past this incident is going to be easy. Race relations have been an issue in this country since its inception. They continue to be an issue today.

Letter to a writer:

Dear KyuChul Shin,

After reading your article in The Grizzly titled, “Tragedy in Arizona: The work of a madman,” I was surprised and disappointed. I understand your article was listed in the Opinions section of the paper, so my problems with the article were not of your opinions of the tragedy or Loughner’s intentions in this terrible incident. I am concerned with the labeling you used throughout your article. Your first use of the phrase, “mentally disturbed” caught my attention, but what really disturbed me was the phrases “...clear to any sane person...” and “…a deranged man.”

The implication that Loughner was “insane” is probably a correct one, but this word is tremendously outdated. Loughner was likely developing a serious mental illness, and this time of crisis influenced him to act in extreme violence. I was most disappointed with your concluding sentence, in the name-calling of the word “deranged.” Yes, “Letter” is continued to Opinions, page 7.
The demographic of the United States is changing rapidly and it seems that this will not stop anytime in the near future. Recent estimates show that Non-Hispanic Whites now make up less than two-thirds of the nation’s population, and within less than half a century, their numbers could be less than half. While some people fear that this change in demographics will be detrimental to the economic and cultural welfare of the United States, it may actually help this nation in more ways than most people can imagine.

As the nation is continuing to change rapidly, many have begun to question the commitment to diversity here at Ursinus. Many find it somewhat strange that the racial background of the students here does not match the nation’s overall demographic structure. Thus, many are asking the question: What is Ursinus College doing?

First of all, let us all be honest. Ursinus has never exactly been known as the bastion of multiculturalism and multiracial America. Historically, Ursinus has always been mostly White and from Pennsylvania and South Jersey. It is only within the last ten years or so that his begun to change.

Ursinus does not, and probably never will, have the same type of diversity one might find at larger colleges or universities. Nevertheless, that does not mean there is no diversity here whatsoever. According to collegedata.com, the Ursinus campus is 75.4% White. In all honesty, that’s not too far off from the 2008 United States Census estimate of 66% White for the entire nation.

The problem is that many people are using an unreasonable yardstick to determine diversity on any given campus. It seems that the standard many people use is a standard one would only see at the most elite of universities. According to the University of Pennsylvania admissions website, 43.2% of the Class of 2014 identified as a Black, Native American, Hispanic, or Asian student. In all fairness, it is unreasonable for a small liberal arts college to have the same type of diversity a renowned research university with a name that resonates across the world has.

When we talk about diversity, we here at Ursinus have come a long way since our founding. A once predominately White and Pennsylvania/South Jersey community now includes many students of color and students from as far away as the West Coast. Truly this would have been something unimaginable a generation ago. The point is that Ursinus is continuing to improve on its commitment to diversity. Granted this is a slow process with many growing pains (the recent hate crime is one of them) that will take years, possibly decades, to achieve what many people would consider “diversity.” But we, the members of the Ursinus community, can see that we are getting there. We are definitely getting there.

Upheaval in the Middle East: Why students should care

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The recent revolutionary upheavals that have taken place across the Arab world, in Tunisia, Jordan, Yemen and most recently Egypt, have a slew of possible consequences for the international spectrum. Consequences that deserve further consideration.

As college students and semi-adults (a fact that we all try desperately to ignore), we should begin grappling with the implications of major international events such as this. My HIS327 course with Dr. Greason, Controlling Information, has highlighted the dangers of a society enamored with face-value information but lacking care for analytical understanding of this information. Rather than merely knowing of things, a symptom of a society burdened with information overload and the excesses of mass media, perhaps we need to consciously delve below the thin layer of daily news that we absorb to some degree and obtain a deeper knowledge about things. Student newspapers, in my opinion, have the crucial role of stimulating campus discourse on various topics and relating matters of domestic, international or local importance to the members of the Ursinus community.

Well then, let’s stimulate some discourse.

Why is the transitional period in Egypt so worrisome to the United States and other international powers? And if Egypt’s rule indeed changes hands, why should Ursinus students care?

Here’s some background: America emerged from the Cold War as not only the preeminent superpower, but also the global representative for freedom and democracy. While we promote a certain way of life, it’s important to recognize that statecraft requires a plethora of diplomatic maneuvers and state actions, some of which might contradict America’s ideological underpinning to maintain the wave of democratic sentiment across the world has.

More frightening to the US government is the possibility for Middle Eastern democratic transition to usher in a renewed Islamism amongst Arab nations. Groups such as Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, who could make unforeseeable changes to Egyptian domestic/international policy, have the opportunity to gain popular support and possibly damage America relations with key regional allies.

Whether or not such fears are legitimate or justified has yet to be determined. But imagine sitting in President Obama’s shoes. The US clearly supports democracy, but also has to consider the results of democracy in these Arab countries. Losing the stable relationship of a secular ruler such as Mubarak could have tremendous consequences and sour the regional dynamics of the Middle East.

Plus, the United States already has incredible international pressures to deal with. It has yet to stabilize Egypt’s neighbors Iraq and Afghanistan and already pours who-knows-how-much money into its counterinsurgency campaigns. Rogue states such as North Korea threaten America’s Southeastern Asian allies and their regional stability. And America still needs to gauge how to deal with a rising China. A further destabilized Middle East presents another variable to the equation of international relations that raises concern.

In sum, there are innumerable scenarios that could follow the wave of democratic sentiment sweeping the Arab World. As with many others, I’ve yet to determine the likely outcome and make solidified personal predictions. However, I recognize that these events could have dramatic implications for US-Arab relations.

Since we’re dealing with a region which holds a majority of the world’s oil and natural gas reserves, I’m certain that Ursinus students should be concerned with how events unfold in Egypt and neighboring countries. Additionally, Middle Eastern democracy has the opportunity to facilitate increased international cooperation or to possibly sour and follow a path similar to that of a radicalized Iran in 1979. Unfortunately, international actors and intelligence agencies cannot predict what will happen.

However, as college students in this era of international uncertainty, we have the unique opportunity to follow and interpret international events as they occur rather than in hindsight. Interpreting these events on a personal level will be an essential tool to entering adulthood and political consciousness. For these reasons and many more, Ursinus students indeed have some stake in the Middle Eastern upheavals. Does college aim to produce independently minded, self-sustaining individuals who can contribute to society? Well, we’d like to think so. Think of current events as an ongoing CIE-type exercise constantly broadening the understanding of our world and the various factors that shape our lives.

"Letter" is continued from Opinions, page 6

Loughner’s brain was probably not working in an acceptable way, but I think there may have been other ways to express your opinion about this man. I am not making Loughner’s illness an excuse by any means, but I think it is our responsibility in media coverage to be careful in our framing.

I am most concerned with your article because the name-calling and labeling is contributing to stereotypes and misconceptions about mental illness. Individuals with mental illness are afraid to reveal their diagnosis more because they know they will be stigmatized as a result of their disorder. This is a slow process with many growing pains (the recent hate crime is one of them) that will take years, possibly decades, to achieve what many people would consider “diversity.”

I please ask that you are sensitive to these issues in the future. Thank you, Laura Faith.
Murren adds name to history books during season

By Nick Pane
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Although the benchmark for success varies from situation to situation, the concept and idea is virtually the same. Whether the task at hand relates to academics, athletics, or otherwise, history has laid out an established scale, used to determine how one can measure their own performance. For Senior Nate Murren, that benchmark meant achieving 100 wins as a member of the wrestling team. When Murren accomplished his goal, he knew that his legacy at Ursinus had been stamped.

On Saturday, January 22nd, Murren earned 100 and 101 in a home quad match against Johns Hopkins and Gettysburg. It was a career-defining day for the senior as he had finally accomplished his goal. 100 wins is a long time coming,” said Murren, “I never got [to 100 wins] in high school. It was one of those things where, if you were good, you get 100 wins. So to do it in college, it was that much better. It’s a weight off my shoulders, and I felt good.” The road to the centurymark in wins was certainly not an easy one as Murren admitted. The dedication and commitment that it takes to be successful is demanding, something that Murren understands. However, Murren endured the long road that he had set out on upon joining the team his freshman year.

Murren acknowledged that he felt as if he had a chip on his shoulder when he first started his career. “As a freshman, you’re always that guy that has to prove himself on the mat, [and] in the practice room,” said Murren. “For me, I was lucky. As a freshman I got to start, and got a lot of matches. Not everyone has that opportunity. Coming in, I was just trying to wrestle, get a starting spot as a freshman, and make name for myself.” As it turned out, Murren latched on to his opportunity, and made the most of it, becoming a decorated and respected athlete. He pointed out the importance of work ethic and focus, something that is necessary just to get through a season.

It’s no secret that wrestling is one of the most physically demanding sports to the human body. Beyond the physical prowess is also a mental toughness that often cannot be taught. Murren is no stranger to being pushed to his limits, earning Head Coach Bill Racich for a big part of his success. “As a person, [Coach Racich] makes you earn it every step of the way,” said Murren. “Respect, a spot, everything that you get you earn. That’s what he instilled in me. You don’t get anything for free, you work to get it. He’s been a great mentor to me.” Murren has certainly earned everything that he has accomplished, and now the senior can just focus on closing out his career with his benchmark for success comfortably in the rearview mirror.

For Murren, and the rest of the seniors, the end of the road is in sight. However, Murren is taking it in stride, and just focusing on becoming better as the season reaches its latter stages. “Being a part of this team, I’ll never have to do anything this hard again,” Murren said laughing. “Wrestling is a tough sport. You put your body, your mind, your life into the season, [and when] you think about it, it makes you a better person.”

Lombardi Trophy heads home to Greenbay

By Shane Eachus
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As the final seconds ticked off the clock, and the 2010-11 NFL season came to an end, Green Bay, Wisconsin became, for the fourth time in franchise history, home to the champions of the National Football League. On Sunday night the sixth seeded Packers defeated the AFC champion Pittsburgh Steelers by a final score of 31-25. The victory, fitting for a number of cliché reasons, marks the first Super Bowl win for Green Bay since the 1996-1997 campaign, when the team was lead by future hall of famer Brett Favre.

From the onset, the game appeared to be all Green Bay, as the Packers took a 14-0 lead on consecutive first quarter plays from scrimmage. Rodgers delivered a touchdown strike to wide out Jordy Nelson with 3:44 left to play in the opening quarter. After an extra point and kickoff, the Steelers offense took to the field looking to respond, only to find themselves in pursuit of Green Bay safety Nick Collins, as he intercepted a first down pass that fluttered out of the hands of Ben Roethlisberger like a wounded animal. Collins would find his way for a 29 yard score that had the Packers ahead comfortably and with all of the momentum on their side.

The second quarter seemed to be much of the same as Rodgers continued to carve the Steelers defense apart, throwing another touchdown, this one to former Pro Bowl receiver Greg Jennings. However, Pittsburgh would answer with ten points of their own heading into half time, including a touchdown pass for Roethlisberger to veteran Hines Ward, with just 0:39 left on the clock. As the Black Eyed Peas took to the field for a blatantly “safe” halftime show, the score stood at 21-10 in favor of Green Bay. It was during the rather uninteresting intermission performance which brought potentially game changing news for both sides.

Woodson (collarbone) and Driver (ankle) were deemed unable to return to the game, and this seemed to be the game changer for both sides once the second half began. A rather dull, defensive third quarter produced only one scoring drive, which came via the ground, as Pittsburgh’s Rashard Mendenhall scampered 8 yards into the end zone, cutting the Green Bay lead to 4. What was once an 18 point lead was cut down to 3 in the fourth quarter with the Packers remaining ahead by a score of 28-25 with 7:34 left to play, following a Mike Wallace touchdown and Antwan Randle El two point conversion. From there the Packers displayed the character and poise that carried them throughout the season. On their final drive, Green Bay would head down the field and pick up some much needed breathing room, Rodgers would orchestrate a drive resulting in a 23 yard Mason Crosby field goal, which put the Pack ahead by six, forcing Pittsburgh to score a touchdown in the final two minutes of the contest.

The stage seemed set for Roethlisberger to lead yet another last minute Super Bowl winning scoring drive, and redeem his rather damaging off season reputation. The drive began with a couple of completions and the Green Bay defense seemed as though it would crack without its superstar defensive back to lead them to victory. However, for one final time the Packers proved why they were the apex predator of the NFL in its most recent campaign; they regrouped and held it together at the most crucial of moments. After a fourth down incompletion, intended for Wallace, Roethlisberger was forced to head to the sideline, a loser on the field, and a man still struggling to lay his off the field demons to rest.

With the victory, Rodgers did something that his predecessor, Brett Favre, was never able to do, win a Super Bowl MVP award. Perhaps now Rodgers, much like Steve Young did in 1994, can have the monkey removed from his back, and move Green Bay’s franchise forward even further, in pursuit of something else Favre, the future hall of famer could never do; repeat.