



9-26-2024

## The Grizzly, September 26, 2024

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Ursinus College Presents

# THE GRIZZLY

COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH





VOL. 53, ISSUE 2

## New Member Education Begins

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Rush Ice Cream Social!  
Photo Credit: Ash Twomey

Rush week has concluded for the fall semester, bids have been distributed, and decisions have been made. However, acceptance of bids marks only the beginning of a much deeper journey. Have you ever wondered how members of Greek organizations seem to possess such extensive knowledge of their history and traditions? It's not merely a "learn as you go" process. I had the opportunity to sit down with Tilly Dumaine '25, President of Kappa Delta Kappa (KDK), Ursinus College's local gender-neutral sorority, to gain insight into the New Member Education (NME) process.

"New member education is the time that new members get to learn about the sorority, fraternity, or Greek society

that they are joining. They get to learn our history, traditions, customs, and values. Most importantly, NME provides an invaluable opportunity to bond with your line and get to know and bond with the sisters/brothers/siblings of your organization," explains Dumaine when asked to summarize NME.

To ensure full integration of new members, the education period spans approximately six weeks, concluding just before Halloween this year. To maintain academic focus and foster a positive mindset, Greek organizations are prohibited from hosting parties during this period in order to create authentic bonds with new fellow brothers and sisters. Dumaine adds, "My favorite thing about NME is helping facilitate

new friendships and watching everyone come together as a sisterhood. Witnessing the love, support, and cheer shared between new members, lines, and sisters is truly special."

Behind the scenes, both new and current members are hard at work even before the education process begins. Each new member is required to attend a pre-NME meeting where expectations and anti-hazing policies are thoroughly reviewed. Anti-hazing is a significant priority within the Ursinus community, and plans for New Member Education must be submitted by the organization and reviewed in advance to ensure that no activities are potentially harmful to students. This precaution fosters an early sense of trust between new and



# New Member Education Begins (con't)

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current members. Dumaine notes, “A fair amount of time and preparation goes into planning NME. We must coordinate busy schedules and determine how and when to teach different things and do certain activities. The difficulty and effort is mostly in the careful coordination required.”

When asked whether it is solely the New Member Educator’s responsibility to educate, or if the entire organization is involved, Dumaine responded, “New Member Educators are the primary trainers of new members. We love having the sisters involved in the NME process. For certain activities, sisters directly participate, and at other times,

they are there to support and encourage the new line.”

For those unfamiliar with the term, “lines” in sororities and fraternities refers to the familial structure within the organization. It includes a system of “bigs” and “littles,” similar to parents and grandparents. A “big” mentors a new member, the “little,” throughout the transition period, guiding them beyond what is covered in New Member Education. Eventually, that little becomes a big, with the former big assuming the role of a grandparent type figure. While lines can be more complex, this basic structure captures the essence of the system.

When asked to share a fond memory from her NME experience, Dumaine recalled, “During my NME journey, I loved the special activities my line would do together. I look back fondly on the camaraderie we shared and the bonds we made.” The upcoming weeks hold much to anticipate for new members of KDK, as well as those of Greek Orgs around campus. Through various sources, NME is always held in high regard as being an enriching experience for both its leaders, and newcomers as the tradition is upheld.

Tilly Dumaine '25  
Photo Credit: Tilly Dumaine



# October is *Lantern* Submission Month

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Ursinus writers, your moment in the sun has returned: October is *The Lantern’s* submission month.

As one of the longest-running literary magazines in the United States, *The Lantern* has been in publication since 1933. It has been a fixture in the Ursinus community since its inception. Ninety-eight different editors-in-chief and thousands of works have contributed to its illustrious history, and this year will add another chapter.

This year is particularly notable, however. For the first time since 1987, creative writing professor Jon Volkmer will not be advising the operation due to transitioning toward retirement. *The Lantern’s* torch has now been passed to fellow creative writing professor

Dr. Katie Schmid Henson. When asked about the transition, Dr. Volkmer was not worried. “The transition is easy because Dr. Henson is a professional who knows how literary magazines work, and she has the people skills to assemble and guide a great staff...I look forward to watching it grow and evolve in both its editorial processes and its visual presentation. Dr. Henson brings a fresh perspective on both.”

*The Lantern* accepts works in four categories: fiction, creative nonfiction, visual arts, and poetry. Artists can typically submit up to four pieces. Additionally, one can apply to be a reader or editor on the staff. This year, there is a one-credit course for aiding in creating and promoting the magazine.

One person who is very familiar with the ins and outs of *The Lantern* is junior Naila Twyman. Twyman, a reader for the magazine since her freshman year and the assistant editor for two years running, still gets enjoyment from *The Lantern* and Ursinus’s writing community at large. “The best part, in my opinion, is reading all the submissions,” Twyman stated. “I came to Ursinus because I fell in love with the small writing community here, and reading all the submissions helps me get to know my fellow peers. I find that everyone has their own unique voice and it’s an honor to be able to read and get to know each contributor.” In addition to managing the emails sent out to the staff, judges, and contributors, Twyman reads every



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# October is *Lantern* Submission Month (con't)

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*Lantern* submission and gives her opinion on what pieces should be included in the year's edition.

One notable contributor to *The Lantern* since her arrival is Catherine Stump. Stump, a junior English major and Film minor, won the poetry prize in the 2022-2023 edition for her poem, *Taxi Driver Savior Complex*, and the prestigious Creager Prize last edition for her work, *Vagabond Fishermen*. Despite her success, Stump had her reservations about submitting to *The Lantern*. "I've always been a bit shy about sharing my work and I've definitely had my doubts, especially with pieces that explore themes that are deeply personal

to me," Stump shared. "But one thing I love about writing is the quiet communication that happens between an author and their reader. If people can read what I put out there and walk away with something, whether that something is confusion, hate, praise, or inspiration, then I'm satisfied. I love being vulnerable that way."

Ursinus students can submit their works throughout October, though *The Lantern* magazine won't be released until the spring. Both Volkmer and Stump highly advise students to give it a go. "Read and follow the guidelines. Edit your work carefully," Volkmer wrote. "If you get a rejection, resist feeling

bitter or hurt. All writers get rejections; most of us get lots of rejections. If your work gets accepted, cooperate with the staff, provide [a] bio blurb the first time you're asked, and show up to read and celebrate when the magazine is launched!" Stump, despite her shyness, also gave a tidbit of advice. "We're all storytellers," she said, "so don't be afraid to take a risk and share. It's a wonderful process with a high reward."

More submission information will be sent out via email. Keep an eye out for *The Lantern* in the spring!

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## Yik Yak Culture

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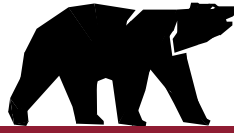
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In a world with expansive social media options, many college students have found their place. Yik Yak, a location and group-based app where users can comment on and communicate with each other about a wide array of topics, has taken Ursinus students by storm. Users can join groups specific to their college, and Ursinus' group has already been highly active this semester. The catch, though, is that every user is anonymous. This offers an opportunity for individuals to share their raw opinions, insights, and ideas on a platform that a significant portion of the campus community views. They discuss everything from party locations to food reviews to events going on around campus. Some recent trending posts include the outraged - "Why does upper always gotta lie to my face about what pizza they got" - and the more humorous, "Ain't no way wis played the titanic

song and then switched up to In Da Club right after," among other hilarious hot takes.

As one can imagine, Yik Yak has become a form of entertainment for many Ursinus students. I interviewed an avid Yik Yak user here at Ursinus, and he had a lot to say about the topic. When asked if he thinks Yik Yak has had a positive impact on our college community, he simply says, "Honestly, no. It's not meant to be taken seriously; it's just jokes and commentary. If you take it seriously it can be harmful, but if you take it as it is, no harm is done and everyone's happy." Many sports teams have been a hot topic among Yik Yak users. I asked him if he thinks Yik Yak's commentary on sports teams and the players have contributed negatively to the public's view of those teams. He remarked, "In the grand scheme of things, no, I don't think it really mat-

ters." I then asked him if he thinks the app has bonded the Ursinus community together in any way, and he replied, "It has kind of bonded the...team together. In some ways, it definitely has bonded our community together. It's something people can laugh and joke about together." This thought was something that can resonate with many students around campus, with the commentary regarding the app creating a kind of noticeable camaraderie among friend groups. When I asked the Yik Yak user if he had any last comments about the social media app, he commented, "Don't take it too seriously, it's meant to be fun. People should enjoy it as it is and take everything with a grain of salt." For now, it appears that Yik Yak will remain a hot topic that ties our college community together.



## *Madeline Hepburn is Missing: A Short Story by Ze'ev Shaheen*

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**A**fter the disappearance of a young woman named Madeline Hepburn, Martin Wright is brought in for questioning. Wright is a stranger with a checkered past in a new town and an inclination for conversation. The story is formatted as a monologue as he tries to beat a polygraph test and get the detective off his trail.

"*Madeline Hepburn is Missing* watches a man dissolve into his insanity and tangle himself in his own web of lies. It's a story with a lot of clues and details that let the reader piece together what really happened," says Ze'ev Shaheen '25 about his creative short story, completed during Summer Fellows 2024. The short story originally started as a class assignment. The prompt was to write a 600-word story that gets interrupted or diverted in some way. Shaheen "immediately thought of trying to tell a story but being interrupted by a loud noise. That eventually turned into a polygraph test."

The piece begins: **"I want to make it clear that I'm here of my own volition. I volunteered to provide the - be it very limited - amount of information that I know. Purely out of the want, or rather the need to be a good samaritan."**

"The whole story is a monologue, so I had to develop a character who liked to hear himself talk. Martin has such a superiority complex that I could just write rants about things like coffee as a way of conveying his personality," states Shaheen.

During Summer Fellows 2024, Shaheen worked with Professor Shane Kowalski, Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing. Shaheen explains that working with Kowalski one-on-one is a different experience than in the classroom. Shaheen says, "He has a deep appreciation for stories in the classroom. But when we're both able to focus on one story it's easier to get into the meat of what makes the story breathe." Every week Shane would send Shaheen a "Weekly Weird" update.

Shaheen says that these "included movie clips, short stories, news articles, and songs that he thought would help my writing process. I still listen to one of the songs he sent me whenever I'm in a writing slump."

While desiring to share that his creative process was idealistic, that it consisted of him sitting at a desk and letting the words flow naturally, Shaheen says, "What actually happened was I would slump on my couch and stare at the blank document until suddenly I hit the word count. A surprising amount of my work was actually watching movies or reading books, trying to get an understanding of why I liked those stories."

A big difficulty that Shaheen faced while writing *Madeline Hepburn is Missing* was believing in its potential. "All artists are concerned about how good their art actually is, and I am no exception," Shaheen says. Almost every day after writing, Shaheen would sit with many doubts about his writing's quality. He says, "I don't have a cure for it, but I do know that sometimes you just have to take a risk. Submit it even if you think it's bad. At the end of the day if you put in the effort, chances are someone will see the potential that you couldn't."

"Being able to get away from reality through fiction is my biggest drive," states Shaheen. Sci-fi/Fantasy and Horror are big inspirations for him, as he says, "I am in love with the idea of how in the face of otherworldly threats we are the most human." In this aspect, Mike Flanagan comes to Shaheen's mind, as he says, "Flanagan's horror TV shows to me are more about confronting your humanity than the ghosts that torment the characters."

Right now, Shaheen is applying to graduate schools for creative writing. Shaheen wants to continue learning about stories and how to tell them. "As of what the far future holds, I just want to keep stories in my life, even if I don't write them for a living," he says.

"I have two pieces of advice for writers. Be passionate and be weird. You have to love what you do when it comes to writing. Art is such a personal and human experience and if you let yourself forget what makes you human and passionate then your writing will suffer. Don't be afraid to write wild stories, there is an audience for your crazy ideas," Shaheen says. It's safe to say that, while Madeline Hepburn may be missing, what's certainly not missing is Shaheen's creativity and talent.

Ze'ev Shaheen's short story *Madeline Hepburn is Missing* is available to read on the Ursinus Digital Commons page in the "English Summer Fellows" section.



Ze'ev and his mentor Shane Kowalski

Photo Credit: Dr. Jon Volkmer



# Love of the Craft

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Minecraft, a highly acclaimed voxel-based sandbox game initially launched in 2009, offers players the freedom to construct and design virtually anything they envision while also exploring pre-generated worlds. This past week, I had the opportunity to sit down with a seasoned Minecraft player, known by his in-game alias @NotBJeff, for an in-depth conversation about what keeps him engaged after all these years.

**Q: How, when, and why did you get started playing minecraft?**

A: "I originally started playing Minecraft through my neighbor, who was showing me the game on his iPad. I was 8 at the time, and I started watching Minecraft videos on YouTube because of it which really got me into the game. I fell in love with the game when I first touched it."

**Q: What drives your continued participation in this game?**

A: "Minecraft is a sandbox game, leaving the enjoyment of the game up to the player and their creativity. I think my favorite thing about Minecraft is that I never get bored of it. There's always something new to explore, build and create. I still play Minecraft primarily because I have so many ideas that I'd like to expand upon the game."

**Q: How has Minecraft impacted your life?**

A: "Minecraft changed the way I socialize with people, more specifically I started making lots of friends online and it allowed me to get out of my comfort zone socially, even if it's online. Watching Minecraft videos on YouTube, I became very involved with internet culture and it allowed me to explore new interests online and in person. Minecraft allowed myself to embrace my own creativity as well."

**Q: What is your favorite Minecraft build?**

A: "Naming my favorite build in the game is hard, but recently it's my end portal temple. I created a pyramid-like hole in the ground that spans 100 blocks wide, at the bottom of which is the end portal."

**Q: What is your favorite mob?**

A: "My favorite mob is the Enderman because of the allure I had towards it as a kid. It's just a fun and unique creature that adds personality to the game in my opinion."

**Q: Do you use mods?**

A: "I don't use mods personally, though I believe they are one of the best parts about the game. It sucks that they're primarily limited to the Java edition of the game where all the great mods are. Mods allow personalization and thousands of different play styles while keeping the game feeling relatively the same. Mods have been an extremely important part of Minecraft's history and culture. I would argue that Minecraft is as popular as it is today because of mods and how they shaped the community."

**Q: Anything you want us to know?**

A: "I listen to Minecraft Volume Alpha and Beta on occasion and sometimes when I go to sleep. C418 has made amazing soundtracks for the game and it is unfortunate that he doesn't work with Mojang anymore."

As the interview wrapped up, it became clear why Minecraft continues to captivate @NotBJeff after all these years. The game offers endless possibilities, serving as a platform for creativity, connection, and constant discovery. For @NotBJeff, it's more than just a pastime—it's a space where imagination thrives and new experiences are always within reach.

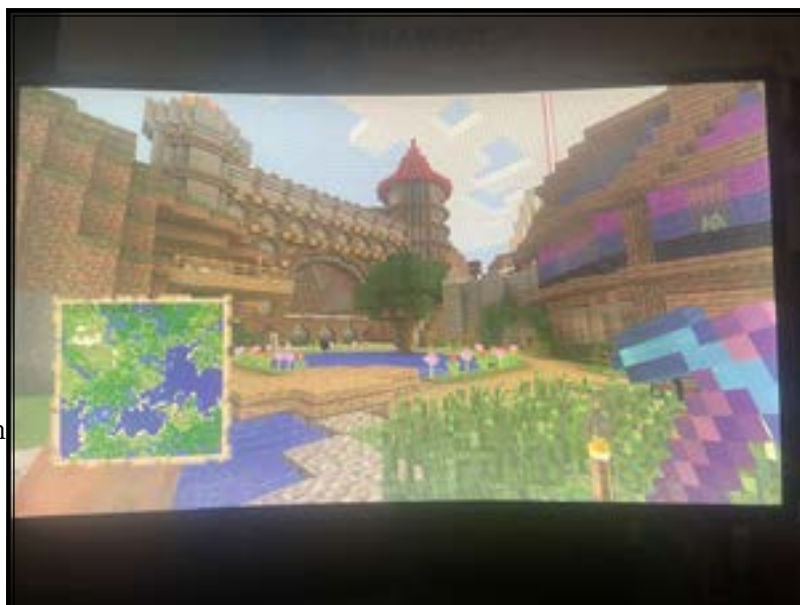


Photo Credit:  
@NotBJeff



## PSA: Flush the Toilet!

Estella Bower

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Flush the toilet. As college freshmen, I thought we would all know how to act in the restroom. To my shock and horror, I have discovered people still can't flush their pee. This is ironic, given the many restrictions on what we can and can't flush. We all know you can't flush wipes, paper towels, and sanitary products; there are signs in every bathroom about it. Yet I still walk into the women's bathroom on my floor and find an unflushed toilet with urine or an unflushable pile of toilet paper. Not only is this unsanitary, it's annoying. We all must share the bathrooms, and flushing someone else's doo-doo is not what I want to do. Do.

Below is a list of bathroom manners I was taught as a child to serve as a quick reminder:

**Wipe after finishing your business.** Wipe your bum, wipe your seat.

**Flush the toilet.** I don't care to know about the state of your urine or feces, but I can tell you're dehydrated and not eating enough fiber.

**Only flush the 4 P's: Poo, Pee, (toilet) Paper, Puke.** Anything else busts the pipes and makes everyone's life harder. If touching the handle is gross to you, flush with your foot.

**Wash your hands, even if it's just pee.** Everything that exits your body is waste. Dirty hands are dirty hands all the same.

**If you clog the toilet, call maintenance.** No one in your dorm will know it was you (unless there's a witness), and leaving it there means there's one less toilet for everyone.

While it's true there are signs in every bathroom telling people what not to flush, there are no signs talking about what is appropriate to send down the toilet. Toilet paper is the only non-waste thing allowed to be flushed. Toilet paper is designed to be sent through sewage pipes and disintegrate in the system; no other paper, cloth, or material will do that.

'Flushable' wipes are not, in fact, flushable.

They do not break down as quickly and are a main cause of the plumbing issues here at Ursinus. Piles of these wipes and other various items have to be removed by facilities whenever there's a clog. To do this, they shut off the water, creating a problem for anyone who has to use it.

Having to wait for an unspecified amount of time to shower or use the bathroom because there's no water is extremely annoying considering students already feel pressure to be in and out of the bathroom quickly.

Obviously sharing a bathroom with a bunch of random people is not an ideal situation, but carelessly (or intentionally) making it worse is funny to nobody but yourself. I don't think anyone takes pleasure in flushing another's waste, but they can now find pleasure in knowing they didn't make anyone flush theirs.



(Photo Credit: Estella Bower)





## Women's Soccer Soars To Great Start!

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Of all the biggest moments in soccer, the corner kick may be most impactful. A chance to attack the goal uncontested, corner kicks provide an opportunity great football clubs must take advantage of. It was the Ursinus Bears who felt this pressure just nine minutes into an exhilarating non-conference matchup with the Widener Pride, with Senior Grace Senese lining up for a potential game-changing play. Could the Bears get off to a hot start and take advantage? Or would the offensive inconsistencies of their 2023 team continue to plague them? The kick sailed into the midfield, and first-year Kaleigh Evans rocketed it through the goal, as the Bears' families roared in glee. By making plays when it mattered most, this team is giving fans a different feeling than the ones that came before it.

For the Bears, it's been a long journey to make it to this moment of success. The team finished 0-3 over their last 3 games of conference play in 2023, scoring a combined two goals as the defenses of rivals Muhlenberg, Dickinson, and Gettysburg stifled them. The team knew it had to find answers, seeking to match up against the competition. So far, those answers have come

in large part from a group of first-years in Taylor Pezulich, Kaleigh Evans, and Emma Woch. The Bears have dominated the non-conference portion of their schedule, with a 5-0-1 record. Pezulich and Woch have provided a steady presence as forwards, often using their speed and aggressiveness to press the opposing defense and create great shots on goal. The players have started 5 and 4 games respectively, as their contributions have made them nearly impossible to take off the pitch. That's without mentioning Evans, who has begun her Ursinus career with pure dominance offensively. The freshman leads the conference (as of 9/18/2024) with 8 goals and is third in shots on goal with 12, converting her shots on goal at a ridiculous 67% clip. Her scoring has been central to the Bears' offense, as they've looked to get her looks around the goal and relied on her elite shot-making to aid them in tough situations. With the impact of these three first-years, it's hard to not believe in a turnaround for the Bears offensively as they approach conference play.

While lots of turnover has occurred for Ursinus' attack, consistency seems to be the key for the Bears defensively. The team returns lockdown defenders

Maddie Jolie '27, Holly Joseph '27, and Paige Flaugh '26, giving them veteran leadership to defend their side of the pitch. All three showcased their talent this past Wednesday night, holding the Susquehanna offense to just one goal and keeping the River Hawks out of the midfield at all times. The intensity which these Bears bring on a nightly basis surely makes things easier for goalkeeper Mandy Carideo '24, who has allowed just two goals in the past four games with her own stellar play. Through the strength of Ursinus' defensive veterans, the team should continue to dominate possession in conference play, setting them up for success.

It's hard not to be excited about this Ursinus squad as they move towards conference play, looking like a complete team on both ends of the pitch. But after an up and down 2023, conference play will be a big test. Ursinus faces two tough conference opponents over these next two weeks in Johns Hopkins and Washington College, giving us an early look into the competitiveness of this Bears team in 2024. But with a strong, balanced attack, the Bears are on the prowl, ready to shock the conference with this new-look group.

Defender Maddie Jolie  
'27 Battles for the Ball!!  
(Photo Credit: David Morgan)





# Men's Soccer Kicks Off With Success!

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With top-tier performances in their two most recent games, Men's Soccer is dominating this season with 5 wins and 1 tie heading into their next match. The team is "in good spirits," according to goalkeeper Zach Matik '25, after a dominant win over Eastern, as they work towards upcoming conference play. The Bears came back from a 0-1 deficit early with three unanswered goals for the win, from Julian Faust '26, Simon Muther '27, and Jason Lotkowski '27. Ben Weir '25 comments that "starting down a goal is part of the game." He knew that he and his teammates would come out on top if they played strong. But for a Bears team which has gone just 2-6 in one-score games in the last 2 years, being able to hold on was a big step towards success. Alex Woll

'25 adds that energy and possession were most important towards the end of this game, and that "we knew that if we wanted to remain in control of the game, we had to up our energy and the pace of play would follow." By being able to control the possession battle over the final 45 minutes, the team limited Eastern's opportunities, thereby earning a big non-conference win.

The Bears' leadership has shown to be strong many times this season, just as it was during the Eastern game. This has allowed the Bears to continue to keep their composure during tough moments down the stretch. In the Bears' game against Penn State Brandywine, juniors Marko Balic and Enver Desic added one goal each with under 15 minutes remaining on the clock, leading

to a 5-3 victory over the Nittany Lions. The strong play of the Bears' upper-classmen has put them in situations to succeed even when the pressure is highest, signs of a truly great team. "It's a team win," pointed out Matik, stating that the team will continue to "compete until the end to gain victory."

The Bears are excited to begin conference play this upcoming weekend, with matchups against foes like Johns Hopkins and Franklin and Marshall that have been battles in the past. But the team notes that if they come out strong and full of energy, they are confident in their ability to succeed. With the results early in the season, it's hard not to see this team on that path of success.

## Performance of the Week

Looking for a big statement win against the Rowan Profs this past Saturday, the Bears knew they would need a strong performance from their rushing attack. They got that and more, as Junior Running Back Tony Holden led the Bears with 226 yards and 3 touchdowns in a massive victory.



Photo credit:  
Tyler Dinan