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### The Grizzly, April 24, 2008

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#### **Recommended Citation**

Flyntz, Matt; Taylor, Lane; Lee, Roger; Mithboakar, Serena; Blust, Kristi; Callahan, Katie; McComeskey, Ashley; Long, Jeremiah; Wagner, Ali; Tole, Ryan; Ernst, Alex; Schaeffer, Christopher; Drogalis, Ashley; Requa, Eric; and Alspach, Jill, "The Grizzly, April 24, 2008" (2008). *Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper*. 766. https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews/766

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# The student newspaper of Ursinus College

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# **Ursinus College Dance Company Kicks Off Tonight!**

ROGER LEE

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The highly anticipated spring concert of the Ursinus College Dance Company begins its run tonight. The opening show begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Kaleidoscope's Lenfest Theater. This is a must-see event for the whole Collegeville community.

"There is something for everyone!" said Senior J.J. Weltler. He is graduating this year with a Dance minor and has participated in several UCDC productions during his time at Ursinus. He is dancing in Professor Cathy Young's annualSeniors' piece. "In the piece there are 15 girls and me," says Weltler. "I don't have a problem with it!"

Professor Chris Aiken is serving as producer, coartistic director, and choreographer in the spring concert. He said, "This year's concert reflects a diverse range of contemporary dance works from hip-hop and jazz to contemporary and postmodern." Co-artistic director, choreographer, and visiting professor of dance, Aviva Geismar added, "The dance program is based on inclusiveness. Audiences will get a chance to experience all different types of dance." Geismar and Aiken have worked together on the spring concert and are excited for its debut this evening.

Chris Aiken is also excited for the community to witness dance in a new way. "It is creative problem-solving," said Aiken. He mentioned that many watch concert dance believing that the choreographer merely teaches steps and the dancers perform them. However, the pieces shown in UCDC showcase more than executing steps. "It reflects hours of collaboration between students and artists," said

Aiken. "It's about our interaction with the dancers in the studio"

Part of UCDC's artistic diversity comes from having guest artists choreograph for the concert each semester. "This semester we have two works by two very well respected artists," said Chris Aiken with pride. He is referring to Bill Young and Clyde Evans, Jr.

Bill Young is an award-winning contemporary choreographer from New York City. He is a performer and the artistic director of Bill Young Dance. Young found the time to come to Ursinus College and choreograph an original contemporary piece for the eager dancers. "Bill Young took personal life stories and wove them into a dance piece that includes singing, talking, etc.," explained Aiken. "I hope that it reminds the audience of aspects of their own experience."

Clyde Evans, Jr. is a hip-hop legend in today's dance world. He is the artistic director of Chosen Dance Company and has been an integral part of the Rennie Harris's Pure Movement Hip-Hop dance company. Evans is stationed in Philadelphia and has traveled to Ursinus to choreograph a hip-hop piece for the UCDC spring concert. This piece features upperclassmen and underclassmen bringing hip-hop dance to the Lenfest Theater.

Aside from the guest choreographers, the concert would not be complete without the choreography of dance faculty Chris Aiken, Aviva Geismar, and Cathy Young. Young, who is currently on sabbatical, lends her artistic hand to the senior class in a jazz piece. The annual "seniors' piece" features graduating dance majors and minors in the LICDC concert

Aviva Geismar, the visiting dance faculty member, choreographed two pieces for this concert. Geismar is the artistic director of "Drastic Action," a modern dance company in New York. She can be seen in Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" as one of the top 25 up-and-coming dancers and choreographers. Now Geismar focuses her attention on her choreography and teaching at Ursinus.

"Anytime you make a new piece it's a new experience," said Geismar. She choreographed a site-specific piece that will be performed in the Kaleidoscope's hallway and spacious staircase during the concert. "I tried to use the dancers in the space," said Geismar. Her second work "Evidence first hand" is an adaptation of a dance choreographed seven years ago, and has since been reproduced. The dancers use suitcases to reflect burden, mechanization, and drudgery.

Chris Aiken is also contributing his creativity to the concert. Aiken used specific domestic gestures to begin his piece. "I wanted to connect to those interesting moments," said Aiken. He describes the piece as dancers moving from their public selves to their private selves. Aiken said, "I would encourage the audience to let themselves experience the works in an open-minded way." He added that movement cannot always be translated into words, so take things at face value and don't always try to figure things out.

This dance concert is diverse in its works of jazz, post-modern, contemporary, hip-hop, and more. The performance opens tonight and runs through Saturday evening. Call the box office today to reserve tickets for this must-see event at Ursinus College.

# News in Brief: A Summary of US and International Politics

SERENA MITHBAOKAR

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#### Pope Benedict XVI Visits the United States

On April 16, Pope XVI visited the White House, praising America for having strong religious traditions and being secular at the same time. He later cautioned that secularism was preventing Americans from living their beliefs fully and accepting that divorce, abortion and cohabitation are not immoral. On his second day, he condemned the sexual abuse scandal that had weakened the image of the American Catholic Church. The Pope addressed the United Nations' General Assembly, stressing the importance of human rights and their implications for national security and offered Passover greetings at an Upper East Side synagogue.

# Clinton Attacks Obama in Key PA Debate on Wednesday

During the last debate before the Pennsylvania primary, Senator Clinton went on the attack with Senator Obama on a wide variety of issues including the remarks made by his former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright. She also called him deeply vulnerable in a general election, and said that Republicans would exploit doubts about Mr. Obama's religious beliefs and his patriotism. Obama also was forced to explain his remarks that small-town Pennsylvanians were "bitter" about lost economic oppurtunities.

## Putin Denies Newspaper's Reports of

Moskovsky Korrespondent, a Moscow-based newspaper owned by a former Soviet intelligence officer, claimed that Mr. Putin, 56, planned to marry Alina Kabayeva, 24, an Olympic gold medalist in rhythmic gymnastics who has been consistently voted in polls as one of Russia's most beautiful women,

Putin has long been married to Ludmilla Putina, 51, and has always kept his personal life within the walls of the Kremlin. Putin bluntly dismissed these rumors on Friday, April 18, calling it "nonsense" and even threatening legal action against the paper.

#### Former President Jimmy Carter Meets Hamas Leader

Challenging the Bush administration and Israel, former President Jimmy Carter met with Khaled Meshal, the exiled

Hamas leader in Syria, in an effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Carter is on a Middle Eastern peace tour that also includes visits to Jordan, Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

State Department officials advised Carter against the visit as Hamas had been involved with the kidnapping of several Israelis and other suicide bombings as well.

Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, did not meet with Jimmy Carter during his visit to Israel, as he did not want to give the impression he was indirectly negotiating with Hamas.

#### **Outraged Chinese Urge Anti-West Boycott**

As retaliation against the recent pro-Tibet and anti-China protests in the West, many in China are calling for a boycott campaign against French companies because of France's vocal support of pro-Tibetan protestors. Some Chinese have called for a boycott against American chains like KFC and McDonald's. Currently, the boycott campaign has been limited to the form of online petitions. Public anger has also been directed at Western news outlets mostly in the form of angry phone calls, which are being blamed for one-sided coverage of the torch relay and for anti-Chinese bias in their reporting on the disturbances in Tibet.

# The Grizzly

### The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 32, Issue 24 grizzly@ursinus.edu

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# This Week's Edition of This Day in History!

KRISTI BLUST

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Wow, isn't this funny: you and I being here, together, again? We really need to stop meeting like this. Since we're here, I suppose we should just go ahead. The following paragraphs highlight the most pertinent historical events for the date, April 24.

#### 1800

#### The Library of Congress was Established

On this day, the Library of Congress was established with a \$5,000 allocation. During his vice presidency, Thomas Jefferson played a big role in the library's creation, and continued to be a strong supporter throughout his presidency. After a fire in 1814 destroyed much of the collection, Jefferson donated his personal library to Congress. Another fire occurred in 1851.

The library flourished, however, after the Copyright Act of 1870, which required that all copyrighted material be deposited. Although it was initially intended to serve the legislative branch of government, it is now a public reference library. As of 1999, the library contained approximately 115 million items, including books, maps, and manuscripts. Now that's a library! (http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/ent/A0829685.html)

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#### The Easter Rebellion Began

On Easter Monday in Dublin, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret organization of Irish nationalists, launched the "Easter Rebellion," an uprising against the repressive rule of the British government. Led by Patrick Pearse, he and his followers seized Dublin's general post office, stormed the British provincial government headquarters, and proclaimed Ireland's independence.

Later that day, however, the British launched a counteroffensive; less than a week later, the uprising was put down. After Pearse and 14 other Nationalist leaders were caught, they were executed. In spite of this, many Irish held them up as martyrs. (http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history.do?action=Landing&id=4947).

#### 1953

#### Winston Churchill was Knighted

Winston Churchill, the leader who guided Britain through World War II, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. Churchill came into office as the Prime Minister a year into the war. At the time, Britain stood alone against Germany, but Churchill promised his countrymen and women that they would "never surrender." Churchill was able to convince Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin to form an alliance with Britain against Germany. The "allies" eventually defeated the axis powers. Shortly after Germany's defeat in

1945, Churchill resigned. He was reelected in 1951, awarded the Nobel prize in literature two years later, for his six-volume historical study of WWII, and his speeches. Churchill remained in Parliament until 1964. He died one year later.

### The Shuttle *Discovery* Launched with the Hubble Space Telescope

While the shuttle *Discovery* was launched on this day in history, the telescope wasn't actually deployed until April 25, 1990. Taking 12 years to build and costing \$1.5 billion, the Hubble telescope was expected to give the clearest view of the universe yet. The Hubble telescope is one of NASA's four "Great Observatories," the others being the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory, Chandra X-Ray Observatory, and the Spitzer Space Telescope. The Hubble is the only one of these that is serviceable by astronauts; several missions have occurred in which new scientific instruments and engineering parts were installed. Thus far the Hubble has given us the most detailed image of the farthest known galaxies in the universe. (http://hubble.nasa.gov/overview/intro.php).

Well, that's all folks. Craving more? Don't worry! Just go to www.infoplease.com/dayinhistory or www.history.com. Until we meet again...

# **Charity Events in the Classroom**

#### KATIE CALLAHAN

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Do you remember Casino Night, Battle of the Bands, and that car raffle from last semester? What you may not know is that those three events, along with a few others, were actually business projects done by students of the BE230 Course; Management and Organizational Behavior.

Each semester, students break off into groups of five to construct a business. The group works together to create, organize, and operate an entrepreneurial business over the course of the semester. A student CEO heads each group. To get started, the members of the group actually have to provide their own startup money to get them motivated.

At the end of the semester, the original investment is returned to the students but the profit goes to a deserving charity. In the past, individual groups actually have raised approximately \$12,000 for their charity! Keep in mind this class only runs one semester!

During the Fall semester, Li Xang Poncz was the CEO of Shooting for the Cure. The other members included Craig Kubicek, Casey Gilmore, Andrew Reynolds and Thomas Clarke. Their event raised money for both the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and the Michele C. McLennan Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Michele C. McLennan Memorial Scholarship Fund is in memory of an Ursinus Assistant Professor in the Business and Economics Department who passed away in October of 2005 after a fight with ovarian cancer.

The fund aids business students who are in need of financial assistance. When all was said and done, Shooting for the Cure raised slightly over \$3,000 combined for the charities.

Although Shooting for the Cure raised money, not all groups are that lucky. Just like in real business, investments do not always follow through. In the past, some teams have actually lost money.

Projects this semester for BE230 included Belly Bust-

ers, which benefited the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation, the Beef 'n' Beer Beach Bash at People's Light and Theater Company which benefited Mommy's Light, the Classic Car Show which benefited Collegeville Economic Development Corporation and the Beto Family Fund, Brekfest Pancake Breakfast and Family Games which benefited the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the Golf for Gold and Busi-Bears which shared profits for their charities.

Another project, Concessions for Cancer, is an ongoing project that involves all of the sales of concessions during the spring sporting season going to the McLennan Scholarship Fund. Premiere Auctioneers is another ongoing project. It is an online auction of donated items benefiting Catholic Social Services. The website is http://ess.ucacm.org if you are interested.

On May 2, the last project for the semester, Collegeville Date Night, will begin at the Berman Museum during the Student Art Show for cocktails. There will be dinner in the faculty/staff dining room, a movie in Olin Auditorium, and babysitting will be provided if necessary.

Lauren DiTizio participated in the class last semester and had a great experience as the CEO of Wings for Wishes. DiTizio thinks BE230 is so worthwhile that it should be mandatory to take, like CIE.

She said the class teaches you a lot about business and little situations that only first-hand experiences can give you. Ditizio also mentions that the class taught her a lot about herself as a person and what it means to be a leader.

She adds, "I was also able to work really closely with a group of people who felt equally as passionate as I did about raising money for a great cause and organizing an entertaining event! I was able to walk away with so many contacts and possible references for the future. It truly was an amazing experience that I would definitely do over in a heartheat!"

This semester the class was taught by Professor Stephen Bowers and Professor Vic Brown. In the past it has also been taught by Dr. Cirka.

## CoSA at UC!

#### **ASHLEY MCCOMESKEY**

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The Celebration of Student Achievement took place on Wednesday, April 23. Over 200 students signed up to participate in the different presentations and performances.

This year, the celebration began at 9:00 a.m. in the residence halls, with a bagel breakfast and schedules of the day's events. Starting at 10:00 a.m., there were poster presentations throughout the day, which according to Dr. Greg Weight, tend to be most popular. Dance performances started at 11:00 a.m., and all of those took place in the Black Box Theatre in the Kaleidoscope.

In its third year, CoSA was started because the administration wanted to showcase what students were doing on campus, inside and outside of the classroom. Weight explained that the day is open to any sort of presentation, whether it's an oral presentation about something from class, discussions on Darfur, or a dance performance. Even honors presentations can be publicized at an event. CoSA is a chance for students to show what they are capable of.

Each year, CoSA's schedule of events is slightly tweaked. Planning starts as early as the fall semester, and the rest is a matter of scheduling every event so that each participant is on the same page. A lot of work goes into the celebration, but the turnout could still be better. On getting more attention, Weight said, "We hope presenters use their connections and even tools like Facebook to promote their sessions. We also will continue to encourage people from every discipline and organization to present what they find interesting and that will hopefully produce sessions that will interest everyone on campus."

CoSA, according to Weight, is a great opportunity for students to really inspire each other. He says, "I think we'd like to make the event more of a celebration, so we hope to include activities the night before, as well as music during the day. We will have a survey after the event to get feedback from students and faculty, and we are certainly open to suggestions about what people would like to see changed for next year."

# Red Sky in Morning...



LANE TAYLOR **Everything You Never Knew** You Wanted to Know About Sex

For the past three years, I have struggled to keep personal opinions and biases out of my columns so that accurate information could be presented to the community (although I was certainly not always successful at that task; check out "The Douche Discussion," published in the Fall of 2005), allowing the reader to make his or her own judgments. I was under the impression that if I shared per-

sonal experiences, opinions, or ideas with the community, the readers would take little important information from the articles. Much like my aversion to writing a "positions" article, refusing to share my personal insights is regrettable. We can learn a great deal from the experiences and ideas of others, because their insight can help us place particular issues into context, possibly enlightening us to what we would think or do when faced with similar issues. An issue that I feel particular moved to share is the extent that one should trust one's own instincts, and be wary of the "red sky in morning."

Many preach about the importance of "first impressions," claiming that the instance in which you first meet someone is the best and most telling way to evaluate his or her character. These people act under several assumptions, one of which is that individuals are incapable of change, another of which is that individuals are incapable of experiencing really good or really bad days that may alter the manner in which they act on the occasion which they meet. I have always felt that first impressions are overrated; judging someone during a brief period of time, in one instance, and with no context of who that person is outside of the meeting, is problematic. I am friends with a woman who I have discovered is an exceptional person and friend who I couldn't stand when we first met; in contrast, I discovered that a former friend acts despicably, and is not someone with whom I'd want to associate, in spite of the fact that I thought she was amazing upon first meeting her.

Unlike first impressions, I've found that trusting initial instincts is a better of way of determining the nature of one's character. Initial instincts may develop immediately upon meeting someone, or they may develop over a small period of time as you get to know the person and learn more about them. I've met individuals who acted sweet, funny, and appeared personable (which were my first impressions of these individuals), but my gut feeling sensed phoniness and insincerity. As it turns out, my gut was accurate, just as it was in informing me that the amazing friend who I was condemning as annoying or "bitchy," was actually a great person underneath a rough exterior. Failing to listen to my initial instincts by putting far too much emphasis on a first impression has caused me to miss out on great friends and lovers. It has also led me to experience great distress.

It is not always easy to distinguish a first impression from initial instincts in a setting where alcohol is involved.

And in reality, many settings in which you are meeting people in a college or university setting involve alcohol. While at a party, I met someone who I thought was a fantastic individual. This person was a friend of my friends, and we hit it off immediately. The next weekend, things dramatically changed. If I tried to strike up a conversation, this person would not respond to me and began to ignore me. If I were hanging out with this person's friends (and mine), this person would acknowledge my friends but not me. At this point, my initial instincts had formed; this person was a douchebag. Of course, this person is a friend to many of my friends, so I began to doubt my instincts. If my friends liked this person, then this person had to have good qualities that I was missing. Maybe I was being too harsh on this person. As a result, I let my frustration go, forgave this person's hurtful actions, and everything seemed fine. Not long after my attempt to establish some sort of acquaintanceship, this person treated me disrespectfully...again. This was my mistake; there shouldn't have been an "again," because I should have paid attention to my initial instincts. A person can be fantastic and fun to some and awful to others. I could have avoided a lot of pain by not doubting my initial instincts.

Initial instincts are important. They help determine who we should and shouldn't be around, whether it be in a romantic setting or any setting. If your initial instinct is to avoid sleeping or hooking up with someone for whatever reason, it's probably best to listen. After all, it's better to hold off on getting a little play than wake up the next morning feeling regretful (they're most likely not worth that kind of anxiety). To summate this article, I'll paraphrase a famous saying: "Red sky in morning, students take warn-

#### **Another Collegeville Restaurant Review: BonJung**

JEREMIAH LONG

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Well despite my best efforts, I just can't seem to get away from Collegeville, and this week finds me back in this quaint little town reviewing another restaurant. What is it about this town that keeps me coming back, you ask? Could it be the fresh country air? Is it the expansive pastures? The puffy white clouds made by the cloud-making machine over in Limerick?

Those are all good, but incorrect, guesses. What keeps me coming back I can sum up in one word: convenience. Yes, the exam crunch is on; I no longer have time to take fantastic voyages outside of Collegeville to eat.

BonJung specializes in Japanese cuisine; its owner, Gregory Shin, prides himself on serving traditional Japanese food. Now, I'll let you in on a little secret. Having worked in a Japanese restaurant myself, I was allowed into their inner sanctum and taught the greatest secret that many Japanese restaurants have -pause for dramatic effect— turns out that very few Japanese restaurants are owned by or even employ Japanese people. BonJung is no exception: it is owned by Koreans. I have respect for the place, though, for two reasons. First, they don't try to hide their heritage. Many of their specialty dishes are in fact Korean. And two, they actually do have a Japanese chef.

BonJung has a kind of dual-look going for it. Upon entering the place, you may think that it is simple Asian fair with bright colors and exotic patterns, but a closer look reveals some startling things about the restaurant. It isn't a purely Asian restaurant, but is more of a hybrid

Asian/industrial. The ceiling is neither tiled, nor is it covered, but instead left exposed so that pipes and wires can be seen hanging out of it. Now, this may have more to do with the building it is located in and not a conscious decision made by the restaurant owner. This grants the restaurant both a loftier ceiling and it shows that BonJung has the guts to show off...well, their "guts" (Appearance:

The service was fine, nothing note worthy to report for this category, but on the plus side, nothing was wrong with the service either. In addition, the people serving me did suggest a nice item for me to try from the menu, which is always a pleasant surprise (Service

As for the dining, I started off with a round of kappamaki rolls. Kappamaki rolls are the simplest rolls to



Photo by Georgia Julius

make, and I like to think that if they make these well it shows that the chefs take pride in all of their work, be it big or small. It's also nice that they are the cheapest rolls money can buy. Following the rolls, and a steaming mug of green tea, came my entrée, Bul Go Gi, a traditional Korean dish. I chose this because it was recommended and gave me an opportunity to try something other than traditional Japanese cooking. The dish contained thinly sliced pieces of meat topped with a thick, spicy, sweet sauce and a couple of vegetables thrown on top to help round it out. The best thing about all of this is that even though it was Japanese/Korean food, it wasn't that expensive, with the special (Bul Go Gi) only being \$14.50. That said, it was cheap for a Japanese restaurant (kind of an oxymoron when you think about it; Dining: 28/30).

If you're looking for Japanese cuisine in Collegeville, this is the place to eat. On a side note, they are strictly BYOB, for those of you who have been wondering what to do with your

six pack of Kirin and bottle of sake. Here is an authentic Japanese restaurant in which you can drink some sake bombs (Total: 86% rating, a solid great).

# Features

# Ursinus Graduate Awarded Watson Fellowship

**ASHLEY MCCOMESKEY** 

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The Watson Fellowship was recently rewarded to Ursinus graduate Jesse Kremenak, who plans to study in five different countries for his research, A Vehicle for Expression: The Customized Automobile.

The Watson Fellowship is a grant offered to a college graduate for independent study in a foreign country. Up to 50 fellowships are awarded each year, with a stipend of \$25,000, or slightly more if accompanied by a spouse or child. Kremenak departs for his study in July of 2008 and won't return until August of 2009. He plans to study the modification of automobiles in The Czech Republic, India, Australia, China, and Japan. Each country was carefully chosen depending on what it could offer his project.

Because the award requires that he travel solo, Kremenak is a little nervous. He said, "As much as I prepared for this trip, reading about the countries, learning essential phrases in four languages, plotting out my destinations and places of stay, I can only be prepared to a certain extent. This next year is going to be a challenge; there are many aspects that I probably cannot anticipate." Despite nerves, though, he is "excited to embark on this adventure."

The only requirements to apply for the fellowship are that you are a senior, will have graduated by the time of your departure, and your college is on the list of participating institutions. There are no GPA requirements, though you have to be nominated to apply. Your study should be unique but feasible. If awarded, you should be prepared to stay away from the U.S. (or any other country in which you have familiarity) for an entire year. Any changes made to your travel itinerary will have to be approved beforehand. Fellows are also expected to submit quarterly reports, along with a final report and financial accounting before they return.

According to their website, the mission of the Watson Fellowship is "to offer college graduates of unusual promise a year of independent, purposeful exploration and travel outside of the United States in order to enhance their capacity for resourcefulness, imagination, openness, and leadership, and to foster their humane and effective participation in the world community."

Though the program offers students a great experience, Kremenak says it's a challenge, and it's not for everyone. Before applying, know what you want to study, and you should have a passion for it. Previous projects included studies such as: The flavors of Jazz, Rising Seas and Climate Refugees, and the Impact of Shark and Ray Conservation Efforts, among many others. Kremenak said, "I have traveled my entire life, and after studying in Italy, the travel bug just got bigger. That mixed with my love of automobiles, and modification put me in a direction to solidify my project." For those seriously considering the project, Kremenak advises, "It is never too early to start thinking

about the project; I started thinking about my topic in freshman year. Get your thoughts on to paper. It is hard to sum yourself up in five pages. Talk to the faculty members on the in-house Watson committee and get feedback regarding your ideas, and refer to the Watson website."

To do that, or if you simply want more information on the Fellowship, you can visit the website at http://www.watsonfellowship.org/site/index.html.

# Career Corner: The First Year is Different

CAREER SERVICES

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Starting to work in an organization is a unique and critically important time that requires you to have a special perspective and use special strategies to be successful. You need to recognize that the first year on a new job is a separate and distinct career stage. It is a transition stage; you are not a college student anymore, but you're not really a professional yet, either. It is only by considering the first year on the job separately from the rest of the career ladder that the world of work begins to make sense.

Savvy graduates know that many new graduates hang on to their student attitudes and behaviors too long. But few realize that it also takes time to understand and earn the rights, responsibilities, and credibility of a full-fledged professional. There is an immediate stage that lasts from the time you accept your job until the end of your first year that can make or break the early part of your career.

Because a strong start is essential to a successful career, it is unfortunate that so few students know how to break in with a company. The key is to come in with enough savvy to have appropriate expectations and attitudes. In that first year, you have to know how to establish yourself, learn "the way things are done," and figure out what you need to do to earn credibility and respect.

will help you avoid frustration and make a positive impact during that important first year.

- 1. Adopt the right attitudes.
- 2. Adjust your expectations
- 3. Master your breaking-in skills.
- 4. Manage the impressions you make.
- 5. Build effective relationship
- 6. Become a good follower.
- 7. Understand your organization's culture
- 8. Develop organizational savvy.
- 9 Understand your new-hire role
- 10. Develop work savvy.
- 11. Master the tasks of your job.
- eed.

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# The Achievement Gap: Close to Home

**ALI WAGNER** 

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With the Pennsylvania primary results in, we are one step closer to electing the next President of the United States. Last week, I asked you to consider educational issues while choosing which candidate to vote for. Why education when we still have troops in Iraq and economic issues to deal with? Like these other issues, education hits close to home.

Let's look at some statistics: in one high school, according to the most recent statistics for the state achievement test (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment), the percentage of students at or above proficiency levels in math was 34 percent of African-American students, 32 percent of economically disadvantaged students and 64 percent of white students. For reading, the proficiency levels were 37 percent of African-American students, 38 percent of economically disadvantaged students and 74 percent of white students. The overall percentages of proficiency for this school were 47 percent in math and 52 percent in reading (www.greatschools.net).

What do these numbers mean? They mean that there are large discrepancies between the academic achievement of minority or economically disadvantaged students and white or affluent students. The percentages of African-American and economically disadvantaged students are only about half the percentage of white students, and are still well below the school's overall proficiency level. These numbers, my fellow Ursinians, are proof of an achievement gap. Now here comes the big surprise; can you guess what school these numbers represent? The percentages above are not from an urban school in the city (where most people look for achievement gap statistics) – they are from a school right in our backyard. These numbers represent the proficiency levels of Norristown Area High School, only 15 minutes away from the Ursinus College campus.

The purpose of this article is not to single out high schools and point out their deficiencies, but to show that the achievement gap really is an issue that affects us. Both Norristown Area High School and Pottstown Senior High School, schools that are only a few minutes down the road, share similar gaps in achievement for minority and low-income students.

If we move just a little farther from Collegeville, we can see that the Philadelphia City School District faces these same problems. For instance, the proficiency percentages for grade eleven in this district are 35 percent for reading and 31 percent for math, with a demographic of 81 percent minority students and 71 percent of those eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program (www.greatschools.net). What does the lunch program have to do with these statistics? There is a very strong correlation between students receiving a free or reduced-price lunch and poverty levels, so this number is often used as a measure to identify the number of low-income students attending a school (National Center for Education Statistics). Therefore, these numbers show that Philadelphia schools are made up of mostly minority and low-income students. With this in mind, does it surprise anyone that the Philadelphia School district's overall proficiency levels are so low? Unfortunately, this is the reality of the achievement gap.

After looking at these statistics, it is quite clear that the achievement gap hits quite close to home. How can we ignore an issue that we see all around us? We can't! It is imperative that we pay close attention to the presidential candidates' educational plans, because they can and will have a great impact on all of us.

This article is the second in a three-part series addressing the achievement gap in light of the current election. Stay tuned for next week's article which will complete the series by addressing solutions to the achievement gap offered by the presidential candidates, and the merit of those solutions.

# **Opinions**

# A Bush/Clinton **Dynasty?**

RYAN TOLE

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The United States is commonly referred to as the home of liberty and democracy. Unquestionably, America is still the home of liberty. Can America, however, still be considered the home of democracy? For instance, if Hillary Rodham Clinton wins the upcoming 2008 presidential election, two families will have held the most powerful position in the world for 24 consecutive years. You may have heard of these two families: the Bushes and the Clintons. How can this country have two families running the show while proclaiming their system is the guide to democracy for the rest of the world?

To begin, let's take a look at how the U.S. has arrived at this point. First, George H. W. Bush manned the presidential helm from 1989 to 1993. The elder Bush originally became wealthy in the oil industry. He then ran on a ticket promising no new taxes, which helped him win the presidency. In 1991, Bush led a major invasion into the Middle East, where the U.S. pushed Iraq out of Kuwait. Bush oversaw a period of unemployment, an increasing budget deficit and a struggling economy (History.com).

Next, William Clinton took the presidency from the elder Bush and held the reins from 1993 to 2001. Bill Clinton was a successful lawyer who became a popular governor in Arkansas. As president, he increased taxes, decreased military spending and as a result balanced the budget. Moreover, he guaranteed health-care for people changing jobs. Similar to his predecessor, Clinton also took action against Iraq. Clinton authorized the most intense bombing campaign against Iraq since 1991. Clinton's presidency ended in an ugly sex scandal, which divided the nation (History.com).

Most recently, our country has been guided by George H.W. Bush's son, George W. Bush. Just like his father, W made his fortune in the oil business. In 2000, Bush was elected as President by the narrowest of margins. As president, Bush quickly formed a team of advisors in his cabinet

including Dick Cheney, Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, all of whom served W's father when he was President. In 2003, Bush invaded Iraq and removed Suddam Hussein from power, just as his father wanted to do a decade before. By May of that year Bush had declared, "Major combat operations in Iraq had ended" (History.com). Since then, however, almost 4,000 American soldiers have been killed and 29,500 soldiers have been wounded (antiwar.com). As a result, as Bush's term nears its end; his most recent approval rating has fallen to 28% (Pollingreport.com).

As can be seen from the previous presidents' actions,

there is a ruthless cycle occurring. The Bushes appeal to conservative voters by cutting taxes and engaging in war. On the other hand, Clinton appealed to Democrats by decreasing military spending and providing health care for Americans. So will the cycle continue?

# Pope Takes Pennsylvania by Storm

prise visit to Philadelphia. Escorted through the city by Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, the Pope visited many of Philadelphia's cultural attractions. First, the Pope jour-

neyed to the Philadelphia Art Museum, where he, in a fit of pure holiness, ran up the museum steps. After pumping his fists in the air, he proceeded to

After a brief trip to the Jefferson University Hospital, Mayor Nutter escorted the Pope to Geno's for a quick lunch. After looking over the menu, the Pope proceeded to order a cheesesteak in German. shouted the young man taking the orders. Seeing the Pope looking confused, he pointed to a sign: "This is America. When

"Okay," said the Pope. "I vill try again." When he arrived the Pope said "Hello, sir. I vould like a cheesesteak

"Wit' o' wit'out?"

"Viith or viithout vat?"

suggested that they find something to eat in the Italian Market. However, upon arriving, the Pope was quickly swept coat. A frenzy ensued, as Italian and Hispanic Catholics

On Sunday, April 20, Pope Benedict XVI made a surtried to outdo each other in love for his Holiness. Before the Pope could figure out what was going on, cannoli and chimichangas were being thrown at him as offerings of

gested that perhaps they should ride

It was fetched for them, and Mr. strange. Oh my!" "What is it?" the Mayor inquired. "Vat ees zees... Condom Kingdom? A condom ees zee king? Zees ees blasphemy! Take

The Pope was taken back to Bank Park, home of the Philadelphia Phillies, prior to their game against the New York Mets. The Pope delivered mass before the game. He, apto the song "Bennie and the Jets," It hardly made it halfway to home plate. Seeing this, the "phans" pro-

ceeded to boo the Pope and throw hot dogs and batteries at him. He was unharmed, but his feelings about the city were changed forever. He was later quoted as saying "I

We do, too, Pope. We do, too.

Matt and Dan really are good Catholics. Really. Send them your praises at maflyntz@ursinus.edu and



MATTHEW FLYNTZ DANIEL SERGEANT Communism for Dummies

Don't worry, arriving on the scene to continue the cycle is Hillary Clinton. Hillary started out as a promising lawyer from Yale Law School and eventually become a United

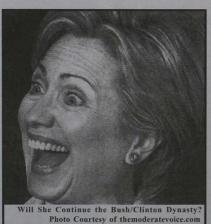
States Senator. Presently, Hilary is running on a ticket where she claims she will end the Iraq war (she voted in favor of the war at its outset). Her biggest claim builds off the work of her husband. Clinton wants to implement a universal health care system, which would cover every American and issue education tax credits in order to strengthen the middle class (BostonHerald.com).

As can be seen from the past, these families run under the same platforms and get elected. It's as if they just box up their speeches and rhetoric at the end of an election cycle and wait for the next election to peel off the tape and reuse these campaigns.

So what does this all mean for the United States and its citizens? Well, it appears the citizens of the United States have fallen asleep at the wheel and allowed the U.S. to lose its democratic beliefs. According to the U.S. government's own website, democracy is "a government by the people in

which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or their elected agents under a free electoral system." For the lay person, Abraham Lincoln summed up democracy nicely by saying, "Of the people, by the people, for the people" (USinfo.state.gov). In America's representative form of democracy, citizens elect officials to make political decisions, form laws and administer programs for the public good. Recently, however, it appears America has allowed itself to become an electoral monarchy. All democracies are systems, in which citizens should freely make political decisions by majority rule (USinfo.state.gov). We should not allow for two rich families to push their values and views onto the rest of the public. Instead, the public should be electing people who are going to work to make the U.S. the best for the public. By electing only two families to the presidency, we are, in effect, making the country the best for these families and their close friends. The key to the democratic system is pluralism, the diversity of institution, political parties and organizations (USino.state.gov). Allowing only two families to run the White House has resulted in the same chronic problems draining our country for the last 20 years (see Iraq).

Hopefully in the future our nation will realize we shouldn't let two families run our country and then true democratic political pluralism will exist. Only when political pluralism is achieved again in the United States will our country be able to correct the reoccurring problems we have been facing for a quarter of a century.



# **Opinions**

# Is YOUR Dance Pattern Wrong? Serious Advice on Serious Earth

Living in today's world is a pretty confusing experience – like Jeff Magnum said, "how strange it is to be anything at all" – and it's no surprise that a lot of young people have no clue how to get through it without fucking up horrendously. Believe it or not, not everyone is as cool and collected as me. That's why I'm going to take a break from music this week to share my answers to some of the questions aquiver on the minds of our generation:

#### Dear Fear of Music,

Lately I've been hearing from my friends that ska is dead. There are even tours. I don't know how I feel about this—I feel that ska has shown an ability to reinvent itself to suit the musical climate, and, in fact, has made a lot of inroads into the punk scene. What's your take on the issue?

-Rude Boy in Mourning

#### Dear RBM,

I'm sad to say that ska is in fact dead. Ska died of embarrassment in 2005 when Gwen Stefani performed "Hollaback Girl" in a Revolutionary War uniform with no pants. The healthiest thing for you to do is move on – listen to some dubstep, explore the wonderful world of klezmer. Living in the past won't bring ska back, no matter how many times Tomas Kalnoky rerecords *Keasbey Nights*. If you continue to hear ska, or, even worse, *see* ska, please for your own good consult a grief counselor, psychiatrist, or exoreist.

#### Dear Fear of Music,

Is Dr. Dre a real doctor? I'm beginning to have my doubts. The medicinal marijuana was nice at first but I recently broke my arm in a small accident and the pot isn't

really doing much for me. Dre keeps telling me to give it time but I think I'm starting to get an infection. Should I get a second opinion?

-Concerned Outta Compton

#### Compton,

You ask a complicated question with a complicated answer. While Mr. Andre Romelle Young is an educated man and a hip-hop, he, like notorious dictator Dr. Doom, is not actually a doctor – his title being for the most part the function of a narcissistic personality disorder.



CHRISTOPHER SCHAEFFER Fear of Music

# "High Fidelity" (2000)

Romantic comedies are a dime a dozen these days. Boy meets girl, various misunderstandings ensue, the guy carries out an amazing romantic gesture that would take months to plan in the real world, they kiss and make up, roll credits. Much, much less common in Hollywood are breakup moyies, and for good reason. Who wants to es-

cape into a relationship as it crumbles, as bonds are torn, and hearts broken? Call me a downer, but I'd take one of these flicks over a rom-com any day, especially if it was this week's flick, "High Fidelity."

Rob Gordon (John Cusack) is a record store owner who has just been dumped by his girlfriend Laura (Iben Hjejle). In an effort to figure out what went wrong, he goes back and revisits his top five breakups, all the while trying to navigate the mess of his personal life.

Very rarely does a movie based on a great book get an adaptation that lives up to the quality of the source material. "High Fidelity" falls into this category, bringing all the things that

really worked in the book, and losing a few that didn't. Throw in a fantastic supporting cast, a really great soundtrack and some absolutely brilliant one-liners (My favorite: "Jon Dillinger was killed behind that theater in a hale of FBI gunfire. And do you know who tipped them off? His freaking girlfriend. All he wanted to do was go to the movies"), and you can begin to see why this is such an entertaining movie.

John Cusack is at the top of his game here, playing a character who is emotionally stunted in an almost willful way. You know he is flawed, but you can't help but like him nonetheless. Ironically, this great performance is almost completely overshadowed by the brilliance of the supporting cast. Jack Black had his big break here, steal-

ing nearly every scene with his manic Barry. Also of note is Tim Robbins, playing Laura's rebound boyfriend, a hippie slimeball with a ponytail you can't help but hate. The only weak link in the cast is Danish actress Iben Hjejle, who delivers a pretty wooden performance, which most likely explains why "High Fidelity" was her first and last

American movie

As most of the movie takes place within the narrator's head, "High Fidelity" manages to pull a number of tricks out of the bag and use nearly all of them successfully. Flashbacks, dream sequences and even a fantastic cameo with Bruce Springsteen come into play. However, my personal favorite has to be a scene where John Cusack confronts Tim Robbins for the first time and fantasizes about first verbally telling him off, then just beating the living snot out of him, culminating in an air conditioner being dropped on Robbins' character's head. The sheer audacity of this scene sells it perfectly. For anybody looking for

a change from the usual romantic comedy shtick, I highly recommend "High Fidelity."

For the pick of the week, I'm going to go with another flick that is bolstered to an entirely higher level simply by its soundtrack, "Dazed and Confused." The flick deals with how a group of teenagers in 1976 learn life lessons on the last day of school. The movie consists of an ensemble cast of up and comers and never-weres; keep an eye out for Ben Affleck as the bully who gets a great comeuppance. That's it for this week. Keep an eye out next issue for my farewell column. Until then...

Alex Ernst would kill to have Bruce Springsteen personally appear to him to give him relationship advice. You can reach him at alernst@ursinus.edu.

His medical advice, therefore, should be taken with a grain of salt. In regards to the homeopathic solution to your broken arm — New York physician Dr. Octagon writes, "psychology is not applied biology, nor is chemistry applied biology." In other words, although comforting, a chemical solution to a very concrete physical issue is unlikely to suffice — and if you can't trust Kool Keith on this, who can you trust?

#### Dear Fear of Music,

I've felt lost and, well, aimless in my life for a while now. Work, school, relationships — I feel like everything they offer me is hollow. Recently an acquaintance of mine gave me some literature on a group called the Polyphonic Spree: I feel like I've finally found a community that really gets me. Their message of free love and Volkswagen sponsorship appeals to something deep inside me, something untouched by today's hectic workaday world. Part of me wants to just denounce all my material possessions and run off to Tim DeLaughter's Dallas compound to become one of his many wives so that when the beautiful gleaming flying saucers come I can go with them to heaven. Others

suggest this is unreasonable. What's your take? -Cool Catlox

#### CC,

ALEX ERNST

The Back Row

Don't worry – I can sympathize with your position. I remember the heady days of Sun Ra, when all I wanted was to be taken away from the white man's world by benevolent Space Brothers. However, keep in mind – if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. The Polyphonic Spree's dapper white robes and flowing manes may look appealing, and "Together We're Heavy" was a solid album, but can you really expect them to keep their promises after "The Fragile Army?" All in all, the Spree is just like any other musical group espousing a dangerous and insane philosophy – Prussian Blue, Norwegian black-metal and churchburning co-op Barzum, or Creed.

If you're really dead set on this kind of spiritual commitment, let me at least recommend Judaism. Leonard Cohen always seemed to have his head on straight.

That's that for this week. Hopefully you can all sleep sounder now – if not, try the Morning Bender's new album "Talking Through Tin Cans." If that doesn't brighten up your life, I suggest just giving into despair forever.

# **Dubble Vision: Weekend Success and Dubb Appreciation Week**

ERIC REQUA errequa@ursinus.edu

My name is Eric Requa. I am the sub for Dubb. There are many things to talk about in the sports world that happened for Ursinus athletics this past weekend. With the flashy new website, you guys could simply go to ursinus.edu

and find them out for yourself. More conveniently however, I can tell you about them in a more exciting way.

Softball swept Gettysburg in a doubleheader. This made me really happy because last year at work, my co-worker who plays softball for Gettysburg kept talking trash about Ursinus Softball. I am confident that Lauren Davis's phenomenal pitching and Schmidt's, Moore's, McHugh's, Sutherland's and Hennessey's beating the beetle juice out of the ball at the plate, assuredly silenced my disliked coworker.

The track team had several accomplishments of their own in the Widener Invitational.

After recovering from a sidelining surgery, Dubb himself jumped six feet in the air in the high jump competition, placing him fifth overall. This means he could jump over Allen Iverson and while doing so, kick him in the head for leaving Philadelphia. Way to go Dubb.

The Baseball team owned Washington on Saturday in a doubleheader winning 6-5 and 13-2, keeping their playoff hopes alive. Cheer for them as they keep fighting against four more teams this week.

The Women's Tennis team made a valiant effort at shattering the John's Hopkins perfect conference record. Our women's team stole a few courts away from them falling short 7-2. Let's be honest, nobody likes Johns Hopkins except for themselves. For that reason, it makes me happy

when Ursinus beats them or even comes close. So what Hopkins, you may be nationally ranked, but according to our women's doubles teams, you are sub-par. I wish we could have a Bio tournament against Hopkins. Then we will see the difference between getting accepted into a school with good reputation verses actually earning your reputation. Go UC.

The Men's Tennis team dominated McDaniel 6-3 on Saturday. My good buddies Joseph Ellwood and Ryan Metcalf along with Kevin Dean and Josh Hollaman owned on the doubles courts. Metcalf, also known as "the Rocket," due to the effects of his serve, ended his Ursinus Tennis career with a great victory at home. I will surely miss hearing the war cry "COME ON!" as it booms up the hills and away from those courts.

The Men's Lacrosse team defeated Dickinson. Eric Farris had five goals, which is good because it further cements the greatness of the first name Eric. Everybody needs to come

out Saturday at 1 p.m. to support the lax guys as they fight for a playoff berth. That's a weird phrase when you hear it aloud. Women's Lacrosse made a remarkable comeback on Saturday as well, falling short by a goal after being down by eight goals at the half. It truly was an amazing comeback.

Now to Dubb... He writes about Ursinus and Philly sports every single week for your pleasure. It is about time we show our appreciation for him. Without his commitment and dedication to Ursinus sports, the fields wouldn't be lined, the equipment wouldn't be staged, the games wouldn't be worked and our team's journeys toward success would be hindered. I don't know about you, but I am elapping for Dubb right know as I write this article. That is probably why it is so bad.



# Great Success Strikes Men's Lax

**JILLALSPACH** 

jialspach@ursinus.edu

The men's lacrosse team is currently 7-8 with their record 4-3 in the Centennial Conference. In Conference

play, they have beaten Swarthmore, F&M, McDaniel and Dickinson. The head coach of the bears is C.Glenn Carter. Assisting are Bill Kwasniewski (Defensive Assistant), Rob Peckheiser (Recruiting Coordinator/Offensive Assistant), Joe Karpinski (Academic Coordinator/Goalies) and Anthony Tori. The captains for the team are Dane Mangin, Kevin Wallace, Corey Greco, Jason Orlando and Tony Aquilino.

Men's lacrosse is comprised of twenty freshmen, eight sophomores, seven juniors, and five seniors. This fairly young team is seeing success from the leadership of the experienced captains. All of the seniors have been impact players since their own freshman year. Tony Aquilino is a great goalie who is

matched with an experienced defense. Senior Dane Mangin returned to the offense as the only All-Conference and All-American player in Ursinus' history. Sophomore Eric Farris has stepped up and is now the second leading goal scorer on the team. In the last game versus Dickinson, Farris scored

a game-high five goals to lead the bears to their 12-10 win. Aquilino made 16 saves during this contest.

A weakness of this team is a young offense, but the leadership these players have experienced will guide all players to a successful lacrosse program. The kinship of the

players is what keeps them returning year after year to help build and improve the lacrosse program.

Dane Mangin says, "There is a lot of potential next year with the return of a lot of key starters and players. We are graduating five seniors, but Coach does recruit and is usually done with his recruiting before the season starts." Mangin also stated, "We are a young program who has done a lot in just a little bit of time"

There are no accolades released yet, but the Bears may make the Centennial Conference playoffs for the first time in program history if they beat Muhlenberg. The intensity of the players and their consistent dedication and drive for success will hopefully pay off

and clench a playoff spot.

The Bears will play their final game of the regular season on Saturday at 1 p.m. vs. Muhlenberg. If you are interested in trying out for the men's lacrosse team, email Coach Carter at gcarter@ursinus.edu.

# UC Softball Flying High After Wins Against Gettysburg

ASHLEY DROGALIS

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As an impressive regular season of play draws to a close, the Ursinus Softball team is flying high on their way to the playoffs. With a record of 25-8, 12-2 in Centennial Conference play, the team was already in great shape for an outstanding performance outside of the regular season. However, their recent sweep of a double game match up with Gettysburg College on Saturday, April 19, 2008, puts the Bears within reach of the top seed in upcoming playoff games. Ursinus managed to shut out Gettysburg twice with scores of 5-0 in both games.

Game one set the pace for the Bears winning streak. The team broke out early, scoring three runs in the second inning. Senior first baseman Lindsay Schmidt, junior shortstop Jennie Moore, and senior right fielder Erin McHugh were responsible for the team's three runs, each

with an RBI.
in the fifth
to 5-0 Bears.
baseman Sarah
two-run double
team to score
fifth runs of the
cient teamwork
h e l d



brought the score Senior third Hennessey hit a which allowed the their fourth and game. Their effiand determination Gettysburg scorethe victory for

Ursinus. Sophomore pitcher Lauren Davis had a great day with ten strikeouts and only one walk, allowing Gettysburg a mere five hits all game.

The Ursinus women took their momentum from their first game win and charged into game two against their competitors. Again, the Bears made their move early scoring two runs in the second inning. Junior catcher Kaitlyn Sutherland hit an RBI single for the first score. Then freshman designated hitter Jamie Miles put out a sacrifice RBI to right field to round out the two-run inning for the Bears. Their strategy in game two mimicked game one again when the Bears remained scoreless until several innings later when they brought in three more runs during the sixth. Schmidt batted in freshman pinch runner Caitlyn McLarnon on a single for the Bears third run of the game. In an exciting moment of the inning, freshman pinch runner Liz Lowes slid into home on a wild pitch upping the Bears lead to 4-0. Sutherland capped off the Bears score on the game when she had a basesloaded walk to score the final run, clinching the win at 5-0.

With only two games remaining in their regular season, the Bears hope to continue to ride their four game winning streak and secure the top seed heading into the playoffs. Come out and support the UC Softball team as they host Albright on Wednesday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m. and Muhlenberg on Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m. If the Bears past performance stands as an indication that these final games will be exciting ones. Look for the team in playoff action as well after regular season play ends. Good luck for a great end to another impressive season ladies.