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## The Grizzly, October 5, 2006

Kerri Landis

Marlena M. McMahon-Purk

Corinne Licchetto

Tracey Ferdinand

Dan Lamson

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Kerri Landis, Marlena M. McMahon-Purk, Corinne Licchetto, Tracey Ferdinand, Dan Lamson, Sarah Keck, India McGhee, Lane Taylor, Alex Ernst, Erin Andrew, Gabe Herman, Simon Marcus, Tyler Johnson, and Matthew Pastor

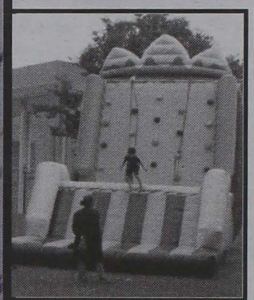
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# The Grizzly

Thursday, October 5, 2006

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

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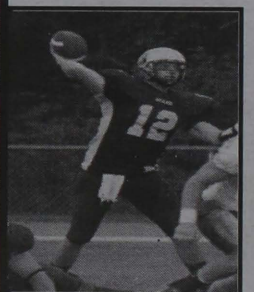


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Collegeville, Pa.

Volume 31 Issue 6

## Family Day 2006 hits Ursinus

**CORINNE LICCKETTO**

colicchetto@ursinus.edu

The rain this past Saturday did not prevent anyone from having fun at Family Day.

Unlike most Saturday mornings, the campus came alive early with activities. Festive pumpkins and scarecrows were strewn about the Ursinus campus and students welcomed their visiting families with smiles.

The moon bounce agility course and giant slide were set up without a hitch, and younger siblings and cousins of Ursinus students flocked to the activities with eagerness. Charlie, the 5-year-old cousin of Ursinus freshman Stephanie Bartus, could not get enough of the giant slide and climbed the stairs at least ten times. "Today



was so much fun," he said excitedly. After "Androcles and the Lion," a children's show performed in WLL, lunch was served outside at 11:30 a.m. Lines of family members and students were accompanied by the acoustic soul band, "Matt York." Their soft music carried across to the petting zoo, which contained chickens, bunnies, calves, goats, and more animals alike that eagerly accepted the company of both children and adults.

Some families enjoyed the music of the student groups performing in the Kaleidoscope. Others were led around campus by the students for a personal tour. Glenn Brooks came to visit his daughter Estelle, a freshman. "This is a lovely little campus," he exclaimed as he peered around at the stone buildings. "I've only been here to move my daughter in and I'm so glad to have the opportunity to visit her wonderful school again."

Freshman students were not the only ones whose parents visited. Many upperclassmen invited their moms and dads to spend the day with them as well, making the stands packed at the football game, in which Ursinus crushed the McDaniel football team, 20-0. The cheerleaders performed their routines and evoked more excitement from the crowd. Cheers from the soccer game crept up field as Ursinus fought the good fight, losing, in the end, to Gettysburg, 3-1. Most braved the rain with umbrellas and rain jackets; no one let the weather stop them from cheering.

The bookstore was packed with students and families buying Ursinus apparel. Judy Turner, an alumna of Ursinus College who was here visiting her son Bailey, a senior, was waiting in line to purchase a sweatshirt. "It was great to be back on campus today," she said. "What's so nice about it is that this is *my* campus and now my son is here to enjoy it. It's a great reason to visit my college and get acquainted with my Phi Psi sisters that are on campus."

Parents and siblings departed in the late afternoon after the young ones tucked out and college students begged for a nap.



## Monumental players in the Black Arts Movement speak at Ursinus

**TRACY FERDINAND**

trferdinand@ursinus.edu

Sonia Sanchez and Askia Toure have both served as an inspiration to many writers familiar with their work. Instrumental in highlighting the need for African-American studies at institutions of higher learning, the two scholars are committed to justice, community service, and exposing the truth, no matter how ugly it may seem to some.

Both writers have proven that their involvement in the politics of the 60s and 70s was not just a passing fad of that tumultuous period, since they are still writing, publishing and speaking across the country today. Last Tuesday, Ursinus College was given the gift of having these two monumental writers, poets, and activists--key players in the Black Arts Movement--grace our campus with their presence.

Though it would be easy for Sanchez and Toure to carry themselves clothed in superior airs, they were extremely cordial and addressed students and faculty in the same manner as one would address an old acquaintance. Referring to members of the Ursinus body as sister and brother, their attitudes reflected a peace and tranquility uncommon in today's society, even among elders.

Students and faculty were invited to have lunch with the living legends at the Unity house before the scheduled reading, titled "Visions of a Liberated Future," held in the Lenfest Theatre. Throughout the lunch, they tag-teamed their dialogue as they retold anecdotes of college protests, visits by angry FBI agents threatening eviction, and what the tone of our country was like during the 60s and 70s. They revealed a friendship and accustomed ease in sharing the stage. After opening the floor up for students to introduce themselves and share concerns or questions about their life work, they made it clear that their commitment to love was something deeply rooted in their daily lives, as well as in their work.

After an introduction by Professor Nzadi Keita of the English department, Sanchez blessed the stage with her presence. She started the reading off with a list of people who have had a great impact on the world in the last century. Sanchez followed this by performing two poems about her father and his relationship to women, revealing the importance of her father and brother in her personal life. Toure, whose reading style is a bit more excited, in contrast to Sanchez's cool pace, jumped right into the reading. He touched on the need for citizens to be concerned about the condition of our environment so that the next generation will share their fervor.

Though many students were unaware of the impact of Sonia Sanchez and Askia Toure in American history, their power and success were made evident by the end of their readings. The presence of these two legends was a moment in Ursinus history that should not soon be forgotten.

### "Two Gentlemen of Verona"

by William Shakespeare  
directed by Domenick Scudera  
OCTOBER 4, 5, 6, 7

at 7:30 p.m.

in the black box theater of the Kaleidoscope Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets: \$5 general admission  
\$2 students & senior citizens

\*Reservations & Information: 610-409-3795\*

## The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31 Issue 6  
grizzly@ursinus.edu

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## MSA and Hillel "broke the fast" together

**SARAH KECK**  
sakeck@ursinus.edu

On Monday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m., students from the Muslim Students Association (MSA) and Hillel joined together at the Hillel house, located at 33 6th Ave., to share a "break-the-fast" dinner.

Students in the MSA were breaking a fast as part of the celebration of the month of Ramadan, the holiest month on the calendar of the Islamic faith. During this period, Muslims fast throughout the month, from dawn to sunset. Hillel members were breaking the fast of Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. Their fast began at sunset on Sunday.

Over 25 people filled the adjoining common rooms as Hillel advisor Naomi Manon asked people to introduce themselves and talk about their faiths. "It's a month where we try to get really close to God," explained sophomore Othmane Boutayeb, a Muslim student. "We pray a lot, we ask for forgiveness."

Barbara von Schlegell, Professor of Philosophy, explained that Ramadan fasts occur as a way to equalize all Muslims. "Everyone is hungry," she elaborated. "Rich people, who never have to worry about money and food, see what it's like to have an empty stomach." "Fasting is for God's sake," Schlegell continued. "God loves the breath of someone who is fasting. It's like perfume to God."

Muslims also use Ramadan as a time to engage in a different kind of fast, one that doesn't pertain specifically to food. They refrain from cursing and engaging in other acts that might be seen as sinful. "It's a time of purification," Schlegell said.

Manon then explained what it means for people of the Jewish faith to celebrate the Day of Atonement. "It has a lot to do with asking for forgiveness," she said. Manon explained that Yom Kippur is often seen as a metaphor for experiencing death. By not eating, drinking, wearing leather, and having sex, among other things, Jewish people are removing themselves from anything that shows their involvement in life. "We are experiencing a spiritual death so we can be re-born," Manon said.

Those gathered waited until 7:25 p.m., the precise time of sunset, and then began to gather food to break their fasts. During this time, Manon explained that this is a special moment, that Yom Kippur and Ramadan, a time when two different faiths being honored with similar fasts, rarely fall together on the calendar. The Jewish calendar adjusts every year so that Yom Kippur will be celebrated in fall, while, due to fluctuations in the lunar calendar, Ramadan can fall anytime throughout the year. Schlegell explained that in a few years, Muslims will be fasting during the hot summer months.

For more information on MSA or Hillel, you can contact them directly through e-mail, at msa@ursinus.edu, or at hillel@ursinus.edu. For more information about ways to engage yourself spiritually on campus, contact the Chaplain's office, at crice@ursinus.edu.

## Free fitness class offered to Ursinus students

**INDIA MCGHEE**  
inmcghee@ursinus.edu

Interested in dancing? Want to take a martial arts class or learn to kickbox? Your opportunity has arrived in the form of classes taught on weekday evenings in the dance room of the Floy Lewis Bakes Center.

The program was organized by Laura Borsdorf, Professor of Exercise and Sport Science at Ursinus College. The classes are taught by Ursinus students.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the classes that include Modern African Dance on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Kickboxing on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., Martial Arts everyday at 8:00 p.m., and hip-hop on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. The program was designed to engage students who don't want to join an organized sports team. Classes vary by the semester and student interest.

Students generally apply to lead a class. They undergo an interview process with Borsdorf and must prove that they are able to help students improve at whatever subject area they choose to teach. Most students do not get paid or receive partial pay due to budget constraints. Student-directed classes are run out of the intramural budget.

"We want this dynamic program to help students find something that will help them stay fit for life," Borsdorf concluded.



## Don't miss these events!

**Tuesday, Oct. 3** - Nuyorican poet Victor Hernandez Cruz will. 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 4 - Saturday, Oct. 7** - "Two Gentlemen of Verona," directed by Domenick Seudera. 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theater.

**Thursday, Oct. 5** - Embedability: How Plastic Man Got Me Interested in Topology, a talk given by John Meier. 12:30 p.m. in Pfahler Auditorium

**Thursday, Oct. 5** - The exhibit "SALMAGUNDI CLUB: An American Institution" will open at the Berman Museum of Art

**Friday, Oct. 6** - William E. Akin, professor at Ursinus College, will speak about his new book "West Virginia Baseball: A History, 1865-2000. 3 p.m. in Myrin Library

## News in brief

**DAN LAMSON**  
dalamson@ursinus.edu

A team of French doctors have carried out a successful operation on a human under "weightless" conditions in an aircraft adapted for this purpose. This trial is being seen as a first step to performing surgery in space. The doctors removed a benign tumor from a volunteer's arm, as their plane made a series of swoops to mimic a reduced-gravity environment. The doctors and patient were held down for the procedure, which was performed inside a sterile plastic tent. Instruments designed especially for this type of operation were given magnets to keep them attached to the metal operating table. (BBC)

Congress voted to give President Bush unprecedented authority to try suspected terrorists through military tribunals and to clarify rules for interrogating prisoners. The Senate voted 65-34 last Thursday to approve the legislation that Bush hoped to replace military tribunals declared illegal by the Supreme Court and to permit aggressive questioning of suspects by intelligence agents. The measure was supported by 53 Republicans and 12 Democrats. The bill was praised by Senator John McCain, who opposed Bush's demand that Congress make clear the commitments made under the Geneva Conventions intended to protect prisoners or war from mistreatment. (Bloomberg)

President George W. Bush made it known last Thursday that he thought Democrats do not have the stomach or the ability to fight the war on terror. Some attribute the move as battling back in the election-season clamor over the administrations intelligence showing terrorism spreading. "Five years after 9/11, the worst attack on the American homeland in our history, Democrats offer nothing but criticism and obstruction and endless second-guessing," Bush said at a fundraiser for a Republican governor. "The party of FDR and the party of Harry S. Truman has become the party of cut and run." Democrats immediately disputed that charge and said that they would hesitate in the battle against terror. (Forbes)

The dying wish of an empress has been fulfilled. Years after her death, when it seemed it would never happen, Maria Fyodorovna's body was moved to Russia. Fyodorovna was the wife of Alexander III and the mother of Czar Nicholas II. She died in 1928 in exile; therefore, the communist regime which had driven her from Russia would never have considered allowing her to be buried there. With the Soviet authorities long gone, the empress's remains were returned. She was re-buried next to her husband and her son in the Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg. (BBC)

## 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.

## Popping the pill



LANE TAYLOR

### Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

Sex causes plenty of anxiety. We worry about the time, place, setting, and whether or not our roommate will be busy that evening. On top of all these valid concerns, practicing safe sex reigns as the most important matter. However, what makes the concept difficult is that each individual has his or her own way of protecting themselves and their partner. The birth control pill, a form of hormonal contraception, is a popular form of reversible birth control that is available through prescription only and has a high rate of effectiveness. However, no form of contraception is right for everyone, and this article will help you and your partner decide whether or not the pill is for you.

Birth control pills, or oral contraceptives, combine hormones (estrogen and progestin) to prevent ovulation and thicken cervical mucus. Both methods prevent preg-

nancy by disallowing the sperm to reach the egg. In some cases, a progestin-only pill method may be prescribed to women unable to use combination methods. These "mini-pills" are also highly effective and work by thickening cervical mucus, but are less effective in preventing ovulation. It is important to understand that the thickening of cervical mucus alone is an effective way of preventing pregnancy (Planned Parenthood).

Both forms of hormonal oral contraception are purchased in packs containing 28 pills. In combination pills, 21 pills contain hormones and are taken during the first three weeks, while seven pills are inactive placebos that serve as a reminder and are usually taken during the time when a woman menstruates. Some packs now contain only 21 pills, and women using this method simply wait eight days after the pack is completed to start another pack instead of taking reminder pills. In progestin-only packs, there are 28 pills, each active and containing a hormone. The fourth week of use in progestin-only methods is also when a woman usually gets her period (Planned Parenthood).

One of the most important points to remember is that one pill has to be taken once a day, every day, for the pill to be effective. Taking the pill at the same time everyday is the right time, and missing pills significantly decreases effectiveness. If you're using oral contraception and you miss a pill, consult your informational packet to determine what you need to do next.

Certain medications also decrease the effectiveness of oral contraception and because of this, it is important to be truthful with your medical professional about the medications you are taking to ensure that there is no conflict. Some anti-HIV protease inhibitors, anti-seizure medications, oral anti-fungals, and the antibiotic Rifampin are believed to decrease the pill's effectiveness (Planned Parenthood). St. John's Wort is also believed to interfere with the pill, and it is important to discuss all medications and supplements (including vitamins) with the professional who is prescribing the pill.

Not everyone can take the pill, due to possible serious side effects. Blood clots and high blood pressure are rare side effects that are increased by older age and SMOK-

ING. In very rare cases, jaundice, gallstones, and liver tumors have also developed. If you have a history of any of these conditions or conditions associated with diabetes, history of stroke or heart attack, or have an abnormal growth, your medical professional may decide the pill is not for you. Other conditions may also cause the professional to keep you off the pill, however, instead, progestin-only pills can sometimes be prescribed. More common and much less severe side effects include breast tenderness, nausea, headache, moodiness, bleeding between periods (or "spotting"), and in cases of combination pills, weight fluctuation (Planned Parenthood).

The pill is also associated with good side effects, such as less cramping, lighter and more regular periods, decrease in acne, lower risk of certain cancers, less anemia, lower risk of osteoporosis, less vaginal dryness, and other advantages that can be gained by taking the pill (Planned Parenthood).

You can receive birth control counseling both at the Wellness Center and Planned Parenthood that will help you and your partner decide if "popping the pill" is right for you.

## Graduate School

Is grad school in your future? Are you wondering how to research programs and gain admission into competitive graduate programs?

Let Career Services help! Check out all the grad school resources in the Career Services Library and the wide variety of grad school links on the Career Services Web site ([www.ursinus.edu/career](http://www.ursinus.edu/career)). Be sure to seek advice from your faculty! Their knowledge of the field and of your interests will allow them to make helpful suggestions.

The complete grad school application will typically include an application form, an official college transcript, graduate entrance exam scores, letters of recommendation, a personal statement or essay, an application fee, and, sometimes, a personal interview. For information on these steps and a suggested timetable for application activity, schedule an appointment with a career advisor in the Career Services Office.

Plan on attending the upcoming program "Getting into Grad School," presented by nationally known author and speaker Don Asher, on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m., in Pfahler Auditorium. Asher will pump you up with graduate school admission strategies and terrific tips based on his popular book, "Graduate Admissions Essays: Write your way into the Graduate School of Your Choice."

And don't forget to sign up today to take a practice GRE, GMAT, LSAT, or MCAT during the Oct. 7 Fall Kaplan test drive. Call Career Services to reserve a spot. Stay tuned for more details on the new and revised GRE General Test, launching in the fall of 2007. Each of the GRE General Test's three sections--Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing--will feature different types of questions presented in new formats. The revised General Test will be slightly more than four hours long, an increase of about 90 minutes over the current two-and-a-half hour exam. An overview of the changes to the General Test and other information about the GRE Program are available on the GRE Web site at [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre).

## Catching up with Dane Cook

ALEX ERNST  
[alernst@ursinus.edu](mailto:alernst@ursinus.edu)

Recently, I had a chance to sit down and talk to Dane Cook as part of a nationwide roundtable interview to promote his new movie, "Employee of the Month," opening Oct. 6. For those of you unfamiliar with Dane Cook, he is first and foremost a fantastic comedian. His recent album, "Retaliation," has gone platinum and is the highest selling comedy album in the last 25 years. If that's not enough, Cook was also named one of *Time's* 100 most influential people. Needless to say, he's got pedigree.

Due to the freewheeling nature of the interview, Cook touched on issues ranging from his burgeoning movie career to the naked pictures girls send him on MySpace. I asked Dane about how his first album, "Harmful When Swallowed," came about. He recorded it at a Houston comedy club and edited it on weekends with a friend. Cook sold it over his Web site, boxing and shipping the first 8,000 copies with his brother. From there, he hired a distribution company which caught the attention of an executive from Comedy Central looking to start a record division, and was less than excited about Cook's prospects. "They said 'We don't expect it to do much. The comedy album is

dead and we don't think it can be defibrillated. If this sells 25,000 copies, that'll be a huge deal.' Within five or six months, we had sold 70,000 copies and it was still going strong." The album has since gained "gold" status.

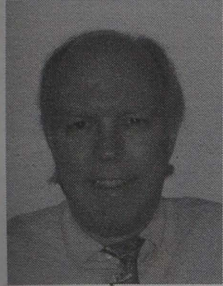
Dane also touched on the line between his stand-up and the script for "Employee of the Month." He has been friends with screenwriter Chris Conroy for years, and fate happened to bring the two together for the movie. Cook explained that there was a understanding that there would be time on the set to improvise and play around, but at the same time, they made sure that they had shot enough useable material from the script first. It seemed to be an "eat your vegetables and you can have dessert" mentality.

On a somewhat lighter note, Cook described his ultimate daydream. "I'm walking down the street with my buds in my ears, and I start dancing to a hip-hop fusion type beat, and everyone around me in the city starts dancing in a perfectly choreographed [dance] along with me..."

As a huge fan of Cook's work, I was extremely excited about conducting this interview, and I have to say that he did not disappoint. I would like to thank Dane Cook for his time and encourage everybody to check out "Employee of the Month," opening Oct. 6.

## Spotlight on UC professors: Dr. Bruce Rideout

**CORINNE LICCKETTO**  
coliccketto@ursinus.edu



Dr. Bruce Rideout, Professor of Psychology, has been at Ursinus since 1979. Perched in his Thomas office, Rideout maintains all the work for his four classes. He has taught his "usual" course, "Experimental Design and Statistics," over 54 times. Dr. Rideout enjoys teaching this because he constantly learns new things about the subject. Although this course is a department requirement, Bruce never tires of its slightly challenging ideals. His second course is "Sensation and Perception," in which he touches upon visual illusions. Dr. Rideout tends to think about the subject in a more philosophical way, which opens his students up for a different approach to the coursework. Bruce's third exciting course is "Environmental Psychology." The course itself is relatively new, thus, he is still working all the kinks out. Dr. Rideout pushes himself and his students to think about why humans are destroying the planet. This course studies the connection between human nature and actual nature. Bruce encourages all students to investigate this course, for the material deals with issues that affect us all. Lastly, Dr. Rideout teaches his stint in Psychology 100, in which he heavily focuses on the nervous system and sleep patterns.

Prior to his teachings at Ursinus College, Dr. Rideout taught at the University of Massachusetts while working towards his doctoral degree. He also taught at Cornell University before he came to Ursinus. He received his bachelor's degree at Boston University (BU), and oddly, his undergraduate degree was in economics. It was only after Bruce arrived at BU and had undergone some economic courses that he realized he would rather be studying neuroscience. However, had he switched majors, Dr. Rideout would have lost his student deferment and due to the state of the nation in the 60s, he would have been drafted to fight in the Vietnam War. Thus, Bruce finished his undergraduate in economics and later returned to BU to work for a second undergraduate degree in biology. After working alongside a neurophysiologist for one year, Dr. Rideout realized he would rather study behavioral science rather than neuroscience. He later earned his masters in psychology from Boston University.

Dr. Rideout has many hobbies outside of the classroom. He appreciates the art of

photography and enjoys taking pictures at his lake house in Maine. There, Bruce vacations with his two daughters, wife, and his extended family. He passes the days working on the upkeep of the house, which was built in 1884 by his great grandfather. Dr. Rideout also skis. He prefers cross-country skiing to downhill.

Dr. Rideout is extremely interested in environmental studies. He incorporates this into many of his classes and is continuing research on the issues. In 2000, Bruce released two articles pertaining to the attitudes of college students toward environmentalism. The data was based on his collected findings from Ursinus students.

He grew up outside of Boston and now lives locally in Collegeville, and yes, he is one of the professors that never cancels class because he "will walk through the deep snow" to get here! If you see Dr. Rideout around campus, be sure to say "Hello!"

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## Abstract mastery: exploring the outdoor sculpture collection

**ERIN "HALLIE" ANDREW**  
erandrew@ursinus.edu

We've all seen them. We walk by them every day, on our way to class, to the gym, or to Wismer. You can't ignore their presence--they are one of the few components of Ursinus College that never changes. Some look like misshapen tractors, some look like splintered trees, and several look like triangles with breasts. But few of us know where they came from, who created them, or what they mean. They are the pieces of artwork that make up the college's Outdoor Sculpture Collection.

The Outdoor Sculpture Collection started with the sculpture in front of Ritter, entitled "Aggressive Couple." You may know it as "The Red Pregnant Train Track Thingy." This piece was given to Ursinus by Philip and Muriel Berman in 1980. It was incorporated as one of the first of the many permanent structures in order to make the campus "an art-conscious community." It was created by an Israeli artist named Igal Tumarkin, and the Bermans included it because they felt it was "controversial, [and] thought-provoking, engaging viewers' responses in a predictably uneasy but irresistible way."

Turkamin says his work is inspired by "the events taking place around me, the history, the light, and landscape...and by the materials at hand...these serve as the vehicle for visual expression." Like most of the other sculptures on campus, Turkamin's works "pit found objects, with their latent histories, against the form and context of a new construction."

Ursinus is not the only college with an outdoor art show, so what makes this one so special? The difference between other college's collections and that of Ursinus is that our artwork is spread out over all 165 acres of campus. Rather than keep a few significant

pieces in one small area close to the museum, the Bermans wanted to lay out the sculptures across the property so that they would form "unique perceptual and physical gateways to the campus." Today, you can't go 100 yards on college grounds without running into one of these fantastic sculptures. And even though we may not realize it, we sometimes consider the artwork absent-mindedly while passing. Philip and Muriel should be glad to know that the students of today are (even if subconsciously) participating in their goal of seeing and exploring art.

The Sculpture Collection holds much more meaning than just a way of showing off good, sometimes abstract, art. The informative pamphlet on the Outdoor Sculpture (which you can pick up in Berman Museum) explains that the collection "represent[s] the ideology and aesthetics of the Bermans as collectors," as well as the college's goal of "integrating the visual arts into its intellectual and physical life." It is also argued that the collection symbolizes the diversity at Ursinus College "through the geographical and ethnic spread of the artists it represents."

If you're interested in learning more about the Outdoor Sculpture Collection, or about art work in general, stop by the Berman Museum of Art. It is open Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.



## Point/Counterpoint: forced suffrage? It's the American way

GABE HERMAN

gaherman@ursinus.edu

Participation in democratic government is something many individuals all over the world can only dream of. For Americans, participation is a characteristic of our government and society that a proliferation of people take for granted. Regardless of why people are disaffected by the current system of government, too few Americans exercise their civic duty at the ballot booth. America needs to enact laws that will make voting compulsory as a catalyst for substantially higher voter turnout rates, but also in order to lower campaign cost, increase the legitimacy of national politics, and create an electorate that is educated and informed.

Voter turnout and participation are the most commonly noted reasons for the United States government to pass legislation mandating citizens to vote. In America, it is each citizen's civic duty to go to the polls and vote. Americans are privileged by some of the greatest opportunities that the world has to offer. Just as people are mandated to pay taxes, so to must people be forced to vote to preserve the prosperity of our country.

American government is designed to represent the people and do so in an equal and fair manner. People who choose not to vote are not represented and skew the accurate representation our government attempts to achieve. The result of close to 100 percent voter turnout would also legitimize the officials that are elected. Elected officials would represent the choice of the entire country as opposed to the half of the population that currently votes.

One of the most overlooked reasons to promote a law to mandate compulsory voting would be the effect it would have on election campaigns. People who run for office would end up spending far less money, centralizing their politics, and devoting more time to earning the support of swing voters. Because people will have to vote, candidates will devote increased time appealing to swing voters.

Many believe Americans are protected from being forced to vote by the First Amendment. Not voting is protected being an act of freedom of expression. Citizens are able to choose not to vote rather than for a specific candidate. Allowing people to cast a vote for "none of the above" will eliminate this problem. People would not be forced to pledge faith in a party; simply the act of going to the polling station would be mandatory.

The most overlooked and beneficial reason why voting must be compulsory is to educate our society. It is unfortunate how little knowledge and understanding people have about candidates and the functions of our government. In countries over the world where voting is compulsory there is a higher understanding of the actions, workings, and reasonings in politics. The likelihood that Americans will become more aware of elected officials and educated about American politics is reason enough to mandate compulsory voting. Nothing negative can come by educating Americans and aiding in more knowledgeable voter decisions.

America prides itself on being a land of opportunity. For many people around the world that opportunity comes with freedoms, including the ability to participate in one's government. Unfortunately, a surplus of Americans, for many reasons, do not run to the polls and vote. In order to create an educated electorate and a more accurately representative government, citizens must be forced to vote.

## Know the issues first

SIMON MARCUS

simarcus@ursinus.edu

I'm sure you've all heard this adage many, many times before: the one I like to call the gun-to-the-head scenario. It's Friday night, and you're at your favorite restaurant, trying to decide between the steak and the chicken. After an eternity of contemplation, your companion is finally fed up, giving you the added incentive of a hypothetical gun put to your head, forcing you to decide between one and the other. Eventually you settle on the steak, maybe just because you have a yen for steak, even though you have no idea which dish is genuinely better. You're pretty satisfied with the choice, but boy, that chicken might have been awfully tasty.

Before I get any more ridiculously off-track than I already have, allow me to provide an analogy. Imagine that that Friday night is a Tuesday night in November, your favorite restaurant is actually your favorite polling place, and the steak and the chicken are your choices for the next President of the United States. Your much-exasperated friend is the long arm of the law, and that imaginary gun to your head is a potential compulsory voting law. Under this practice, each and every citizen would be required to vote in elections, lest they face fines or imprisonment. Suddenly, a simple steak dinner is much more than you bargained for.

The law hearkens to the idea that voting in a democracy is a citizen's duty, akin to paying taxes and fulfilling jury duty. After all, in an ideal democracy, a vote represents the will of the majority of the entire population, but our democracy isn't exactly ideal, as seen in a startling decline in overall voting numbers. Like many, I'm very worried about this lack of a voting base, and I genuinely believe everything I just said about voting being an important factor in maintaining the voice of the people. However, the way I see it, transforming the right to vote into law that if not exercised means criminal punishment is not the way to go about making voting matter, for a number of reasons.

In order to increase America's base of voters, an average citizen needs a genuine desire to vote and make his or her opinions heard. Forcing the public to get up and go to the polls, in a way holding that gun to their heads, will make voting seem like nothing more than a nuisance rather than a privilege and something they are ready and willing to do. The people's choice to vote should be spurred by their caring about the issues and their motivation to make a difference. Putting the idea of jail time in the public's heads lest they get up and vote will get more people to vote, yes, but for all the wrong reasons: voting would be done simply out of the simple fear of breaking a law, rather than a genuine interest in taking an active role in one's government.

Speaking of caring about the issues, an important factor to consider with the idea of compulsory voting is actual knowledge of the issues that affect an election. Yes, well under half the population votes regularly, and this is undeniably disturbing. However, consider why many of the masses do not vote. Sure, it may just be plain laziness, but it has to be assumed that many of these individuals aren't aware of the candidates' stances on important issues or just don't care. If these people are forced to vote without any knowledge of the different candidates, what

**Cont'd on Page 7**

## Just in time for Christmas

Last week, I found myself perusing my favorite website (youtube.com) and I discovered a certain toy that was absolutely bone-chilling to the core. I'm sure anyone who reads this article will remember the Battle of Tickle Me Elmo, which occurred during Christmas 1996. Many lives were lost in the bloodshed, but the toy itself stood tall. Thankfully, over the years, the toy slipped back into pop culture obscurity. That is, until now.



**GREY JOHNSON**  
**The Warm Side of the Door**

While on Youtube, I saw the new generation of the Elmo doll. For the purposes of me not wanting to do responsible research for my articles, I will call the said doll Tickle Me Elmo XTREME!! The new Tickle Me

Elmo appears to be quite upgraded, as it can literally pick itself off the ground after being tickled senseless by a small child. It also apparently can detect how many times it has been tickled; by the fifth time in a row you try to tickle Elmo, he sounds very annoyed and probably needs a cigarette.

Clearly this toy is absolutely horrible and should not be sold to any consumer, regardless of age. My opinion about the doll then got me thinking: what gifts this Christmas could be worse than the Tickle Me Elmo XTREME!!! Without further ado, I present a few options:

### **Dog the Bounty Hunter pull-chord doll**

I think it's overdue that the world's best bounty hunter should get his own doll. Mr. Dog has been captivating nations by capturing dangerous baddies on the AMC channel for years. The doll would of course come with a well-groomed mullet and wacky catchphrases. Also, I'd make sure the doll breaks down, weeps uncontrollably, and prays with convicts he catches. Sadly, the doll has so many factory problems that Mexican officials are actually seeking extradition after it killed a young child in Tijuana.

### **The Boys of The Grizzly 2007 calendar**

Yeah, I don't think any child should be subjected to this during the holidays. Really, do you want your children introduced to a picture of Matt Flyntz dressed up as Karl Marx as he dances around a gigantic hammer and sickle? I think not. Once purchased, the consumer will notice the picture for the months of May through September is the same photo of Chris Curley staring out intently into a sunset while a lone eagle flies overhead. This is because we ran out of people and ideas.

### **Oregon Trail action figure set**

When I was a kid, I always wished they made a set of action figures from my favorite computer game. It would feature exciting characters, such as the banker, the farmer, and the carpenter. The toy wagons would be designed to only carry 150 pounds of toy food after you've shot one of the toy buffalo. Also included would be the friendly Native American that offers to take your wagon across the river for the nominal fee of fifteen sets of clothing.

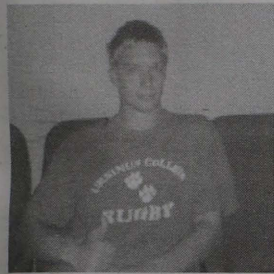
Remember, Christmas is just around the corner, and don't be afraid to scar a young child for life courtesy of giving him a horrible gift. You'll be doing the nation a favor.

*Grey just discovered how to use italics on his computer. Send him your congratulations at grjohnson@ursinus.edu.*



## Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998)

This week I was really torn as to which movie I was going to review: *Blues Brothers* or *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (FLV)*? Should I do the adventures of a mismatched duo in a slapstick musical packed with cameos and quotable lines, or the adventures of a mismatched duo in a psychedelic drug trip packed with cameos and quotable lines? I'll do *Blues Brothers* next week. It's time for a "whole collection of multicolored uppers, downers, laughers, screamers." It's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*.



**ALEX ERNST**  
The Back Row

Along the way, they snort, drink, and inject their way through a series of misadventures with the denizens of Las Vegas, circa 1971.

With a movie this psychedelic, I don't even know where to begin. Johnny Depp once again proved himself to be the human chameleon with his dead-on portrayal of Thompson, especially his characteristic manner of speaking which, no matter what the emotion, always retains a strong element of deadpan. One of my absolute favorite moments is when Depp screams out (while hallucinating swarms of swooping bats after shooting mass quantities of cocaine), "We can't stop here! This is bat country!" (I guess you had to be there.) Benicio Del Toro also brings it with his portrayal of the sometimes rational, sometimes stoned-out-of-his-mind-to-the-point-that-you're-afraid-to-turn-your-back-on-him overweight Samoan lawyer. Along their twisted journey there are a number of celebrity cameos that feel more like hallucinations on your part. They include, but are not limited to, Cameron Diaz, Christina Ricci, Penn Jillette of Penn & Teller, Tobey Maguire, and Lyle Lovett. My personal favorite is Gary Busey as the highway patrolman who tells Duke to kiss him.

For a movie this packed with crazy imagery, Terry Gilliam was the absolute best choice to have in the director's chair. Better known as the American member of Monty Python who was responsible for the show's disjointed animation, Gilliam successfully manages to make the viewer feel as if they are experiencing every drug Duke and Gonzo take, right down to the different highs (and lows). Using different pacing, imagery, and distortions, Gilliam makes every trip the drugged up duo embarks on unique. My personal favorite moment occurs after the pair flees from a restaurant to embark on their trip and more ostensibly, to skip out on the check. As they peel away from the valet, an angel holding a flaming sword watches them leave. You have to love that not only is this a reference to *Genesis* and the departure from the Garden of Eden, but after the movie ends, you'll

The plot (what little there is) goes something like this: journalist Raoul Duke (Johnny Depp), aka Hunter S. Thompson, and his lawyer Dr. Gonzo (Benicio Del Toro) go on a trip to find the "American Dream" with the aid of a suitcase packed full of just about every narcotic known to man stowed away in the trunk of their cherry-red convertible.

## A modest proposal

Recently, the Discovery Institute, a Christian think tank most widely known for its promotion of "Intelligent Design," has announced plans to work with Senator Rick Santorum in designing a new "equal opportunity" curriculum for American public schools. The Discovery Institute and Senator Santorum have a fond history together: Santorum once attempted to insert a provision in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 that would call for the teaching of "Intelligent Design" along side of evolution. Ultimately, this provision did not become law. However, the Discovery Institute and Santorum will not give up so easily; they march on together.

The president of the Discovery Institute, Bruce Chapman, and Santorum issued the following joint statement:

"It is our heartfelt opinion that a solid education requires that students hear all sides of an issue. This kind of education extends beyond the science classroom. So, while we still urge Congress to support Intelligent Design, we are here today to propose changes to the broader curriculum. Let us begin with History. History teachers claim to teach 'facts.' However, they get these 'facts' from historical documents and historical record keeping. For instance, we have come to understand the founding of our great nation through examination of the notes kept by the founders during meetings of the Continental Congress. But, let us pose a question: who are the greatest record keepers of all time? Here are just a few: Matthew, John, Luke, Mark. Yes, for too long, the Bible's historical significance has been ignored in public schools. We suggest that the Bible be required reading in all History classes. These great men were historians, and to omit them from the classroom simply because they followed the teachings of the Lord amounts to no more than secu-



**MATT FLYNTZ**  
**DAN SERGEANT**  
Communism for Dummies

ponder how this fits into the general scheme of things or if Gilliam just felt like throwing something in to screw with the viewer's minds.

This week, I really struggled to come up with a recommendation that was on par with *FLV*. Nothing could approach the sheer level of drug-induced imagery and still be as funny and compelling. So instead of making a recommendation, I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from this pick that, while making no sense out of context, may pique your curiosity to the point where you'll take a chance and try something new. Here goes: "How long could we maintain? I wondered. How long until one of us starts raving and jabbering at this boy? What will he think then? This same lonely desert was the last known home of the Manson family; will he make that grim connection when my attorney starts screaming about bats and huge manta rays coming down on the car? If so, well, we'll just have to cut his head off and bury him somewhere, 'cause it goes without saying that we can't turn him loose. He'd report us at once to some kind of outback Nazi law enforcement agency and they'll run us down like dogs. Jesus, did I say that? Or just think it? Was I talking? Did they hear me?"

Have an opinion? Don't be shy!  
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maflyntz@ursinus.edu

lar persecution of religion. We are by no means suggesting that Christianity should be *taught* or that the contemporary academic view of History is *wrong*, and suggesting that either the Discovery Institute or Senator Santorum has an 'agenda' would be childish. We simply seek the best education for our children.

With that in mind, let us turn to English and literature. Throughout their education, American students read the classics: "Death of a Salesman," "The Scarlet Letter," "Of Mice and Men," "The Lord of the Flies," "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "Beowulf," "Hamlet," etc. But, one undeniable classic has been arbitrarily removed from this list: the Bible. The Bible is a very important piece of literary non-fiction. The plot is very involved, and the characters are dynamic. The word choice is impeccable; indeed, it is infallible. In short, the Bible is a great piece of literature. Once again, we would never suggest that Christian morality be instilled in American students. We simply believe that reading the Bible is essential for the development of a true understanding of literary history.

For too long academic, liberal, and secular elites have developed curricula unchallenged, leading to a bland, one-sided education for our children. Our children deserve better. They deserve not only to be taught what is right, but also what is wrong. It is up to them to make that determination for themselves. Thank you, and may God bless you all."

*Matt Flyntz and Dan Sergeant would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Communism for Dummies is, and always will be, a work of satire. It is not our fault that Bruce Chapman and Rick Santorum are probably dumb enough to actually support an idea like this leading people to believe this is a piece of "real news." All notices of libel litigation should be sent to maflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.*

## Voting (Cont'd from Page 6)

would the results signify? If anything, many of your typical non-voters may just pick whichever name sounds cooler. I certainly wish and hope for as high a voting turnout as possible, whenever possible, but before this can happen, the public needs to know just who they're voting for and what they're voting on. Simply pushing a button to fulfill a voting requirement accomplishes nothing, and perhaps is even a detriment to the democratic system, until the average citizen knows just why he or she is pushing that button.

Whether deciding on your president for the next four years or deciding between the steak and the chicken, it will never do for someone to hold the gun to your head and tell you to pick one, right then, right there, or else. Voting is a right in a democracy such as ours. It shouldn't have to be enforced by a fear-inducing law. For the sake of the entire democratic process, appreciate that right, and know who and what you're actually choosing. It doesn't have to be a chore or a scare tactic.

## Bears terrorize McDaniel, ending nine-year streak

**MATTHEW PASTOR**  
mapastor@ursinus.edu

For the past nine years, Ursinus has opened Centennial Conference play with a loss at the hands of McDaniel; some games were close, some were not, but the same outcome always followed. After nine years of hard work and no reward, the Bears finally got their revenge during Family Day with a 20-0 mauling of the Green Terror to start the season off 4-0 for the first time since 1996.

It was an all-around effort from both sides of the ball as the Ursinus defense continued its dominance by not allowing a single point and the offense opened up the playbook a little bit to give McDaniel headaches all day.

Senior quarterback Ted Wallingford paced the offense with 220 yards on 15-30 passing and a plethora of running backs tallied over 200 yards rushing to show that it's not just a great defense that can win games for the Bears. The Bears' defense is certainly the best in the conference, allowing only four net rushing yards in the game and going eight consecutive quarters without allowing a single point. Kieran Gorman led the Bears' defense with eight tackles and two interceptions, while Mike Trio was a nuisance all day in the McDaniel backfield, recording five tackles including two sacks on shifty McDaniel quarterback Brad Baer.

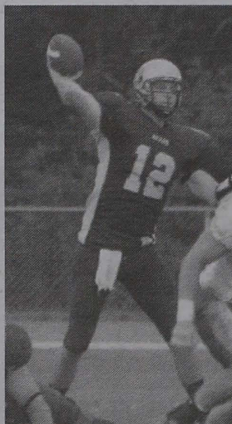
The offense was shaky at first, but was

able to settle down late in the first quarter as Wallingford was able to drive the Bears' offense down the field in ten plays that ended in a touchdown, thanks to great blocking from the Bears' offensive line and backfield. Senior running back David Ashworth practically walked into the end zone from five yards out and the point after was good to give Ursinus an early 7-0 lead heading into the second quarter. During the drive, Wallingford completed three passes for 49 yards that helped set up Ashworth's five yard run.

The second quarter was much of the same as Wallingford again led the Bears down the field. In an eight play drive that completed in another Ursinus touchdown, Wallingford was able to connect with senior wide out Josh Hannum twice for 53 yards as the Bears found themselves knocking on the door once again, this time on the McDaniel one yard line. Wallingford called his own number this time and plunged in from the one yard line to give the Bears a 13-0 lead heading into the locker rooms at halftime. Unfortunately the extra point was blocked, but special teams coordinator Kevin Barger is working diligently to tune that up!

Since the defense did not allow a point all game, the black shirts figured they would

help the offense out by allowing sophomore defensive back DeVohn Butler carry the ball a few times. It only took one play for the defense to score on offense as Butler took a toss from Wallingford, ran to his right, broke a tackle, reversed direction, stiff-armed a McDaniel defensive lineman, and took it around the left sideline for an amazing 68 yard touchdown run. Butler got help from a few key blocks from the offense and a crushing hit from Wallingford. The extra point was good, the crowd went nuts, and the Bears took a commanding 20-0 lead on the visiting Green Terror.



The rest of the game was a defensive showcase as the Bears' defense continued to pound on the Green Terror offense, not allowing any hope of coming back. The Bears' defense is a like swarm of killer bees (or a pack of bears) with eleven golden helmets surrounding the ball on every down. To be quite honest, these eleven guys are nasty, and the Bears have a championship-quality defense which is hard to come by. In 16 quarters of football, the Bears have allowed *one* touchdown. Thanks to some fast math by senior offensive guard Brandon Hasse, the Bears' defense allows an average of 1.25 points a game, which means they can basically win the game them-

selves by scoring a safety. However, that wouldn't be any fun, and the offense likes scoring touchdowns anyways.

For his efforts, Ted Wallingford was selected as Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week for his 15-30, 220 passing yards, and one rushing touchdown effort against McDaniel. This marks the fourth consecutive week that a member of the Ursinus Bears football team has earned the honor on offense or defense.

So if you haven't heard already, the Ursinus Bears have something special going for them so far this year. The Bears now take their 4-0 record on the road for the next three weeks starting this weekend in Cleveland, OH against a very good 3-1 Case Western reserve squad. It's an eight hour trip, but, if you are a true Ursinus Bear, the football team hopes to see you there. Kickoff is this Saturday, Oct. 7, at 12 p.m.

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## Women split, Men earn first conference point

**TYLER JOHNSON**  
tyjohnson@ursinus.edu

Following two heartbreaking losses at Gettysburg and at Rutgers-Camden, the women's soccer team was defeated by Dickinson 3-1 on Saturday, Sept. 23 before trouncing Washington 3-0 two days later. The split results from the two critical conference games left the Bears with an overall record of 3-4-0, and a Centennial Conference record of 1-2.

Ursinus started strong against conference powerhouse Dickinson and took a 1-0 lead in the 28th minute after defender Lauren Washam's direct kick found Elizabeth Cannon. Their advantage lasted a mere five minutes, as Dickinson's Sarah Casey scored the first of her two goals to even the score in the 33rd. Both teams had ample opportunities in the second half, but the visiting Red Devils proved the cooler heads in front of the net. Two goals resulting from corner kicks, including a 59th minute strike by Lisa Nichols and 62nd minute goal by Casey, proved decisive. Reserve striker Chelsea Morin put two of her three shots on goal and goalkeepers Ashley Potter and Lisa Clark registered two saves apiece for the Bears.

The Bears rebounded from the Dickinson loss in dramatic fashion, outplaying a severely overmatched Washington side. The Shorewomen managed only one shot on the afternoon, while the Bears put thirteen of their 28 shots on frame. Freshman Jess Gunzelman put the Bears in front with her first collegiate goal a mere five minutes into the match. Gunzelman tucked a cross from Melissa Reuter into the corner of the net and Ursinus never looked back. The Bears found the net again in the 30th minute, when striker Amanda Leatherman scored her third goal of the season. Gunzelman completed the scoring early in the second half, when she finished a deflection of Lauren Washam's 54th minute blast. Washam was given credit for the assist, representing her second in two matches. Goalkeepers Lisa Clark and Jackie Chen combined for the shut-out.

The men's soccer team fell to Dickinson 3-0 at home, but earned a point in the conference thanks to an impressive 1-1

tie against conference rival Haverford. The results leave the Bears with an overall record of 0-6-2, and a Centennial Conference record of 0-2-1.

The Bears struggled to generate offensive opportunities throughout their match against Dickinson and were forced to play from behind after yielding an early goal. The Red Devil's Dale Rodman scored in the twelfth minute to open the scoring, quickly followed by a 21st minute strike by Carlyle Balfour. Freshman goalkeeper Joseph Kenney started the match for the Bears and played 31 minutes, giving up two goals and making three saves. Dickinson scored a goal late in the match on regular Bears keeper Ed de Gottal, but the match was already out of reach. The Bears managed five shots while conceding nine in a match that was largely a midfield battle.

Ursinus and Haverford entered tied at zero, despite the Fords' 12-4 first

half shot advantage. After falling behind 1-0 thanks to 57th minute goal by Haverford's Eric Kissinger, the Bears began to dominate play and were rewarded midway through the second half. Transfer midfielder John George finished a pass from Ted Hooven in the 64th minute, drawing Ursinus even and posting his first points as an Ursinus Bear. It was the first goal the team had scored since their 3-1 loss to Goucher over two weeks earlier. Tied after regulation, the teams entered extra time. Neither team was able to finish in overtime, although Bears freshman midfielder Ryan Murray's blast from the top of the box hit the underside of the crossbar. The scoreless period left the teams tied at one apiece and gave both clubs their first point in the conference standings. Bears goalkeeper Ed de Gottal was spectacular throughout the match, totaling a career high twelve saves and snatching numerous threatening crosses from onrushing Ford attackers. The Bears were also able to create a substantial number of scoring opportunities, outshooting the Fords 15-12 in the second half and in extra time.

