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The Grizzly, October 27, 2016

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Photo Courtesy of Henry Gustafson

A number of campaigns for local, state, and national office have placed their signs advertising their candidates. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 8, and we hope that this issue helps students make their decisions for who they will vote for.

How UC Students Get the News

Ursinus provides students with a ton of resources to keep up with current events. So why don't students use them?

Emily Jolly
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With the election just around the corner on Nov. 8, Ursinus students are scrambling to get as much information as they can before casting their votes.

News resources vary greatly depending on the individual, from readers who include BuzzFeed News and the Onion in their search, to several who use Twitter to see what is trending. Others follow The New York Times, BBC News and the Huffington Post, or watch MSNBC and CNN

for updates.

But the most common news source for students seems to be Facebook, where they can read articles posted by politically active friends and scroll through the sidebar of trending news.

According to the Pew Research Center on Journalism and Media, Facebook is the top source for millennials for news and politics. Mitchell, Gottfried and Matsa report that when asked where they get their news, "about six-in-ten Web-using Millennials (61%) reported getting political news on Facebook," compared to the 44% that answered CNN.

Yet Facebook is a biased news source, according to Zeynep Tufekci, an associate professor at the University of North Carolina and contributor to The New York Times. In her opinion article, "The Real Bias Built In at Facebook," Tufekci explains that the bias stems from the algorithms that run the social media platform that use past user data to show what they may be interested in.

Some people, such as junior Shelby Bryant, are aware that Facebook will not give them a

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International Students Sound Off On Election

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America is looking at two candidates who it has known well since the 1990s. Ursinus' student body is an American generation of people born roughly between the years of 1998 and 1994. Our American generation has known these candidates their whole lives. Remi Janicot and Luna Kang haven't.

Well, at least not in the same context. Janicot and Kang are international students, from France and China respectively. Their

backgrounds are as different from each other's as to the typical American student's.

Janicot was born in France and raised in Belgium, both countries which are more liberal-leaning than the U.S. He saw a few recent American elections from a Belgian perspective.

"Obama was clearly Europe's favorite, and all the media showed it," said Janicot.

After coming to the U.S., Janicot realized Obama may have been more favored by Europe-

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Attorney General Candidate Discusses Platform

A Q&A with Josh Shapiro, the Democratic nominee for Attorney General

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While the media may be focusing most heavily on the presidential race this November, student voters at Ursinus will have quite a few more choices to make. One of those votes will be for attorney general. The attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is in charge of prosecuting cases on behalf of the commonwealth. The office has been a hotbed of controversy over the past few years, mostly stemming from scandals surrounding former Attorney General Kathleen Kane. Kane was recently indicted for perjury and leaking grand jury information to a reporter, for which she was removed from office and sentenced this week to serve 10 to 23 months in prison. Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, is hoping to take over and clean up the office. He's running against Republican State Senator John Rafferty, who represents Collegeville in the Pennsylvania Senate, in one of the most closely watched down ballot races in the country. The Grizzly spoke with Shapiro about the race and how the Attorney General's office affects the lives of college students every day.

Q: One thing that is important to college students in 2016 is sexual assault. I've noticed that in previous interviews and on your website you speak a lot

about this issue, and was wondering if you could expand on your plan to reduce sexual assault, prevent it, and stand with survivors of it.

A: As Attorney General, I would be very focused on rooting out incidents of campus sexual assault, creating a culture of consent, and getting rid of the culture of cover up that exists in too many colleges and universities across Pennsylvania today. I'm not in any way suggesting that that's the case at Ursinus, but just in general, I think we need to be vigilant about that. At the same time, we have got to protect survivors and victims of campus sexual assault.

Q: Can you speak a little bit more about what a "culture of consent" means to you and how you plan to create that as Attorney General?

A: I think it's really important that as Attorney General, we use our education and outreach division to get on college campuses and make sure that students understand that no means no, that administrators understand that when something has been reported that they have a responsibility to act and to have policies and procedures in place that govern how they act, and that they report those findings to the authorities. And that there be a partnership with the Attorney General's office

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comprehensive view of the news.

"I hate to say it, Facebook gives me a lot of news," Bryant said. "Whether it be the news on the side bar or people posting articles, I think all of my news comes from the internet now."

Bryant admits that she does not feel as well informed as she used to be. Like many other Ursinus students, she finds herself picking up the book she has to read for class over reading the news.

"I think I am keeping up as much as I need to, but I'm not digging deeper," said Bryant.

Bryant doesn't think she is alone in this on campus.

"I would say that people on campus think they are well informed," said Bryant. "Whether they are or not is an interesting question, because everyone has their own sources. There's the

whole controversy that Fox News doesn't tell you the whole story. CNN doesn't tell you the whole story. Who is telling you the whole story? And is it your job to find out the whole story?"

Nate Fritzing, another Ursinus junior, carries similar sentiments to Bryant. He believes that students tend to latch onto one thing, which can narrow their exposure. But Fritzing claims we should not blame the students, but rather society instead, for perpetrating a culture of solely focusing on what one believes in and shutting out other views.

As an independent, Fritzing prides himself on trying to see both sides.

"I would say that I'm informed to a degree," said Fritzing. "I think that people have a lot more they can learn, and definitely for me especially there's a lot I don't know."

When asked about resources on campus for news, Bryant, Frit-

zing and many others were surprised to learn that there is a section in the Myrin Library's lounge with newspapers and magazines for students to peruse for news.

"Most people don't know about that," says Fritzing. "That's something that should definitely be publicized more."

The newspaper stand rests against a pillar in the middle of the library lounge. It offers many options including The Chronicle, the Mercury, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Washington Post. The magazines rest on top of a bookshelf on the left side of the room, with titles ranging from Ebony, National Geographic, and The New Yorker. Additionally, an entire aisle on the first floor is home to magazines that deal with politics and current events.

Ursinus also plays CNN on various campus televisions, and copies of the Grizzly are available all over campus.



Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

Residents of Collegeville have been expressing their political views as the election heats up. Above, one resident has decorated their yard with pro-Democratic signs. If students drive West on Main Street (towards Trappe), they'll notice a larger number of signs supporting Trump and other Republican candidates.

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All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

Correction: In a piece about USAS in the most recent issue of The Grizzly, we quoted a student who said that the entirety of the cleaning staff on campus spoke Spanish as their first language. This is inaccurate; the majority of the cleaning staff speak Spanish, but not the entirety.

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

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ans than by the American people themselves.

The candidates in this year's election, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, are less popular abroad than Obama was four years ago.

Janicot said, "Donald Trump is hated by everyone back home because he took advantage of people to make his fortune and because of the way he talks about pretty much everything ... People cannot even imagine him being president."

Chinese citizens have a similar view, according to Kang.

"People [in China] think that it's pretty funny that a lot of [Americans] like Trump," said Kang. "[They] think that some of his words are kind of extreme ... A lot of people don't think he would be a good person to be the president."

Many people abroad prefer Clinton to Trump, since she more closely resembles their policies, such as France's strong social welfare state. The U.S. is generally more conservative than western European countries like France, Belgium, and Germany, so Clinton has the Democratic advantage with European countries.

While Clinton is preferred by a majority of European people, she is met by most international students with suspicion as well.

"As for Hillary, the French and Belgian media is starting to understand that she has a darker side to her," said Janicot. "We usually prefer Democratic presidents as they are more similar to what we have in Europe, but she has been involved in a lot of scandals and I feel like the people I know back home are starting to realize it."

When asked if she preferred Trump or Clinton, Kang responded, "I don't think I would want to vote for either of them."

Media in the U.S. plays a huge role in the election and greatly differs from other countries, and it can encourage political biases. Janicot believes this distinction divides the country.

"And the media itself is very divided," says Janicot, "with channels that are clearly more on the Democratic side and others clearly on the Republican one."

However, the American media coverage of the election isn't all bad in the eyes of international students. According to Kang, American voters have an advantage over voters in other countries like China who don't necessarily have access to much information.

"I think American people get more information about the candidates than Chinese people and most [American] people care about the election," said Kang. "A lot of Chinese people, since they don't have that much access to information, they care less [about elections]."

The election's eccentricity goes beyond the quirks of American politics. Janicot and Kang agree that a similar election would be strange in any other country.

"There is absolutely no way candidates like Hillary or Trump would have even been candidates in France. The French people are very critical of politics," said Janicot.

Many worry that the current election may be tarnishing America's reputation. Dr. Yvonne McCarthy, assistant professor of modern languages, hears international perspectives on the election in the Introduction to American Culture for International Students course she teaches.

"Through class discussions and informal conversations with international students in IDS 120, it seems to me that the current election affirms some of the stereotypical behaviors that international students expect from us based on the U.S. reality TV

shows, movies, and sitcoms they have seen before coming to the States," said McCarthy. In other words, at its best, it is an exaggeration of our best and at its worst, it is an exaggeration of our worst," said McCarthy.

America's unique two-party system contributes to the polarization. On Nov. 8, most American voters will pick between two options. If that voter likes neither, the question becomes who do they dislike less.

"I think there is a problem with the two-party system in America," said Janicot. "There are five to six in France, each selecting their presidential candidate, which gives the people more choice. Some parties are obviously bigger than others, but there is still more choice."

Yet, for Kang the two party system seems refreshing. In China the Communist Party of China is the sole major political party. It has ruled China since 1949 with little competition. Even having only two major political parties seems appealing to Kang.

"I think it gives people more choices ... [the U.S.] only has two [major] choices, but it's still more than in China. Competition makes the country better, because [the parties] always have to be the better one to win," said Kang.

Although many complain about the system of voting in the U.S., Kang sees the system in a more positive light.

Chinese citizens cannot directly vote for their president, called the chairman. Instead the chairman is picked "by 3,000 handpicked 'deputies' to China's legislature," according to Calum MacLeod in USA Today. Chinese citizens don't even have a say in choosing the people that are voting for them.

"I think [the U.S. system] is great ... I mean every single person has a chance to vote for whoever they want," said Kang.

you planned on cracking down on predatory lending schemes in Pennsylvania. I was wondering if you could speak a little bit more about your course of action on that.

A: Sure. There is a constitutional right that exists in Pennsylvania for all students to have a thorough and efficient education system. I think for too many students in certain ZIP codes in Pennsylvania—both urban ZIP codes and rural ZIP codes—that

constitutional right is not realized. It'll be my job to protect people's rights, and I will use the full legal authority of my office to do so when it comes to meeting their constitutional right to a thorough and efficient education system.

Overall, I've talked about wanting to be the people's Attorney General ... There has been an uptick in scams against college students and recent graduates where these companies come in and pretend to want to help you



Photo Courtesy of Brian Kennedy

Josh Shapiro talks with a voter in Pennsylvania. Shapiro is the Democratic nominee for Attorney General in Pennsylvania, and is running against State Senator John Rafferty, a Republican.

with your student loans, but really what they do is they try trick you into or scam you into paying more for your student loans or paying more on paying down your debt. These often go unreported by students because they don't have a place to report it, and we are going to have a specific focus within our office dealing with these kind of scams against college students, so they will have a place to report it and we can go out and prosecute those who scam our college students, or scam recent graduates, or scam our seniors.

Q: What initially drew you to a life of public service, and what would you say to a college student who would want to take route?

A: Truth is, it started for me back in college. I got turned on to student government and political science; I got elected student body president when I was a freshman. From there I got very interested in serving in government. My first job out of college was working on Capitol Hill. I was the youngest Chief of Staff on Capitol Hill at the age of 23, and I put myself through Georgetown Law at night while I was serving as Chief of Staff. Then, at 29 I came home and ran for the State House of Representatives and served there for seven years before being the first Democrat

elected chairman of the County Commissioners in Montgomery County, where Ursinus is.

Q: Public trust in Pennsylvania's Attorney General office is historically low right now, and I was wondering how you plan to raise public trust of the office, and why you think that you're the right person to take over at this pivotal moment in the office's history.

A: You need someone who has been a leader on ethics and integrity issues and who has demonstrated that they could conduct themselves with ethics and integrity throughout their career, and that's something I'm known for. You also need a plan in order to make the office of Attorney General work again and function again with integrity. The first thing I put out in this campaign, and you can find it on my website, was an integrity agenda, where we are going to require every member of the office to sign a code of conduct. Every member should be required to go to mandatory ethics training. We're going to ban all gifts. We're going to be far more open and transparent with our spending. We're going to hire a chief diversity officer. And these are the kinds of things that are going to be needed to change the culture of the office and make it work again.

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as well as with District Attorneys offices across Pennsylvania to prosecute those that assault other college students.

Q: Another issue that is particularly relevant to college students is student debt and the quality of education. I saw that you mentioned that in the Pennsylvania constitution there is a right to an education, and that



Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

The Collegeville Borough Hall on Main Street is one of three polling places in Collegeville, and serves as the the polling location for students who registered to vote with their Ursinus address.

Local volunteers get out the vote

Pennsylvania Democrats prepare for Election Day in Collegeville

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With Election Day quickly approaching, Erika Wohl's emails take on a greater sense of urgency. The Field Organizer for the Pennsylvania Democratic Party in Collegeville, Skippack, and Upper Providence, Wohl is working hard to increase local community members' role in the election process.

Calling to enlist volunteers for canvassing and phone banking, Wohl signs off, "We're stronger together, PA. We can only win this with your help."

Wohl explained that for the presidential election, Ursinus is in one of the most important counties in the country. Not only is Pennsylvania a swing state, but Montgomery County in particular has the potential to either go red or blue.

"Ursinus students have a lot of power in helping to elect Democrats up and down the ballot," Wohl said.

While students look forward to voting on Election Day, Wohl's team has been hard at work behind the scenes, reaching out to community members and gather-

ing volunteers.

"What's really special about this campaign is the amazing volunteers that have gotten involved to help elect Hillary Clinton and prevent a Donald Trump presidency. Working with volunteers has been my favorite part of my role on this campaign," she said.

"Ursinus students have a lot of power in helping to elect Democrats up and down the ballot."

— Erika Wohl
Field organizer,
Pennsylvania Democratic Party

Patrick Bailey, a recent graduate of Wesleyan University who has returned home to Collegeville to get involved with the campaign, is what Wohl described as a "super volunteer." While living in New England, Bailey began attentively watching election coverage.

"It's hard not to: It's everywhere," he said.

When Bailey began to notice polls shifting in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, he decided

to return home and get involved.

He described the concern for the idea of a "President Trump" that many Democrats share: "Even though people were laughing [at Trump] it started to actually become troubling."

Leading up to the voter registration deadline, the Democrats' team was primarily concerned with making sure community members were registered to vote. Now that this has passed, with less than two weeks remaining before Election Day, their main goal is to get out the vote – GOTV for short.

"The week leading up to Election Day is the most important week of the whole campaign," Bailey said. "We're trying to get people prepared for the actual day: Tuesday, November 8."

This includes reaching out to community members by going door-to-door and making phone calls. In addition to encouraging people to vote, the volunteers have been informing voters of polling places and voting times for Election Day to ensure that

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UC alumni on the campaign trail

Brian Kennedy '15 and Ryan Ferguson '16 embrace post-grad life in politics

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During a campaign, it may seem like the candidates get all the attention. However, the people behind the scenes are just as important in making sure their candidate's campaign is a success. Recent Ursinus graduates Ryan Ferguson and Brian Kennedy are living proof of the importance of campaign workers, and have been working hard for their candidates. Ferguson and Kennedy both credit Ursinus with giving them the drive necessary to make it through this election.

Over the years, Ursinus has fostered many successful and nationally renowned politicians; UC alumni have earned countless accolades in politics, political science, business, and international relations.

Well-known graduates include Republican Congressman Ryan Costello, New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, former Republican legislator Barrie Ciliberti, foreign service officer and diplomat Hermann Eilts, Republican politician George Geist, US federal judge John William Ditter Jr, Director of the United States Office of Personal Management Linda M. Springer, and Pennsylvania House of Representatives member John Fichter.

Hoping to follow in the footsteps of alumni who have impacted the political sphere, Kennedy and Ferguson have assumed positions working for local political campaigns.

Ferguson, who graduated in the class of 2016 with a degree in political science, currently works for NextGen Climate, an organization that works to facilitate awareness on climate change and climate issues.

Ferguson works specifically as a deputy regional field director, Ferguson builds voter outreach programs on campuses across the Greater Philadelphia Area. He primarily focuses on

working with students, clubs, and school administrators to make sure that college students are ready for the 2016 election.

"I was looking for the opportunity to impact the 2016 election and NextGen Climate was looking for recent grads in the Philadelphia area," said Ferguson. "I was really excited for the opportunity to work on such an important issue."

According to Ferguson, the staff at NextGen Climate believes that Republican candidates Donald Trump and Pat Toomey will prevent progress on climate change. In addition, they consider Hillary Clinton the most suitable candidate in terms of prioritizing climate change.

"My experience at Ursinus also taught me that we all have a duty to serve the community that we live in."

— Ryan Ferguson
Class of 2016

"Hillary Clinton has promised to make clean, renewable energy a priority if she is elected president, and she'll need senators like Katie McGinty to get it done," said Ferguson.

Ferguson expressed that Ursinus's political science program successfully prepared him for the challenges of working in such a competitive field while also fostering a drive to help the surrounding community

"Ursinus gifted me with a passion for political science," he said. "I can thank professors like Dr. Evans and Dr. Karreth for inspiring me to pursue a career in politics."

"My experience at Ursinus also taught me that we all have a duty to serve the community that we live in. That belief led me

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everyone makes time to vote.

“We want to make sure they don’t forget about it,” Bailey said.

The three polling places in Collegeville are the Collegeville Borough Hall, Trinity United Church of Christ, and St. Eleanor’s Catholic Church. Ursinus students who are registered to vote in Collegeville will vote at the Borough Hall.

According to Bailey, while the presidential election is highly anticipated, the volunteers are also striving to raise awareness of local candidates.

“I’ve been trying to do a lot of outreach, canvassing and phone banking, trying to reach out to Clinton supporters and see who might vote for other Democratic candidates as well,” he said.

Bailey has enjoyed canvassing in the area where he grew up and meeting members of the community.

“It’s a little intimidating at first, to just go up to someone’s door and knock,” he said, but explained that many people have been welcoming and eager to engage in conversation about the stakes of this election.

“Most people seem pretty wary about the election,” he observed. “To talk to someone on a human level about the election has been really enjoyable.”

Because of the importance of Montgomery County in the election, Wohl felt a lot of pressure heading into the campaign season to gather support from local Democrats. With the end of the election in sight, the Pennsylvania Democrats are confident in the work their volunteers have

done and are encouraged by the positive responses they’ve received from area voters.

With less than two weeks remaining, they emphasize the importance of being active in this election, especially because of the affect this battleground county may have on a national level.

“We’re trying to get people prepared for the actual day: Tuesday, November 8.”

— Patrick Bailey
Pennsylvania Democrats volunteer

According to Bailey, it’s important to “get out, voice your support, try to get other people to voice their support, and come out on Election Day.”

Engaging with community

members has been an eye-opening experience for the Pennsylvania Democrats. While they encourage local voters to support the democratic candidates, they have seen a wide range of political views in the area.

“Getting closer and closer to Election Day, people are becoming more adamant about who they’re voting for,” Bailey noted. “It can either go red or blue.”

In addition to attending one of Hillary Clinton’s rallies in Pennsylvania, Bailey recently had the opportunity to attend a nearby Donald Trump rally, and described the difficulty of sharing opposing political views from many of his own neighbors.

“It was quite an experience,” he said. “It’s very strange to hear Trump say all these things you really, in your gut, disagree with, and people around you cheer for.

At the same time, they’re Pennsylvanians just like you are.”

At the same time, Bailey emphasized the importance of voters being positive and sharing their message.

“This is probably the most important election I’m going to vote for in my life. So much is at stake.”

While Bailey believes the stakes of this campaign cycle have served as a “wake-up call” to get people involved, he thinks that the national divisiveness the presidential election has sparked will not disappear after Election Day.

“By November 8, people may be completely done with the election, but we need to stay involved to keep working to fix our national issues,” he said.



Photo courtesy of Brian Kennedy

UC alum Brian Kennedy with presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, shown here behind the scenes at Clinton’s recent rally in Pittsburgh

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to work on my first campaign in Montgomery County while attending Ursinus; that same passion for bettering my community is what brought me to NextGen Climate,” he added.

Another recent graduate, Brian Kennedy, landed a position as Democratic politician Josh Shapiro’s direct assistant. Shapiro is a candidate for Pennsylvania Attorney General. Working for Shapiro, Kennedy is in charge of getting the candidate to the right place at the right time with the right materials and information.

“I drive him, make sure he knows what he’s walking into, then assist and photograph events,” said Kennedy.

“It’s a tough but extremely rewarding role, and I am very proud to work for someone with a record of reaching across party lines to make government work.”

Shapiro had the chance to

open events for Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Michelle Obama, which were once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for Shapiro’s crew.

“The presidential campaigns have spent a lot of time in Pennsylvania and that’s led to some exciting opportunities for all of us,” said Kennedy. “At a rally in Pittsburgh I met Hillary Clinton and got to offer some words of encouragement.”

“...I am very proud to work for someone with a record of reaching across party lines to make government work.”

— Brian Kennedy
Class of 2015

According to Kennedy, working with a campaign is mentally and physically grueling but well worth the hard work that starts during the college years.

The summer after gradua-

tion, Kennedy spent much of his free time knocking on doors and making phone calls to the Montgomery County Commission for Shapiro and Commissioner Val Arkoosh’s re-election campaigns.

Through that role, Kennedy was able to meet and met Shapiro’s senior team and eventually landed his current position. He expressed that an Ursinus education helped prepare him for such a busy and challenging job.

“Being a busy student at Ursinus helps you develop a gritty, push-through-it kind of attitude, which is totally necessary for working on campaigns that are long and difficult,” said Kennedy.

“I also think that involved students at Ursinus have a great opportunity to improve their community by working their interpersonal relationships, which is what you should want to do if you’re going into politics.”

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Global Horror: International Film Festival Screening Japanese 7 p.m. Olin Auditorium	Pause for Paws Halloween Dog Costume Contest 12 p.m. Olin Plaza	Why do you do service? 2 p.m. Lower Wismer			Crush the GRE: A GRE Test Prep Course 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Location TBD	Pinterest Night 7 p.m. Lower Wismer



The difficulties of voting from past to present

Despite great progress, our election process still discourages people from voting

Leighnah Perkins
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In the past two weeks various members of the GOP, including Donald Trump, Mike Pence, and Newt Gingrich, all called for Trump supporters to “monitor” polling places across the U.S. to combat a rigged election.

Trump first encouraged this practice at a rally in Altoona, PA, where NBC reports he said “Go down to certain areas and watch and study and make sure other people don’t come in and vote five times.” From there the Trump campaign began sign-ups on his website to be a “Trump Election Observer,” which involves going to the polls and watching for voter fraud. Yet, with such a divisive election, this seems to be the absolute last thing voters should be focused on.

Recently, Donald Trump has been complaining on Twitter about how this election is rigged by the media while he encourages citizens to question and vet other citizens as they attempt to vote.

Who gave random volunteers the right to potentially intimidate people out of their vote?

These acts of “poll monitoring” sound all too familiar for anyone acquainted with the history of minorities earning the right to vote.

Massvote.org, an organization that works to educate and register voters, outlined a timeline of the history of voting from the birth of the U.S. in 1776 to the modern day.

Voting started after the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Although the newly born United States was supposedly a land of freedom, there were numerous rules preventing those who were not land-owning, Protestant, white males from voting.

Shortly after, all white men of any religion gained the right to vote as did any white immigrants. Asian immigrants and those of Mexican descent were subsequently denied the right to vote. Enslaved African people were considered to only be three-fifths of a person, therefore they were

also not permitted to vote.

In the late 1800s, a variety of tactics were employed to stop people, especially those who were enslaved, from voting. These tactics included poll taxes or having to pay to vote, literacy tests used to determine if those voting could read (most enslaved people could not), and grandfather clauses where citizens whose grandfather couldn’t vote prevented them from voting.

Throughout this time women were also unable to vote, until the creation of the nineteenth amendment in 1920. Native Americans also gained the right to vote four years later.

A major victory arrived in 1965 with the Voting Rights Act, which stated that voters could not be discriminated against because of their race. However, literacy tests weren’t banned until 1975, still keeping people struggling to vote.

From that point, registering to vote was supposed to become easier for all Americans. In the 1990s, voter registration became available at the Department of

Motor Vehicles. Now voter registration is available online in most states.

Despite great progress, there are still seemingly invisible barriers in the way of some citizens’ right to vote.

One group of citizens might be familiar to those who have read Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow.” Alexander points out that those convicted of a felony are no longer allowed to vote in elections despite their status as a citizen. Alexander writes that people of color are disproportionately imprisoned more than those who are white, which affects the voting process and the diversity in voting.

College students are also unfairly “monitored” in situations of voting. If you’re in-state, you might have to register in a separate county, which can be confusing in the registration process that asks for your “permanent address.”

If you’re out-of-state, you have to fill out and mail in an absentee ballot far before the actual election takes place, leaving

many students to either miss the deadline completely or not mail in their ballot on time. The absentee ballot process is complicated by an outdated system.

Even the hours polls are open can limit voters. Considering the fact that polls are typically open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on a weekday (a Tuesday), people with children, jobs that have wide ranging shifts, or hectic lifestyles in general could miss out on their chance to vote.

Overall, it’s important to make sure you are informed about how to vote for this and every election. Do not let forces, both institutional and just ones of inconvenient paperwork, intimidate or keep you from exercising your rights as an American citizen. People fought for hundreds of years for everyone to at least have a chance to vote.

For further information on Election Day, those who are registered to vote should check out Rock the Vote, a non-partisan platform that can help you find the correct polling place for your address and the hours it’s open.

The future of the Supreme Court is on the ballot

The winner of the presidential election could nominate up to four Supreme Court Justices

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While students are deciding which presidential candidate to vote for, they must strongly consider the one issue that will have the ability to impact the country for generations to come: the Supreme Court vacancies. If we include Antonin Scalia’s currently vacant seat, the next president has the potential to nominate four Supreme Court Justices as three current justices—Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer—are approaching or are over the age of 80.

Both Republicans and Democrats understand the impact these appointments could have in shaping the court for decades to come, which is why Republican leaders, in an unprecedented move, have refused to hold hearings to approve Merrick Garland, Obama’s

nominee to fill Scalia’s seat.

According to the NPR story, “Presidential Election Likely to Impact Shorthanded Supreme Court,” shortly after Scalia’s death, Mitch McConnell, a Republican senator from Kentucky, vowed that there would be no decision on any nominee from Obama over the course of the next year.

The NPR story states that McConnell and other senate Republicans believe that, “The people should have a voice in the selection . . . and therefore this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.” Never has a Supreme Court nominee been so actively opposed based on an impending election.

The weight of McConnell’s stance is echoed by the past acceptance of Supreme Court nominees within a presidential year. According to “The Senate’s Con-

stitutional Responsibility to Act,” an article found on the White House’s website, “six Justices have been confirmed in a presidential election year since 1900.”

Senate Republicans are purposefully ignoring this precedent and the US Constitution they claim to protect and uphold on the chance that a Republican will take office, making it possible for them to stack the Supreme Court.

A conservative majority on the Supreme Court could lead to the reversal of its recent progressive victories. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announced his intention in the third debate to appoint justices who, “will be pro-life [and] will have a conservative bent.” Justices with these attitudes will have the potential to overturn important decisions for women’s reproductive health, such as *Roe v. Wade*.

These justices could also at-

tack the recent gay marriage victory. These potential justices are more likely to uphold the controversial and conservative ruling made in the *Citizen’s United Case*.

In an article for Salon, David Morris explained that the 2010 *Citizen’s United Case* ruling overturned a corporate campaign spending ban championed by Teddy Roosevelt. If Ursinus students care about protecting the Court’s social victories and overturning controversial decisions, such as the one in the *Citizen’s United Case*, they should consider voting for Hillary Clinton to protect these victories.

In the third debate, Clinton expressed her vision of the Supreme Court. “For me, that means we need a Supreme Court that will stand up on behalf of women’s rights, on behalf of the rights of the LGBT community. That will stand up and say no to Citizens

United, a decision that has undermined the election system in our country because of the way it permits dark, unaccountable money to come into our electoral system.”

I know many liberal students at Ursinus are on the fence about Hillary, but in the debates she has promised to protect the Court’s liberal victories. Clinton envisions a Court that will continue to protect and support the rights of marginalized people.

Trump, on the other hand, has made several statements, including the statement he made at that women should be punished for abortion during a town hall with MSNBC in March, that violate the rights of American citizens. A Trump victory means that the least qualified presidential candidate in history will have the ability to influence our laws and our rights for decades.

Rein continued from pg. 8

heard, and I couldn't be more proud of the student body for fulfilling their civic duty and most [for] supporting a candidate in this election."

"I really do think the campus is equally as nervous as I am," said Rein. "I've discussed the election with other students and listened to their concerns during debates. They are as disheartened and worried as I am, and do not see a positive outcome, either."

According to Rein, many students are very concerned about the state of the race and what the future may hold. He added that students on campus are not afraid to go against the grain and back a non-partisan candidate.

"I think they would have wanted to see other viable options such as Bernie Sanders and Gary Johnson," Rein said. "I think it's a wake-up call [showing] how messed up our political system is and how much our country fails to practice what it preaches."

As many people know, the two front-running candidates, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, are most likely the two candidates who will receive the most votes. Rein expressed disappointment in this and the current state of our political system. Rein also expressed his uncertainty about the future for students and citizens of the country.

"I think our foreign policy and Supreme Court will be greatly impacted," he said. "America is on the verge of a revolution and

whether that is in the right or wrong direction will become apparent in the next four years."

Rein was asked if he could relate to anything going on in this presidential election to his experience as student body president. In a heartfelt response he stated, "We have students who are underrepresented and feel like their voices are not being heard and there I understand the responsibility of making sure these students feel heard and understood."

He also added, "If students don't feel like they're getting what they want from me in that regard, I encourage them to reach out to me," Rein added. "Overall, I understand the importance of being the voice to those you represent, and the people come first."

In this particular election, many different groups of people feel as though their voices are not being heard.

"Our country never solved the issues of equality for people of color, [the] LGBTQ [community] and women, and now we are at the age [when] we are realizing and seeing these issues [come to] light," said Rein.

Choosing who will lead our country and act in our best interest is a major issue. It is especially important on college campuses across the nation. With so much student disappointment regarding how the election is unfolding, it is difficult to settle on a candidate.

Rein is available on the second floor of the library or in lower Wismer during common hour every second Wednesday to discuss anything related to student government.

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ers if they decided to protest.

"I think it's a very difficult question to answer because it's very hard to mix sports and social issues at times. However, in an ideal world athletes should not be punished for protesting the anthem," said DeSimone, who is echoing the feelings of many sports executives and coaches. Most don't really know the appropriate way to tackle this question.

Another source of ongoing controversy is the 2016 presidential election, which is just two weeks away. With the opinions of each presidential candidate regarding various issues having been expressed, the country is divided.

"At this moment, the state of our nation is at a crossroads," said DeSimone. "We can come together [and] fix the many issues occurring every day or we can continue to fight amongst ourselves."

This election season has definitely highlighted the passion that so many people have for this great country, but it is clear that

this passion has lead to new problems.

"I think we are a nation that has a lot of problems many people try to avoid talking about, and now that more issues are coming to light, we are seeing the ugly side of some people's beliefs," Schlegel added.

Schlegel and DeSimone identified who has earned their vote this fall and explained why.

"Hillary Clinton," Schlegel declared. "I have honestly found it hard to know who to believe from all the different news sources and articles that I have read, but I 100 percent believe she is a much safer and better option for the majority of people in this country."

He also expressed his feeling that many politicians seem to be corrupt, but that this election was too important for him to cast a protest vote for a third-party candidate.

"I will be voting this year and I will be voting for Donald Trump," DeSimone said. "I have lost trust in Hillary Clinton as a leader and a political candidate."

DeSimone's feelings reflect

those of American voters who have been turned off by the scandals that followed the Clintons throughout their political careers.

"While Mr. Trump is certainly flawed on some accounts, I find some of his policies to be quite interesting and potentially successful," DeSimone said.

Like most other college students, Ursinus students do not hesitate to make their voices known. With the impending election and corresponding swirls of social and political issues, they will continue to do just that.

WRITERS WANTED
Join us for our weekly news meeting.
Mondays, 6 p.m.
Ritter 141

"America is on the verge of a revolution and whether that is in the right or wrong direction will become apparent in the next four years."

—Rob Rein
UC Wrestler and UCSG president



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Photo Courtesy of Henry Gustafson

One of the Ursinus College main street houses, Maples Hall, has a lawn sign endorsing political candidate Ryan Costello. Costello is a UC alumni and the incumbent looking for re-election in the U.S. senate.

Scores as of Monday, Oct. 24, 2016

Field Hockey (12-4)	Football (1-6)	M. Soccer (4-9-1)	W. Soccer (5-8-1)	Volleyball (8-13)	M. Cross County (0-0)	W. Cross Country (0-0)
<p>Oct. 19; Ursinus 3 - Washington College 1</p> <p>Oct. 22; Ursinus 5 - Dickinson 1</p>	<p>Oct. 22; Ursinus 31 - Susquehanna 24</p> <p>TD(s): Garlick (1) Gardner (2) Hackett (1) FG(s): Ford (1)</p>	<p>Oct. 18; Stockton 2 - Ursinus 1</p> <p>Oct. 22; Ursinus 0 - McDaniel 0 (2OT)</p>	<p>Oct. 19; Ursinus 3 - Washington College 0</p> <p>Oct. 22; Dickinson 3 - Ursinus 2</p>	<p>Oct. 19; Washington College 3 - Ursinus 0</p> <p>Oct. 22; Dickinson 3 - Ursinus 1</p> <p>Oct. 22; East. Mennonite 3 - Ursinus 1</p>		





Photo Courtesy of Henry Gustafson

Senior Rob Rein has been a four-year member of the varsity wrestling team on campus. This semester, he has assumed the role of student body president.

Rein Wrestles Political Issues

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The political climate in the United States right now is tense at best. As worlds collide, the Ursinus College campus is gearing up for the election. Leading the battalion of students is student body president and wrestler, Rob Rein. Rein has been a member of the Ursinus wrestling team for the past four seasons and was a part of the 2013- 2014 Centennial Conference championship team.

Over the course of his career, Rein has racked up a number of wins as a Bear. Using the skills he learned on the mat, he translated that into a leadership role at the college. Rein was formally elected to serve as the student body president during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Rein is also a brother of the Alpha Phi Epsilon fraternity, a member of the Model United Nations, Ursinus College Republicans, and the International Relations Club. He is a political science major with minors in both

economics and international relations. Being so involved on campus, Rein had a lot to say about the subject. "A lot of the politically affiliated organizations on campus such as the UC Dems, College Republicans, and Young Americans for Liberty and even upcoming clubs such as Democracy Matters have been promoting debate-viewing parties and discussions," Rein said. "They really want to get their voices

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UC Students Weigh In on Pro-Athlete Protests

Sophomore lacrosse player Peter DeSimone and senior cross country athlete Luke Schlegel give their opinions on the recent national anthem protests happening in the NFL

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In the age of the twenty-four-seven news cycle and react in-a-flash social media sites, controversy seems to be just one click away. During an election year in a very partisan nation, this could not be more evident. Whether people are angered by Colin Kaepernick's kneeling during the national anthem, Donald Trump's latest remark, or Hillary Clinton's emails, it seems like everyone has something to sound off on.

One of the hottest issues in the country right now is centered on San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who has used his fame to speak out against recent incidents of police violence. The quarterback has sparked a controversy that seems to grow more and more heated.

"I believe that Colin Kaepernick has the right to kneel during the National Anthem," said Ursinus men's lacrosse player Peter DeSimone. "He is using his right

of freedom of speech. However, I believe that it is the right of others to either agree or disagree with what he is doing."

Like DeSimone, Ursinus cross country captain Luke Schlegel sided with Kaepernick.

"He absolutely has the right to kneel during the National Anthem," Schlegel said. "If we are going to be a nation based on freedoms, then people have to let him exercise his right."

The idea that it is Kaepernick's right to kneel is interesting. One issue that has resulted from this scandal is whether teams and leagues can punish players for using the game to make social statements.

"I think it's wrong if sports teams and coaches punish players who choose to exercise this right," said Schlegel.

Former San Francisco 49ers Head Coach and current Michigan Head Coach Jim Harbaugh has already spoken out, saying that he would not punish his play-

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Upcoming Games

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Monday	Tuesday
		M & W Cross Country vs. Centennial Conference Championship	M & W Swimming @ Dickinson 1 p.m.	M. Soccer @ Muhlenberg 4 p.m.		
		Field Hockey vs. Muhlenberg 12 p.m.	Football vs. Johns Hopkins 1 p.m.	W. Soccer @ Muhlenberg 7 p.m.		