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The Grizzly, March 30, 2006

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the grizzly

thursday, march 30, 2006

the student newspaper of ursinus college

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The arrival of spring is imminent

collegeville, pa

volume 30 issue 21

News in Brief

DAN LAMSON

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Ø A proposed law in France is causing that nation's youth to protest in large numbers. The law, if passed, will allow for young people under the age of 26 to be fired from a job anytime within the first two years of work with no explanation. President Jacques Chirac's conservative government argues that the amount of flexibility given under this law will prompt employers to hire thousands of youths, knowing they will be able to let them go if things don't work out. (BBC)

Ø Several teams of scientists researching the climate have found new evidence that global warming is melting polar ice, according to several papers in last week's issue of the journal, *Science*. At the current rate of rising temperatures, by the year 2100, Arctic summers could be as warm as they were 130,000 years ago. Back then, in a time known as the last interglacial period, the oceans were 20 feet higher than they are now. (BBC)

Ø The constitution of Afghanistan is based on the Sharia, or Islamic law, and it says that apostates can be punished by death. An apostate is someone who has abandoned a faith or cause. An Afghan man, Abdul Rahman, has been charged with converting to Christianity and is facing the death penalty. This has many Western nations wondering if Afghanistan is regressing. Rahman was arrested last week and is now awaiting trial for rejecting Islam. "They want to sentence me to death, and I accept it," Rahman told reporters, "but I am not a deserter and not an infidel." (CNN)

Ø A jet engine that could reduce flight times between London and Sydney to two hours is ready for a test launch in Australia. The new jet engine, Hyshot III, is able to fly seven times the speed of sound and was tested last Friday. This technology could lead to incredibly fast intercontinental air travel, and substantially cut the cost of putting small payloads into space. (BBC)

Ø Researchers have uncovered why the H5N1 avian flu that is so lethal in birds has not spread easily among humans. Unlike flu viruses that are passed easily between people, H5N1 has a hard time attaching to cells

in the nose, throat and upper airways of the human body. It has an easier time attaching itself to cells deep in the lungs. (NPR)

Ø President George W. Bush replaced talk of total victory in Iraq with descriptions of narrow progress during several speeches last week in an attempt to revive his failing public support. In the speeches, he tried to balance his optimistic message that the mission can succeed with constant news accounts of a growing insurgency. President Bush's polls show his popularity and the popularity of the war in Iraq at all-time lows. (NPR)

Ø Former Vice President Al Gore announced last Monday that he is not planning to run for president in 2008 but hasn't ruled out a future in politics. "I'm enjoying what I'm doing," Gore said. "I'm not planning to be a candidate again. [But] I haven't reached a stage in my life where I'm willing to say I will never consider something like this." (CNN)

Dr. Edwards presents Baden lecture

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Dr. Lynne Edwards, Associate Professor of Media and Communication studies, presented a Baden faculty lecture, "The Other Sunnydale: Representations of Blackness in Buffy the Vampire Slayer," last Thursday, March 23 at 4:15 p.m. in Musser Auditorium.

In her lecture, Dr. Edwards presented a portion of her extensive research on the deconstruction and cultural implications of the popular U.S. television show, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. She explained the cultural phenomenon in film and television pushing her to further explore the representations of blackness in *Buffy*. "It's a moment that is particularly bittersweet for black fans - the moment when you see that first black character, because we all know that black character is going to die," Dr. Edwards said.

"I couldn't just do the angry fan thing and withdraw myself from the text, but rather I needed to become far more immersed in it," continued Dr. Edwards. "What I saw for the next seven seasons were black characters in really pivotal roles crucial to the narrative. In addition, what I saw tested some new ways of thinking for myself in terms of what blackness means... what is difference, what is other."

She went on to present a music video featuring Kendra, the short-lived black character appearing on "Buffy" for just four episodes, who sparked Dr. Edwards's interest in examining blackness in the show. She described Kendra as the young, ethnic vampire Slayer with feline eyes. Kendra's character quickly develops as the antithesis of Buffy, the upper middle class, popular, beautiful blonde Slayer. In the presence of the highly sexualized and objectified character of Kendra, Buffy develops a much more conservative look and suddenly begins to eagerly accept and desire her role as the chosen Slayer. Both characters believe there can be only one Slayer, and the previously ambivalent Buffy steps up in the face of the threat posed by Kendra. The binary of black and white quickly surfaces, ending with Buffy as the living Slayer.

As Kendra and other short-lived black characters die in Sunnydale, viewers may notice that there appears to be no legitimate place for anyone other than white people in a show dangerously imbedded in popular culture. Edwards describes the "Other Sunnydale" as the marginalized space reserved for these come and go characters representing the "other."

The "other" is defined only by what it is not. For black, it is *not white*. In the case of a woman, she is *not a man*. In terms of sexuality, homosexual is defined as *not heterosexual*. In creating such binary definitions, black becomes "other" by definition—a prob-

lem that is not limited to popular cultural icons like *Buffy*. Such definitions and "identities" are fluid over time and culture: what it means to be black, white, man, woman here and now is different than any number of historical examples. Ultimately, the show's inability to accept the "other" and its tendency to quickly relegate characters representing the "other" to the margin may in fact be a startling reflection of a larger, lasting problem of mainstream U.S. culture.

"Buffy the Vampire Slayer" aired from 1997 through 2003, its first five seasons on the WB and the final two seasons on UPN. It now airs daily in worldwide syndication.

Dr. Edwards's research will be further explored and explained in detail in her upcoming book, "The Other Sunnydale: Representations of Blackness in Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

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Student activism at Ursinus College: Can you hear us now? WeCAN!

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This week, across the country, students are organizing around labor issues as part of a national campaign, entitled the Student Labor Week of Action. These students have been actively involved in campaigns at their universities that, at their core, seek to increase and promote student-work relations on their campuses. These campaigns include demands for living wage (the minimum hourly wage needed for someone to be able to provide for themselves), the right to organize, worker appreciation, sweatshop-free campus apparel and spreading awareness of global labor issues. Ursinus College has recently become part of a network of students that seeks to promote the rights of campus workers and workers linked to the campus community. *The Grizzly*, in honor of this national event, is taking the time to highlight the genesis of a political group on campus, We Care About the Nation (WeCAN).

WeCAN is a budding human rights group at Ursinus College that seeks to address political, social and economic concerns on our campus, in our nation, and in the world. This organization seeks to promote student activism in three ways. Firstly, by providing educational events, such as speakers, films, and panel discussions—both on and off campus—where students can become informed about political issues. Secondly, WeCAN provides venues for students to actively organize around issues they feel strongly about on our campus, but also in conjunction with similar efforts on other college campuses. WeCAN recognizes that Ursinus College student voices can be amplified when they organize with students in the region and across the country. Thirdly, WeCAN hopes that by providing this alternative learning environment for students, it can foster a community of critical thinkers and active participants in campus politics and consequently in our society at large. It is through a multi-layered approach that student activism can thrive on our campus. WeCAN promotes student expression, interpersonal dialogue, creativity, discussion, media production and political awareness, thus providing a unique form of political engagement for Ursinus students.

Beginning in fall 2005, several WeCAN members became interested in issues sur-

rounding labor advocacy. WeCAN organized a number of events that engaged students in the labor movement in various ways, congruent with their ethos of multi-dimensional activism. These events included organizing around Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) legislation with national labor organization Jobs with Justice (summer 2005), sending student representation to the National Jobs with Justice Labor Conference in St. Louis (October 2005) and inviting speaker and national organizer Max Toth from United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) to campus (October 2005). WeCAN also sent students to two film screenings of Robert Greenwald's most recent documentary, "Wal-Mart: The High Price of Low Cost," at the Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (November 2005).

WeCAN attended the regional USAS mid-Atlantic regional conference at Swarthmore College (November 2005) and also attended a labor panel discussion entitled "Immigrants and the Workforce: Exploring the Facts, Debunking the Myths" (December 2005). WeCAN students drafted a resolution presented to President Strassburger in honor of International Human Rights Day (December 2005), participated in numerous USAS national conference calls (fall 2005 and spring 2006), created a wall in Wismer Lower Lounge dedicated to WeCAN (March 2006) and organized a film series in honor of national Student Labor Week of Action (March 2006). WeCAN is sending a student this summer to South Africa as part of the USAS summer internship program (summer 2006).

This week, WeCAN invites the Ursinus College community to join it in celebrating the national Student Labor Week of Action as they will be presenting two films; a documentary on the Harvard Living Wage Campaign—the first university living wage campaign won in the states—along with a documentary on the School of the Americas, entitled "SOA: Guns and Greed." These films will be introduced by Ursinus College community members and followed by discussion. Stay tuned for more information around campus regarding these events.

For more information on participation in WeCAN, contact: Claudia Harper (clhaper@ursinus.edu); Chris Rogers (chrogers@ursinus.edu); Dina Yarmus (diyarmus@ursinus.edu).

Drag Show at Ursinus: anything but a drag

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Did you miss out on the opportunity to see Director of Residence Life, Steve Larson, dance on stage in a hula skirt and a coconut bra?

Ursinus College is no stranger to competition. Between sports and academics, students often become rivals as they strive to be the best. On Thursday night, however, students and faculty members were privy to a "different" kind of competition.

At 7 p.m., an audience gathered in Wismer Lower Lounge for the second annual Drag Show hosted by Residence Life. A group of approximately 10 competitors "strutted their stuff" for judges (including Larson, who wished to be referred to as "Hula Queen" for the night).

Contestants came out one by one (excepting lumberjack couple "Rick" and "Steve," modeled by Robin Pierce and Steph Sapok), introduced themselves, and then sashayed down the runway. Some of the contestants added a small performance to their introduction. "AJ, from the Backstreet Boys" (Kaitlyn Allen), for example, took the micro-

phone for an abbreviated version of "I Want It That Way."

After the first round, the judges narrowed the contestants down to three and then requested a "walk-off." Contestants "Suzie" (Nate Dawley), "Chastity" (Jay Hobson) and "Chi Chi" (Brandon Peer) had one final chance to prove themselves to the judges, who asked for cheers from the audience to help them make their final decision. Finalists took the stage to Cher's "Believe."

Judge "Chocolate Thunder" (commonly known as Austin Duckett) asked for a drum roll before the winners were announced. As the sounds of a makeshift drum roll loomed throughout the lounge, Chi Chi was announced to be victorious.

The audience wanted to hear from the winner: "Speech! Speech!" Chi Chi met the request and took the microphone. "As you all know," she said, "I'm the best, and amazing on many levels."

Despite some technical difficulties with the music, both audience members and participants all looked as though they were having a wonderful time.

Proceeds from the show are going to benefit Airband, a lip-synching fundraiser run by Residence Life every year to raise money to assist a local charity. This year's charity is Victim Services of Montgomery County to educate children on abuse.

Airband will take place on April 7, 2006.



The Circumcision Decision

Circumcision, or the removal of the foreskin from the penis, continues to cause controversy among religious groups, concerned parents, and the medical community. Ritual circumcision is performed by a variety of cultures and religions to strengthen the individual's ties with God or the community. Studies conducted by the medical community concerning the benefits of removing the foreskin caused a number of nineteenth and twentieth century American parents to circumcise their infants, bringing the act of circumcision into a secular context. However, recent studies have questioned the findings of these original studies and sparked several movements lobbying against routine infant circumcision. This article will discuss the benefits and risks of circumcision in an up-close-and-personal glance at the penis.

According to UrologyHealth.org, circumcision performed on infants is typically both a quick and safe procedure. Incidence of serious complications are rare, however circumcision can cause several immediate complications including infection, bleeding, and injury. Complications that may not be apparent at first, but that may be identified later include skin bridges (or the attachment of skin surfaces), chordee (an irregular downward penile bend that occurs when the penis is erect), meatal stenosis (where narrowing is present in the urinary tube at the penile tip), and "buried penis" (concealment of the shaft of the penis within the pubic skin). Cosmetic appearance may also be altered during the procedure. Again, serious complications are extremely rare when performed on a healthy infant by an experienced medical professional.

UrologyHealth.org also cites the medical advantages of infant circumcision, including the prevention of several disorders. Circumcision has been found to prevent balanoposthitis (swelling of the foreskin and glans), phimosis (when the individual is unable to pull back the foreskin), and paraphimosis (when the individual's foreskin cannot cover the head of the penis due to entrapment behind the glans). Circumcision may be required in uncircumcised individuals who develop these conditions. Circumcision is also linked with a significantly lower rate of urinary-tract infections among circumcised infants as well as lower rates of penile cancer. Some studies

show that circumcision can aid in the prevention of sexually-transmitted infections, however the evidence is inconsistent. According to Wikipedia.org, recent studies have also found that circumcision may protect against HIV infection, though these findings are still being discussed and debated among members of the medical community.

Wikipedia.org also cites several conditions that occur in non-circumcised individuals, including infection caused by bacteria under the foreskin, which occurs when the under-area of the foreskin is not properly cleaned. In contrast, if the foreskin is cleaned with soap too frequently, infection may also occur.

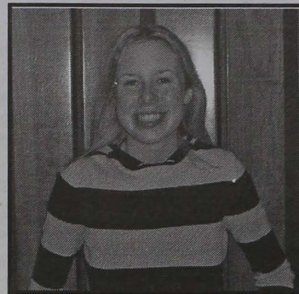
UrologyHealth.org cites the importance of discussing the medical risks and benefits of circumcision with the parents and patients (if adult), and the religious, cultural, individual, and ethical preferences of the parents or patient should be taken into account.

Adult circumcision can be performed on adult males due to penile maladies or a patient's personal choice. According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, it is usually performed in an outpatient setting by an urologist or other trained physician. Side effects are similar to those found in infant circumcision, adding a possible change in sensation during intercourse.

Some groups consider infant circumcision a violation of human rights because the infant cannot consent, while others do not advocate circumcision for a variety of other reasons. A number of parents who advocate circumcision for personal and social reasons do so in fear that their child will be bullied and made fun of for having an uncircumcised penis. While others feel it is important that their

child's penis look like his father's, which motivates some to circumcise.

When you, as a mother, a father, or an uncircumcised individual, weigh the risks and benefits of circumcision, perhaps you can avoid some of the anxiety by considering this. *Strong Medicine* paraphrased quote about the penis: no matter what the aesthetic quality, "all that's going to matter [or all that should matter] is that when he uses it, he uses it with manners." Food for thought.



LANE TAYLOR
Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

Stereotypes and Self-interest: Part Two



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To sum up my thoughts from my previous article on stereotypes, I would like quote *Batman Begins* – "It's not who you are, but what you do that defines you." We don't need to embrace or accept a stereotype to conquer it; we only need to show that our individual actions digress from the pattern. Now, when your actions coincide exactly with the stereotype... then I would suggest just giving in.

Last time I mentioned that maybe the communication problems of the environmental movement aren't due to stereotypes, but due to a lack of social ecology. I would define the players of social ecology as all the people who bang heads during typical environmental conflicts: farmers, environmentalists, politicians, policy writers, and of course, the public. Each of these tends to act in its own self-interest in a seemingly natural, but ultimately unhealthy way. If you think about it, organisms in an ecosystem act in the interest of their own survival, but it works out for them because there are deeper interactions that go

on in between. In American politics, how can these players serve each other? How can they build a foundation to a better relationship with the natural world? And if evolution took millions of years to create such intricate, efficient ecosystems, what does that tell us about how long it will take to create a social ecology?

Of course, environmentalism is doing its own damage in this lack of social ecology when it promotes self-interest, enabling it to be characterized as a "special interest group." (It occurs to me how difficult it seems to *not* promote self-interest – Am I not writing an *environmental* column? Am I not an *environmental* studies major? The best I can do is make my writing and my work as interdisciplinary as possible.) John Muir, founder of Sierra Club, once said "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." It is this idea that writers Michael Shellenbarger and Ted Nordhaus try to come back to in their controversial essay "The Death of Environmentalism."

Their critique focuses on policy and politics surrounding global warming and how "modern environmentalism is no longer capable of dealing with the world's most serious ecological crisis." The gist of their argument is that the old methods, concepts, and rhetoric are out-dated and people of the environmental movement need to take a "step back to rethink everything."

The authors note that in order to relate to the public we need to understand that the environment may not make it into their "top ten list of things to worry about." It may seem like there are always more pressing issues that may come first, but only if we disregard Muir and Commoner's

beliefs in the connectedness of all these issues.

One example of how we ignore this connectedness is by how we frame certain issues. Problems like global warming can be framed as "environmental" – riot human rights, not economics, etc. Some problems, Shellenbarger and Nordhaus point out, maybe shouldn't be environmental, while others should. For example, global warming was caused in part by humans and may ultimately have great effects on humans – some would say it has little to do with the environment. On the other hand, poverty and war are not considered environmental problems, even though both of these things cause inconceivable damage to nature.

Perhaps by reframing issues with connectedness in mind, we can put these "environmental" issues on people's "things to worry about list" and maybe even that would evolve into people's "list of things to do something about." Shellenbarger and Nordhaus conclude: "Environmentalists are in a culture war whether we like it or not. It's a war over our core values as Americans and over our vision for the future, and it won't be won by appealing to the rational consideration of our collective self-interest." I hope that the "death" of an old environmental movement and an ineffective way of thinking and interacting socially will give rise to a new culture and a healthier planet.

Michael Shellenbarger will be speaking at Ursinus April 24th at 7:30pm in the Kaleidoscope!

To read "The Death of Environmentalism" go to www.thebreakthrough.org and search for the title.

Any questions or comments to kadiana@ursinus.edu.

Living off campus: More trouble than its worth?

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For the most part Ursinus College students opt to stay on campus to live and party. Students who decide to venture off campus to rent a house and live on their own are granted freedom from the constraints campus rules once had on them.

Throwing parties whenever you'd like and living completely on your own sound like college fantasies. However, there are several draw backs to this way of life. Off campus houses have been known to have a constant stream of fellow students and friends coming and going. Hanging out at off campus houses are often more desirable than hanging out in the dorm rooms at school, because, aside from the lack of rules and regulations, they are generally more spacious and comfortable.

With this unceasing kids entering and exiting the house, comes a steady flow of complaints made by neighbors. One of the main worries of any resident of an off campus house would be that the cops might come.

To prevent this from happening, it would be a good idea to get to know your neighbors. Right after you move in, it would be wise if every member of the house went around and knocked on the neighbor's door.

This way the neighbors will feel more comfortable approaching you if there is a problem, and hopefully it will also make them more understanding. When you have a party, make sure that people enter and exit the house quickly, and that there is no one lingering in the streets. Loud guests exiting a house it is an easy and infallible way to make the neighbors mad and have the police soon knocking at your door.

It is also your responsibility to make sure that nothing inside the house gets out of hand. Since you live in the house, you will be liable if anyone gets injured. You also want to make sure that you know the people coming into the house; you don't want anything stolen which happens a lot.

Also, take into account that the more people you have over, the more you have to clean up the next morning.

You need to be aware that there will be nights when the music is going to be too loud, there will be too many people, and the cops will be called. In this case, it is important to treat the cops respectfully, but also to know your rights. One very important thing that many students do not realize is that you do not have to let the police into your house.

Another slight problem of living off campus is that in some cases you are significantly farther away from the college than you would be if you lived in the dorms. Also you might find yourself spending a bit more money on groceries if you live in a house off campus, which you need to consider if you finances are limited.

Those are just a few things to consider if you're planning on moving off campus. I'm not trying to bash off campus housing, I just believe that if you do decide to live off campus you need to make yourself aware of the problems that can come along with it.

A brief conversation with Of Montreal's Kevin Barnes

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Part of the second generation of bands to come out of the Athens, Ga. Elephant Six collective, which spawned such indie avatars as Neutral Milk Hotel, the Apples in Stereo, and Olivia Tremor Control, Of Montreal has been making waves in the off-mainstream music scene for almost a decade. Last week, WVOU sat down with lead singer Kevin Barnes to talk about the new record, a growing fan base, and getting personal.

CC: So how long has it been since you have played in Philadelphia?

KB: Probably five or six months. We've been taking a couple of weeks off here or there but we've been touring for basically a year straight.

CC: Is that really taxing on your personal life?

KB: Yeah it destroys your personal life, but it's fun. I enjoy touring. It's a trade-off.

CC: I saw from the website that the name of the tour is "Nonsloth music for Orto and Others." Is this the official name of the tour? Can you explain what that means, because it sounds like something from an e.e cummings poem.

KB: It's kind of just like Brian's fear of camouflage...

CC: Really? How do you develop a fear like that?

KB: God only knows. Spend a year on tour, maybe.

CC: So this is still supporting 2005's *The Sunlandic Twins*.

KB: In theory, yeah. It's our most recent release. It seems like people are kind of like slowly — cause this tour we're playing to larger audiences than we did on the first tour supporting the record, so it seems like it's been a slow burn, a slow buildup. People are slowly finding out about us.

CC: That's interesting, because I feel like you guys are these luminaries of the indie music scene at this point — you've been around for so long.

KB: Well, I think a lot of it is just people getting more turned on to indie music in general. For a long time, it was this small group of people that were lucky enough to either have an older brother or sister that was into cool music, or live in a town that had a cool college radio station, or record store or whatever to hear about indie music, and people who didn't get screwed, and could only find out about mainstream stuff. As long as we don't get these imitation indie bands, like 'We need a band that sounds like the Shins' — but I'm sure that's going to happen. But right now it feels like the indie scene contains everything from the Animal Collective to Joanna Newsom.

CC: Let's talk a little bit about *The Sunlandic Twins*. I hear a lot of Devo and Cars-type influences on the new record, so what were some of your actual influences?

KB: Well, [there's a] big Brian Eno influence and some of the glam-y stuff from the seventies, David Bowie, T-Rex, Queen and proggy stuff, and afro-beats like Fela Kuti, and funkier elements like Sly and the Family Stone and Prince.

CC: It is really interesting to see over the course of your career, from the early albums to now, the progression you guys have made. Will [the next album] *Hissing Fauna* be more like *Satanic Panic in the Attic* and *Sunlandic Twins* or are you guys moving off in another direction? Do you make a conscious effort to move in different directions or is it more organic?

KB: Yeah, it's more organic. Sometimes we just get bored with the thing that we've been working with for awhile and want to enter a new era. I'm still kind-of excited about working with the dance genre and making interesting dance-pop. But the new record is actually going to be a lot more confessional and more personal and probably going to embarrass some people.

CC: I think we've seen that over the course of your work that you've been moving in a more personal direction, from the more esoteric (1999 release) *The Gay Parade* to the last album. Is that a reflection of just getting older?

KB: I don't know, I think I was more insecure when I was working on *The Gay Parade*. Maybe I just didn't feel like sharing my personal life with the world at that point but I still wanted to be creative, I still wanted to make music, so what do you sing about if you don't want to sing about yourself? You make stories. But I've come out of that phase of short story writing and I want to write about personal things again.

CC: Pitchfork, in their review of *The Sunlandic Twins*, said that "'Wraith Pinned to the Mist and Other Games' and 'The Party's Crashing Us' are condescendingly aloof, piling on excessive amounts of sound." I think the latter is one of the catchiest, most accessible songs on the album. How much do the reviews get under your skin?

KB: Reviews in general, it's kind of a weird thing. More it's just this fear of being misrepresented. It's kind of embarrassing to see that in print, like 'Oh god, someone might believe it.' So that bothers me. I try to avoid reading reviews, I never really read reviews. They're never constructive; it's usually just one guy trying to show off.

The Grizzly would like to correct a mistake from its last issue. The article "Kelly stirs up laughs" was actually written by Marci Stehman, not Katie Perkins.

Reimert, a place to call home

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Dirt, cigarette butts, underwear in the trees, loud music and drunkenness—these are just a few of the reasons why many consider Reimert to be the armpit of Ursinus College. Yet you shouldn't immediately cross Reimert off your list as you consider housing for next year.

Even though Reimert is known for the party atmosphere, there is more to it than alcohol. If you enter the courtyard on a nice afternoon, you may find boys playing baseball, lacrosse, football, or lately, riding unicycles. There are also water balloon and dart gun fights and the occasional aroma of a barbecue.

Around the outskirts of the building, you might see students lying out studying or girls practicing Rugby. One guarantee in any weather is the people on cell phones who have been forced to go outside. Made of cement, cinderblock, and not much else, Reimert can't be penetrated even by a cell phone signal, which is just one reason why it seems like a perfect bomb shelter. Maybe that is why those fire alarms are so frustrating; no one really believes that Reimert could burn down.

To really judge the building, you need to visit a Reimert suite. All you need to do is ask someone who lives there if you can stop by sometime. Then, when you arrive, you will face the ultimate question—do you knock or just walk in?

Once you realize that people do not answer a knock at the door unless you are holding the pizza they ordered, you may enter the suite. Despite the seemingly impenetrable walls, you will find posters, signs, and pictures that are hung by the strongest tape possible (otherwise the heat will make them fall down). There will also be a random assortment of seats, from couches older than the students, to rejected wooden desk chairs and even a bean bag chair or two. A beer pong table may also be found among a television, a game system, and a stereo system.

As you enter, you might find someone in the common room. If not, you will find that usually, the doors to the individual rooms are open. While you visit with your friend slowly, but surely, others from the suite will join you. Before you know it, you will have had a fun (and sober) evening in Reimert. Then as you leave, you will realize that even though the accommodations are not the best, the people are what make Reimert a great place to live.

Reimert reminds me of that place you would rent for the summer in Wildwood, NJ. At first you may not think highly of it, but it was the best place you could find. Since you live with friends, you might find that it gets messy or your roommate hosts parties in your room when you need sleep. But at the end of the summer, you are as sad about leaving it as you are about to leave your own home.

That is how many feel about Reimert. For nine months of the year, it is a place that we call home. It is not just indestructible walls and decorations of beer cans and underwear; it is a place where memories are made. Yes, sometimes it might be difficult to focus on your work, but you can always go to the library. Thus, as you decide where you and your friends want to live for the 2006-2007 school year, consider Reimert Hall.

The revolution will be printed

Tired is an understatement of how am I feeling now. I am a disgusted and disturbed by the thoughts, actions, and motives of Ursinus College students.

I have been on a brief hiatus on writing for the Grizzly. Over the past few weeks there have been certain events that have happened on campus that have made me feel that my effort to bring diverse thinking to Ursinus is unappreciated, even hated by some.

There was an article written in the Grizzly a few weeks ago by Julia Black responding to my writing. In the article I was accused of victimizing black people and being responsible for any hostility between black and white students on campus. While I always invite dialogue regarding my opinions and respect Ms. Black's right to express hers, I hope that she was at the NCAA tournament game between Ursinus and Farmingdale in the Hellfrich gym.

The beloved Ursinus students began chanting things such as "Mow my lawn" and "Cook my fries." Admittedly at first the chants did not seem to have racist motives. "905 SATs" did not bother me that much. I was reminded of my old high school days during public school ball games where the chants would be as harsh as possible. I then realized that I was sitting in the bleachers with predominantly white people supporting a predominantly white team, playing a predominantly black team.

I thought to myself maybe these guys were not that serious and maybe meant no harm. I went to one of them after the game and told them some of the comments were insulting to people. The response was, "I only have a little bit of time left here, it doesn't matter." The ignorance continued by saying, "I was about to say Food Stamps and

Welfare."

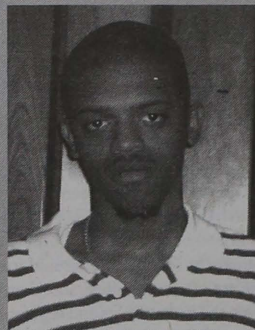
The last comments were rather amusing. The fact is that white people benefit more from welfare and food stamps than black people. Those chants thus would be more applicable to Ursinus than Farmingdale. Those comments also reassured me that what I am saying is true. The sentiments about black students and black people have not changed. We are still viewed an unworthy and undeserving people.

Ms. Black thinks that I am victimizing black people, but the fact is that many times black people are victims. We are victims of prejudice, discrimination, and hate that stems solely from the fact that we are BLACK.

I also feel that Ms. Black tried to make herself look like a victim. She talked about being persecuted for her religion (Christian) and her sex (female)—both of which I can understand. But I do not understand why she would not be supportive of my ideas instead of criticizing me in a public forum. She draws a picture of herself being in a gospel choir full of black people that do not like her because she is white.

The fact is, Ms. Black is quiet and does not say much to people on the gospel choir. I went to an Intervarsity meeting and there she was very participatory and active. I wish Ms. Black and others that agree with her would be just as tenacious about the feeling in settings were they are a minority as they are in the stands or in the newspaper.

I will not stop writing and taking a stand and invite others to do so as well. Ursinus still has problems, and some of the students are still ignorant. As long as these things are true, the revolution will be printed.



DARRON HARLEY
The Left Side of the Hallway

Tuition to increase by \$8,492 next year

CAROLYN KRATZ
ckratz@ursinus.edu

Or that is what the headline would read if Ursinus alumni, parents, and friends stopped giving to Ursinus. I know that you already think that tuition is a lot, and I know tuition goes up every year, but it could be worse. Every student, regardless of financial standing, paid \$8,492 less this year than they would have without the Ursinus Fund. So, who are these mysterious donors? Some have names on campus buildings. Most, however, do not. Some people make gifts of a few dollars while others make million dollar gifts. Donors are mostly alumni, but they are also parents, faculty, staff, and other friends of the college.

The generosity of donors pays for many things at Ursinus. Gifts to the Ursinus Fund help pay for the day-to-day operations of the college: lab supplies, sports equipment, art supplies, study abroad, library books, lectures, even heating. The list goes on and on. Virtually everything that you do not think about is paid for with help from the Ursinus Fund.

In addition, donations also cover expenses that your tuition does not go to, such as buildings. The Kaleidoscope was built with donations. Snell Alumnae Field and Bomberger renovations—all of these are made possible from donations. Your tuition money is not being used, nor

would it ever be used for these projects.

As a student, you can help raise money for Ursinus. The Ursinus Fund has a Phonathon during the fall and spring semesters. Students are hired to call alumni and parents and ask them to make a gift to Ursinus College. In the spring, the Ursinus Fund and a committee of seniors organize a Senior Giving Campaign. During the two-week long campaign, seniors ask other members of their class for pledges to be paid over the next year. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact assistant director of annual giving, Carolyn Kratz (ckratz@ursinus.edu) or Lisa Shafer (lshafer@ursinus.edu) in the Development Office.

Have an opinion? Have something to say about the opinions of others? Simply want to be heard? Please send your questions, comments, complements, and complaints to the Opinions Editor at heturnbach@ursinus.edu

The Back Row: Stripes (1981)

If you look at the careers of some of the funniest comedians in Hollywood, you will notice a definite pattern towards more serious fare. Steve Martin recently did *Shopgirl* and Jim Carrey acted in *Man on the Moon*, *The Truman Show* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. The most dramatic examples, however, have to be Bill Murray's *Lost in Translation*, *Broken Flowers*, anything by Wes Anderson, and quite a few others. Although he is clearly gunning for the Oscar, it really makes one miss the days of *Caddyshack*, *Ghostbusters*, and of course this week's entry, *Stripes*.

Loser friends John Winger (Murray) and Russell (Harold Ramis) join the Army to get out of their dead-end lives. Once enlisted, the pair and their misfit platoon manage to fail upwards, giving them the honor of guarding the Army's new secret weapon: a Winnebago armed to the teeth. When Winger and Russell "borrow" the van to pick up their girlfriends, their platoon-mates go on a recovery mission, getting them lost in Czechoslovakia. Needless to say, a rescue mission goes underway and hilarity ensues throughout.

As far as Bill Murray movies go, I have always felt that this one is grossly underrated. It has all the ingredients necessary for a great comedy: quotable lines, great supporting cast and some really funny gags. Admittedly, the romantic subplot with the MPs felt shoehorned, but it is still not enough to give this movie the rap it has. Hopefully, I can convince you otherwise.

One of the great things about *Stripes* is that it demonstrates the necessity of a good straight man, played by Harold Ramis. Admittedly, this is the same role he later played as Egon in *Ghostbusters*, but you get the feeling that he has got to have more fun here. A great example is an early scene where he teaches an English as a Second Language class where everyone, including him, can tell that he doesn't have a clue what he is doing. As long as we are on the topic of the secondary cast, John Candy is great playing his usual character of the big, fat, oblivious guy. Also worth noticing is Judge Reinhold in his first role, way back before *Fast Times at Ridgemoor High* and *Beverly Hills Cop*.

Although I never usually comment on the music (I am extremely tone-deaf and have been known to strike people deaf with my singing), the score in *Stripes* is extremely effective in conveying the mood. As Winger makes his way through his loserly existence, there is a leisurely piano. Upon joining the Army, the score becomes upbeat and full of trumpets, conveying Winger's new found sense of purpose. Even a musical idiot like me picks up on this stuff. The icing on the cake is Winger turning *Doo Wah Diddy Diddy* into a marching song. I find myself humming the song for days afterwards every time I watch this flick.

This is a very funny, enjoyable movie that I definitely recommend giving a try. Although it comes off a bit dated at times (the Cold War jokes are not quite as fresh as they were in 1981), Bill Murray is on top of the game making funny lines even funnier through his comedic delivery as only he can. As far as recommendations go, stop by Blockbuster and pick up *Ghostbusters* again. Everybody loves *Ghostbusters* and they all knew that cool kid on the block growing up who had the air-pressured trap toy that you stomped on to your heart's content. And if you were that kid, shame on you, you magnificent bastard. Everyone wanted to be you or rather to play with your fantastic toys. For shame, for shame.

A fond farewell

It brings me great displeasure to announce this news, but Dan and I have decided to split up. After carefully assessing the situation at hand, the two of us decided that it would be the best move for everyone involved.

We have many reasons for reaching this decision. First, Dan and I have undeniable creative differences. For instance, I am funny and he is not. Our visions for the future of *Communism for Dummies* were so different that they could not be reasonably reconciled. Dan wanted to negotiate a contract with the editors of *The Grizzly* through which we would receive royalties for our hard work, which I must admit, we do deserve. However, I write for the love of the art form and most of all for you, the fans. Some people have suggested that we stay together for the fans, but such a charade would only do harm. Without the collaborative chemistry that made *CfD* so special, the quality of our writing would reduce to the level of Danny Glover's acting in *Saw* or Cam Furman's blatherings in last year's *Grizzly*. I know it may hurt you to see us apart and I know that we aren't leaving you with anything good to read, and I know you will blame yourselves but trust me; it is entirely Dan's fault.

Plus, he beats me.

However, despite Dan's tragic flaws, he has grown up a lot over the past two years. We both have. And before we leave the era of *Communism for Dummies* behind us, we would like to clean up any messes we may have made. With that in mind, we give our most sincere apologies to *The Grizzly's* editorial staff, the Evangelicals, the Republicans (except Rick Santorum), the Aztecs, Ted Kennedy, The Chris Curley and His Underground Hipsters, Pamela Anderson, Dan's mom, Scientologists, Emo bands, Communists, the architect of The Kaleidoscope, Cam Furman, the Catholics, people with unusual names, the staff of *The Discontented Collegian*, President Strassburger, Haverford College, masters of the art of Haiku, Dick Clark, the Canadians, bloggers,

and people with leprosy. I don't think we ever offended people with leprosy, but they have it rough and I feel sorry for them. As a side note, I will not now nor ever apologize for my statements regarding *The Lantern*. I stand by every word I have said.

We have some people to thank as well. We would like to thank the editorial staff for having faith in us when no one else did... or when they needed filler in the Opinions section. Either way, thanks. Thanks to The Chris Curley for writing the kind of column that makes ours seem sensible in comparison. Thanks to those of you out there who understood that *CfD* is indeed satire and thanks to those of you who never caught on for letting us make fun of you.

Now Dan would like to say a little something: "Kids, sometimes, when a mommy columnist (Flyntz) and a daddy columnist (Me) don't get along, they have to go see a 'therapist.' And sometimes, if that therapist is an 'overpaid quack-job,' he'll suggest a 'trial separation,' and then the mommy columnist will take this as a license to go to various 'seedy nightclubs' with 'other columnists half their age,' while the daddy columnist 'stays home and sulks.' This is what happened to Flyntz and me.

I know you're upset. Try to remember all the good times we had together. Remember when we wrote that column about the Bush-themed amusement park? Or when we drew those funny cartoons that only got published some of the time? Yeah... those were good times.

Stay out of trouble, kids. And you know, if Flyntz ever brings home a stranger and introduces him as your new Uncle Columnist, be a dear and tell me about it, will you?"

We bid you a fond farewell Ursinus College.

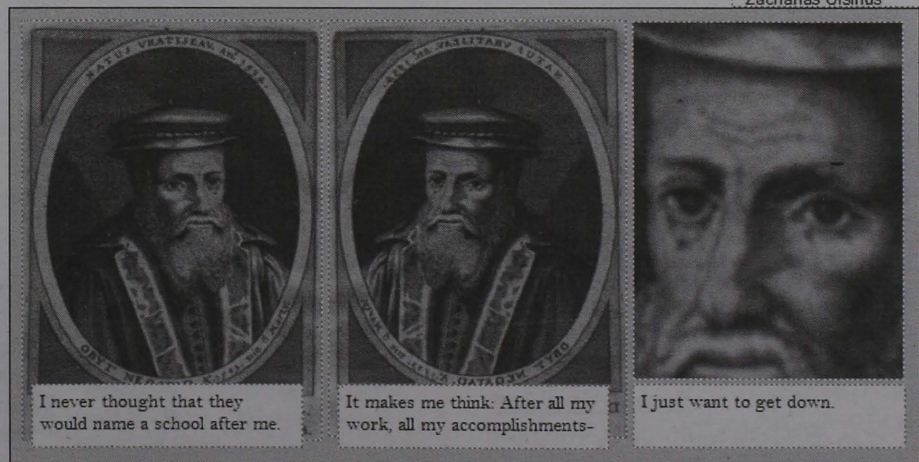
Matt Flyntz and Dan Sergeant would like to wish you all a safe and happy April Fool's Day come this Saturday. Be sure to send us e-gags at mafflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.



**MATT FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT**
Communism for Dummies

Unpretentious

CHRIS CURLEY & TREVOR STRUNK
unpretentiouscomic.blogspot.com



UCLA, Florida, LSU, and George Who?

MICHAEL GRAHAM
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College basketball is in full effect and people's brackets have already taken a hit. Since the beginning of March, college basketball has dominated TV screens all over this nation. We all know what big schools like UNC and Duke are going to do during the regular season, but those bracket busters are always the teams that surprise everyone and have you glued to your televisions.

While some people have followed this sport because of their love of college basketball, others choose to do so because of their love for the underdog. It seems very possible in this year's tournament that an underdog may come out on top, and this possibility is vivid and exciting for fans.

Take a look at one of the sweet sixteen match-up between George Mason and Wichita State: Here are two teams that no one really knows about, but have quietly stolen the hearts of many people. Ranked number 11 and playing in the tough D.C. district, George Mason was forced to face Michigan State, one of last year's Final Four team. Facing possible NBA talent just waiting to erupt, GM knocked off Michigan State by a score of 75-65. Their road to the Final Four was not going to be easy; they faced

the challenge of defeating the defending national champions and the number three seed in the D.C. region, the University of North Carolina. Sometimes it pays off to root for the underdog. George Mason pulled out the win by a score of 65-60.

Wichita State is another team that would not be ignored in this tournament. Number seven in the same D.C. region, they were able to get past a highly under rated Seton Hall team by a score of 86-66 due to a night that featured threes from all over the court. Their big test came when they played number two Tennessee in the second round of the tournament. One of the best teams in the nation fell at the hands of Wichita by a score of 80-73. Again, you have a team that no one expects to win, but somehow continues to pull out victory after victory.

This year's tournament has been full of buzzer beater and miracle wins. The nation's number one ranked team/ tournament number one ranked team has fallen at the hands of LSU. Adam Morrison's Gonzaga Bulldogs blow a game after leading for over 37 minutes. This tournament has been bananas and continues to entertain the world. There has never been a dominant team throughout the season, and there is not a team in the tournament that can not be beaten on any given day. Here's some advice: up-date those brackets because any team is liable to take that big L.



Bears sweep Eastern in Double-Header

MATTHEW PASTOR
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Mallory Greene and Lindsay Schmidt led the Bears softball team to victory last Wednesday as each recorded their fourth victory of the season in non-conference action. The Bears (10-2) saw Greene allow only one run while striking out 11 batters she faced in a 7-1 rout of Eastern in the early game.

The Bears scored all seven of their runs before the fourth inning to give Greene a good cushion and allow her to get nasty with the softball in the opening game. Jess Cherry, Marci Logan, Sarah Hennessey, Mary Reid, and Kelly DeBow all doubled in the game to bring home a majority of the runs against Eastern (4-8). It was Greene who controlled the game from the beginning as she only allowed one run on three hits to improve to 4-2 on the season.

In the second game of the double header, the Bears struggled early against Eastern, but were able to score two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to grab the victory away from Eastern 6-5. Schmidt (4-

0) gave up five runs on ten hits, but thanks to the Bears' bats and Greene's relief in the top of the seventh, Schmidt and the Bears were able to grab their tenth victory of the season.



Mallory Greene

Jennie Morre scored the game winning run on an error in the bottom of the sixth inning, but the Bears needed to keep it close all game and were able to do that with the help of Reid, Logan, Katie Gallagher, and Liz Carino. Carino blasted an RBI single right off Eastern's pitcher, knocking her out of the game and giving the Bears a late 3-2 lead in the fifth inning.

Eastern was able to gain momentum in the sixth inning by scoring three runs on four hits to give them a 5-4 advantage going into the bottom of the sixth where Ursinus took over. Gallagher's RBI single knocked in Ellie Knise who walked early in the inning and Morre came home on an error by Eastern's shortstop to finish up the game for the Bears.

The Ursinus softball team returns to action Saturday at McDaniel. They return home next Thursday, April 6, against Albright. Game time is 2:30pm.

Bearly Reminder

Thursday March 30th

Women's LAX @ Cabrini- 4 p.m.

Friday March 31st

Baseball vs. F&M- 3 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. F&M- 3:30 p.m.

Men's LAX @ Washington- 7 p.m.

Saturday April 1st

Track & Field @ Muhlenberg Invitational- 11 a.m.

Baseball @ Dickinson (2)- 11:30

Softball @ McDaniel- 1 p.m.

Women's LAX vs. McDaniel- 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Johns Hopkins- 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis @ Dickinson- 1p.m.

Sunday April 2nd

Women's Tennis @ Washington- 2 p.m.

Monday April 3rd

Women's Golf @

Muhlenberg Invitational- 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 4th

Softball @ Swarthmore- 3 p.m.

Baseball @ Swarthmore- 3:30 p.m.

Women's LAX @ Salisbury- 4 p.m.

Wednesday April 5th

Men's Golf @ Elizabethtown- 11 a.m.

Baseball @ Deleware Valley- 3:30 p.m.

M & W Tennis vs. East Strousburgh- 3:30 p.m.

STANDINGS

Baseball- 4-8 (0-0 CC) 9th

Softball- 10-2 (0-0 CC) 1st

Women's LAX- 4-2 (1-1 CC) T-5th

Men's LAX- 2-5 (0-1 CC) 9th

Women's Tennis- 2-4 (0-1 CC) T-8th

Men's Tennis- 0-1 (0-1 CC) T-7th