



10-11-2007

The Grizzly, October 11, 2007

Matt Flyntz

Lane Taylor

Caitlin Dalik

Kristin O'Brassill

Jessica Zatwarnicki

See next page for additional authors

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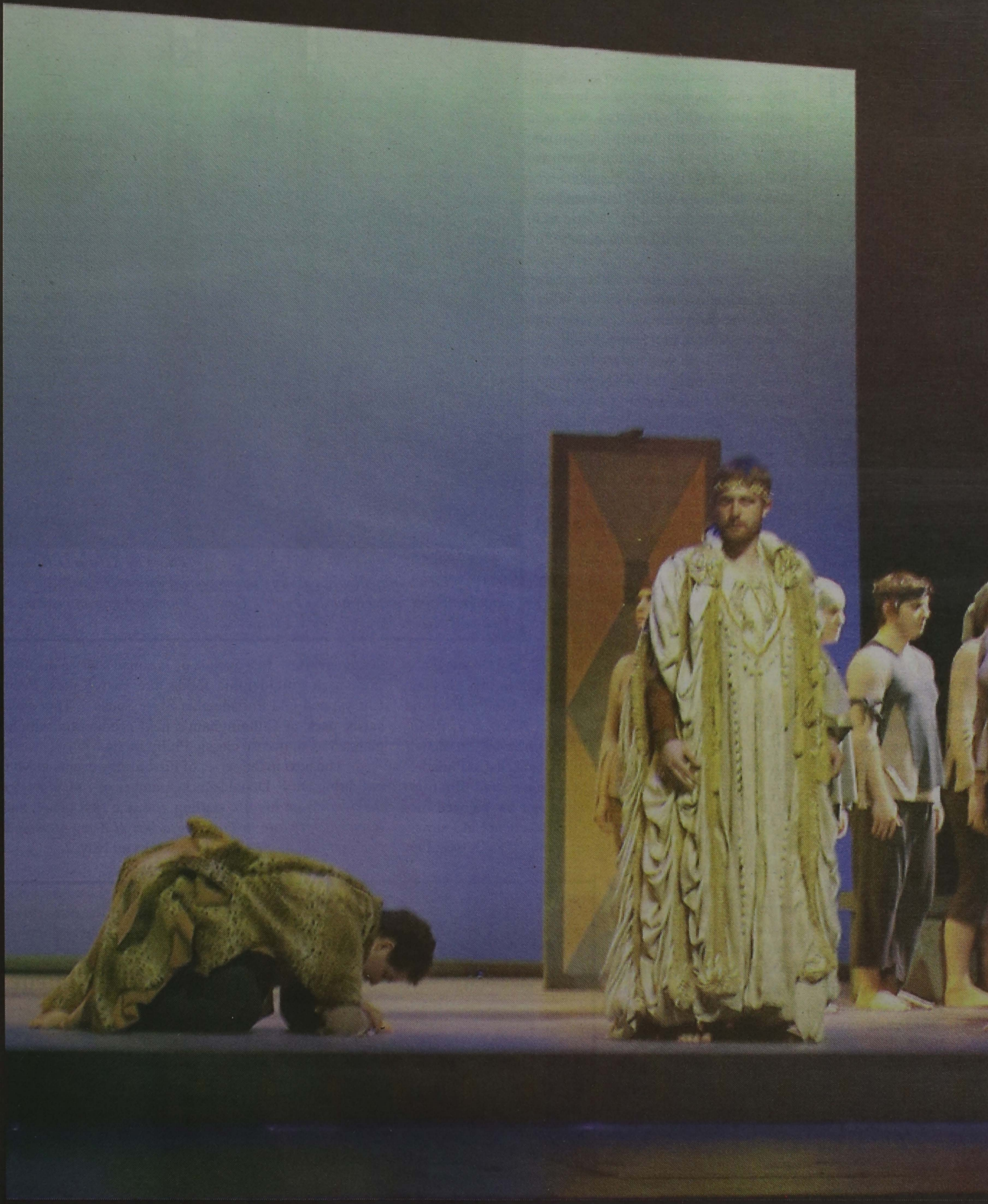
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The Grizzly

Thursday, October 11, 2007

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

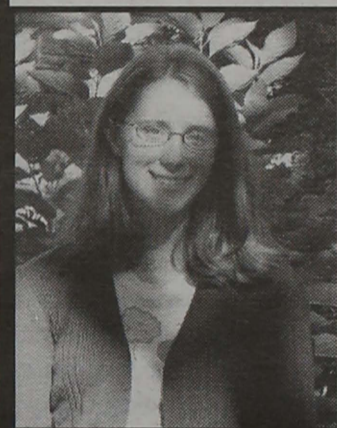
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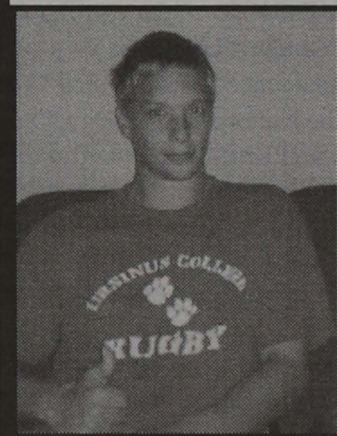
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Up 'til Dawn Beats the Yawn to Fight Against Childhood Cancer

CAITLIN DALIK
cadalik@ursinus.edu

As college students, we all know that staying up late is nothing out of the ordinary. Cramming for big tests, last minute papers, or even a good Saturday night can keep you up past your normal bedtime. Now imagine that staying up late could help save kids' lives. I'd like to introduce you to Up 'til Dawn, a new service club at Ursinus.

Up 'til Dawn is a fundraising program designed for college campuses to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Across the country, students, faculty, and staff on college campuses form fundraising teams to raise money to support the work of the hospital. Up 'til Dawn began at the University of Memphis in 1998, and since then it has spread to over 300 college campuses across the country. To date, the program has raised more than \$16.5 million for research for pediatric cancer.

Here at Ursinus, teams of six can sign up for Up 'til Dawn. Each team member collects names and addresses of 50 people they know such as relatives, friends, classmates, neighbors, etc. The Ursinus campus will hold an all team meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 17 from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Musser Auditorium in Pfahler Hall where teams will address their letters to the names they collected.

Up 'til Dawn was started at Ursinus by sophomore Julie DiPuppo. After coming across it online, she and Melissa Sanders, Up 'til Dawn's advisor and Assistant Director of Residence Life, traveled to St. Jude in Memphis, Tenn. for the National Up 'til Dawn Seminar. They attended meetings and learned how to run the program at Ursinus. "We got the opportunity to tour the hospital and hear many stories from St. Jude families. It was quite an experience," DiPuppo said.

St. Jude was founded in 1962 and it is a leading pediatric treatment and research facility focused on children's catastrophic diseases. DiPuppo added, "There isn't anywhere else like St. Jude where patients are treated at no cost to the family and where new treatments are constantly being developed and shared internationally. Actually, seeing the hospital was pretty exciting; sometimes it's hard to believe that a place like that really does exist." The hospital has helped bring the survival rates for childhood cancers from less than 20 percent to more than 70 percent. Most impressive, since St. Jude was founded, the survival rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common type of childhood cancer, has increased from four percent to 94 percent.

Students who participate in Up 'til Dawn conclude their fundraising efforts by hosting a final event at the end of the semester and stay "up 'til dawn" to celebrate their achievements. If you missed team registration and would still like to participate in Up 'til Dawn, you can bring 50 names and addresses along with the \$5 registration fee to the All Team Meeting on Oct. 17. So come out and help this great cause by staying Up 'til Dawn!

The "Voice of WHY?" Speaks at Myrin Library's First Friday Series

KRISTIN O'BRASSILL
krobrassill@ursinus.edu

This month's installment of Myrin Library's First Friday events brought well-known and respected TV announcer Ed Cunningham to Ursinus on Friday, Oct. 5. Cunningham, known as the "voice of WHY?" for his extensive work with TV12 - WHY?, has been producing programs about the culture and history of Philadelphia for nearly 30 years.

Cunningham does what few can; he gets paid to do what he loves. After graduating from Temple University in 1968, he took his first broadcasting job with WDVR. He then moved on to announce for a classical music program for WFLN before landing the position that has been so admired over the last 30 years.

Cunningham came to Ursinus to speak for the same purpose that he began his career - to give younger generations an opportunity to understand the history of Philadelphia, while reminiscing with older generations about how the city has changed.

"I've always been fascinated by my hometown and in love with the history. I've lived here my whole life, and I love to share its stories with other people," said Cunningham.

Cunningham has had many opportunities to share those stories through his work with TV12, coordinating and producing programs such as *Remember When*, *Holy Philadelphia*, and *Things that Aren't There Anymore*. In each of these programs, Cunningham explored the past of Philadelphia through old photographs, newspapers, and film footage in order to educate the public about his beloved metropolis. He was the recipient of the Excellence in Journalism Award and of a Mid-Atlantic Emmy for Outstanding Cultural Program.

Cunningham's most recent project was *Philly's Favorite Kids Show Hosts*, which was filled with childhood reminiscences of kids show hosts like Captain Noah and Sally Starr. The production includes excerpts from original TV shows, as well as new interviews with the stars and those who remember them.

The presentation in Myrin included clips from some of these programs while Cunningham elaborated about his endeavors with WHY? to provide a service to the community through these historically educational

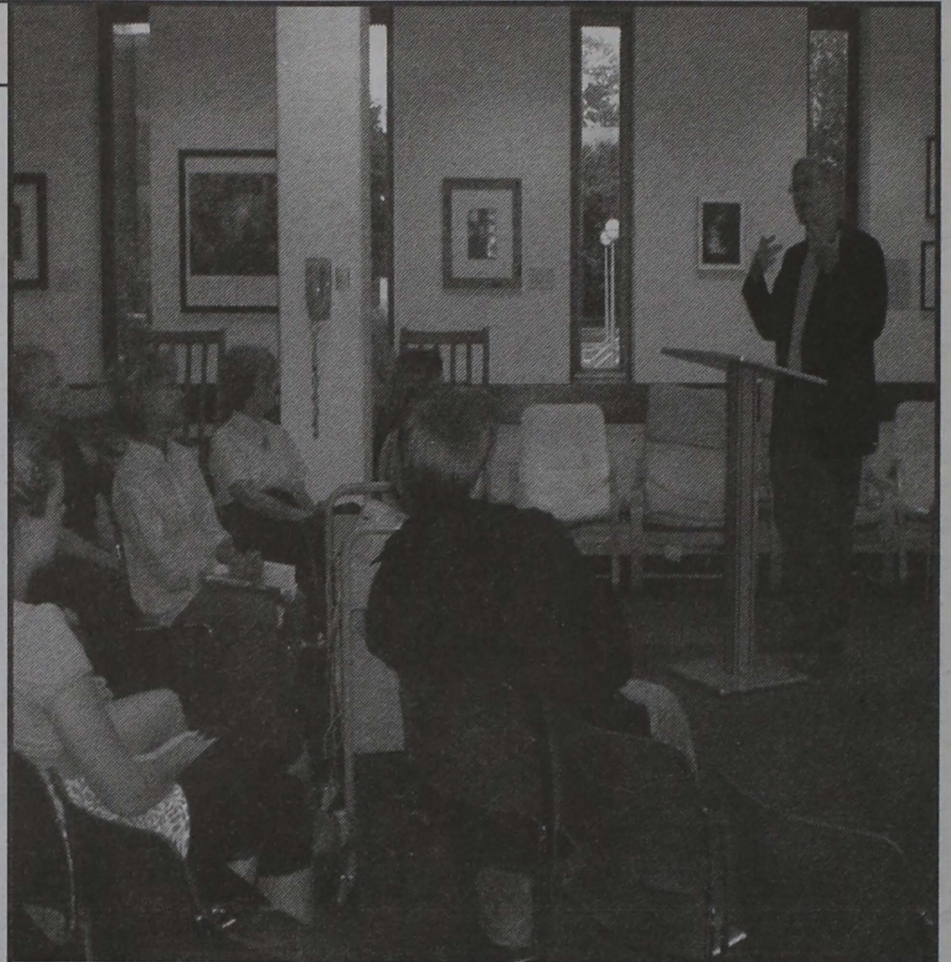


Photo by Kristin O'Brassill
WHYY's Ed Cunningham speaks to the campus on his experiences documenting Philadelphia on Friday, Oct. 5. Cunningham's appearance kicks-off Myrin Library's "First Friday" series.

documentaries. Just outside of Jazzman's was a display of trademark Philadelphia foods like TastyKakes, Peanut Chews, and Old Philadelphia Style Sodas. This gave a sneak peek at Cunningham's next production which is planned to showcase classic Philly foods.

The next in the series of First Friday events in Myrin will bring Dr. F. Donald Zucker, author of *I'm Still Here!*, incidents from his life starting with the first grade, and *I Remember Trieste: a Post World War II Army Memoir* for readings and discussion of the works on Nov. 2.

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 32, Issue 7
grizzly@ursinus.edu

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WeCan Focuses on Workers' Rights

ANANI SAMUELS

ansamuels@ursinus.edu

Many of the organizations on campus have a specific purpose for the Ursinus community, and that purpose, no matter what it may be, is always something that helps make the Ursinus experience a better one. We Care About the Nation, commonly known as WeCan, is constantly trying its best to make a positive change at Ursinus.

According to Lauren Schaeffer, President of WeCan, the organization is a "social justice and activist group" which generally works for human rights, but has recently been focusing on workers' rights.

This year, WeCan is hosting a Worker Appreciation Day for the custodial staff and Wismer workers. On October 24, WeCan and the various organizations that have teamed up with them will have banners hanging in Olin Plaza and will distribute roses and doughnuts to the workers. The banners are for students to write on thanking workers and saying other positive things, and the workers can write on them as well. There will also be time allotted for workers to speak about their experiences working at Ursinus, any issues that they may have, and how the students are able to help them. The goal of a Worker Appreciation Day is to "Make [the workers] feel like they are a part of our community, because they are," Laruen commented.

WeCan is not only thinking of the workers on this

campus but the workers that indirectly work for Ursinus. Last year, WeCan started a campaign to get signed on to the Worker Rights Consortium and the Designated Suppliers Program. This effort put forth by WeCan was to ensure that the clothes that are sold in the bookstore aren't made in sweatshops.

After many rallies, letters, and the sheer determination by the members of WeCan, the Ursinus administration eventually signed onto the Worker Rights Consortium and the Designated Suppliers Program. Due to various extenuating circumstances, the Designated Suppliers Program hasn't been implanted yet, but WeCan has high hopes for this cause.

WeCan began focusing on workers' rights last year. Former president, alumna Dina Yarmus, after attending a conference and meeting with a group called United Students Against Sweatshops, brought the idea home.

While the cause of workers' rights is extremely important to WeCan members, the group will also focus on other causes this year. WeCan will be teaming up with Ursinus College Environmental Action, or UCEA, as well. The two organizations will be holding an event called Focus the Nation dealing with awareness about global climate change which will be held Wednesday, January 20 through Saturday, February 2.

WeCan meets every Monday in the Zwingli common room at 9 p.m. If you are interested in these causes, check out the meetings and get involved!

In Case You Missed It...

ASHLEY HIGGINS

ashiggins@ursinus.edu

Oct. 4, 2007 – In an all-night operation, more than 2,700 South African miners were rescued from a mine shaft. Early on Wednesday, a pressured air shaft broke and damaged the elevator to the surface, leaving all of the miners trapped underground with no food and water. There have been no reported casualties.

Oct. 4, 2007 – A recent poll of Republican voters showed that the majority intended to vote for a Republican candidate who was not like President Bush. 48% voted that they wanted a candidate who took a "different approach" than our current president. This is a complete reversal from the same poll administered in April, when over 50% of Republican voters said that they intended to vote for a candidate who took a "similar approach."

Oct. 4, 2007 – Police are investigating a possible hate crime at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf. A deaf African-American student was held against a wall by seven other students (six white, one African-American) while swastikas and the letters 'KKK' were written on his body with a marker.

Oct. 4, 2007 – The Labor Department reported that the number of newly-laid-off Americans who are applying for unemployment benefits shot up by a staggering 16,000 last week. There are a total of 317,000 applications currently

for unemployment benefits. Analysts worry that this, coupled with the worst housing slump in 16 years, are indicators of an eminent economic recession.

Oct. 4, 2007 – Senior General Than Shwe, the leader of Myanmar's military junta, told a U.N. envoy that he was prepared to meet with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. However, General Shwe has two preconditions to this meeting. First, Suu Kyi must immediately cease encouraging a confrontation of junta forces. Second, Suu Kyi must also cease encouraging sanctions on the military junta. Suu Kyi has adamantly refused to meet these conditions. This is not the first time that leaders of Myanmar's military junta have asked Suu Kyi to give up her crusade for democracy; however, this is the first time a personal meeting has been offered.

Oct. 5, 2007 – Scientists have discovered a mutation of the H5N1 bird flu virus that allows humans to become infected more easily. Birds were sampled both in Africa and in Europe, and all of them had this new strain. Several more mutations would be needed for the bird flu to reach pandemic levels. Currently, even this new mutation of the bird flu cannot be spread person-to-person.

Oct. 5, 2007 – A U.S. military official reported that on the Sept. 16 incident involving Blackwater guards, the Blackwater guards opened fire without provocation. The military official, who spoke under guaranteed anonymity said, "it was obviously excessive, it was obviously wrong."



Associated Press

About 2,700 South African miners were hauled from deep underground Thursday, Oct. 4. There were no casualties.

Omega Chi Hosts Annual Campus Blood Drive

JESSICA ZATWARNICKI

jezatwarnicki@ursinus.edu

On Tuesday, Oct. 9, the Omega Chi sorority sponsored its seventh annual American Red Cross Blood Drive in hopes to help compensate for the diminishing blood supply.

Currently, blood levels are extremely low in our area. There is enough AB positive blood to last 3.6 days, but only enough O positive blood to last 0.7 days. Omega Chi's blood drive can increase the levels of blood available for our regional area immensely.

After exceeding the expectations of previous drives, Omega Chi's goal for the American Red Cross this fall was 60 pints each day, or 120 pints in total for the event that took place on Oct. 9 and 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Wismer Lower Lounge.

Danielle Carcia, the Community Service Chair of Omega Chi and organizer of this event, stated, "We choose this because we all know that it will one day help someone we care about. There is no substitute for blood and one of the best ways to increase the local blood supply is to run drives like ours."

Omega Chi teams up with the American Red Cross each year for many reasons. One reason is that each sorority or fraternity on campus must have community service hours to remain as a group. This particular sorority chooses the blood drive every year as their service project because of the impact it makes within the community.

"The blood drive is a much respected event that saves a lot of lives," explained Carcia. "The students here on campus seem to take into consideration the impact of the drive, are excellent donors, and really help out," Carcia added.

The response from the Ursinus campus is truly remarkable. The community, faculty, staff, and students all support the cause by donating, therefore, it is something to which everyone can relate. People on campus really get involved, help to surpass goals, and even look forward to each biannual occasion.

"We hold the blood drive twice a year because you must wait 56 days between each donation before giving blood again," Carcia said. "In order to get the best possible donations, a drive should ideally occur two times a year."

The sisters of Omega Chi help to set up the event by registering potential donors, and volunteering during the drive as a support system and caretakers for the donors after blood has been given.

The blood drive this Fall was successful once again due to the great support of the campus community and the organization of Omega Chi. There will be a second drive during the Spring, so be sure to look for details about the event and be ready to donate!

Would you like to write for the News section of *The Grizzly*? E-mail the News Editor at heturnbach@ursinus.edu.

Sexual Health in the Heat: Philly OutFest



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

Last Sunday marked the occurrence of Philadelphia's OutFest, a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities in the city, which has been taking place for over 14 years. OutFest is Philadelphia's answer to National Coming Out Day, and

the festival has become the largest Coming Out Day celebration in the world (PhillyPride.org). So last weekend, I threw on a rainbow tube top and hopped aboard a bus chartered by our Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) and Professor Greg Weight to join in the festivities.

comparison with the amount of people attending the festival, and they were not slewing hate speech, just a misguided view of love and compassion that they have come to embrace as their Christianity. And for the most part, they were ignored. Many Philadelphia shops and organizations brought wares and information to the festivities and organizations from as far away as my hometown of Doylestown in Bucks County recognized the opportunity to spread awareness of what they have to offer the community by sitting at a table in front of what seemed like most of it. Interestingly, each organization or shop attempted to adjust their table to appear LGBT-friendly, whether it be by utilizing the rainbow or by giving out free condoms. Needless to say, there were condoms everywhere, and this seasoned sex columnist was impressed by the variety. I studied the condoms at each table at great length to get a sense of brand loyalty and what currently appeals to most sexually-active individuals, but I'm betting that I appeared more bizarre than studious. Regardless, sexual health was clearly a strong theme for the festival.

However, I did not only study the condoms at the tables, but the information as well. Many organizations offer support to the LGBT community, such as the William Way LGBT Community Center (www.waygay.org), the Safe Guards Project, which offers information, STI and HIV testing, and an LGBT sensitive physician (215-985-6873), Pink and Blues Philadelphia, an organization that offers support to LGBT individuals who are also suffering from mental illness (www.pinkandblues.com), AIDS Services in Asian Communities (ASIAC), which does not seem to be exclusive to the LGBT community (www.asiac.org), the Attic Youth Center, an organization that enhances learning and also does not appear to be exclusive to the LGBT community (www.atticyouthcenter.org), the Bryson Institute of the Attic Youth Center, an organization that offers free LGBTQ (questioning and queer) workshops (215-545-4331 ext. 104), and the Mazzone Center, the self-proclaimed LGBT health center of Philadelphia (215-563-0652).

There were also several religious organizations

present to welcome the LGBT community that is too often shut out of religion due to their sexuality. Examples of the organizations at the festival are Dignity Philadelphia, a community of LGBT Catholics (www.dignityphila.org), Soka Gakkai International-USA, a Buddhist organization (215-569-2144), and Congregation Beth Ahavah at Rodeph Shalom, a congregation of Reform Judaism (www.bethahavah.org). The Unitarian Universalists and an Episcopalian organization also had a table.

Based on what I've written here, it should be clear that those who travel through the Philly OutFest with an eye out for more than the free condoms have an opportunity to gain information and understanding for the LGBT community and sexuality in general. So next year, brave the 11:00 AM wake-up and hit the streets of Philly for their annual OutFest.

Career Corner

CAREER SERVICES

career@ursinus.edu

Bound for Law School?

A Juris Doctor degree (J.D.) will open doors to a wide range of law related careers as well as positions in government, business, higher education, communication, and more. First, consider if a law degree is right for you. Talk with the Ursinus Pre Law Advisor (Houghton Kane) and advisors in Career Services. Conduct research on legal careers and consult resources on the internet. Contact Grizzl*E Network alumni mentors and volunteers to get a first-hand look at the field by conducting informational interviews to learn about the legal profession. Join the Haines-Bernard Pre-Legal society and attend their events and programs.

There is no "Pre-Law" major, and there are no specific educational requirements to get into law school. However, there are some academic areas that could help develop skills that are necessary for success in law school. English and communication courses will help to improve written and oral expression. Physical sciences require systematic analysis and inductive reasoning. Mathematics and philosophy provide background in logic and reasoning, and social sciences will offer insight into human behavior, social processes, and institutions.

A solid GPA is expected. Challenge yourself with difficult classes. Seek out leadership experience, summer jobs, internships, and public service to develop a well-rounded portfolio of skills and experience. There are almost 200 accredited law schools in the US, so select schools carefully. Consider criteria such as the school's facilities, resources, faculty, student body, and career services office. Consider the school's national or regional reputation. View the Official Guide to ABA -Approved Law schools, The NAPLA/SAPLA Book of Lists (both available in Career Services), and the Online Law School Locator at www.bc.edu/offices/career/gradschool/las/lawlocator.

Law schools will consider objective criteria (LSAT and GPA) as the primary pieces of your application, but will consider subjective criteria (personal statement, letters of recommendation, and experience) when evaluating your application. Consult with Houghton Kane, Pre Law Coordinator, and the staff in Career Services to talk you through your law school planning.

UC Theater Presents Gilgamesh

KRISTEN GALLAGHER

krigallagher1@ursinus.edu

Five thousand years ago lived the magnificent king of Uruk. His name was Gilgamesh, and he was one third man, two thirds god, and reigned over all of his subjects ruthlessly. A man was sculpted from the Gods to be Gilgamesh's equal, his brother. This man went by the name of Enkidu. He ran wild with the animals and was equally as strong as Gilgamesh yet was gentler. These two men defeated monsters together, and went on to have their names remembered for all of eternity. If you are an Ursinus College student, you should know this ancient Sumerian epic like the back of your hand.

The Ursinus College Theater brought this epic to life. Domenick Scudera, writer, producer and director of the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, did an amazing job of transforming the story that has developed in every student's mind in to an illustration of beauty and charm which unraveled in front of our very eyes. Sophomore Mark Smedberg played Gilgamesh, King of Uruk. Smedberg brought strength and enthusiasm to the role of Gilgamesh and allowed his audience to capture the strong desire of his character. This is a difficult thing to do considering the amount of desire his

character possessed to become fully god-like and endure everlasting life. Enkidu, Gilgamesh's equal, was played by freshman Jeff Thomas who made his Ursinus theater debut. Thomas gave a sense of innocence and passion to Enkidu that all sensed while reading the epic. Keesha Fausto played the harlot and allowed the audience to see how important the character was within the epic with her seductive movements and strong sense of self. The ensemble of Gilgamesh brought intensity and a great sense of presence to the stage that allowed the story itself to be better understood. For example, during the death of Enkidu they stood motionless behind Gilgamesh and his dying brother. Their statuesque bodies allowed the audience to see Gilgamesh fall apart in front of his subject. Their presence alone brought the scene to a whole new level.

The *Epic of Gilgamesh* was portrayed beautifully by the Ursinus College Theater. From its artsy movements and props to its talented actors, this play was not one worth missing! The cast's hard work surely paid off! Their three weeks of daily practices and tech rehearsals lasting eight hours each ensured them with an amazing production. For only two dollars a ticket for students and five dollars for general admission, this entertaining play was a sure steal.

grizzly@ursinus.edu

Water Bottles: Robbing Our Environment and Our Homes

ZAKARY ARNHOLD

zaarnhold@ursinus.edu

Most vendors sell water bottles for over a dollar, and you can buy them in bulk for less than ten; however, if you knew where this so-called pure water came from you might think twice about actually paying for bottled water.

Did you know that your tap water is actually healthier than bottled water? While you're sitting there with your Poland Spring, Dasani, or even Ursinus College endorsed water bottle, you may want to consider the economical and environmental implications with each purchase of bottled water.

The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has reported estimates that suggest that over 25 percent of bottled water is nothing more than tap water. Coca-Cola and PepsiCo admitted that their bottled water brands, Dasani and Aquafina, respectively, are no more than filtered tap water. Yet, buying bottled water is like paying 1,000 times more for your tap water. Furthermore, the NRDC found that a five-year supply of bottled water would cost well over \$1,000, but the same amount of tap water would cost \$1.65. You do the math – the costs of bottled water are absurd, especially when the water source is no different than the water flowing from your faucet. The money we spend on bottled water could be better spent elsewhere, such as buying books for college or making a donation to various charities.

There are also energy costs for the creation and supplying of bottled water. Over 190,000 homes could be powered by the amount of energy that is wasted on bottled water. Conversely, obtaining water from our tap requires no such energy cost and does not waste other resources.

Now, you may be thinking to yourself that there are health benefits to drinking bottled water; however, investigations by the NRDC of 103 brands of bottled water yielded no reliable evidence that bottled water is any safer than water from the tap. Tap water (regulated by the EPA) is a highly regulated source of water, which removes bacteria, is filtered and disinfected with chlorine, has enforceable standards for groundwater, undergoes lab testing, contains essential nutrients like calcium and iron, and assures quality and safety to the consumer. Bottled water (regulated by the FDA) does not have any legal requirements to remove or kill bacteria, disinfect or filter, do testing, or contain natural minerals. In addition, operation plants do not need to be certified to sell their product to the public. The difference is clear, and the motives of the regulators dictate the standards of tap water versus bottled water. The EPA has established criteria for drinking water based on the risk of various constituents that may be found in water that can cause cancer in humans. The FDA does not perform the extensive investigations of the EPA and is an organization that is heavily influenced by food processors for their own financial gain.

There are not only economic and health related costs of using bottled water, but there are also a myriad of environmental costs. As previously stated, there is a high energy

loss by using bottled water. Even though there are systems for recycling water bottles, people continually throw their bottles in the trash – many of you on campus are guilty of this! About 80 percent of water bottles go directly to a landfill and are not reprocessed. Plastic bottles take over 1,000 years to break down, and the average consumer drinks over 100 bottles a year – where at least 80 of those bottles would simply be discarded. The carbon dioxide produced to extract materials, ship, and distribute bottled water is too extensive and complex to fully calculate, but the high demand for bottled water suggests a high level of greenhouse gases produced. Also, the amount of oil consumed during water bottling processes can fuel over 100,000 cars a year. This can all be prevented by getting water from the tap.

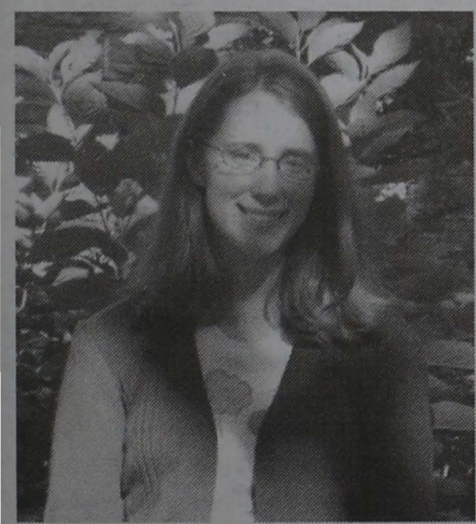
The absurdity surrounding the use bottled water is mainly due to the convenience of having a drinking source on-hand. There are alternatives to buying mass quantities of bottled water that do not have the same economic, human health, and environmental costs. One alternative is to purchase a Nalgene water bottle and reuse it forever – any non-disposable bottle works! Also, you can reuse the water bottles that you have already purchased. Either choice requires that you properly clean and wash your bottles to prevent bacteria contamination.

The main goal is to reduce our overall consumption of natural resources, to reuse materials when we can, and to recycle them when we must – landfills are not a sustainable option! Save your money, save energy, and save the environment all by saying 'NO' to bottled water.

Book Review: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

KRISTIN O'BRASSILL

krobassill@ursinus.edu



The reader begins every book with certain dispositions, and he or she often ends up demanding something from the author, whether it is a laugh, a good cry, or just the facts. Jonathan Safran Foer's

sophomore novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* demands so much from the reader that it truly deserves to be recognized. He successfully allows his voice as a writer to blend with that of his characters to the point that he causes you to forget that you are reading a book and to believe that the events the characters experience are completely literal. Foer does this with the innocent yet precocious eccentricity of his protagonist.

The novel is told from the perspective of a pretentious, yet endearing, nine-year-old boy named Oskar Schnell, whose father died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Oskar is an inventor of any object that could have saved his father on that fateful day, or to get rid of his own "heavy boots" (his pet name for sadness), constantly posing "what if's":

"There are so many times when you need to make a

quick escape, but humans don't have their own wings, or not yet, anyway, so what about a birdseed shirt?"

He collects knowledge, as well as newspaper clippings and photographs to put in his scrapbook, which he has deemed "Stuff That Happened to Me". He sets out on a crazy expedition through the five boroughs of New York to find the lock which is the companion to a strange key that he found in his father's closet after his death.

Oskar explains himself and the events of his life in such a way that my first instinct was to laugh. The depth of passion that Foer exhibits through Oskar's devotion in his search for the lock is discussed in humorous tones, and in light of the nature of other topics which are explored in the novel, the reader is thankful for a laugh.

Contrasted to the amusement that Oskar finds in his journey around New York is his guilt and distress over the answering machine that he hides in his closet. Preserved on the tape in that machine are the last frantic messages that his father left before, Oskar supposes, he jumped out of a window in one of the Towers. Included in the novel are the photos that Oskar zoomed in on of one man falling from many stories high, which Oskar believes could be his father. Throughout Oskar's frantic attempt to find the answers to as many questions as possible, he encounters much more of the real world than the majority of 90-year-olds have which is enough to give the reader some seriously "heavy boots."

Foer is very adept in his endeavor to tell two stories from very different perspectives. The subplot of the novel traces the relationship of Oskar's grandparents and his entire family history. The underlying story is told from the point of view of an elderly man who has lost the ability to speak and carries around tons of books which he writes in so that he can get by. There is a distinctly different tone when Foer is writing from this man's perspective, lacking the humor to ameliorate the sadness which can be found in Oskar's monologues.

Foer's background, as well as his niche in writing, becomes obvious when he writes about the memories of Oskar's grandparents. These themes are similar to those that are central to Foer's first novel, *Everything is Illuminated* (which is equally exceptional, and worth the act of actually reading it – although I would also recommend the movie). The grandfather's narrative primarily concerns his experience of the firebombing of Dresden during WWII and his young life in Germany in a Jewish village before the bombing.

Foer tends to write about Jewish history and its effect on perceptions of current events, as well as the importance of acknowledging the past from the point of view of those who experienced it first-hand. He allows his emotions to show through the insights of his characters, making it so that his work follows you around for weeks after you've finished reading it. You become engaged in the plights of the characters, pulled from the usual role of a reader as an observant bystander to the role of one who sympathizes with the characters. Any novel that can do that is certainly worth the read.

Interested in submitting
a Features article?
Contact the Editor at
alwagner@ursinus.edu
to be published!

CIE Students, Are You Listening?

ZAKARY ARNHOLD

zaarnhold@ursinus.edu

My fellow scholarly Ursinians:

It is in the best interest of everyone that I formally alert you to the chronic epidemic that has run amuck within our tight-knit community. It infiltrates our lives like the bubonic plague and coincides with the arrival of each incoming Freshman class. Common symptoms include, but are not limited to, headaches, nausea, moments of daze and confusion, apathy, incoherent statements, the inability to resolve conflicts, and a sense of utter hopelessness. It has been referred to as a “@!&%ing waste of time,” but for the sake of brevity we can refer to it as Relativism. This short exposé is an attempt to debunk the fanaticism of this egalitarian valuation of opinions.

Relativism is a philosophic doctrine which states that there is no absolute or universal understanding of morals or truths. This allows for our morals to change depending on the circumstances in which they are applied. Relativism is an egalitarian concept, in that all perspectives of an argument are equally valued and right. Therefore, if you find yourself arguing whether Halo 3 is 100 percent better than Halo 2, then you needn't argue any longer, because both Halo 3 and Halo 2 are 100 percent better than each other. You may see how someone might bring about valid arguments for either side, and therefore, there is no definitive answer – it is wholly relative.

At this juncture, you may not see an inherent problem with relativism. However, when breaking away from the trivial and entering into the realm of moral dilemmas you will soon realize that relativism fails miserably. Let's look at an example involving two individuals with opposing views on the death penalty. Our pro-cyanide interlocutor presents the argument that the death penalty is morally permissible, because the punishment is justified by the heinous crimes committed against humanity by the prisoners on Death Row. His counterpart argues that their crimes do require punishment and justice to be served, but it is immoral and inhumane to sentence an individual to death under any circumstance. In this scenario, one rationale is

that the crimes justify the punishment, while the other equates no rationality to justify a prescribed death sentence. So who is right?

Being the relativists that many of you are you should be saying ‘They're both right!’ and start wiping your hands clean of the situation and patting yourself on the back for a job well done. However, maybe you've found the inherent contradiction that it is impossible for both individuals to be correct! There is no middle ground – you cannot claim that it is morally permissible to kill a man and then in the same sentence renounce your moral claim. That's complete absurdity! For this reason, relativism fails to adequately solve debates and conflicts in which morality is a vital component. If morality is relative, then all things are permitted.

Morality is not relative and there is a sense of right and wrong that *must* be sought. The conditional ‘must’ is imperative, for its absence removes the inclination to argue for the right – there would be no right. Thus, I am calling you all out. Come out and argue for what you believe is right or wrong. Stop conceding your point and presenting arguments built upon thin air. Break through the barriers of politeness, for you are attacking the argument and not the person. Verbally arm yourself and expect to combat opposition and not to hastily yield.

This is not a plea for a hopeless cause. To deliberate and eke out a heightened understanding of morality is central to what it means to be human. Our answers to moral conflicts relate directly to our conception of how we ought to live our lives. Without serious debate we may find it morally permissible to molest, oppress, enslave, and even murder one another without just cause. Complete knowledge of universal truths may never be attained, but that does not equate to a hopeless effort. Rationally sound argumentation presented against the currently accepted standard ultimately progresses towards a *new* and *higher* standard. We may never get it right, but our struggles may find us in a better condition than that which we started. I, for one, cannot sit idly and contribute nothing of substance, and neither should you.

No Thank You, UC Meal Plan

KRISTI BLUST

krblust@ursinus.edu

It is my junior year here at Ursinus, and while there are many things I love about the college, the meal plan is not one of them. As many of you are probably aware, we are given several meal plan options; each plan varies in number of meals and guest meals allowed and amount of flex dollars available (for a full list of all meal plan options, check out the dining services website). What you may or may not know, however, is that all resident students are required to purchase one of these meal plans.

The goal of this article is not to bash the quality of food in the Wismer Center or Zack's (we'll save that topic for another day). Instead, I ask, why aren't the students given a choice? After two years of consuming cafeteria-style food, I can safely say I am ready to move on. Each year we pay over four-thousand dollars for the meal plan, and I, for one, do not feel that I eat that much money's worth in food here. If I want to take a trip to SaladWorks to pick up dinner, I feel guilty. Why, you ask? Because so much money goes toward the UC meal plan which I don't want or need!

In my discontent with the meal plan, I went on a hunt; a hunt for the truth. I contacted Dining Services, and simply asked them why students were required to purchase the meal plan. Through e-mail correspondence with Ron Wood, in Dining Services, I was given the following answers.

“The College does have a policy that all resident students are required to be on a meal plan. As I understand it, it supports the College's value of community... The services that are currently offered would not be able to be maintained without the current base of student's participation in meal plans.”

My response to these statements are first, there are other ways to foster community without forcing students to spend money on a service they may not want. Second, is the college really fostering a sense of community, or just the lining of its pockets? Last, if enough students decided they did not want the meal plan, there would be no need for all the services currently offered to still be in place.

Continued on pg. 7.

Live Earth: A Retrospective

LAUREL SALVO

lasalvo@ursinus.edu

I'm sitting 200 feet above the ground in a tiny plastic seat, surrounded by 80,000 people who are listening intently to Leonardo DiCaprio expound on his concerns about the environment; all of us fanning ourselves chaotically in the 95 degree heat and eager for the moment when Sting will take the stage in 3 hours' time.

This was just a sliver of my 16 hour stay in East Rutherford, New Jersey on July 7th, 2007. This was Live Earth, and overall, it was a fantastic time. I not only saw huge names like Jane Goodall, Al Gore, and Cameon Diaz make lengthy speeches, but I also was able to take in some momentous performances by acts like AFI, The Police, Roger Waters (of Pink Floyd), and Alicia Keys. Unlike most music festivals, Live Earth's main purpose was to raise awareness, not money, about the growing problem of global warming and the effect it has had on our world thus far.

With over 25 performers, an excellent time was had by all. The venue itself, Giants Stadium, was vast and even though my friends and I were pretty much in the nosebleed section, it was still amazing just to be there and take part in something like this.

The incredibly neat thing about Live Earth was the fact that it took place on seven different continents, with acts from all genres of sound, for 24 hours straight. In between the set of artists at our show like Jon Bon Jovi, Ludacris, and The Smashing Pumpkins, the viewers along with myself were broadcast directly to live feeds from Australia, London, Alaska; places all over the world where a crowd was gathered in the same manner we were to take part in this event.

It was an incredibly hot day to have this take place. Around 95 degrees for that long of an outdoor show was intense but after I collapsed into bed around 4am, it was definitely worth it.

Some people would say that it was counterproductive, with the amount of pollution given off by bands traveling in planes, and that many people being in such a huge venue, and cars driving from all over the US. There were planes flying overhead the stadium for a few hours straight with banners saying “Al Gore is a liar!” It definitely had people who were angry and outspoken about how silly a concert just to raise awareness was. However, I think it was a good way to bring an eclectic group of people from all over the U.S. together for one cause. As it goes with most catalysts of change, the future usually gets better. All I know is that when the entire stadium did a 5 minute long wave induced by a cathartic high and when Sting closed with “Message in a Bottle,” the sense of togetherness and the will to embrace change for the better was overwhelming, and that was all that mattered.

Got Opinions?

E-mail

dasergeant@ursinus.edu.

Why Bush Vetoed SCHIP

As we all surely know, President Bush vetoed an expansion to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which would have provided health insurance for roughly 9 to 10 million uninsured children. This shocked Americans, who wondered, "how can anyone with a heart do such a thing?" It led Nancy Pelosi to say that she would "pray harder" (because that's what we elected Democrats to do – pray). This article explores the possible reasons why Bush might have done this, and why Pelosi's prayers may never be answered.

1. To quote the always eloquent Kanye West, "George Bush doesn't care about black people." From Katrina, to AIDS, to this veto, it is all a part of the Republican conspiracy to eliminate the black race and forever dominate American politics. We can conveniently forget about how many white people this bill would have insured; they're casualties of war. And hey, we all know a few thousand casualties has never stopped Bush in the past, right? It seems clear that this veto is a result of the fierce racism that Bush was exposed to throughout his unfortunately sheltered life.

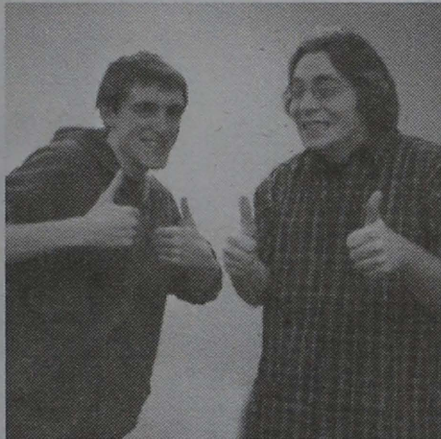
2. George Bush is a rabid pipe smoker. This bill, if put into action, would cost \$60 billion over the next five years, and that money would be obtained by raising the tax on tobacco products. Not one to put the needs of the many above his own, and being an infamous miser and thus unwilling to pay more for his beloved tobacco, he stubbornly refused to give up his unhealthy habit. Oddly enough, this choice could harm himself along with millions of children!

3. He takes a sick joy in seeing Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi suffer. But honestly, who doesn't?

4. He is concerned about his image. As we well know, Bush wants to go down in history as "a war President." If part of his legacy was insuring the uninsured, people would be distracted by the great things he thinks he has done in the War on Terror. He just doesn't want to be seen as a softy.

Of course, Republicans will urge us to "actually look at the bill," as if somehow insuring uninsured kids could be legitimately bad. They'll ask us, perhaps, "Why are these kids uninsured?" They'll tell us that this bill would provide insurance for families making up to \$60,000 per year, and they'll ask if that is really necessary. These questions distract from the point: *dying children*. Let us not trifle with mere technicalities like whether parents making \$60,000 can afford private health coverage. I mean, why concern ourselves with these questions when saying "Bush sucks" is just so darned easy?

Matthew Flyntz and Dan Sergeant have replaced their magnetic "Support Our Troops" ribbons with "Support Our Dying Children" ones. Praise them at maflynz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.



MATTHEW FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT
Communism for Dummies

"Memento" (2000)

Every once in a while, a movie comes along that makes the viewing not just an experience, but a challenge. A whole host of examples come to mind, the most recent being "The Prestige," the Hugh Jackman/Christian Bale magician flick that never ceases to blow your mind the *second* time through. This week's movie still manages to force me to search for clues and hints every time I watch it, an emotional investment which really enriches the viewing experience. With that, I give you "Memento."

Leonard (Guy Pearce) suffers from brain damage from an attack on his home that killed his wife, leaving that as the last memory he has. Unable to process short term memories, he struggles to find his wife's killer as he is manipulated and used by the people around him (Carrie-Anne Moss, Joe Pantoliano).

The above plot summary was a real challenge to write, because frankly, "Memento" defies easy description. The film is told backwards, interspersed with black-and-white scenes that occurred before the main narrative. And amazingly enough, it works. A technique that could have caused the film to crash and burn instead helps create the same sense of disorientation for the audience that Leonard experiences, constantly forcing you to put together all of the pieces that have occurred before. The closest analogy I could come up with is that watching "Memento" is like trying to solve a jigsaw puzzle through a mirror – it's disorienting, a challenge, and there's a huge sense of satisfaction when it's done.

Guy Pearce delivers an understated performance as Leonard, portraying a man whose life is held together simply by the patchwork of routines he has cobbled together

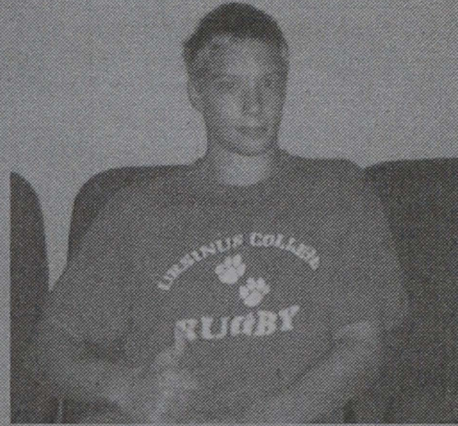
in place of a normal life. Carrie-Anne Moss's manipulative waitress is fantastic for the chilling left turn the character takes in order to use Leonard for her own means. Joe Pantoliano also does a great job as Leonard's "friend" who may have his own best interests in mind.

I can't say enough about Christopher Nolan's direction and how it makes this movie. A quick glance at his IMDB page showed that he directed "The Prestige" as well, but rather than paint himself into a corner like M. Night Shyamalan in terms of the types of movies he makes, Nolan has also done a brilliant job restarting the "Batman" franchise. In "Memento," Nolan constantly keeps you on your toes, playing the cinematic version of the prank where your friend taps you on your shoulder and moves to the other. Leonard's tattoo system of remembering is nothing short of ingenious, the kind of plot device that a writer would kill for. All in all, I am still blown away by this movie and Christopher Nolan's storytelling skill which are nothing short of genius.

Looking ahead, the latest trailer for Will Ferrell's new movie "Semi-Pro" just

came out and I, for one, can't wait. Playing the owner-coach-player of an ABA team, Ferrell brings out the short shorts and ridiculous 'fro of days gone by. What's really exciting is the cast list which includes Will Arnette, David Koechner, Andy Richter, Woody Harrelson, and Andre 3000. You can't throw that much talent up on the screen without getting some sparks. That's about it for this week – see you after the fall break hiatus.

Confusing too be would it thought but, backwards review this writing considered Alex Ernst.
Alemst@ursinus.edu at him reach can you.



ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

This Week in Regrettable History

DAN SERGEANT
dasergeant@ursinus.edu

October 8, 1918: In a bout of unimaginable buttohooery, U.S. Army Corporal Alvin York almost single-handedly killed 25 German soldiers and captured 132 during the World War I battle of the Argonne Forest in France. Before the war, Alvin had attempted to apply for Conscientious Objector status. No, seriously.

October 10, 1967: The Outer Space Treaty, signed by some sixty nations, became effective. The treaty forbids countries from laying claim to any part of space or from putting weapons there, leaving the planet defenseless. Meanwhile, King Gagmalox of the Intergalactic Nebutron Empire ordered the fortification of our moon, ensuring centuries of slavery for all of humanity under our pan-dimensional insect overlords. Thanks a lot, Outer Space Treaty.

October 11, 1531: In a battle with Catholic forces in Switzerland, Protestant theologian Huldrych Zwingli was killed. Our very own Zwingli Java Trench will serve only black coffee on this day, as a sign of mourning.

October 12, 1492: Christopher Columbus landed in the Bahamas, though he believed he had arrived in eastern Asia. To prove his claim, he enslaved the entire populace, in an effort to demonstrate that the islanders had "that famous Asian work ethic." Millions died.

October 12, 1681: In London, a woman was flogged

for allegedly "involving herself in politics." Undaunted, Hillary Clinton went on to win the primary.

October 12, 1810: The first Oktoberfest was celebrated in Munich to commemorate the marriage of a Bavarian prince and princess. The citizens of Munich were reportedly very pleased with the festivities but a little annoyed with "all the orange fencing everywhere."

October 12, 1999: According to some estimates, the six billionth human being in the world was born. A mere eight years later, that number has surpassed 6.5 billion. If you aren't concerned by this news, you haven't been paying attention.

October 12, 2000: Seventeen crew members were killed and 39 wounded when the USS Cole was hit by two suicide bombers in Yemen. A month later, those suspected of planning the assault were dispatched by the CIA. After this, America and the terrorists called it even and never bothered one another ever again.

Meal Plan, Continued from pg. 6

So, my fellow students, if you find after reading this that you feel the same, let your voice be heard. College is an institution that is intended to prepare us for the "real world," and normally in the "real world" people are not forced to continually pay for a service they are unsatisfied with. UC meal plan, no thank you!

Dubble Vision: What's on My Mind

JASON DAVIS

jadavis@ursinus.edu

From the football game:

Junior quarterback (QB) Erich Wolfe took on a new role this week. After not seeing the field at QB in the first four games I guess he decided it was time to find another way to contribute...as a kicker. It worked out in a big way as he scored three more points himself than the entire Franklin and Marshall team (fake field goal run for a touchdown, 29 yard FG, and four extra points). But don't confuse him for a kicker; I overheard him on the sideline responding to a joke from a teammate by saying something along the lines of, "Don't give me that kicker (crap), I'm still a QB who just happens to be able to kick."



I'm about 100% positive we have the most lethal secondary in the Centennial Conference...and I can't imagine anyone hitting harder anywhere in division three. Between Chris Frank, Ryan VanWright, Billy Stolle, Eikeem Barron, and DeVohn Butler there's always at least two hits a game where I just say to myself, "Well, that right there is exactly why I don't play football."

I went home after the game on Saturday. My friend asked me how we did. I told him, "We completed a total two passes for 18 yards in the entire game." He responded by saying, "So you guys lost I guess." Then I said, "Nope, we won by 21 points." He looked at me with a weird look and said, "What the (bleep)" Yep.

You Can't Stop the Phire

ZACH SHAMBERG

zashamberg@ursinus.edu

By the time you read this, the Philadelphia Phillies will have already been eliminated from the playoffs. In three games, the Colorado Rockies absolutely destroyed the Phillies' pitching staff and batters. Sadly enough, this was the first time in fourteen years that the Phillies actually advanced to the postseason. Fourteen years ago, they advanced to the World Series and lost to the Toronto Blue Jays. Twenty-seven years ago, they beat the Kansas City Royals in the World Series to become the world champions of baseball. It was a rocky road between those two events, and since the '93 team, Philadelphia fans have had little to cheer about in terms of baseball. Sure, they've had great Eagles teams, a few good Flyers teams, and one tremendous 76ers squad, but no truly impressive baseball team to share their summers with.

That is, until this year, when the Phillies made an inspiring run at the very end of the season and clinched the NL East Division crown. "I felt that the Phillies making the playoffs this year was an understated accomplishment in itself," said die-hard phanatic Matt Whitman. "Even if they don't survive in the playoffs this year, it's a big step forward for the team. Now we know that we can at least make it into the playoffs. With that confidence, we can really start to set our sights on a future championship." Fellow Phillies fan Mike Cafarchio added, "Even though it was a rough season at times, the Phillies showed a lot of heart down the stretch and earned their spot in the playoffs. I

The final play of the game was probably the funniest play I have ever seen since I've been here. Senior running back, Eric Rembert, had a simple run up the middle that he broke loose and was on his way to his second touchdown of the season...or so he thought. Apparently he didn't see the lone defender in his way, and for the last 15 yards of the run, he ran right to him and was decked at about the five. Eric, all you had to do was run to the right, man.

Just in General:

As I was looking at box scores for the football games, I noticed they count attendance. Uh, how do they do that?

Being an alum of the Philadelphia Public League (Northeast Holla!), I really wish I would see more athletes recruited into the Centennial Conference from there. When I was home this weekend, a friend of mine was telling me about some of the athletes he's seen while attending our high school football games. I just thought back to a lot of my friends who probably could have helped any team in this conference in a number of sports. However, since many of them have never heard of our small liberal arts college they end up going to Temple, Community, or State schools where they no longer play sports. I'm not sure how the process works, but it's sad in my opinion.

Everybody needs to go on YouTube and search for "Texas Longhorns Soulja Boy." If that isn't team unity, I don't know what is.

I don't even want to talk about my article last week. The Phillies are obviously no longer undefeated when I watch at Juno's. The Phillies let me down. I will return to using the letter "F" (which on a positive note may improve the grades on my papers this week). My heart is broken.

Let's go Flyers!

was really excited to see them make it and, regardless of how far they go, I think it will be a great experience."



Philadelphia fans are unlike any other fans in sports; they are of a completely different breed. A Philadelphia fan never forgets the heart-aches or the heart-breaks, but it is the few successes that matter the most. "The last time the Phillies were in the playoffs, I was in the second to last row of Veteran's Stadium when they clinched the NLCS against the Braves," said Cafarchio. "That was 14 years ago in 1993...when I was 5." Whitman fondly recalled his first Phillies experience: "I was ten years old and my friend's mom took us to see a Phillies double-header against the Marlins," he said. "Both games went to twelve innings, and the Phillies won both!"

As depressing as this may sound, the popular baseball term "next year" most certainly applies to the Philadelphia Phillies. "The Phillies should be a very solid team next year and have a good shot at winning the division again," said Cafarchio. "I feel like making the playoffs this year was a big step that will lead to many more postseason appearances." Let's just hope we won't have to wait another fourteen years.

No Pads, No Guards, No Problems

KATIE CALLAHAN

kacallahan@ursinus.edu

Striped polo shirts, a football that's not really a football, zero protective pads, and a bunch of girls wanting to get down and dirty...this is what makes up the Ursinus College Women's Rugby team.

In the late 1970s Women's Rugby was first played seriously in Great Britain (rfu.com). However, Rugby dates all the way back to the early 19th century. Taking its name



Photo by Ivy McDaniels

from an English Preparatory school, it is now played around the world. It is most popular in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and France (wesclark.com). Although it is still growing

in popularity in the United States, the Ursinus College team, being one of the best teams in D3, has proved it is an extremely compelling sport.

Captains from the Junior class, Lisa "Tips" Rake, Jeanette Graham, and Elysia Price, have been busily teaching newcomers about the game of rugby. Losing so many strong players after graduation last year, the team had a lot to take on in the Fall '07 season.

"The last two years we've been D3 Champs...our new girls have really stepped up and learned the game quickly to help us win these games," says senior player Katie Nunn.

Before last Friday night the team was 2-0 and 2-1 in their league. Friday night marked a win over Susquehanna for a spot in the play-offs in November. This will be their third year in the playoffs, and hopefully the team will come out on top once again.

Since Women's Rugby is a club sport, it is less time consuming than many other Ursinus sports, making it easier for students to get involved. Most of the team stems from 'retired' soccer players and girls eager to stay in shape by practicing an aggressive sport. Other players, like freshman Loreal Brown, used to play sports like cheerleading and lacrosse. Brown became interested in rugby when she took a trip to Scotland and saw a Scotland/Ireland game this past summer. Although her mother was a little nervous about the full-contact sport, her step-dad was raring to see an Ursinus game. Brown said, "The girls are just really chill [and] really welcoming." Brown also stressed that body size has nothing to do with the sport, which some onlookers may assume. In Brown's eyes, one of the best players is only 5'1 and 100lbs. Athleticism, hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm are the real key elements that have helped lead the girls to victory.

Look out for e-mails about the playoffs in November. Although the home games are over, there are still a few games left. Rugby is an up and coming sport that not many people know about, so get involved and go check out the action. Watch the UC Women's Rugby Team go head to head for another championship title!