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The Grizzly, April 19, 2007

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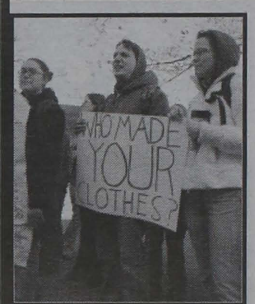
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The Grizzly

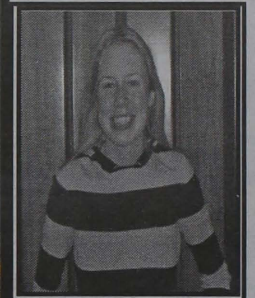
Thursday, April 19, 2007

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

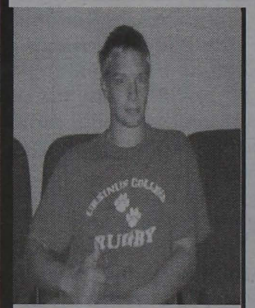
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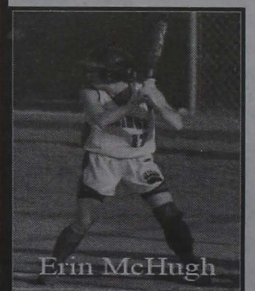
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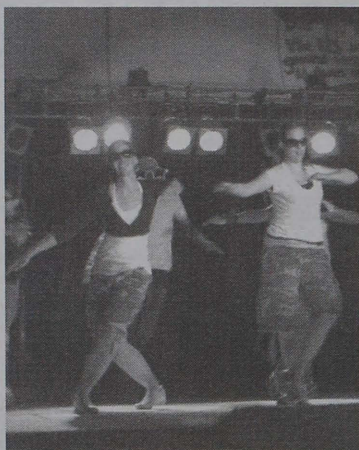
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Airband 2007 entertains UC and raises money for a good cause

Airband a success

CORINNE LICCKETTO

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Ursinus hosted its 24th Annual Airband Concert on Friday, April 13. The event was held in Wismer Dining Hall at 8 p.m. The cafeteria was transformed into a hip spot for a Friday night, with dimmed lights and loud music.

Tickets sold for \$7 pre-sale and \$10 at the door. This year's proceeds were donated to the Collegeville community to provide money to revitalize Collegeville Park. The funds will be used to support the building of a Veteran's Memorial, new pavilion, play areas, playground equipment, and even a skating area.

Airband is open to the Collegeville public, and this year, the donation of proceeds directly strengthened the bond between the community and the college.

Over 500 people attended Airband and over 100 participants were involved

in the show.

The stage looked like an 80s party at one point. Spandex, lycra, and colorful wind-pants were everywhere. It was clear, however, that all of the performers put time and planning into their skits. Residence Life organized the event, bringing in student volun-

Omega Chi blood drive

SALIA ZOUANDE

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The sisters of Omega Chi sorority organized a blood drive on campus last week. Members of Ursinus College faculty, staff, and students helped make a difference in the lives of people in the community by donating blood. It was almost difficult not to notice or escape the messages written on the big ads on campus exhorting people to come out and donate blood for the cause.

This blood drive was affiliated with the American Red Cross, which generously sent a truck over during the two days that the drive lasted, along with quality personnel to make sure that for the squeamish, this act of giving blood was not their worst experience.

The blood that Ursinus students donated will go to surrounding Philadelphia hospitals and help save the lives of many people in need of blood transfusion.

Recall that back in October, The Omega Chi sisters had their biggest blood drive event ever, with over 160 people signing to donate blood. About 124 units of blood were donated by students that day, and the Sisters of Omega Chi vowed to have another blood drive event this April.

The goal of the Omega Chi sisters was to have 100 pints donated by the end of both days, but once again, the people responded massively to the event. The sisters surpassed their goal by having 59 pints donated on Tuesday and 64 pints donated on Wednesday, which add up to 123 units of blood that had been donated nearly reaching last blood drive's record. Roughly 369 lives will be saved, when the blood donated is divided into red blood cells and plasma.

Omega Chi has been sponsoring the blood drive since 2002 and this year has been their most successful yet. Usually, the amount of donated blood does not break 100 units.

Juniors Tarah Pearson and Danielle Garcia are the community service chairs of Omega Chi. The sisters volunteered their time to help in the recovery area and registration, making sure that the drive ran smoothly.

For any information or questions concerning the American Red Cross or things you can do to help the community, you can contact a member of Omega Chi or go online to visit the American Red Cross Web site, at www.redcross.org, to learn more about the nationwide blood drive campaign currently taking place and places where you can give blood outside campus.

teers, faculty members, and an eager audience. Resident Advisors Whitney Woodall and Danielle Langdon led the show as the MC's and welcomed all ten acts to perform.

The faculty and staff kicked off the night with a classy country act. Many of the notable performers of the piece included Ed Gildea, Domenick Scudera, and Lynne Edwards.

Despite the success of all of the acts, Escape Velocity Dance Troupe won Best Overall Performance. Their fast-paced dance routine was a crowd pleaser. Flips, twists, and kicks were spread throughout their performance.

Phi Alpha Psi was small in representation but they packed a lot into their quick performance. Their 80s dance/workout routine brought humor and scandalous moves to the stage.

U Phi D danced to a montage of songs from the "Moulin Rouge" soundtrack. The costumes were unique and very reminiscent of the movie. Overall, this segment gave the audience a special theatrical performance.

The Resident Advisor/Resident Director performance was another crowd pleaser. With so many friendly, familiar faces in the routine, students and viewers paid close attention.

DIME, a group composed of freshman students, represented the class of 2010. A close runner-up to Escape Velocity's number-one performance, these students choreographed an energetic group routine. Kappa Delta Kappa sorority performed under the premise of being committed to a mental institution, which provided an innovated and vibrant stage presence.

Tau Sigma Gamma, which was also awarded with the awards for costumes and comedy, also delighted the audience with their vivid outfits and upbeat theme. Other group performances were presented by Alpha Sigma Nu and the UC Ambassadors, each bringing their unique talents to the stage.

This fundraiser joins together the community and the college every year. Thank you to those who organized the event and spent their own time to give back to the local town.

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 spring, the following member of the faculty is being reviewed for tenure:

Dr. Jonathan Marks, Politics

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 April 27, 2007.

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31, Issue 24

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Hillel Holocaust discussion

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We are the last generation with the opportunity to speak to Holocaust survivors face to face. This idea set the theme for Hillel's Holocaust talk on Monday, April 9. Nineteen people came to Hillel House for dinner and discussion, necessitating some creative thinking about how to fit them all at the dinner table. A computer desk, another table cloth, and a willingness to sit very close to one's neighbor made it possible.

Three of those in attendance at the discussion had grandparents who had witnessed the Holocaust. Russell Oeste, a World War II veteran who saw action on the European front, also came to give his perspective on this important issue. Also in attendance were Dan Brooks from a group for third-generation Holocaust survivors—that is, those whose grandparents experienced the horror of the concentration camps—and Jamie, from a group based at New York University that meets to talk about and interpret the Holocaust.

Discussion was vibrant and varied, as Ursinus students, the three guests, and other members of the community talked about topics as diverse as Jewish identity, Holocaust denial, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the recent Ursinus performance of "Seeing Double," and the relationship between Jews and other minority groups.

Far from a quiet remembrance or a timid trading of platitudes, Ursinus students and others freely spoke their minds and shared their stories. People of different generations communicated about the gap between the World War II generation's and current college students' perceptions of Judaism.

Russell pointed out that most of the Jewish friends he knew growing up in Atlantic City hid the fact that they were Jewish, and he admonished the Jewish people in attendance to be proud of their heritage.

Freshman Gabe Herman said he feels there is "a general apathy among youth when it comes to Judaism." Russell lauded Jewish contributions. "The Jewish people gave us

culture, they gave us one God." He also expressed skepticism that anti-Semitism could ever be completely wiped out in a country dominated by Christians. As Dan pointed out, many young people today embrace a more universal perspective, the idea that one culture or religion's narrative isn't better than another.

Senior Phil Serebrenick thought the focus of the conversation was turning too far toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and away from the main issue, defending the legitimacy of stories of Holocaust victims in an age when "people are actively fighting against this history, not just passively."

Several attendees shared the stories of their grandparents as everyone listened silently. Jamie told the tale of her grandfather who spent four years in Auschwitz. The Nazis trained him as a boxer and pitted him against other concentration camp inmates for their own entertainment. He was one of ten children: three made it, but his parents and his other seven siblings were killed. Dan pointed out that even some Jews who survived the camps were shot and killed upon returning home by their neighbors in a Europe that was still very much fearful and distrustful of Jewish people. Consequently, many Jews bought handguns after the war out of necessity.

Senior Dina Yarmus told the story of her Jewish grandfather who was hidden from the Nazis in Vichy-governed Paris with her Catholic grandmother. Referring to the large number of non-Jews at the discussion, Dina said, "It really comforts me to see non-Jewish people at Holocaust discussions," and stressed the importance of allies in the struggle to keep the stories of Holocaust victims alive and fight anti-Semitism wherever it creeps up.

As junior Ali Wagner pointed out, there is a detachment which comes from not seeing something for yourself. But by having this discussion, Ursinus Hillel encouraged people to immerse themselves in stories of the Shoah, to actively fight to keep the lessons learned from it from being lost, and to put those lessons into practice. What that means—perhaps fighting anti-Semitism and discrimination generally, supporting peace in the Middle East, or fighting genocide like that occurring in Darfur—is up to us to decide.

Letter to the editor

To Whom It May Concern:

As of April 4, Ursinus' administration has agreed to affiliate with the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), an independent organization which helps colleges and universities monitor the conditions in which apparel which bears their logo is being made. Furthermore, Ursinus is now committed to the implementation of the WRC's Designated Suppliers Program, an initiative to actively promote worker's rights in the global garment industry. The DSP ensures that clothing orders from member schools are given to factories which meet a set of worker's rights standards (for instance, paying workers a fair wage and respecting their right to organize). The program is the first of its kind in that it allows university students to assert power over the international supply chain in an industry which is often shiftless and where accountability to workers is often lacking. Ursinus College is the 31st institution to adopt the DSP, whose other member schools include Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, and the ten campuses of the University of California system. Ursinus is also the first school in the state of Pennsylvania to adopt.

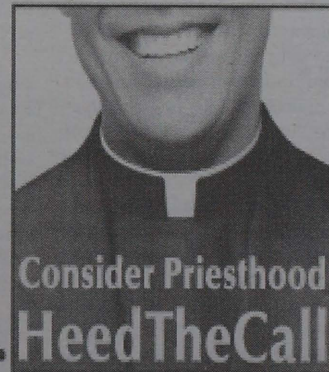
Many members of the Ursinus community, including students, faculty, and staff, have supported our campaign to adopt the DSP, demonstrating that the initiative has served not only to promote the cause of worker's rights internationally, but also to promote a sense of community, purpose, and enthusiasm about social activism on Ursinus' campus. All of these individuals have our heartfelt thanks. We would like also to thank Ursinus' administration for their willingness to take a leadership role in advancing this revolutionary program, to apply the ideals of liberal arts education embodied in our mission statement to Ursinus' business practices and, above all, to recognize the earnest desire on the part of the student body for substantive social change. While students campaigning on similar issues across the country have been treated with indifference and disrespect by college administrators, Ursinus' leadership has engaged members of the college community in an open discussion.

Adoption of the DSP is merely the first step in an ongoing commitment which must be maintained by students and concerned members of the community. For those interested in furthering this commitment by engaging with other concerned students, WeCAN meetings are held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in Unity House. For more information on the DSP, please visit <http://www.workersrights.org>.

Sincerely,

WeCAN Executive Board

You've answered other calls...
Now, respond to His.



Consider Priesthood
www.HeedTheCall.org

For more information, contact
Fr. Christopher Rogers, Vocation Director at
610-667-5778 or fcrogers@adphila.org



VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

What dreams may come...



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

The first "Making of the Band" produced by MTV resulted in a boy band that performed songs typical of the late 90s and early 21st century, with one exception. The gentlemen of "O-Town," to which they were referred (a reference to Orlando, Florida), performed a song by the name of "Liquid Dreams," discussing their ideal woman and her potential to be "the star of [their] liquid dream (Songlyrics.com)." Yes, it's true; O-town found it fitting to

make a "wet dream" reference. In spite of its borderline level of appropriateness and arguably sexist notion of the "ideal woman," I applaud O-Town for openly discussing (or singing) about a common sexual experience, even if the lyrics are sub-par at best. Though the band did bring up the issue, they hardly discussed it in detail, encouraging me to explore the idea of wet dreams and delve deeper into the information that O-Town left out.

Wet dreams, or nocturnal emissions, are arousing dreams that cause men to ejaculate while sleeping. Nocturnal emissions allow the body to alleviate an excess of sperm, or a "build-up," harmlessly during the night. Interestingly, many men do not remember the arousing dreams, and discover that they experienced the nocturnal emission the next morning. Adult and adolescent males may experience wet dreams, and they can begin or end during childhood or adolescence, or continue through adulthood. Some men never experience nocturnal emissions; there is no standard, any amount (even zero) of wet dreams is normal (Platner, 2003).

Nocturnal emissions occur naturally in accordance with the human sleep cycle. Men and women may experience arousal during the Rapid Eye Movement (REM) stage of the cycle, during which men will experience numerous erections and women will experience vaginal lubrication. (REM sleep typically lasts from several to 30 minutes.) During REM sleep, arousing dreams can occur that when combined with the feeling of pressure on the erect penis

against a mattress, can lead to a nocturnal emission. Nocturnal emissions occur less frequently in men who masturbate or engage in sexual activity. However, that is not to imply that the desire to avoid nocturnal emissions should force someone into a relationship or situation for which they are not ready. Again, nocturnal emissions are completely normal and healthy in any amount (Platner, 2003).

Though nocturnal emissions are typically considered a male phenomenon, women may experience similar events. Because women may also experience arousal during REM sleep, they can become aroused enough to secrete fluid from their vaginas. However, women usually do not notice that they've experienced a wet dream because the amount of liquid produced is much smaller than that produced by men. Also, while erections allow for significant stimulation during sleep, the clitoris is much smaller and thus does not experience the same pressure as an erect penis during sleep (Platner, 2003).

Though nocturnal emissions are often viewed as an embarrassing situation (especially in a university setting where one may have a roommate), they are an almost universal experience. As humans, we often fail to embrace our sexuality in spite of the fact that it is inherent to our survival and quite an enjoyable pastime. We should take this opportunity to gain from the work of O-Town and not feel shame for our "liquid dreams," but enjoy them. Because if you've been a member of a fading boy band, you are more aware of anyone what truly dictates shame.

-Information taken from TeenWire.com, a Planned Parenthood affiliate.

The ivory-billed woodpecker: not extinct!

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If you have ever been intrigued by the legend of Big Foot, you may also be interested in the modern-day ghost species, the ivory-billed woodpecker. The once-thought extinct bird has been causing a stir in the ornithologist community as scientists are finding evidence that it is, in fact, alive! With more and more people claiming to have caught a glimpse of the brilliant black, white, and red woodpecker, scientists have made a living seeking to prove the bird's existence. Fascinated by these incredible findings, the Ursinus College Environmental Studies program organized an opportunity for faculty and students to have great insight into the rare chance of finding a species thought to be extinct.

On Monday, April 16, Ursinus College faculty and students were graced with the presence of a man who has actually seen this bird. Tim Gallagher, a lifelong bird fanatic, came to Ursinus to explain the story of his successful efforts to prove that the ivory-billed woodpecker is still alive, while presenting his book, "The Grail Bird: The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker," which details his experiences. An award-winning writer and photographer, Gallagher is the editor in chief of "Living Bird" magazine, a publication of the renowned Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

The Ivory-billed woodpecker, the largest woodpecker in the United States, is the third largest in the world, and had been one of six species of birds in North America thought to be extinct. Prior to its recent rediscovery, there had been no confirmed sightings of the bird in more than 60 years. In fact, an ivory-bill enthusiast of the early 1900's,

Arthur A. Allen sighted one in 1924 and made headlines since it was thought to be extinct even then. Following in Allen's footsteps, Gallagher set out to find this bird once again.

In his search, Gallagher interviewed anyone and everyone who has claimed to see the bird within the century, some being as old as 99 years of age. Through these investigations, he hoped to track down possible habitats for the ivory-bill. (The bird originally lost its home due to massive deforestation after the civil war.) Before then, the bird was seen constantly from Florida to Texas, but since the 1930s, no claimed sightings have actually been confirmed.

In 2004, however, reports of a sighting from an Arkansas kayaker led Gallagher and his team to the Cache River National Wildlife Bayou in Eastern Arkansas. On the second day of their excursion, February 27, 2004, both Gallagher and his colleague, Bobby Harrison, witnessed an ivory-bill swoop down not 70 feet in front of them. Unfortunately, they did not get it on film, but they both were able to draw the exact same picture without influence from each other. The significance of these drawings was the distinct markings of the ivory-bill that separates it from its relative, the Pileated woodpecker. The ivory-bill is jet black with a large "shield" of white on the lower back, whereas the Pileated is a brownish-black bird who lacks this white "shield." Gallagher gave detailed explanations of his rediscovery, and also shared the successful data of other scientists who have witnessed the bird as well. Those in attendance were also able to listen to sound clips of the bird recorded by Arthur A. Allen in the 1930s compared to those recorded by Gallagher and his team in recent years.

The presentation was not only interesting and informative, but thanks to Gallagher's enthusiasm and passion for this bird, it was also funny and thought-provoking. His story presents us with the rare second chance to preserve

an endangered species that was once thought to be lost forever. Thanks to his and other passionate scientist's research, a conservation program has been organized to restore the ivory-bill's habitat so that it may once again flourish. For more information on the ivory-billed woodpecker and on The Big Woods Conservation Partnership, go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/>.

Interested in contributing to the Features section of next year's Grizzly?

E-mail Features Editor Lane Taylor at lataylor@ursinus.edu for more information!

grizzly@ursinus.edu

Fiber facts

AMANDA BRYMAN

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You may recall from last week's article that vegetables are an excellent source of dietary fiber. (It's certainly only one of their many virtues.) However, that compliment is a two-way street. Fiber is a lot more than a sidekick to Vitamin C, and shows up in more than just celery and bran flakes. In fact, nowadays, it's getting more and more popular for manufacturers to extol a product's hefty fiber content in big, bold letters. So what's all the hoopla over the stalky stuff, and where else might it be lurking?

It's no coincidence that dietary fiber was linked to the health benefits of vegetables, as it literally refers to the indigestible "roughage," which is found naturally in plants. That "indigestible" bit might make it seem a bit strange as a nutritious choice, but just because it never becomes an actual part of the body doesn't mean it doesn't serve a ton of other uses. To begin with, dietary fiber can be divided into two types, soluble and insoluble. Think of the difference between a sponge and steel wool: the former soaks up water, as well as fat, cholesterol, sugar, and other unpleasantness; the latter is a calorie-free source of bulk that keeps your digestive system moving forward. Either way, the fiber itself passes through your body untouched, along with the cargo it picks up along the way; in fact, this is one factor of so-called "negative calorie" foods, which take more energy to digest than they actually replenish. Plus, fiber fills you up fast, which means eating more for less. For example, there are about 220 calories in a 16-ounce glass of unsweetened orange juice, but for the same intake, you could eat almost three large oranges!

Unfortunately, more people seem to go for the juice, since most adults eat less than half of the 32 grams of fiber recommended as a daily intake by the National Fiber Council (yes, they exist, and they have a Web site). This is a shame since it really isn't that hard to up the roughage in your diet. Yes, fruits and vegetables are always a safe bet: a medium-sized baked potato has around 4 grams, a carrot has 2, and a pear has 5. (Eating the nutrient-packed skins of produce increases the fiber count, as well.) Popcorn is great, too, providing over a gram of fiber per cup. However, there are other things that come out of the ground, and nuts, beans, and unprocessed

Earth-shattering drumming

AKASYA BENGE

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The Tamagawa Taiko group came to Ursinus College on April 2-3 to perform taiko drumming. (Taiko are Japanese drums, with counterparts in both Korea and China.) They are huge drums that are generally stick percussion instruments, and have been used since the feudal era in Japanese festivals. They were even used during war, to motivate troops for marching, and to call out announcements. Now it has become competitive sport, with accompanying dancers and music.

It was an amazing event, with senior Amanda Ose and her troop as an opening act, and the troop following with over ten acts. The performers were from Tamagawa University in Tokyo, Japan, and headed by Isaburoh Hanayagi, a famous kabuki artist and also the Associate Professor of Performing Arts at the university. The entire troop consisted of 32 performers, with 12 cute male drummers and 20 beautiful female dancers. The acts included a folk dance called the *Gujo-Odori*, *Binzuru odori*, *Hyottoko*, and *Eisa*, which are all traditional folk pieces from various prefectures in Japan. (These prefectures include Okinawa, Gifu, and Nagano.) One of the dances, the *Eisa* dance from Okinawa, included special outfits that were distinctive because of their purple color, and unique headgear. It is a dance done by the young men of Okinawa to honor their ancestors. The *Hyottoko* was also special for the inclusion of masks for the ghostly dance of the spirits that was used to pray for the gods for rain. The masks represented individual ugliness of the human spirit, and by showing that ugliness, they surrendered themselves to the whims of the earth, a little bit like Catholic confession.

Also included in the program was a geisha dance entitled *Zashika Mai*, a lively dance usually performed at banquets. There were also original pieces by the troop themselves, including a piece specially created for the U.S. tour by the current members, entitled *Da*. They ended the program with a special piece called *Awaodori*, which is a traditional dance of Tokushima that has simple choreography, but was perhaps the most interesting piece of the entire show.

More important than when and where the pieces are from was the emotion inspired by the fascinating sounds produced by the drums. Most apparent on the faces of the drummers' themselves because of the constant growing smile on each of their mouths, was the happiness they felt while playing them. The audience too could feel the power of the drums: the way they shook the earth and the bones inside of you. It was so wonderful to watch them, and there were

whole grains (like brown rice) can often be even more fiber-packed: a cup of oatmeal has 4 grams, and a cup of baked beans has over 10.

Naturally, there are some slightly less "natural" ways to take your fiber, as well. In a perfect world, this would be a reference to whole-grain cereals, pastas, and breads, which are generally a healthier, more satisfying, choice than their bleached, sugary, counterparts. Certain bran-based cereals provide over half of the daily recommended supply of dietary fiber per serving, but anything with whole-grains listed as the first ingredient will probably be a healthy bet. The same thing is true for bread and wraps: wheat, whole wheat, or whole grain are key words you should look for. Finally, if you're still worried that you can't get enough fiber from what you eat, there's always the option of taking supplements, usually in the form of pills or powders. Some of the more common supplements are made from psyllium husk, inulin, or methylcellulose, and can be incorporated into recipes. Whatever it takes, it's time to start taking fiber seriously!

Career Corner: evaluating a job offer

CAREER SERVICES

www.ursinus.edu/career

A job offer can arrive anywhere from one day to six weeks after your second or third interview. Continue to make a good impression when the offer arrives. In a professional manner, convey your enthusiasm and excitement to the employer who has just made an offer to you. But, don't accept the job offer on the spot. Although you may have already been considering the possible offer, you need time to evaluate all the factors of this decision. Have a date in mind when you can give the employer your decision prior to receiving an offer so you won't get caught off guard; be prepared to negotiate the date when a decision must be made. Employers know you are interviewing with other organizations and will appreciate your being honest and careful about your decision.

Job offers do not necessarily overlap. Often, you will need to evaluate an offer without knowing what alternatives you will have. It is important to establish criteria to help you decide if this position is right for you. Consider the factors listed below:

The Organization: reputation, growth potential, size, financial stability, quality of the management team, organizational culture

The Job: training program, day-to-day work, stress/pressure, relocation/travel, independence on the job, salary, opportunity for advancement, benefit package, physical work environment, social significance of work, supervisor, opportunity for continuing training/education

General Lifestyle Issues: comfort with the organization's goals/philosophy, geographic location, recreational, cultural, educational facilities, proximity of educational institutions for further study, value of life/work balance, dress requirements

After you have a good understanding of your values, needs, and priorities, make sure that you get all the relevant and necessary information about the position and the organization that will enable you to make a decision about an offer. Ask the employer and/or conduct research to determine details about salary and benefits, the organization, and other details such as reporting date. Weigh your list of priorities against the offer. Remember that no job is perfect; decide which factors you are willing to compromise or can have met in other ways.

Remember that once you have accepted an offer, workplace ethics requires that you MUST remove your application from consideration for any additional positions to which you applied. If you would like assistance evaluating job offers, contact Career Services at 610.409.3599 or at career@ursinus.edu.

people moved to tears by the beauty of their performance. I myself was very moved by the individual acts, one powerful and different emotion after the other. In fact, so many people came that there were individuals turned down to see the show because there wasn't enough room for all of the people that had come to see the performance. It was an experience not to be missed, but luckily for Ursinus students, the troop returns next spring.

No child left behind? Really?

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1. All teams must make the state playoffs and all MUST win the championship. If a team does not win the championship, they will be on probation until they are the champions, and coaches will be held accountable. If after two years they have not won the championship their footballs and equipment will be taken away UNTIL they do win the championship.

2. All kids will be expected to have the same football skills at the same time even if they do not have the same conditions or opportunities to practice. NO exceptions will be made for lack of interest in football, a desire to perform athletically, or genetic abilities or disabilities of themselves or their parents. ALL KIDS WILL PLAY FOOTBALL AT A PROFICIENT LEVEL!

3. Games will be played year round, but statistics will only be kept in the 4th, 8th, and 11th game. It will create a New Age of Sports where every school is expected to have the same level of talent and all teams same minimum goals. If no child gets ahead, then no child gets left behind.

If parents do not like this new law, they are encouraged to vote for vouchers and support private schools that can screen out the non-athletes and prevent their children from having to go to school with bad football players.

-Author Unknown

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry at the analogy above that shows what football would be like if it were run like the Bush administration's infamous No Child Left Behind Act. As a future educator, I have had several experiences with this law (which is being considered for renewal by the United States Senate). Unfortunately, it has left me with nothing but disgust for what it does to schools.

I wanted to like NCLB. I am completely supportive of raising expectations and making sure that each student has equal access to a quality education. I love the idea of making teachers possess a bachelor's degree in the field in which they will teach. Tired of the old adage of "those who can, do, and those who can't, teach," I wholeheartedly agree that the time has come to make teaching a respected, appreciated profession.

My disapproval begins with Annual Yearly Progress. Students must take state-run proficiency tests in reading and math. The government expects schools to have better and better standardized test scores until each school has 100% of the students proficient. The problems with this are innumerable. First, the only way to test proficiency in this way is through using standardized tests. There are too many brilliant students who simply fall apart when taking long, multiple choice exams. How many intelligent people do you know who did poorly on the SAT simply because they are not good test takers? Second, there are few provisions for students who are severely learning disabled or those who do not speak English. English language learners have three years to score as well as a native speaker. During that time they may take proficiency exams in their native languages, but these tests often are poor indicators of performance and only a handful of states have these tests available. This doesn't matter, however—we can't let a single child not perform at the federal government's idea of "proficiency!" A child who is nearly mentally retarded is ex-

pected to do just as well as a gifted child; a student with three years of English must perform as well as a native speaker.

Schools that do not perform at government-mandated levels are placed on a "warning" list, and all parents are given the option to move their children to better-scoring districts. However, those schools are under no obligation to accept these students. Often, they have more money to devote to resources and smaller class sizes; they do not wish for a sudden influx of poor-scoring students to tax their resources and hurt their own scores.

The focus on reading and math at the expense of other subjects is troubling. In my high school, the social studies department had its funding cut to divert more money toward English and math classes. In the district where I student-taught, some administrators are contemplating making social studies an elective. I admit that as a future social studies educator I am biased. That said, what good are students who can read, add, and subtract, but not think critically? What good are students who know how to digest information but not apply it? Forget about music, art, vocational training, or foreign languages—all that matters is reading and math. Say good-bye to recess, health, and gym—it's more important to keep those kids reading, adding, and subtracting!

NCLB gives lip service to using only "scientifically proven" methods of educating students. This *sounds* good, but students are not cars or a product, no matter how much we talk about running schools like businesses. One can't assemble parts A, B, and C and have a successful student every time. Teaching requires flexibility and a dedication to meeting students' individual needs.

There's another, more sinister aspect to NCLB. All schools are required to provide military recruiters with the names and contact information of students. Apparently, those who drafted it were concerned with making sure no students are "left behind" from the opportunity to go to war. This is an invasion of privacy that serves only to provide the government with more fodder for armed conflicts. We can test how committed the administration is to education by looking at their recent budget slash of Head Start, a program that helps thousands of children receive early childhood education. Due to the budget cut, at least 19,000 children will not be able to take advantage of this program. This can't be described as leaving children behind, can it?

This legislation was never designed to succeed. Suddenly, corporations and faith-based schools are receiving federal money to open schools. Bill Bennet's K12 organization is receiving funding to provide discounted curriculum materials to homeschooled children. Some see this as nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to show that public schools are a failure, thus paving the way for the administration's real goals—the privatization of education.

I could go on and on. Take some time to look up the myriad of studies that show how faulty NCLB is. I encourage you to exercise your civic duty and get this law amended while we still have citizens who even know what civic duty means. It's not too late to make sure that our children are able to receive a solid, well-rounded education.

Gitmo on strike

GABE HERMAN
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The cozy American detention center located in beautiful Guantanamo Bay, Cuba was in the news again this past week following reports of organized hunger strikes. In the newly built, 38 million dollar maximum security facility, titled Camp 6, 13 inmates refused food in response to the living conditions detainees were subjected to following relocation to the new facility. Inmates at Camp 6 live alone inside windowless cells with wrought iron walls. Detainees are allowed a maximum of 2 hours daily removed from their cell. Such living standards have been associated with psychological break down and are one of many violations civil and human rights organizations are fighting about.

The issues that are associated with the hunger strike are a microcosm of the inhumane and unconstitutional practices that have characterized the Bush administration and subsequently shamed our country. Inmates in prison facilities at Guantanamo have been stripped of all the legal rights necessary to allow for fair trials and non-biased representation. Many detainees housed at "Gitmo" have been there for almost 6 years, being captured in the initial invasion of Afghanistan and have not even been charged with a crime. Amazingly, just in the last few weeks has the first inmate at Guantanamo, David Hicks, been convicted of a crime. This comes after living in detention since 2002.

Inhumane and degrading practices are associated with the American methods used to end hunger strikes. To end a hunger strike, which is categorized as missing 9 consecutive meals, rigid feeding tubes are forced through one's nose, down one's throat, and into an inmate's stomach. The practice has been described as incredibly painful, uncomfortable, and results in uncontrollable diarrhea, vomiting, and increased risk for lung infection.

The actions that American officials have pursued at Guantanamo Bay shame the liberties and foundation of our great country. Absolutely, I abhor terrorism and I want to see terrorism exterminated. However, America must maintain the high ground. What happened to innocent until proven guilty? Does Habeas Corpus no longer exist? I would like to avoid delving into the topic of torture, but what precedent is America, the greatest super power in the world, setting? If we permit such atrocities to happen inside of our facilities, to whom will we be able to complain when such actions are performed on our service men and women?

And yet our government is not naive to the wrongs they are committing. Rather, they are fully conscious. Remember, many of the people labeled as enemy combatants have not even been charged with a crime. This is likely because the politicians who run our detention centers desire the prison at "Gitmo" to be stocked with supposed terrorists. The more people we have behind bars, the more the public believes our government is protecting our interests. This is effective strategy so long as people are not familiar with the plight and lives of these inmates.

The goal of ending hunger strikes is avoiding media attention and public scrutiny. After being stripped of all rights, the only tool inmates have is what they do with their lives. They have virtually no legal aid, no access to family, and are sitting in prison under unconditional sentences. The only means inmates have of gaining public attention is through dying or other extreme measures – an event that government officials can not afford to have occur due to the negative media attention.

Cont'd on pg. 7

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“The Big Lebowski” (1998)

Every once in a while a movie comes along that completely defies all odds and despite a bizarre story, characters with almost no basis in reality, and a protagonist who would really prefer to do nothing at all, manages to strike cinematic gold. This week’s film



ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

feels like the Coen brothers threw a bunch of characters and plot devices into a hat, pulled a bunch out, and cobbled them into one of the funniest movies in the last decade. Who else could combine German nihilist porn stars, In-N-Out Burger, two dream sequences, Saddam Hussein, a “marmot,” White Russians (the drink, not albino Rusksies), and bowling? It

all makes sense in this week’s flick, “The Big Lebowski.”

Jeffrey Lebowski, a.k.a. “The Dude” (or his Dudeness, or the Duder, or El Duderino, if you’re not into the whole brevity thing), suffers a case of mistaken identity and has his rug peed on. In trying to get compensation from the other Lebowski, he and his Vietnam vet friend, Walter (John Goodman), get pulled into trying to solve the kidnapping of a trophy wife. But all the Dude really wants to do is to go bowling...

First off, the acting in this film is simply phenomenal. The Coens populated their movie with some of the most off-beat characters ever put to screen and let the actors run away with the roles. John Goodman manages to steal just about every scene he is in with his bombastic enthusiasm. Peter Stormare’s Karl Hungus (better known as the guy who stuffed Steve Buscemi in the wood chipper in “*Fargo*”) manages to be a villain who is both terrifying and hilarious, particularly because of his repeated shouts of “*Ve vant the money, Lebowski!*” Although there are so many other actors worth mentioning, you can’t talk about “*The Big Lebowski*” without talking about John Turturro’s “pederast” rival bowler, Jesus Quintana (and it is pronounced as it would be in English, not the Spanish “*Hay-zeus*”). Dressed in skin tight purple bowling outfits, you can almost feel the slime leap off the screen and he prances around the bowling alley, screaming “*No one f@#ks with the Jesus!*”

Another thing that makes this movie so spot on is the dialogue, which couldn’t be sharper. The characters don’t just converse; they almost end up having controlled explosions as the various situations get out of hand, be it a foul during a bowling game that ends with Walter drawing a gun and relating it to Vietnam, or trying to shake down a sixth grader for information about a missing briefcase containing a million dollars that devolves into the wholesale destruction of a sports car. At the same time, it manages to be witty, funny, and move the plot along quite nicely, which one almost forgets is a mystery that needs solving.

I realize that I haven’t said much about the actual film, but in the end, this is just one of those movies that you have to experience first hand. Sure you may have heard your friends quote it endlessly, or you saw it a few years ago, but you haven’t watched it in a while. To you I say, take some time and bask again in the comedic genius that is “*The Big Lebowski*.” The pick of the week is another fantastic Coen Brothers film, “*Fargo*.” On the other end of the spectrum from “*Big*

Musings on the death of a legend

When I read that Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. had died, I knew that I would have to write something about it for this fine publication. Perhaps that’s the wrong way to put it; it’s not as if the editors are breathing down my neck. It’s more like a satirist’s *duty*. When a military man dies, other military men come along and fold up a flag and maybe even shoot some guns in remembrance. It’s symbolic; the deceased is being remembered as a military man. His loved ones, or his comrades, or unaffiliated passersby, or whoever, will say “That’s the way he would have wanted it.” So, I suppose we satirists (and we Vonnegut fans more broadly) must ask ourselves: how ought we to remember Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.? How would *he* have wanted it?

We could scour his books for hints of his philosophy on death. Such a search would be fruitful. We might say “All he would want is for us to say ‘So it goes.’” Or perhaps he would want a tombstone that reads:

WE ARE HEALTHY ONLY TO
THE EXTENT THAT OUR IDEAS
ARE HUMANE.

Or:
HE TRIED.

Or:
NOT EVEN THE CREATOR
OF THE UNIVERSE KNEW WHAT
THE MAN WAS GOING TO SAY
NEXT.

And so on.

Perhaps he would want for us to take seriously his philosophy on *life*. We could quote *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, in which the title character says “There’s only one rule that I know of... God damn it, you’ve got to be kind.”

Or *Breakfast of Champions*, in which the character Kilgore Trout responded to the question “What is the purpose of life?” by noting:

“To be
The eyes
And ears
And conscience
Of the Creator of the Universe,
You fool.”

Or *Timequake*, where he says, “I tell you, we are here on Earth to fart around, and don’t let anybody tell you any different.”

And so on.

But perhaps, just perhaps, he would want for us to realize that it isn’t about him. He’s dead. He can’t want. But, they’ll say, “What *would* he have wanted if he were alive?” Well, probably a cigarette or two.

Wheeze.

Surely, a man can say “I want this when I die.” And that’s fair enough. If he had said, “I want to be

cremated with my books and flushed down the toilet,” we would know what he wanted. But, absent a clear indication, trying to figure this kind of thing out is an exercise in futility. Yet, we do it anyway. And here’s why: we want closure for *ourselves*. Really, it has nothing to do with the desires of Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. We care about what will make us feel better.

But, if he did (or could) care, here’s one thing that I’m pretty sure he wouldn’t want: some pretentious would-be satirists poorly miming his writing style in a sad attempt to remind the apathetic community of the brilliance he once displayed. Through the lens of a hum-drum college newspaper, no less.

And here’s what I say to that: I don’t care, hypothetical Mr. Vonnegut. I’m not doing this for you. I like to think I’m more sane than to attempt to do some sort of favor for a dead body.

Yet millions of people continue to organize funerals *around* dead bodies. They call them “wakes,” and they say “It’s what he would have wanted.”

Wakes, or the incoherent logic behind them, are a good example of what Mr. Vonnegut called “foma,” or harmless untruths. We legitimize spending thousands of dollars for some sort of festivity that will make us feel better and that will bring us closure because “it’s what he would have wanted.” We (perhaps harmlessly) believe that we are being *selfless* when we organize funerals, or when we eulogize, or when we ask “What would he have wanted?”

Here’s the deal: it’s not selfless.

Indeed, it’s the epitome of selfishness. But, that’s okay. We should be looking out for ourselves in that sort of situation. After all, looking after the dead person would be rather foolish, now wouldn’t it?

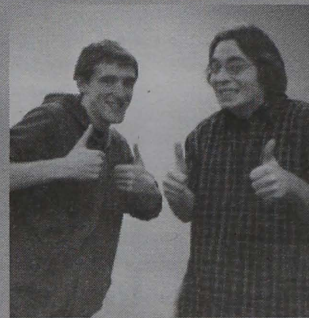
It would.

So, I’m not doing this for the deceased. I’m doing it for me, to bring myself some sort of closure. The Church of Satire just lost its chaplain, and I’ll be damned if I’m just going to say “So it goes,” even if that is what he would have wanted. After all, he can’t be mad at me; he’s dead. So, people, listen: stop feigning concern for the dead; they’re dead. They’ve got it under control. They don’t need your help. But you do. So, if you’re grieving for someone; a family member, a pet, a literary genius; take some time and remember him. But not for him.

For you.

And know that there’s nothing wrong with that.

Oh, us? Well, Matt is re-reading Breakfast of Champions in an effort to calm his bad chemicals, and Dan is spending the lonely nights with a bottle of wine and a Montana Wildhack pictorial. Tell them how you’re dealing with this at maflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.



MATT FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT
Communism for Dummies

Lebowski” in almost every regard from setting to mood, “*Fargo*” still manages to be a very powerful film about the terrible things people will do for money. And like I said before, you get to see Steve Buscemi stuffed in a wood chipper. Hope I didn’t ruin the ending for you. Until next week...

Alex Ernst wants ze money, Lebowski! You can reach him at alearnst@ursinus.edu.

Gitmo (cont’d from pg. 6)

Terrorists deserve to be punished. There is no arguing this fact. However, America must keep our legal standards high as not to become inhumane actors ourselves. We hold incredibly high legal standards in order to protect those who may be innocent and falsely accused. Fighting terrorism does not mean sacrificing civil liberties and sabotaging the ideals that make our country special. If individuals living in “Gitmo” are guilty, fair and constitutional legal practices will suffice in convicting and punishing them.

Bears win 11th in a row; Coach McGowan earns 200th victory

MATTHEW PASTOR
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With the regular season winding down, it's safe to say that the Bears softball team is in cruise control right now. With a combination of stellar pitching, great defense, and smart hitting, the Bears found themselves entering Tuesday's doubleheader at Haverford on an eleven game winning streak after sweeping Franklin & Marshall on Saturday.

Mallory Greene pitched a complete game, giving up two runs off seven hits while striking out four batters. It was a rough start for Greene and the Bears as the Diplomats got off to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning, but Greene and her defense settled down and that's all the scoring Franklin & Marshall would get in the first game.

Ursinus got the lead back for good in the bottom half of the second thanks to poor execution from the Diplomats (7-19, 1-7 Centennial Conference). After Sarah Hennessey walked and advanced to second on a passed ball, Kait Sutherland got on base via an error.

Women's lacrosse hangs tough with #4 Gettysburg

MATTHEW PASTOR
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It took career highs from Kate Hagan, including the game-winning goal for #4 Gettysburg, to hold on and defeat Ursinus this past Saturday 10-9 in Centennial Conference action.

Hagan had career highs in goals scored (5) and total points (6) in a game, but it was the Bears who had Gettysburg sweating bullets all day long.

Allison Shicora made a season-high 18 saves, while Lisa Clark and Kaitlin Glenn eat scored three goals apiece in the Bears' upset attempt.

Although there were only two lead changes throughout the game, both coming in the first half, the Bears never let Gettysburg pull away and take a commanding lead. With a 12-1 overall record, it's apparent that the Bullets are one of the best in the country and for an up-and-coming Bears squad to hang with the Bullets not only shows promise in the future, but gives the Bears confidence heading into the final few regular season games. Additionally, should they meet Gettysburg in the playoffs, it sets the tone for one great rematch.

As Gettysburg and Ursinus exchanged goals frequently in the first half with 11 goals being scored in all, the Bears only faced a one goal deficit going into the intermission.

Ursinus continued to play its heart out in the second half and at one point faced a 9-7 deficit, with 18:22 to play in regulation. Instead of giving up, the Bears played harder and tougher as they crawled their way back to knot the game up at nine apiece thanks to one of Kaitlin Glenn's three goals with just

With two runners already on, Katie Gallagher walked to load the bases and, thanks to another error, Lindsay Schmidt was able to get on base and bring home Hennessey and Sutherland, tying the game up at two apiece. Again it was another Diplomat mistake that gave the Bears (19-5, 6-0 Centennial Conference) their first lead as Gallagher crossed the plate thanks to a passed ball.

It was Jennie Moore's bat that gave the Bears some insurance runs as her RBI double brought home Jess Cherry and Stacy Zimmer to give Ursinus a 5-2 lead after six innings and Greene more than enough run support to get the final three batters out in the seventh and get the victory.

In the second game, it was all about the Bears' offense as they tore apart Franklin & Marshall's pitchers with a barrage of hits and runs, but in the end the Diplomats made a slight attempt at a comeback, but fell short at 12-6.

Sara Williams went 3-4 with three RBIs, including a monster homerun and three runs scored, while Mary Reid went 2-3 to help the Bears get out to an early 10-1 lead. Freshmen

pitcher Lauren Davis got the win in the second game going five strong innings and giving up three runs on four hits, while fanning six batters. Schmidt came in relief for the final two innings and handled the Diplomats late surge giving up only one run on four hits and striking out one batter.

Ursinus scored in every inning they came to bat in the second game and did most of their damage in the third and fourth innings where they scored four runs in each, including Williams' homerun in the fourth.

Erin McHugh went a combined 4-7 with one RBI and one run on Saturday upping her team high batting average to .525, while Greene picked up her tenth win of the season; Davis' six strikeouts gives her 86 on the season, which makes her the best on the team. With the wins on Saturday, head coach Terry McGowan earned his 200th career victory and looks to earn many more this season and in the years to come. Congratulations to Coach McGowan and good luck to the Bears the rest of the season and especially today, as they face Swarthmore at 3 p.m. in a battle for first place.

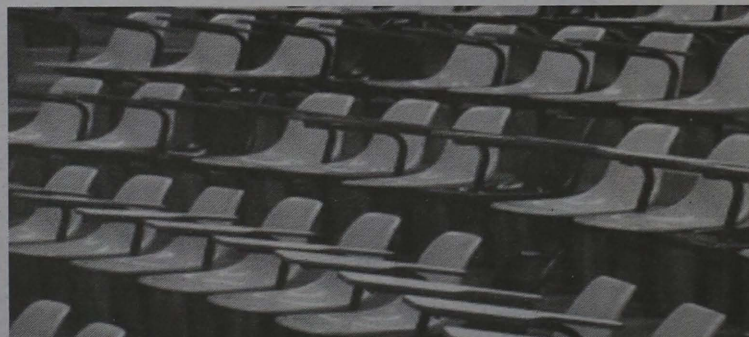
4:27 remaining.

Unfortunately for the Bears, one of Hagan's career high goals was the dagger that put the Bears away for good as she netted the final goal in the game with just 3:24 remaining.

The Bears were unable to accumulate the game-tying goal to send the match into overtime, but can definitely be proud of the effort they put forth.

With the playoffs lurking in the dis-

ance, the Bears have a legitimate shot at a post-season berth. As of Tuesday, the Bears sat in fourth place in the Centennial Conference with a 4-2 conference record. With two games left to play, including a match with #18 Dickinson, the Bears need to focus on the task at hand and seal a spot in the playoffs. Both games are on the road, but don't count these Bears out yet because they are definitely hungry for a playoff spot. Good luck with the rest of the season, ladies!



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Bearly Reminder

Here's a look at the spring sports schedule from Thursday, April 19 to Wednesday, April 25. The spring sports teams are coming down to the wire, so show some support this week coming up!

Women's Rugby
4/21 @ Bucknell

Baseball
4/20 vs. Muhlenberg
4/21 @ Washington
4/24 @ Albright

Softball
4/19 vs. Swarthmore
4/21 vs. Gettysburg
* Senior Day
4/24 @ Muhlenberg

Men's Lax
4/21 vs. Dickinson
* Senior Day

Women's Lax
4/19 @ Swarthmore
4/21 @ Dickinson

Men's Tennis
4/19 vs. DeSales
* Senior Day
4/21 @ McDaniel

Women's Tennis
4/20 vs. Holy Family
4/21 vs. Johns Hopkins
4/24 @ Haverford

Men's Golf
No Matches Scheduled

Women's Golf
4/20 & 4/21
@ Kutztown Invitational
4/24 @ Gettysburg Invitational

Track & Field
4/20 & 4/21 @ Widener Inv.