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The Grizzly, March 9, 2006

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the grizzly

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inside



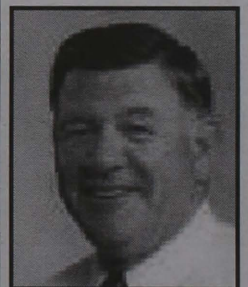
C.O.O.L. idealism
news, 2



Rodin review
features, 4



Spoon "Gimme Fiction"
review opinions, 6



Displaying respect at
sport events sports, 8

Myrin Library is the new student temple

collegeville, pa

volume 30 issue 20

Two juniors attend C.O.O.L. Idealist National Conference in Tennessee

SARAH KECK

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"Who wants to live in a world where there are no starving children? Where all people who work actually receive living wages? Where all people are given the same amount of respect? Who wants to live in a world where there is no global warming? Who wants to get our troops out of Iraq?" With each question that keynote speaker Medea Benjamin put forth, she was forced to pause as her audience erupted into cheers.

This past weekend, Dana Roach and I, both juniors at Ursinus, joined 1,500 other students, campus staff members, nonprofit professionals and year of service members at the 22nd annual C.O.O.L. Idealist National Conference, which was held at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

For three days we had the opportunity to attend seven out of the 150 workshops that were offered to us; they covered human rights, international health and poverty crises, career development, passion and motivation, and activism. We were able to meet with the over 60 local, national, and international nonprofit organizations that sent representatives to talk to students and administrators about volunteer opportunities, jobs, internships and year-of-service programs. We were surrounded by people who find ways to maintain enthusiasm and optimism as they engage in service, activism and civic life on their campuses and in their communities.

While the time I spent listening, talking, engaging and networking with conference participants and presenters reaffirmed my belief that there is something in the world worth fighting for, nothing rekindled my love for fighting for justice the way Benjamin's speech did for me at the opening ceremony on Friday night.

Benjamin's speech was preceded by a speech given by Kamaria Porter, a Chicago native who attends the University of Notre Dame. In 2004, she began petitioning for dining services to recognize injustice in the world and possibility for change by serving fair-trade coffee and terminating all contracts with Taco Bell. When her petitions weren't acknowledged, she organized a 150-person hunger strike, which was concluded when 30 people marched into the president's office and staged a sit-in. Her efforts and persistence were recognized by the administration, and her requests were granted shortly after.

At such a conference, I was forced to ask myself, "Are we actually making a difference in the world?" I often feel myself being discouraged by defeat;

it's hard to keep a spark under your fire when you're constantly being smothered by opposition and dead end.

Medea Benjamin spoke to the heart of my struggle. She reminded the 1,500 in attendance, who were attentively listening, that through the dedication of activists all over the country, Starbucks began selling and serving fair-trade coffee. She reminded us that because of letters, petitions and marches, U.S. troops were slowly being pulled out of Iraq. She reminded us that the government has, is, and will respond to the call of passionate citizens all over the country. "Activism works!" she repeated several times, "We just have to keep doing it."

Therefore, I'm challenging the students at Ursinus College to take the spark that might be left in their passions and re-light their fires. It's time to take this country into our possession and shape it into something that we will be proud to call our own. "It's the absolute responsibility of young people to make these changes," Benjamin boldly stated. "It's young people who still believe in fairness; who still stand up and say: 'we can and will make a difference in the world.'"

The C.O.O.L. Idealist National Conference is heading to Music City!



Celebration of Student Achievement

The first annual Celebration of Student Achievement (COSA) will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2006. There will not be any classes held on that day, but instead, a full day dedicated to the achievement of the students here at Ursinus College. In order to be a presenter during this day, you must submit a proposal by Friday, March 10, 2006, and have a faculty mentor who has approved your presentation.

If you are interested in presenting anything related to academia (poster, presentation, art work, project, paper, etc.), please submit your proposal by this Friday, March 10, 2006. If there are any questions, check the link on the Ursinus website or e-mail mhardin@ursinus.edu.

If you are interested in being a facilitator for sessions or a photographer for the day, please see Melissa Hardin or e-mail mhardin@ursinus.edu.

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SPINT: an overview of house projects

KIRSTEN SCHUCK

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There are chances to experience Scandinavian metal, a Bollywood film, free German donuts, a slumber party featuring *Freddy vs. Jason*, a magic show, and speed dating, but how many of us know that these things are taking place on our campus? How many of these things sound fun, exciting, and just plain delicious? These cultural events take place all the time as members of the Special Interest (SPINT) houses put forth their creative and fun projects to the campus. If you haven't had a chance to check out some of these events, here's what you missed and what you have to look forward to. Don't be afraid to check them out, and keep your eyes open for more fun events as the semester continues.

PJ DiGiacomo, House Coordinator for Schaff, the multicultural and diversity house, summarizes the goal of the house, saying, "We want to make people aware that culture is anything that makes you the person that you are. It can be anything from your interests, your nationality, where you come from, etc. There are no boundaries identifying a culture you fit into." Schaff has put on many events to build up culture within its own house, but the house members are ready to take on the whole UC community. Sometime in mid-late April, the house will be putting on a speed-dating event and a cultural cook-off.

Zwingli has always been known for its promotion of liberal arts and non-alcoholic interests. Recently, Sean Neil and Zac Tompkins put on a project about Black metal and Scandinavian metal in general. Sean commented "It was pretty well received and had a good turnout, and we stayed for awhile after to chat with a bunch of people who showed up about various things on similar topics."

You may have also seen the e-mail from two Zwingli residents, Nickie Tamny and Amanda Deibert, about a slumber party on March 1. Caitlin Maddox, a resident of North, attended this event and commented, "We watched Project Runway and did facials, which was cool, and a few guys participated, and while that was drying/working, we did nails and

listened to The Smiths...." When asked how it was overall, she said, "It was fun and relaxing."

Musser, the International House, holds many cultural events, celebrating and creating awareness about different traditions. On Feb. 3, Mohsin Ali and his roommate Mark Dennis hosted an Indian Dinner and Movie night, creating an authentic Indian atmosphere, complete with food, music, and a Bollywood movie. On the menu for the night was naan (bread), malai kofta (vegetable dumplings in a curry sauce), and lamb biryani (lamb and rice dish). They showed the movie "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai" ("Something Happens"). Ali and Dennis's take on the event was, "Overall, the event seemed to be enjoyed by all and promoted understanding and appreciation of Indian culture."

On Feb. 28, Fat Tuesday, Samantha Frank served traditional German faschnacht donuts that she made herself. She noted, "It was a simple gathering in the lounge, but I felt it was pretty successful." Musser residents seem to enjoy bringing a touch of their own creativity to events and sharing with other students the things they enjoy.

Hobson, the community service house, is about to kick off a few projects that will really bring a sense of service not only to the UC community, but to the surrounding areas as well. On April 9, resident Amy Guminski will be in charge of an Alex's Lemonade Stand (www.alexlemonade.org), which will accompany a magic show in the Lenfest Theater. Tickets will be going on sale soon.

Another soon-to-come opportunity is the "Run for Dana Marie," hosted by Cate Fusco. This event will be held on the last Sunday in April at Phoenixville High School. The event gives participants a chance to join in a 5K run or a mile walk around town. All proceeds from this event go towards the Dana Marie Scholarship fund.

Keep an eye out for these and more chances to join in on all the SPINT fun!



McDonald's new spicy chicken sandwich deal

McDonald's new spicy chicken sandwich deal

FREE Medium Fries & Medium Drink
with the purchase of a NEW Spicy Chicken Sandwich or any Regular Menu Sandwich*

*Regular menu sandwiches include: Big Mac®, Quarter Pounder® with Cheese, Ranch BLT, Club or Classic Premium Chicken Sandwich and Filet-O-Fish®. Offer good at participating McDonald's® Restaurants in Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Kent & New Castle counties, Delaware. Prices may vary. Current prices and participation based on independent operator decision. Valid when product served. Excludes all sandwiches on the Dollar Menu. Void where prohibited. Cash value 1/20 of \$0.01. Limit one coupon per person, per visit. One free item per coupon. Not valid with any other offer, discount or meal combination. Plus tax if applicable. Coupon may not be duplicated in any way or transmitted via electronic media. *Weight before cooking 4 oz. (113.4 grams). Offer Expires 5/14/06. ©2006 McDonald's.

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career corner

Grazie, Gracias, Danke, Merci, Thank You—any way you say it, employers appreciate your follow-up

Thank-you letters are critical to your job search success, and interviews are not the only occasions to send thank-you and follow-up letters. If you've ever helped or done something for someone and received a word of thanks, you can understand how this kind of courtesy can positively impact an employer's impression of you.

Write a Thank-You Letter When . . .

1. You have just interviewed for a job or internship.
2. A contact is helpful to you in a telephone conversation or e-mail.
3. Someone provides/sends information to you at your request.
4. You want to stand out in the mind of an employer you met at a career fair.
5. You visit a mentor at his or her work site.
6. You want to express thanks and develop a good relationship.

Hard Copy, Handwritten or E-Mail

Thank-you letters can be hard-copy typed, handwritten or e-mailed. Hard copy is most formal and is always appropriate after an interview. Handwritten letters are more personal and can be appropriate for brief notes to individuals you may have met during an on-site interview or who may have helped you in other ways. E-mail is appropriate when that has been your means of contact with the person you want to thank, or if your contact has expressed a preference for e-mail, or if you want to send a quick thank-you to be followed up by hard copy.

You can view examples of thank-you notes and other job search letters on the Career Services Web site, at www.ursinus.edu/career. Make an appointment with a counselor to discuss job search correspondence.

Understanding abortion



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

Abortion is one of the most controversial and significant constitutional issues that has been and continues to be debated. Recently, abortion has been a topic of discussion in the media, sparked by new regulations and the nominations to the Supreme Court. On Feb. 22, the South Dakota Senate

passed a bill banning abortions in their state, except when the woman's life is in danger. Because this bill violates *Roe vs. Wade* – the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion – it is considered unconstitutional and may appear before the Supreme Court. South Dakota's transgression into unmitigated controversy has inspired me to explore abortion and our options in Pennsylvania.

When a woman is faced with an unwanted pregnancy, she has three options: keeping the child, adoption, and abortion. It is important to be educated about all three options before choosing, however, be wary of certain sources. Some websites and clinics masquerade as loca-

tions of health information and services, but in reality are platforms for a pro-life or pro-choice agenda and may dispense inaccurate information.

According to Pennsylvania law, a woman must wait twenty-four hours after receiving information about the procedure from a physician at the clinic, a phone call with one of the clinic's physicians, or her personal physician. Also, if the patient is under eighteen she must acquire permission from her parent or guardian prior to the procedure or obtain permission from a judge which the clinic may help an individual attain (Allentown Women's Health Center).

When a woman arrives at the clinic for the procedure, she will undergo counseling about her decision, birth control, and aftercare. Before the procedure, she will have the opportunity to meet with her physician and discuss the procedure. She has the option of choosing to be sedated, asleep, or to remain conscious, which may or may not be accompanied by a pain medication, which is decided upon by the patient. Basically, the procedure consists of a pelvic exam followed by the anesthetizing of the cervix, which is dilated by a series of "progressively-sized metal rods." Once the cervix is dilated, a vacuum-attached tube is placed into the uterus that uses "light suction to remove the pregnancy tissue." The procedure typically takes three to eight minutes, after which time the patient spends thirty to sixty minutes in a recovery room (Allentown Women's Health Center).

Women also have the option of medical abortion which is induced by prescription medications. To learn more about medical abortion, log on to www.allentownwomenscenter.com.

Locally, The Philadelphia Women's Center is an abor-

tion provider located at 225 S. 15th St. and their phone number is 1-800-869-2330. The cost of an abortion is dependent upon the type of procedure chosen and the length of the pregnancy before the procedure, but it usually ranges from \$250-500. Abortion is at least partially covered by most forms of insurance. To locate another reliable abortion clinic, log on to www.abortion.com, which will help you find a clinic close to you.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, abortion is an extremely safe procedure and less than one-half of a percent of women suffer from any complications. If you would like to read about the possible complications of surgical abortion, log on to www.allentownwomenscenter.com. Abortion also has an extremely low mortality rate, and carries only one tenth of the fatality risk that pregnancy carries. According to Planned Parenthood, long-term, severe, emotional consequences are rare, but some women do feel temporary guilt, regret, sadness, or anger. Accusations that abortion leads to breast cancer or permanent emotional problems (post-abortion syndrome) are unfounded and lacking scientific evidence.

Abstinence is the best way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and abortion, however if you choose to be sexually active, educate yourself about your contraceptive options, their effectiveness, and possible side effects, in order to prevent having to make the difficult choices that unwanted pregnancies present. As always, I am more than happy to do the grunt work in order to provide Ursinus College with the means to achieve this education.

The imperfect world of Auguste Rodin

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Auguste Rodin casts a long shadow over modern sculpture. His most famous work, "The Thinker," is one of the most iconic sculptures of all time, almost synonymous with the idea of fine art. "Rodin: In His Own Words," currently on display at the Berman Museum of Art until April 9th, offers visitors a glimpse into the mind of the artist with quotes that accompany each piece concerning art, love and his craft, among other topics. This is undoubtedly one of the most prestigious exhibits to come to Ursinus's small, virtually unknown gallery, and worth a visit by even the most casual art enthusiast. This is your chance to see the work of a world-class sculptor in an intimate setting, just a five-minute walk, no matter where you are on campus. It won't even cost you anything.

As one of the foremost sculptors of the late 1800's, Rodin had a bold, organic style that captured nature in its most honest form. His style did not idealize or polish the subject in order to enhance its beauty. A number of pieces in the gallery especially exhibit this groundbreaking approach. The best example is "The Spirit of War." A piece that depicts war in human form, the sculpture is a study for a monument to the soldiers France lost during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Rodin opted to take the symbolic approach, but not to create an idealized monument to the war. This angel of death lunges forward aggressively, wings beating the air, arms out-

stretched to end in clenched fists. She wears an expression of intense fury. Under a furrowed brow, two deep holes carved in the face create the effect of dark and shadowy eyes. This is not the face of a beautiful and wise goddess of war. This is a hateful warrior that embodies the horror of warfare and perfectly demonstrates Rodin's unflinching commitment to realism, even when working on a symbolic level.



Auguste Rodin, "The Thinker" modeled 1880, reduced in 1903 cast about 1931, Bronze, Foundry Alexis Rudier, 14 3/4 x 7 7/8 x 11 3/8" Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collection

The exhibit does have some drawbacks. My main complaint is with the quotes the organizers chose for each piece. While they offer insight into Rodin's philosophy of art and other subjects, many lack any information about the piece they accompany. I found it especially frustrating when sculptures such as "Ugolino and Sons" clearly referred to some historical or mythological figure, but the plaque didn't give any information about the source story. Googling the title character reveals that he was a character from Dante's *Inferno* punished for cannibalizing his children while imprisoned for treason in Pisa. A brief description of such pieces would have given some valuable context to Rodin's historical and mythological inspirations and allowed visitors to understand the works on more than just a visual level.

Visitors to "Rodin: In His Own Words" at Berman will find a glimpse into the mind and artistic process of one of the most notable artists from the dawn of Modernism. This is a fine show with a personal touch that will satisfy Rodin enthusiasts and perhaps gain the artists some new admirers, as well. What would make this a great show would be a little more background on the individual pieces to give the viewer a sense of context for the pieces beyond their being examples of Rodin's considerable artistic talent. Regardless of minor drawbacks, "Rodin: In His Own Words" is an excellent opportunity for the Ursinus community to be introduced to the beautiful and honest work of Auguste Rodin.

Marché aux Puces and other shopping advice

KATIE PERKINS

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Paris is one of the most fashionable cities in the world, but shopping doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg when done correctly. Fortunately for me and my fellow classmates, we came at one of the best times to shop: *Les Soldes*.

Les Soldes (pronounced "lay sold") are huge liquidation sales of all stores in Paris. They began the first of January and lasted until February 21. Everything was marked down at least 20 or 30 percent off of the original price. And towards the end of the *soldes* stores had a *dernière démarque*, a final markdown of sometimes 70 percent off of the original price.

Although we were not here to experience the first day of the *soldes*, I've heard from an Austrian friend from one of my classes that the women were going crazy the first day. Even towards the last days they were still crazy. Lines were long at the counter and the clothing wasn't being hung up correctly. Most stores were hit-or-miss with their selection, but the courageous were always out there hunting for a bargain.

Two of the more impressive stores in Paris are the Galleries Lafayette and Printemps. Both are huge department stores in central Paris.

Galleries Lafayette is eight stories high with a basement and an observatory on the roof to look down at the rest of Paris. Towards the top there are cafés and the computer store, but on the lower levels, Tiffany's and Cartier counters are filled with sparkling items.

Printemps is right next to Galleries Lafayette and is one of their competitors. They have basically the same items, but Printemps would be the Macy's of America while Galleries Lafayette would be the Nordstrom's.

The prices are low at this time, however when the sales end, the prices go back up. At most stores in Paris, it means shopping around to find the best deal. There are plenty of stores similar to what we have in the states, but to find something unique, the *Marché aux Puces* is the best place to look.

The *Marché aux Puces* is a flea market. The flea market is located about three inches from the Paris border. Because it is located in between the city and the *banlieue* (suburbs), there is an interesting mix of people.

Most of the shops at the flea market are targeted towards the urban culture, but there is a Jamaican and hippie population also. So, what can I buy? Anything.

You will be able to find scarves (a must have when living in Paris, I haven't seen one person without a scarf on their neck) at three Euros a piece. Some of the more elegant scarves might go up to six or ten Euros, but that's still better than what you find in the department stores.

For women, there are shoes for ten Euros, including leather boots, flats, pumps, sandals, and boots with fake fur and pom-pom's hanging off. There are a few shops with jewelry, watches, purses, hats, and gloves. There are clothing stores with skirts and sweaters for ten Euros. Shirt prices can range depending on design, but I have yet to see a shirt more expensive than 15 Euros.

For men, there are also shoes, but more sneakers than dress shoes or boots. Most of the clothing for men is Sean John, FUBU, Puma, etc. The jeans for men are also of similar brands. However, fear not preppy boys. I saw a small store of Lacoste shirts, sweaters, shorts, and pants for prices that I couldn't believe. There was a sweater and sweatshirt stand for men with sweatshirts with logos brazened across the front and sweaters with a "yachting" feel with toggle buttons.

As for accessories and other items, there were two or three stands selling CDs and DVDs. Many of the scarf-hat-purse stands also had belts with an array of buckles on hand. Cell phone covers and accessories was another popular stand. You could even buy a hookah or Japanese sword. A lot of incense and "relaxation" paraphernalia were at the hookah stands, as well.

Over all, the *Marché aux Puces* can be a hit-or-miss with must have items for the spring fashion season, but I can assure you that your cultural experience will be more gratifying than some of the items found.

Yes, I love Galleries Lafayette and Printemps if I want something with a little more class and sophistication. However, if you want something unique and not at all Parisian, the flea market is the best place to look.

Kelly stirs up laughs

KATIE PERKINS

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Comedian Robert Kelly took the easy way out in opening his show on Friday in the Lenfest: by making fun of Your-Sinus and Collegeville.

There was nothing that we haven't heard before. Yes, Collegeville is pretty much unheard of. No, our school's name is not Your-Sinus. But I do have one correction to make of his assumptions. There is more to do than just hang out at the diner. We go to Wawa, too.

As he compared Ursinus to Uranus, he kept the audience waiting for more. And he gave it to us. He joked about everything from New York City defecation laws to Osama Bin Laden being high while filming his videos. His reenactment of these jokes really got us laughing.

His ability to make fun of himself in a way that we could relate to is what put us in hysterics. Kelly had a plethora of fat jokes ("Do I look like I SPLIT [food]?") and a definite grasp of male-female communication ("When we fight, my girlfriend becomes a Psycho-Far-Away-Planet-Bitch").

He appealed to the immature sense of humor in all of us by acting out images of him accidentally slapping a girl in the face with a chicken breast and wiping off the toilet seat with his sock.

Kelly also interacted with the audience as he focused most of his jokes about relationships on a couple sitting in the crowd. When learning that they had been together for a year, Kelly asked the man, "Do you miss being a guy?" This was followed by hilarious yet accurate depictions of life in a relationship.

There were times, however, when he didn't know when to stop. He went on about his overweight obsessive eating habits for a bit too long. We got the point when he said he would rather eat than have sex. But he continued driving the fat jokes home as whispers of "I wish he would change the subject" floated in the audience.

Opening for Dane Cook, one of the hottest comedians around, has prepared Robert to entertain audiences with a fast paced, off-the-wall style. While he has not yet reached the consistency and fame of Dane Cook, he is certainly on his way.

Kelly has acted in television series such as Law and Order and performed on high profile comedic outlets like Comedy Central and "The Carson Daly Show." Robert Kelly is slowly making a name for himself.

More importantly to Ursinus students, Kelly is part of an on-going series of Friday night entertainment in the Lenfest Theater brought to us by CAB. This semester we were also entertained and hypnotized by Sailesh, and last semester comedian Steve Hofstetter filled the Lenfest with laughs.

So here's to more great ways to spend a Friday night on campus provided by CAB. Until the next time, remember Robert Kelly's advice to us: What happens in Vegas should be talked about, and what happens in West Virginia stays in West Virginia.



BRETT CELINSKI

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How I spent Spring Break '06

Nobody does Spring Break better than MTV. Especially not when the destination is none other than Islamabad, Pakistan; ESPECIALLY, especially not when the veejees for this holy event are the mad-krazy krew here at *Kommunizm for Dummies*. Err, *Dummiez*.

When Flyntz and I were sent to scout the area out, the first thing we demanded to know of the local populace was, "Donde estan las chicas?" That's when we found out that people in Pakistan actually speak German, or something, and not Spanish. We were devastated, but we set out with our \$10,000 stipend from MTV to hire us a translator.

We roamed around dusty, metropolitan Islamabad for hours, loudly shouting "Donde esta un translator?" at every single person we passed. No one answered. Despondent, we stumbled into an opium den and it was there we met a Mr. Umar Abdul-Muhammed, who was fluent in Pakistan-speak, English, and Spanglish. As owner and operator of a translator service, tour guide company, and a chain of street vendors, he promised (for a nominal fee) to not only serve as our personal translator, but also to show us all the hottest scenes in Islamabad where we could have an MTV-tastic Spring Break celebration!

"So you own three businesses at once, huh?" I remarked to him. "You must be raking in the *dinero*, *muchacho*."

"Yes," he replied. "In fact, friends call me 'Mr. Profit.'"

He pointed out several large towers called *minarets* used to call Muslims to prayer. We immediately seized upon the idea of using them to house the subwoofers. Can you imagine broadcasting Ashlee Simpson *over an entire city*? Why, we'd have all of Islamabad rawking out in seconds!

We told Mr. Profit that we needed a waterside location where we could hold a large outdoor concert where scantily-clad womenfolk could rub provocatively against brawny jocks in rhythm to "My Humps." He told us that

there were very few waterside locations in Islamabad available for that purpose, but he did lead us to an open sewer. When we questioned the safety of the sludgy water at this location, he advised us to "just throw in some chlorine and you should be fine."

After that, Mr. Profit took us to a restaurant that he said would shower our MTV guests with "a rain of the finest babaghanoush Pakistan has to offer." While waiting for Flyntz and our guide to get out of the bathroom, I began doodling on my napkin. I was hoping to make a portrait of Mr. Profit to give to him as a token of thanks and goodwill. However, I was soon approached by a large, angry-looking Pakistani man who demanded, in firm yet broken English, what I was drawing.

"Oh, nothing," I said, "just a picture of my good friend, Mr. Profit Muhammed."

I can't really explain what happened next, but the man yelled German words at the others in the restaurant and soon the entire place had crowded around me, shouting. Flyntz and Mr. Profit reappeared just in time to whisk me out the door and as we ran down the street I looked behind me and saw a man pull out from his robe an extremely dangerous and extremely loaded AK-47.

Mr. Profit hid us in the minaret of the nearest mosque as he went to alert the U.S. Embassy. It was then that I looked out from my perch and saw the swirling mass of enraged Muslims shouting and shooting in the streets. They writhed against each other in a dance of passionate, concentrated emotion. Some appeared to have gone insane with anger.

I turned to Flyntz. "You know what?" I said. "From up here, it looks like every other Spring Break MTV has ever done."

Dan Sergeant and Matt Flyntz would like to reiterate the incontrovertible fact that indie rock is the worst disaster to befall the American music scene since Woodstock '99. The 7½ Floor can send its apologies to dasergeant@ursinus.edu and maflyntz@ursinus.edu.



MATT FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT
Communism for Dummies

Letter to the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Alex Ernst's review of the Disney film *Swing Kids* and agree completely with his assessment of the film's artistic (de-)merits. Disney has taken a serious topic and Hollywoodized it almost to the point of absurdity. But not quite!

Although the sub-plots are a bit overdrawn and the acting is less than inspiring, the film recreates the milieu of the times pretty well. The *Swing Kids*' English mode of dress is reproduced with meticulous accuracy (from their own snapshots and from Gestapo report descriptions); the jitterbug dance scenes are developed from descriptions in participants' letters and diaries; and the fate of the youths in the film (being drafted into the Wehrmacht or sent to work in a labor battalion) is exactly what happened to many of them.

The film also correctly interprets how the Nazi authorities succeeded in criminalizing what was essentially a harmless, apolitical, youthful, non-conformist movement; illustrating the fact that *nothing* was considered non-political in the Third Reich. Finally, the aspect of the film that the reviewer found to be the most ridiculous, the Hitler-mocking salute "Swing Heil," was exactly what the Swing Youth shouted as a greeting to one another and penned at the end of their letters (Hamburg Gestapo Report, October, 1940).

What the *Swing Kids* did not do, however, was to go out on Hitler Youth-bashing capers, as misrepresented in the film. Those activities are being conflated with those of working-class opposition youth groups, such as the "Edelweiss Pirates" in Cologne, Düsseldorf, and other Rhineland cities.

Myrin's Media Services Department has just gotten a copy of the recent German feature film *Edelweisspiraten*, and it's worth a comparative viewing with the sanitized Disney version of Nazi Germany. Check it out.

Ross Doughty
Dept. of History

Gimme Fiction drips with musical ambition

Austin-based rock trio Spoon released their fifth album, *Gimme Fiction*, to the cheers of fans and critics alike. *Gimme Fiction* chartered high on several "Top Releases of 2005." Rather than rest on the laurels of the smash 2002

release *Kill the Moonlight*, Spoon proves there is always more room in the

musical melting pot. While still maintaining an autonomous musical identity, Spoon evokes some Sonic Youth, Pixies, occasionally Prince and for good measure, David Bowie. Spoon is always catchy, always fun, and contains no filler.

Success came bittersweetly after years of anonymity as with many contemporary music acts. Spoon originally consisted of vocalist and guitarist Britt Daniel and drummer Jim Eno, with a constantly rotating cast of bass players.

The 1996 debut album, *Telephono*, first paraded the influence of the Pixies and Sonic Youth on Spoon's unique indie-punk sound. Later, Spoon would tour with Pavement, Guided by Voices, Silkworm, and Archers of Loaf after settling on Andy Maguire as the permanent bass player. Spoon then released *Soft Effects EP* in 1997. Spoon then unwisely switched to Elektra Records, who dropped them after their third album, *A Series of Sneaks*, in 1998. Sans record label, Spoon returned to a more grassroots indie campaign to maintain their growing fan base and released *The Agony of Laffitte EP* in 1999. Merge signed Spoon and released the *Love Ways EP*, which paved the way for the 2001 *Girls Can Tell*. Though *Girls Can Tell* received a great deal of critical lauding, Spoon was determined to do something a little different on the triumphant *Kill the Moonlight*.

Following the trend of doing something different, Spoon came up with the catchy, super fun, and uber-eclectic *Gimme Fiction*. Dripping with musical ambition, *Gimme Fiction* seems to leave no stone unturned as Spoon reminisces on the vocal styling of Prince and the soul of John

Lennon. Read as history book or album, *Gimme Fiction* is certainly Spoon's most deliberate musical effort, and by far their best.



The Back Row: *Con Air*

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Everyone has guilty pleasure movies; the kinds where you just sit back, relax, and let your brain take a vacation. The movie this week is one of my all time favorites in this department. It is so over the top action-packed to the point of being absolutely ridiculous that I just cannot help but love it. Other action movies have probably done it better and smarter (*Lethal Weapon* and *Die Hard*—but more about that later), but this one will always hold a special place in my heart. Ladies and gentlemen, without further ado, I give you *Con Air* (1997).

The plot is simple enough: Cameron Poe (Nicholas Cage) kills a man in self-defense while defending his pregnant wife and is sent away for eight years. On the day of his parole, the prison transport plane is hijacked by criminal mastermind Cyrus "The Virus" Grissom (John Malkovich) and the other convicts. It is up to Poe and U.S. Marshall Vince Larkin (John Cusack) to stop Cyrus before the plane is blown out of the sky.

Before I talk about anything else, let's take a look at the amazing cast that was assembled through what had to be some producer's deal with the devil. *Con Air* gives us Nick Cage, John Malkovich, Ving Rhames, John Cusack, Dave Chappelle, and Steve Buscemi. Stop for a minute and read that last sentence over again, just so that you can fully take in the madness. Nick Cage and John Cusack are fine as the hero leads, but John Malkovich completely steals the show as Cyrus "The Virus." If you remember anything about this movie, it will be Malkovich's bizarrely nicknamed villain (that, or the body with the message on its chest that gets thrown out of the plane). I could not tell you Gary Busey's

character's name from *Lethal Weapon* or Alan Rickman's evil German from *Die Hard*, but Cyrus "The Virus" will always stick with me. Cyrus intimidates his way through *Con Air*: anticipating the cops' every move, glowering with simmering intensity. Also worth mentioning is Steve Buscemi, who has one downright disturbing scene where his psychopath serial killer has a "tea party" with an unsuspecting little girl.

For a straight-up action movie, the story has enough twists to keep you interested between explosions. The characters are likeable, particularly Cage's role Poe, who has an everyman appeal with a conviction that could have happened to just about anybody. Given his predicament of leaving to see his wife and a daughter he never met or risking everything and staying on the plane to try to stop Cyrus. I don't know that I would be able to make the same choice. But hey, that's a Hollywood blockbuster for you—doing all the thinking so you don't have to.

If it is not obvious by now, I really enjoyed this movie. However that is not to say that it is a particularly good movie by any stretch of the imagination. But again, that is what guilty pleasures are all about. As I sat here trying to come up with this week's recommendation, all I could think of were other far-fetched Nicholas Cage movies: *Face Off*, *The Rock*, and *Snake Eyes*. All of these are not particularly good movies, but they won't tax your brain either. Although Sean Connery in *The Rock* is hard to beat, I recommend *Snake Eyes* if you are looking for a good, fast-paced thriller.

Simply enough, Nicholas Cage tries to solve an assassination of a government official at a boxing match, where no one can be trusted. Finally, I love the feedback I have been getting. Please feel free to tell me how much I suck or alternatively, don't suck. Next week: *Stripes*.

The line between personal offense and free speech

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Speaking about the uproar of the publishing over the Danish cartoons depicting Mohammed in various European newspapers, Pope Benedict XVI declared that "it is necessary and urgent that religions and their symbols are respected, and that believers are not the object of provocations that harm their progress and their religious feelings" (BBC).

Benedict clearly condemned the violence that occurred in response to the cartoons but argued that the best way to avoid such problems in the future is for newspapers to avoid publishing material that is offensive to religious sensibilities.

There is some sympathy for the Muslim point of view on this issue in the Western world; the instinct to ban "blasphemous" speech is not limited to Muslims. However, I have to vehemently disagree with the Pope's point of view that people have the inherent right to live in a bubble free from everything that they personally deem offensive.

There are those who argue that the freedom of speech

does not include the right to offend the sensibilities of others. As a matter of fact, the exact opposite is true. Without the right to offend people, there can be no freedom of speech. It is easy to defend speech that one agrees with. Every country does that, including totalitarian regimes. It is harder to protect speech that people find offensive. Free speech requires the ability to tell someone what they do not want to hear.

Imagine a logical extension of what the Pope proposes. Imagine if newspapers avoided publishing articles about evolution because they offended creationists, articles about birth control because they offended Catholics, reports on biblical scholarship because they offended fundamentalists, or—this one is actually pretty appealing—reports on the Yankees because they offended Red Sox fans?

If we are going to censor ourselves to avoid giving any offense to Muslims, by what logic should we stop there? Should we not extend the same "right" to avoid offense to Christians? How about Hindus? Or Scientologists? The only difference is that newspaper editors are driven by fear of physical harm if they offend Islamists.

Nothing left to say

After all the uproar has died away and the general clamor and calamity of last month's article gone by the wayside to the tens of people who cared, I will freely admit that it is hard to write taut, on-point satire each week—which is why I don't.

People often ask me questions like, "Chris, just what is your column about?" "How did you get to be so pretentious?" and "Where's the bakery?" to all of which I must humbly respond: I don't know. It just got away from me. I



CHRISTOPHER CURLEY
The 7 1/2 Floor

gave her love and pride, and now all that's left is a dusty box of old memories and the lingering taste of a cheese Danish. Why did I do it? Maybe for practice, maybe for pride, maybe for nothing at all. It worked for Larry David.

My editors have suggested (threatened) that I finish out the rest of

the year, and out of respect (fear), I consented. How nice it would be, though, to go out on top. Realistically, however, I'd be happy to go out on the middle.

So give me a hand, dearest reader. I'm fresh out of ideas. Some have intimated that this happened a long time ago, but I choose to ignore them. They are vile, despicable people, full skin lesions and art criticism. These are the people who hog the comforter and take the biggest French fry off your plate. They are not to be trusted.

I am to be trusted, however, with a little community help. So show your support, send some love. Tell me an interesting fact. Ask my advice! Anything goes. Be the Mick to my Rocky, the Jeeves to my Wooster, the Laverne to my Shirley—just help me find a way to pull through these last few weeks.

Merci (in every sense of the word),
Chris

chcurley@ursinus.edu, it's as simple as that.

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 returbach@ursinus.edu

Respect! Letter to the Editor

BRIAN THOMAS

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ATHLETIC FAN SUPPORT;

All season long and actually through out my seventeen years of service to Ursinus College, we have had the best fan support at all of our contests. It is a credit to the student body who will come out and cheer their teams on.

Last Thursday night, we had a tremendous opportunity in hosting an NCAA First Round men's basketball tournament game. It was an exciting atmosphere. All season long, you the fans have come out in numbers and have conducted yourselves with class and represented Ursinus College in the highest fashion. Just a few weeks ago when the men's team had a showdown with rival Johns Hopkins University, I received numerous compliments from parents of JHU players and from their AD on how our student body supported the team in such a well mannered way. At the Centennial Conference Championships two weeks ago, again we were complimented by our opposing teams and families and by the commissioner of our conference. I have been so proud to be a part of UC athletics because of the enthusiasm and support which our student body, administration and faculty provide to our teams.

Now I must go on record to state my disappointment with a group of fans in attendance last Thursday night when we played Farmingdale State University. Our fan base was enthusiastic through out the evening until we fell behind in the score. In the heat of the moment several fans led insulting, derogatory chants, including ethnic slurs, directed at FSU. The NCAA and the Centennial Conference have clearly stated sportsmanship guidelines for all institutions to follow. "For intercollegiate athletics to promote character development of participants, to enhance the integrity of higher education and to promote civility in society, student athletes, coaches and all others associated with these athletic programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program."

You have heard this mentioned for the public address announcement many times:

"THE CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

PROMOTES GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BY STUDENT ATHLETES, COACHES AND SPECTATORS. WE REQUEST YOUR CO-OPERATION BY SUPPORTING THE PARTICIPANTS AND OFFICIALS IN A POSITIVE MANNER.....

It is also stated in the NCAA manual that individuals can be barred from the arena for behavior problems when identified and, more importantly, a school can be disqualified from hosting future events if the NCAA deems necessary as stated in 31.1.8.3 letter of the current NCAA manual.

I am fully aware of the rivalry between Duke and UNC or Haverford and Swarthmore when these schools chant that one side's graduates will one day work for the other school's graduates. I am referring instead to chants that were beneath

Ursinus' dignity. I learned a long time ago, in all walks of life, it only takes a few to cause some damage and then it takes a great deal to overcome the negative. It was necessary Thursday night to apologize to the opposing AD and his coaches and the NCAA representative for the derogatory chants at the end. I will not attempt to hunt the individuals who initiated the negative and inappropriate behavior; rather I wish for responsible individuals to explain to them that it was not 'cool' or humorous, nor is it ever acceptable behavior.

Everyone was so proud when our student fan section loudly chanted, "Thank you seniors, thank you seniors", over and over again. It is a moment our seniors will never forget. We all must join in congratulating the team and coaches who have provided us with many great memories and thrills throughout the year and, for the seniors, throughout the past four years.

I end with a request that everyone learn from this experience. To all BEAR supporters: we have something special here at Ursinus. We have proven over and over again that we care for each other and support one another. I am so proud of how you have conducted yourselves over this year and past years. It is truly remarkable and you have many colleges asking how we do it. They are envious of what we have going at UC. You are to be commended. Let's all reflect on this incident and move forward with great enthusiasm and support of our teams in a most positive way.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian D. Thomas,
Director of Athletics.



Bears crush Crusaders

DAVE MARCHESKIE

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A little thing called maturity has crept its way onto the men's lacrosse team over the past year and the still budding program of only four years has gained experience, talent, and a newfound confidence.

The men's lacrosse team faced Alvernia College for the home opener last Saturday on their new home of Eleanor Frost Snell Field, tearin' up the turf for 2006. Distant relative, Jack Frost, showed up to the game on Saturday as winds swirled the field at a whipping 15 mph making the temperature way below freezing. Icy winds were no match for the Bears as they crushed the Crusaders 22-0

Fortunately for the Bears, they did most of the moving around keeping the offensive zone hotter than a boiler room and turning the defensive zone into a place where penguins wouldn't go. Ursinus controlled the ball for more than 45 minutes out of the 60 minutes the game is played for.

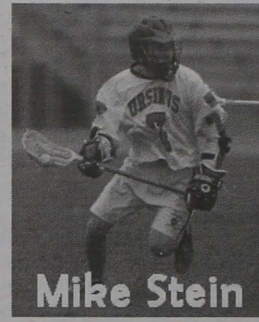
If you were to go to a game and look in your program you would see junior Attack, Mike Stein listed as number seven. He matched his number by elevating his game racking up seven points, four goals, and three assists. Not to be forgotten were

the magician brothers Dane Mangin and Mike Tori, earning a hat trick each. Big bro, Anthony Tori, scored a hat trick for assists also helping out lil' bro on one of his goals in the first half. Ursinus completely shut down the Crusaders in the first half 14-0.

If some is good more is better. At this point in the game it was time for the youngin's to get some game maturity. Opportunities were not wasted as freshman Alex Gray and Brian Boorse scored two goals each. A solid outing for the young guns as three more freshman scored a goal in the second half. It was a good day to be an Ursinus goalie as well. Net master extraordinaire; Matt "Endo" Orlando, had a pristine four saves on four shots in the first half. Austin Wisner and Tony Aquilino split the remaining time making two and three saves respectively.

Ursinus' motto for the first two games has been, "score early and often." After a season opening win against Eastern 17-1 and a home opener goal fest against Alvernia winning 22-0, Ursinus has outscored their first two opponents 39-1. Controlling the ball and shooting often has been a key to success as the Bears have outscored their opponents 111-19.

The Bears will take this big ball of momentum and throw it at tenth ranked in the nation Roanoke College and try to knock off a big time competitor down south in Salem, Virginia. Game time is at 1 p.m.



Bearly Reminder

As spring break draws closer it can only mean the start of the baseball and softball season here at Ursinus College.

The Baseball team will be headed to Cocoa Beach, FL to start off their season while the Softball team heads to Fort Myers, FL to begin their quest for another Centennial Conference Championship.

Be sure to check the Bearly Reminder for the latest up to date schedule announcements and the Grizzly Sports Report for recap of games that took place in the prior weeks.

Hope everyone has a great spring break and good luck to Coach Thomas and the Ursinus baseball team and Coach Terry McGowan and the Ursinus softball team in Florida next week!

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