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Newspapers

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The Grizzly, October 12, 2006

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"Two Gentlemen of Verona" adds color to the Ursinus stage

Collegeville, Pa.

Volume 31 Issue 7

Editorial: a call to responsibility

Over two weeks ago, a group of students in Reimert posted publicly approximately 60 pictures on facebook.com, depicting one student with discriminatory writing all over his torso, face, and arms. This writing included swastikas and various slurs, such as "n***** lover," "slut," and "kyke," with "Jew" appearing amidst a Star of David. These photographs remained posted online for two weeks, until they were reported to the administration as offensive material on Monday, Oct. 9. As two students who were directly involved declined to comment, the background information to explain the pictures is unclear.

This event has undoubtedly incited disturbance among students and faculty members perturbed by the pictures. "It is unfathomable to me that in 2006, on a campus that is supposed to be full of educated young people, there are still individuals that think that it is acceptable to use racially and ethnically derogatory phrases and symbols," elaborated senior Caitlin Harris, Vice President of the recently created Exposure Committee. "These phrases and symbols have long and painful histories that are embedded in the hearts and minds of the people who are affected by them."

As of yet, there has been no judicial hearing for the responsible students. "We just learned of it today," stated Debbie Nolan, Dean of Students, on Monday, Oct. 9. "We're just investigating, talking to students who have any involvement."

"Clearly, the administration has an obligation to use judicial action to respond to this," Melissa Sanders, Assistant Director of Residence Life, explained, "We can't tolerate acts of discrimination."

Thankfully, however, one of the students involved in creating one of the photo albums made an open apology to the Ursinus community in Olin Plaza on Tuesday evening. The student expressed his regret, stating that "no one thought long enough" before committing the acts.

It has become clear that two issues are at hand here: the execution of discriminatory acts on a liberal arts campus and the lack of forethought in positioning photos of a questionable nature in a public domain such as facebook.com. Since facebook.com has recently made drastic changes with respect to confidentiality of personal information, the administrators of the Web site have published numerous notes explaining how students who use the site's resources can maintain their desired level of privacy. These privacy

Letter of apology

ASHLEY PANICKER

News

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Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I would like to offer a formal apology for the discriminatory acts that I have indirectly done by way of submitting obscene pictures on facebook. Several pictures of my roommates were taken to depict wrestling matches and them sleeping, and the racist writing on the bodies of those pictured were not at all an emphasis or the reason that those pictures were put up. In no way do I want anyone to think that I had posted these pictures to endanger, harass, or frighten any students on campus. Moreover, I did not write the racist remarks on these people and posted these pictures only because certain people involved had asked me to on several occasions. Their intent was also just to have pictures of themselves passed out or wrestling, not thinking that they were pictures depicting racism, not thinking anyone but their friends who know them and their character would see the pictures, and not thinking that strangers may see them and be offended by them.

Many of you know me, my personality, and my character, and know that I am not capable of hate and did not mean to harm anyone in my actions. My upbringing is strong in Christianity and I lived in a very diverse community back home; it is not in my moral values to harass anyone for anything. I have many friends of all types of ethnicities and religions and I am tolerant to any decision that any person may make. However, in a moment of weakness, I've done a great injustice to the community of Ursinus and ask for your complete forgiveness. Lastly, I thank all of you for reading what I had to say and I pray daily that I may receive forgiveness for all the wrong that I have done. Once again, I want to express how truly sorry I am for my actions and want you to know that there is never a chance of this sort of thing happening again.

With Utmost Concern, Ashley Panicker

The article titled, "Smoking ban introduced," in Issue 5, was written by Kacy Managan, not Erin Padovani. *The Grizzly* apologizes for this error. settings incorporate the option for students to make their personal photos public or private, to the point of being able to filter who can and cannot view students' photos. There have been many instances of students being penalized for certain indiscretions simply by virtue of school administrators being able to see their facebook.com photos, which have often provided the evidence needed to punish students. It is also well known that many employers often investigate students' facebook.com profiles before hiring them. May this serve as a caveat: placing sensitive information on the Internet—particularly on facebook.com—may have serious ramifications.

Unfortunately, this is not the first incident of its type to present itself on the Ursinus College campus. Many students have been reminded of last year's USGA diversity talks following the outburst of socioeconomic slurs at the NCAA championships held this past spring at Ursinus. Following that incident, other instances of injustice on campus were revealed, including the drawing of a swastika in one of the freshman dorms. Essentially, occurrences such as this most recent one demonstrate a disturbing trend of students overlooking the possible repercussions of their actions. As the student newspaper of Ursinus, *The Grizzly* would like to emphasize the necessity for the members of the Ursinus community to think before they act. Any act of hatred is still a form of hatred.

To serve as a forum for this issue, the Exposure Committee will be holding a meeting this Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m., in Wismer Lower Lounge. The Committee's mission is to unearth acts of discrimination so as to foster a greater safety and awareness on campus. *The Grizzly* urges anyone in the Ursinus community with lingering concerns regarding the facebook.com incident or other disquieting events to attend.

Bring in a canned food donation to Wismer on Wednesday, Oct. 18, to help those in need within our community

At the same time, you'll be taking part in attempting to set a new Guinness World Record for the most canned food donations collected during a single event nationwide. The event is being run, nationwide, by our food service

provider, Sodexho

Visit Dining Services, located in Wismer Lower Lounge, for more information.



The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31 Issue 7 grizzly@ursinus.edu

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October 12, 2006

New shopping center near campus

DAN LAMSON

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A new strip mall has been built on Ridge Pike, where it meets Township Line Road. It is located at barely a five-minute drive down Main Street from the Ursinus College Campus. Main Street turns into Ridge Pike just before the mall, which is on the left-hand side.

"The Court at Upper Providence," as it stands, has a Giant, a Target, and an AC Moore (for arts and crafts). Furthermore, two buildings are currently being constructed

at the same site and ture in the vicinity of the opened on Oct. 3, the Oct. 6, and the Giant

The employees of siastic about their openeited," one new em-"It's been kind of borshelves and training-the customer service as-Other buildings



there is a Feceras Furni-Mall. The AC Moore Target opened Friday opened on Oct. 11.

all the stores are enthuings. "I am very exployee of Target said, ing just stocking the I'm looking forward to peet of the job."

are currently under con-

struction at the site, but there have been many rumors about these two buildings. One person reported that it might be a Borders Bookstore, while another was certain it would be a Bed, Bath, and Beyond. It was also suggested that one of the uncompleted buildings may become a restaurant.

The official word from the construction company is that the contract for the space is still under negotiation. Until the contract is signed, there be no official word. A representative from Gambone Development Company, the company charged with building the mall, said that the identity of the new stores should be released in the coming months.

GUITAR LESSONS Beginner thru intermediate Mid-day scheduling available Call Jeff Larson 484.802.3452

URSINUS & COLLEGEVILLE COMMUNITY BASKET-BALL TOURNAMENT

Nov. 5, 2006, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Ursinus field house 5 players per team, \$30 team donation Cash prizes for 1st & 2nd place teams All proceeds benefit the National Military Families Assoc. To sign up, email hoops4troops@yahoo.com



News Spring registration just around the corner

LAUREN VAUGHN

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Nov. 6 marks the first day of spring registration, as well as debate among many Ursinus freshmen.

Although many upperclassmen are aware of what takes place during spring registration, some freshmen are new to the registration process and the importance that it has in students' education.

Spring registration lasts a week, from Nov. 6 to Nov. 17. During this time, both students and faculty must meet to discuss class choices for the spring semester. Students are strongly encouraged to take responsibility during spring registration. This includes setting up appointments with advisors; having some, if not all, of the classes in mind that they need or would like to take for their major and core classes; and turning in their paperwork.

While this may sound as though it is not a major task, this process may be overwhelming to students. For that reason, students are assigned advisors who are also given some responsibilities during spring registration as well, helping alleviate some of the pressure for the student.

Depending on the department, major, and faculty, advisors are assigned between 15 and 20 advisees. During spring registration, advisors must help each one of their advisees create a class schedule. "Students may take no more than five classes per semester," said Dr. Jeanine Czubaroff, an advisor at Ursinus College, "because the college wants students to have a balanced education which includes other [activities] than just taking classes." Even though it is the student's choice to take certain classes, advisors often influence students to take certain classes if they believe that it would be beneficial to them. "I encourage but I don't pressure," Czubaroff explained. "If the students have to take to take a certain class I encourage that they take it. The student's choice of study belongs to them. They need to make choices and learn to deal with them."

Another concern that arises frequently during spring registration is waitlistings, which occurs when students are put on hold for a class because the class reaches the maximum number of students it can have. In the case that a student is waitlisted for a class that he or she needs to take for his or her major, the registrar will hold a seat open in the class for the person who needs to take that class and put that student in first to take the class, assuming someone drops it. Even though many upperclassmen may not take the same classes as freshmen, waitlisting may be a common problem among freshmen because are they last to register for classes. According to Czubaroff, "Freshmen have the most courses they have to take and are the least unsure of what they want to take, and they don't have a major. Seniors have been here longer and they deserve more privileges, which are known as 'seniority.' This causes much debate with freshmen who may feel that by time they register for classes all the 'good classes' are taken."

Even though sometimes there isn't much that can be done to avoid problems during registration, first-year students can make spring registration run more smoothly by making timely appointments with their advisors, having an idea of what classes they need, turning in paperwork on time, and always asking plenty of questions.

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW

In accordance with the Ursinus College Faculty Handbook, student comments on teaching effectiveness and student-faculty interaction are invited at the time of a faculty member's review for tenure. Although student letters must be signed to be considered, student names may be withheld, upon request, when their comments are shared with the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the faculty member.

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:

- Dr. Francis Fritz, English Dr. Rebecca Roberts, Biology
- Dr. Xochitl Shuru, Modern Languages
- Dr. Mohammed Yahdi, Mathematics and Computer Science

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Dean Judith T. Levy, Office of the Dean by Oct. 13, 2006.

Features Preventing sexual assault



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

Sexual assault is a problem that students face on every college campus. No one is immune from sexual assault, regardless of how small or safe the town or school in which they reside appears to be. However, sexual assault is preventable, and means can be taken to ensure a safer university experience. This article will outline a few measures that you can take to prevent sexual assault and that

Sexual assault awareness on campus

CORINNE LICCKETTO

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"Everyone knows everyone at Ursinus." We've all heard this before. Ursinus College, a campus consisting of roughly 1500 students, is fairly small. A lot of students, and perhaps faculty and staff, have grown comfortable with the surrounding people. The environment in which we encircle ourselves is both friendly and welcoming. However, it is important to keep in mind that although we may *think* that we truly know everyone, we should all be aware of the existence of sexual assault on our campus.

Deborah Nolan, Dean of Students, plays a vital role in keeping Ursinus students safe on all accounts. In spite of her efforts as well as those of the administration, sexual assault is still prevalent. The vital note to remember is that although we might not often hear of such unfortunate incidents, it does happen here. Dean Nolan could not give away specifics regarding certain instances. She did stress, however, that we, the students, are not informed of these situations *because* "everyone knows everyone." Due to our small size, Dean Nolan conveyed that confidentiality is essential. If someone is concerned about other people finding out what happened, they can be reassured that privacy is a priority. The reason we may not think that there is sexual violence on campus stems from the administration's protection of the students involved.

In the late 80s and early 90s, a small college in the Midwest was under examination due to a case of sexual

will allow you to enjoy college life safely.

The exact prevalence of sexual assault in the United States is unknown because it is often unreported. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that only 39% of sexual assaults and rapes committed were reported in 2002. The CDC also reports that 20-25% of female college students report sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, and in the last year, at least 300,000 women reported sexual assault as well as more than 90,000 men. These statistics hold significance due to the alarming number of incidences and the inclusion of statistics regarding sexual assault on men. Sexual assault is often misunderstood as a crime that only affects women, but men can also be assaulted by other men and women.

The University of Georgia provides a short guide to sexual assault prevention through their Web site. They recommend open and direct communication with your partner first and foremost as a prevention tactic. This will allow you to create and respect boundaries that are often confused when left unsaid. It is important to remember that the majority of sexual assaults occur between acquaintances. When meeting new people, the University of Georgia also suggests avoiding getting in a car with someone that you do not know.

When partying, it is a good idea to travel with a group of friends, ideally with one or two individuals who are planning to remain sober. This system allows you to keep an eye on one another while sticking together, which can best be done with a trusted person who has not been drinking. Also, never accept a drink from someone that you do not know while at a party, and do not leave your beverage unattended. This will prevent an individual from drugging

violence that took place on their campus. A male student, who was seen in good standing with his school, raped a number of fellow female peers. This event was not only an eye-opener for this particular school but for all schools in our nation, especially small colleges. There was a misconstrued belief that "those things" happened only at large schools and this case shattered that faulty notion.

Since then, Ursinus has built a secure and confidential system of action for students who have been sexually assaulted. The first meeting that incoming freshmen attend after they've had their class meeting is an assembly to promote sexual assault awareness. National statistics have revealed that first-semester freshman females are at the highest risk of sexual assault. However, we must not fail to acknowledge that sexual violence happens to men, as well.

Dean Nolan stressed that if anyone has been a victim of assault to come forward right away. Perhaps not surprisingly, every case of reported sexual crime at Ursinus has involved alcohol and drugs. Students may fear coming forward for legal repercussions but we should feel some sort of immunity from that: "We are not here to drag everyone in and begin a witch-hunt," Nolan said. When a case of assault is presented it is *only* that incident that is scrutinized. Thus, the faster a victim steps forward for help, the greater his or her chance of justice becomes.

There is a wonderful counseling system at our school. Two counselors are here to talk to students. STAR (Students Against Rape) is an open club that supports the cause. Also, look out for Sexual Violence Awareness week your beverage with a date-rape drug.

The University of Georgia also reminds students that alcohol inhibits decision-making and judgment. This is important to remember because an intoxicated individual at a party will not necessarily be able to make his or her boundaries clear, and that affects the judgment of both parties involved.

When walking around campus or Collegeville at night, be sure to walk with a friend. Plainly stated, it is extremely unsafe to walk around alone at night. If no one is available to escort you, you can call Campus Safety, which will send an officer to escort you to where you need to go. Also, be aware of your surroundings. Headphones prevent you from being completely aware of the events that are occurring around you.

Sexual assault on college campuses is an unfortunate reality with which we all must cope. However, we all also have the power to take our safety into our own hands to prevent assault and to not allow fear to ruin a great college experience.

Finding your perfect career

CAREER SERVICES www.ursinus.edu/career

Join us in welcoming authors Sheila Curran and Suzanne Greenwald to campus on Monday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. in Olin Auditorium, as they share suggestions and smart moves for turning a liberal arts degree into a meaningful career. Their presentation, like their new, highly acclaimed book, will feature both straightforward jobsearching advice and innovative, real-life stories from graduates who have achieved fulfilling careers.

Curran and Greenwald praise the value of a liberal arts education and share insight into the many factors that contribute to success. All are invited to learn valuable career lessons and an unparalleled framework for success. Ursinus faculty and staff are also invited to bring their high school children to hear the presentation.

Make a "Smart Move" and join us on Oct. 23 to find answers to these important questions: What is the value of a liberal arts education? What should I be doing while I am still in school? Will I need a graduate degree? How do I find work that I love? How do I get the "edge" with employers? What if I don't have a good GPA?

Smart Moves for Liberal Arts Grads: Monday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. in Olin Auditorium.

in the spring semester. "Peers educating peers" is the best thing that we can do, according to Nolan, which should encourage us all to get involved.

Dean Nolan commented, "Overall, our community is very supportive and respectful. This is very reassuring to me. Our entire system supports this type of awareness. The Judiciary Board proved that to us in a prior incident. We just want our community to be more responsive. Its not just students; we are all involved."

If you have any immediate sexual assault concerns, call (215) 277-5200 for an anonymous Victim Services Crisis Hotline.

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Features

New "Incentive Program" underway for CAB

KIRSTEN SCHUCK

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Want to win huge prizes?

In the past, on some weekends you have had the option of watching the Campus Activity Board (CAB) movie shown in Wismer Lower Lounge as a relaxing way to unwind from the week, and as a good chance to see a free movie without even leaving campus. Now, CAB is giving you even more of a reason to check out their fun and free events!

CAB officers have started the unofficially titled "CAB incentive program," a program that allows participating students to win huge prizes when they come to events. "Basically, any student can participate by attending CAB events," said Julia Lickfield, CAB's President. The program was instated in an effort to boost student attendance at the events offered by CAB, and also to reward them for becoming active members of the Ursinus community.

The program is simple: each participant is issued a card when he or she attends a CAB-sponsored event. At each eventa student attends, the card is stamped and signed by a CAB officer. Each card holds 10 stamps; once you fill one card, you turn it into the Student Activities Office, and you are entered into a final drawing, which will be held at the end of the year. There is no limit to how many cards you can fill, and each additional card increases your chances of winning.

One of the big questions being asked is what are the prizes for this drawing? Is it worth it to participate? According to Lickfield, CAB has not decided yet exactly what the prizes will be, but they will be huge. "If you don't believe me, come to Casino Night on Nov. 5 and see what kinds of prizes we typically have for that," Lickfield said. "The Incentive

Degas: his work, his vision, his camera

ERIN PADOVANI

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On Sept. 26, at 7 p.m, Lisa Hanover, Director of the Berman Museum, introduced alumni Richard Goldberg and Alan Klawans to Olin Auditorium. Upon arrival, visitors received a booklet containing photocopies of paintings and commentary articles on Degas' works. Goldberg informed us that each painting in the pamphlet had once been featured on the cover of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, or *JAMA*. The corresponding articles on the paintings were all written by Therese Southgate, M.D., and Senior Contributing Editor for the magazine.

While art and medicine are usually thought to be on opposite sides of the spectrum, Goldberg eloquently explained that doctors and artists are more similar than one may realize. "Doctors and artists are both excellent and privileged observers. They both think about their subjects while they are *away* from their subjects. They are always thinking." Goldberg, who is an eye surgeon as well as an artist, has a wonderful understanding of the relationship between both careers.

Goldberg, though soft-spoken and unruffled, was undeniably knowledgeable about the life and work of Edgar Degas. Using slides that were composed primarily of paintings and self-portraits, Goldberg lectured without notes or an outline. From his slides, we learned that Degas was born in 1834 in Paris, France. Sadly, his mother died when he was 15, but his father was extremely supportive of his endeavors. The artist was well read in terms of literature, art, color, and languages. It should be no surprise, then, that when Degas was supposed to begin law school, he opted out to become an artist.

One could fill volumes in regard to the life and times of Edgar Degas. But the most interesting aspect of the lecture was the fact that, though he was a brilliant artist, Degas was legally blind! Remember the Snellen eye chart we must read at every eye exam? Degas could only read the giant top line. Due to the lack of medical technology at the time, doctors could only determine that he had a serious problem in the retina of one eye. Hypotheses emerge frequently, yet, no one knows exactly what type of eye malady Degas suffered. Though the partial blindness did not keep Degas from producing great works of art, his friend and fellow artist, Walter Sickert, stated, "It was natural that from 1883 on, he [Degas] would speak of the torment that it was to draw, he could only see around the spot at which he was looking and never the spot itself."

Though Degas is often described as an impressionist painter, he began painting

prizes will be even better.'

CAB has a few upcoming events that will allow you to get involved. On Nov. 5, they are sponsoring the well known Casino night. They are also always looking for new members, and Lickfield says you can be as involved as you want to be depending on your availability.

You can always contact the organization with questions, directing them to cab@ursinus.edu or julickfield@ursinus.edu.

Ursinus students evoke Shakespeare's spirit in "Two Gentlemen of Verona"

INDIA MCGHEE inmcghee@ursinus.edu

The place to be last week was in the Ursinus Black Box Theater, where an allstudent cast performed a jazzed-up version of William Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona."

"Two Gentlemen of Verona" is a romantic comedy about two friends from Verona, Valentine and Proteus, played by Zach Shamberg and Scott Cocchiaro, and the tangled situation that they manage to get themselves into. Valentine travels to Milan and falls in love with the Duchess's daughter, Silvia, played by Joanna Cretella. Meanwhile, Proteus has promised his heart to Julia, played by Julie Toth, a lady of Verona. However, when his mother sends him to court in Milan, he too falls for Silvia. Julia, thinking that her lover is still true, disguises herself as a page and follows Proteus to Milan, only to discover that he has fallen for Silvia instead. Silvia, however, is betrothed to Valentine, despite the fact that her mother has promised her to another. Eventually, the friends work out what they really want, and they all get their happy endings. Proteus realizes that he really does love Julia, and Valentine is finally allowed to marry Silvia.

The show began at 7:30pm Saturday evening, and was also performed to a packed theatre on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at the same time, respectively.

The production was directed by Assistant Professor of Theater Domenick Scudera, who directed the same show for the Philadelphia Shakespeare Company earlier this summer. In Scudera's production, the play is set during the 1960s, and music by the Beatles and other icons of the age is played throughout the show. "It was a really interesting combination, but it made the play for me. Hoved it," claimed one audience member.

If you were unable to attend this show, be sure to eatch upcoming performances by the talented students who perform for Ursinus. You will most certainly have a wonderfully entertaining and artistic experience.

portraits first. Unlike his colleagues, he did not paint many landscapes nor did he paint outside. Rather, he observed and memorized his subjects and painted back in his studio. Years passed before Degas painted the usual subjects of impressionist art: women in bath tubs, drinkers in bars, and dancers and jockeys. Goldberg claims that the reason Degas was so prolific was because he was able to paint the moment *before* the moment occurred. Degas had a bold personality and claimed, "What he could do with the stroke of brush, a writer could do with an entire novel."

Goldberg did an excellent job of explaining artistically and medically how Degas continued to create art despite his progressive visual impairment.

Opinions

On habeas corpus

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Recently, the United States Congress passed a bill stating that terrorist suspects shall not be able to invoke their habeas corpus rights. For those of you who are not political nerds, habeas corpus is the right to challenge one's detention in court. Thus, this bill states that anyone who is being detained as a terrorist *suspect* may not challenge his or her detention in court. This is troubling for three reasons: first, it simply ignores the core assumption of the American system of criminal justice; second, it raises questions regarding the validity of these detentions; third, it sets down a frightening constitutional precedent.

First of all, I should note that revoking habeas corpus rights is not unconstitutional. Indeed, Article I, Section 9, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution states that "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it." The Bush administration and supporters of this bill will surely argue that the War on Terror amounts to a sort of "Rebellion or Invasion" that requires the revocation of habeas corpus rights from terrorist suspects. The argument goes something like this: if terrorist suspects can challenge their detentions, they might be allowed to go free and continue their terrorist activities. This would significantly weaken the United States effort in the War on Terror. However, this rests on assumption that terrorist suspects are indeed terrorists. This brings me to my first point.

The American criminal justice system is guided by the assumption that all suspects are innocent until proven guilty. By revoking habeas corpus, the government is assuming that these suspects are guilty. However, they are not confident enough to allow these suspects to challenge their detentions before a judge (a judge who, in all likelihood, will be lenient in favor of the government). In effect, the government is saying "trust us." I don't mean to be cynical, but *never* trust a politician who uses "trust me" as a defense for something. That usually means that he has no other way (i.e. no legitimate way) to defend himself. This relates to my second point; if the government does not have enough evidence to legitimize a detention, they have no business detaining that person.

The whole basis for habeas corpus is the understanding that the government cannot simply detain people arbitrarily. Thus, habeas corpus allows improperly held suspects to "get their day in court" and see justice done. By revoking habeas corpus, the government is necessarily stating that their bases for detaining terrorist suspects are questionable at best. This is simply unacceptable. Our government must be held to a higher standard.

Last, this revocation of habeas corpus, if upheld by the judiciary (which is certainly questionable), will set down a powerful precedent. It will increase confusion regarding what, exactly, constitutes a "Rebellion or Invasion," and future Republican presidents and Congresses will surely press the envelope further, taking away more civil liberties. It is my hope that the judiciary will do its duty and *check* and *balance* the executive by ruling that this law is unconstitutional.

The fundamental importance of negative campaigning

MATT FLYNTZ

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Most Americans complain about the bitter nature of contemporary American politics. This nastiness is most clearly manifested in political "attack ads." Indeed, many Americans suggest that these ads harm our political process, but I argue the contrary: these "attack ads" are a fundamental part of our democracy.

When we think about the reasons people vote, "displeasure with an individual candidate" ranks relatively high on the list. How do Americans develop this sort of displeasure? One answer is that Americans keep up to date with current events and develop opinions based on this investigation. I am not so optimistic. Rather, I think many people develop this displeasure by watching negative campaign ads.

I think this is perhaps more true for the House of Representatives than for either the more highly-publicized Senate or, of course, the presidency. This is shown by the lack of knowledge of incumbent Congressmen and the even smaller amount of knowledge of their opponents. Indeed, over 50 percent of registered voters in local Congressional districts do not know enough about the incumbents' opponents to form an opinion. Thus, between now and November 7th, they will have to develop an opinion *somehow*. I believe that, to a large extent, attack ads will inform the public. Now, some will argue that this is a very bad thing. But, with voter turnout in non-Presidential election years consistently below 50% (in 2002: 46 percent; in 1998: 45 percent), I'll take all the votes I can get. Plus, the dis-

semination of information, whether positive or negative, serves to educate the public. An educated public makes for a better electorate.

I can hear the shouts: "Are you suggesting that attack ads *educate* the public!?" Well, yes. They do. Certainly, they may be *misleading*, but they are all at least rooted in truth. And, since Americans are so keen at detecting nasty attack ads, they ought to be able to determine which attack ads are legitimate and which are *really* stretching the truth (e.g. *any* of Rick Santorum's campaign ads). So, the average American can probably learn something useful from attack ads while filtering out the rubbish. However, the rubbish has its uses, too. A particularly sleazy ad (once again, any of Mr. Santorum's ads) may very well provoke a person to vote *against* the person running the ad.

Thus, attack ads, whether or not they are effective in gaining votes for individual candidates, get the public riled up; they, perhaps subconsciously, catch our eyes more so than would positive ads. Thus, I think that people are much more engaged in the electoral process, and are thus more likely to vote in a campaign dominated by negative ads. And I think a higher voter turnout is a noble goal, indeed.

> Have an opinion? Please send your questions, comments, compliments, and complaints to the Opinions Editor at maflyntz@ursinus.edu

Hurt feelings

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The recent controversy concerning the Pope's comments about the nature of Islam has once again shaken the Muslim world. Immediately following the Pope's speech at the University of Regensburg, in which he quotes the 14thcentury Byzantine Emperor Palaeologus as saying Islam is "spread by the sword," there was a rash of protest across the Middle East. Outraged Muslim demonstrators burned American and Israeli flags, as well as effigies of the Pope, while calling for his death. The day after the speech, a 65year-old Italian nun died after being shot four times in the back by radical Muslims while working at a children's hospital in Somalia.

Irony aside, this is not the first time something like this has happened. Recall last year's controversy over the cartoon depictions of Mohammed published in a Danish newspaper. In London and across Europe, Muslims gathered in protest, holding signs that read "Behead those who mock Islam," and the like. Middle East protests stemming from that incident led to attacks on Danish embassies and the deaths of a great deal of demonstrators.

So, where is the western backlash for this most recent incident? A nun who dedicated her life to helping Muslim children is murdered in the name of Islam, and there is not so much as a sit-in anywhere in the world? No one calls for an apology from *Islamic* leaders? Even CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has yet to denounce the murder. In the mean time, however, the organization is voicing outrage over the use of the term "Islamic Fascism." At least they have their priorities straight.

It seems to be a widely held belief that Islam is a sacrosanct religion, on a higher plane of righteousness than Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, or even the fundamental values of liberal democracy. It is this very sentiment that radicals use to justify inciting mass violence over a newspaper cartoon or a quote from a medieval emperor. It is used similarly by groups like Hezbollah to rally support behind unprovoked attacks against residential Israeli neighborhoods and other civilian targets.

But this summer, when Israel retaliated to Hezbollah's unmerited act of war with military force, the world criticized the Jewish State as "overreacting." According to the international community, Israel should have only attacked Hezbollah to the extent that Hezbollah attacked Israel, as opposed to wiping out the terrorist group and ending the conflict. The world held the Islamic terrorist group Hezbollah on a moral equivalency with the sovereign nation of Israel, giving justification to the unlawful kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and the slaughter of innocent civilians.

Eventually, the UN brokered a "ceasefire," with Israeli troops being replaced by multinational forces in Lebanon. Last week, however, Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, held a very public rally announcing that it had rearmed with 20,000 more rockets. Rest assured, more civilians will die because Hezbollah was not destroyed.

Destructive, radical Muslim groups like Hezbollah and the violent protestors of the papal speech continue to be legitimized as the world declares them morally equivalent to other peaceful, lawful groups. As long as this goes on, extremists will continue to push the envelope of intolerance. To those extremists, I say your hurt feelings do not excuse your assaults on civil freedoms and innocent lives. End the violence and you will earn the respect of millions.

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Before I start this review, a quick back story. I was asked to review this movie a couple of weeks ago, but initially refused because although I had seen it, I hadn't watched "Firefly," the series from which the fan support launched this film. The friend who had made the request handed me the complete DVD set, and 15 hours of TV later, here I am.

Let it be said that I am nothing if not dedicated. The plot of Serenity is kind of complicated, so here is an oversimplification: Captain Mal Reynolds (Nathan Fillion) runs smuggling and robbery jobs off his Firefly-class ship, Serenity. Lately, he's been hiding two fugitives, Simon and his telepathic/genius/traumatized sister, River, from the Alliance, a totalitarian government which Mal fought against and lost to in the war six years ago. The crew discovers that buried within River's mind is a dark secret, for which the



ALEX ERNST

The Back Row

Alliance has sent a mysterious man known only as "The Operative" (Chiwetel Ejiofor) to retrieve her at any cost.

I've always been a big science fiction fan, and having watched the series, I'm really not sure how I missed out on it. The premise of a spacewestern alone is brilliant, but creator Joss Whedon went far enough to create a faux-Civil-War back-story and

otherwise normal-looking guns with a "laser" sound-effect touch. (For another awesome use of the space-western theme, check out Muse's music video for "Knights of Cydonia.") Another fantastic touch is how grounded the series is to reality. Space is silent, making the battles there that much more striking. Also, there are no longwinded explanations of whatever device is being used. The crew uses ropes, bullets, and even horses on occasion. Finally, everyone lives in a future where China and (we assume) America were the last two super powers. Thus, scattered throughout the film are Chinese phrases, mostly used for cussing (Somehow, "pardon my Chinese" doesn't have quite the same ring

As far as acting goes, nobody plays the hero with the troubled past like Nathan Fillion. (Be sure to check out Slither, where he does a fantastic job as the sheriff with the troubled past). If he keeps this up, he can soon join the ranks of Ryan Reynolds as actors who were able to build careers out of "Two Guys, a Girl, and a Pizza Place." Chiwetel Ejiofor also succeeds extremely well as the bad-ass mysterioso whose modus operandi involves having his victims fall onto their own sword.

Ultimately, "Serenity" succeeds because it delivers on two levels by pleasing both the uninitiated and the hardcore fan. You can easily walk in to the film and enjoy it without having seen a single episode of "Firefly." On the other hand, the fans among us get the ultimate finale the series deserved but was robbed of. If you enjoy any kind of sci-fi, I absolutely recommend giving this film a shot. Hopefully, I'll get to "Blues Brothers" next week, but who knows? This week alone I watched a Japanese film about 9th grade students killing each other on an island, a British flick best described as "The Office" crossed with "Deliverance," and a thriller about a 14 year-old-girl playing mind games with a pedophile. Needless to say, I have lots of time on my hands.

Alex Ernst thinks way too much about the meaning of the polar bears in "Lost.". You can reach him at alernst@ursinus.edu.

The Grizzly

(2005) Sinners in the hand of an angry H.P. Lovecraft monster

Brothers and sisters, a plague of perversion is upon us. Our young people are becoming the principal targets for a new threat sweeping through the country like those damned Civil Rights acts. That's right - I'm talking about rock n' roll. Soon, your little Betty Sue or Johnny Smith might be caught up in this degrading jukebox culture, where it's considered "hep" to stay out past curfew doing the "lindy hop" or listening to ...

I have just been informed that I am warning you about the wrong decade. My bad. O brothers and sisters, a plague of perversion is upon us. A plague called homosexuality.

No doubt you have read in our church-approved literature about the evils that inevitably come from lighting your metaphorical votive candle from the wrong end. I will not delve into the gory details, as this is a family sermon. But what I do want to focus on is how even the sinniest of sinners and the homoist of homosexuals can find peace and redemption. No, not through Jesus. I'm talking about Dread Lord Cthulhu.

To many of you, Cthulhu is a fictional octopusheaded monster created by science-fiction writer H.P. Lovecraft. But I assure you, he is far from fictional. Even now, he lies at the bottom of the ocean on the sunken island of R'lyeh, waiting, biding his time, before he will rise up and reclaim his throne as Lord of the Earth.

But I come to you not to rehash the mythos of Dread Cthulhu to you. I come to offer our wayward homosexual brethren a path to salvation in the eyes of The Eternal One. Join us, my queer children, and be healed by the slimy embrace of Cthulhu. Divert your attentions away from worldly concerns like where your next spoonful of hot gay lovin' is coming from, and focus on higher spiritual matters. Join our flock, so we may all rejoice when the



second coming of Dread Lord Cthulhu is nigh!

I know what you're thinking. "But, Pastor Sergeant, being gay is swell! What's so wrong about loving another person, and why are uptight assholes like yourself always trying to legislate and force-feed your Puritan brand of morality down the throat of a society so jaded with its political process that it has learned to see through your

> pseudo-religious charade for the crock of BS it actually is?"

> Whew! Instead of dignifying that with a response, why don't I tell you the wonderful things in store for you when you turn away from your homo-sin and accept Dread Cthulhu as your path to salvation?

> First, by joining, you are automatically enlisted in the archaeological expedition that seeks to find Cthulhu's hiding place and wake him from his millennial slumber! Second, when the Eternal One rises enraged from his sleep, he will slaughter all of his followers first, thereby sparing us

the eternity of mayhem and mass insanity that will ensue while he reigns! Imagine a world where you don't have to kill and eat your loved ones; where you aren't kept from sleep by visions of pan-dimensional demons crawling through your skin; where The Great and Ancient One doesn't snare you in his greasy tentacles and empty the sorrows of mankind down your unholy gullet, like a mother bird feeding its hell-spawned offspring. Is it not paradise? And you thought being gay was fun.

Dan Sergeant and Matt Flyntz will either be the first killed or the last raptured, depending on whether Cthulhu or Jesus gets here first. Send your vote to: dasergeant@ursinus.edu and maflyntz@ursinus.edu.

Bewilder gems

It may appear, to the casual observer, that I use this column merely to grouse about Ursinus, and that I don't really like this college. This is not true. I think Ursinus is a great school with good faculty and the right ideas about education. Maybe a bit expensive. But still, a fine school. Maybe not the best meal plan. Nice facilities, though. Maybe not the best infrastructure. All joking aside (I wasn't), I think we can come to consensus that Ursinus is like a precious necklace studded with small, and often bewildering inanities. Call them bewilder gems. Let's look at one of them:

The Library

Nice building, decent coffee, open to 2

a.m. Thanks! But have you tried to rent a movie lately? I'll bet you haven't, because they're impossible to find. You all remember the halcyon days of the old media services (Except you, freshmen. You don't know anything.), and it was simple. Want a dvd? Here's a list! Can't find the list?

CHRIS CURLEY Modern Times

Go online, and see it there. Simple, easy, efficient.

Now, the list is gone, the basement facility closed.

and I am told I have to guess which movie I want to watch and search for it. Somehow, I have to conjure up from the ether what movie I feel like watching on a particular evening, and then hope that the library has it. Apparently it's far too much work to keep an updated list of the dvds and videos in Myrin, which I find particularly surprising since they seemed to have no trouble doing so last year. The only reason I can think of for why they don't keep a list is that the original keeper of lists - a list-gnome, if you will - has become inexplicably hobbled and no one has come up with a contingency plan in his or her (its?) absence. I used to enjoy renting movies from the library; now I download

That's it. No other problems at UC this week. Plus Flyntz says I need to keep my word count down. God, I love my job.

Next week on Modern Times we explore my use of metaphor in the Op-Ed pages. Strained or Genius? You decide! Send e-mails to chcurley@ursinus.edu.

Opinions



7

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Sports Bears pull out victory in second half comeback

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With four wins already chalked up in the record books, the Ursinus Bears football team took their unblemished record on the road for only the second time this season to face a very good Case Western Reserve squad from Cleveland, Ohio. After eight hours of traveling, wonderful hotel accommodations and a fantastic dinner, the Bears put the all-white jerseys on and battled for 60 grueling minutes, scoring 16 unanswered second half points to come out on top with a 16-7 victory over the Spartans.

It was a defensive battle throughout the first half with the only scoring coming on Case's first offensive drive that consumed 77 yards and a touchdown to give the Spartans a 7-0 lead heading into the locker rooms. It was the first time this season that Ursinus had trailed at halftime. The Bear's offense sputtered throughout the entire first half as they were not able to establish the run or pass game early on. The Bears' defense settled down after the first drive and did not allow Case to come close to scoring for the remainder of the first half and eventually, the entire game.

The second half was an entirely different football game. The Bears' offense came out running on all cylinders as both the run and pass game were able to move the pigskin down the field at a pivotal point in the football game. With the Bears still trailing 70 in the third quarter, the offense used a 75 yard drive to close the gap at 7-6 thanks to a 32 yard touchdown pass from Ted Wallingford to Josh Hannum on third and long. The point after attempt was blocked.

As the Bears' defense continued its dominance of opposing offenses, the special teams unit came up big late in the third quarter as Ryan Tole was able to come off the left edge during a punt and block it giving the Bears phenomenal field position. Four plays later, kicker Justin Beres booted a field goal through the uprights to give Ursinus a 9-6 lead that they would never relinquish.

On the ensuing Spartan's drive, quarterback Dan Whalen mishandled the snap and defensive end Rob Gibson recovered the fumble in the end zone to seal the deal for the Bears at 16-7. It was by far Ursinus' toughest game this season as they were able to overcome a poor performance in the first half and comeback from a seven point deficit. The Bears were also able to overcome a grueling eight hour bus trip and play football the way they know how to in Collegeville, PA.

Josh Hannum paced the Bears' offense with five receptions for 72 yards and a touchdown, while linebackers Brian Hyrnczyszyn and DeVohn Butler led the defense with 10 and nine tackles respectively. Ursinus returns to Centennial Conference action this Saturday against Muhlenberg, game time atl p.m.

Men's soccer capture first win

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The Bears produced a couple of impressive performances in the past week, defeating Delaware Valley 4-0 and giving Gettysburg, the #23 ranked team in the nation, a major scare in a 3-1 loss. The results left the Bears with a record of 1-7-2, but should provide much needed confidence for the remainder of the season.

Gettysburg arrived at Ursinus on Saturday, Sept. 30, doubtlessly confident of an easy victory, given that their lone conference blemish was a 1-0 loss on the turf of Johns Hopkins. While Gettysburg did carry a 1-0 lead into halftime, thanks to a 33rd minute goal by Bill Mozet, it was evident that the home side had no intentions of going down without a fight. Just five minutes after halftime, Bears leading scorer Doug von Allmen scored from a difficult angle off of an assist by Dustin Young. The goal gave Von Allmen two goals and one assist on the season. The game would remain tied until 60th minute, when the Bears conceded a direct kick after fouling the Bullets. Geoff Menge headed the ensuing free kick into the net giving Gettysburg a 2-1 lead. Despite yet another strong performance from keeper Ed de Gottal, the Bears would concede another goal late in the match. De Gottal made eight saves on the afternoon. Von Allmen and Young lead the Bears offensive attack, taking three shots apiece

Bears hungry for victory four days later in the Delaware Valley match. The Bears dominated from the opening tap, outshooting their opponents 16-4 and forcing eleven corner kicks throughout the match. Coach Wayne McKinney decided to use the match to rest the regular starters for Ursinus, given their severely overmatched competition, but the starting eleven made their presence felt during their brief stint on the pitch. Bears defender Steve Sullivan pushed up-field after his side earned a corner kick and scored the opening goal in the 16th minute. Almost more impressive than the early strike was the starting side's ability to possess the ball effectively and play efficiently. With McKinney already making changes, substitute Chris Bascom coolly finished a cross from the boot of flank midfielder Ted Hooven, giving the Bears a 2-0 edge only nineteen minutes into the match. Reserve striker Othmane Boutayeb scored his second goal of the season shortly after halftime and Bascom tallied his second in the 82nd minute. Goalkeepers Ed de Gottal, Michael Norris, and Joseph Kenney combined for the shutout.

The Bears will travel to Franklin & Marshall to face the Diplomats on Saturday Oct, 14 at 1 p.m. The Bears got their first CC win this past Saturday against McDaniel and look to continue winning in conference play.

The spirited performance left the

A look into Ursinus College fall athletics

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Ursinus College athletics has certainly had its good moments, its bad moments, and its simply awesome moments this fall season. The Centennial Conference has seen intense competition from every UC athletic team this season, as well as good sportsmanship from every program.

The Ursinus cross country teams have put on a stellar performance up to this point in the season. The men's team has finished fourth, second, sixth, and 24th in the four invitationals they have participated in, respectively. It was during the Keystone Invitational that the men's cross country team showed what they could do, finishing second out of eight total teams. Chris DeLeon ran the 8K event in 31:30 to take the individual title. He also earned Runner of the Meet.

The women's team finished one better than the men's team by capturing first place at the Keystone Invitational. The team overall has finished second, first, second, and 18th in their four competitions this season, respectively; terrific scores for the young team that only has one senior on the squad this season. However, the Keystone Invitational was especially exciting for the Bears as it was the first first place finish under the direction of coach Chris Bayless. Sara McNally paced UC finishing second with a time of 21:55. Both teams can look forward to an even better second half of the season.

A team that has had incredible success this season is the Ursinus College field hockey team. Ranked fifth in the nation, the Bears are 10-2 overall and 8-0 in the Centennial Conference, continuing their unbelievable 38-0 CC unbeaten streak (from the 2004 season). Their only losses came from Messiah and TCNJ, who is currently ranked third in the nation. Leading the way for the Bears is goal keeper Jess Lamina. Jess, a junior, has started all 12 games and has had only 12 goals scored against her (1.27 gpg) and 42 saves. She has been named player of the week as well as the ECAC goal keeper of the week. On the offense side of the turf, the leaders are top goal scorer Jess Rogers, as well as Kait Sutherland. Rogers has piled up ten goals and four assists this season for 24 points, while Sutherland has tallied seven goals and seven assists for 21 points. Sutherland was named player of the week this past week for outstanding performances in three games, scoring three goals as well as assisting on three others. With the talent and effort this team has put forth in the first half of the season, the expectations are even higher for the second half.

A team that is not doing as well, but has shown signs of life recently, is the UC men's soccer team. The Bears have struggled this season with a record of 1-7-2 overall and 0-3-1 in the conference. However, they picked up their first win of the season against Delaware Valley with a convincing 4-0 victory. Chris Bascom tallied not only his first collegiate goal, but also his first two-goal game of his career. Bascom is also one of the teams' top-three scorers, along with Doug von Allmen and John George who each have tallied two goals on the season.

The other Ursinus soccer team, the women's team, has been steady this season compiling a record of 4-5 overall and a 2-3 record in the Centennial Conference. Leading the way for Ursinus is Nicole Papps, whose lone goal in the 71st minute against Swarthmore gave the Bears the victory. Papp has registered two goals this season. Jess Gunzelman and Sarah Gardner also have tagged on two goals for the season. Amanda Leatherman leads the team with three goals on the season. Both the men's and women's teams are looking to improve in the second half of the season.

The Ursinus College volleyball team has struggled this season with an overall record of 2-14 and 0-4 in the conference. With wins against Rosemont and Mitchell, the team has certainly shown its youth. Michele Finney and Melissa George are the only seniors on the team. The team hopes to turn things around against conference opponent Dickinson College on Oct. 7.

The Ursinus football team has experienced quite a ride so far this season. The bears are 5-0 overall and 1-0 in the conference. Ted Wallingford leads the team as its quarterback, along with defensive standouts Rob Gibson and Matt Duppel, and offensive guard Keith Lynn, who captains the team. The Bears' defense has been the story so far, keeping three out of the five opponents they've faced off the scoreboard. The team as a whole are first in the conference and are also receiving votes for the Top 25 in the nation. The Bears face conference opponent Muhlenberg this weekend in Allentown.