



2-8-2007

The Grizzly, February 8, 2007

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The Grizzly

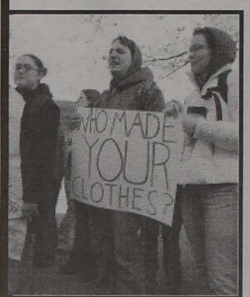
Thursday, February 8, 2007

The student newspaper of Ursinus College



WeCAN (and company) protests sweatshop wear

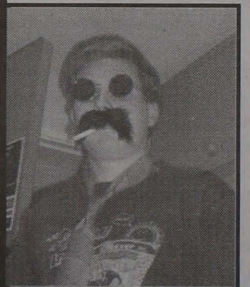
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WeCAN protest for workers' rights

SARAH KECK

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"We don't want exploitation! What we want is affiliation!"

The words were clear and the message was loud on Wednesday, Jan. 31, as approximately 30 Ursinus students protested a recent administration decision not to affiliate the college with the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC), a program that would help to ensure that all college apparel is made in sweat-free conditions.

"In November, students presented the administration with a letter, signed by representatives of the student government and on-campus social justice organizations requesting affiliation with the WRC and adoption of the Designated Supplier Program (DSP)," a flyer, being passed out by protestors, said. "Ursinus College administration agreed to the terms of affiliation. A few weeks later, the administration went back on their word."

"The letter for affiliation with the WRC requires that the College support the DSP," Ursinus College Vice President for Finance and Administration Win Guilmette said, in an e-mail to Dina Yarmus, President of We Care About the Nation (WeCAN), the student group that organized the protest. "While the College does support the principle of improving the conditions of workers producing apparel, the College does not support the approach required through the DSP."

Guilmette continued to say that the college would be willing to explore an affiliation with the Fair Labor Association (FLA), but Yarmus explained that many members of the FLA's governing board are representatives from the companies being monitored.

Students met in front of Corson Hall, the college's administration building, and together marched toward Olin Hall, where administration and faculty were slowly dispersing from a faculty meeting. Among those leaving were President John Strassburger and Dean Judith Levy. Students handed them flyers as they walked toward the dining hall and continued to chant as they carried signs that spoke their message, saying things such as "U C Sweatshirts, We See Sweatshops," "I'd rather be naked," and "We CAN support workers rights."

"What's disgusting? Union busting! What's outrageous? Union wages! What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" Protestors were peaceful, but clear in what they wanted.

Among some of the people who were passing by included a prospective student tour. Sophomore Carolina Contreras, a participant in the protest, left the group to explain to the prospective student and her parents what was happening and what WeCAN was protesting. "They were really excited," Contreras said as she rejoined the group. "They said they were glad we were doing this."

Students then marched in Wismer Center, the student life center and dining hall,

laughing, cheering, and making up new chants the entire time. "We really had a lot of really nice moments as a group," Yarmus said of the chanting. "We can be...sweat shop free!" students chanted, as they made their way through the upstairs lobby, downstairs to the lower lounge and toward the bookstore. They then congregated in front of the bookstore and talked about the importance of passion, justice, and solidarity in a student body. "It's up to all of us to be responsible for what we're all wearing," said Chris Rogers, a senior at Ursinus, "not just what Ursinus College is buying."

Yarmus was overwhelmingly pleased with the action and what people were able to gain from the experience. "At the core, it's very much about expressing yourself and being able to take control of your space," Yarmus said. "Part of activism is learning to become a better leader. The rally gave people a chance to stand up." Yarmus was thrilled with the number of underclassmen who attended the protest, shedding light on the future of WeCAN.

Yarmus said that she received nothing but positive feedback from faculty and students who saw the protest take place. "We have a lot of student power," she said.

This power became apparent as the group transformed the cheer, "there ain't no power like the power of the people 'cause the power of the people don't stop!" to say, "there ain't no power like the power of the STUDENTS 'cause the power of the STUDENTS WON'T STOP!"

For more information on WeCAN and student activism on the Ursinus campus, contact Dina Yarmus at diyarmus@ursinus.edu.

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NOMINATION

Jones Award for Distinguished Advising and Mentoring 2007

Please note that your comments are crucial in helping the committee members, as they make recommendations to the President. You should be very specific in how your nominee affected your experience outside the traditional classroom. You should consider that outstanding advisors and mentors support student achievement in many different ways. This might include Freshman advising, major or minor advising, supervision of Summer Fellows, guidance for admission to graduate school or mentoring for a prestigious fellowship.

Name of faculty:

Reason for nomination:

Signed _____ Print Name _____

Date _____

Please submit to the Office of the Dean by Friday, March 23, 2007

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 31, Issue 16
grizzly@ursinus.edu

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Letters to the editor

DINA YARMUS

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Dear Dina,

The College administration withdrew its offer to join the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC) because the letter of affiliation that you sent on Nov. 29 differed from the sample letter you had provided to us for making our decision to support affiliation. The letter we were asked to sign included an additional paragraph stating our unequivocal support for the Designated Supplier Program (DSP).

Our concern is that the DSP may violate the antitrust laws of the United States. WRC has also recognized the possibility that DSP creates legal issues by requesting a legal opinion from the Department of Justice. We have a letter from lawyers for the National Association of Colleges Stores advising us to wait until the Department of Justice rules on the antitrust matter. We cannot agree to affiliation with WRC until these legal matters are resolved.

The College has contracted with Barnes & Noble to operate our bookstore. Barnes & Noble works with several colleges and universities to purchase apparel. Many of the colleges and universities are affiliated with WRC or with the Fair Labor Association (FLA), another organization that seeks to improve working conditions. Barnes & Noble has satisfied the requirements of its customers who are members of the WRC and FLA. Barnes & Noble purchases apparel for our store with the same attention to working conditions accorded the colleges and universities associated with WRC and FLA. So we are no more likely to be selling apparel made in sweatshops than any of the members of WRC.

As you know, along with our decision announcing our withdrawal of support for WRC, we offered to explore affiliation with the Fair Labor Association (FLA). We again invite you and your colleagues in WeCAN to discuss legal alternatives that may be open to the College. The President and I admire your commitment to equality and justice. I regret that we are distracted from the noble goal of improving working conditions, which we all embrace. I fear that the confrontational approach of WRC may prove illegal and perhaps ineffective. In my experience, collaborative approaches, such as FLA, usually get better results.

Sincerely,

Win Guilmette

WIL GUILMETTE

wguilmette@ursinus.edu

Dear Mr. Guilmette,

We appreciate your explanation as to why you rescinded your support of the WRC program, but you should understand that we are not satisfied with the reasons given. We apologize for any confusion created by the late addition of the DSP into the terms of affiliation, but please note that the DSP was discussed at length in the preliminary meetings between yourself, President Strassburger, and WeCAN. At the time, the severity of the concerns you discuss in your letter was not made clear to us – it comes as a surprise to our organization that these concerns are of such prime importance to the administration.

If, in fact, Ursinus fears legal or collegiate repercussions from its affiliation with the WRC and the DSP, then it may look to neighboring colleges and universities to whose status it aspires. The Columbia University, Cornell University, Smith College and Brandeis University are just some who have signed on to the program, and it seems remiss of Ursinus to hesitate with such powerful precedent.

We do not intend to be recalcitrant about the terms we have put forth concerning the college's affiliation. On the contrary, we wish to pursue compromise and closure in this matter, and have requested open dialogues with yourself, President Strassburger, and members of the administration repeatedly.

In each of our meetings we continue to make our demands and arguments clear. The FLA is not a compromise: it is a regressive step. An organization which employs the help of for-profit multinational corporations is not "collaborative," it instead represents a severe conflict of interest. The support of the FLA over an independent organization like the WRC, which enacts change through the DSP, does little to support your professed admiration of our "commitment to equality and justice." If we ignore the fundamental differences between the FLA and the WRC/DSP, we are in danger of violating that commitment.

Sincerely,

WeCAN

Class of '49 UC alum speaks on women in World War II

JON GAGAS

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In the past few years, there has been a plethora of media highlighting men's contributions to the US effort in World War II, most notably the film *Saving Private Ryan* and the book and HBO series *Band of Brothers*. But Margaret "Peggy" George, member of the Ursinus Class of 1949, provided a different perspective on Friday when she spoke about her recently published book, "We Knew We Were at War: Women Remember World War II". The book contains anecdotes from 42 women who experienced the war firsthand, whether as factory workers, military wives, daughters of soldiers, nurses, or civilians in the European theater.

"The war took over everything," said Mrs. George, who spoke in front of a picture of Rosie the Riveter. She spoke to an audience that filled Jazzman's in Myrin and included a mixture of students and faculty and five other Class of '49 alumni, who all contributed stories to the book.

When George first became interested in writing, she wrote a paper on feminist philosophy for a class she was auditing. Before her literary life began, however, she had a career in public service, which she chronicled in her 2004 book, "Never Use Your Dim Lights: Not Even in the Fog". She launched her political career when she won a seat as one of the first women on the Central Bucks School Board in 1969. A Democrat, she advanced from the local to the state level, serving the heavily Republican Montgomery County as a state representative. With Jimmy Carter's loss to Ronald Reagan in 1980, she failed to be reelected, so she worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Hatboro-Horsham school district. Not one to give up her active lifestyle, she started writing short stories after she retired from public service. She attended Sunday afternoon lectures at the Doylestown Writers Room, where she learned about the publishing world. It was not long before she had published several books on genealogy. "It's hard to write," she told the audience, "It's hard to edit and once your book's printed, it's hard to market it."

But as time went on, Mrs. George became increasingly convinced that *We Knew We Were at War* needed to be written; three women who contributed stories in March passed away before the book's publication. George published it herself, supplying all the money in advance. "Maybe I'll get it back, maybe I won't," she said, addressing the unpredictable nature of the bookselling world.

George's nephew, a retired lieutenant colonel who served in both the Vietnam War and Desert Storm, said of the book: "This isn't just a book of women's stories – it's a book about our country." And while "We Knew We Were at War" is not overtly political, several of its contributors couldn't help but draw parallels to current events. "We all knew we were at war. We didn't need nightly television broadcasts to tell us that," said UC alumna Annabell Saylor. Fellow Class of '49 member Kathleen Akey opined, "Contrast that with our current situation today. It injures my soul, somehow." But she ended on a positive note: "Each story [in the book] is unique, but the theme is one of optimism, one of hope, and one of pride."

"We Knew We Were at War: Women Remember World War II" is available online for \$19.95.

NOMINATION

Linback Distinguished Teaching Award 2007

Please note that your comments are crucial in helping the committee members as they make recommendations to the President. You should be very specific in how your nominee has affected your education, transformed your life, and supported your achievements as a student at Ursinus College.

Name of faculty:

Reason for nomination:

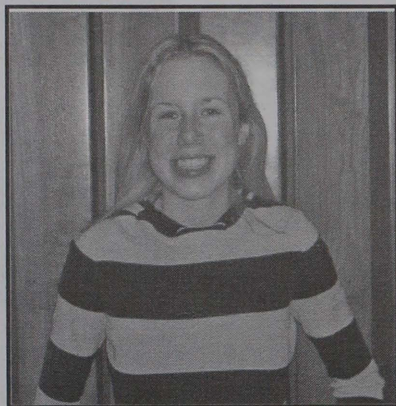
Signed:

Print name:

Date:

Please submit to the Office of the Dean by Friday, March 23, 2007.

Now that I'm ready...



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

Now that you have decided that you're ready to enter a sexual relationship, you are most likely feeling both anxious and excited. Because we have heard a variety of information and experiences from the media, our family, and our friends, what little we are able to take from this information due to a lack of first-hand experience may have caused it to run together, leaving us confused and even less prepared for what a sexual relationship entails. So then, what can we expect? What possible situations and consequences

should we prepare ourselves for? This article, in continuation with the last, will work to prepare and aid those who venture into sexual exploration for the first time.

The most important concept to keep in mind is that the media cannot be trusted to provide accurate health or medical information. (If you learn one thing from me during my tenure as the sex columnist at Ursinus, let it be that. Well that, and to consistently use protection during sexual activity.) Anything and everything that you have learned about sex through a television series, made-for-TV movies, or other medium that is not produced by a health care professional or writer that provides reliable sources, should be completely disregarded. Media outlets have a tendency to add fantasy and fiction to serious medical situations for dramatic and entertaining effects. The most reliable sources for information regarding sexual experiences are provided by individuals that can be held accountable for the information they provide and write or produce to benefit the health and lives of others.

It is also important that you feel comfortable and safe with the partner(s) you choose. If you are concerned that you or your partner may have a sexually-transmitted infection, get tested. Our Wellness Center offers STI testing, as does our local Planned Parenthood, which also offers HIV testing. If you are concerned that your partner may be infected but you have had no prior sexual experience, offer to go with your partner and get tested as well. This will help your partner feel safe and comfortable with you, and feel less anxiety about getting tested.

Another way to help your partner feel safe and comfortable is to be open and honest about your concerns and thoughts regarding sex. Keep the lines of communication open, and do not be afraid to express your wants and needs. In doing that, be sure to also remain open and hear the wants and needs of your partner.

What is an RA?

CHRISTINA COOPER
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What is an RA? When I asked fellow RAs how they would describe the RA position, many said an RA "is a role model for all students on campus" and "someone students can come to when dealing with conflicts." Their duties require attending RA meetings, making deadlines, being in charge of students in their building, and, when "on duty," they are in charge of a certain area. The RAs are to enforce certain rules that are already established here at Ursinus College.

In order to become a Resident Assistant (RA), you must have the minimum GPA requirement of 2.5. You must also attend an RA Informational Session. There they will give you an application, which you need to fill out and return to Residence Life, along with two recommendations from your current RA and a staff member. If you are applying for the fall semester, it's too late, but the process will begin anew next year.

If Residence Life sees you as a candidate for the RA position, you then move on to the interview process. If accepted, you will then escalate to RA training which is held before school starts back up for fall semester, which all RAs attend. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Larson in Residence Life.

Note from the editor: a Facebook fallacy

LANE TAYLOR
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Last week, I mentioned the concept of Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the article, "Am I ready to have sex?" Crisis Pregnancy Centers masquerade as sexual health clinics in order to misinform teens about their options regarding birth control and pregnancy to satisfy a pro-life agenda. A member of Facebook posted a flier to the Ursinus College account advocating "The Pregnancy Resource Center of North Penn," which is one such clinic, that happens to use the term "resource center" as opposed to "crisis center." I urge you to avoid this "resource center" in favor of accurate medical information and good sexual health. Their Web site is www.northpennpregnancy.org if you feel like taking a gander at what such organizations refer to as "information."

Another important consideration of beginning a sexual relationship is birth control. Discuss the options with your partner, and decide together what birth control is right for you as a couple. The most important aspect of this issue is that you both feel safe and protected, and often, the safest option is that both partners use a method of birth control.

To further prepare for the possible consequences of sex, discuss the possibility of pregnancy with your partner. Stay open and honest about how you feel and how you would choose to deal with a potential pregnancy. Offer your support and ear to your partner, and decide what option suits you both. It is best to come to this decision before you begin a sexual relationship to avoid anxiety and to ensure that you have the support of your partner. If you and your partner cannot come to a decision ahead of time, re-consider whether it is a good idea for the two of you to become sexually involved.

Now that you and your partner have discussed the ifs, ands, and buts of sexual activity, all that remains is the how. Stay tuned for next week's installment.

Career Corner

CAREER SERVICES
www.ursinus.edu/career

CollegeGrad.com announces great news for the Class of 2007: entry level employers are increasing their hiring by 7.3% in 2007! The Top Entry Level Employers list represents more than 170,000 jobs for the class of 2007, and is available online at <http://www.CollegeGrad.com/topemployers>.

"It's a great time to be graduating from college," said Brian Krueger, president of CollegeGrad.com. "The skills and energy of the class of 2007 are in high demand among employers. Graduates who put in their best job search effort may find themselves generating multiple offers."

The CollegeGrad.com survey results name Enterprise Rent-A-Car as the #1 Entry Level Employer for the fifth year in a row. CollegeGrad.com details the hiring plans for more than 500 top entry level employers. The list includes many return top employers from previous years, such as Lockheed Martin, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Sherwin-Williams. Significant growth is being projected by companies of all sizes and in all industries throughout the list. Among the largest companies, PNC Financial Services Group is projecting a 31% increase in entry level hiring for 2007. CIGNA is projecting an impressive 227% growth in hiring—going from 127 entry level hires in 2006 to 415 in 2007. Growth such as this by companies across the board will help to provide this year's graduating class with a truly favorable job market.

Employers recruiting the Class of 2007 are recognizing that hiring recent college grads is critical for their company's future. "The success of our firm depends on the recruitment and retention of the best and brightest," said Dan Black, Director of Campus Recruiting for Ernst & Young.

Krueger reminds college students that although the 2007 job outlook is favorable, a successful job search requires a concerted and focused effort. "It's never too early to start your job search. Start early for best results. Start early. Start now."

Be sure to attend the UC Job & Internship Fair on Feb. 28 to get face-to-face with employers ready to hire YOU!

Nutrition tips for the UC student

HEATHER TURNBACH

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“Momma always said, life is like a box of chocolates. You never quite know what you’re gonna get”-Forrest Gump

It may be a bit taboo to begin a health column by writing about one of the world’s biggest diet no-no’s—chocolate—but in the spirit of one of the candy’s biggest holidays less than a week away and the fact that February is ‘Heart Healthy’ month, I couldn’t turn a blind eye to the tasty treat that has, in fact, been proven to have health benefits.

Although the sweet confection often gets a bad rap, as it said to cause acne and is regarded as a fattening, nutrition-less food, recent studies have found that chocolate can offer a number of health benefits. Researchers have found that eating 100g of dark chocolate everyday can actually lower blood pressure. It may also help control diabetes, as the study found that dark chocolate helped the body’s ability to metabolize sugar, a common problem among those who suffer from diabetes. Other studies reject the notion that chocolate is the cause of acne and cavities.

Chocolate products contain the highest concentration of flavanol, an antioxidant, among commonly consumed foods. Cocoa is also the highest natural source for magnesium, which, if one is deficient, is linked with hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and pre-menstrual tension. Consumption of the tasty treat can be a benefit for the cardiovascular system and, yes, ladies, PMS. Chocolate also contains iron, calcium, potassium and vitamins A, B1, C, D and E.

The idea that chocolate has health benefits is not necessarily an old concept. When Cortes first traveled to the Americas, he noticed the routine use of chocolate, especially as a medicine, in Aztec society. Although we tend to think of chocolate as a modern candy, the delightfully sweet treat actually originated in the rainforests of the Americas over 2000 years ago. Made from the beans of the cacao tree, the Aztec and Mayan societies used chocolate for sacred ceremonies. Its seeds were also used as the Aztec’s primary form of currency.

The chocolate we know today is much different than in its early times. Ancients used the cacao bean to lessen hunger pains, give energy, and allow the user to continue marching or fighting for hours. When the Spanish brought chocolate to Europe, they mixed the smooth treat with mint and cinnamon to wipe away some of its bitter taste.

In 1875, a Swiss manufacturer, Daniel Peters, found a way to combine (some would say improve, some would say ruin) cocoa powder and cocoa butter with sugar and dried milk powder to produce the first milk chocolate.

UC Spotlight: UCEA

ERIN PADOVANI

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Young people across the nation are becoming more concerned about the environment. Television commercials encourage water and energy conservation. Al Gore’s documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth”, is among the most talked about films of the year. But what is being done on a local level to encourage environmental awareness? For those of you who religiously check your e-mail, you will notice that even Ursinus students are being persuaded to turn off the water while brushing their teeth and switch lights off before leaving a room.

Perhaps more importantly, there is an organization on campus, UCEA, or Ursinus College Environmental Action, which raises awareness on environmental issues. The group’s mission is also aimed at future generations, and to lessen the negative impact of UC operations on the environment and create effective and educated environmental leaders.

The organization has both short-term and long-term goals. First, UCEA strives to increase membership. As membership increases, environmental awareness on campus will increase as well. Long-term goals include persuading administrators to purchase devices that generate wind power. Additionally, UCEA would like to continue to have students question their thoughts and opinions about environmental issues.

There are two ways students can get involved in UCEA. The first, of course, is to join the organization at the beginning of the semester. A campus e-mail is sent out and those who reply will be placed on a distribution list that is used from then on. If you did not join the club, however, all is not lost. Anyone is welcome to attend the events UCEA holds. Furthermore, the group is always open to new ideas and suggestions.

UCEA is led by President Jenna Tomiello and faculty advisor Richard Wallace. Environmental Action recently showed the aforementioned film, “An Inconvenient Truth”, on Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 in Olin Auditorium. The invitation e-mail encouraged students to stay after the

Chocolate is now mixed with so much sugar, vanilla, and other artificial flavorings that the narcotic effect has been reduced to a mere sugar rush. Many people are now opting for dark, organic, chocolates, which are high in antioxidants and release endorphins.

Since its origins, chocolate has had a strong reputation as an aphrodisiac that invigorated men and stripped women of their inhibitions. In fact, the Aztec emperor Montezuma himself was said to have drunk 50 golden goblets of chocolate a day to enhance his sexual prowess. The famous lover Casanova was also said to consume the confection for its aphrodisiac qualities.

There are a number of mood enhancing chemicals present in chocolate. Phenylethylamine and serotonin are two substances that can increase heart rate, blood pressure, and bring on the feeling of euphoria that is usually associated with being in love. These substances are also mildly addicting, which may give some validity to a person’s “chocoholic” obsession. This reputation continues today as chocolate is still a popular gift of love on Valentine’s Day.

Although chocolate has its health benefits, it will never be considered a health food by any means and this is not an invitation to gorge. Dark chocolate may contain a high level of antioxidants, but it also has high levels of fat, sugar and calories. Moderation is key. If you’re looking to fill up on antioxidants, vitamins, and fiber, the old fruit and veggie combo will work just as well. But with Valentine’s Day less than a week away, it is comforting to know that a little indulgence isn’t so bad.

Sidebar:

Research has shown the antioxidants found in dark chocolate help the body in a multitude of ways. Here are a few of the benefits of the decadent treat:

- Decreases blood pressure
- Improves circulation
- Lowers death rate from heart disease
- Improves function of endothelial cells that line the blood vessels
- Defends against destructive molecules called free radicals, which trigger cancer, heart disease and stroke
- Improves digestion and stimulates kidneys
- Has been used to help treat patients with anemia, kidney stones and poor appetite

Information taken from http://www.yachanagourmet.com/health_benefits.htm

Interested in becoming a part of the Features section? E-mail editor Lane Taylor at lataylor@ursinus.edu.

movie and share their opinions about global warming and the environment. Also, interested students could still sign up to be a part of UCEA. It’s never too late to become involved in something you feel passionately about!

The projects and events UCEA has organized in the past are boundless. They’ve had scientist Stephen Schneider come to speak on campus about climate change. The Olin Auditorium was filled for the event. Environmental Action organized a trip to the Appalachian Mountains to participate in research and conservation projects. Any student could attend and transportation was provided. Last fall, the group promoted student involvement in the Ursinus College Organic Garden. They recruited volunteers to harvest fruits, vegetables, and prepare growing beds for winter. Lastly, several students in UCEA have attended environmental conferences throughout the country.

Other than promoting community awareness, the UCEA’s actions during the spring semester are dedicated to planning events on campus during Earth Week. Last year, the week was very successful; beginning with esteemed environmental author Michael Shellenberger speaking on campus and culminating with a benefit concert in the gym. This year’s Earth Week will certainly be another success. UCEA is sure to bring more food, crafts, entertainment, and, of course, environmental initiatives. Keep your eyes and ears open for UCEA events. Your involvement can make a difference both on and off campus!

The American threat (or how Iran learned to stop worrying and love the bomb)

PHILIP SEREBRENICK
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Anti-American sentiment has been growing in this world, and it is linked to America's growing world hegemony and refusal to listen to international opinion since the collapse of the Cold War. We can point to our own international political blunders as the real catalyst for why countries such as Iran are displaying hostile tendencies towards us. To characterize a country such as Iran being run by "lunatics" is absurd, as they are following the logical realist position any country in a similar situation would pursue.

It is interesting to note the similarity in rhetoric used by both Iran and United States; I am not really sure what the difference between an "Axis of Evil" and "Great" and "Little Satan" is, though since one is used by a "rogue" state, I assume that it is worse. Arms sale also seems to be a one-sided issue. The United States accounts for 45% of all arms sales in the world, sold arms to 18 of the 25 countries involved in active combat (including Chad, Columbia, and Pakistan), and sold weapons to 13 countries listed as "undemocratic" by our own U.S. State Department's Human Rights Report (including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan.) And we do history a serious injustice if we forget just how arms and training initially got into the hands of Afghanistan and Iraq, two countries we are currently occupying. (This can all be found quite easily on wikipedia.com.) However, Iran, which sold thousands of rockets to a group in its region which shares similar political interests, is "funding terrorism."

I do not want to get into the whole debate of whether nuclear proliferation actually leads to peace or not (as many great political theorists argue). It is hypocritical for America to sit back and claim that a nuclear program obtained by Iran poses a much bigger threat than our program poses towards them. Let us not forget who controls the vast majority of nuclear arms in this world, and who uses financial incentive, political arm-wrangling, and the threat of violence to make sure this remains true. In addition, whereas

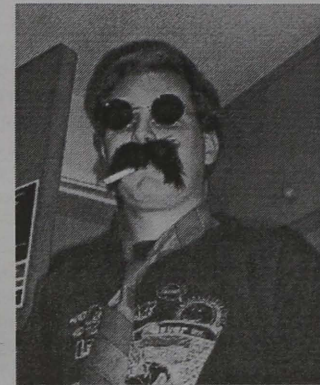
the United States demands that Iran open up its nuclear program to inspectors, it does not allow inspectors into its own territory. I would be surprised to see a politician of this country ever allow that. It is naive to claim that America only has benign interests when it comes to our own nuclear production; just look at the possession of the absurd amount of tens of thousands of nuclear warheads, not to mention that we are the only country to have ever used one.

The definition of President Ahmadinejad as a theological head of state is an interesting characteristic. Last I checked, our president was a born-again Christian who sought to impose Christian values on American citizens. "That Islam will dominate the world following the return of certain spiritual beliefs," sounds an awful lot like prosperity and freedom will reign with the spread of democracy and Western ideals, a belief espoused by our own government. President Ahmadinejad believes that violence and destruction will precede an Islamic awakening, just as any Shi'ite does; President Bush believes that four horsemen will bring death and annihilation to a world preceding a Christian awakening in the form of the second coming, just like any born-again Christian does.

This is not a piece defending Iran's actions. I wish to emphasize the calculated steps Iran is taking, and that demonizing your enemy is hypocritical, especially when the same rhetoric and beliefs can be attributed to your own people and their leader. Iran was declared an "Evil" power by the United States, along with North Korea and Iraq. It's funny that after America invaded Iraq, the two other powers mentioned stepped up their nuclear development programs, and quite quickly I might add. Maybe these leaders are making calculated political decisions in light of the United States aggression. It is narrow-minded to start creating and basing foreign policy on such illusions of "right and wrong" or "good and evil," especially when it is just not true. Iran is a sovereign state like any other, and when it comes to shaping its own foreign policy, it commits actions based on its own perceptions of its security in the world, which right now it feels is severely threatened by the United States. I guess the invasion of a neighboring country and hostile rhetoric by the world's greatest nuclear threat will do that. Or maybe these "lunatics" are just evil.

J.J. Cale and Eric Clapton reunite

Now, I'm sure you are all wondering, "Who the hell is J.J. Cale?" Believe it or not, you probably know two of his most famous songs. Cale, who was born in 1953, started playing in bands at the age of 21, most notably with the great Leon Russell. Shortly after being signed in 1969, he released his first album, *Naturally*, in 1971. Around this time, J.J. Cale wrote 'After Midnight' which would later be covered by Eric Clapton on the album *Slow Hand*, along with another Cale cover, 'Cocaine.' Cale received recognition for these tunes, but for the most part continued to



BRANDON BROWN
Here Music

record albums at his own pace, choosing to have a cult following rather than a big-league success like Clapton. Now, I don't really need to introduce Eric 'Slow Hand' Clapton, the man who has played with everyone, and been a member and creative force in Derek and the Dominos, Cream, Blind Faith, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, The Yardbirds, and his

own solo career.

In 2006, 30 years since their first collaborations, Eric Clapton and J.J. Cale have reunited for a disc called *The Road to Escondido*, which is slightly different from Clapton's last few releases. Clapton has spent the past few years in a back-to-the-basics-type album process in which he has recorded more traditional blues numbers by Robert Johnson and tried to showcase his blues more than the rock/blues combo that made him famous in Cream. Perhaps the most pleasurable part of this album is the way in which Cale and Clapton have organized it to showcase all forms of blues music, from slow blues to boogie shuffle to jazzy blues to an almost rock-based blues. If you listen to these songs, you get the feeling of being on a road with a multifaceted band, playing in different venues each night. You can imagine the band playing one night in a jazz club, another in a honky-tonk bar, the next in the house of blues, and then back again. It's one great session after another, where every musician is perfectly locked into each other.

Highlights on the album include the opener, 'Danger,' which is similar to 'Cocaine.' The slow blues of 'Heads in Georgia' with its dirty lead guitar and a clean rhythm guitar is reminiscent of B.B. King's 'The Thrill is Gone.' 'When This War is Over' hints at classics like 'Everybody Needs Somebody (to love).' The poignant part of this song is the repeated line "when this war is over, it will be a better day." The jazzy blues of 'Sporting Life Blues' is a nice contrast to the country feel of 'Dead End Road.' In short, if you are a fan of the blues or Clapton, you should definitely check out *The Road to Escondido* and J.J. Cale's earlier solo work.

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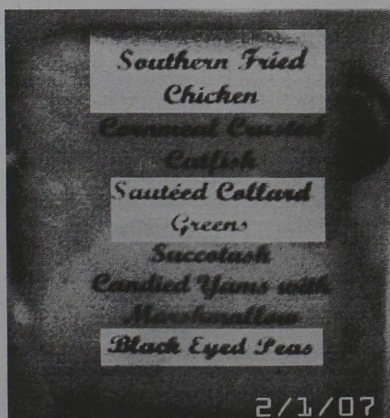
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This was the menu in Wismer on February 1, the first day of Black History Month (also served but not pictured: corn bread). Draw your own conclusions.

Photo courtesy of Dan Sergeant.

“The Illusionist” (2006)

Back from a brief hiatus, I'm taking a look at one of the two big magic movies of 2006, the other being “The Prestige.” Which begs the question: what's the deal with pairs of flicks dealing with the same subject coming out at about the same time? I mean, the lead time alone required for production would seem to prohibit it, but every once and a while it seems to work out. The first example that jumps to mind is “Armageddon” and “Deep Impact,” but there are many other examples. Anyway, off that tangent and back to the article. Apparently, I'm writing a review for “The Illusionist.”

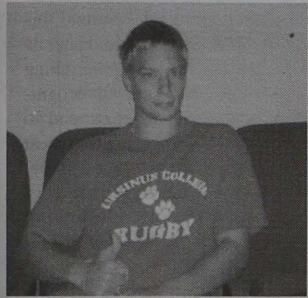
Eisenheim (Edward Norton), a magician in turn-of-the-century Vienna, discovers that his childhood love Sophie (Jessica Biel) is engaged to the Crown Prince Leopold (Rufus Sewell). He then implements a plan to steal her away and undermine the throne at the same time, all while avoiding the pursuit of the local authorities in the form of Inspector Uhl (Paul Giamatti).

The brief plot description above does not begin to do the intricacies of the winding story justice. Beautifully acted and skillfully shot, the filmmakers take full advantage of the wealth of talent at their disposal. Edward Norton delivers a very restrained and emotional performance as the titular magician. Paul Giamatti also comes through as the police inspector with the growing obsession towards discovering Eisenheim's secrets, both magical and non. The weak link in this film was Jessica Biel, who seemed out of her depth in this film, and ends up standing out for all the wrong reasons.

As far as effects go, this film takes CGI to a level that borders on art. Eisenheim's illusions don't so much reveal the trick, as develop and unfold, blossoming into the final reveal. As hard as it is to put into words here, the tricks are nothing short of beautiful, creating a real sense of wonder. Another great aesthetic touch is the slight sepia tone and iris applied throughout the film, creating a subtle impression that you are watching a period film, aged and faded. Combined with the architecture of Vienna, the setting becomes as much a character as anyone else in the film.

As far as the obvious comparisons to “The Prestige” go, it must be said that despite the shared time periods, presence of magicians, and feud stemming from a woman, these are different movies. That being said, “The Prestige” is the better of two movies and also this week's pick. There are a lot of reasons I could cite for why “The Prestige” is superior, but I'm going to chalk it up to what I call the “Michael Caine Factor,” meaning that by his mere presence in the film, a movie becomes noticeably better. Case in point: “Miss Congeniality.” What would otherwise be a barely tolerable ugly-duckling romantic comedy, becomes a somewhat entertaining film suitable for watching late night on TBS. I apologize for the shorter article this week, but I've been extremely busy. Hopefully, I'll be back in form by next week. Until then...

Alex Ernst wishes he had some mad locket carving skills, or that he could beat the Devil in a magic competition. Whichever comes first. You can reach him at alernst@ursinus.edu.



ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

Fear and loathing on the campaign trail '08: a humble tribute

Given our expertise concerning the intricate workings of American politics, *Communism for Dummies* has been given the opportunity to closely cover the 2008 presidential race. Indeed, the editors of *The Grizzly* have kindly allotted 10% of its yearly budget (or twelve dollars and fifty cents) to travel and lodging expenses for us while we follow the candidates around the country.

We've already wasted it all on hookers, but we'll make do.

This is a big commitment; the primary elections do not begin for another year, and the general election is almost two years away. Hell, *Communism for Dummies* won't even exist (well, it'll exist in our hearts and in our memories) by the time the general election rolls around, assuming we both graduate, that is. But, regardless, we have a commitment to bring the highest quality of journalistic integrity to the coverage of this weighty story. And given the gravity of the topic before us, we need a serious title for this segment. So, in a humble attempt to honor that paradigm of journalistic excellence, that fallen leader in the noble fight against the completely unnecessary evils of “Objective Journalism,” Hunter S. Thompson, we dub this segment *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '08*.

My apologies for the lengthy introduction; I know you readers want some actual content. But, where to begin? Indeed, the question we will be forced into asking during this whole process goes something like this: “How does one satirize a process that satirizes itself?”

I really don't know. But we'll do our best. And it's all for you, our loving fans.

Perhaps it would be appropriate to begin with a discussion of race and gender relations. As you well know, one of the central questions of this campaign will regrettably be “Is America ready for a woman (Hillary Clinton)/African American (Barack Obama)/Hispanic (Bill Richardson)/Vegan Freak (Dennis Kucinich) as president?”

This question was once again thrown in our faces when Senator Joe Biden (D - Del.) noted that Barack Obama is “the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy.” This got him in some deep water with African-American leaders across the nation. Most notably are Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, past presidential nominees who took his statement as saying that they are inarticulate, dumb, dirty, and ugly. But, to be fair to Mr. Biden, Jackson and Sharpton are known for going out of their way in accusing racism. Plus, they aren't the best looking chaps around. But, then again, I've never really been into black guys.

In a *Communism for Dummies* exclusive, we had the opportunity to speak with Senator Biden on the way

to a campaign rally in Iowa.

Communism for Dummies: Thanks for letting us ride with you, Mr. Biden.

Joe Biden: For shizzle, Matthew and Daniel.

CfD: Umm, okay. Mr. Biden, you've faced accusations of racism from African-American leaders such as Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. What do you make of this?

JB: You know, I called Jesse and Al. I wanted to clear some things up. So, you know, we met over at KFC and had a nice chat.

CfD: What did you talk about?

JB: Hey, that's private. Those guys are my niggas. I respect those brothers.

CfD: So, is that it? A dinner at KFC to clear things up? Or are you making any changes to your campaign to try to reach out to black voters?

JB: Man, my history speaks for itself. My home state is over 20% brothas and sistas. Blacks love me!

CfD: So, no change in tone or anything?

JB: Nah, man. What you see is straight up, gen-u-ine Biden.

CfD: Alright, moving on. So what did you mean when you called Mr. Obama “clean?”

JB: Have you smelled that cracker!? He smells like vanilla and lilacs. That is a clean, clean man.

CfD: Mr. Biden, did you just call him a “cracker?”

JB: Hell yes.

CfD: You do realize that “cracker” is a derogatory term for white people, right?

JB: Of course. What do you take me for? An idiot?

CfD: Well... Mr. Obama is black. Or at least half black.

JB: Oh, come on guys, I'm blacker than that honkey! I mean, look at how brilliant he is.

CfD: So... a smart black man is not really black?

JB:...

CfD: Mr. Biden?

JB: Crap... *turning to his assistant* Get me Al Sharpton on the phone.

CfD: Mr. Biden, can I make a suggestion?

JB: Why not?

CfD: If you want a shot at being president, just shut the Hell up.

JB: I can't do that, guys! We're aboard the Straight Talk Express!

CfD: Mr. Biden, that name was used by Senator McCain for his campaign bus in 2000. You wouldn't want to have to drop out of this race because of plagiarism like you did in '87.

JB: You're right, guys. I'm sure I'll find some other reason to drop out.

CfD: Excellent. Thanks again, Mr. Biden.

JB: Right on. Peace out.

If Al Sharpton or Jesse Jackson would like to refute the assertion that they are not easy on the eyes or accuse Communism for Dummies and/or Ursinus College as a whole of racism, Matt and Dan can be reached at mflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu. And I guess other people can contact us, too.



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Sports

Tumbling to success

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The Ursinus women's gymnastics team is nothing short of phenomenal this season. They started their remarkable streak by finishing third at the Eastern Michigan tri-meet in the season opener on Saturday, Jan. 13. Junior Briana Morrissey finished third in the all-around, pushing Ursinus to the third spot; she managed an overall score of 36.250. Eastern Michigan, the host team, finished first with a score of 192.475. The Bowling Green team finished in second with a score of 188.925 and the Bears followed in a close third with a final score of 178.950. Morrissey helped Ursinus on the vault with a 9.550 mark. Senior Laura Davis finished with a score of 9.225 on the bars and junior Melissa Garman totaled 8.725 on the bar. Kayleigh Davis, a freshman on the squad, stepped up for her first college meet whipping out a team-high of 9.425 on the floor.

The girls were back in action on Friday, Jan. 19 hosting their first tri-meet against Towson and Temple. Improving from their opener, the Bears took second with a team score of 184.150. Decelia Willacy and Jackie Schweitzer stepped up for Towson helping to tally an overall score of 191.175 and de-

feating both Ursinus and Temple who ended with a 182.650 final score, placing them in third. Morrissey and freshman Kira Oldham-Curtis ranked fifth and sixth place in the all-around. Morrissey, again proving to be an asset to the team, managed a season-high 37.550 total score; this was due in part to her second place 9.675 score in her floor exercise and fifth place for her success on vault. Oldham-Curtis came in seventh place for vault and floor finishing with a 36.250 total score. The Bears matched this success on the bars thanks to freshman Olivia Oller and senior Jess Furman who finished in second and third place. Oller gained another team-high with 9.600 while Furman followed with a 9.575 score for third. Davis helped the team again on bars taking sixth place with a score of 9.325.

The only place to go from here for the Bears was up. In their competition against

Brockport on Saturday, Jan. 27 the girls won with a final score of 186.850-183.975. The Bears, who are ranked second in Division III, proved to be an underrated team here at Ursinus this Saturday afternoon. Morrissey finished first on the floor exercises and in the all-around competition; she was accompanied by Oldham-Curtis during vault each scoring a 9.475 to tie for third place. The Bears held on tight to their slight edge over the Golden Eagles after just two events. On the uneven bars Christina Baggetta and Michelle Farrelly came up clutch for Brockport as they tied for first place. Ursinus, unwilling to give in, posted the next four highest scores: Furman with 9.425, Davis with 9.400 and Oller also coming in fourth with a 9.400. In the next event, the beam, Ursinus' Oldham-Curtis came in second with 9.500, while junior Emily Marques and Oller tied for third with scores of 9.450. On the floor, the Bears final event, Morrissey triumphed coming in first place with a 9.675 trailed by both Davis and Marques who each came in second with 9.425.



Rain, rain, and more reign

DAVE MARCHESKIE
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It was a soggy Super Bowl Sunday this past weekend as the heavens opened up with rain. Prince's rendition of 'Purple Rain' and the ultimate Colts' reign of success downpoured over South Beach as Indianapolis beat Chicago in Super Bowl XLI 29-17.

All of the 'CUT THAT MEAT!' criticism can now be cured as Peyton Manning dropped the barrel of monkeys off his back that filled up over the past nine seasons. Manning is foreshadowed to perhaps be the NFL's best player that ever strapped it up. On Feb. 4, a new dawn began and the reign of Manning turned into a hurricane of pride, glory, and a brand new Cadillac.

Super Bowl XLI was, yes, the 41st Super Bowl (for those who don't read Roman numerals) in NFL History. This game, played in Miami, was the 29th Super Bowl played outside in the elements and for the first time in history, the elements made a difference. The rain certainly did not stop rookie return man, Devin Hester, making history to be the first player ever to run the opening kickoff back for a (92-yd) touchdown.

In the Colts' first possession, Manning threw his seventh interception in the play-offs. Peyton, poised under early game pressure, marched his team down field on the ensuing possession and found Reggie Wayne wide open for a 53-yard touchdown pass. The PAT attempt failed after a slick ball slipped out of the hands of holder, Hunter

Smith. Bears had a one-point lead in the first quarter 6-7. Rex Grossman managed to thread the needle between four Colts' defenders to find Muhsin Muhammad for a four yard TD pass. Chicago gained momentum and, looking good, was leading 14-6.

Second quarter sogginess continued, but that didn't stop kicker Adam Vinatieri from banging a 29-yarder through the uprights. Backup running back, Damien Rhodes, took charge and scored from one yard out to give the Colts their first lead in the game, 16-14. A Rex Grossman fumble towards the end of the half gave Indianapolis a chance to enhance their lead with a few ticks remaining. Vinatieri attempted a 36 yard field goal but ended up wide-left to give Chicago hope, heading into the half only down by two, 16-14.

Crazy commercials and the artist formally known as...well...Prince, dominated a purple-packed half time performance in the midst of Miami's version of 'Purple Rain.'

In the third quarter, the horseshoes dominated the kicking game as two field goals came off of the foot of Adam Vinatieri and one was gold from Chicago's Robbie Gould. Indianapolis had the lead at the end of the third quarter 22-17, but not quite out of reach for a Bears comeback.

It was fitting that the fourth quarter rain started to pick up as Peyton and the Colts' reign soared passed preeminence as the NFL's best team in 2007. Within four minutes in the fourth, Rex Grossman was intercepted by Indianapolis' Kelvin Hayden.

Hayden took the rock to the house for a 56 yard touchdown interception to seal the deal 29-17.

Gatorade showers fell upon the shoulders of Colts head coach, Tony Dungy, as the strain of racism fell off his shoulders. Dungy is the first African-American head coach to win a Super Bowl. Not only was it a win for a team, a franchise, and a city, but a victory for an entire nation. Tony Dungy remarked in a post-game interview that he was glad he won "the Lord's way." A truly religious man, this was an emotional win for his family as his teenage son committed suicide just a year ago.

If you like 6'5" quarterbacks with laser rocket arms, you will like the fact that Peyton Manning was appointed Super Bowl XLI's Most Valuable Player. Manning completed 25 of 38 passes for 247 yards and a touchdown. Peyton is the fourth quarterback to be drafted first overall in the NFL draft and to win in his first Super Bowl appearance. He sits beside Hall of Famers such as Troy Aikmen, Jim Plunkett, and Terry Bradshaw. If it wasn't evident before, there is no mistake now; Peyton Manning will be enshrined in Canton, Ohio on the first possible ballot five years after retirement. Oh yeah, by the way, with MVP he has the keys to a shiny-new red 2007 Cadillac XLR-V convertible. What will be put on the license plate? Hmm... 'GR8NES' perhaps.

Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes doubled up for a strong run game. Rhodes led the Colts with 113 yards and Addai ran for 77 yards. Addai led the team in receptions (10) and YAC (66). Chicago rushed for over 100 yards as Thomas Jones ran for every single one

The girls are a large support group for one another; sharing hugs after each event, the team proves they can accomplish success with help from one another. Garman illustrates this team unity stating, "This year has been nothing short of exciting. Not only are we doing well in the gym, but we are performing skills that are new, and in my mind, somewhat creative and different. This team has more heart than I have ever seen. This year, we've gained five freshmen who have each brought something completely different to the team. Now, after gaining some confidence, the freshmen are competing so well and they are amazing to watch. Coming from the upper classmen, we have leadership that is simply amazing. We are about a third of the way through our season, and it's flying by so fast. Each week we go out and try and beat what we did the week before - it's that simple. It is amazing to see how much support and cheering that has come from our fans this year; that's what really makes the meets fun for us! I can't wait to keep competing and to go through the rest of the season."

of them with 112. Unfortunately for Chicago, big back Cedric Benson injured his knee early to hinder the ground game for the Bears.

A sloppy field turned into sloppy play as there were eight turnovers all together. Chicago had five total turnovers, three fumbles lost and two interceptions. Grossman was accountable for the two interceptions as well as two fumbles lost on the center-quarterback exchange. Indianapolis fumbled twice and Peyton threw one interception.

The Indianapolis Colts are the World Champions of 2007 for the National Football League. This team won 13 regular season games and losing four. Indianapolis plowed through four different teams in three different cities to earn that coveted diamond encrusted championship ring.

Well, that is it. Football is over for the year and now we have to result to NASCAR and eventually baseball to fill up our Sunday afternoons, but put your trucker hats on hold for one more weekend. The NFL Pro Bowl will have one last hurrah next Saturday in Honolulu, Hawaii. Look for lone Philadelphia Eagle, Brian Dawkins, to prowls the secondary against XLI MVP, Peyton Manning. The AFC and the NFC will meet in Aloha Stadium for a battle of superstar supremacy on Feb. 10 at 6:00 p.m. on CBS.