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The Grizzly, March 29, 2018

Valerie Osborne

Naseem Syed

Kim Corona

Laura Johnson

Paige Szmodis

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Valerie Osborne, Naseem Syed, Kim Corona, Laura Johnson, Paige Szmodis, Sophia DiBattista, Kevin Leon, Julie Krasutsky, Johnny Cope, and Gabriela Howell



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Local antiques warehouse closes its doors

Naseem Syed
nasyed@ursinus.edu

After 48 years, Power House Antiques warehouse, hidden behind the parking lot of Da Vinci's Pub in Collegeville, PA, will be closing its doors April 1.

Carefully arranged trays of political buttons and former weddings rings, coated in dust and memories after years of sitting in the warehouse, are now packed away in boxes and remain in the limbo of antiques stock as vendors pack up their stalls.

Known for its cheesy knickknacks and kitsch memorabilia, one Yelp user described the Power House Antiques warehouse as "a baby-boomer's nostalgia shop" full of Howdy-Doody metal lunchboxes, Coca-Cola advertisements, and other novelty items celebrating the glory days of retro through its garage-sale collection.

Three sisters, Collegeville natives Janet McDonnell, Sue Gorski and Kathy Kratz, co-owned the Power House Antiques warehouse at 45 First Avenue for 48 years.

Trans-Fleet Concrete, a ready-mix concrete supply company next door, bought the property as the company needed more space for their trucks and the sisters looked to retire.

The Power House was originally built in 1901 by the Schuylkill Valley Traction Company as an additional source of electricity for the trolley cars that had just begun running along Main Street from Philadelphia to Pottstown. Large coal-fired generators produced power in the building through 1918.

After the trolley cars stopped running in 1933, due to the growing popularity of automobiles, the W.H. Gristock & Sons company used the building to store lumber, sand, and feed.

When Jacob Ervin 'Erv' Shainline bought the abandoned Power House property in 1970,

there were thousands of pigeons in the rafters - and no windows, electric or water, according to Shainline's daughter and current owner, Janet McDonnell.

McDonnell's father initially restored the building for the purpose of storing his lawn and garden equipment. A luncheonette opened out front and the second-floor auditorium was used as a gymnasium. The pump room became Hiddel's restaurant, McDonnell said. In the late '90s, McDonnell recalled when all of the community gathered at the Power House for the Collegeville home show, where local business owners presented their pitches to customers.

In 1972, a section of the Power House became the Sunday antiques and collectibles market. When Shainline passed away in 1985, his three daughters expanded the market and took advantage of the whole open space - particularly for its light pouring in onto the stalls from the upper muntin windows. McDonnell explained that a farmer's market was open on Saturday mornings and the antiques vendors would go to auction to buy their wares to sell on Sunday. Interested dealers would be put on a waiting list until a space opened up, McDonnell said.

Many of the vendors have been at the Power House for years, McDonnell said. During the week, the antiques would sit in piles of dust and the owners would come in for sweeping and maintenance, Donna Gordon said. Ultimately, it was time for the Shainline sisters to retire. McDonnell is an active member of the St. James Episcopal Church in Collegeville during the week. After the warehouse closes, she will return to her church work and to raising sheep on her Ridge Pike farm with her husband.

The two old pickers, Dan and Donna Gordon of Bucks County, PA, had been selling old carpen-



Photo courtesy of Naseem Syed

Hedi, an octogenarian, loves to collect jewelry and glassware. She told me everyone's known her as Hedi since 1989. Hedi then gave me a warm cinnamon candle to take home. It was her last day as a vendor at the local antiques warehouse, before it closes April 1.

try tools, advertising posters and beer memorabilia at the Power House for 8 years.

"We were very happy: The Power House was a wonderful venue and it's very sad to be closing. Before, we were in co-ops for a long time. Then we found [the Power House,] a place where we [could] actually sell items. We sold a whole lot of stuff we wouldn't [have] so easily [sold] elsewhere," Donna Gordon said. "Once people found out we were closing, everyone pulled together and started flowing in in the last weeks. It seemed they got a lot of great deals, with almost everything 50 percent off."

Donna handed me one of her favorite items -- a perpetual calendar, a small brass dial that displayed a range of years from 1956-1995. Donna tried to find out which day of the week I was born, with no luck. The calendar was too young for her birth year and just a year before mine. The most unusual item the old

pickers found, she said, was a monkey made completely out of leather that the couple bought in a Lancaster yard sale. On its finger was a little stuffed canary.

Kathryn Wegner, from Lower Providence, PA, came to the Power House eighteen years ago with her husband, Cliff. The Wegners were previously "collectors of just about anything" and Wegner said, "Our house was getting too full."

The Wegners garnered a following of collectors interested in the Wallace Nutting colorized photographs and 19th c. Rossville pottery, Wegner said. Their stall also specialized in antique furniture ranging from Victorian to Art Deco. Most of their clients came from outside of Montgomery County, driving down from Philadelphia--rather than locals from Collegeville, Wegner said.

"The local community mostly ignored the Power House -- and it's understandable," Wegner said. "Even before we were here, I would always pass the sign for

the antiques market and say to myself, 'Maybe we will stop in one day.' The clients who came here mostly knew what they were looking for."

In the back of the warehouse, Yours & Mine Collectibles is a lively corner full of disco lights, kitsch jewelry and feather boas inviting visitors to peruse Will Mangum's collection of vintage women's apparel dating back to the '40s. Originally from North Carolina, Mangum's family moved north to Pottstown, PA after Hurricane Hazel threatened his father's sharecropping farm in 1958.

Mangum said he had been interested in old things ever since he was teenager in the '60s looking at the antiques lying around in his grandmother's living room. After twelve years as a fashion model bouncing between Philly and New York, Mangum came to the Power House in 1993. He

See **Antiques** on pg. 2

Antiques continued from pg. 1

began collecting “1800s vintage wear” in 1963, he said, pointing to a black Victorian gown worn by a mannequin in front of the restroom.

“I switch between auctions and 80-year-old ladies selling old things out of their houses, but what was once yours became mine and many clients returned for that,” Mangum said.

As the Power House closes, its vendors are now faced with relocating to other markets or selling off the bulk of their items to auctioneers. Vendors were notified in January that the warehouse was sold and given until April 1 to empty their spaces. The last day of public sale was March 18.

“We were told the 1st of January that we only had a few months to pack or sell tens of thousands of items -- it was not enough time,” said Mark R Milnes of Hidden River Antiques. Milnes has chosen to retire after 20 years at the Power House - his corner featured musty first editions of great works, faded photographs and strangers’ old postcards. Some of his clients were interested in military artifacts, 18th Century

coins and old medical equipment such as hypodermic needles and microscopes. A customer looked at a wooden duck decoy, used for hunting fowl in the early 20th Century and now considered by some to be folk art.

As with most brick and mortar businesses, antiques are in decline because of competition with online retailers that invest in reviving the “reproduced” look of the past through retro-inspired record players and old-style furniture. When asked if the Power House was struggling because of online competition, Milne said that young people are not collecting anymore. McDonnell noted that many vendors take advantage of online auction sites like eBay to become informal auctioneers, but the antiques and collectibles industry continues to struggle.

Ursinus students who knew about the Power House would go there to explore one of the few, hidden treasures in Collegeville and look through its collection of old things. While there, I stumbled upon imitation robin eggs, a 70s porn playing card deck and a cup of human teeth.

“When you are a student without a car, there is a heavy

reliance on things to do that are within walking distance. It’s sort of a fun local find – one of those quirky places that was fun to discover and be a part of,” said Kayla O’Mahony ’18.

“You know like not every Ursinus student went there . . . because there isn’t any advertising, you discover [the Power House] through word of mouth and it’s special. In the ‘post- World Wide Web world,’ there are few businesses sustained like that.”

The closing of the antiques warehouse is “the worst thing to happen to Collegeville,” according to Tom Armstrong ’20, a Collegeville native who grew up going to the warehouse with his family each Christmas to shop for gifts.

“When I was a kid, a family friend worked there. One of the only ever gifts I’ve given to someone as a child that I see around today is an old structure that looks like a little birdhouse that holds wine bottles. My dad still has it hanging downstairs on a half wall,” Armstrong said.

“It was a fun place to go on a Sunday, especially for precocious kids looking for typewriters, stoners looking for pipes, or hipsters looking for a weird vintage



Photo courtesy of Naseem Syed

jacket.”

“You walk in there and sometimes it just feels like you’re in a room full of old junk but somehow, all the antiques are significant because somehow they remained,” O’Mahony said.

“There is a reason someone didn’t throw it out, that someone gave it to their grandkid. That these antiques are on display. I am sure there are so many other garages or sheds full of other stuff, other old stories.”

Cultivating resistance through conversations across difference

Thursday lunches offer space for Ursinus members to discuss diversity

Kim Corona

kicorona@ursinus.edu

The Dean’s Office began holding a series of weekly discussions in November: “Cultivating Resistance: Conversations About and Across Differences.”

These discussions, initiated by Vice President Mark Schneider, provide an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to come together and talk about diversity in small groups over lunch.

Each conversation is framed with a personal question or

hypothetical case study designed to encourage faculty, staff, and students to “cultivate the capacity to perceive and explore many kinds of difference,” according to an email sent out by Dean Kelly Sorensen.

The Dean’s office has offered the Conversations lunches in the Faculty and Staff Dining Room on Thursday afternoons since Nov. 2017 with “low-stakes” questions ranging from “What did work mean in your family growing up?,” which highlights gender roles in the household, to

hypothetical case studies that are more “high-stakes” and require a diverse campus response.

Examples of case studies include: what to do if “a controversial left-wing extremist anarchist speaker” is invited on campus by Libertarians and other student political groups on campus form a human chain to prevent attendees from going to his talk; what to do if an alumni group wishes to donate a new building named in honor of a former German professor whose brother was a high-ranking officer in the Nazi SS.

Up to 30 faculty and staff members are invited to the lunches, while a limited number of invitations are sent out to students. Free lunch for attendees is provided through a budget offered by the President’s Office. Tables are arranged with intention to reflect campus diversity across disciplines and departments.

Sorensen noted that the lunches offer an opportunity to meet other members of the Ursinus community, such as staff members in IT or the Office of Advancement, who do not

normally interact with students or faculty members.

Newly appointed Vice President Mark Schneider said he has been doing diversity work within his teaching for decades. At his previous institution, Grinnell College, Schneider had used similar conversation exercises to foster a sense of unity among diverse groups. When he came to Ursinus last July, one of Schneider’s goals was to adopt similar strategies at Ursinus, so he initi-

See Differences on pg. 3

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Ursinus Grizzly
601 E. Main Street
Collegeville, PA 19426

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Staff positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact the adviser for details.

Differences continued from pg. 2

ated the “Conversations About and Across Differences.”

The Conversations series had its informal beginnings in Aug. 2017 at the Community Conference on the Core Curriculum, where faculty and staff members met in small groups to discuss the four new Core questions: “What should matter to me? How should we live together? How can we understand the world? What will I do?”

“Some of my most powerful lessons have come from listening to students and colleagues.”

— Mark Schneider
Vice President

Dean Schneider had also organized this type of discussion at Board meetings last semester, Dean Sorensen noted.

With the Conversations About and Across Differences, Schneider’s goal is for members of the Ursinus community to respectfully listen to each other. The idea is to provide a space where individuals shouldn’t judge, question, and categorize each other. Through these conversations, members of the community are motivated to learn more about what it means to be someone else and apply that skill in real world situations.

“Some of my most powerful lessons have come from listening to students and colleagues who are different from me, especially people who I have come to know, like, and respect,” Schneider said.

Differences across political views, religion, race, gender, class, and other identities naturally arise within these conversations as members at the table discuss a topic or theme. However, the Conversations are not meant to serve as a method for diversity training, nor as teach-ins about race, sexual assault or homophobia, Schneider said.

“It is not about creating an inclusive classroom, it is not teaching about legal requirements, it is not about creating like-identity safe spaces, it is not even really about having ‘difficult conversations,’” Schneider said. “All of those are also important for Ursinus, and we are striving to do more of those.”

“[The conversations] are aimed at lowering the communication barrier between unlike people,” Schneider said. “The questions we discuss in our groups have no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’

answers; no one is asked—even implicitly—oh embrace any specific point of view.”

In the wake of bias incidents on campus, where students have been discriminated against on the basis of markers such as race, sexual orientation, and gender identity, discussing difference becomes increasingly relevant. In order for preventative action to be taken, Schneider believes that these conversations provide a space that encourages inclusion for all individuals on campus, regardless of difference.

During an MLK lightning talk in January, Schneider cited Dr. Martin Luther King’s words: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”

“Many of our conversations about difference are charged with, if not hate, at least anger,” Schneider said. “If each one of these conversations brings about one new casual friendship, if only one a semester brings a new deep sense of empathy for someone, if just one a year brings a single new caring and loving friendship among people who have traveled very different paths, I will feel deeply successful.”

“The ‘Conversations’ lunches are instead more longitudinal—[the lunches] help build the kind of community that prevents more hate incidents, and the kind of community that is better at addressing hate incidents when they happen,” said Dean Sorensen.

The conversations will continue to run exclusively within small groups. Schneider explained that since the series is newly introduced, it’s a test-run of what will potentially become something greater. For the upcoming year, Schneider’s plan is to expand these conversations to include more students—particularly by first gaining the support of student leaders throughout various groups represented on campus, citing members of Greek life, athletic teams, student government, the interdisciplinary centers, Resident Advisors, and Bonner Leaders who may moderate future discussions.

Schneider hopes the future of these conversations will help the Ursinus community grow in the face of intolerance.

“My goal is to change campus attitudes about acceptance, trust, and caring for one another—even if we are very different, even if we don’t agree with one another,” Schneider said.

Although a limited number of students are invited to the current series, Schneider plans to establish a similar event for students where they may meet in small groups arranged at the tables in Upper Wismer.

“These conversations are just one element: They must complement what happens in the classroom, in the residence halls, on the athletic teams, everywhere on campus,” Schneider said. “I want this culture to change each of us so deeply that when we leave the campus and see senseless intolerance elsewhere, we are unable to ignore it, and work to bring a piece of that change to the rest of the world.”

Students interested in attending these conversations should email Nicole Smith (nsmith@ursinus.edu) to be added to the waiting list.



Photo courtesy of Laura Johnson

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE: “Good Day, Sunshine”

The Grizzly’s international perspective column offers students the opportunity to share their off-campus experiences through travel writing.

Laura Johnson ’19 is a junior American Studies major with a minor in Religious Studies. Originally from Reading, PA, Laura is studying abroad at the University of Hyderabad in Hyderabad, India, this semester. In “Good Day, Sunshine,” Laura explores her introduction to public transportation in India.

On a bright Monday morning in January, I put on my favorite kurta and ate a delicious breakfast of sweet rice, tea with sugar, and coconut chutney with dosas: flat-looking pancakes made of rice. All of the breakfast was handmade by my host mom, Mrs. Leela.

Grabbing my bag, I casually make my way out the door adorned with Ganesh, the Hindu God, whose image is carved into its dark, red wood. Listening to the school children across the street chat in Telugu and watching some boys kicking around a soccer ball before their day starts, I feel the dirt already seeping in the cracks of my chacos as I walk through the arched gate of my neighborhood. “Doyen’s Township,” it reads; my home in Hyderabad, India for the next four months. I plant myself on the side of the main road with a half hour to spare until my Urban Sociology class. I tell myself I won’t be late; I tell myself I might even have enough time to stop by the Shop-Com to pick up my favorite guava juice box.

Looking down at my watch, I notice it’s already 9:01: time to start waving down a rickshaw.

The concept of public transportation is new to me entirely, as I have never taken buses, trains, or taxis back in the States.

Living in the suburbs of Reading, Pennsylvania, I’ve always had access to a car and would drive myself places if I needed to go somewhere. Public transportation was a last resort option that I’ve never had to use.

9:01 AM: “Are you going to stop? Yes? Nope....ok.”

9:02 AM: “Hey, here comes another. Does that rickshaw look full? Darn, it is.”

9:06 AM: “Please stop, please stop, please... ok, dude, just drive right past me! Whatever!”

9:11 AM: “All this traffic is going to make me so fucking late.”

Public transportation in India: a service that is likely to throw your whole day off track; a service that will undoubtedly give you potty mouth because some drivers refuse to stop; and a service that I am slowly learning to adjust to.

Waving a rickshaw down, hoping the driver stops and the seats aren’t full, asking which direction the driver is going, bartering a price for the ride, and screaming over all the honking and traffic for the driver to stop where I have to get off is like running a marathon for the first time without any previous training or warming up and stretching your arms and legs before the big race.

You think it will be fine, but in reality you end up on bedrest for the next two days thinking about

how you never want to run marathons ever again. These are the feelings I had traveling by rickshaw the first few times when I first arrived in Hyderabad in late December: I started out semi-confident; but, then I became stressed, annoyed, and finally, just exhausted.

Women typically do not sit in the front of a rickshaw. If a driver stops and the back seat is full with two women and a man, for example, the man will move and sit in the front with the rickshaw driver and give me a seat in the back with the women. Mini buses here are similar, too. There are two rows of seats facing each other, and women usually sit on one side and men sit on the other. Now that I think about it, buses are also the same: women in the front and men in the back. Staring is pretty common, too. In the US it’s considered rude, but here it’s not. Let’s just say I’ve had my fair deal of staring matches.

Coming to India, I wish I’d already had some experience with public transportation so I would have been prepared for its chaos and unreliability.

With almost three months under my belt of commuting in India, though, I’m finally starting to learn the ropes. I’ve ran so many marathons that I barely even have to stretch my loose muscles anymore.

Learning to adjust to a new culture and society is a process that takes time, but one that will eventually, at least for the sake of public transportation, become second-hand nature.

Kings, queens and everything in between

The Ursinus Gender and Sexuality Alliance hosts its second-annual student drag show

Paige Szmodis
paszmodis@ursinus.edu

On Saturday, Mar. 24, the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) held the second-annual student drag show at 7 p.m. in Bomberger Auditorium. The show featured eight student performers as kings, queens, and general drag monarchy.

The president of the GSA, senior Robin Gow, explained that last year was the first GSA-sponsored student drag show, but “Ursinus has a deep history of drag.”

For instance, the theater department, with Professor Dominic Scudera, holds a professional drag show every year in the Blackbox Theater during the annual Ursinus Fringe Festival.

Gow also noted, “[According to] Professor Scudera . . . there [have] been drag shows [at Ursinus] before but usually as charity benefits or fundraisers.”

On the purpose and significance of drag, Gow explained, “To me, drag has a wide range of possibility, but in general it’s a form of queer performance art meant to probe and question the construct of gender. Drag as an art form is evolving and I love to see the new possibilities beyond just binary drag.”

“Drag has a wide range of possibility, but in general it’s a form of queer performance art meant to probe and question the construct of gender.”

— Robin Gow
President of GSA

While shows like “RuPaul’s Drag Race” have increased mainstream awareness of drag in the past decade, much of this attention has focused on drag queens performed by cisgender gay men. However, the GSA’s student drag show showcased performers of a wide variety of gender identities and gender expressions, not limited to binary

gender performances as drag kings or queens.

Last year, Gow performed as a drag king named Billy Flash. He said, “It was fun to make a drag king persona out of a stereotypical emo pop-punk boy . . . in a lot of ways it was a parody of myself. I performed Panic! at the Disco’s “Girls/Girls/Boys” which was meaningful to me because it’s about bisexuality and I’m really passionate about bi-visibility.”

“It makes me feel empowered.”

— Cherry Bomb
Drag Queen

After the show, I interviewed a new addition to the drag line-up this year, a drag queen named Cherry Bomb, also known as senior Ben Susser. It was her first time ever performing in drag, and she said she was inspired to participate this year because “I took hip hop dance this semester and I’m finally really getting into performing. [I’ve] talked about doing drag many times after seeing many drag shows, and I finally feel comfortable performing.”

Cherry Bomb performed to the song “Feels Good” by Tony! Toni! Toné! because she has “always enjoyed it. It comes on the R&B 100.3 radio.”

When describing her look for the show with tight-curly black hair, high-waisted light blue jeans, and a leather jacket, Cherry Bomb said, “It don’t get no hotter than me!” But, she admitted that “the true all-star is Milana,” her friend who did her makeup and helped her get ready, for three and a half hours, before the show.

About her performance, Cherry Bomb reflected, “I was satisfied. I got a little exasperated near the end . . . a little sweaty.” She also admitted, “I dislocated my thumb twice before this while practicing,” so she decided not to do the pin-



Photo courtesy of Claire Hughes

Student performers at the GSA drag show pose onstage in Bomberger Auditorium.

drop dance move. Thankfully, “her thumb is fine.” Cherry Bomb concluded that she wants to do drag again soon because “it makes me feel empowered.”

“It’s the kind of event that lets the community come together that’s not as heavy as discussing the nuances of gender and identities.”

— Robin Gow
President of GSA

Senior Frozen Belton, who performed in both this year’s and last year’s drag shows, reflected on the importance of

having drag shows for the LGBTQ+ community at Ursinus.

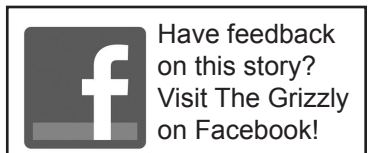
They said, “LGBTQIA+ people need visibility and belonging. We need to see and appreciate our culture. Even if an individual doesn’t incorporate drag into their own queer culture, it is a part of it, now and historically, and that’s pretty important.”

Gow added that having a student drag show on campus is important “because it’s the kind of event that lets the community come together that’s not as heavy as discussing the nuances of gender and identities. It also provides a level of LGBTQ+ visibility on campus that isn’t always as present.”

Belton also stated that a

student run drag show “[creates] a place for us to explore for ourselves. We don’t wait for someone to say ‘here is your place, thanks for coming by.’ We create what we want.”

The GSA plans to continue an annual tradition of student-run drag shows. On behalf of the executive board, Gow mentioned that “we check our email frequently and would love to hear from those interested in doing drag” in the future. Interested students can contact the GSA at GSA@ursinus.edu.



Eat your way through edible books

“Stranger Things” comes to Ursinus as the theme for this year’s annual Edible Books Festival

Sophia DiBattista
sodibattista@ursinus.edu

Grab your aprons because the annual Edible Books Festival is coming Friday, April 6 to Myrin Library. Since 2005, the event has boasted many creative and tasty entries submitted by excited participants.

According to Myrin’s Instructional Technology Librarian, Christine Iannicelli, “Libraries around the world host Edible Books Festivals similar to ours at the beginning of April. The International Edible Books Festival is held annually around April 1 to commemorate the birthday of French gastronome Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826).”

She added that the idea was first proposed in 1999 by Judith A. Hoffberg, a writer and librarian, and Beatrice Coron, an illustrator.

The festival first came to Ursinus when Jessica Gallagher ’06 told the library staff about the event. Since then it has become an annual event with around 20 people participating every year, half consisting of faculty and half consisting of students. Students get extremely creative with their entries, like graduate Samantha Keoonela ’17 who submitted “Perks of Being a Cauliflower,” inspired by “Perks of Being a Wallflower” by Stephen Chbosky.

Iannicelli runs the program with Andy Prock, the Scholarly Communications & Metadata Librarian, and both create the theme for the festival each year. Iannicelli commented that this year’s “Stranger Things” theme is

by far her favorite.

“Andy and I are both fans of ‘Stranger Things,’ [and] we chose it because it has become such an iconic television series that brings a healthy dose of nostalgia for 80s pop culture and literature,” said Iannicelli. This does not mean that all submissions must revolve around the theme. Submissions can be inspired by books of any genre at any time. The theme is used as a fun subject for the library to be decorated around.

The library will be decorated to match the theme as well, with Stephen King books and “Stranger Things” decorations. Starting the last week of March, there will be photos from previous years shown in the library display case for people to look in on for enjoyment and inspiration for entries.

Last year’s winner for the most popular entry out of 20 submissions went to Jennifer Kuklantz, a Copy Center and Facilities Services technician. The entry was titled “Fantastic Beats and Where to Find Them,” inspired by J.K. Rowling’s “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.” Kuklantz said she entered because “it sounded like fun, and [she is] highly competitive.” Kuklantz plans on entering again and recommends the event to everyone.

“It’s neat to see everyone’s interpretation of a book title into food, and if you can’t make one, stop by and vote. [A lot] of my friends entered, and they had a ball,” said Kuklantz.

Kuklantz’s entry for this year is a secret and will be revealed during the festival.



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Last year’s winning display “Fantastic Beats and Where to Find Them” submitted by Jennifer Kuklantz.

For those interested in competing, Iannicelli explained that “participants are asked to create entries out of edible ingredients [and] food products. The entries should have some literary connection (e.g. entries could look like a book, be a play on its title, or be inspired by its contents). Participants can submit as many entries as they wish and can submit entries individually or as teams.”

Iannicelli added that competi-

tors must have their entries submitted by 11 a.m. in the library on the day of the festival. The judging period lasts from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. During that time period the Ursinus community is welcome to come to the first floor of Myrin and vote for the winning entries. At 1:15 p.m., the ballots will be counted and the winners announced.

Said Iannicelli, “The grand prize for the most popular entry

is \$100. The runner-up gets \$50. We also have four \$25 prizes for Funniest Entry, Best Book Representation, Most Appetizing, and Least Appetizing.” The best part is that after the competition ends, all attendees may eat the leftovers, so everyone is a winner!

Stop by the Edibles Book Festival on Friday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Questions can be directed to Christine Iannicelli at ciannicelli@ursinus.edu.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<i>Disability at the Intersection of Race, Class, and Gender</i> 7:30 p.m. Pfahler Hall	<i>Mason Jar Craft Night</i> 7 - 9 p.m. Lower Wismer		<i>Happy Easter/ April Fools Day!</i>	<i>Fighting the Stigma of Mental Health</i> 7 p.m. Musser Auditorium	<i>Lantern Launch</i> 4:30 p.m. Olin Auditorium	<i>Amor Towles: One Book, One County</i> 2 p.m. Bomberger Hall



Focus on bomber's mental health reflects white privilege

Kevin Leon
keleon@ursinus.edu

This month, five premeditated explosions over the span of 19 days went off in Austin, Texas. Some were premeditated towards people of color, but other victims weren't so apparently targeted.

The first bomb, a small device hidden in a delivery box, went off on Mar. 2. It killed Anthony Stephan House.

The second and third bombs went off on Mar. 12. The second one was another apparently hand-delivered package that killed 17-year-old Draylen Mason and injured his mother. The third bomb injured a 75-year-old Hispanic woman. At this point, all the victims had been people of color.

The fourth bomb went off on Mar. 18. This time, rather than the bomb being disguised as a package, the bomb was left on the side of a road and set up to be detonated by

a trip wire. Two men in their early twenties were seriously injured.

A fifth bomb went off on Mar. 20 at a FedEx processing facility near San Antonio, Texas, eighty miles south of Austin. A sixth bomb was intercepted that same day. A suspicious package at a FedEx facility was reported to the authorities.

On Mar. 21, as authorities finally closed in on the suspect, 23-year-old Mark Anthony Conditt, he pulled his vehicle over into a ditch and let off a final explosion, killing himself and injuring an officer.

According to Newsweek, Austin Police Chief Brian Manley suggested that Conditt was not a terrorist because in the recording he left behind, he did not self-identify as one. Manley described the recording as, "the outcry of a very challenged young man talking about challenges in his personal life that led him to this point."

This is yet another instance in which a white male's actions are, in a way, absolved by the media and authorities because of his mental health. It's obvious that if it had been a person of color that carried out this series of attacks, the terrorist label would have been the default.

The media failing to use this word when referring to white men like Conditt or Nikolas Cruz, the perpetrator of last month's Parkland shooting, is nothing new. But that doesn't make it any less exhausting. Same with the stream of sob-stories about Conditt and his challenges with mental health. Authorities love to point towards mental health challenges when it comes to white men killing others, but when a person of color is responsible, they quickly attack them.

The New York Times said, in reference to Michael Brown, a teenager killed by police in 2014,

that "Michael Brown was no angel," then proceeded to bring up the fact that he once stole a box of cigars, as if that justifies his execution by police. Contrarily, when reporting on the Austin bomber's death, the Times mentioned he was a "'nerdy' young man from a 'tight-knit, godly family.'"

With the Austin bombings, there was another blatant shortcoming: the coverage wasn't as pronounced as it could have been. It took national news outlets until Mar. 12, when the second and third bombs went off, to take notice. And even then, it wasn't exactly in the headlines. It took a while for people to take notice and become aware of what had been happening in the Texas capitol since the beginning of March. Had the victims all been white people, the story would have been plastered all over national T.V.

The president, who is quick to label minorities as criminals,

rapists, and terrorists, referred to Conditt in a tweet posted after his death only as a "suspect." White male terrorists are given an unrivaled level of sympathy based on the color of their skin.

A week after the terrorism ended, any talk of Conditt has turned to discussion of his mental health or has simply died out. Mental health seems to only matter when it can be used to deflect a white male's acts of terror. This excuse stays in line with the notion that white people are the most innocent demographic.

And it's disingenuous to place responsibility solely on mental health. The responsibility should fall on the person committing the act because mental health is no excuse to take other people's lives. Many people of color also suffer from depression and other mental illnesses, yet it is entitled white men that carry out acts of terrorism against American citizens.

Housing Games: Ursinus can do better than randomized lottery

Julie Krasutsky
jukrasutsky@ursinus.edu

It's that time of year again: the Housing Lottery. Last week, Residence Life emailed students with their lottery numbers and housing information, and with that email, you could feel the stress mounting in the air. As a senior, I am relishing in the fact that I don't have to deal with the housing lottery.

Coming into freshman year, housing was easy. You knew that you were going to have a room in BPS or BWC, and most people didn't know who their roommate would be or anyone else living in the dorm.

However, as soon as the housing email came out the spring of my freshman year, chaos ensued. I was fortunate enough to already have my roommate, but trying to figure out where I was going to live and if there would be any rooms left when it was my turn to choose was nerve-wracking.

A couple of my Lacrosse teammates wanted to live in Todd Hall on Main Street, where rooms are often still available—housing in dorms like New and

North is usually much more desirable. Fortunately, I was able to get the room I wanted in Todd.

The issue with Ursinus's lottery system is that it's all left up to chance and luck. I didn't think it could get more stressful until I got into Olin Auditorium for the actual selection process. The whole time everyone's legs were shaking as rooms started disappearing off of the list. Meanwhile, I hoped that the room I wanted was still going to be there; once my name was called, I sprinted to the front, then blurted out the room I wanted to make sure that I got it before any questions were asked.

Throughout my whole time here at Ursinus that has been my experience—no year less stressful than the last. By design, the housing lottery has that effect. It is set up in a way that makes no guarantees; you have no control over what number you have, or what rooms are available.

Said junior Emily DiGiorgio, "It puts people in good and bad situations and sometimes it is not fair. It is stressful because it is all based on luck, and housing has a huge impact on your college

experience."

A problem that I have with the housing lottery is that you could end up with an awful number every year. Because the system is all random, I know people who have been in the top 10 people of their class or the bottom 10 of their class every year. I think that if you get a bad number one year, you should be able to get a better number the next. Therefore, if you are in the top ten the previous year, the next year you wouldn't be allowed to be in those top spots so that they would be filled with students who have had bad numbers the previous years.

Another way in which the school's system could change for the better is to have incentives for students, such as using GPA, community service, or participation in other programs at Ursinus that allow students to qualify for a better number in the housing lottery. This way, students can help the college in a positive way and be rewarded, so it is a win-win for both the school and the student.

One of the biggest problems with the process is that fresh-

man with high numbers, those at the very end of the list, often have no rooms left to choose from by the time their number is called. In some cases, these rising sophomores leave for the summer with no idea where they are living the following semester. Yes, Ursinus will always find housing for students, but concluding the semester with no idea what next year's living situation will be and having no say in the matter could be very scary for some people.

I was able to talk to my sister, Abby Krasutsky, who is a freshman and is going to experience the housing selection for the first time.

"I'm really nervous about the housing lottery because I don't have the worst number but [it's] also not the best," she said. "I'm really used to living close to my friends and I'm worried we're all going to be really far apart now, especially because we might be across Main Street. I'm hoping I get lucky and me and all my friends can find a good place to live."

The best advice that I can give to freshmen about to go through

the lottery system is to stay calm. The college guarantees housing, so you will have a room at some point. Also, Main Street isn't as bad as some people might say it is. Some students think Main Street is farther from the center of campus or not as nice as New or North, which are newer buildings. However, it's actually nice to live in a house instead of a normal dorm setting. You are able to become closer to the people in your house, creating a more social environment. In the end, most Main Street houses are only a longer walk from campus by a few minutes.

On Apr. 8 there will be a roommate mixer for students who still need a roommate for next year. Additionally, the list of open rooms will be coming out on Mar. 30 via email. The housing lottery starts Apr. 3 for the class of 2019, Apr. 5 for the class of 2020, and Apr. 12 for the Class of 2021. May the odds be ever in your favor.



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Bears are back on track following California trip

Jonny Cope
jocope@ursinus.edu

After getting off to a rocky start, things are finally starting to stabilize for the Ursinus College baseball team, currently sitting at 3-8.

After making a magical run in the Centennial Conference (CC) playoffs one season ago, the Bears have high expectations for the remainder of the season as they look to contend for a championship once again. While adjusting to a new squad, they hope to hit their stride as conference play gets underway.

“Getting adjusted to the new

leadership is tough,” said Pierce Greenleaf. “Especially after losing half of last year’s team to graduation.”

Ursinus struggled through their annual Spring break trip. The Bears’ trip got off to an unusual start, as travel issues forced the team to cancel their scheduled season openers against Concordia and Chapman.

After finally arriving in California, Ursinus did not fare well, dropping both sets of their opening day doubleheader against Redlands. Ursinus lost a narrow contest against Whittier 7-6 before facing off against defending na-

tional champion Cal Lutheran. Nationally ranked at the time of the game, Cal Lutheran took it to the Bears, besting Ursinus 16-1.

One bright spot for the Bears on that day was senior Travis Kozak, who went 3-4 at the plate. Ursinus then dropped both parts of a doubleheader against Claremont-Mudd-Scripts.

Despite losing both games, the Bears racked up 32 combined hits in both games, according to the Ursinus College athletics webpage.

The Bears rounded out their trip to California with a win against Occidental, as senior Drew Roesch came up clutch for the Bears, driving home the winning run in the ninth.

After ending their Spring break trip on a positive note, the Bears continued their success back home in Collegeville. The Bears split a doubleheader with Penn State-Berks, dropping the first contest 7-1 and winning the second leg of the doubleheader 7-0 behind a strong pitching performance by junior David Drea.

After a late season winter storm postponed the Bears home opener against TCNJ, Ursinus traveled to Ramapo College for a doubleheader. Just as they did against Berks, the Bears responded after dropping the first game 5-1, coming back to win the second contest 2-0, behind senior Pierce Greenleaf’s strong pitching.

“Pierce did great, he really pitched well today,” said junior Mark LeDuc. According to Ursinus athletics, Greenleaf’s second start of the year was one of his best, as it was the third complete game of his college career.

“You could see at Ramapo that the team is starting to gel,” said Greenleaf. “Hopefully that leads to us getting some more dubs.”

The Bears still have plenty of time to get back into the playoff

picture. The Bears will travel to Immaculata and host Gwynedd Mercy before starting off CC play against Dickinson Mar. 31.

“If we just stick to what we’re good at and [do not] try to be something we are not, we should be competitive the rest of the year,” said Greenleaf.

For Ursinus, the next few weeks of conference play will determine their post season fate.

Despite their early season struggles, the Bears have seen many outstanding performances. Senior Travis Kozak has gotten off to a hot start, batting .391 on the year with 18 hits and 4 RBIs.

Kozak also recorded his 100th hit of his Ursinus career. Sophomore Alex Mumme has had an outstanding start to the year as well, hitting .410 with 16 hits and 11 RBIs.

On the mound, both David Drea and Pierce Greenleaf have gotten off to solid starts for Ursinus, recovering from their California road trip. Steve DiStefano has also performed well for the Bears as they look to move forward.

As the calendar turns toward April, the Bears look to get back to their winning ways against more familiar opponents as they push toward another extended CC playoff run.

Comfort continued from pg. 8

teammates. Said Comfort: “The girls are all super supportive and would never hesitate to help me. Knowing that I have this group of girls who will have my back means so much. It has taken so much pressure off of me and I can focus more on my game.”

The rookie also attributes her great success so far this spring to her coaches and teammates: “I’ve been pushed in practice by [my coaches and teammates] every day and it has really enhanced my game. It is also helpful knowing that coach is confident in a freshman to lead off and start at shortstop [and] pitch. That really helps my confidence. The more experience I get during these games, the more relaxed I feel at bat [and] in the field.”

Head coach Samantha Campo is excited to see how Morgan takes on the new challenge of conference play.

“Morgan has been really strong in her opening campaign. She has been asked to take on many tasks this season already and seems to be up for the challenge. What is most encouraging about Morgan is her

grit and determination. She is focused on each pitch, each swing, and how she can help the team. I am excited to see how she takes on the new challenge of conference play,” said Campo.

Comfort has some lofty personal goals for the 2018 season: “This season I hope to have a winning record as a pitcher and hit over .500. They might be a long-shot, but I love challenging myself. As a team, one of our goals is to go to playoffs and win the conference.”

Junior left-fielder Faith Carson commented on Comfort’s value to the team.

“Morgan is an exceptional teammate. She comes to practice and games fully prepared for how she can contribute as a player and as a teammate. She’s been so much fun to be around, and she brings so much positive energy to our squad,” said Carson.

She added, “The great thing about Morgan’s freshman status is that she’s new to the conference too-nobody’s seen what she’s got on the mound and she’ll turn a lot of heads this season. At the plate, Morgan has been fulfilling our lead off position with poise and an aggressiveness critical for successful at bats.”



Photo courtesy of Amelia Goldstein

Travis Kozak leads the Bears in hits with 18 through the first 11 games

Scores as of Monday, March 26, 2018

M. Lacrosse (1-6)	W. Lacrosse (2-5)	Gymnastics	Baseball (3-8)	Softball (8-4)	M. Tennis (6-3)	W. Tennis (5-3)
March 17: #5 Cabrini: 19 Ursinus: 12	March 20: Ursinus: 6 #6 TCNJ: 15	March 24: Golden Ram Invitational (@West Chester, Pa.)	March 25: Game 1: Ursinus: 1 Ramapo: 5 Game 2: Ursinus: 2 Ramapo: 0	March 19: Game 1: Delaware Valley: 1 Ursinus: 8 Game 2: Delaware Valley: 3 Ursinus: 2	March 24: Franklin and Marshall: 9 Ursinus: 0	March 24: Franklin and Marshall: 8 Ursinus: 1
March 24: #5 Gettysburg: 8 Ursinus: 7	March 24: #1 Gettysburg: 20 Ursinus: 3	Cancelled				



Photo courtesy of Dave Morgan/Stylish Images

The Softball team continues to enjoy a .304 team batting average and a team OPS of .790. The team has slugged five homers, three off the bat of first-year P/SS Morgan Comfort.

Comfort continues dominant streak

Gabriela Howell
gahowell@ursinus.edu

Morgan Comfort's first 12 games have proved an outstanding start to the first-year shortstop and pitcher's rookie season. Comfort hit .400 with five extra-base-hits while the team was in Florida and has not slowed down since returning to Pennsylvania.

Comfort has gone 4-7, scoring a run and notching another RBI in each of the team's two games since coming back to Collegeville. She has managed to improve on her stat line.

She is now slashing .429/.478/.738 (batting average/on base percentage/slugging percentage) for the season. Her batting average is 10th in the Centennial Conference (CC).

Comfort has now tallied seven extra-base-hits. Three of those have gone for homers and the other four were doubles. She is tied with McDaniel's junior 1B Alicia Wagner for the conference lead. Comfort's power numbers are even more impressive when you see her strike-out percentage is just 7.1 percent, albeit in a small sample size (42 at bats).

But Comfort might be just as impressive on the mound this season. Between her and her senior teammate, Kaitlyn Willis, Ursinus has two formidable front-end starting pitchers they can run out every day. Willis and Comfort are third and fourth in the CC in earned run average (ERA), respectively, with Willis leading the way with a 1.45 ERA and Comfort trailing not too far behind with a 1.75 ERA.

Comfort's been on the hill six times this season (five starts) and has gotten herself a 4-1 record, al-

lowing less than one hit per inning. The 3-2 loss she took to Delaware Valley is misleading. She pitched a complete game, allowing just one earned run, 7 hits, and one walk, and had four strikeouts.

Despite her own efforts at the plate (she hit a lead-off home run in this game), Delaware Valley was able to shut the Bears down in the rest of the game. Comfort's pitching line remains almost as impressive as her batting statistics, with the aforementioned 1.75 ERA and three complete games in the early stages

of her rookie campaign.

Comfort explains the adjustments she has had to make from high school and travel softball to collegiate level: "Collegiate softball is a lot more involved than [high school or travel]. I spend a lot more time with my teammates [and] pitch more [frequently] in college than I did in high school."

Comfort's transition to the collegiate level has been carried out with ease thanks to her coaches and

See **Comfort** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Tuesday
Baseball: 4 p.m.: @ Immaculata	Baseball: 3:30 p.m.: vs. Gwynedd Mercy	Track and Field: Ursinus Outdoor Invitational	Baseball: 12:30 p.m.: Double Header vs. Dickinson	M&W Tennis: 1 p.m.: @ Gettysburg		Softball: 3 p.m.: Double Header vs. Muhlenberg
Men's Lacrosse: 7 p.m.: vs. Washington Coll.	Men's Tennis: 4 p.m.: vs. #29 Swarthmore	M&W Golf: Scotland Run Shootout (@Scotland Run G.C. - Williamstown, N.J.)	Softball: 1 p.m.: Double Header vs. Gettysburg	Women's Lacrosse: 3 p.m.: @ Swarthmore		Baseball: 3:30 p.m.: vs. Haverford
		Men's Lacrosse: 12 p.m.: @ Swarthmore				Men's Tennis: 4 p.m.: @ Muhlenberg