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The Grizzly, November 2, 2006

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The Grizzly

Thursday, November 2, 2006

The student newspaper of Ursinus College



Ursinus Homecoming wins all around

Collegeville, Pa.

Inside



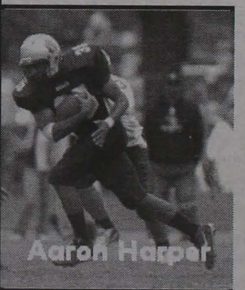
Letter to the Editor on J.
Board news **News, 2**



Batteries included
Features, 4



New Jersey no longer
armpit of America
Opinions, 6



Aaron Harper
Homecoming football wins
Sports, 8

Volume 31 Issue 9

Escape Velocity dancers light up the stage in the black box theater

TRACEY FERDINAND

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The focus was unarguably fresh as members of the Escape Velocity Dance Troupe put on yet another successful student-run dance recital on Thursday and Friday of last week.

The six acts ranged in technique from an improvisational piece skillfully executed by senior Brett Kuras, who poetically held the music in his muscles, a beautiful lyrical quartet choreographed by senior Sara Campbell, and a fusion of ballet and hip-hop choreographed by seniors Chris DeLeon and G. Manalo.

Cate Fusco, President of the Escape Velocity Dance Troupe, noted that she encountered some challenges this semester while putting on the student run show. "[It was hard to] figure out everything that needed to be done, getting everything done on time, and main-

taining a sense of organization and professionalism." Though the role is a rather big one to take on, Fusco proved she was just the person to fill it as indicated by the packed house on Friday night. Students did not mind paying the small fee of \$2 as they sat anxiously awaiting the finishing product of a dedicated team made up of a production staff, lighting designers, choreographers and dancers.

The program started off with an energetic, cat-club-inspired piece, titled "Crazy Asterisk," choreographed by sophomore Wynton Rice. He stole the stage with his energy and expertise. The quick steps and partnered choreography included technical flips and turns incorporated throughout the piece. Roger Lee, a freshman who has been making waves on the Ursinus dance scene since his arrival this fall, also stood out with his skillful, accurate movements.

Meghan Maguire, who had also choreographed a piece for the fall show in 2005, described her duet piece, titled "Perception," as a representation of "how we can go through life and not notice that there are people who do the same things we do and love the same things we love, simply because we might be too busy to notice them." She chose the song "Call Waiting" by Zap Mama, because it was a "juxtaposition to the concept that the two dancers never notice each other."

Sophomore Michael Flores showed the audience just how "Versatile" his choreographing can be by drawing inspiration from songs by Beenie Man, Prince, and Kelis. "I wanted to pull from three different genres," said Mike, who also explained that "the common threads throughout the piece were self-confidence and sex appeal." He creatively incorporated three different styles of dance—dancehall, hip-hop funk, and mainstream hip-hop—into his piece. The semi-narrative "Super Hyphy DooDoo Dumb" dance was saved for last. This was G Manalo's third Escape Velocity piece. "The hardest thing about choreographing is finding the right music," he explained. "The choreographer is the leader of the group, so he's got to get everyone together and coordinate practice schedules," he said in regard to what makes a good choreographer. Sophomore Amy Kiyota showed off some impressive moves, as well, and although dancer Lauren Cañas suffered a minor injury, he cheered on other DooDoo Dumb dancers from the audience.



Recently, the Judiciary Board ruled on an incident in which students wrote anti-Semitic symbols and slogans, and racial epithets on the bodies of other students. Subsequently, some of these students posted photographs of these activities on Facebook. I want to clarify some details of the Judiciary Board's ruling in this matter. The Judiciary Board, which comprises three faculty, three students, and a faculty chair, reviewed the facts of the case with great care. More specifically, the Board considered these facts in light of the three charges brought against the students: harassment, abuse of the Internet, and underage drinking. The deliberation in which the Board engaged was lengthy and difficult. Everyone in the room was acutely aware of the offensiveness of the symbols, slogans, and epithets evident in the pictures. Everyone also was aware of the need to preserve Ursinus's commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas. The Board concluded that the students were to be punished for underage drinking as their major offense; the committee did not find them guilty of the other offenses. However, the sanctions that were imposed reflect the Board's judgment that the students involved exhibited a deplorable lack of judgment and sensitivity, a lack to which their use of alcohol contributed. These sanctions include disciplinary probation, which prohibits students from representing Ursinus, whether as participants in intercollegiate sports or in any other capacity; community service devoted to the activities of Hillel and Unity House; and, finally, for the next two years at Freshman Orientation, the students involved must relate to the entire incoming class what they did and what they learned from it.

I would be happy to discuss further the Board's decision with any concerned students or faculty. Please contact me at pstern@ursinus.edu or ext. 2449.

Paul Stern, Judiciary Board Chair

Drive to support the troops a success

Thank you to all of those who gave donations to the collection for the troops. All donations are going to support Paul Carroll, who is a 2nd Lieutenant, US Army Field Artillery Officer, along with the rest of his troop in the 82nd Airborne Division. They are based out of Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, NC, but are preparing to go overseas, which is where the items will be sent.

Ursinus was able to collect successfully: 15 toothbrushes, 13 tubes of toothpaste, over 20 bottles of shampoo and conditioner, 36 body soaps, five hand soaps, nine deodorants, 45 packs of tissues, 20 bottles of lotion, five powders, 21 chapsticks, two floss packs, three packs of razors, one bottle of shaving cream, four packs of feminine hygiene products, five kinds of personal care items (nail care, comb, etc.), one bottle of hair gel, one mouthwash, two packs of bandages, two packs of wet towelettes, 18 packs of Ramen, 11 cans of pringles, one pack of Slim Jims, two bags of Mints, 11 bags of assorted candy, two packs of tic tacs, one bag of pretzels, 21 packs of gum, four crossword/sudoku activity books, six packs of pens, two pads of paper, one Bible, two packs of cards, 23 reading books, and three letters of support!

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31 Issue 9

grizzly@ursinus.edu

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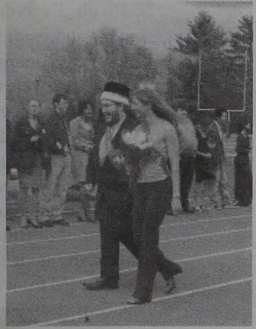
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Ursinus Homecoming 2006: "There's no place like home"

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Homecoming is a special time of year, during which students and alumni alike take part in enjoying each other and the atmosphere at Ursinus College. The festivities are kicked off Friday night at Oktoberfest. Students attend "Battle of the Bands," while alumni head out to dinner and bars. The Trappe, of course, is always a crowd favorite.

This year, the campus woke up to a black sky and the impending possibility of a thunderstorm. The weather report read, "100% chance of rain." Mother Nature was really going to make Homecoming difficult this year. For fear of the field becoming damaged, both the men's and women's soccer games were cancelled in advance. Additionally, one football game and one field hockey game were scheduled.

However, the campus was ready: the land between the gym and Wismer was dotted with white tents, under which different sororities' and fraternities' Greek letters were displayed. These tents served as a meeting place for the organizations' alumni and current members. Current students had the opportunity to meet members who graduated five, 10, 20 and even 40 years ago! "It's interesting to hear about what the Ursinus campus was like years ago," said Barbara Donald, a senior in Phi Alpha Psi

sorority. "Some things are completely different, while some things never seem to change. It's also fun to listen to stories from alumni who were in your own Greek organization. Greek life is based on traditions and it's important that they get passed down to current members." Similarly, alumna Kyla Mochamuk emotes, "No matter how long I've been away, it's amazing how much Ursinus still feels like home."

The wind was hard, but the weather held out save a few sporadic raindrops.



Crowds of people headed down to the football field for the game. Students and families tried to find seats on the bleachers. Those who couldn't find a spot casually stood along the fence to watch the game and hang out with alumni. Everyone was busy giving hugs and catching up. At half time, the 2006 Homecoming King and Queen were announced. Adam Donahue and Laura Davis were the winners. The football team played a respectable game and beat out Johns Hopkins 17-7. Aaron Harper rushed for a career high 196 yards. When the game was over, the sun even decided to come out to warm everyone up!

For alumni, Homecoming was good opportunity to socialize while enjoying some adult beverages. It was also a good time to bring their children with them. Over in the field house, children's activities were set up so even the youngsters were able to take part in the fun. Kids enjoyed face paints and a moon bounce. Live music and food were also part of the festivities. More informational options were available on campus as well. The Berman Museum was open for visits from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Also, campus tours were given starting at 11 a.m. They left from the Biergarten Welcome Center, located on the back lawn. The bookstore was also open for purchases from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The weather thankfully allowed for a successful Homecoming weekend. Alumni, students, and their respective families enjoyed themselves throughout the day.



Blood Drive a success on campus

SALIA ZOUANDE

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Members of the Ursinus College faculty, staff and students helped make a difference in the lives of people in the community by donating blood on Oct. 10 and Oct. 11.

This drive, held in Wismer Lower Lounge, collected the most amount of blood in a single event at Ursinus since it was first initiated in 2002. Approximately 124 units of blood were successfully donated from the 140 people who tried to donate.

Omega Chi sorority ran the drive. Tarah Pearson and Daniela Garcia, the community service chairs for Omega Chi, pointed out that this was a good way to show the campus that the Greeks on campus care deeply about their community and want to make a difference.

Omega Chi worked with the American Red Cross to ensure the success of this event. The Red Cross sent quality personnel to guarantee all people—no matter how squeamish they might be about blood—had a positive experience.

The blood that Ursinus students donated will be sent to surrounding Philadelphia hospitals. Omega Chi will host another blood drive in April in Wismer Lower Lounge.

For more information about how to get involved in some of the community service events that Omega Chi hosts on campus, e-mail Tarah Pearson (tapearson@ursinus.edu) or Daniela Garcia (dagarcia@ursinus.edu).

For more information on your eligibility to give blood, visit www.givelife.org to see a list of guidelines. For more information on the American Red Cross, visit www.redcross.org.

Congratulations to this year's Ursinus College nominees for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which provides awardees \$25,000 for independent study and travel outside the United States during the year following graduation.

Tracey Ferdinand: "Poetry of the Night: The Magical Practices and Stories of Women (Mexico, Jamaica, and Ghana)"

Markus Weise: "On your left!" Making and Maintaining Bicycle Culture in Cities (Namibia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Tanzania)"

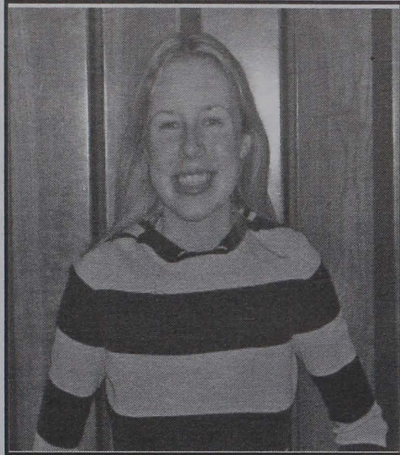
Katie Ringler: "The Modern-Day Saint: Following the Footsteps and Legacy of Mother Theresa (Macedonia, Ireland, India, Venezuela, Italy, and Tanzania)"

Dina Yarmus: "Identifying with Resistance: A Study of Worker Organizing and Strategic Cooperation in Latin America, Anglophone Africa and Europe."

Hear the nominees speak about their proposed projects at a campus presentation Wednesday, Nov. 15, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Olin 107.

For more information on the Watson Fellowship, visit www.watsonfellowship.org.

Batteries included



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

In spite of the multitude of differences between humans, we all share one common characteristic—we like having sex. (If this weren't true, I'd be out of a job.) The potential to engage in sexual activity is a constant in our lives, which we can exercise by actually being involved in a sexual relationship, fantasizing and thinking about sex, or

masturbating. (Even those who have chosen abstinence as their personal path have the ability to engage in the latter two activities.) Yet, just because the possibility of sex may be a constant, that does not mean that we are constantly having sex. This often leads us to utilize our other options. Masturbation is a technique that most humans use at some point in their lives as a form of sexual release, and many do so on a regular basis. And despite the amazing sexual ability contained within our right or left hand, there is a mass amount of toys and devices that can take masturbation and sexual pleasure to new heights.

According to "The Everything Great Sex Book," there are several categories of devices that are used for sexual stimulation. The first is vibrators, which are battery-powered devices that vibrate in order to induce orgasm. In women, vibrators are designed to stimulate the clitoris or G-spot, depending on the vibrator. G-spot stimulation usually involves a vibrator or device curved upwards in order to reach the g-spot. (Some vibrators facilitate both.) Originally, vibrators were created in the late nineteenth century as a treatment for women suffering from sexual frustration or "hysteria." While vibrator use is completely safe, there are several downsides. Some women find vibrators to be addictive, while others experience desensitization. Some women have trouble climaxing during sexual activity without a vibrator after significant vibrator use because of desensitization, but this is not a permanent side effect. Many women find great success in achieving orgasm through this method, while others prefer unassisted self-stimulation. Men are also able to attain pleasure through the use of a vibrator. Using a small, clitoral, stimulator on the perineum can initiate pleasure, and vibrators can provide exercise and stimulation that's healthy for the prostate gland. ("The Everything Great Sex Book")

Another category of devices is dildos. Dildos typi-

cally involve insertion into the vaginal or anal cavity, and though there are vibrating dildos, dildos typically don't move or require batteries. Depending on the form and shape of the dildo, dildos can stimulate the clitoris and g-spot in women. Anal plugs are a form of dildo that can facilitate stimulation of the anus and prostate gland in men. ("The Everything Great Sex Book")

If you and your partner share sex toys, make sure to clean the vibrator or dildo between uses to prevent disease transmission.

If you're feeling in a particularly adventurous or exploratory mood and wish to venture out to purchase an item or two, there are several venues in which this can be accomplished. These items are found in most sexually themed stores, including our local Adult World and Condom Kingdom located on South Street. If you're uncomfortable shopping in these locations, going with a group of friends often helps. Also, Adult World often holds "Ladies' Nights," in which only women are allowed in the store and there are only female employees working in order to bring more women into their customer base. Of course, shopping for these somewhat private items can be a little embarrassing for some, which leads us to the option of shopping online. There are multitudes of websites selling sex toys including sites created by Adult World and Party Gals. When searching for a site, make sure the language is anatomically correct (no sex organ slang). Be wary of suggestions on how to make your own sex toys as well, because homemade sex toys can often be unsafe.

Sex toys are extremely effective in spicing up a current relationship, masturbation techniques, and your daily routine. They are able to provide pleasure, excitement, and adventure, regardless of whether or not batteries are included.

A look at Muslim women in history: Professor Barbara R. von Schlegell speaks

AKASYA BENGE

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I found Professor Barbara R. von Schlegell to be a surprising speaker, because as she said herself, the route usually taken to defend feminism in Islam is to look at the Qur'an itself and at historical gender roles. She instead presented the students with a series of stories of Islamic women involved with their religion from the creation of Islam to the present.

She began with the first wife of Mohammad himself, Khadijah, who proposed marriage to Mohammad when he was only 25 and she was a 40-year-old widow. She believed him when he came down from the mountain with his profound revelations and even went so far as to tell him that he was a prophet, thus becoming the first Muslim convert. Another wife, (one of many that Mohammad married after Khadijah died), was a leader in the Muslim community after Mohammad's death. She even took part in a battle, and may have even tried to become the Caliph, the leader of the Muslim community.

Professor Schlegell also discussed the creation of Sufi mysticism, and how it was a way for women in particular to identify themselves. She told her audience a stirring story of a woman who could be viewed as a modern-day saint. This particular woman was about to have her apartment sold by her mother-in-law, so the woman prayed that the mother-in-law would take pity on her and her husband. Instead, Mohammad came to her in a dream and told her not to worry, and that it would be taken care of Saturday at 10:00 a.m. She awoke and told this to her husband, who did not believe her. Saturday came, and at 10:00 a.m. the doorbell rang. Her husband, still unbelieving, answered it, and an elderly gentleman appeared at the door. He asked for the woman by name, and then presented her with a manila envelope with the exact amount of money she had needed.

Other women like her are admired in their society, not only for their holiness, but for their miracles. Some are teachers for their holiness, and others have created an exclusively female world in which these women can connect with their religion. There is currently a religious female secret society in Damask that finds women to join their club, and through this club they learn together, organize charities, and in gen-

eral, find more freedom. Unfortunately, it takes up much of their time, and according to Schlegell, men can be very distrustful. So, while they do nothing directly to stop these women (because they feel it is religious and thus important), it has created suspicion—such a strong suspicion that the secret police are constantly infiltrating their organization in order to spy on them.

The presentation was informative and original, hopefully helping to dispel the notion that Islam in itself is an inherently male chauvinistic religion. Another important note is that the Professor has shown these women and men in their lives to be people, with feelings and emotions just like others. They are portrayed normally; they can make mistakes and realize their mistakes, and do wonderful things for others. They look up to one another, and not everyone feels the same way about everything. Perhaps the most important lesson Professor Schlegell taught her audience was that that the people in these stories are only human, too.

Akasya Bengé would like to give special thanks to Yukiko Kawamura for her contributions to this article.

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UC's opportunity to support American troops

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Many of you have received e-mails over the last few weeks exhorting students to bring canned food with them on their way back home after fall break. As boring as it might seem to many of you, it was very important to take part in the food drive campaign, because many of the proceeds go toward helping other people who are less privileged than we are.

As you could see by the many tables in front of Wismer during the last two weeks and the different banners at the corners of buildings all over campus, many organizations on campus had taken part in this cause and altogether launched the biggest food drive campaign ever accomplished at Ursinus. This was a great step taken by different groups of students in an effort to reach out to the community, with proceeds from the drive benefiting different families and benevolent services. However, one canned food drive stood out among all the other canned drives initiated: the one supporting our troops fighting the war in Iraq that took place a few weeks ago in Wismer Lower Lounge. As you know, the number of American troops deployed is at least 50,000 and there are still more than 200,000 American troops stationed overseas performing various overseas naval missions. The purpose of the campaign is to send needed items to our troops who are serving overseas, especially in Iraq. Julia Lickfield, who, last spring, organized a collection to send to a marine troop (which was quite successful), thought that it would be great to do it again.

Most of the things collected are hygienic items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, etc.; food items; and entertainment. In addition to this drive, general letters of support are welcomed. This food drive campaign for our troops came in a nationwide community campaign to help support our troops by sending care packages as a token of our gratitude and appreciation for defending our country and maintaining peace in the world. As we have sadly observed through the media, at least 2,786 American soldiers have died in Iraq since the beginning of the war, and at least 20,895 have been wounded. Many troops' families have been affected by the rising toll of casualties in Iraq and grieve the loss of their loved ones in the war. Thus, these canned food drive proceeds go toward the families of soldiers so that they can send the goods to our brave men fighting over in Iraq, as a reminder to them that we haven't forgotten about them and that we appreciate their sacrifice.

Thankfully, the turnout for this campaign was satisfying, because many students massively responded to the call to action by the student body, and a good number of canned food was collected. Good job, Ursinus College!

Haunting tales from Main Street

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As it is rumored to be the second most haunted campus in the country, Ursinus has its fair share of ghost stories, and some even say actual ghosts. There are whispers of ghosts in Musser, Reimert, Shreiner, Todd, and Hobson, among others. We even have an archive in the library of the reported ghosts at Ursinus that includes the information known about the ghosts and the people who once inhabited the supposedly haunted houses.

Shreiner, for example, has a ghost with a story behind her like that of Romeo and Juliet. A couple from WWII fell in love before the war, but the woman's betrothed was sent to fight, and perished in the war. Apparently, he came back to haunt her, and then she in turn, haunts the building. She reportedly screams "Go away!" periodically, and slams doors. There was even an exorcism attempt in order to get rid of this troublesome and truly frightening ghost.

The residence with the most stories and the most reported ghosts is Hobson, an old, once-residential building built in the 1850's that is now the Community Service special interest house. It's very old and contains very beautiful wooden carvings above every door and inside each room. The rooms are spacious and lovely—a romantic's paradise. But this place was once a residential home, meaning that students aren't the only ones to

Mind your peas and q's with Career Services and Dining Services

CAREER SERVICES
career@ursinus.edu

Remember the Seinfeld episode in which George Costanza got caught double dipping with a large tortilla chip? Are you guilty of this sort of unfortunate dining or dipping disaster? Have you been caught slurping your soup, talking with your mouth full, or blowing your nose in your napkin during dinner? Have you considered that your every day dining practices might not cut it if you were sharing a meal with a potential employer in an interview setting?

Well, have no fear, Career Services is teaming up with Dining Services to help you learn how to make dining over an interview a delightful, not dreaded, experience. You are invited to join a simulated business interview dining experience, which includes a full three-course meal, designed to polish your dining etiquette skills. Get tips to help you strengthen your ability to "chat and chew" while maintaining a professional appearance. Learn the do's and don'ts of dining etiquette. Topics covered include negotiating the table setting (including flatware, china, and glassware), when to sit, how and where to place your napkin, when and how to pass food, and even how to eat your french fries!

Join us for an evening of fun, food and formal etiquette instruction on Monday, November 13th at 5:00 p.m. in the Faculty and Staff Dining Room. You must make reservations in advance of the event and a registration fee of \$5 is required in order to participate. The fee will cover the wonderful meal and educational materials. Stop in Career Services to sign up, call 2274, or email Career Services at career@ursinus.edu. Act quickly, because space is limited and will be on a "first come, first served" basis!

have lived there—and it appears to have a haunting. There are even some floors that have their own special ghosts. For example, the 3rd floor reportedly has a little girl ghost named Teresa Urban, who died in 1993. Her death was investigated, and the cause was thought to be meningitis. She is said to have pale blonde hair, and is often seen sitting on the roof, wearing a little white nightgown. She apparently opens and closes doors, turns televisions and radios on and off, and sometimes wanders through the hallway. She is not a harmful or disturbing ghost, and even though people who have lived on the 3rd floor often truly believe in her existence, those who do are not afraid of her.

On the 2nd floor, there is apparently another child ghost, who died many years ago in front of Hobson. It seems that he was hit by a passing car, and died due to his injuries. His name is Ricky, and he seems content to shake doors when no one is around, but doesn't seem to do much other than that. He is a more elusive ghost than Teresa, for no one offered a description of him. In Todd, there have also been reports from various female residents of a soldier wandering the second floor in his uniform.

More amazing than the stories behind these ghosts and their common activities is the number of people who believe in them. Many who have lived in the houses have stories to tell, whether they are from waking up in the middle of the night because they felt a presence, hearing moaning noises, or seeing things that shouldn't be there. Is it just exhausted college brains, and overactive imaginations? With so many claims of personal experiences it's hard to tell, so you'll have to decide whether or not you're a believer through your own experiences.

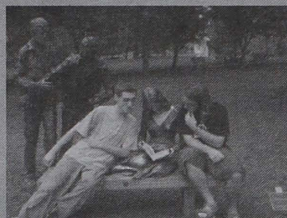
An open letter to Pennsylvania

How does it feel, Pennsylvania? How does it feel to be bested by the little brother you love to hate? When you drive from Philly to Camden to purchase cheap booze, do you feel a pang of regret? When you stifle laughter at the sight of the "Trenton Makes World Takes" bridge, do you stifle tears as well? How does it feel, Pennsylvania, to get so thoroughly pwned by the State of New Jersey?

You sure talk a tough game, PA. I see you, hanging out with your buddies, whispering to New York about the infamous smell. I see Maryland giggling with delight when you make your latest Turnpike joke. Even Delaware, that perennial wannabe, is lining up to join your "Let's Blow Up New Jersey and Give Pennsylvania a Beach" facebook group.

But what now, Pennsylvania? Last week, your sibling's Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples have the same rights as heterosexual couples. Ooh! I know - the mere mention of it must sting your sensibilities. How did it happen, Pennsylvania, that New Jersey became your moral superior?

Make all the mobster jokes you want. Laugh at our corruption and our ludicrously high cost of living. But know this, PA - even with all those handicaps, we still struck a bold blow for equality and freedom, one that you seem curiously unable to make. What's wrong, Pennsylvania?



**MATT FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT**
Communism for Dummies

Oh, I know. It's Rick Santorum's fault. Yes, it must be. If it weren't for Rick Santorum, you'd have been ringing that Liberty Bell over the nation's first gay marriage years ago, beating even Massachusetts to the punch. If it weren't for Rick Santorum, Pennsylvanians would be getting gay married, breathing clean air, and powering your cars with biodiesel fuels that gave off rainbows and candy instead of exhaust. Shame on you, Rick Santorum!

But I digress; this isn't about you, Pennsylvania. It's about us, the New Jerseyans. The ones you have been making fun of all these years. Well, guess what, PA - no more. You can no longer utter New Jersey jokes with a clean conscience. We were once the armpit of the nation, but we have lifted ourselves up from the mud, and now the rest of the nation is the armpit of New Jersey. If you need to make fun of another state, pick on South Dakota. They're asking for it, trust me.

Don't like it, Pennsylvania? Then pass your own gay marriage amendment. Maybe then you'll start to earn back some of the dignity that you lost this week. You can start November 7th by voting Rick Santorum out of office.

Love,
A Proud (for once) New Jerseyan
Dan Sergeant and Matt Flyntz are at dasergeant@ursinus.edu and maflyntz@ursinus.edu. For the love of God, Pennsylvania, vote and vote hard. The man representing you is a damn lunatic.

The saddest thing

GREY JOHNSON
The Warm Side of the Door

When talking to my family, I always find that one of the easiest topics to break the awkward silences at the dinner table is music. Both my mother and father value music to the extent that my mom has stolen about ten times more music than I have via the Internet and my Dad has an impressive Vinyl collection that remains untouched in the basement. I won't lie; I grew up listening to mostly "oldies" music. I didn't understand the concept that people still *made* music until I was about eight or nine years old. I grew up listening to a lot of great music that still influences me today (such as The Beatles, The Moody Blues, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch, etc. Okay, that last one was a lie.), but I also listened to a lot of absolutely God awful music.

If I had to pick which of my parents has a better taste in music, I'd pick my father, only because my Mom listens to a lot of really bad music from the 1950s that she fails to justify. Also, thanks to her, I thought her ridiculous music was quite awesome until my peers told me otherwise. For example, apparently running around the house screaming about "my dingaling" while imitating Chuck Berry is just not socially acceptable. I decided that for your sake, I would share with you three of the worst songs I ever had the privilege of listening to over and over in the car with my mom. In order to fully understand this article, I'd recommend you download these songs using your favorite file sharing program, and don't worry about stealing, because I don't think these artists are alive anyway:

Richard Harris - MacArthur Park

First off, this is the Richard Harris that apparently portrayed Dumbledore in the first two Harry Potter movies. Anyway, this seven and a half minute song features some of the most inane lyrics ever written on a piece of paper: "Someone left the cake out in the rain/I don't think that I can take it/Because it took so long to bake it/and I'll never have that recipe again, oh no!" The song is not about baking a cake. In fact, I don't know what the damn song is about. He just sort of mumbles random bits of hyperbole that occur in the park, slaps it all together and calls it a song.

Dickie Lee - Patches

I'm sure you've heard of the great Dickie Lee. Oh, you haven't? Neither has Wikipedia, so there goes any background research I wanted to do. According to my mom, Dickie Lee was a singer-songwriter back in the 1950s and "Patches" was his breakthrough hit. The song is about a girl who, amazingly, is named Patches and is found floating face down in a river after she cannot marry the narrator of the song. Very, very sad stuff. The twist at the end is incredible as well, as Dickie announces his intention to join Patches at the bottom of the river. Gosh, Colin Meloy *wishes* he could write such emotional lyrics.

The Ohio Express - Yummy, Yummy, Yummy

I can't express my hatred for this song in pure words. I hate Bubblegum music in general, but this song is the king of the said genre. Are there any other words other than "yummy, yummy, yummy, I got love in my tummy?" What record executive in the summer of 1967 greenlighted this song? If you wanted to know the 60s equivalent to "My Humps," this is it. Of course, the band revealed years later that the song was about nothing more than oral sex.

I hope you all get downloading and understand why listening to these songs is the saddest thing.

Grey Johnson would love to hear what your least favorite songs are. He also needs friends. E-mail him at grjohnson@ursinus.edu.

A 2008 preview (part 1)

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With the 2006 midterm elections nearly upon us, it is now time to start thinking about who will be inaugurated as the new President of the United States on January 20, 2009 (it seems so far away). Here's my take on the situation.

First, let me articulate what seems to be a winning formula for presidential nominees: charming, moderate to conservative, southern governors. Four of our past five presidents (Carter, Reagan, Clinton, and W. Bush) fit into this formula nearly perfectly. H. W. Bush is the exception: he was Vice President, not a governor. With this (and perhaps some other considerations) in mind, I will determine the electoral potential of some of the most talked-about prospective candidates.

First, and worst, for the Democrats is Hillary Clinton. She does not fit the formula at all. She is a jarring, liberal, Northeastern Senator. Now, politics cannot simply be reduced to a formula, so let me add a bit more. Hillary is a divisive character. Despite her attempts to move to "the middle," many view her (and properly so) as a liberal and as a representative of the status quo of the Democratic Party. Indeed, according to Rasmussen Reports' "Hillary Meter," 40 percent of Americans would definitely vote against Hillary if the election were held today. That is a terrible place from which to launch a campaign. Hillary stands little chance of beating any of the potential Republican candidates.

The Democrats' "safe choice" might be someone like Evan Bayh. He is a Senator from Indiana. He does not fit perfectly into my formula like ex-Virginia Governor Mark

Warner did (I cried for hours when Warner dropped out of the race), but he comes damned close. Indeed, he is charming, he is moderate, and even though he is not from a southern state, Indiana is one of the most notoriously "red" states in the Union. Thus, he has significant potential at picking off independent votes.

I feel compelled to talk about Barack Obama. He would make a very interesting candidate. He only meets the "charming" requirement of my formula; he is a liberal Senator from the notoriously "blue" Illinois. However, he has managed to achieve celebrity status (being featured on Oprah probably helped). He is widely adored by Democrats and Independents alike. However, some note that he has very little political experience. I do not think that is necessarily a bad thing. Senator Dick Durbin, the other Democratic Senator from Illinois, asked sarcastically if Obama really thought that sticking around the Senate for four more years and casting 1,000 more votes would make him more qualified to be president. With his star power, I think he could beat anyone except John McCain, although, he is one of few Democratic candidates who could give Mr. McCain a run for his money.

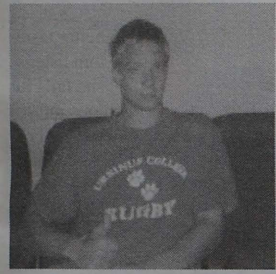
Some other bad choices: Al Gore (we learned that lesson), John Kerry (we learned that lesson), Russ Feingold (far too liberal), and Joe Biden (far too "slimy").

Check back next week to see what I think about John McCain, Rudy Giuliani, and other potential Republican candidates.

“Clerks II” (2006)

I was really conflicted as to what to review this week. On my editor's suggestion, I've been trying to move toward newer movies that people have actually seen (I'm trying to avoid another “Ronin” debacle). On the other hand, there are a few movies like “Bloodsport” and “They Live” that are really entertaining, but not quite in the mainstream (or the last two decades for that matter). So this week, I bring you “Clerks II,” but I still really encourage suggestions, because, chances are, I'll probably review them.

Following a devastating fire at the Quick-Stop, this flick finds our protagonists Dante (Brian O'Halloran) and Randal (Jeff Anderson) still trapped in dead-end jobs 10 years later. Dante is preparing to leave Jersey behind and move to Florida and a new future with his fiancée, while struggling with his feelings for his boss (Rosario Dawson). Meanwhile, Randal resists the thought of actual change and the loss of his friend, while at the same time offending everyone around him in new and exciting ways.



ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

Jumping right to the directing, Kevin Smith has come a long way in the twelve years since the original “Clerks.” No longer a slave to the static two-shot, Smith lets the camera run wild, going so far as to pull off a 360-degree shot and a full-fledged dance number. He still has retained his sense of humor, however, and brings memorable scenes involving “inter-species erotica,” man-ginas (I'm proud to be the first person to get that word into *The Grizzly*), and the Satanic origins of Transformers. My personal favorite scene relates to how boring the “Lord of the Rings” series actually is (I knew I couldn't be the only one).

On the acting side, Jeff Anderson manages to steal every scene that he is in, playing his part to the extreme against Brian O'Halloran's perpetually exasperated straight man. In the theater I saw this in, you often couldn't hear his dialogue since it was being drowned out by laughter from his previous line. Rosario Dawson also shines as Dante's boss and love interest, bringing a very down-to-earth feel to her character.

Although this is an extremely quotable movie, the newspaper's self-imposed standards of decency prevent me from printing any of the funniest lines. Believe me, I tried. So my only advice to you is see it for yourself, because there's nothing funnier than someone talking about their girlfriend's [censored] [censored] troll.

The pick this week was the easiest it's been in a month. If you haven't already, go see the original “Clerks.” If you have, see it again anyway. You know and I know it's worth it. On a final note, continue to recommend flicks. Nothing makes me happier than someone else doing my job for me.

Alex Ernst completely agrees that it was just three movies about a bunch of people walking to a freaking volcano. You can reach him at alernst@ursinus.edu.

Have an opinion? Set it free! Send your ideas to maflyntz@ursinus.edu

Point/Counterpoint: Iraq: Should we stay or should we go?

I can't quit you, baby

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“Get up and go” cannot be an option here. This is evident for many reasons. Giving up now will be a disgrace for the soldiers who gave the ultimate price to make a difference, not to mention the thousands of Iraqi civilians who have also been caught in the cross fire.

Senator Lieberman said it best when he was quoted in the Wall Street Journal stating, “The Iraqi people are in reach of a watershed transformation from the primitive, killing tyranny of Saddam to modern, self-governing, self-securing nationhood – unless the great American military that has given them and us this unexpected opportunity is prematurely withdrawn.” The end is in sight, but people have to be patient; peace is not instantaneous.

Additionally, if we pull out now, the Iraqi insurgents will claim victory and could quite possibly claim more lives in an attempt to take back the country. Our role today is to be stabilizers and peacekeepers, and we have to take this role seriously. In accord with this role, Lieberman also stated that the U.S. must stay in the embattled nation and not disregard “27 million Iraqis to 10,000 terrorists.” Just because things are getting tough does not justify us running away with our tails between our legs. It may be true that we have gotten ourselves into something a little deeper than anticipated, but we must stick it out.

It is obvious that the exit plan that is being executed right now is flawed in many ways, but leaving is not an option. The only way to successfully obtain peace and stability is to stay in Iraq and finish what we have started. There needs to be change, but the catalysts (American soldiers and politicians) have to be the ones to carry this out. What we should do is ask the Iraqi people what they think. One way to start this cleaning up process is to form and vote on a referendum. This act of democracy will get the ball rolling on an effective exit strategy, and give reasons for us to either stay or leave. If democracy is at the core of what we are fighting for, why then are we relying on one administration to make the decisions? In a *New York Times* article from January, Fredrick Barton argues, “The answer does not lie in the corridors of Washington, but on the streets of Baghdad, Tikrit, Mosul and Falluja.”

This plan can offer a concrete decision on how we should approach this problem. If the people vote for us to stay, the world must respect their needs, and allow us to stay and work on what we have started. If the Iraqi people call for us to leave, we can leave respectfully and then deal with Iraq, as Barton says, “as an ally rather than an occupier.”

Finally, the troops in Iraq are going to leave eventually, but there is still a lot of work to do before we can just turn over control to a country in disarray. Before we can leave, there has to be more stability, and the structure of this country is just being built.

Babe, I'm gonna leave you

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Most of the arguments against withdrawing American troops from Iraq hinge on the notion that America's presence is somehow playing a stabilizing role in Iraq. Indeed, many suggest that if America were to withdraw troops, Iraq may dissolve into a civil war of sorts. First, I will argue that Iraq is already in a civil war, and second, that a civil war may not even be inherently bad for Iraq.

Before I begin, though, I would like to counter the argument that if we withdraw, troops would have died in vain and that in order to honor the troops, we must press on. First, sometimes mistakes are made; continuing to ignore the mistake in pursuit of “honor” is not honorable; it is stupid. If this war was a mistake and if it is un-winnable, the best way to honor the troops would be to admit the mistake and end it as soon as possible. Forcing *more* troops to die in vain would be not honorable. It is wrong.

First, there is little proof that Iraq is stabilizing. The average amount of American troops killed per month has gone from 70 in 2005 to about 62 in 2006; a very slight improvement. On the other hand, the average amount of Iraqi civilians killed per month has skyrocketed from 568 in 2005 to 1311 in 2006. American presence is clearly not providing stability. Some would certainly argue that things might get even worse if we withdraw now. This is certainly possible, but if American presence is the catalyst for the insurgency, the removal of American troops could make things better. However, even if things get worse, the lack of American presence may not be entirely bad.

A civil war has the potential to be very bad; however, it can also bring significant benefits to Iraq. I can see three possible results of a civil war. First, Iraqis rise up, unified in their love for freedom and democracy, defeat the insurgency, and live happily ever after. Second, Iraq ends up split into three separate countries to end the disputes between the Kurds, the Shi'ites and the Sunnis. Third, freedom does not prevail and Iraq ends up where it started; under control of a dictator. Letting this civil war play itself out is a risky move, but I think that if a nation is ever going to be unified in pursuit of a government, it must face a difficult challenge. For instance, America faced such challenges in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Expecting to simply hand over power to a peaceful Iraqi government seems rather foolish; internal strife seems inevitable. American presence, at best, can simply delay such a war. To use a terrible tree analogy, we have planted the seed, but it is the Iraqis' responsibility to water it.

Plus, if we truly have faith in democratic ideals, we ought to listen to the Iraqi people; it is clear that they want American troops out. A USA Today poll conducted in May of 2005 found that 57 percent of Iraqis want American and British troops to leave immediately while only 36 want them to stay longer.

It is clear that American presence is not stabilizing the country, but rather prolonging the instability that comes before a civil war. We cannot fight all of Iraq's battles for it. If it is going to succeed as a democracy, it will have to face the challenge of the insurgency and the ever-present civil strife on its own.

Football pounds Hopkins on Homecoming

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After three straight road games for the Bears, two of which ended in a loss, it was a good feeling to see the hometown crowd in attendance once again on Patterson Field. It was great to see the Bears get back on the winning track as the defense looked like its old self once again and Aaron Harper carried the load on offense for a 17-7 Homecoming victory over Johns Hopkins this past Saturday.

It was the play on both sides of the ball that made this win possible for the Bears (6-2, 2-2 Centennial Conference) who still have an outside chance at winning the conference. Offensively, Harper carried the rock 43 times for a career high 196 yards and two touchdowns in which the offensive line dominated Hopkins' front seven all game.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Bears drove the length of the field in eight plays, covering 75 yards and jumped out to a 7-0 lead. Senior quarterback Ted Wallingford connected with Brandon Evans on a 46 yard

pass during the drive to keep the threat alive and five plays later Harper punned his way into the end zone from two yards out. The Bears went into the locker rooms maintaining a 7-0 lead and momentum was truly on their side.

The Bears defense came out in the second half doing exactly what they do all season in the third quarter: not allow a point. That streak continued on Saturday as the Blue Jays (3-5, 2-3 Centennial Conference) were never able to get deep enough into Ursinus territory and had to settle for a 51 yard field goal attempt that fell wide right. That was the closest Johns Hopkins came to

scoring in the first three quarters of Saturday's game as they were only allowed to muster 133 yards of total offense, 36 of those coming on the ground.

In the fourth quarter, Johns Hopkins

was able to use their special teams to pin Ursinus deep in their own territory, and field position quickly became the game on a day with swirling winds and the threat of rain. The Blue Jays were able to start a drive deep in Ursinus territory thanks to some great defense and forcing a punt on the

Bears' five yard line. Hopkins' quarterback Shane Kibbe, the third quarterback to see action for the Blue Jays, connected with Andrew Kase from 26 yards out to tie the contest up at 7 early in the fourth quarter to give the Blue Jays some life.

The winds were quickly taken from their sails as Ursinus only needed five plays that covered 72 yards to regain the lead again at 14-7. On the drive, Wallingford connected

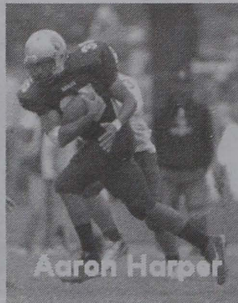
with Josh Hannum on a 22 yard reception down the left sideline and again with Evans on an amazing 34 yard catch that ended with Evans in full extension diving across the middle of the field. Harper got his number

red again, as he did so many times in the game, and found his way into the end zone from three yards out for his second touchdown of the game.

From there each offense was unable to move the ball and the Bears sealed the deal late in the fourth quarter when kicker Justin Beres connected on a 30 yard field goal with 1:04 left to play giving the Bears a 17-7 lead and ending all hope for a Hopkins comeback.

Wallingford was 4-9 on the day for 112 yards to compliment Harpers' performance on the ground, while Brian Hrynczyszyn paced the Bears defense once again. For his performance on Saturday, Aaron Harper was rewarded the Kenneth E. Walker Memorial trophy given to the outstanding Ursinus football player who played a great game and showed sportsmanship throughout the contest.

The Bears are 6-2 on the season, which guarantees them a winning season for the first time since 2001. The Bears return to action this Saturday in Lancaster, Pa. to face Franklin and Marshall.



Aaron Harper

One win and in for women's soccer

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With a victory over Muhlenberg the Ursinus women's soccer team will clinch a berth in the Centennial Conference playoffs. Johns Hopkins, ranked eleventh in the nation, has secured the top seed and will host the Final Four weekend scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5. Gettysburg, Muhlenberg, Johns Hopkins, and Swarthmore have all secured playoff berths, but, aside from the number one seed, the remainder of the seeding will be determined by Saturday's final slate of games. Dickinson, who will play a difficult match against Gettysburg, sits sixth in the conference, one point behind Ursinus. It seems likely that the Bears, were they to defeat the Mules, would play in the first round of the playoffs, where the fourth and fifth seeded teams are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Whether or not they are able to secure a playoff spot on Saturday, the Bears have truly had a miraculous turnaround in the month of October. After a narrow 1-0 defeat at Johns Hopkins on September 30, Ursinus was left with an unimpressive overall record of 3-5 and had lost three out of its four conference matches. Over the month of October, however, the Bears have been undefeated and turned their season around. Consecutive victories over Swarthmore, Franklin & Marshall, Lebanon Valley, Bryn Mawr, and McDaniel quickly moved the Bears from the bottom of the conference into the thick of the playoff race. After a recent 0-0 draw at Haverford, the Bears sit in fifth place in the Centennial conference with 16 points and a

conference record of 5-3-1.

While the tie kept the Bears in the hunt, they certainly must have been a bit disappointed not to have emerged from the contest with a win. With junior striker Chelsea Morin leading the way, the attack produced 21 shots, putting five on frame, while the defense only conceded seven shots. Morin, who scored the game-winning goal against McDaniel, fired seven shots, including four in overtime, but was unable to find the net. Ashley Potter and Lisa Clark split the goaltending duties for the Bears, with Potter making one save and Clark registering three on the afternoon. The tie destroyed Haverford's hopes of a playoff berth, while keeping the Bears in the driver's seat as the last game of regular season looms.

The Bears will have to count on the partnership of Morin and Noelle Bisinger to produce and convert goal scoring opportunities against Muhlenberg. After remarkable sophomore campaigns, in which Morin scored seven goals and Bisinger scored eight, the two have combined for only four this season. Recently, however, both have scored at critical junctures, with Morin scoring the game-winner against McDaniel and Bisinger scoring the Bears' second goal in a 2-1 victory at Franklin & Marshall. In addition to solid finishing around the net, Ursinus will have to count on its continued defensive dominance. Led by senior defender Lauren Washam, the Bears have conceded only thirteen goals in fourteen matches.

Homecoming victory for field hockey

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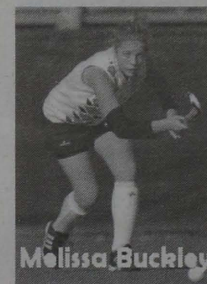
Ursinus College campus was up and running this Homecoming weekend with victories from the football and field hockey teams. UC field hockey fans were on the edge of their seats until the 50th minute of the Centennial Conference (CC) field hockey game on Saturday when senior Melissa Buckley scored the game winner, leading No. 8 Ursinus past Johns Hopkins (12-6, 8-2 CC), 2-1. The Homecoming game victory marks Ursinus' (15-3, 10-0 CC) 40th straight conference win since joining the CC in 2003. Not only did the girls maintain the regular season CC title; this win also secured the home field advantage for next weekends conference championship games.

The Blue Jays took the lead in the first half of the game when Katie Farrow assisted Emily Miller just 11:19 into the game putting them ahead 1-0. Their goalie, Dayna Eng, made nine saves out of 11 shots. It wasn't a one woman show for Ursinus on Saturday; senior Jess Rogers scored her team-leading 13th goal of the season with an unassisted marker in the 21st minute tying it up for the Bears, while junior goalie Jess Lamina made 10 saves in the net. Even though Johns Hopkins defeated the Bears in number of shots taken in the second half, the Bears were unwilling to give up. Buckley stepped up and scored her only shot of the game,

making this Homecoming weekend a memorable one for the UC field hockey team.

Another player to take note of is senior Karen Wendler, who was named the Centennial Conference Defensive Player of the Week for the week of October 16-22. Wendler, a media communications major here at Ursinus, is the fifth-ranked girl on the team with five goals and one assist, recording 11

points for the Bears. She helped in the win against Gettysburg last week, which was the eighth shut-out of the season for the Bears. Wendler also netted back-to-back penalty shots in the 4-1 defeat over Muhlenberg earlier in the season. The Bears will hit the turf field again this coming Saturday, where they will host the winner of No. 4 Muhlenberg/No. 5 Gettysburg.



Melissa Buckley

Classified ad

Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the field house, come out and support the Hoops for Troops tournament!
There will be 3-on-3 basketball to watch, as well as:
A hip hop performance
A pie-your-RA event
A raffle for great prizes

All proceeds benefit the National Military Families Association.