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Active Minds decides to “Tone it Down Taupe” for autism acceptance

After controversy over the “Light It Up Blue” campaign, Active Minds opted for an autism acceptance campaign instead

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Active Minds “toned it down taupe” on April 3 for World Autism Awareness Day after several students and faculty members voiced criticism against its campaign for autism awareness, “Light It Up Blue.”

Ursinus’ student chapter of the non-profit organization announced a campaign last week that encouraged community members to “Light It Up Blue” by wearing blue clothing for World Autism Awareness Day, which falls on April 2.

After several students and faculty expressed criticism of the campaign’s attachment to the organization Autism Speaks, however, the Active Minds executive board withdrew its original support for “Light It Up Blue”—instead opting to hand out taupe ribbons on campus Monday afternoon.

“Taupe is similar to beige. It’s a ‘non-obtrusive color to symbolize the toned-down sensory and emotional experiences of those lacking autism,’” the Active Minds executive board wrote in an email sent campus-wide, quoting a post from “Radically Neurospeaking Divergence,” an online blog.

“The ‘Light It Up Blue’ campaign is controversial because of concerns that the campaign does not actually broaden autism acceptance,” according to a campus-wide email sent by Dr. Jennifer Stevenson, an Ursinus psychology professor who spe-

cializes in autism spectrum and neurodiversity research. Stevenson sent the campus-wide email responding to Active Minds’ announcement of the “Light It Up Blue” campaign.

According to Dr. Stevenson, proceeds from “Light It Up Blue” campaign merchandise go to Autism Speaks, an autism-focused charity organization that has been criticized in the past for its focus on preventative and cure-based research instead of promoting acceptance for people with autism.

However, Active Minds did not plan to collect money or sell any blue items of clothing for the event, according to sophomore Sarah DeFelice, vice president of Active Minds’ executive board.

The “Light It Up” campaign’s use of the color blue was criticized by Stevenson and other students as problematic because it reinforces the generalization that individuals on the autism spectrum are male.

“The autism spectrum is more commonly diagnosed in males,” Stevenson explained in her campus-wide email. “For example, females may be underdiagnosed because the characteristics present differently or are interpreted differently in females. More individuals on the autism spectrum compared with the general population identify outside the gender binary.”

This event was advocated for by a member of the Active Minds executive board with autism, according to DeFelice.

See **Light It Up** on pg. 2



Photo Courtesy of Elias Olsen

Annette Parker, the vice president for finance and administration, gives presentation on tuition at Town Hall meeting last week organized by Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow. Read more on Page 2.

Student Government election results come in

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The student government election results are in and Ursinus has a new executive board for next year.

Garrett Bullock and Chris Tan were elected president, and vice president, respectively; Callie Terris was elected as secretary; Lily Talerman was elected as treasurer; and Jillian Falduto was elected as social chair.

While the president and vice president ran unopposed, William Diaz ran for treasurer and Rachel Rhindress ran for social chair.

The candidates all got involved in student government for a variety of reasons.

Callie Terris said, “I was interested in joining student government because I knew I wanted to get involved. I loved the idea of being part of an organization that was able to enact change within the Ursinus community.”

“I think that it’s a necessary component to our community, especially for a community full of thinkers,” said Tan. “We are encouraged to ... participate in events and things we feel strongly about. I think student government is a positive way you can get involved in your campus community.”

Lily Talerman will be starting her second term with the student government executive board next fall.

“I ran for re-election because I really enjoyed my past term as treasurer this year and wanted to continue helping the diverse organizations of Ursinus put on and partake in great events,” she said.

All of the newly elected executive board members expressed a commitment to continue current President Rob Rein’s efforts to make the UCSG proceedings more transparent. Talerman cites transparency as one of the initial reasons she ran for student government.

“I was initially interested in UCSG last year because I hoped to improve the transparency of both AFAC and the executive board as well as be involved in bettering our community,” Talerman said.

Terris also believes that transparency should be a priority in student government.

“As an executive board, we want to work to promote both student involvement and member transparency during this upcoming term,” she said. “This cannot be accomplished if we are not reaching deadlines and effectively communicating with the student body. I plan to work alongside my fellow executive board members to provide many outlets for students to get in contact with us, as well as propose ideas for future change.”

Tan echoed these sentiments as well.

“We want to get students involved in the process,” he

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STAT hosts town hall to provide transparency on where tuition goes

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This past Wednesday at common hour, student group Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) helped organize a town hall at which students could learn more about what their tuition money pays for.

The town hall, led by the vice president for finance and administration, Annette Parker, took place in Bomberger auditorium. By no means was it a full event, but the turnout was much higher than usual for a town hall. Parker presented data from the Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS), an independent source, to show that for many things Ursinus is in the “middle of the pack” among its liberal arts college peers. This is true for most things except for the size of Ursinus’ endowment, which is about \$130 million (for comparison, Franklin & Marshall College’s endowment is about \$340 million), and the levels of “demonstrated need” among students. Ursinus currently has about 1,510 students, most of whom are on some form of financial aid.

In light of this, Parker revealed that 42 percent of the school’s gross income goes directly to financial aid and that 82 percent of Ursinus’ budget comes from the cost of tuition. Parker commented that this is not a stable financial situation.

“Much of the process this year is about reallocation,” stated Parker. The point isn’t to raise tuition to cover all expenditures, Parker claimed, but rather move the money around to where it is most needed on campus.

With this in consideration,

junior Zev Bliss asked Parker for “two or three economic initiatives” Ursinus is trying to implement to combat the instability.

She responded with three major goals the school has in mind: higher rates of retention and student success, continually providing good faculty and academic facilities, and keeping up a good residential program for students.

After the presentation Parker moved on to a question and answer portion with the students.

The first question came from senior Danny Bocanumenth, who asked how the rate of inflation would affect tuition increases.

Parker admitted to a two percent increase in tuition for the upcoming academic year, which fits in with the higher education index and will hopefully combat the effect of inflation.

Another senior, Maddie Mathay, asked about the sudden \$200 fee seniors now have to pay to graduate, a fee which was not imposed on seniors in previous years.

Parker assured senior students that the fee is a necessity to fund the week of festivities for graduating seniors, and previously Ursinus was an unusual college for its lack of graduation fees.

Eventually, the hotly contested topic of the Innovation and Discovery Center (IDC) was broached when a student asked exactly how the new campus construction was being financed.

Parker confirmed that \$9 million was donated for the construction of the IDC, but a majority of the funding is coming from an approximately \$20 million loan. However, the school is currently beginning a \$100 million fundraising campaign which

would pay back the loan, as well as fund various other projects around campus.

One of the final issues addressed was the new Gateway Scholarship for high-performing incoming freshmen, the goal of which, according to Parker, is not only good press but will bring in more “brilliant students” who contribute to the positive intellectual atmosphere of the campus.

When asked for feedback on the talk, sophomore Chloe Sheridan had this to say: “I like how she compared us to other schools in our area, but I feel like she was saying that we should be so grateful ... to repay Ursinus for our scholarships.”

Kirsten Biehl, a senior and a member of STAT, felt that the talk was informative, but could have been had more student participation.

“Since it was geared towards college students I think it was definitely informative ... if more ‘average students’ [those not associated with the Advancement Office] had been there I feel like it would have been even more productive,” said Biehl.

That said, Biehl thought that the talk was a sign of progress on the part of the administration’s attempts to be more transparent.

“The mere principle of the school having this event was a good step, it shows that they are willing to be transparent,” said Biehl.

Students were welcome to visit the Ursinus website, or to reach out to the advancement office and the office for finance and administration with any questions they may have regarding details discussed at the Town Hall event.

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“This event was planned because a few of our autistic friends on campus directly requested it. I didn’t see a reason why I should question the validity of the requests of actual people with autism,” DeFelice wrote in a Facebook post.

Sophomore Serena Schaefer expressed her opposition to Autism Speaks. Schaefer serves as a research liaison for Active Minds.

“I am against Autism Speaks mainly because of their insistence on cures and lack of many people with autism in executive positions,” Schaefer said. “At least this controversy increases awareness of the autism community and will maybe encourage people to be more open-minded and accept those around them.”

“Our intentions were purely positive: to foster acceptance and awareness of autism and sub-

sequently decrease the stigmas associated,” Jason Bennett ‘19, president of the Active Minds executive board, wrote in an email.

After reading Stevenson’s campus-wide email, the executive board admitted in an email to “not having done adequate research on the origin of the event” but having reached “a better understanding of the issues brought [to them] by Dr. Stevenson.”

“We appreciated the constructive feedback but not the unfounded accusations, which was [for] Autism Speaks which no one involved supports,” wrote Bennett.

“Our change shows that our intention really is to help the autistic community and that we are open to listening to helpful feedback,” said Bennett on behalf of the board. “As an organization, our main goal is to change the conversation of mental health, so the ongoing conversations going on within the campus community are welcomed.”

BEAR BASH 2017

Performance By:

WE THE KINGS

Featuring:

KESSEL RUN

April 8, 2017

Gravel Lot

Doors Open: 6:00 pm

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VOLUME 41 ISSUE 19

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Core Curriculum updates underway for fall 2018

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The college's Core Curriculum is undergoing changes set for Fall 2018.

According to Dr. Nathan Rein, professor of philosophy and religious studies and the chair of the committee, the main change to the curriculum will be implementing the four new CIE questions: "What should matter to me?"; "How should we live together?"; "How can we understand the world?"; and "What will I do?"

However, these key questions will not be limited to CIE classes anymore.

"Students will work with the first two questions initially in CIE, and every student will take at least two courses that engage each question over their four years at UC," Rein explained in an email.

In addition to the integration of the core questions, there are a few other changes.

"Some aspects of the core will look pretty familiar—for example, CIE will remain in place with only a few changes," said Rein. "We are also adding a core capstone course that students will take later on in their education."

The new core curriculum has been partially approved by a faculty committee, which includes Nathan Rein, Kate Goddard, Rebecca Kohn, Ann Karreth, Melissa Sanders Giess, and Eric Williamsen.

Goddard expressed her enthusiasm about the updates to CIE 100 and 200 as part of the core.

"I am delighted that they are part of the new Core because these courses are a great way for students to begin to build their skills in writing, discussing and speaking," she said in an email. "Ursinus students are GREAT writers and speakers when they graduate. In addition, these courses have been a great way for all of the faculty at the college to learn from each other to be better teachers."

Goddard expressed her belief that the new core reflects Ursinus' current liberal arts education values as well.

"The new core is true to the mission of the college and gives

students a well-rounded liberal arts education as does the current core," Goddard said in an email. "The new core is designed to ask students to find their own answers to a set of questions throughout their courses and other experiences (internships, leadership positions, etc.) during their years at Ursinus."

According to Goddard, the last revision of the college's curriculum took place in 1995, but many faculty members have been involved in updating the curriculum since the process began a few years ago.

"There's no standard timeline for curriculum changes," said Rein. "This one has been in place since about 1995, but there have been tweaks and updates along the way."

Although the revision process has been underway for a few years, Rein explained that the core has only been partially approved so far.

"Faculty have approved the questions, the learning goals that go along with the questions, and a basic framework of courses (that is, the main core requirements, including CIE, a core capstone, an experiential learning component, and a number of other items)," he said. "However, there are still a lot of decisions to make about exactly how things will work in practice."

Rein also provided more details about the committee's process after faculty and academic deans decided to reexamine and update the core several years ago.

"The design teams were made up of faculty who had volunteered for the work, along with some staff members and administrators," he said. "They worked with several teams to design the four questions, to create learning goals for each question, and to design basic course structures that would fulfill those learning goals. At each stage of the design process, the groups collected feedback from the faculty and incorporated it into the revisions, and then each successive step was presented to the faculty for endorsement."

Goddard also shared how the committee is "informed by examining core curricula at other institutions."

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said. "We want to make it easy and make it more accessible for students not only to have their voice heard but to have student government respond."

Next year's executive board has several other goals, aside from transparency. Talerman is interested in using her role as treasurer to meet the needs of students and clubs.

"Moving forward, the executive board hopes to really improve student engagement with student government so that we can more actively serve the needs of Ursinus students," she said. "As treasurer for another year, I hope to continue and improve my communication with clubs applying for funding."

President-elect Bullock and Vice President-elect Tan are interested in creating more alcohol-free living spaces on campus.

Bullock said, "there was very clearly articulated [interest]

amongst ... freshmen, and I've talked to some upperclassmen as well, about how there aren't any non-alcoholic [upperclass] housing options on campus."

Bullock and Tan are also interested in making sure sexual harassment and assault are properly reported.

"The biggest problem most likely is under-reporting," Bullock claimed. "That's something we want to work on."

As social chair, Falduto is interested in increasing student engagement on campus.

"I think my biggest goal, with the help of the rest of the executive board, is to really increase student engagement and help bridge the gap between students and administration," she said. "I overhear people talk about changes they'd like to see and things they want at Ursinus, but I don't think enough of them know where to go and who to tell. I'd love to see all of these ideas--no matter how small--come to life."

Next year's executive board hopes that students will be excited about student government next year.

"President Rob Rein and his team have done an awesome job increasing transparency in student government and including as many students as possible in idea-generation and decision-making, and as a whole, we'd really like to expand on everything they've accomplished," said Falduto. "We're looking to get everyone as involved as possible and are aiming to make it the most exciting year yet!"

Terris expressed similar sentiments.

"Ideally I would love to see students showing up just to stay informed on the recent activities and projects," she said. Terris also believed students should look forward to pizza meet-and-greets with the executive board and town hall meetings.



Photo Courtesy of Sydney Cope

First-year student Garrett Bullock ran unopposed for president of student government next year with junior Chris Tan as vice president.

She explained via email, "Some faculty and deans have attended workshops on core curriculum implementation presented by national educational organizations. It should be noted that even though we have done our 'homework', this core curriculum has some original new ideas in it, and it will be unique to Ursinus."

The committee will involve even more faculty in the future "to help with the details of the implementation plan," according to Goddard.

Goddard also stated that the policy remains that students will graduate according to the course catalog from the year they entered Ursinus. Therefore, the first class to be affected by the new curriculum will be the first-year students entering in Fall 2018.

"According to [this] practice, the changes won't affect anyone who's currently enrolled," Rein said in an email. "However, students also have the option of following the requirements that are in effect in the year they graduate, which means that for the

class of 2019 and beyond, they will be able to elect to follow the revised core, if they wish."

"We're very excited about the new curriculum," Rein expressed. "Some of the changes may not seem that big, but we think it will be a huge improvement!"



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Angermeier

17 bicycles are maintained throughout the year by the UC Bikeshare fellows and are available to students to check out and ride during daylight hours.

Eco-conscious students travel sustainably with UC Bikeshare

The student-run program hopes to encourage bicycle use

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There are plenty of reasons to stay in bed on Saturday morning, but there are also plenty of reasons to go out and grab a bike from the Ursinus Bikeshare program.

Students can register to become a member of UC Bikeshare for only \$10 per year. After registering on the Ursinus website, the Campus Safety Office distributes keys for any of the 17 bicycles available to Bikeshare members to check out. Bikes are available during daylight hours.

The bike rack outside of Wismer houses an assortment of mountain bikes, cruisers and hybrid bikes. Some of the bikes even have baskets, which can come in handy on a trip back from class or a trip to the grocery store. The program's fellows, Daniel Berger and Brent Garcia, also work in a bike repair workshop located in the BPS basement where they fix up and maintain the bikes throughout the year.

Berger, one of the sustainability fellows for UC Bikeshare, believes that one of the virtues of having bikes available on campus is that "they encourage people to do more throughout the day ... to go farther away from campus and do more interesting things."

"If you know how to get somewhere, there's a good chance you can ride there during the day with one of the Ursinus bikes."

— Daniel Berger
Bikeshare fellow

Berger and Garcia both believe that the bikes are a wonderful resource for students because of the variety of ways they can be used. Students can bike to and from class and perhaps take a load off of their shoulders by throwing a heavy backpack in the basket. Students can also venture off of campus with the bikes for a trip on the Perkiomen Trail or to visit a local park, for example. The bikes can also be useful for

local shopping trips to places like Redner's, Target, or Goodwill, and even for an off-campus meal at the Collegeville Diner.

"If you know how to get somewhere, there's a good chance you can ride there during the day with one of the Ursinus bikes," Berger pointed out.

The Bikeshare program is one way for Ursinus to promote sustainability on campus. To Berger, sustainability is for the benefit "of the human race and the planet," and affects how we will "sustain civilization on this planet for the rest of time."

"It's so related to the environment because if we destroy the environment, then [our way of life] is not sustainable," he said.

Bikeshare encourages sustainability by promoting eco-friendly transportation and reducing car usage. Besides Bikeshare, sustainability is promoted on campus through composting in Wismer, the sustainable move-out program, the organic farm, and other ongoing initiatives.

Sustainability can also alleviate costs, Office of Sustainability

director Kate Keppen pointed out.

"Ursinus is going through a strategic planning (Ursinus 150) process, and we are planning for great additions to the campus such as the IDC and the Commons. It is an exciting time to be on campus and I think it is an exciting time to explore how sustainability can benefit the economic bottom line in the long run," she said.

"When we use a bike ... to get to our destinations, we are using an eco-conscious form of transportation."

— Kate Keppen
Director, Office of Sustainability

Ursinus has committed to sustainability and "going green," Keppen stated.

"In 2007, Ursinus College joined over 600 other colleges and universities in committing to decrease [its] carbon footprint ... [our Greenhouse Gas] inventory states that in 2013 we were emitting around 12,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide. As a trend, we have been steadily decreasing our

emissions since 2006."

Using a Bikeshare bike is just one way we can help to further reduce our carbon footprint.

"When we use a bike or walk to get to our destinations, it means that we are using an eco-conscious form of transportation ... But really, Bikeshare is so much more than decreasing our carbon outputs: It is about getting outside and getting some exercise, utilizing the great resources around campus such as the Perkiomen Trail, [and] decreasing air and noise pollution that comes with cars," Keppen said.

Berger also believes that Ursinus is an ideal place for a program like Bikeshare to come in handy.

"This is a difficult campus to have a car on ... due to the way that campus and the surrounding town is laid out, [and] it makes sense to have a program for people who don't own their own bikes," he said.

Stressing Bikeshare's importance, Berger said he hopes that the program will continue to "bring people together over sustainable transportation."



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Angermeier

Bikeshare fellow Daniel Berger checks out a bicycle from the rack outside Wismer. Bikes are available for student use for \$10 per year.

Annual spring concert takes on a new look

Formerly called Mayday, this year's Bear Bash will feature We The Kings, with student band opening

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Ursinus' annual spring concert has a new look this year.

Previously known as Mayday, Bear Bash, the free outdoor concert and celebration, will be held this Saturday, April 8, beginning at 6 p.m. in the gravel lot by New and North.

What makes Bear Bash different from Mayday is essentially when it's being held. In past years, Mayday was held at the end of April, closer to May, as the name implies. This year, though, the date of the festivity was pushed up to early April, prompting the planning committee to decide on a name change.

"It didn't make sense to call it Mayday anymore [since] it's happening at the beginning of April," said Ursinus Student Government president Robert Rein. Student Government is responsible for hosting the event.

Other names like "April Day" were considered by the committee, but eventually Bear Bash was the winner.

This year, the committee, led by Rein and UCSG social chair Rachel Weil, decided on booking We The Kings, a pop-punk group

best known for their hit song "Check Yes Juliet." They came to this decision because they felt that there should be a change in genre. Genres from previous years include rap and EDM, with last year's performance by popular mashup artist DJ Earworm.

According to the committee, We The Kings offers a welcome change in musical style while also fitting the three criteria all possible acts in the running must be considered for: price, availability, and popularity.

"We are ready to put on an awesome Bear Bash!"

— Rachel Weil
Bear Bash planning committee

The Bear Bash planning process was not without its difficulties, however. A major challenge for the committee was developing student interest in the event. The name and timing changes added some confusion, and student interest in the past has not been as high as the committee would hope.

As some students may remember, the event was canceled two



Photo courtesy of Lex Lehr

Members of student band Kessel Run during a performance at the Tall Trees music festival last fall. The band will be the opening act at Bear Bash on Saturday.

years ago due to a last-minute error with receiving the necessary equipment. Consequently, some student acts performed a casual, impromptu show in the Reimert courtyard, though many were disappointed that the planned concert had fallen through.

Members of the Bear Bash committee are confident that the issues of the past will not happen again.

"The Bear Bash committee has put a lot of work into working through the difficulties and we are ready to put on an awesome Bear Bash!" Weil said.

"[Bear Bash] wouldn't be possible without the students we have on this committee, behind the scenes," said Rein. "They really run the show."

Traditionally, a student artist or group gets the opportunity to open for the headliner. Opening for We The Kings will be Ursinus' own Kessel Run. The band is

comprised of students and alumni Mike Muli, Lex Lehr, Mark Nagy, and Jesse Ricardi.

Lehr, one of the band members, admits he had never heard of the headliner prior to being offered the chance to open for them, but says that his band is honored to be opening for an act as well-known as We The Kings.

Lehr explained that balancing school with being in a band has been a relatively easy task. Rehearsals can be time-consuming, especially when Kessel Run was adding new songs to their repertoire, but the band has recently gained experience through playing a lot of gigs. Bear Bash will be one of their biggest to date.

Rein recommends following "UC Bear Bash" on both Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with any announcements or information leading up to the concert.


WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays, 6 p.m.
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Happening on Campus

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Stop Kiss</i> 7:30 p.m. Daily to Apr. 8 Blackbox</p> <p>Photojournalist James Nachtwey 8 p.m. Kaleidoscope</p> | <p><i>Edible Books Festival</i> 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Myrin Library</p> | <p><i>College Choir and Meistersingers</i> 7:30 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium</p> |  | <p><i>Lost in Translation: Remaking the Past in Contemporary Spanish Culture</i> 4:30 p.m. Berman 016</p> | <p><i>Understanding Malheur: Sagebrush Rebellion and Community Resilience in Harney County, Oregon</i> 7:30 p.m. Musser Auditorium</p> | <p><i>Archery</i> 11:30 a.m. BWC Triangle</p> |

“Light It Up Blue” is more harmful than helpful

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As one of the most prominent organizations on campus addressing mental illness stigmas, Active Minds holds a special place in my heart. I have dealt with mental illness for much of my life, and the anti-stigma movement, of which Active Minds is a part, has helped me be okay with getting help. I was the secretary on the Active Minds executive board at Ursinus College from September 2012 to December 2015. It was through Active Minds that I was tapped into the neurodiversity movement, which combats stigmas surrounding autism spectrum disorder and other brain differences.

Active Minds-sponsored programming on neurodiversity with Dr. Jennifer Stevenson helped me contextualize the reasons I purposefully evaded being diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome (an autism spectrum disorder) until I was 17.

Ursinus Active Minds’ “Light It Up Blue” campaign, which came four years after the first Active Minds autism/neurodiversity event I helped coordinate, contradicted the stigma-combatting messages that Active Minds put forward in the past and in its own announcement for the campaign. I have been

told, as of the time of this writing, that Active Minds is canceling the event. If this indeed happened by the time of publication, this is a sign of optimism.

(Editor’s note: Active Minds has reworked this into a more accepted event. See article below.)

“Light It Up Blue” was created by Autism Speaks, an organization which many autistics including myself believe continuously dehumanizes us, avoids input from us, perpetuates stigmas about us. This includes using eugenicist rhetoric to suggest that we need to be “cured,” and for funding research to find ways to screen out fetuses with autism so they can be aborted.

Autism Speaks recently adjusted its rhetoric and removed the word “cure” from its materials, but it also has not apologized for anything, and I don’t know if it’s changed what research it funds.

Only four percent of Autism Speaks’ budget goes toward actually providing services to those with autism; far more of its money goes toward fundraising and advertising.

Both of these processes manipulate people by stirring up fear about autism to bring in donations.

The organization Autism Speaks is a vehicle for neurotypical adult caretakers of autistic children to boast to each other about how much they love their kids who

are supposedly doomed to a life of misery and invalidity.

In sixth grade, my school had an Autism Awareness Month program. I got a handout from Autism Speaks in advisory with several bullet points of god-awful information about people with autism, including that people with autism “lack empathy.”

I ironically thought, “Thank God I don’t have autism!” This information directly contributed to why I sabotaged efforts by my school and parents to give me additional help. I desperately did not want to be labeled with Asperger’s or autism. Autism Speaks and the stigmas it perpetuates directly and negatively impacted my life.

While Active Minds’ “Light It Up Blue” announcement did not mention Autism Speaks, one cannot decouple “lighting it up blue” and Autism Speaks; “Light It Up Blue” is part of Autism Speaks’ brand and further legitimizes the organization.

Autism Speaks associated blue with its organization and autism because of the erroneous belief that autism is a “boy” thing.

To be fair, I learned in ninth grade biology that the genes for autism are believed to be sex-linked, and under this theory, those with an XY phenotype are more likely to be autistic than those with an XX phenotype.

This, however, is steeped in cishnormativity and is complicated even further by sexism. Girls are far less likely than boys to be diagnosed with autism because of the way girls are socialized to behave.

Still, according to a 2008 article in “Psychology Today” by Satoshi Kanazawa, several researchers characterize autism as the “extreme male brain.” This helps no one and obscures, rather than elucidates, what autism is.

All that “Light It Up Blue” accomplishes is awareness. It is another boasting action that does little toward autism acceptance. If autism acceptance is your motive, I appreciate the gesture, but know that it is just that: a gesture.

Wearing a blue shirt (or, if you’re “woke,” a taupe shirt) won’t tell passersby that autism is a condition characterized by spectrums of certain behaviors, disabilities or abilities and habits; that autistics aren’t doomed to a life of misery; that autistics are capable of learning almost any content or skill; that of course autistics are capable of empathy but may not be as automatically skilled at showing it; that autistics don’t have to assimilate according to neurotypical standards; that autism is a completely legitimate expression of human diversity; or, in short, that there’s nothing wrong with being autistic! Blue shirts and lights won’t force

neurotypicals to face the realities of oppression that autistics and people with disabilities face.

The events of the last few days offer a learning opportunity for Active Minds and the larger campus community, and that’s a silver lining. I implore the Ursinus chapter of Active Minds as well as others who want to do good by autistics to learn the lessons from this mistake.

I’ve learned through communications with the Active Minds board that its “Light It Up Blue” campaign was suggested by a student with autism who opposes Autism Speaks but was not aware of the connection between “Light It Up Blue” and Autism Speaks.

I suggest to the campus community to not give up on Active Minds because of this mistake, as its organizers are open-minded and approachable. I direct people who want to do programming or activism surrounding autism to seek inspiration from autistic-led organizations like the Autistic Self Advocacy Network whose tagline “Nothing About Us Without Us” is featured prominently on their website or blogs like Autistic Hoya.

Josh Hoffman is the former secretary of Active Minds. He completed his coursework last semester, and will graduate as a member of the class of 2017.

Here’s why Active Minds “Toned it Down Taupe”

A member of Active Minds’ executive board responds to “Light It Up Blue” feedback

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Active Minds has received a few negative responses to the “Light it Up Blue” event scheduled for April 3. As the vice president and publicity chair for Active Minds, I would like to apologize for any misunderstandings people may have had from our initial email.

Active Minds has autistic members on the board who advocated for and helped plan the event, as well as outside friends with autism who requested that we participate in this campaign and we did not at all intend the event to be negative.

We understand the issue with

the color blue—the “Light It Up” campaign uses blue because it is a color typically associated with boys.

According to a report by Graham Satchell of BBC News, which was cited in a campus-wide email sent by Dr. Jennifer Stevenson, a professor whose primary research is on the autism spectrum, boys are more commonly diagnosed with autism, which may be problematic because it leads to the underdiagnoses of girls.

The members of the Active Minds executive board, including myself, discussed this issue before the event was planned. We decided that we would have a follow-up meeting focused on issues with gender and cognitive diversity after the “Light it Up Blue” event,

and that event was scheduled for later in April.

We would also like to reiterate that none of us on the executive board support Autism Speaks, due to prior knowledge of the organization’s issues. However, I think we may not have realized how connected “Light it Up Blue” and Autism Speaks are.

Dr. Stevenson informed us that the groups are more intricately connected than we had thought. She explained to us that proceeds from “Light it Up Blue” merchandise serve Autism Speaks, and provided links to further online resources which condemn the campaign and explain why. In light of that, the Active Minds executive board discussed a change in plans.

I have read through the response

emails and posts and recognize the sincerity of their claims. The constructive criticism was taken seriously by the board and we have voted to replace the “Light it Up Blue” event with a “Tone it Down Taupe” event instead.

A blog titled “Radical Neurodivergence Speaking” features a post by blogger Neurodivergent K, who outlines that the primary goal of the taupe campaign is to encourage autism acceptance. The blog post by Neurodivergent K also states that the taupe campaign is not affiliated with Autism Speaks, and advocates for toning down the fearful rhetoric surrounding autism awareness. Instead the taupe campaign uses the symbolism of an unobtrusive beige color to represent the toned-

down sensory sensitivity of people who lack autism, and this campaign is generally preferred by the autistic community.

On behalf of Active Minds, I thank those of you who gave us feedback. We’d encourage you in the future to please voice any concerns you may have to us directly through email, and to attend our meetings if you have input you would like us to hear.

To find out more information about Active Minds and our mission, please go to our organization webpage at <https://www.ursinus.edu/live/news/260-active-minds>.

Sarah DeFelice is a sophomore and vice president of Active Minds.



Photo Courtesy of Grace Steel

Ursinus athletic director, Laura Moliken. Moliken came to Ursinus in 1999 as the head field hockey coach. She then transitioned to athletic director 12 years later. Moliken is responsible for all 25 sports on campus.

The woman behind the sports; Laura Moliken, athletic director

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Ursinus athletics have a rich history. From soccer to field hockey and everything in between, athletics are a big part of the campus culture. The woman who is the brains behind the athletics is Athletic Director Laura Moliken.

Moliken has been a key factor in the hiring of new coaches and staff to keep the machine that is Ursinus athletics running effectively and smoothly. She has also been crucial in the improvement of several athletic facilities.

“My day-to-day [schedule] involves overseeing 25 intercollegiate sports. We have almost 100 people in our department. There are 17 head coaches, eight full-time assistant coaches, and many

part-time and volunteer coaches,” said Moliken. “I am responsible for setting the strategic vision and goals for the department, as well as overseeing all of the day-to-day operations.”

Moliken has to supervise and work on many things in the department that people may not even realize goes with the athletic director job. These things include “budget management, oversight of coaches, service on campus committees, handling parent concerns, serving on the President’s Cabinet, working with admissions, student affairs,” and many other departments on campus.

Before her involvement in the athletic administration, Moliken was an athlete herself. Moliken played field hockey at Old Dominion University under legendary coach Beth Anders. In four years at Old Dominion, Molik-

en’s team went 98-4-1 and won three consecutive NCAA championships.

Moliken had been at Ursinus in a different position first. In 1999 she started as the head field hockey coach, a position that comes with a lot of responsibility. She coached the Bears for 12 seasons during which they won seven consecutive Centennial Conference Championships and went to the NCAA playoffs five times; they won the national championship in 2006.

She is a three-time South Region coach of the year, three-time Centennial Conference coach of the year, and was the 2006 National coach of the year. She earned these honors while going 182-69 overall in division 3, and 93-2 in Centennial Conference play.

The field hockey team is where

Moliken’s love for Ursinus first began to blossom. She kept working with the school, its coaches, and its many student-athletes.

“The most rewarding parts of the job include seeing our student-athletes have success on the fields and in the classroom. I also really enjoy working with the coaches and staff members,” said Moliken. “Ursinus is such a special place with so many exciting things happening. It’s nice to be a part of it.”

Senior football player, Tim Rafter, is appreciative of all the work that Moliken done over the years.

“I believe she did play a big part of my experience behind the scenes,” he said. “She works hard to ensure that Ursinus athletes and coaches have a positive experience and represent the school well.”

Immediate members of the Ursinus community aren’t the only ones who know about the hard work Laura Moliken does for athletics, however. Parents who go to the Little Bears swim program, a program that allows people to bring their children to Ursinus’ pool to learn how to swim competitively, have had high praise for the athletic department.

“Everyone supports each other and there is a definite chemistry that sustains our mission. We all take pride when our teams win and have success.”

—Laura Moliken
UC Athletic Director

One of the parents, had very high praise for Moliken. When asked about Moliken, she said, “I haven’t met her personally, but I think she is doing a fantastic job running things around here,” said parent Maria Ricciti. “My nephew went here a few years back and played soccer and had a fantastic time. I know the school is better known for its academics,

but the athletic scene around here is great,” Ricciti said.

The Ursinus sports culture is an extremely diverse atmosphere, which is one of the things that Moliken loves most about her job.

“Everyone supports each other and there is a definite chemistry that sustains our mission. We all take pride when our teams win and have success,” said Moliken. “It’s the people, relationships and experiences that will be remembered. My love for Ursinus and the part athletics plays in the lives of student athletes is something I really enjoy.”



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Scores as of Monday, April 3, 2017

| M. Lax (7-2) | W. Lax (4-5) | M. & W. Track (0-0) | Baseball (13-4) | Softball (7-13) | M. & W. Tennis (8-3) | Gymnastics (1-4) |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>March 29; Ursinus 10 - Washington 8</p> <p>April 1; Ursinus 9 - Swarthmore 8</p> | <p>April 1; Ursinus 14 - Swarthmore 12</p> | <p>March 31 - April 1; vs. Danny Curran Invitational*</p> <p>*For full results please visit ursinusathletics.com</p> | <p>March 30; Ursinus 10 - Penn St.-Berks 3</p> <p>April 2; Ursinus 10 - Dickinson 1</p> | <p>March 30; Washington 3 - Ursinus 2</p> <p>April 1; McDaniel 5 - Ursinus 3</p> | <p>April 1; Men Ursinus 8 - Gettysburg 1</p> <p>April 1; Women Ursinus 5 - Gettysburg 4</p> | <p>April 1; Ursinus vs. NCGA Individual Championships*</p> <p>*For full results please visit ursinusathletics.com</p> |



Photo Courtesy of Sydney Cope

A photo of the baseball construction as of April 3, 2017. The estimated timeline for the project's completion was the beginning of the baseball season. The new date of completion is set for spring 2018.

Construction on Thomas Field underway; Press box and grandstand to be built

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In the summer leading up to the 2016-17 school year, ground was broken at Thomas Field in the construction of a new grandstand and press box.

The project had an estimated completion date set for some time before the baseball season. However, currently a month into the season, the stands are still not completed and have very little chance of being completed by season's end. In light of the setbacks in construction, the new estimated date of completion is for

the spring of 2018.

"The school has been extremely helpful throughout this entire process and have done everything correct in trying to help us get this project off the ground," said Art Jens, the contractor and voluntary builder to the project. "Facilities has also been a huge help, as they've been out here helping me build the stands and trying to get this done."

Jens, who is the father of senior first baseman Max Jens, is generous enough to donate his time to help speed up the process of finishing the stands. He explained the building plans to The Grizzly, and the project is more

complicated than most had anticipated.

As of right now, the only type of stands or bleachers that are present at Thomas Field are movable steel stands, which are placed in the west parking lot. This is dangerous for both fans and vehicles. Seating capacity is also limited as all of the fans attending each game cannot be accommodated.

The grandstand, which will be located on the third base side of the field and behind home plate, is guaranteed to have more seating than the current bleachers.

So if the project was supposed to be finished by the start of the

season, why are they still working on it?

"The area behind home plate was a little bit tougher than we thought because of how bad the ground was," said Jens. "Since it's on a big incline, we had to dig deeper into the ground to put the cementing in, and we've had some trouble getting the crane here."

Plans for the grandstand also include a press box. Currently the games are filmed at the top of the hill, while the stat keepers and media sit at a table behind the backstop to home plate. The new press box will give people streaming at home a better view, will ensure the stat keepers have a better game experience, and will provide seating and audio for color commentators if Ursinus wants to have them.

The stands located along the third base line are also taking longer to build because of the dugout which was built too high—this also means that seating needs to be high in order to see over the dugout, according to Jens.

Another reason why it's taking longer than expected is that the plans include using a coating on the stands rather than standard paint. Paint fades over time, so an initial investment will actually save money in the long run. This, however, is driving up the cost of the project.

Athletic Director Laura Moliiken believes the contractors are making great progress and is understanding of the delays.

"Construction means progress! ... As is often the case with construction, there can be delays for a variety of reasons," she stated. "The donor and our facilities staff have been hard at work on the project (now that the weather is more cooperative)."

As of right now, the baseball stadium is one of the only fields at the school which doesn't have ample seating. Snell Field, where the field hockey team plays, not only has stands but also a home section and an away section. Patterson Field, used by football, lacrosse, soccer, and track and field, has large stadium style seating with a press box at the top, as well as an away section for fans of the opposing team.

The stands, a pretty expensive project considering all of the material required for their construction, has been funded by not only the school but also by donations from parents of players on the team.

"It's obviously a little disappointing when someone donates the money thinking they'll get to use what they're paying for and then it takes longer than expected and they don't get to use it," said senior captain Jake Banks, whose parents donated money toward the project. "I am happy it's being built, though, because we need stands and it's going to look really nice someday."

For now, the bleachers will remain in the parking lot, and the use of lawn chairs around the stadium will still be permitted. Construction is ongoing and will be ongoing for the next few months with the hope that the grandstand will be completed for the 2018 season.

You can watch the men play next at home Fri., April 7 against Haverford College at 3:30 p.m.

Upcoming Games

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sat. Cont. | Sat. Cont. | Sunday | Monday |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| Softball @ Elizabethtown 3 & 5 p.m. | Baseball vs. Haverford 3:30 p.m. | M. & W. Track and Field vs. West Chester Invitational M. Lax vs. McDaniel 12 p.m. | Baseball @ McDaniel 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. Softball vs. Swarthmore 1 & 3 p.m. | M. & W. Tennis @ Dickinson 1 p.m. |  | Baseball @ Gwynedd Mercy 3:30 p.m. |