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The Grizzly, February 28, 2008

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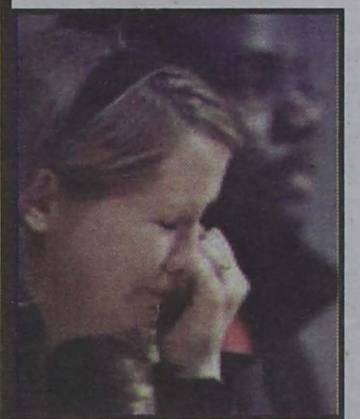
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The Grizzly

Thursday, February 28, 2008

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

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Moore Than Just Words

Tragedy Strikes at Northern Illinois University

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On the heels of the deadly shootings at Virginia Tech, Delaware State University and more recently at Louisiana Technical College, comes news of yet another tragedy, this time striking Northern Illinois University (NIU) in Dekalb, Illinois. On Feb. 14, at 3:15 p.m. Steven Kazmierczak, 27, entered a geology classroom in Cole Hall wearing a black beanie and black coat, where he proceeded to fire 54 rounds from three weapons. Approximately five minutes later, five students had been fatally shot and 16 others were wounded; Kazmierczak then took his own life (<http://abcnews.go.com/US/Story?id=4293081&page=1>).

The shooting came as a shock to many; Kazmierczak, a former NIU sociology student, was remembered as being well-liked by faculty and staff. In 2006, he had received the Dean's award from the sociology department, and was a member of the NIU Academic Criminal Justice Association. Those who knew him said he showed no indication of wanting to cause harm to himself or others. While no note was found, and possible motives are still being investigated, officials feel Kazmierczak had been planning the attack for several days. (<http://abcnews.go.com/US/Story?id=4293081&page=2>). Less than a week before the



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS/AP PHOTO
Photograph provided by NIU

shooting, on Feb. 9, Kazmierczak purchased two weapons, a Remington 12-gauge shotgun and a 9mm Glock Pistol. Since Kazmierczak had no police record, he was legally able to buy guns in the state of Illinois; the shooter had also purchased weapons from the same dealer in August 2007 (<http://abcnews.go.com/US/Story?id=4293081&page=2>). In

the days following the massacre, media reports alleged that Kazmierczak had recently stopped taking medication for an unknown condition. Campus police Chief Donald Grady confided that "[Kazmierczak] had stopped taking medication and become somewhat erratic in the last couple of weeks" (<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1713787,00.html>).

While there has been some trouble in responding to emergencies such as the NIU rampage in the past (e.g. sluggish response to shootings at Virginia Tech), NIU responded fairly quickly to the attack. While the shooting allegedly began at 3:15 p.m., ABC news reported that at 3:20 p.m., NIU posted an alert on its Web site, warning students of a possible shooter. The message read, "Get to a safe area, and take precautions until given the all clear. Avoid the King Commons and all buildings in that vicinity." Half an hour later the university's Web site confirmed the shooting. Additionally, police arrived at the scene two minutes after being called (<http://>

abcnews.go.com/US/Story?id=4293081&page=3). Kazmierczak's mental health history has been extensively covered in the news after this tragedy. Initially, reports surfaced of a happy, bright student, who friends and professors claimed would never hurt anyone. In more recent days, additional reports have surfaced that allude to mental instabilities, psychiatric hospital stays, abusive relationships, and other warning signs of the bloody attack at Northern Illinois University. It has now been confirmed that Kazmierczak spent more than a year in a psychiatric hospital. During his stay, he frequently resisted medications, and was known to engage in self-mutilation behaviors.

Several colleges and universities, including Ursinus, have implemented alert systems for their students, faculty, and staff, should an emergency arise. Currently, Ursinus subscribes to the services of e2Campus, which is "a self-service, web-based, mass notification system that... send(s) instant alerts...(with the potential to) reach thousands of people anywhere, anytime, on any device all at once" (<http://www.e2campus.com/>).

Several mass emails have been sent to students and faculty from campus safety, outlining the steps to take in order to sign up for this alert system. If those emails have accidentally been overlooked, or deleted, don't fret! Simply log on to blackboard, and click the link on the lower left hand corner that reads "Emergency Alert System." While tragedies such as the shooting at Northern Illinois University may be difficult, or even impossible to prevent, there are steps that we, and all colleges and universities, can take to ensure that all precautions are taken in the event of an attack or threat. Our thoughts will be with the victims of the NIU massacre and their families.

Safety at Ursinus College: In Light of the NIU Massacre

JULIE KATZ

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College shootings seem to be a recent rising trend. While it is not a positive one, it is an extremely important issue for college students. Members of the Ursinus community all hold a responsibility for personal safety and the safety of each other to protect our campus. There are, however, multiple safety measures instilled by Campus Safety at Ursinus that would protect our community if a campus emergency were to take place.

Firstly, every student and faculty member should register for E2 Campus, which is an alert system to notify the community if a campus emergency were to take place. Since its installment last year, after the Virginia Tech shootings, only 576 people have signed up for the texting service. That represents only about one-quarter of the Ursinus community. This alert system will notify members of the campus about an imminent threat. Campus Safety highly encourages everyone to register their phones. Campus safety also works closely with the Collegeville Police and the Montgomery SWAT team who are trained to handle hostage situations.

The best way to protect the campus from such an event is to catch it before it happens. Kim Taylor, Director of Campus Safety, shared a few ways students and faculty members can take an active part in protecting our community. Taylor recommends looking out for "red flags" and reporting "anything that doesn't sound right to a member of the Dean's Office, Campus Safety or one of the guidance counselors on campus." In an effort to provide more support for students, the Ursinus added an additional mem-

ber to the wellness counseling team to help improve student mental health.

If a campus shooting were to take place, Taylor recommends students to evacuate the building where the shooting is occurring immediately if possible. "If a student is unable to exit the building, stay clear of the doors, try to find cover and silence your cell phone," she said.

While most would like to think Ursinus is a small-knit community where everyone knows everything happening, the community needs to remember that the campus is a thoroughway from Pottstown to Norristown. Due to the location of the college it is important to realize that students, faculty and staff are not the only people that are present around campus. Taylor emphasized the importance of locking dormitory rooms, and most importantly, not keeping the doors to the houses on Main Street propped.

Campus Safety is also available to students for additional services. There is a 24/7 escort service provided by Safety to make sure students feel safe when going back to their dorm or to the parking lots late at night.

Although most think of Ursinus as a safe community,

it is critical that the community takes precautions and looks out for each other. For more information or further questions contact one of the Campus Safety at 610-489-2737.

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

The Grizzly

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Anti-HIV Gel Fails Clinical Trial, Opens Doors

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Approximately 6,000 South African women were recently involved in a study concerning an anti-HIV gel. The trial, although failed, proved to be safe. Scientists are still analyzing results and planning on conducting another study, this time adding an AIDS drug to the gel.

The latest study took place from March 2004 to March 2007 in the South African areas of Gugulethu, Inspingo and Soshanguve. Originally, 9,000 women, with an average age of 31, were chosen to participate in the study. 27 percent tested positive for HIV, decreasing the number of subjects to 6,202 women. These women used the gel between nine months and up to two years.

After the study was complete, 44 percent of the women that scientists could get in contact with said they did not use the gel on a regular basis, if at all. Only 10 percent said they used it as directed. 18 percent of the women dropped out due to pregnancy and another 13 percent could not be found for follow-up. Only 4,244 women actually finished the study. This high percentage led the study to be unstable, yet still ground-breaking in research.

The gel has been in progress for about two decades. It originally was tested on female monkeys that were then exposed to large amounts of the AIDS virus. The gel proved to be safe and effective. The gel blocked the virus' entry, which lowered the outbreak of AIDS—proving to be a significant hurdle to overcome.

In 2004, a former study was cancelled because it may have been increasing the risk of HIV, instead of lowering it, because it irritated the female genitalia. Another test consisted of exposing 30 female monkeys with a highly infectious form of a monkey-human strain of HIV. They then immediately gave them a vaccination of PCS-RANTES. RANTES is a molecule human bodies harbor that blocks CCR5—the main point of entry for the AIDS virus. The virus did not affect the monkeys who received the highest dose of PSC-RANTES available.

80 percent of monkeys given the lesser dose were stricken with the virus. Side effects however, were not detected. The latest gel is a vaginal gel comprised of carrageenan, which comes from seaweed. Scientists got this idea from cosmetic and food industries. Seaweed is often used as a gel, stabilizer and thickening agent. The gel, Carraguard, was given at random to the volunteers of the study. The

others were given a placebo gel. The women and study staff did not know which gel each subject received. There were 134 new cases of HIV in the Carraguard group and 151 new cases in the placebo group. Scientists are still analyzing numbers to see if there was a difference in usage among the groups, which could change results.

Along with the study, the women were given safe-sex counseling and condoms. Although the study technically failed, condom use actually doubled. In poorer countries, it is harder to get men to wear condoms, let alone having the availability of them. Only 33 percent of women used condoms before the study, and 64 percent used them after. Through condom use, sexually transmitted infections declined amongst the women.

The gel, a microbicide, was developed by the non-profit, New York based Population Council. The study was paid for by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Population Council plans on coming out with a new gel with the added drug MVI-150, an experimental AIDS drug. Also, they hope to develop a contraceptive version that contains Carraguard plus hormones.

All information was taken from MSNBC.com.

News in Brief: Beijing Olympics, Hitmen Plot, Bird Flu

TERRY KELLEY

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Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008

Steven Spielberg's decision to quit the Beijing Olympics over the Darfur crisis is drawing condemnation by China's state-controlled media. It has also received criticism from the Chinese public. Last week, the Hollywood director withdrew from his role as an artistic adviser to the opening and closing ceremonies of the Summer Olympic Games. Spielberg accused China of not doing enough to press for peace in the troubled Sudanese region. Officially, the Chinese government has not directly criticized Spielberg by name, expressing only "regret" over his decision.

But the state-run media and the public have been far less restrained. In newspaper commentaries and lively internet forums, they have expressed outrage, scorn and bewilderment that China's Olympics have come under international criticism from Spielberg and others. A biting front-page editorial Wednesday in the overseas edition of the *People's Daily*, the Communist Party's official newspaper, blasted Spielberg for his decision. It stated that "a certain Western director was very naive and made an unreasonable move toward the issue of the Beijing Olympics. This is perhaps because of his unique Hollywood characteristics."

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008

A high school senior accused of trying to pay hit men \$260 to kill his adoptive parents had always been a "very good child," his mother said through tears last Wednesday. Jacob A. Jett, 18, allegedly gave the money and three handguns to two men as part of the plot to kill Richard and Robyn Parnell, according to prosecutors. "He thought they were too strict and wanted to inherit money," Jackson County prosecutor Jim Kanatzar said. Jett and a fellow student accused of introducing him to the would-be hit men, were charged with second-degree attempted murder and armed criminal action. Jett and Joseph R. Garcia, 17, were being held in lieu of \$250,000 cash bonds. Parnell, 48, said her son was adopted as an infant and that he was their only child. At an arraignment for Jett and Garcia on Wednes-

day afternoon, a judge entered not guilty pleas on their behalf. Their next court appearance is scheduled for Mar. 31, 2008. It was unclear if either teen had a lawyer. Robyn Parnell would not comment about plans for representation, and a woman who answered the phone at the Garcia residence hung up.

Friday, Feb. 22, 2008

Bird flu continues to spread across Asia, Africa and Europe. Although it has been vacant from the headlines in the United States, scientists say that avian influenza, as its also known, remains a serious threat to human and animal health. The lethal H5N1 version of the virus is mutating rapidly and rampaging through bird flocks throughout those parts of the world, infecting and often killing people who come in contact with them.

The fear is that the virus will change into a form that makes human-to-human transmission quick and easy. At least seven slightly different subtypes already have been identified. "New genes are being formed all the time," said Henry Niman, a molecular geneticist who tracks bird flu outbreaks around the world.

Although H5N1 has not reached the Western Hemisphere, Joseph Domenech, the chief veterinary officer for the United Nations Food and Agricul-

ture Organization, warned that the virus "could still trigger a human influenza pandemic." As of last Wednesday, bird flu had infected 362 people and killed 228 of them in 14 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

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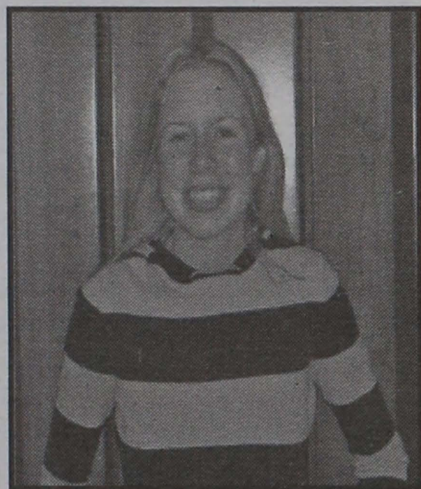
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Investigating the Seven-Day Itch

When we generally think of genital infections, our minds immediately leap to disturbing thoughts of gonorrhea, syphilis, genital herpes and the other sexually-transmitted infections that we work so diligently to prevent. Due to the severity of these conditions, they usually take first-priority in most school curricula, allowing the responsible, sexually-active couple to have the basic knowledge of avoiding the worst-case scenario. However, with thoughts of terrifying consequences such as Chlamydia and HIV/AIDS haunting the mind of the sexual individual, little room is left for the infections, that while rarely life-threatening, are common and present irritating symptoms and problems with which many are forced to cope. This week, we delve into the infections left behind and learn how to defeat the seven-day itch and its consequence of the dreaded public scratch.



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

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A common vaginal infection that causes frustration for many women is the yeast infection. Yeast infections are caused by an overgrowth of *Candida albicans*, a naturally occurring substance in the body. This overgrowth can be attributed to causes such as birth-control pills, pregnancy, diabetes, antibiotics and AIDS (Bodyandfitness.com). Changing the temperature in the vagina can also cause growth, which can occur, for example, when one does not immediately change out of a wet bathing suit when done swimming. According to Planned Parenthood, infections can also be caused by a partner whose yeast amount affects the balance in the vagina. In other words, men are also susceptible to yeast infections, and one partner's yeast infection may trigger yeast growth in the other.

Common symptoms of vaginal yeast infections include a white discharge with a thick consistency that resembles cottage cheese, irritation of the labia and other skin surrounding the vagina, burning and itching (UrologyHealth.org). If you are experiencing these symptoms and have never been diagnosed with a yeast infection, the safest plan is to consult a medical professional before seeking treatment. Most treatments are available over-the-counter and can be found and purchased at local drug and grocery stores. These treatments usually involve creams that are inserted nightly for one, three, or seven days (consult with a medical professional regarding which treatment plan is best for you). Oral yeast infection treatments are available via prescription only and usually involve one pill that is taken at any point during the day. Some (not all) oral yeast infection treatments conflict with birth-control pills and it is important to discuss the current medications you are taking with your medical professional.

Another genital infection that afflicts both women and men is infamously referred to as "jock itch." This condition usually affects men more than women, and it is a fungal infection caused by the growth of *Trichophyton rubrum*. This is also the same fungus that causes athlete's foot and other bodily fungal infections. *T. rubrum* growth can be initiated by anything that provides enhancement of a moist and warm environment, including wearing clothing that is moist and sweaty and wearing clothing in layers.

Jock itch usually appears as a red, itchy rash that begins with the folds of the groin and then progresses to the inner thighs. The edge of the rash that is progressing is often scaly while the skin involved in the rash exhibits a reddish-brown color. The penis and scrotum are not affected by jock itch, however, if the rash has also extended to include genitalia, the culprit is most likely a yeast infection (Dermatology.about.com). Again, if this is the first time that you are experiencing symptoms, a medical professional should be consulted to insure a correct diagnosis. Jock itch can be treated by over the counter anti-fungals such as Lotrimin, which can also be used to treat athlete's foot. If you have both infections, it is important to treat the athlete's foot as well because it will prevent the jock itch from reoccurring. Your medical professional can also prescribe a prescription anti-fungal if needed (Intelihealth.com).

Fungal infections can be sexually transmitted, and since condoms may not be the best preventative measures, abstaining until the infection has subsided is usually the best plan.

With this knowledge now in place, you have enough information to not only take on the tough guys (the STIs) but also the forgotten annoyances too often left behind.

Great Wall vs. China Jade: Local Chinese Dining

JEREMIAH LONG

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The moment you all have been waiting for has come: the epic battle between two of the most prominent Chinese restaurants near campus (Great Wall and China Jade). What a grudge match this will be, because as it turns out, the two owners come from the same city; a place called Fuzhou which is across the water from Taiwan. So, with the help of the Resident Hall Association (RHA), I will be reviewing not one, but two restaurants this week!

Why, you might ask, would a renowned restaurant reviewer such as myself ask for help? Well, it was for one reason; sad as I am to admit it, I have a favorite. So to prevent bias, I asked for help, and was accompanied by a number of people on this expedition. The only consistent person, however, was Steven M. Larson, our very own Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life (I will be quoting him throughout this review).

To start off, let's look at appearance. China Jade has your standard Asian faire (red, a little gold, and some funny symbols here and there). Of note is their collection of foreign money. People throughout town have been donating bills to them and they now have quite the collection. In comparison, Great Wall has a more homely appearance. It looks lived in and a little used, but it's nothing that a mop and a fresh coat of paint couldn't cure (Appearance Winner: China Jade).

As for service, China Jade came complete with a waitress and a Lazy Susan, which is so handy it should be standard in every restaurant (for those of you who may be unfamiliar, a Lazy Susan is a large flat disk found in the middle of a table that can spin). As for Great Wall, they

prefer self-service. Though I rarely complain about helping myself, Great Wall can't win this category due to its lack of service (Service-Winner: China Jade).

Now, it gets interesting. To insure that we could judge the two restaurants equally, we made a deal that whatever we ordered in one place, we would order in the next. The dishes were wonton soup, chicken and broccoli, fried rice, chicken chow mein and sweet and sour chicken. Instead of compiling one lump dining score, I broke it up to describe each individual dish.

China Jade provided a very flavorful wonton soup which Steve described as having a "nice aroma," despite the fact that the "noodles were a touch overdone." Though Great Wall had plenty of noodles that were cooked, and I quote, "perfectly," it could not make up for the fact that the broth was too watery (Winner: China Jade).

Chicken and broccoli (a personal favorite of mine) is all I usually order when I get Chinese. The clear winner here is Great Wall. They provide a superb chicken and broccoli complete with just enough sauce and plenty of broccoli, as well as some other vegetable (do I spy some bamboo shoots? I do!). Though China Jade provides the dish as it should be, Great Wall blows it out of the water (Winner: Great Wall).

Fried rice is a simple dish that may be one of the hardest to master. Though neither restaurant makes fantastic fried rice, Great Wall comes out on top yet again simply

because China Jade makes very dry fried rice, which really sucks the joy right out of eating it (Winner: Great Wall).

Regarding the chicken chow mein, if Steve had not come I would never have had the nerve to try this dish.

This is lo mein with Cabbage (instead of noodles) and to my surprise, it was not a complete mess on my plate. Instead it proved to be an appetizing and enjoyable dish. As for the comparison, Steve said this about the China Jade version: "vegetables looks soggy, however, taste was very good". At Great Wall, though, we both agreed the vegetables were not soggy and that the taste was better, though it was a close one (Winner: Great Wall).

The final dish was sweet and sour chicken (a favorite of mine though every time I order it, I regret it). It is made with too much

fried dough for me to eat in one sitting. China Jade produced some wonderfully lightly breaded nuggets of joy, while Great Wall had some surprisingly filling and unpleasant pebbles (Winner: China Jade).

Now that was a fight! Neither side gave in willingly, but in the end, one had to top the other. The winner (drum roll please...) is *China Jade*.

For you number crunchers, here are the final tallies: appearance: China Jade 7/10, Great Wall 4/10; service: China Jade 7/10, Great Wall 6/10; dining: China Jade 20/30, Great Wall 23/30. The totals are China Jade 69 and Great Wall 66.

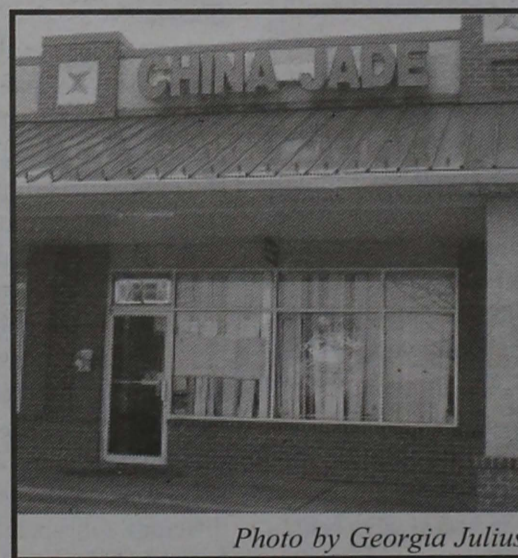


Photo by Georgia Julius

Third Annual CoSA Celebration Hits Ursinus in April

ROGER LEE

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The Celebration of Student Achievement (CoSA) is a growing tradition at Ursinus. Now entering its third season, CoSA is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever. On Apr. 23, 2008, the campus will be filled with a wide variety of student presentations, performances and entertainment.

"It takes a long time to establish something," said CoSA coordinator Greg Weight. However, CoSA has established a strong following on campus in just two short years. This year, Weight hopes to continue that success by developing the day into more of a celebration. "We're trying to have a little bit more fun this year," smiled Weight. This fun may include a new "CoSA-eve" night of contests and games to help kick off the festivities.

"This year our plan is to start off in the residence halls," said Weight. He hopes to have morning presentations, lectures and discussions in the various dorms on campus. This will allow all students to actively engage in the CoSA experience without even leaving their building first thing in the morning.

Later in the day, students and faculty are encouraged to get out and see all that CoSA has to offer. With a new outdoor discussion circle inspired by London's "Speaker Corner," students can present their opinions on various topics without the pressure of presenting or performing for an audience. Students are also encouraged to present their research, honors projects and extracurricular activities throughout the day. Weight adds, "We're hoping to get

the schedule out sooner this year." This will give presenters ample time to alert their peers about performance times and locations.

Last year's 200 plus presentations took place all over the campus from the Kaleidoscope to Thomas Hall. The CoSA committee hopes to keep up the participation by encouraging more students to get involved. Weight explained that, "even a well-written CIE paper can be presented during CoSA." This gives all students the opportunity to show what they have accomplished both in and out of the classroom.

Students had a few things to say about their CoSA experiences. While some freshmen dancers look forward to their hip-hop dance demonstration, others are eager to present something from the science field. "We trust the student to produce meaningful work in whatever field they chose," said Weight.

Attending CoSA since its 2006 debut, senior Christina Cooper has noticed that a strong foundation in public speaking really enhances a presentation. After spending time watching, Cooper plans on presenting at this year's event. Even alumni have fond memories of their CoSA days at Ursinus. Recent graduate Rami Farag recalls, "My favorite part of CoSA was at the end when they announced the best presentation award." Farag presented his research on the effects of alcohol concentration on fish through his advisor Dr. Sidie.

Professor Weight added, "The presentations range from speeches to demonstrations of the creative arts."

By the end of the day, CoSA will belong to the specific departments where departmental honors presentations

will conclude the celebration. "It's great for faculty and staff to see where their work is going," said Weight. The CoSA team even extended the application deadline to Friday, Feb. 29. CoSA is a celebration of student achievement that grows year after year. The sky is the limit for this special day where classes take a backseat and students can present all their hard work. Weight concludes, "Our goal is to continue to inspire students to produce great work each year."

Career Corner: Useful Thank- You Note Tips

CAREER SERVICES

career@ursinus.edu

Did you meet an interesting employer at the Job & Internship Fair yesterday? Do you want to make your resume stand out among the crowd? Then don't forget to send a thank you note to all of the new contacts that you made! Plan to send out your thank you letters as soon as possible after the Job & Internship Fair or after an interview with an employer.

According to a recent survey by the Emily Post Institute, 70% of employment managers said that emailing thank-you notes was appropriate. A survey by CareerBuilder.com found that nearly 15 percent of hiring managers would reject a job candidate who neglected to send a thank-you letter/email after the interview.

Consider the following when sending thanks:

(1) Make it short! Lengthy, flowery notes will not endear you to any employer.

(2) Address the note to the person who will be most involved in the selection decision. Ask for business cards during the interview to get the correct spelling of the interviewer and the organization. In the case of the Job & Internship Fair, address the letter to the person who you spoke with about employment opportunities.

(3) Use the note to confirm your interest in the position. Include details of experience related to the position that was not covered in your interview or meeting. Reaffirm your excitement about the opportunity.

(4) Maintain a professional tone in the note. The note will probably become part of your personnel file and be read by others.

(5) Organize your note. A suggested format might be, First paragraph: Express your appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the position during an interview or the Job & Internship Fair; Second paragraph: Personalize it! Trigger the reader's memory about you and include something you discussed; Third paragraph: Reaffirm your interest in the position and tell the employer you look forward to hearing from them. Offer to provide additional information including references, transcripts, or other documents of interest. After the Job & Internship Fair you may also want to attach a copy of your resume.

So mind your manners and get in the habit of sending thank you letters to anyone who has helped you move forward. Be sure to send a note of thanks to faculty and staff who serve as references for you, too!

*Excerpts taken from Whitman College Career Services.

A Review of SPINTFest at UC

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Keen on having a really tight, bonding housing experience? Seeking neighbors with similar interests? Tired of the same old movies and parties as a means to hang out? Want to do something innovative, collaborative and fun at the same time? Or maybe, do you just have a bad lottery number? If any of these reasons apply from above, perhaps you would be interested in SPINT Housing.

As a part of the Residential Village on Main Street, there are eight Special Interest (SPINT) Houses, each with a different theme. The goal of the SPINT Housing program is to foster a sense of community within students who share common interests by providing opportunities to live and interact with each other. SPINT Housing residents create their own house programs related to their respective themes to foster this sense of community.

To be a part of the SPINT Housing program, students must apply to their desired SPINT houses prior to the regular room selection process. Hence, SPINTfest was created with the purpose of orienting students to SPINT Housing and fostering in them this sense of community. Each house has a Program Coordinator (PC), who oversees the management of the budget and schedule of all the programs happening in the House.

Each year, Residence Life also coordinates SPINTfest for students looking outside the traditional housing options. SPINTfest lasts for about one week. Each house hosts an event where prospective residents can acquaint themselves with the different communities and meet its current residents.

This year, Musser, the International House, kicked

off the SPINTfest on Saturday, Feb. 16, with an "Around the World Party." Many of the individual rooms were designed and decorated as different countries and served their native drinks; some residents even went out of their way and dressed themselves in their national costumes.

Cloake, the environment-themed house, followed Musser with an "Organic Food Dinner Party." Last Wednesday, Hobson, the community service house, hosted a game night, inviting students to play "Apples to Apples" and "Cranium."

Last Thursday saw a unique collaboration between Schaff, the social justice house, and members of WeCAN (We Care About the Nation). Together the two set up a "Social Justice Jamboree" and arranged for Fair Trade Food. Jessica DeVaul, a member of WeCAN, said the event also included a video on factory farming awareness. "We thought it would be wonderful if we could partner with Schaff and create greater awareness on a lot of social justice issues," said DeVaul.

Last Saturday, the Art House arranged for more fun, games and a tour of the art of house with a contest seeking a creative dessert that was opened to the entire campus. Mary Massey, the Program Coordinator at the Art House was very excited. "I love the Art House," she said. "It really creates a wonderful sense of unity amongst residents. We [were] all looking forward to the unique dessert event, and especially touring the resident around the Art house, where we just painted the common room."

SPINTfest concludes with a mocktail party in the Wellness House, situated between Omwake and Elliot.

Interested students can pick up SPINT Housing forms in the Residence Life Office after SPINTfest has concluded. For more information about SPINT,

NME Scandal: An Outsider's Take

MATT SHORT

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There has been great angst from the Ursinus College Greek community over the administration's recent decision to cancel the New Member Education over recent weeks. While I am not a member of any Greek organization on campus and this decision does not affect me, it has been impossible to avoid the subject. This very publication has played host to full page discussions on the topic as well as editorializing the issue outside of the Opinions page. Since one side has dominated this discussion, namely those supporting the side of the Greeks, allow me to defend the decision of the administration for a moment.

In my opinion, the Greeks were let off lightly by the administration. Having NME stopped immediately was the very least that could have been done. Consider what we know has happened. Students were using NME as an excuse to skip class and students involved in NME were getting sick with one rumored case of Hepatitis A. First, there is the matter of classes. The Ursinus College Student Handbook states on page 65, Number seven under the section dealing with new member education that "Weekday NME activities may begin at noon and must end by midnight. During this time, new members must be given sufficient time to sleep, rest, and have meals. No exceptions!" This is an extremely clear set of guidelines that should effectively prevent NME events from taking precedence over schoolwork. If that was in fact happening that leaves two options: one, that the organizers of some events were ignoring the guidelines or two, the new members were taking advantage of their situation to skip class. Neither is acceptable behavior as both undermine the class and damage the reputation of whatever Greek organization is responsible.

The more troubling issue to me was that there was the rumor of Hepatitis A being contracted by someone over the course of this event. For those in the dark, Hepatitis A is transmitted mainly through fecal-oral contact which basically means that liquid or food contaminated with feces is ingested. Now think about what may have happened that allowed someone to contract this during NME. There are lots of possibilities as to what exactly led to it, but we know it happened and it most likely stemmed from extremely unsanitary conditions. It could very well have simply been that someone cooking food for new members didn't wash their hands and it resulted in infection. At the same time, it could have been a much more malicious act on the part of new member educators. Either way, the Student Handbook is again very clear on this subject: On page 67, Article 15 it says, "At no time shall new members be directed or asked to eat or drink anything." That's an outright ban on feeding *anything* to new members, and the outbreak of a disease commonly known for being transmitted via ingestion indicates that this rule was broken.

I think that the reason such drastic action was taken this year is due to the sheer amount of complaints. If there are complaints from teachers about students skipping class or parents upset that their children are getting sick, the school essentially cannot ignore those complaints. I don't believe that every organization was responsible, but I also don't believe that a single one was at fault for all of it either. If new members are being put under such stress that they cannot attend class or are contracting Hepatitis A, then it can easily fall into the category of hazing. Had the Ursinus

Superdelegates Face Tough Choices

With the race for the Democratic nomination for President continuing to heat up, the possibility that so-called "superdelegates" (high-ranking party officials who are not bound by the will of their constituencies – oligarchs, if you will) could decide the nominee is becoming more and more plausible. So, needless to say, the Obama and Clinton campaigns are working hard to try to shore up support with these powerful bastions of American democracy. We at *Communism for Dummies* got in contact with a number of superdelegates to get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the scramblings of the campaigns in the final stages of this beautiful process.

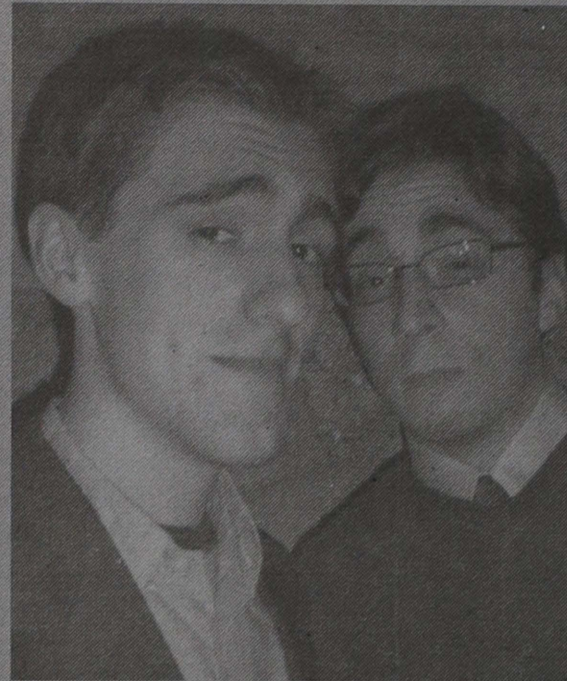
First, we were fortunate enough to be able to speak with Senator Ted Kennedy. "Well, as you know," he said, "I've endorsed Barack Obama, but that isn't stopping Hillary from trying to get my vote!" We asked what strategy Mrs. Clinton was using to try to sway Mr. Kennedy. "Well, ah, she offered me twenty cases of Johnnie Walker's Red Label," he said with a grin. We asked him if he accepted the offer. "Oh no! Apparently Senatah Clinton doesn't realize I drink Johnnie Walker's Black! Hahaha!" Mr. Kennedy then went into an uncontrollable wheezing fit. After he finished, we asked if that would have gotten his vote. He paused for a moment and said, "I'd have to think about it."

We tried to get in contact with a number of local superdelegates, but only Freshman Congressman Patrick Murphy from Bucks County returned our call. "Yeah, I've got a good story," he began. "I got a call from one of Clinton's top aides, saying 'Hey Pat, how's the wife and kids?' I told him I only have one kid, but I don't know if he heard me. Anyway, he said 'Oh that's great, Pat' – keep in

mind, I've never met this guy – 'Listen, Pat, we need your vote. Whaddya want? A cabinet position? How about Department of, ah, the uhh, the Executive Book Club?' I told him that that doesn't exist, but all he said was, 'Yes? Oh, that's great, Pat! You're the best!'" We asked him who he would be voting for in light of this phonecall. "I don't know," he said, "I'm thinking of joining the Ron Paul Revolution at this point."

As a completely unrelated side note, Patrick Murphy was the only member of the House of Representatives to vote against a resolution congratulating the New York Giants for winning the Super Bowl. He is also the only member of Congress who is veteran of the Iraq War. Defending America from the evils of terrorists and New Yorkers – who could want more?

One of the most prominent superdelegates is, of course, former President Bill Clinton (all former Presidents and Vice Presidents are superdelegates). Naturally, he is supporting his wife, Hillary Clinton; however, the Obama campaign has tried to pry him away. After all, what a death knell to Mrs. Clinton's campaign it would be to be able to say that her own husband refuses to support her. We were unable to get in contact with Mr. Clinton, but we did talk to an Obama aide who handled



MATTHEW FLYNTZ
DANIEL SERGEANT

the discussions with the former President. "You know, we buttered him up a little bit, saying how proud we were of both him and Mrs. Clinton." We asked what they offered Mr. Clinton. "Well, this is kind of embarrassing, but I said, 'Mr. President, if you cast your ballot for Mr. Obama, we'll give you all the homely, slightly overweight interns you could ever want.' There was an awkward pause, after which he responded, 'Thanks, but no thanks – we've got plenty of our own.'"

Matt and Dan's votes are still up for grabs. All pictures of homely interns should be directed to maflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.

Administration pursued this, the responsible parties could have faced all the penalties under the Pennsylvania Anti-Hazing Law, which includes revocation of the organization's charter, suspension, probation, withholding diplomas or transcripts and expulsion. Instead the school has, in the words of President Strassburger, asked the students to "fix the system." He has stated that he wants to treat the Greek organizations like adults, but instead all the loudest protests against the decision have been the very opposite of acting like adults. The worst example of this is a Facebook community which calls on Greeks to not shake hands with President Strassburger at graduation. What does that accomplish? Rather than looking at their own actions and trying to find ways to prevent events like those of this year from happening again, they have shifted the blame from themselves to the administration. That is where the Greeks have gone wrong in their argument.

My advice to the Greeks is to crack down on each other. Rather than demonizing the administration, try look-

ing at yourselves. Find out who was really responsible for causing NME to be cancelled and direct your anger at them. After all, the guilty party in all of this is not the administration but rather whoever allowed the NME process to get out of hand. Use this time to step back and see what you can do better so that events like this never happen again.

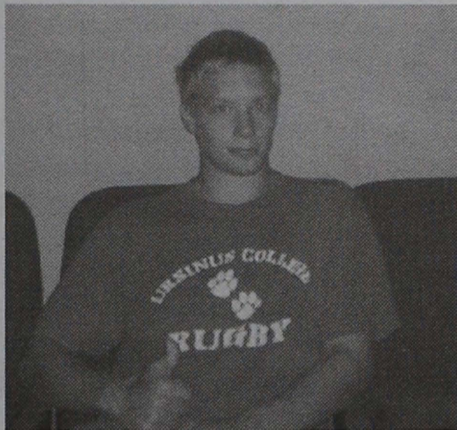
Hey, do you think about things sometimes? Why not write those thoughts down and send them to maflyntz@ursinus.edu? What's the worst that could happen?

“Cloverfield” (2008)

You have to hand it to J.J. Abrams – he sure knows how to market a film. After months of teasing with rumors that eventually proved false and puzzle websites that revealed obscure clues, it was hard not to be intrigued by his mysterious movie. Personally, I ended up sprinting through a theater lobby, practically pushing innocent bystanders out of the way in order to make it in time for the teaser trailer before “Transformers.” Let’s just say it wasn’t my proudest moment. With that, I give you “Cloverfield.”

To celebrate his departure for Japan, a group of friends throw a surprise party for Rob (Michael Stahl-David), who finally hooked up with his long-time love interest Beth (Odette Yustman). Something has caused them to break up in the month since then, and after she leaves the party, Rob decides to take a group of friends and a video camera and go after her. Also, a gigantic monster is wrecking the city and causing mass destruction all around them, so there’s a bit of a sense of urgency.

Did you ever watch one of the old “Godzilla” movies and wonder what it would be like to be one of those terrified citizens running for dear life through the streets? Thanks to “Cloverfield” and the magic of technology, wonder no longer. Seriously though, as skeptical as I was about framing a whole film through a hand-held camera, I have to admit I was impressed by the immersion it creates for the viewer, especially early on when people are still unsure as to what is happening. While it was nowhere near as nausea-inducing as “The Blair Witch Project,” it can get a bit shaky at times, particularly when the main characters are fleeing through the streets.



ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

As far as acting goes, the performances are all fairly good across the board. In particular, T.J. Miller’s Hud stood out. Playing the cameraman cum narrator, Hud is excitable and not too bright, but still manages to stand out as one of the most likeable characters in the film, often providing much needed moments of comic relief to help break the tension.

And of course, where would a giant monster movie be without a little social commentary? The filmmakers touch on our need to document everything in a time, particularly in a scene where a crowd of people gathers around taking pictures of the decapitated head of the Statue of Liberty with their phones rather than questioning just what could be so powerful as to knock it halfway through Manhattan in the first place. There’s also a scene of dazed people emerging covered in dust that can’t help but reference the World Trade Center attacks. All of this skews a lot deeper than just some monster wrecking the bejeezus out of NYC. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed “Cloverfield.” I can’t remember the last time a movie gave me chills, so hopefully we won’t have to wait long for the sequel.

For the pick of the week, I’m going with another giant monster movie, albeit not exactly on the same scale, but giant nonetheless. In “The Host,” a giant leech creature emerges from the main river in Seoul and attacks numerous people, including a teenager believed to be thought dead. Soon her family discovers that she’s still alive and sets out to rescue her. This Korean import is a lot of fun and carries a good deal of humor along with a surprisingly compelling story. That’s it for this week. Until next time...

Alex Ernst wants to know why all the good monsters attack New York. What are you, too good for the rest of us? You can reach him at alernst@ursinus.edu.

Why Kosovo’s Independence Matters

SERENA MITHBAOKAR
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This year on Feb. 18, the United States midwived the birth of a new European nation, Kosovo, after years of civil war that killed about 10,000 people.

Kosovo’s bid to be recognized as Europe’s newest country is the latest episode in the dismemberment of the former Yugoslavia. Kosovo is a tiny infant nation, almost landlocked and with about two million people, most of whom are ethnic Albanian and Muslim. It is also very poor, with an employment rate of about 60 percent. It had been a United Nations protectorate since 1999, and was policed by 16,000 NATO troops. After Kosovo declared independence on Sunday, The United States, Germany, France and Britain officially recognized Kosovo on Monday. However, some other major powers like Russia and Spain refused to recognize Kosovo, fearing that recognition might encourage separatist groups in other nations, such as Bosnia. Asia, China, Indonesia and Sri Lanka also criticized Kosovo’s declaration of independence, while Taiwan and Australia welcomed it. China even went so far as to make a statement that it would threaten military action if Taiwan declared independence, sounding gravely concerned.

Kosovo might be a small nation, and at first sight of little importance to the United States and the rest of the world; however, that would only be an oversight. Kosovo’s

declaration of independence has had reverberations all over the world because it remains unknown whether or not Kosovo’s declaration could rekindle conflicts elsewhere, including ethnically-divided Bosnia. What is more settling for other European powers is that Kosovo’s ministers are in talks of joining the European Union. Although that seems a little far-fetched, it is still important to note that this new recognition for Kosovo is going to mean a lot for the tiny Balkan nation. First, Kosovo is in need of help to improve its situation. The United States has announced that it would declare around 300 million dollars.

The world is debating the legitimacy of Kosovo’s self proclamation of independence, but nations supporting Kosovo say that the atrocities toward Kosovo, especially perpetrated by the late Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, reveal a new attitude toward sovereignty. It seems that the “responsibility to protect” has been given greater importance than sovereignty. Possibly, this may signal that after the negligence given to Rwanda and Bosnia, the United States and other leading powers are opening their eyes to other parts of the world rife with violence, which were initially considered unworthy of attention. Also, US support is needed for the more corporeal reasons such as reviving Kosovo’s economy and also with the mixed response to Kosovo’s independence—which remains a hindrance in the complete materialization of Kosovo’s sovereignty, making Kosovo deeply reliable on the international community.

How to be Extremely Xtreme

ANTHONY GEORGE
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Ask anyone who knows me; it’s common knowledge that I have my ear to the ground in regards to all the latest and hippest trends. One of the wildest has got to be the *extreme* movement! Being extreme isn’t a walk in the park; it’s more like a really badass motocross ride in the park. If you think this is just what you are looking for and want to know more, here are a few subtle tips on how to change your regular routine, which, if properly followed, will propel you to unheard levels of extremeness.

Waking Up:

It is important to start off your day in the most extreme of ways; you want to set an extreme tone for the rest of the day. A lot of people might believe that drinking a cup of coffee in the morning is sufficiently extreme – false. Just think of it, who else drinks coffee: parents (not extreme) and grandparents (not extreme). To be extreme, we need to add a little twist on the classic cup of coffee. Take your coffee maker and follow this recipe: First, replace the coffee grains with a couple scoops of N.O. Xplode (available at most GNC stores). Second, replace the water with a couple cans of Red Bull. Let that brew for a few minutes and you will be rewarded with what will amount to probably the most extreme drink ever conceived!

Talking:

Even something as simple as talking can be done in an extreme fashion. When talking in an extreme manner it is important to do so very loudly. Nothing says, “Hey look at me, I’m extreme!” better than saying it in an obnoxiously loud voice. If you have something to say, then why shouldn’t everyone around you hear it? Don’t be selfish. Start screaming everything and people will be more than appreciative for your over-the-top level of extremeness.

Music:

Extreme music = increase in your level of extremeness. Start listening to bands that incorporate insane face-melting guitar riffs, double bass pedals and screaming lead singers. When listening to any tunes, try turning the volume all the way up. To be even more extreme try playing some air guitar while listening or if you are *really* trying to be extreme, perhaps some *slam dancing*?!

Dining:

It is even possible to make the simple act of eating extreme. First off, you might want to start referring to it as “feasting” or “fueling up.” Second, start looking for foods that have extreme words in their names. Next time you’re in Zack’s ordering a double cheeseburger, instead try the Ultimate Double Cheeseburger. Also, I recommend drinking around three glasses of Mountain Dew with each meal. Everyone knows The Dew is the most extreme kind of soda because of all the commercials with kids doing extreme things such as skate boarding, etc. There are probably some vegetarians out there who might get upset because they can’t eat the Ultimate Double Cheeseburger. It’s okay, don’t worry. Instead, just use your meal equivalency to purchase as many energy drinks as possible! Energy drinks are probably the most extreme things you can drink (just make sure they are the larger energy drinks; the smaller ones just aren’t as extreme).

These are just several different ways that you can change your everyday life to be more extreme. They will undoubtedly leave your friends jealous and in awe.

Dubble Vision: Letters to the Editor

JASON DAVIS

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Dear Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens,

Nobody believes you. You're done. Even if you didn't use steroids or HGH, you did, ya know what I mean? It's kind of like in the movie *Gladiator* when the guy tells Russell Crowe "If you win the crowd, you win your freedom." Well guys, you lost. So can you guys please just join your friends Rafael Palmeiro and Mark McGwire on the "I Effed Up Express" out our lives. Thank you.

Sincerely,
The Crowd



Dear Philadelphia Flyers,

You did good this year. I know a lot of people are probably upset with you after you decided to go skydiving without a parachute in the middle of the season, but you know what? I'm not that upset. You were the worst team in the NHL last year, but you turned it around. I'm proud, so please don't do anything stupid like trade away our future (Jeff Carter, Alexandre Picard) for the past (Mats Sundin). Instead let's pack it up, ride it out, and bring in some concussion experts to conduct some kind of seminar in the offseason. We obviously haven't been able to figure those out.

Sincerely,
Flyers Fans

Gymnastics Prepares for Nationals

ASHLEY MCCOMESKEY

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As mid-semester approaches, the Ursinus Gymnastics team is preparing for their last two meets before the regionals. To qualify as a team for the Nationals, which take place March 28 and 29 at SUNY Cortland, the team needs to be one of the three highest scoring teams from the ECAC Championships for Division III. Currently, the UC team is ranked first.

Made up of 13 girls, the gymnastics team trains year round. From September to May they train as a team on campus, including over Christmas break. During the summer, the gymnasts train at their hometown clubs.

Gianna Paone, a sophomore, explained, "Practice is for about three hours—five days a week during pre- and post-season and usually four days a week during season, because we have a meet almost every weekend. During pre-season, it's more focused on building strength and getting new tricks, while season practices focus on building consistent routines & fixing them so that we can score as high as possible."

Practice is clearly paying off. The team has already participated in six meets this season, and defeated the University of Pennsylvania and Temple teams, which are classified as Division I. "Meets are also a good way to get used to competition so that ECACs and NCGAs aren't as over-

Dear Shaq,
I'm sorry, but this isn't going to work. But don't be sad. It's not you, it's me.

Sincerely,
Phoenix AZ

Dear Jason Kidd,

Welcome back! We really believe you are the piece we needed. Your leadership is something we have really lacked in the locker room. Don't get us wrong we love Dirk, but something was getting lost in translation. And don't worry about that bully Chris Paul. He's been taking everybody's lunch money this year. You pass, we'll shoot.

Sincerely,
The Dallas Mavericks

Dear Ursinus Men's Basketball,

Congratulations on a historic season. Undefeated in the conference. I have to admit, I didn't know you guys had it in you after losing your two starting big men from last year. But you adjusted wonderfully and shot the lights out this year. Let's keep it going into the CC playoffs and deep into the NCAA's!

Sincerely,
A Helfferich Hooligan

Dear Ursinus College,

I will be competing in the final indoor track meet of my career this Sunday at approximately high noon. I love performing in front of a crowd. Just wanted you to know that.

Love,
Dubb

whelming," said Paone.

At Nationals, the team competes against the other two regional teams and the top three teams from the West. Certain gymnasts from non-qualifying teams will also have the opportunity to compete as individuals only.

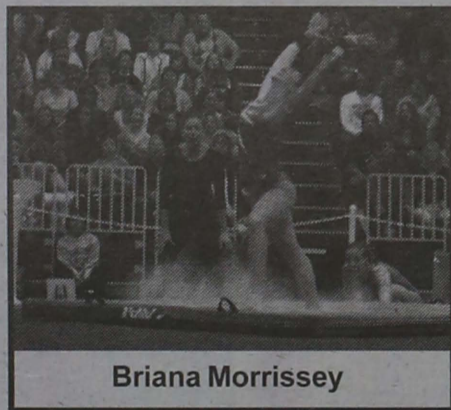
There are four major events: Vault, Bars, Beam and Floor. College gymnastics offers the option of each gymnast competing anywhere from one event to all four, depending on her abilities, preferences and the size of the team. As a team, the strongest event to date is Floor.

Last year, the team came in second place at Nationals, missing first place by only one tenth of a point. Paone said, "Towson's probably been the toughest to beat, but SUNY

Brockport is behind us in second place for the team totals." The goal this year is to perfect bigger tricks while performing a clean routine, to ensure the highest score possible for the team.

Individually, the team has also been doing well. Freshman Erin Slaunwhite was recently named ECAC Rookie of the Week, while Sophomores Olivia Oller and Kira Oldham-Curtis received the ECAC Gymnast of the Week honors earlier this season.

Paone said, "We're having a great season so far, but there's always room for improvement. Using the slogan 'Every 0.1 Counts,' we hope we can claim the first place spot that we were so close to achieving last year."



Briana Morrissey

Strong Champs for UC Swim

ASHLEY DROGALIS

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The Ursinus College Men and Women's Swim Team both showed strong performances in their final competitions of the season this past weekend. Centennial Conference Championships were held between Feb. 22 and Feb. 24 at Franklin & Marshall College. Anticipation of these last meets was high as the team geared up for action Thursday evening. One interesting pre-meet ritual can only be known as a "shaving party" where teammates help one another to get smooth. This helps propel swimmers faster through the water. After this unique bonding experience over shaving cream, the group had a carb-filled pasta dinner to give them lots of energy for the upcoming days.

After three intense days of swimming, the women's team managed to finish in an impressive sixth place with a total of 266 points, while the men finished in eighth with a score of 224 points. Another exciting highlight of the weekend occurred when Ursinus freshman Jessica Saloky placed first in the 200-breaststroke with a time of 2:28.93. This win earned the Ursinus team its first gold medal in Centennial Conference championship action since 1994. Saloky also placed an impressive third place in the 100-breaststroke at a time of 1:09.33, earning her a bronze medal as well. The team carried the enthusiasm and excitement from her stellar performances into the rest of their races.

Day one of competition, was a great day for Senior Co-captain Kate Snyder, who finished tenth in the 500-freestyle with a time of 5:21.10, breaking her previously held record for the event here at Ursinus. In addition, sophomore Emily Herman placed 12th in the same event. Saloky had another strong swim with a 13th place finish in the 200-individual medley. The women's team placed well in both the 200-free relay and the 400-medley relay, with finishes of seventh and fifth place, respectively. The men had two impressive top ten finishes with freshman Lloyd Tannenbaum taking ninth in the 500-freestyle and junior Andrew Piasecki also placing ninth in the 200-individual medley. UC men also came out with solid finishes in their relays with two seventh place performances in both the 200-free and 400-medley.

Moving on to day two, Snyder placed again in her 200-freestyle swim with a finish in 12th. Freshman Kacie McCormick also placed 13th in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 1:15.02. The 100-backstroke was another good event for UC women, with sophomore Elizabeth Gombosi in 11th and senior co-captain Allison Stouch in 15th. The men's and women's relays were both impressive on day two as well. UC men had two more seventh place finishes in their 800-freestyle and 200-medley relays. As for the women, they managed to rack up two sixth place relay finishes in both the 800-free and 200-medley.

The final day of competition was bittersweet as the team's season came to a close. The 1650-freestyle was a great event for both teams, with Tannenbaum placing fourth with a time of 16:50.13 and junior Rob Scheinfeld 12th at 17:47.68 for the men and Snyder at seventh with a time of 18:29.10 for the women. Piasecki also had another great event when he placed fifth in the 200-breaststroke. The action was capped off with a fifth place finish for the women's 400-freestyle relay and the men's team taking seventh in the same event. All their hard work paid off and the 2007-2008 Ursinus Swim Team ended its season in success. Congratulations to both teams!