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The Grizzly, March 2, 1993

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Ursinus College The Grizzly

The most charming torture we have devised. --John Steinbeck

AIRBAND PHOTO
COLLAGE INSIDE!!!

Volume 15 Number 14

March 2, 1993

Airband Raises Over \$1300 for Charity

BY SARAH STARR
Features Editor

When the entire campus flocks to the cafeteria on a Friday night to see men dressed as women, women dressed as men, plastic fluorescent bras, bikini-clad co-eds, and a dead ringer for Ed Grimley it can only mean one thing: Airband is back!

This year's proceeds went to the Laurel House, a shelter for abused women and their children. A private, non-profit organization, the shelter offers peer support and counseling for women whose lives are hurt by domestic violence. The entire staff of the Laurel House is composed of volunteers, and it is funded solely by donations. Campus organizers, participants and all those in attendance for Airband '93 can be proud to have helped raise upwards of \$1,300 for this worthy cause.

The competition began shortly after 8 p.m. Held in Wismer's transformed upper level, this year's entertainment consisted of eight creative acts. Participants not only vied for top placings, but performed under the watchful eye of Lawrence Axmith, talent coordinator for MTV's most recent gameshow "Lip Service." Axmith is looking for

over 100 new acts for the approaching season, and brought his team of talent scouts to Ursinus in hopes of spotting potential contestants.

Beta Sigma Lambda's very own Robert Palmer Girls were the first to delight the audience with "Simply Irresistible." Hats off to these nineties women who are proud of their bodies. Who says you have to be a leggy stick to be a supermodel? The Beta Sig pledges proved that the Rubenesque physique is back in fashion.

Composed of sisters of Omega Chi, Whak-a-Sedaka performed a very original rendition of "Calendar Girl." Ladykiller Ed Grimley, formerly of Saturday Night Live, made a cameo appearance in the act to lead the girls to their third place victory. Rumor has it that Ed is a friend of Kristin Baldini, and flew in just for Airband. However, many eyewitnesses reported seeing him afterwards in Reimert, and even at brunch on Saturday.

Next to perform were the KDK Cats, with a version of "Grease Lightning." Pi Nu Epsilon followed with a dramatic interpretation of a medley of music from Phantom of the Opera, which earned them second place in the

competition.

The girls of Phi Alpha Psi entertained the crowd to the tune of "Otto Titsling." Moviegoers may remember the song from the movie Beaches. A musical theory on the invention of the brassiere, Phi Psi's comedic rendition most definitely scored points for originality.

The difficulty of finding "One Good Man" was the theme of the effort put forth by Alpha Sigma Nu. They were followed by Tau Sigma Gamma, who performed a pajama party routine to "My Boyfriend's Back" that won the judges' approval and landed them the Airband Championship for 1993.

In their debut performance as Airband participants, the recently established Chi Rho Psi fraternity, more commonly known as the Roughnecks, gave an energetic performance to Wrex-In-Effect's "Rumpshaker." Although the obvious crowd favorite, the guys ended up empty handed. "We didn't enter to win, just to have fun," said member and participant Scott Taylor. The group had only one week to prepare, which accounts for not every brother being able to

Continued on page 2

The Gospel of Dr. Luke

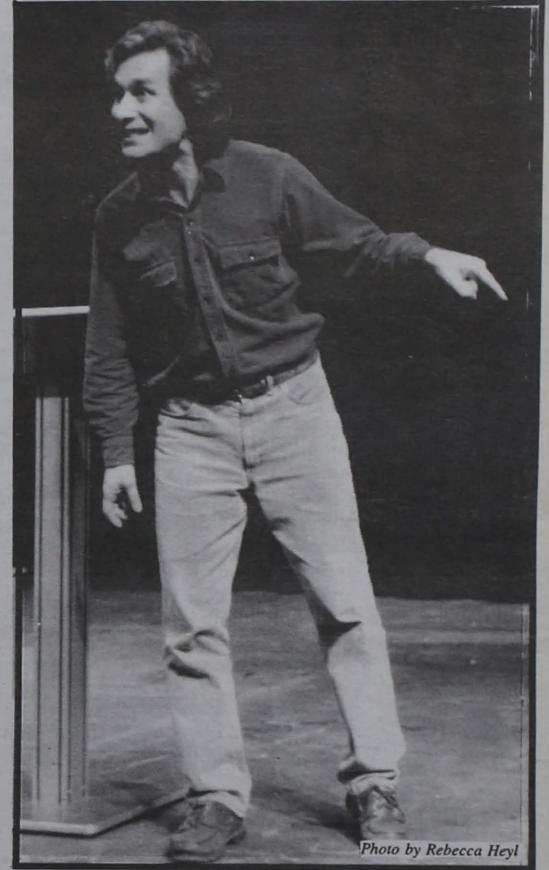


Photo by Rebecca Heyl

Actor Bruce Kern presenting his solo performance of "The Gospel of Dr. Luke" last Wednesday.

The United States of Europe with Modern Languages

BY FREDERIC MORVANY
Special to the Grizzly

Invited by the Modern Language Department, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Villanova University Dr. Alan J. Dillingham, came to Ursinus on Monday, February 22 to speak about the state of the European single market. He gave an overall optimistic account of the Union in the making, but his understanding was that European nations would not merge politically within the next hundred years. He also addressed those among the Americans who see the European Community as an elaborate device to dodge buying U.S. products,

saying that America has to expect competition from Europe, not protectionism. It would also open a much wider market to U.S. goods with the abolition of inter-European trade barriers.

He first evoked the reasons why European countries that had often engaged in long, internecine wars against each other now felt the urge to create a European Economic Community and get rid of the tariffs which fragmented their trade and used to make it more expensive than it needed to be. One of the reasons he mentioned was the "Eurosclerosis" experienced after the disastrous oil crises of the 1970's, which forced European

nations to find new ways of supporting their extensive Welfare programs. But only in 1985 was a white paper for a Europe without frontiers signed; it was known as the Single European Act of 1985, and dealt with technical and economic issues, but failed to address all matters political.

According to Dr. Dillingham, the reunification of Germany in 1990 added momentum to the construction of the E.E.C.: History taught Germany's neighbors that their security and prosperity would be better assured if the German federation's power is monitored within and by a larger community. It also caused the twelve countries

currently in the E.E.C. to think more urgently of greater socio-political dimensions for their citizens. In 1992 they came up with the Maastricht Treaty, enforced from January 1st, 1993. Every country does not agree on the Treaty's proposals about social legislation, trade union management or European single currency, especially the Danes, who most unexpectedly refused to ratify the Treaty, and the British, who do their utmost to make it null and void. Their main fear is that they will lose their political and economic independence, an attitude Dr. Dillingham qualified as unjustified. According to the new

system of representation the Maastricht Treaty does not have to be accepted by all to be enacted by any one member. Dr. Dillingham said that Great Britain and Denmark, or any country that would not agree to the revised version of the Treaty, would face the possibility of not being fully integrated in the European single market as defined at the Schengen Conference of late 1992, and signed by all but Britain, Ireland and Denmark.

So far the European Community has been successful in easing customs procedures: trucks and cars

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Global Perspectives

BY MARK LEISER
Of the Grizzly

INTERNATIONAL

--President Clinton announced his plans to airlift food and medicine to remote areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr. Clinton assured everyone that this operation would be fully coordinated with the United Nations.

--Two 10-year-old boys from Liverpool are now being formally charged with murder after abducting and murdering a 2-year-old child. The two boys are believed to be the youngest children ever charged with murder in Britain.

--Secretary of State Warren Christopher flew to Beirut last week in an effort to show U.S. commitment to Lebanon's government. He also tried to win support for the resumption of Middle East peace talks.

--Riot police in India arrested over 1100 Hindu nationalists during a rally in New Delhi. The protestors are calling for the resignation of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and his government.

NATIONAL

--President Clinton has been very successful on his recent tour of the U.S. in drumming up support for his new economic plan. Taxes that seemed like a curse during the Reagan years are now being deemed as "simply necessary" by the American public.

--Dr. Jack Kevorkian has assisted a 15th person commit suicide. Kevorkian doesn't know how many more assisted suicides he'll take part in because he feels it puts too much stress on his life.

--President Clinton informed workers at Boeing that unfair competition from foreign markets is aiding the technology struggle in the United States. He assured the employees (all in danger of losing their jobs) that the government is prepared to help.

LOCAL

--Philadelphia Electric has accepted a free batch of "slightly irradiated fuel" for use at the Limerick nuclear power plant. Officials say this will save PECO customers over \$70 million in fuel costs in the next 15 years.

--The Montgomery County Health Department paid a surprise visit to Pottsgrove High School last week to address concerns over recent construction. Officials said that things have improved since their last inspection, but there are still improvements to be made.

AIRBAND, continued from p.1

participate. President John Paul Williams had only one regret that "we didn't get a chance to show our diversity on stage."

The Roughnecks should have no regrets, however, as they were also the favorites of the MTV representatives. "They were what I was looking for when I came here," said Lawrence Axmith, as he mentioned that he intended to recruit the group. On his impressions of Airband as a whole Axmith added, "The show was great. The volunteers and participants have put so much work into the event. A full crowd on a Friday night is amazing, and the fact that (the proceeds) are going to the Laurel House makes it even more special."

Ann Marie Lukens, an integral coordinator, praised the efforts of

all who offered their time to keeping Airband a fun and charitable tradition at Ursinus. "All the RA's worked together," said Lukens. "I'm really glad it was such a success this year, and that it went to such a worthy cause."

Jill Hassinger, director of the children's program at Laurel House, was equally impressed. An Ursinus graduate, she enjoyed Airband during her college years and was delighted to come back once again. "Hopefully this will help raise awareness of domestic violence, and increase interest and participation in its prevention," said Hassinger. She urges any interested students to pursue internship opportunities at Laurel House. Volunteers are encouraged to donate their much needed time as well. For information, Jill may be reached at (215) 643-3150.

Explosion at World Trade Center

BY MARK LEISER
Of The Grizzly

The 110-story World Trade Center in New York was rocked by an explosion apparently caused by a car bomb in an underground garage last Friday. The blast killed five people and injured over 600. Thousands of people were forced to evacuate the complex through pitch-black hallways and smoke-filled stairways.

People were trapped in elevators for up to nine hours after electricity had been turned off. Twenty-three people had to be rescued by helicopter from the tops of the towers.

Over 200 school children taking a tour of the facility were stranded on the observation deck, and eight disabled people were trapped on the 94th floor before being taken to the roof and being removed by helicopter.

The streets of Manhattan were covered with evacuees, gasping for breath, after struggling to make it to safety from as high as the 105th floor. Those still stranded on upper floors patiently awaited help, and were forced to break windows as the smoke reached them.

According to officials who surveyed the wreckage, the blast created a 200 foot by 100 foot crater that extends six stories deep in the parking garage. New York Governor Mario Cuomo confirmed in an interview on the "Larry King Live" television show that the explosion was caused by a bomb placed on the floor of the parking garage.

Authorities have had nine phone calls from groups claiming responsibility for the bombing. According to the Associated Press, the first call, from a group representing Croatian militants, came 15 minutes before the explosion occurred.

After the World Trade Center explosion, a bomb threat was received in the Empire State Building. It was evacuated and searched, but nothing was discovered.

Roving Reporter

BY ERIKA COMPTON
News Editor

QUESTION: Which do you think is a better pledging system, the 2-week system the girls had last fall, or the 4-week system which the guys have now?

Cynthia Babcock - Junior

--The four week system is definitely better. It gives time for the pledges to become more unified which is the point of pledging. Girls pledging should change back to the four-week system because it is viously better.

Mr. Magoo - Freshman

-- Pledging needs to be four weeks. We've only been pledging for two weeks, and we're not ready yet.

Molly McLean - Sophomore

--Four weeks is better. During the two week pledging period, we pledged 24-7. I thought I could blow things off and not do work. You think you can catch up later. If I pledged for four weeks, I would have disciplined myself better. I think we should have had mandatory library hours, too.

Nancy Costello - Junior

--The four week system is better. Two weeks is not long enough to build any kind of unity. The bonding activities are often left out of pledging.

Phil Parrotta - Sophomore

--I prefer the four week system. The girls didn't have time to learn anything in class or about pledging because they were so run down all the time. The four weeks is better because there is a chance to digest the information the pledges are learning, and more time to study. During the two weeks, there is not enough time to get to know the brothers and sisters, and there is not enough time to get to know each other.

Sarah Starr - Senior

--Girls pledging was an experimental fiasco. I resent the administrative decision to interfere with a system that was running smoothly.

LANGAUGE, con't. from p.1

don't even stop at the French-German border, for instance. From January 1st, a citizen of any of the twelve countries can start his or her own business in any of the other eleven members; people, capital and goods can now move freely.

However, there are still a few points that keep Europeans from being fully satisfied with their achievements. A series of standards and prices still have to be harmonized before a French television can be sold and watched in Germany, or prices of alcohol and tobacco stop inviting nationals to shopping sprees in a neighboring country. Italy and Germany still have to implement between 20% and 30% of the resolutions passed in 1985, and overall, 50% of all resolutions still have to be enacted across United Europe. It was clear from Dr. Dillingham's account that the Danes' rejection was a considerable obstacle to the final project of an integrated European

Community. It caused international economic unrest, and challenged those in favor of further cooperation in Europe to review their commitment.

Professor Dillingham's lecture was well received for its accuracy and smooth delivery. He worked as a research fellow at the *Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales* in Paris, a division of the *Fondation National des Sciences Politiques*, which has a reputation for excellence all over Europe. And even though he eschewed political and cultural issues in his speech, his articulate presentation and expertise permitted the rather large audience to satisfy their legitimate curiosity.

Next on the Modern Languages Department program entitled "Questions of European Identity" is a businessperson's panel discussion about what U.S. citizens need to consider to do business with the new Europe on Tuesday, March 23.

Meistersingers to Tour New England

The Meistersingers, Ursinus' select student vocal ensemble of 30 mixed voices, will perform concerts of secular and sacred choral music at churches in New England from March 18 through 21. Concerts will be held in Danbury and Greenwich, CT. and South Weymouth and Wrentham, MA.

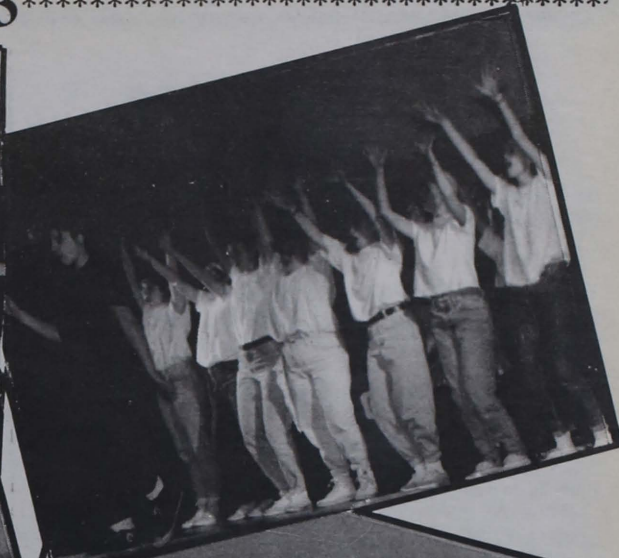
Following the New England tour, the Meistersingers will present a concert in Bomberger Auditorium on Saturday, March 27, at 8 PM. The ensemble will also perform at St. John's United Church of Christ, Coopersburg, PA, at 4 PM on Sunday, March 28, and at St. Andrew Church of Christ, Lancaster, PA, at 7 PM on Sunday, April 18.

This is the group's 56th annual tour. The Meistersingers have appeared in nearly every state on the Eastern seaboard, and in May 1990, conducted a 15 day tour of England.

In preparation for their concerts, the singers dedicate several hours each week to practicing a variety of choral works, from classical to contemporary. This year's program will include works by Handel, Haydn, Lassus, Pergolesi, Kodaly, and Niels La Cour.

John H. French, associate professor of music and chairman of the College's department of music, trains and conducts the Meistersingers. Organist and choirmaster at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, he studied at the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. He is President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

The 1992-93 Meistersingers are Kirsten Becker, Meg Bergner, Christine Conz, Karen Fleshman, Peggy Gavin, Robin Loiacono, Hope Rinehimer, Abby Rossenbaum, Satsuki Scoville, Brenda Stryjewski, Kathryn Tatsis, Megumi Uchiyama and Heidi Wushinske, sopranos; Maria Aumick, Carol Brewer, Lori Engler, Mary Greiss, Vanessa Klingensmith, Sarah Lee, Elizabeth Mansfield, Michelle Moyer, Laura Scarola, and Julie Tonnessen, altos; Tristan English and David Laganella, tenors; and James Crowder, Robert Kester, Ian Rhile, Bhavesh Vaidya, and David Van Benthuysen, basses.



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STARWATCH

BY SCHECKIE
Of The Grizzly



Scheckie was happy in the haze of a drunken hour, but heaven knows Scheckie's miserable now. Believe in Scheckie, Scheckie believe's in you.

Aquarius- Do not let your friends dictate your life. You know what to do- do it.

Pisces- Now is the time to decide what you want to do this summer. Make your choice carefully.

Aries- A friend may be jealous of you. Try to be sensitive and reassuring.

Taurus- You may find yourself playing peacemaker for two feuding friends.

Gemini- You may feel neglected by a significant other. Don't worry-it's not you. They are just a little distracted.

Cancer- Do not stress too much if things don't turn out as you planned. A little spontaneity never hurt anyone.

Leo- A friend is being very mysterious. Try to draw him/her out of their shell.

Virgo- Find out what a recently kissing-up-tough friend is really after.

Scorpio- Your recent tendency to be very blunt may lead to a bad first impression to an important person.

Sagittarius- Don't try to overcharm. It may backfire.

Capricorn- Don't ignore your friends in favor of a new relationship.

Nature must still find a way, a ignore all the codes of the day, let your juvenile impulses sway. Believe in Scheckie, Scheckie believes in you.



L'Chaim

There will be a PARTY on Tuesday, March 2, at 6:30 in the Parent's Lounge to celebrate Purim. The event is sponsored by Hillel, the Organization of Jewish Students. Refreshments will be served and ideas for upcoming events will be discussed.

Senior Profile:

*** Maria Rojas ***

Thrilled to have been chosen as this weeks outstanding senior, Maria Rojas of Skippack, PA. had plenty to say about her four years at Ursinus College.

When this ultra-mellow president of Tau Sigma Gamma isn't lounging in Olevian she enjoys contemplating Hegel, watching "All My Children," collecting little blue smurf figurines and playing an occasional game of tennis when the weather is just right.

Ursinus has provided Maria with "a unique perspective on people." A Politics major, she is certain that this skill will play a key role in her future career as an educator. "I plan to teach social studies in high-school while participating in a graduate program." If her future endeavors equal her achievements at Ursinus, Maria will certainly



Photo by Peter Senescu

have a successful career.

Without a seconds hesitation, Maria gives Homecoming '92 as her most memorable experience at Ursinus. Can you blame her? For

spring break, she and some friends plan to drive a van to Florida in search of more memories as they camp in the Everglades and wrestle alligators under the moon.

Flowers Of Hope

The service club is raising money for the American Cancer Society by selling daffodils, "the flower of hope." The annual Daffodil Days event supports cancer research, education, and patient care.

By purchasing a bouquet of flowers, you support cancer patients and their families, as well as bring joy to the recipient of the flowers.

Bouquets of ten daffodils may be ordered for \$5.00 each. Call Jen Janco at 454-9687 or Satsuki Scoville at 454-1086 before March 3rd to place your order. The flowers will arrive on campus at the end of March.

The Service Club is participating in this and many other volunteer activities this year. Currently, members are helping out at the local Head Start, the area nursing home, and the local chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Walk. If interested in joining, please contact Satsuki Scoville at 454-1086 or Dan Fishman at 489-4548. Lend a hand and volunteer this year!

BY GRETCHEN MACMURRAY
Features Editor



Top 10 Reasons I Need Spring Break

10. Snow
9. One party weekends thanks to pledging
8. More snow
7. The yearly inevitable post-Airband depression
6. What's with all this snow?
5. Wind chill factors that make my sporadic visits to Myrin even less frequent
4. No snow days in college
3. Hawaiian Luau maxi dinner special puts me in the mood for a tropical getaway
2. Skin the color of snow
1. No Grizzly hassles for two weeks

What's Up In Wellness: Attention Spring Breakers

As spring break nears, many of us will be heading off to enjoy warm weather and sunny activities. This allows for a good opportunity to consider ways to enjoy the sun without receiving some of its negative consequences. Some things you may want to be aware of and remember while you are enjoying your spring break are:

- ° The closer you are to the equator the stronger the sun's rays.
- ° Sand, snow, concrete and water can reflect up to 85% of the sun's damaging rays onto the skin.
- ° Clouds scatter sunlight. Therefore, a sunburn is easily obtained on a cloudy or hazy day.
- ° The sun's rays can reach three feet down into the water.
- ° The risk of sunburn is greater at high altitudes. The thinner the atmosphere at higher altitudes absorbs less amounts of damaging UV rays. For every 1000 feet above sea level the radiation increases 4-5%.

The help keep immediate sunburn, long term premature aging and skin cancer to a minimum, proper sunscreen is essential, regardless of your skin type. Dermatologists recommend an SPF (sun protection factor) in sunscreen of a minimum of 15 for everyone, including darker skinned people. Burning may be your main concern, but it is not the only bad effect the sun can have on your skin. There may be damaging effects even without burning. The fairer your skin the more careful you need to be. If you feel that SPF 15 is too high for you because you "never burn" at least consider an SPF slightly lower than 15. Always pick a sunscreen rather than a suntan lotion or worst of all an oil. Sun damage is cumulative over a lifetime. One severe sunburn can double the risks of developing skin cancer.

Another factor that needs to be

taken into consideration is how the sun screen is applied. The sun screen should be applied to all exposed parts of the body in generous amounts an hours before you are exposed to the sun. The SPF value of the sunscreen can be decreased if a thin layer of sunscreen is applied, if perspiring occurs or if you went swimming. The sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours while you are in the sun and after any swimming or heavy perspiring.

If you take these factors into consideration you can play it safe in the sun this spring break. Remember, even if you normally do not burn easily, your skin has not been exposed to the sun's rays for a while, and since you may be visiting a place where the sun is very strong or where there is a high altitude, your skin is very vulnerable to the sun's rays right now. So, remember to take good care of your skin while you are enjoying your break.

Roommates' Recommendations

BY NIKKI AND VIKKI
Of The Grizzly

Dear Nikki and Vikki,
We have a big problem! My roommate and I lust after the same man. The only problem is, we don't know the real identity of Guru Tom. What we do know from his column is that he has to be an extremely intellectual and absolutely sexy god!

We're not sure if it would be better if we found out his true identity or to just continue to fantasize about him nightly.

Please give us some advice on our endless passion for Guru Tom!

Guru Groupies

P.S. We miss the Guru Tom column!

Dear Guru Groupies,

First, we must set something straight, Guru Tom is having a

passionate affair with Sheckie. Everyone misses his wisdom in his column, but maybe he'll read this and come back to us. For now, there will always be Harley. . . but you'll have to get him away from Annette first. Good luck! (For all of you really perceptive readers, Sheckie is shacking with both Guru Tom and Harley. We wonder how she can get her studying done and her sleep too!)

N&V

P.S. If you really want to find out the true identity of Guru Tom, you'll have to search elsewhere--our lips are sealed! But remember half the fun is the mystery!

Dear Nikki and Vikki,

I'm afraid I may have a serious alcohol problem. Recently I've been blacking out and hooking up with random people and then regretting it. I'm beginning to

scare myself.

Nervous

Dear Nervous,

Congratulations! You took the first step by admitting the problem to yourself. On campus you can go see Cathy Grentzenberg at Studio Cottage. She is extremely nice and will do whatever she can to help you. If you're afraid to go anywhere on campus there are many other options open to you. There are many hotlines available but the one that we find the most effective is 100-242-2333. Don't be afraid to call, they are trained to help people with alcohol problems. This is a really serious problem, please take care of it before you are out of control. It's for your own good!!!

N&V

SGT GRIZZ:

"Nothing but the bear facts!"

20 Feb 93 at 12:15 P.M. Security and EMT's are dispatched to Helferrich Hall along with Trappe Ambulance. An Ursinus gymnast injured her elbow and was taken to Montgomery Hospital.

21 Feb 93 at 1:05 A.M. Security is called to Routes 422 and 113 to pick up pledges that were stopped by the Upper Providence Police Department. The officer was concerned for their safety and the pledges were cooperative.

21 Feb 93 at 8:20 P.M. Security is called to investigate a broken bathroom window in the Quad. Four hours later, Security receives another call about a broken window in a Quad room. Both windows were broken by snowballs.

21 Feb 93 at 12:30 A.M. Security receives a call of disorderly students in the Reimert Courtyard. Upon arrival, the students returned to their suites. The matter was referred to the Residence Life Office.

22 Feb 93 at 10:50 A.M. Security is called to Helferrich Hall to investigate the damage of fencing near the practice fields and tennis courts. The matter is being investigate by Security.

22 Feb 93 at 4:00 P.M. A student from BWC reported that sometime between Saturday evening and Sunday morning, unknown person(s) entered his unlocked room and removed clothing valued at \$550. This theft is being investigated by Security and the incident report was turned over to the Collegeville Police Department.

AN UNLOCKED DOOR IS AN OPEN INVITATION TO THEFT. PLEASE LOCK YOUR DOORS.

23 Feb 93 at 9:00 A.M. Security is advised of a theft at the Myrin Library. Unknown person(s) removed two (2) full framed posters from the library walls. Security and RLO are investigating.

SGT. GRIZZ HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS THAT STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ARE PARKING IN THE VISITOR'S LOT AT CORSON.YOUR COOPERATIONAND COMPLIANCEIS APPRECIATED.

23 Feb 93 at 8:00 P.M. Security receives a call that there is a person on campus who has been banned. It is learned by Security that this is an existing issue between an alumni and a present student and no official sanctions had been imposed. Matter referred to RLO.

24 Feb 93 at 10:35 P.M. While on patrol, Security heard a loud explosion in front of Wilkinson. Officers determined that a firecracker had been set off. This action is a violation of the college policy and a criminal offense in the Borough of Collegeville.

26 Feb 93 at 3:05 A.M. Security responds to a woman yelling in front of Reimert. As the officer approaches the woman, a man runs off toward Main Street. The man was eventually arrested for public drunkenness. Both parties knew each other.

HAVE A SAFE AND RELAXING SPRING BREAK. FOR THOSE STUDENTS TRAVELLING TO EXOTIC, WARM BEACHES, BOTTLED SUNSHINE WILL BE APPRECIATED.

23 Feb 93 at 8:00 P.M. Security responds to a suite in Reimert after being advised of an unwanted guest at this location. The individual involved in the incident has been formally "banned" from the suite in Reimert in which the call originated.

24 Feb 93 at 10:35 P.M. Unknown person(s) set off a firecracker outside one of the Residence Halls. The incident is under investigation.

26 Feb 93 at 3:05 A.M. A visitor on campus is arrested by the Collegeville Police Department for "public drunkenness" after a domestic argument broke out outside one of the residence halls.

Opinions/Letters

The Grizzly

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The Problem With Centrists

BY CHRISTIAN P. SOCKEL
Of The Grizzly

Principled individuals, such as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X have been revered and examined throughout history for their commitment to issues, higher ideals, and personal vision. They were unwavering in their focus and unflinching in the face of opposition. The weaponry which enabled them to parry ridicule and challenge was their integrity and strength of character. Importantly, their intellectually-sound stance and rhetoric made it clear that they had principle, from which all of their messages disseminated. These men were not centrists. They had chosen a side and fought the battle relentlessly from the hot seat. It is quite difficult to be on both sides of controversial issues; President Clinton knows this all too well. Choosing a side and standing critically upon the agenda or idea espoused is commendable, not bigoted, Fascist, or narrow-minded.

Principled individuals are rare because they are not relativists.

Relativists conceptualize truth and moral value with disregard to absolutes. Truth and moral values become relative to the person or group holding them. Inherent in this position is the ability to adjust one's behavior according to the situation, leaving right and wrong to be determined by individual choice, not, for example, by religion. True centrists can often abate the vitriol between the left and the right by remaining in the middle and deflecting each side's absolutes. Yet centrists do little to resolve the controversy by merely understanding both sides of an issue. Holding fast to time-honored value and ideas takes courage, a character quality which brings upon it scrutiny or admiration. Academics are the most clear example of centrism because it is their job to exhaust the myriad issues and their interpretations. But academics should be called on when they fail to urge students to take a side and argue its point.

An alteration of position can come from the exposure to new ideas and opinions. In fact, I would suggest that those individuals who are the

most principled are those who know the opposition's arguments as well as they do. In a day and age where individuals are very willing to impugn those with principle as racist, homophobic, bigoted, and bleeding-hearted, it becomes difficult to stand committed and resilient. Often those who have clear definitions of right and wrong are repudiated for the family values. Liberals as well can be as principled as the other political party ilk; having principle is not exclusive to any one group.

Centrists fail to take positions with regards to controversy and rather avoid the extreme fringes of a movement or national *zeitgeist*. To be safe, being a centrist allows an individual not to offend anyone, while still allowing them not to be heard, which is the casualty of standing in the middle. The loudest clarion calls come from those who are principled and courageous in their opinions and ideas. To understand all points of view is essential in any sphere, but those who have determined their *raison d'être* and have rooted it in principle are more likely to become revered, heard, and followed.

Campus Memo

By Richard P. Richter
President of the College

THE CLINTON ECONOMIC PLAN: The election of Bill Clinton has been taken as a hopeful development among leaders of higher education. For example, Richard Rosser, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), our national lobbying group in Washington, said in a news release, "NAICU supports President Clinton's efforts to tackle long-term budget deficit reduction with a balanced approach of spending cuts and new taxes."

Rosser expressed encouragement at Clinton's discussion of the "urgency of our economic problems and how investment in education at all levels is an investment in our nation's economic competitiveness and our future."

He supported Clinton's idea to allow community service to help pay for college costs and the proposal to link student loan repayments to level of income.

The Clinton economic plan, of

course, is complex; Rosser, along with the rest of us, is still ferreting out the details. And the whole plan will have to run the white waters of Congress before we have an operational agenda for the nation.

Students at Ursinus and across the U.S. have a stake in the debate now joined. I hope you will follow it, develop informed opinions, and take part in the process of moving our government toward the adoption of an effective economic program, with a prominent place in it for the support of higher education.

Higher education has too often appeared to be a part of the national problem in recent years, what with its perceived high cost and alleged low efficiency. Expanding the intellectual capital of Americans is a viable—indeed, essential—way of addressing the large systemic problems of the U.S. economy. Colleges and universities are the key to that.

Whatever economic program we end up with, I think that all of us can be encouraged by the very fact that the Clinton administration has

elevated higher education to a priority place in the public debate.

SOME SPECIFICS: Rosser's NAICU report gives some specifics on the Clinton plan.

—\$7 billion would be used for a national service plan. Students would be able to deal with college costs through one or two years of service as well as loan repayment based on income. Clinton expects the program of national service to meet pressing needs in education, public health, environmental protection and public safety. (Note: The national service provision has been criticized in The New Republic for having been "watered down to insignificance" from Clinton's original idea.)

—\$2 billion would be spent to put the Pell Grant program back on a solid footing. This, Rosser said, "would allow federal funding for student grant programs to start with a clean slate."

—On the negative side, colleges would incur higher costs for such items as energy, which would be more heavily taxed, and for postal costs.

