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The Grizzly, January 31, 2008

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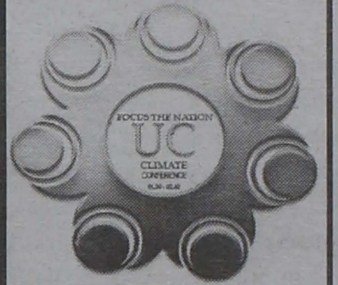
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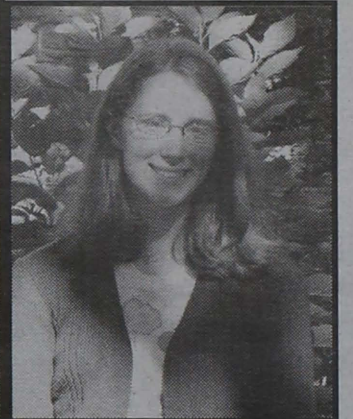
Thursday, January 31, 2008

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

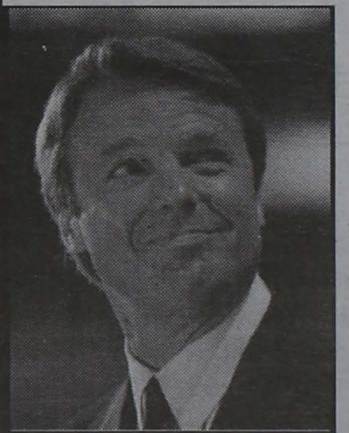
Inside



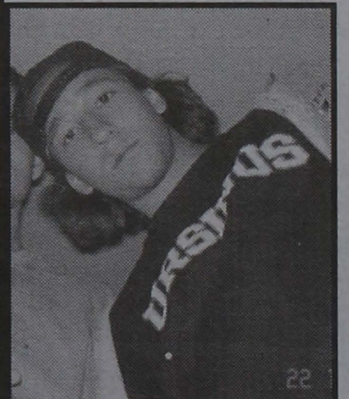
Focus the Nation Begins
News, 2



O'Brassill O'Pines
Features, 4



Edwards falls behind
Opinions, 7



Dubb Hates on the Pats
Sports, 8



Frank "Full Plate" DiMeglio Retires as WingBowl Champion

What's Your Dirty Little Secret?: RLO Posts Free Speech

HEATHER TURNBACH

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Is it your wildest fantasy? Is it a hidden tattoo? Is it a fear of failure? Everyone has a secret. As part of a political wellness program in the month of February, Residence Life is organizing "Dirty Little Secret," which encourages the campus to exercise their right to free speech by anonymously disclosing their hidden secrets to all of campus.

The concept of Residence Life's "Dirty Little Secret" stems from PostSecret, which is an ongoing community art project in which people mail their secrets anonymously on one side of a postcard. The concept of the project asks people to decorate a postcard and portray a secret that they had never previously revealed. The project has received national attention in the last few years and is also featured in a popular music video by the All-American Rejects.

Residence Life has put a spin on the PostSecret idea by sending out postcards for the Ursinus community to make a statement—whether it is a secret, a feeling, or personal thoughts. The staff will reveal these cards on a display in Wismer Lower Lounge.

Resident Director Jared Rodrigues said, "Postsecret has been around for a while...we thought it would be a lot of fun if we did that at Ursinus. Then it's still anonymous but it's still someone from Ursinus. "It doesn't have to be something deep and dark, it can be fun."

"Dirty Little Secret" at Ursinus began Monday night as Resident Advisors distributed postcards to students. Blank postcards are available in Wismer Lower Lounge and in Myrin Library. Ursinus community members can submit postcards via drop boxes in Wismer and the Library, placing them in the mail slot or sliding them under a Resident Advisor's door.

The wellness committee is hoping that "Dirty Little Secret" will be a way for the campus to celebrate free speech

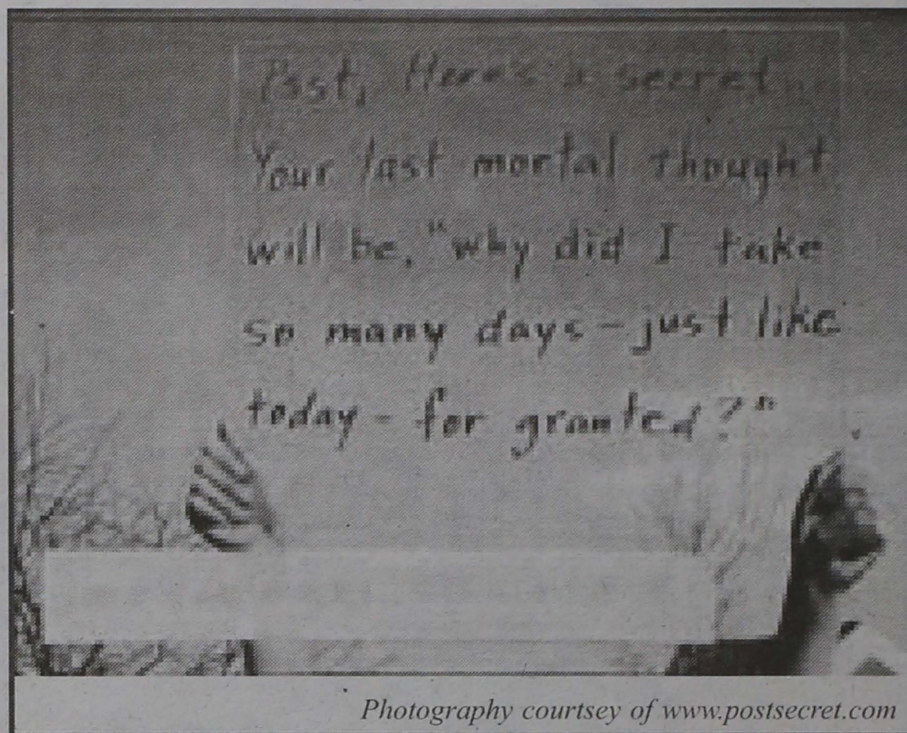
and explore it from a unique angle that visibly showcases secrets while still upholding anonymity. Rodrigues said, "Anonymity is an interesting wrinkle in free speech...I think it'll be really cool, a fun kind of cathartic experience."

Junior Resident Advisor Andrew Clark said this program is generally good for mental health, as it allows people to speak freely without being judged. "We're allowing people the opportunity to speak their minds and open up to campus in a way you might not be able to otherwise," said Clark.

This project was developed by the RLO wellness staff for February. The staff is comprised of Resident Director Jared Rodrigues and Resident Advisors: Brigid Bleaken, Andrew Clark, Christina Lippe, Lindsey Matt, Erin Pollard, Heather Turnbach and Meghan Walsh. "We structured it around the idea of secrets, but that there is a chance for everyone on campus to see it," said Rodrigues. "It's risky, but it's cool to have an open forum like that."

Rodrigues explained how this type of program is also inherently cathartic. "I'm excited to look at all of them...to see how much we're all alike even in the ways people think we may not understand," he said. "I really hope that excitement translates."

The "Dirty Little Secret" campaign will continue through the next weeks in February. Clark said that the wellness staff is aiming to collect secrets from about a quarter of the campus. "If we exceed that that would be awesome," said Clark. "I could see maybe even up to half of campus responding." Depending on the number of re-



Photography courtesy of www.postsecret.com

sponses and the overall turnout, "dirty little secret" may open doors for bigger opportunities, such as a student art project.

Residence Life encourages the entire campus community to participate. "We're just hoping we get a lot of people to fill them out so we have a lot of fun secrets to look at in the next couple of weeks," said Rodrigues. Although participants have the freedom to say anything, no secrets that reveal identifying factors or hate speech will be posted. For more information about "Dirty Little Secret" contact Jared Rodrigues (jrodrigues@ursinus.edu) or any other member of the wellness staff. Visit www.postsecret.com to view examples of posts.

News in Brief: Ledger's Death, Tiger Attack, Car Bomb

TERRY KELLEY
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Jan. 23, 2008 - With Ledger's death, *The Dark Knight*, the latest chapter in the Batman saga, and *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, have been put on a halt. Even though *The Dark Knight* has finished filming late last year, marketing of the film, currently in post-production, has been thrown into turmoil.

The early marketing strategy for the film focused on Ledger's outlaw Joker character, including a poster with a shrouded Joker writing "Why So Serious?" in blood on a piece of foggy glass.

The film's studio, Warner Bros., recently restructured its marketing department, Variety reports, after the departure of the executive who helped create *The Dark Knight* campaign. (Warner Bros., like CNN, is a unit of Time Warner.) The trade paper speculates that the marketing campaign will be changed abruptly.

The studio put out a statement Tuesday, Jan. 22 saying it was "stunned and devastated" by the news of Ledger's death. "The entertainment community has lost an enormous talent. Heath was a brilliant actor and an exceptional person. Our hearts go out to his family and friends," the statement said. Sources have not stated whether or not the film will come out on time.

Jan. 24, 2008 - On Thursday, congressional leaders announced a deal with the White House. This deal was part of an economic stimulus package that would give most tax

filers refunds of \$600 to \$1,200, and more depending on whether they have children.

President Bush, along with congressional leaders on tax rebates and business tax cuts, is hailing the deal as "an effective, robust and temporary set of incentives" that will boost the U.S. economy. The first rebate payments could begin going out as early as May and most people should have them by July.

Jan. 24, 2008 - A 17-year-old man was murdered by a tiger at the San Francisco zoo. Police are investigating whether several items found in the enclosure of the tiger show that the animal was attacked or taunted. The zoo administrators are arguing that there had to be something that prompted the tiger to come out of his cage and attack.

Facility's director Manuel Mollinedo stated that he knows the man had to have taunted the tiger and that something like this will never happen again.

Jan. 25, 2008

A car bomb ex-

ploded in Beirut, Lebanon on Friday Jan. 25, killing five people including a top police official who had many years of experience dealing with terrorist bombings. The officer, Captian Wissam Eid, was handling all of the files dealing with terrorist bombings in Lebanon. Friday's blast came a day after a labor strike that was largely peaceful, and 10 days after a car bomb aimed at a U.S. Embassy car killed

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Focus the Nation Events Begin Today at Ursinus College

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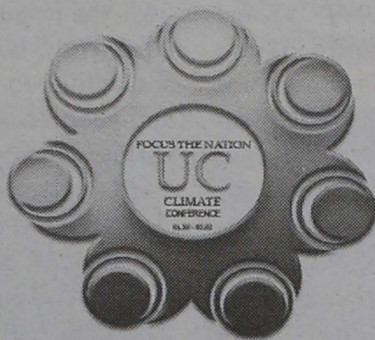
Undoubtedly, most of you have heard buzz from your professors about global climate change. Information regarding these changes has become a popular subject in the media. In order to raise awareness and propose solutions to the many ecological problems our world faces, Ursinus has become the first college in Pennsylvania to join the organization Focus the Nation (FTN).

Some of you may be thinking "well, that's great, but what is Focus the Nation?" As the official FTN website states: "FTN is an educational initiative...promot[ing] civic engagement.

Each focus team (college, university, school, etc.) will invite local, state and federal political leaders and decision makers to [their] campuses and participate in a non-partisan, roundtable discussion of global warming solutions..." (www.focusthenation.org).

Given that our generation (current college-age persons) will be greatly affected by the decisions and policies concerning climate change, it is our responsibility to see to it that change occurs. Without our support of initiatives aimed at stabilizing global climate disruption, progress will never be made. It is imperative that we step up acknowledge that we cannot continually take and exploit the resources of the Earth without consequences. The FTN events to be held at Ursinus are a wonderful opportunity to learn more about climate change and ways you can help support the cause.

Focus the nation events at Ursinus will commence on Jan. 30, 2008 with a climate change teach-in; events will continue through Feb. 2, with a closing concert featuring acoustic-folk artist Dar Williams. Many speakers have also



been scheduled to give talks, some of whom include: Heidi Cullen, host of the Weather Channel program "Forecast Earth: This Week," environmental ethicist and professor Dale Jamieson, Pennsylvania State representative Bob Mensch, artist/activist Sara Steele, and senior environmental correspondent for the *New York Times*, Andrew Revkin. Activities will also be taking place in the Kaleidoscope and other locations on campus on Friday, Feb. 1 and Saturday, Feb. 2. Some of these activities include a student art competition, local "green" building tours, and electric/hybrid car showcases.

The great thing about all of these events is that they are free and open to all Ursinus Students; however, in order to attend any of the events, you **MUST** register. There is a limited amount of space and all events are expected to be completely booked ahead of time. Registration is quick and easy, simply visit <http://academic.ursinus.edu/ftn/index.htm> and fill out the required information. An email confirmation will be sent to you shortly. A schedule of events follows. Hope to see you there!

Focus The Nation Schedule of Events:

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008

*Richard Kerr, "Climate, Oil, and the Media- The Making of a Climate Crisis"

- Lenfest Theater 6pm - 7:30 p.m.

*Richard Alley, "Get Rich and Save the World ...or Else!"

- Lenfest Theatre 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1, 2008

*Dale Jamieson, "The Moral and Political Challenge of Climate Change"

- Pfahler Aud 12 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

*Henry Pollack, "Scientific Uncertainty and Climate Policy: Moving on Without All the Answers"

- Pfahler Aud 2 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

*Joe Kruger, "The evolution of U.S. Climate Policy: Where do we go from here?"

- Pfahler Aud 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Conference Banquet w/ Judy Wicks "Local, Living Economies: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change"

- Wismer Lower 4:45 p.m. - 7 p.m.

*Political Forum w/ PA Senator John Rafferty, State Reps. Mike Vereb and Bob Mensch, & Congressman Jim Gerlach, others.

- Lenfest Theater 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008

*Margaret Bowman, "Funding Policy-Relevant Scientific Research"

- Pfahler Aud 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

*Pick up box lunches

- Pfahler Atrium 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

*Sara Steele

- Pfahler Aud 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*Andrew Revkin, "The Daily Planet: On the Front Lines of Climate Change from the North Pole to the White House"

- Lenfest Theater 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

*Heidi Cullen, "Talking Climate on the Weather Channel"

- Olin Aud 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

*Buffet Dinner

- Wismer Lower 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

*Closing Concert featuring Dar Williams & Andrew Revkin

- Lenfest Theater 8 p.m.

Writers Continue to Protest Insufficient Compensation

MEGAN HELZNER

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It is the first time in our memory as college students that new episodes of favorite television shows have stopped coming across our screens. Not since 1988 have the writers taken to the picket lines - that strike lasted a whopping 22 weeks. We have buckled down and are getting used to a long haul of reruns, new reality shows (à la American Gladiator), less news coverage and close-ups of long beards sported by late-night hosts. Did you know that some predict the strike could last as long as nine months? For 12 weeks now, members of the Writers Guild of America (WGA) have protested against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers for higher pay.

From a student's perspective, it could seem that the whole strike centers on already wealthy people arguing for more money. However, according to Faye Fiore, writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, while studios collectively brought in an astonishing \$95 billion in 2006, the average writer earned a comparative pittance of \$62,000. New York-based writer, Bradford Winters worked on HBO's "Oz" (1997-2003). He spoke out about the lean life he and his family now live since he has not written steadily in four years, asserting, "There is this myth that is being perpetuated about the greedy, rich writer who just wants more."

Guild members and others argue that receiving re-

siduals on digital media - the linchpin of their protests - could help writers get through lean, down times and fund and fuel the creative process to create the next big thing.

Arguably, since December, when all the new episodes of our favorite programs ceased, things have been pretty dull. Just looking at the primetime, non-cable lineup is enough to make people doze off, and one more hour spent with Bruno and Carrie Ann could push some of us over the edge. The Golden Globe Awards were said to be utterly bland without the writers. John Horn of the *Los Angeles Times* called the usually-bustling ceremony "a surreal, mostly unwatched news conference that cost NBC millions of dollars in advertising revenue." The Oscars, scheduled for Feb. 24, threaten to be equally austere. The event will likely be picketed by members of the WGA and perhaps even by the Screen Actors' Guild in solidarity.

So where is all the money going? A report prepared by Global Media Intelligence and partner Merrill Lynch reveals that most of the income about which writers and studios are fighting has already gone, is now going, and will continue to go to the biggest stars, producers and directors in huge "participation" payments. On a \$600 million movie, the lead actor might earn \$20 million up front for his or her salary and then an additional \$50 million on the back end. A-list producers and directors could make millions more than the actors. Combine these astronomically high fees with declining DVD sales (about 7% domestically and 15.5%

internationally last year, according to *New York Times* writer Michael Cieply) and growing YouTube and Google searches for media, and you get a smaller pie for writers to share. Last year alone, participation fees topped \$3 billion while residuals stagnated at just over \$120 million according to the WGA West.

Many striking writers have taken to the Internet to share their gripes in this trying time. "Brothers and Sisters" creator, Jon Robin Bates now blogs for The Huffington Post as, in his words, writing for the public "lets me flex the muscles, fight the fight in my own way and offer cohesion and coherence as best as I can to my fellow strikers." And we disappointed viewers have taken to watching back episodes of shows online, renting from Blockbuster and Netflix, and generally lamenting the absence of our favorite characters.

Keep an eye out for more news about the WGA strike and its hopefully speedy resolution. All of the issues laid out in the writers' and studios' arguments are especially relevant to us as young people, consuming, re-consuming, (and maybe even) creating digital media, thinking about (eventual or present) intellectual property of our own, and judging the legality and ethics of the situation as liberal arts students.

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

New Statistics Reveal Decline in U.S. Abortion Rates

Abortion is a highly controversial subject constantly under debate. Politicians, religious leaders, pundits and the ordinary individual discuss, debate, and make personal decisions regarding abortion on a daily basis. For some, the possible moral, emotional and physical consequences cause them to condemn the practice, while others view abortion as an innate right and the business and concern of only those that choose to undergo the procedure. Because of the heated and often polarizing debate about this issue, statistics and information regarding the procedure are frequently collected and analyzed. Recently, new statistics have been reported that have reignited this heated debate, and I'm pleased to be able to bring the discussion to this campus.

According to *The Washington Post*, the most recent statistics collected regarding abortion have concluded that the number of abortions in the United States is continuing its decline. This decline has been measured for about a decade, and the abortion rate is at its lowest since 1976 (*Roe vs. Wade*, the historic Supreme Court case that made abortion legally available in the United States, was decided in 1973). The information was collected by the Alan Guttmacher Insti-



LANE TAYLOR

Everything You Never Knew You Wanted to Know About Sex

tute, who also report that in 1990, 1.61 million abortions were obtained in the United States, while in 2002, 1.29 million abortions were obtained. In other words, in 1990, 280 abortions were obtained for every 1,000 pregnancies not resulting in miscarriage; in 2000: 245, and in 2002: 242. In spite of the Guttmacher Institute's pro-choice stance, their statistics are widely accepted, regardless of political leanings.

The report also notes that Caucasian women obtain about 40% of abortions in the U.S.; African-American women: 32%; Latina women: 20%, and women of other races obtain the remaining 8% of abortions. Further, the Institute found that six out of 10 abortions were obtained by women who were already mothers; 56% of abortions are obtained by women in their 20s, and 19% of abortions are obtained by teenagers (between 15-19), a rate which has decreased significantly in recent years. The report also explains that women of all economic backgrounds obtain abortions, "but low-income women are overrepresented among those having the proce-

ture."

Also, the large majority of abortions (90%) are obtained during the first trimester, while only 1% are obtained after 24 weeks. Interestingly, the number of abortion providers has also declined between 1996 and 2000.

While the statistics are telling and interesting on their own, the response and analysis have also been intriguing. Apparently, both sides of the political spectrum are ready and willing to take credit for the decline. Groups that are anti-abortion claim that conservative programming such as abstinence-only education and virginity pledges and greater conservative and religious influence has led to the decline.

While I cannot speak to the influence that a greater conservative or religious influence has had on the abortion rate, in all likelihood, abstinence-only education and virginity pledging are not to credit. Recent studies continue to illustrate that the teen pregnancy rate is growing, in spite of national, government-sponsored abstinence-only programming (Planned Parenthood). Meanwhile, organizations and individuals that are pro-abortion rights argue that the growth of the availability of birth control and family planning have led to the decrease.

Though the cause of the decline is still being argued, it is important to recognize that both sides of the abortion argument agree on one aspect of their philosophies; they both seek to lower the number of abortions in the United States. Both sides should be able to agree that this is a victory, regardless of its causes.

New Member Education (NME) is Not Your Enemy

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Rushing is a period during which students attend functions at sororities and fraternities that they are considering joining. The process begins at the end of October; and getting dressed up to go to themed parties and gatherings was a highlight of the fall semester for many students. Some rushed fraternities and sororities for the social aspect, but many students also wanted to get to know the members of the organization.

With the rushing season at a close, Greek organizations will now begin New Member Education (NME). Students may have heard singing on campus as sororities gave out bids and wondered what exactly is the process of joining a Greek organization?

Many students that are not Greek do not know a lot about Greek life on campus; so here are the basic facts about NME. In general, in order to rush a fraternity or sorority a student has to be a freshman, sophomore, or junior (though a few organizations permit seniors), and a student must have never participated in New Member Education before. Interested students must also have at least a 2.0 GPA to participate in New Member Education.

There are eight sororities and nine fraternities at Ursinus College. Each has their own mascot and signature colors. According to Ursinus College, the Greek organizations are:

Sororities: Alpha Sigma Nu, Kappa Delta Kappa, Omega Chi, Phi Alpha Psi, Sigma Gamma Rho, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Tau Sigma Gamma, and Upsilon Phi Delta

Fraternities: Alpha Phi Epsilon, Beta Sigma Lambda, Delta Mu Sigma, Delta Pi Sigma, Kappa Alpha Psi (Colony), Phi Kappa Sigma, Pi Omega Delta, Sigma Pi, and Sigma

Rho Lambda

These organizations began rushing in the fall, and sorority informal bids went out on Jan. 20, 2008. Rushes can receive as many informal bids as possible, but are only allowed to accept one. The next step is formal bids which went out on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008. Rushes then have until Jan. 31 at noon to accept their formal bid. Friday, Feb. 1 marks the start of New Member Education, a process that lasts until Feb. 24, 2008.

For more information, I interviewed Greg Striano, Assistant Director of Leadership Development and Student Activities, who was an early member of Phi Kappa Sigma here at Ursinus. Striano said the goal of New Member Education is, "to educate new students who are interested about the history, mission, and purpose of the organization."

Striano also said that Greek life is very important on campus. "Greek life gives students the opportunity to develop interpersonal skills as well as networking and leadership opportunities. It also gives students a connection outside of Ursinus other than their academic experience." When New Member Education is complete, the members should have gained knowledge of the current members and for what the organization stands. New Members should gain a positive learning experience that helps them down the line as well as lifelong ties to the organization

Events put on by the Greek community are run by the Inter-Greek Council. Sally Brosnan is the Inter-Greek Council Sorority President, as well as President of Alpha Sigma Nu Sorority, and Frank Di Meglio is the Inter-Greek Council Fraternity President, as well as Vice-President of Delta Pi Sigma Fraternity. I spoke with Ms. Brosnan about New Member Education and she said, "The NME process is a busy three weeks for Greeks on campus. All sororities and

fraternities participate, but each organization has their own set of traditions and activities." She spoke about how the goal of NME is to educate New Members about the history and tradition of their intended fraternity or sorority and it is a time for the current members to get to know New Members better. When asked if Greek life on campus is important, Brosnan said, "I think Greek life is very important on campus. In addition to adding to the overall character of Ursinus, they do a ridiculous amount of fundraising for various charities and run numerous social events which we all know are very popular with Greeks and non-Greeks."

Do not be intimidated by the secrecy New Member Education. Each organization has their own traditions, songs and activities that make them unique. For more information on New Member Education or Greek life in general, talk to Todd McKinney or Greg Striano in the S.A.O. office, as well as Dean Deborah Nolan in the Dean's Office.

Interested in writing for *The Grizzly*?

Then please attend our weekly meetings at 5:15 PM in Olin 101.

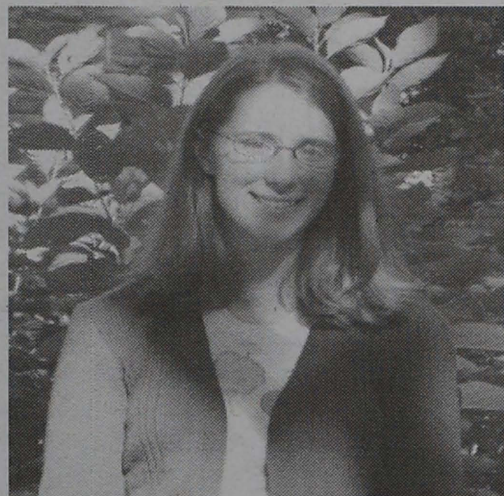
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Middlesex, by Jeffrey Eugenides

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Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides's follow-up to 1993's *Virgin Suicides*, is an even farther reaching, taboo-breaking, epic work than his first effort. Unfortunately, the wide scope of its content may compromise Eugenides's already slightly overstated prose. Regardless, the novel is absolutely fascinating, and aside from the occasional invocation of a muse (references to Greek culture are consistently present throughout the book), it reads like non-fiction. In this manner, Eugenides presents the story of Calliope Stephanides, an awkward but seemingly normal girl, slowly morphs into the distraught Cal, bearing the weight of all her exceptional condition. If the book weren't actually so seriously intense and thought-provoking, it might be written off as what would've been produced if the protagonist of "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" had been a hermaphrodite.



The story spans three generations of Greeks turned Americans who were hardly even aware of their own secrets. These secrets begin with Cal's grandparents in the tumultuous Smyrna of the 1920s, where a young orphaned brother and sister fall in love. It was necessary that the two flee from Smyrna to escape death, and as they reinvented their lives on the way to America, they formed a story which allowed them the titles of husband and wife. This portion of the plot of *Middlesex* feels entirely natural to the reader. The Greek heritage which is explained and made endearing through both factual information and humorous familial anecdotes, flows with ease from the description of the "old country," speaking intimately of the ancestors who bore the genes that eventually caused the mutation of Cal's chromosomes. The narrator tells the story of his grandparents' journey, moving onto his own assimilated parents, slowly weaving in the details of his own awkward childhood. The narrator's fondness for Detroit could certainly do the city a favor, and there are many details about the city's history and its racial and social concerns in between the 1920s and 70s. Furthermore, the name of the street in suburban Grosse Pointe on which the Stephanides lived provided the namesake of the novel, allowing for the double entendre.

After establishing a sufficient back-story, Cal presents the traditional coming-of-age tale. But there are twists (falling in love with her best female friend, never getting her

period, a protrusion referred to as "the crocus") which evoke pity for the fourteen-year-old assumed-girl who boasted "I did cramps the way Meryl Streep does accents" to alleviate her mother's concern that she did not menstruate.

The story itself here is strong and believable; plenty of medical explanation is offered upon discovery of Cal's true "Middlesex." The narrator steps back from the events to discuss the implications that gender-enforcing can have upon children. Cal was raised as a female and fully believed herself to be one until she became aware of actual physical evidence that proved otherwise. Despite the interesting achievement of conferring to readers the emotions that could go along with being treated as a science experiment by curious fame-seeking doctors, there is often an acute sense of self-awareness on the speaker's part. The reader is constantly reminded that a story is being told. While some of these moments detract from the fluidity of the novel, some also contain the most poetic moments ("Emotions, in my experience, aren't covered by single words. I don't believe in "sadness," "joy," or "regret." ... I'd like to have at my disposal complicated hybrid emotions, Germanic traincar constructions like, say, "the happiness that attends disaster"). Even here though, the narrator continues with a reminder: "I've never had the right words to describe my life, and now that I've entered my story, I need them more than ever."

Overall, the amount of information and the genius behind the plot construction of *Middlesex* is entirely admirable. The prosaic awkwardness seems forgivable, considering the scale of the attempt that was made. The tale itself is incredibly complex, but Eugenides allows for a very tidy full-circle ending, which certainly says something of his talent. He successfully pulled together the details of lives of three generations of Greek-Americans in an exploration of sexual identity, and is a worthwhile read even for those who may not have any firsthand inclination to the subject matter.

UC Gives Tribute to MLK Jr.

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Ursinus College wrapped up the week-long celebration of Martin Luther King Day with the tribute "Substance of Our Souls," on Friday, Jan 25, in the Kaleidoscope. The tribute included acts performed by faculty and students alike, varying from readings to singing, dancing, and instrumental solos.

Students and faculty members filled the Lenfest Theatre, and free t-shirts were given out to random audience members. The show began with Dean Deborah Nolan's opening and introductions. Ed Gildea performed an original song and played guitar, which elicited much applause from the crowd. Matt Whitman also played guitar, singing "We Shall Overcome," which was well done. The show consisted of many different acts, all with the common theme of equality and change.

Other acts included piano solos, songs, readings of clippings from the 19th century about runaway slaves, and a cover of John Mayer's "Waiting on the World to Change," sung by Taylor Martin, who lit up the show. There were also interpretive dances and a ballet performance by Chris Wynne that completely captured the audience's attention. Even Dean Nolan was impressed by Wynne's "Solo."

The tribute did not focus only on racial injustice; Dr. Greg Weight gave a short academic talk about the equality and morality in black and gay civil rights, and Professor Keita read a moving poem about equality for women and black men in the workplace.

The performances, though some more enjoyable than others, were well received by the growing crowd and ended with much applause after Dr. Walter Greason's slideshow for the future of equality among races.

Sophomore Naomi Sapiro said after the show, "It was a really good wrap up of the celebration, because it encompassed everything that had been demonstrated throughout the week. The performances kind of varied, some a lot better than others, but it was overall enjoyable."

Career Corner: Financial Advice

CAREER SERVICES

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New college grads are well educated and excited about starting a job, but many remain confused and clueless about finances. A recent article in the Journal of The American Association of Individual Investors makes some helpful suggestions.

(1) Save for retirement right away. Make sure you receive any matching contributions that your employer offers. Time is on your side if you start investing early.

(2) Use part of your salary increases to increase the percentage of your salary that you save. Do not use all your take-home pay to finance your lifestyle.

(3) Consider the differences between "good" and "bad" debt. Incurring debt to finance credit card purchases, cars, or other depreciating assets is "bad" debt and should be kept to a minimum. A home purchase is an asset that will probably increase in value and is "good" debt, or at least

not as bad as the other. Be very careful with credit cards. Carrying credit card debt can bury you in interest charges.

Set up a good system for tracking your finances. A good investment is buying money management software, such as Microsoft Money or Quicken. Also, review health care coverage provided by your new employer. You may need to consider temporary health insurance plans. You will probably get bumped from your parent's plan after graduation. Most employers offer a low-cost term life policy as a benefit. If you are just starting out and remain single, that will do for now. As life gets more involved with a home or family, you may need a more serious discussion on insurance.

Also, figure out how to pay off your school loans. When you have your exit interview with the Student Financial Services folks at UC, they will provide you documentation on how much you owe. Go to one of the online Web sites such as Mapping Your Future (<http://www.mapping-your-future.org>) or USA Funds (<http://www.usafunds.org>) to help you calculate what you can afford.

Interested in writing articles or columns for the Features section? Email Features Editor Lane Taylor at lataylor@ursinus.edu to get involved and be published!

The Return of Information Society

LAUREL SALVO

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Pure Energy: not only the name of Information Society's familiar hit single on the Dance charts, but most definitely the vibe I felt from attending their DVD filming show that occurred at the Trocadero on January 5th.

Having not performed since 1997, Information Society chose Philadelphia as the first and only East Coast date for their comeback tour. Honestly, before seeing them live, all I knew about Information Society was that they were an 80's Synth-Pop band. Chances are if you've never heard of them, you've most definitely heard some of their songs. Many of their hit singles first became popular in the club scene and have had continuous airplay at any sort of venue that appreciates dance. With their most recent album "Synthesizer," it's sure to be a continuing trend.

I've seen Industrial bands like VNV Nation and And One live. I've been to shows with Electronica and Synth-Pop bands like Shiny Toy Guns and Blaqk Audio, but attending an Information Society show is like nothing else. Famous for their dubbed tracks that mix spoken word phrases in between beats, the Milwaukee based trio certainly haven't lost their ability to make a crowd move.

The band is made up of only three members; vocalist Kurt Harland, synth-guitarist James Cassidy, and keyboardist Paul Robb. Watching all three interact together throughout the show was like watching three close-knit



brothers enjoying life. Describing exactly what front man Kurt Harland does on stage is difficult. He's incredibly animated. It's evident that after doing this for over 20 years, he still loves his job. They opened with "Peace and Love Inc." and once the music started, Harland proceeded to head bang from side to side and dance and bounce around like a little kid who's experiencing his first concert ever. Watching him doing this with pig-tails was an even funnier experience. Yes. You read that right. Pig-tails.

After the first song ended, Harland introduced the band, mentioned that this was their first show since 1997, and then went on ecstatically admitting, "Yes. I know. I know. This means we are officially washed up!", thereafter giving us the "rock on" sign with both hands.

Harland has a unique quality of intimacy with the audience and furthermore, he's able to let loose and completely be himself: a rather cartoon-like persona. Aside from his theatrics, there was a great artistry to their set. Fitting the stage with three drop screens behind the band, the

entire show displayed clips of things like horror sequences, clips of Stanley Kubrick films, flashes of major corporation symbols, and pop culture icons as well. I'm certain that when the DVD of the show hits stores, it will undoubtedly reflect the energy of the set and the reverberating excitement of all who were present.

Overall, if you want to attend a show where it's evident the band is having just as much fun as the audience, go see Information Society next time they're in town. I'm sticking to my motto that in life, there's always room to bring back the 80's.

John Edwards: Wasting His (and Our) Time

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The first thing you'll see when you visit the official John Edwards presidential campaign Web site is a message reminding you that the Democratic primary election is not a two person race. It is true, John Edwards is still in the race, but at the moment he's essentially dead in the water. Since all media coverage is swirling around the epic struggle between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, lesser candidates are being ignored. It's the kind of thing people like Dennis Kucinich and Mike Gravel are used to, but not John Edwards. Yet despite remaining in a firm third place since the beginning of the primary season, Edwards will not quit. Does he have any reason to keep going or would he be better off bowing out gracefully?

The fact is that Edwards has fallen off the map in this election. A lot of the reason why can be linked to the lack of media attention Edwards has been getting recently. While he is one of the top three Democratic candidates, the press is heavily invested in the Clinton-Obama feud. While the two frontrunners sling mud at each other, all interest in anything that Edwards has to say is usually just a footnote in the bigger headline. For example, following the January 21st South Carolina debates the focus settled upon the

back and forth between Clinton and Obama. Edwards was just background noise. All he was able to do following the debate was to just comment on how immature his opponents were acting. While that may be true, it didn't help him win over any new voters and it didn't help him stand apart from Clinton and Obama. That's always been Edwards' problem, in my opinion: he's as bland as a man running for president can get, and that's the kiss of death in our modern age of 24/7 news coverage. It's kind of a sad truth, but it's also undeniable. Whoever the media gives the most attention to will get a lot of votes. Remember Fred Thompson? The press went nuts for weeks speculating and as a result a lot of people were ready to declare Thompson to be the Republican candidate for president. Of course as soon as he opened his mouth the whole thing went South, but it showed the power that the media can have on who has a "buzz" around them and who doesn't. Admittedly, it's a very cynical take on the overall process involved in the primaries, but at the same time it's impossible to ignore.

So with a lack of media coverage and a lock on third place in the polls is it time for Edwards to drop out of the race? I say yes. While every election has candidates who are far behind and have no chance of winning, what usually

Continued on pg. 7

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King from Home

ROGER LEE

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Holidays are a time of celebration and reflection. We take time out of our busy schedules to gather around the table for Thanksgiving and to bring in the New Year. We even get a week off to enjoy the beauty of the spring season. While most companies, school districts and universities were home celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King day, Ursinus College ushered in its new semester.

Without reflection it is near impossible to understand the true meaning behind a holiday. For most college students, the fast-paced demands of campus life make it difficult to reflect on holidays while attending classes. A lot of colleges realize the importance of holiday reflection and grant students time off during most national observances. It is a key component in developing an appreciation for important holidays and all that they represent.

It is pretty difficult to sit and reflect on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when his celebration coincides with the start of classes. This is the challenge that the Ursinus community is faced with each January. Some even forget that this celebration falls on the first day of the spring semester. They later remember when they realize that most colleges and universities are free from the burdens of school work and instead are encouraged to partake in community service projects. This provides a real opportunity for college students to reflect on this important day of service.

With free t-shirts, special events, and a weekend performance wrapping up Ursinus' week long celebration of Dr. King, one would think that students could find some way to reflect on campus; however, one would fail to realize that it is hard to reflect on a holiday that means so much more than sporting a free t-shirt. It is hard to reflect by just going to a show, watching a presentation, or trying to cram it all in between classes. It is difficult to do these things in remembrance of a man who dedicated his life to serving others while we are only serving ourselves by holding classes on such an important day.

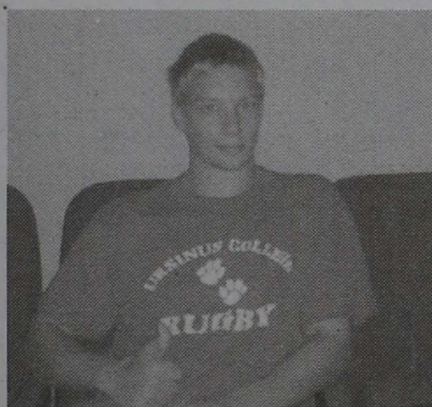
If Ursinus had Dr. King day off, I believe that more students would take the time to reflect on all that the holiday embodies. Without classes the Ursinus community would have time to devote to meaningful projects in a day of service honoring Dr. King. Even if Ursinus was technically open on Dr. King day, cancelling classes would allow students to actually attend the events planned instead of ignoring them due to course demands. Having class not only impacts the students but the professors as well. We as a college should all have the day free to engage in Dr. King-related activities available both on and off the Ursinus campus.

More importantly, taking time off for a holiday sends the message that it is an important one worth celebrating. Dr. King's holiday has been recognized since 1986 and should continue to be honored correctly outside of the classroom. It is more than worthy of celebration and should be done with time off and proper reflection away from the stress of the first day of classes.

“Wristcutters: A Love Story” (2006)

Welcome back, everybody. After a pretty busy holiday season for flicks, I'm here to say that I watched a lot of them, and probably won't end up reviewing any of them. Although, depending on my schedule, expect either “Juno” or “Tremors” here next week. Now that the tangents and rambling are out of the way, it's on to one of the best independent films I've seen in a long time, and one that I felt deserved the vast exposure given by a 500-word column in the back pages of a freebie college newspaper of a small liberal arts college somewhere near the sixth largest city in the United States. With that, I give you “Wristcutters: A Love Story.”

Zia (Patrick Fugit, better known as that kid from “Almost Famous”) decides to kill himself after his girlfriend breaks up with him. He soon finds himself in a bleak afterworld reserved for suicides, best described in his words as “like the real world, only crappier.” When he hears from a mutual acquaintance that his ex committed suicide a few months after he did, Zia sets off across the afterlife to find her and possibly the meaning of life that has still escaped him in death.



ALEX ERNST
The Back Row

I have to say, this movie was nothing if not refreshing. The filmmakers took a novel and original concept and created a black comedy with a lot of heart. Along with some great touches, like Zia's afterlife job at Kamikaze Pizza, or the (literal) black hole under the front seat of the car into which your sunglasses and tapes disappear forever, the film manages to explore the possibility that the next life might not be that much better than this one in a very clever and meaningful way.

Kudos need to be given to the acting as well. Patrick Fugit does a great job doing his indie-Michael Cera thing, and really sells his character's hopefulness throughout, a trait which helps hold back some of the movie's otherwise bleak themes. Also worth mentioning is Shea Whigman, playing Zia's Russian best friend and the flick's comic relief, stealing scenes left and right throughout the film. Finally, if for no other reason, watch “Wristcutters” for Will Arnett in a small role playing a magician/cult leader named Messiah. Arnett manages to make more than enough of his short screen time, practically stealing the movie away right there.

As this is an indie film, I was extremely impressed with how the filmmakers took a lack of budget and created a film around it. Have no money? Set your movie almost entirely in the California desert, give your protagonists an incredibly crappy car, and make this crappiness inherent to the plot. The hands down best example of the ingenuity used in this flick comes when the group is stopped by a policeman for a minor transgression. Rather than having an actual uniform, the man wears a white undershirt with a

In Election Turmoil, Pennsylvania Bides Its Time

In all this hooplah about Iowa and New Hampshire and “The Second Coming of Christ Tuesday,” Pennsylvanians may be wondering, “When do we get to partake in the action?” The brief answer is “April 22,” but such a response ignores the undying spirit of Pennsylvanians. On April 22, we will rise up as King (or Queen, I suppose) makers, showing America that we proud, pure, patient Pennsylvanians cherish our role in this most important process. After all, someone has to be the rubber stamper, right?

Pennsylvanians who are sick of hearing about the fun other states are having (our slightly rowdy neighbor to the East will be holding its festivities on February 5th) should turn their attention to the strategy of America's Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani. While some pundits suggest that Giuliani did not heavily campaign in early states because he had no chance of winning, I know the real reason: he sees the damage early primary elections can do to a democracy. “The whole country” (Florida is representative of the rest of us, right?) “is deserving of a say in this process,” he proclaimed. A senior aide to the Giuliani campaign who wished to remain anonymous had a message to deliver to Iowa and New Hampshire: “Eat me.”

Indeed, Giuliani and Co. have thrown caution to the wind in defense of democracy (you know that he punched a slightly drunken Fidel Castro in the face at the United Nations' 50th Anniversary celebration that took place on



MATTHEW FLYNTZ
DAN SERGEANT
Communism for Dummies

September 11th in a crime-free, porn-free part of New York City, right?). We Pennsylvanians, by politely twiddling our thumbs while this process unfolds, are doing (and should continue to do) the same. What a better guide than Rudy, after all?

Good question. The answer is this: George Stephanopoulos. On his highly acclaimed Sunday morning talk show, *This Week*, George noted the important role that Pennsylvanians play (or could play) in this process. He said (with a slightly disconcerting sense of amusement and/or surprise), “Pennsylvania could actually decide this thing!”

Well, yeah. Who didn't know that? Despite his proclivity for stating the obvious, George is a worthwhile voice for Pennsylvanians to listen to. For some inexplicable reason, many pundits think that these nominations will be decided in early February, leaving Pennsylvanians, among others, out in the proverbial cold. We mustn't get caught up in their hubbub. We must trust in the wisdom of George and the wait-and-see spirit of Rudy while ignoring the otherwise troubling notion that the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa vote before us.

Indeed, we will not get caught up in this latest fad. You won't find boxes of pogs in our basements (okay, that's not true). We Pennsylvanians will not be fol-

lowers, even if that means standing up for our right to rubber stamp the selection that other states have made for us. Pennsylvanians of the World, UNITE!

Matt will proudly be voting for whoever is left on April 22nd. Dan, on the other hand, will be conspiring to destroy our democracy on February 5th with hoards of New Jerseyans. Attempt to buy their votes at maflyntz@ursinus.edu and dasergeant@ursinus.edu.

black clip-on tie. The brilliant thing is that it works because as an audience, you've come to expect everything in this afterworld to be cheap and slipshod. The moral here is that you don't need \$100 million to make a meaningful, touching, and funny picture.

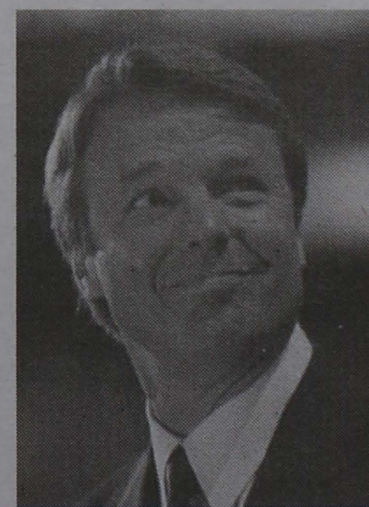
In the spirit of disclosure, the look ahead feature I usually do here is out, simply because I've run out of upcoming movies to recommend. So I'm back to just the pick of the week, where I talk about a somewhat related movie, and you presumably ignore it and skip down to the clever italicized sign off. As I've now used up all my space, check out *Clerks*, because it was a) made on the very, very cheap, b) is still very funny, if a bit dated and c) if you haven't at least tried to watch it, I hate you. Just kidding (not really).

Alex Ernst feels like if Will Arnett showed up in his afterlife it wouldn't be that bad after all. On the other hand, Jake Busey was there too...tough choice. You can reach him at alernst@ursinus.edu.

Chocolate rain! Some stay dry while others submit op-ed articles to maflyntz@ursinus.edu so that they can be published in the Opinions section of The Grizzly. Chocolate rain!

Edwards (cont'd from pg. 6)

helps them stand apart from the frontrunner(s) is that they offer something so outside the mainstream that they're



John Edwards: A Waste of Time?

unelectable. This allows these candidates to enjoy a bit of freedom and actually speak their minds on a large number of controversial topics. John Edwards is no Dennis Kucinich or Ron Paul, though. His positions on most issues aren't far left hyper-socialist ideas. He's had a chance to get his message out and people didn't follow it and the press didn't back him up on it. Edwards is wasting his time

staying in this race, especially if he continues to campaign as he has. It's time for him to withdraw and watch from the sidelines. If all else fails, he could always act as a running mate for whoever wins in the end.

Dubble Vision: Stupid Bowl

JASON DAVIS

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The Super Bowl is this weekend, and I don't even care. I hate the Patriots. I hate everything about the Patriots. I hate their quarterback, I hate their coach, and I hate them. The Giants, on the other hand, I actually kind of like. They have Manning at Quarterback, Plaxico never gets enough credit, and they don't have Tiki anymore. They do have Tom Coughlin as a coach, though. He just looks like an unpleasant human being.

So it's really not a knock against the Giants, but they just weren't supposed to be there. I had this whole fairy tale scenario play out in my head the moment that Dallas Clark had Peyton Manning's fourth down throw go off his finger tips and my dreams of a Colts repeat were crushed. Let me tell you how everything was *supposed* to go.

Did you ever see the movie *Mighty Ducks* starring the great Emilio Estevez (I just watched it Friday)? It's kind of like that. The Patriots would play the part of "The Hawks," the best team in the league, but a bunch of evil jerks. Everyone knows they are going to win, because they always win. Then here come "The Ducks," or in this case, the Packers. The team that right from the start was given about as much of a shot as I would be given to win the 55 meter dash at a track meet. Everyone was calling Brett Favre an idiot for coming back again, just wasting his time. Nobody saw the



Packers making this improbable run at the Super Bowl including myself. But then, here comes Brett Favre authoring his own fairy tale and taking the second seed in the NFC. In my dream, everything would come down to the last drive of the game. Brady would have just done one of those stupid throws to Randy Moss even though he has the entire defense covering him and somehow Moss would catch it and just keep his feet in bounds to take the lead. This would put the entire game in the hands of Favre and his gun-slinging, just like in *Mighty Ducks* when everything came down to Charlie Conway and his "triple deke." Favre of course would come through, "We Are the Champi-

ons" would be blaring in the background, and Brett would give the coach permission to marry his mom or one of those things that always happens as the end of Disney movies. Because let's be honest, a fairy tale is what it would take to beat the Patriots. And Eli, my friends, just can't supply that.

So for these reasons, this will be the first year I will not have my butt parked in front of a TV on Super Bowl Sunday. The score will be 100,000,000 to zero and if it's any closer than that it's only because the Patriots were trying to entertain themselves. You can tell me all you want about how the Giants almost beat them the first time... I don't care. The Patriots probably didn't even practice that week. There is no way Tom Coughlin outsmarts Bill Belichick. If you need me on February 3, two thousand and Great, I will be in my garage fixing my car which I sadly crashed on my way back to school. I hope Tom Brady's foot is really broken.

Shattuck Helps Lead the Bears to Victory

DANIELLE LANGDON

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While the rest of us were home fattening up on cookies and eggnog, the dedicated UC men's basketball team kept busy with their booming season. Intense practices proved worthwhile as the boys team boosted their record to 14-2, 9-0 CC. The Bears took control of the courts defeating Gettysburg, Franklin and Marshall, Johns Hopkins, McDaniel, and Dickinson... just to name a few. More recently the Bears played Haverford and dominated the game with an impressive final score of 86-56.

During the first half of the game UC was up 15-10 with 14:40 left to play. Suddenly, the Fords started to spunk up with an 8-0 scoring streak taking lead of the game at 18-15. The Bears reclaimed the lead 21-20 with help from a shot made by senior guard and Co-Captain Nick Shattuck. UC then outscored Haverford 25-7 leaving the score at 46-27 to end the first half. Sophomore guard Remy Cousart had six assists, without making a single turnover. In the second half of the game the UC men continued to own the courts taking their lead up 30 points ending the game at 86-56.

Junior guard John Noonan had an impressive 14 points, while sophomore guard Matt Hilton put up a solid 12. But that's not all... Shattuck set a new career-high with 39 points! In the first half of the game against Haverford he was 12-14 and hit his first seven shots in a row. Shattuck's previous career-high happened in 2005 against Muhlenberg when he scored 35 points. Needless to say Shattuck is an amazing role model and team leader for the men's team.

The Bears also battled Swarthmore in a nail-biting game on Saturday afternoon. The game featured ten ties and 16 lead changes, Ursinus, now with a record of 15-2, 10-0 Centennial, kept its perfect Centennial Conference record intact with a 88-85 win over Swarthmore, who's record is 5-

12, 1-9 Centennial. Shattuck put up 27 points while Hilton added on another 17. Cousart had a team-high eight rebounds and added in seven assists. Senior center Mike Shema also had five blocks on the night helping Ursinus bring home another victory.

The team is losing three seniors at the end of this season so the Bears are counting on the underclassmen to step up and take the lead. So far, the younger players have proven they will continue to thrive even after some of their stars have graduated. Shattuck commented, "The guys have really fit into their roles well, and everyone is really focused. Our freshman player, TJ Jones, and our new manager have been great as well. I think their transition to college, and a new basketball team has been more than easy for them. Chemistry within the basketball team has never been a problem in my four years here."

Coach Kevin Small has led the Bears to a record seven straight playoff appearances in his eight years and three trips to the NCAA Championships. Shattuck explains that "Coach makes it a point to make sure that we are still trying to get better everyday and that winning will take care of itself. Not until the last two weeks of the season, when playoff positioning becomes important, do we really worry about beating our opponents. We felt that we peaked too early last year and that led to our late season skid, so that is something we have been trying to improve upon from last season."

The team has plenty of games left, so make it out to the courts and support the Hooligans! "The guys are really looking forward to league play winding down and a chance to host the playoffs at Helfferich in late February. We really appreciate the awesome support from all of our fans too," says Shattuck.

Gymnastics Off to a Strong Start

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Outside the temperatures may be dropping, but things are heating up as the women of the Ursinus Gymnastics Team kick off their 2008 season. With three meets under their belts so far, the team has made an impressive showing with two wins and one second place finish. Teammates and fans also enjoyed the highly-anticipated senior night during Ursinus' final home meet for the year.

While most of the student body was at home relaxing over winter break, the dedicated UC gymnasts returned to school weeks early to prepare for the start of the season. With a team full of fresh faces, the women not only had to physically prepare, but also mentally prepare by forming a strong team bond. The strong leadership of Coach Jeff Schepers and the three experienced seniors, Co-captains Melissa Garman, Bree Morrissey, and Emily Marques, helped the team consisting of mostly freshmen and sophomores come together successfully. As the first meet approached the women grew anxious, but they used their nerves to win against Wilson College on January 11 with a score of 179.675 to 161.450. Stand-out competitors for Ursinus at this meet included sophomores Olivia Oller and Kira Oldham-Curtis, who finished first and second all-around respectively.



After the Ursinus women peaked over their Wilson opponents, they headed north to a four-team meet held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, MA. Here the team placed an impressive first out of all four teams competing, including MIT, Rhode Island College, and Wilson College. Oller and Oldham-Curtis again had stellar performances, along with Morrissey who placed fifth in all-around competition.

Dedicated fans filled Helffrich Gymnasium Friday night to watch the team compete for the last time at home this season. Coach Schepers recognized his three senior members for all their hard work and commitment over the past four years. An emotional night fueled by the enthused Ursinus fans helped to motivate the team during this meet against top Division I opponents Towson and Temple University. Although Towson beat out Ursinus with a score of 191.625, the UC women placed second beating out Temple with a score of 185.150 to 183.025. Ursinus showed particular strength in their parallel bar performances with sophomore Oller placing second with a score of 9.725 and sophomore Oldham-Curtis scoring a 9.475 to tie with Temple's Nikki Berrian for sixth place.

Senior Co-captain and Assistant Coach Melissa Garman commented on the emotional meet: "Being a member of this team for the past four years has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I've made so many great memories with my teammates and I wish all the girls the best of luck with the rest of the season!" Judging by the team's strong leadership, fresh talent, and their solid performance thus far, the outlook for the rest of the year is a bright one. The Gymnastics team tumbles into action again as they travel to Temple for a meet on February 2 at 1p.m. Best of luck to the entire team and congratulations to the amazing seniors!