



11-5-2009

The Grizzly, November 5, 2009

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The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

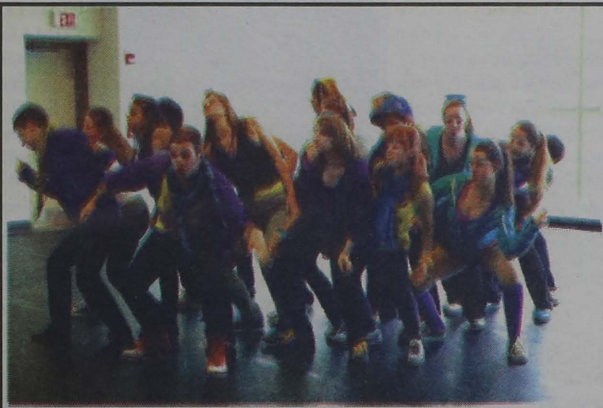
Thursday, November 5, 2009

Escape Velocity performances are "Timeless"

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It's no surprise that each of the five Escape Velocity shows sold out prior to their premiere; the student-run dance company has a well-deserved reputation for pleasing audiences. And "Timeless", the company's first themed production, upheld this reputation and then some.

The show ran from Thursday, Oct. 29 to last Saturday, Oct. 31, and took place in the Helfferich Dance Studio. Unlike in prior years, audiences sat



Escape Velocity dancers performed last weekend in the Helfferich dance studio. The theme of this production was time. Photo courtesy of Liora Kuttler.

facing the studio's translucent wall, through which the shadow of a large autumn tree was displayed. Aside the tree's shadow was that of a streetlight, but much fainter. Whether or not these silhouettes were intentional, their presence, illuminated by soft red lights, gave the room a sort of cozy, autumn feel. Senior Matt Whitman, the show's videographer, agreed that it was "very fall-looking."

This ambience, though not representative of the overall mood of the show, nicely complimented pieces like

"September." Choreographed by junior Brittany Gogluizza, "September" was a lyrical piece performed to a Daughtry single of the same title. The dance was largely a ballet piece, which surprisingly suited the alternative rock music selection. The intensity of the dance varied to fit the intensity of the song, as did

"Timeless Love," a second lyrical piece. The piece was performed to Jason Mraz's "If It Kills Me," and was choreographed by each of the three dancers: juniors Lane Coyle, Amy Hartl and Caitlyn McLarnon. The piece was fresh and flowed nicely; the movements and facial gestures

"Escape Velocity" is continued to Opinions, page 6.

National Deficit May Favor Health Care Reform

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At this time last year, Barack Obama had been the president-elect for merely two days; now, American citizens—including many Ursinus students— anxiously seek how he will carry out his promises of national change, an enormous target of which lies in health care reform. Suggesting the likelihood of a beneficial financial change, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) revealed estimates last week that anticipate lower expenses for proposed health insurance expansions and, over the 2010-2019 decade, a reduction in the federal budget deficit.

In an analysis of the Affordable Health Care of America Act, performed concurrently with the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) and published in a letter to Congressman Charles B. Rangel, CBO members approximated a net reduction of \$104 billion in the federal budget deficit and a total cost of \$894 billion over the decade following 2009 if the

plan—also known as H.R. 3962—were enacted as outlined. The estimates are based on the plan's intent to require most legal U.S. residents to maintain health insurance coverage, to arrange an insurance exchange where eligible residents could receive federal subsidies to reduce coverage costs, to expand the percentage of residents to whom Medicaid would be available, to reduce growing Medicare payment rates, to require high-income residents to pay tax surcharges, and to reform other components of the federal tax code, Medicaid, and Medicare, according to the analysts' understanding of the plan.

The H.R. 3962's purpose is to "provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes," reveals the encompassing 1990-page bill located through the House of Representatives' branch of the White House's Web site. Surprised that the plan could actually reduce the federal

"National Deficit" is continued to News, page 2.

Dr. William Keim inspires with humor

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On a raw and rainy overcast Tuesday evening, students slowly drifted into Bomberger auditorium to hear inspirational speaker Dr. William Keim present on, "Promoting the development of leadership through the education of character."

Although there was some chatter amongst students before the lecture, there was an overall lull in the air.

"I really had no idea what to expect, but I just assumed we were going to be lectured on how to be better leaders nothing too exciting," senior Brooke Garwood announced after the event.

"Dr. Keim opened my eyes on a lot of the issues he spoke about, especially reaching out to parents, I feel like we don't thank them enough," Garwood explained as she speculated that many of her friends that attended felt the same way.

The doctor opened with a short introduction about himself and hilarious stories about his family, centering on his relationships with his four children.

Freshman Peter Sosinski said, "It was interesting how he went in depth about his personal life; not many speakers do that and it grabs the viewer's attention."

After the laughter died down, Keim made his first serious statement about students needing to not just go to class, but to act as scholars. The doctor's whole demeanor changed as his voice got louder and firmer when he declared, "I have my hands full I didn't come here to preach to you but you are setting the table for the feast you are about to eat from for the rest of your lives."

This statement functioned as the cornerstone of Keim's speech, as he referred back to it often.

It was also a memorable moment for Dr. Christian Rice, a professor of Theology at Ursinus, and he relayed, "He encouraged students to think of their time at Ursinus as 'setting the banquet table' upon which they will feast for the rest of their lives. Good decisions now help to ensure that the banquet feast will be spiritually and materially abundant in later years."

Keim further explained how it does not make sense that at sporting events spectators fight to get the best seats, but in classrooms students rarely battle to sit front and center. "Your brain is the biggest organ in your

"Keim" is continued to News, page 3.

I
N
S
I
D
E



Greek Activities Fair
Page 3



International Film Fest
Page 4



Instant Communication
Page 7



UC Athletic Spotlight
Page 8

International News with Lisa: Scientology ruling, car bomb attack

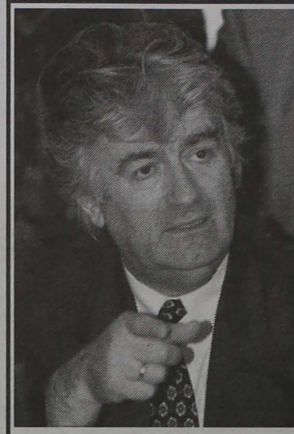
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Tuesday, October 27
PARIS, France – A French court has found the Church of Scientology guilty of fraud. A three-judge panel convicted the church and six members, but did not ban the church, which prosecutors were hoping for. The six

members were fined up to 400,000 euros (equivalent to 595,000 U.S. dollars) and may spend up to two years in prison. During the three-week trial which took place in May and June, the plaintiffs testified that they had been defrauded by the Church of Scientology, which is a sect in France. The plaintiffs say that after using an electropsychometer (or “E-Meter”), a device used in Scientology that claims to measure spiritual well-being, they were encouraged to purchase expensive vitamins and books. As part of the sentencing, the organization must publish details of the trial in several magazines in order to “warn” people. Eric Roux, a spokesman for the Church of Scientology, said the ruling is “a modern Inquisition and that this is really dangerous for the freedom of religion in our country.” (CNN.com)

Tuesday, October 27
THE HAGUE, the Netherlands – Judges ordered the start of the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a former Bosnian Serb politician, even when Karadzic did not show up in court on Tuesday. He is accused of war crimes against Bosnian Muslims, Bosnian Croats, and other non-Serbs during the Siege of Sarajevo which took place from 1992 to 1995. He is also accused of crimes against humanity, and two counts of genocide. A lawyer for Human Rights Watch said that defiant behavior such as this is not a surprise during trials of former leaders, citing examples like Saddam Hussein. Karadzic and his lawyers, however, claim that his absence at the trial is not a boycott, but that they need an additional eight months to prepare a defense. Judges have once again warned that if Karadzic continues to refuse to show, he’ll lose his right to defend himself. (NYTimes.com, with additional information from Wikipedia.)



Pictured: Radovan Karadzic.
Courtesy of thewe.cc.

Wednesday, October 28
PESHAWAR, Pakistan – A huge car bomb killed 80 people and seriously wounded 160 others Wednesday morning in a market place in Peshawar. Many of the victims were women, according to local authorities. The explosion just occurred a few hours after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived in Pakistan’s capital of Islamabad. Upon hearing of the attacks, she

stated, “These attacks on innocent people are cowardly; they are not courageous; they are cowardly.” Though no group has claimed responsibility yet for the attack, it is believed that Pakistani militants are responsible, in response to a campaign against them by the Pakistani military. (NYTimes.com)

Friday, October 30
SOMALIA – Paul and Rachel Chandler, a British couple kidnapped by parents off the coast of Somalia, have apparently been moved to a larger hijacked Spanish ship equipped with more supplies, men, and weapons. The couple was seized from their yacht in the Indian Ocean last week and held aboard a stolen Singaporean cargo ship. Paul Chandler has, however, spoken to the media by phone, saying, “We are well and being looked after OK.” This most recent publicized attack comes just a week after the International Maritime Bureau released a report detailing how pirate attacks in the first nine months of 2009 alone were more numerous than the number of pirate attacks in all of 2008. (CNN.com)

“National deficit” continued from page 1.

budget deficit over time, UC junior Veronica Perry advocates the proposal, deeming it a worthwhile investment and one that would help close the gap between poor and wealthy social classes with regards to who has health insurance.

Many students, like Perry, view health care reform panoramically, focusing on how it would impact the nation as a whole, whereas others—especially graduating seniors—worry about the issue on a more personal level. When asked her opinion on the plan’s weighty focus on preventing denied insurance coverage based on a person’s preexisting conditions, Lindsay Chandler remarks, “I have preexisting conditions, so I’m concerned about the time lapse between graduation and when I start working and am dropped from my family’s insurance.” Chandler, a senior at George Washington University—located in Washington, D.C., right in the heart of much health care debating—recalls her encounter with socialized medicine. She studied in London last semester and was disturbed by the fact that a foot sprain led her to go to the emergency room for x-rays despite its being a minor injury, but she would’ve had to pay and wait for weeks if she’d chosen to see a private physician.

UC junior Erin Slaunwhite, having grown up in Canada where health coverage is universal, offers another international perspective. Slaunwhite, however, is satisfied with the practice; she believes that everyone—especially kids under 18, who can’t control the financial status into which they’re born—deserves health coverage, and that it would benefit all U.S. residents. “We discussed in Physiology, for example, that scenarios such as asthma attacks would be more effectively treated with a one-time prescription like an inhaler,” she says. “Repeated E.R. visits would be costlier to the government and to taxpayers.”

Taxpayers, likewise, have financial concerns, especially

regarding the aforementioned House bill; many of them believe that they have the right to more transparency toward health care decisions that affect their earnings. According to the Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) Web site, Senate Democrat leader Harry Reid formerly promised that officials could no longer “conspire behind closed doors,” yet ATR President Grover Norquist wonders why Reid hasn’t offered American taxpayers a glimpse of the Senate’s version of the plan proposed in the House bill, the H.R. 3962,

and accuses him of acting against his own preaching.

Whether kept in the dark or not, Americans—especially those who advocate the proposed health care changes—may have reason to look hopefully toward reform. During a time when recovering from economic recession depends heavily on improving the government’s financial standing, a potential cost under the estimated \$1 trillion and a reduction in federal budget deficit is a positive prospective change for health care plans.

The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Volume 34, Issue 10

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Second Annual Greek Activities Fair held in Wismer Parents Lounge

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It's that time of the year; no, it's not the holiday season or your birthday, but it is the time of the school year when the Greek rushing season begins, hoping to involve freshmen and upperclassmen in learning about Greek life.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, the second annual Greek Activities Fair was held in the Wismer Parents Lounge, as Oct. 31 marks the first social event held by Greek members.

Crowded in the lounge and upper Wismer, each Greek organization set up a decorated table, garnished with pictures, composites, banners, and sign-in sheets, hoping to entice the wandering students to learn about each sorority or fraternity.

"I thought each fraternity and sorority did a great job setting up their tables," said Steve Leydet, a senior and member of a fraternity. "The displays really showed the true colors of each organization."

Behind each table sat members of the represented sorority or fraternity, ready to answer questions or alleviate students' concerns over rumors.

"I think that it was beneficial for students to be able to ask questions and directly talk with members of Greek life," said Shannon Grube, a junior and member of a sorority. Sign-in sheets frequented the tables of the organizations, so as to stay in touch with the students who participated in the Activities Fair.

This year's Greek Activities Fair is one of the events considered mandatory for students who intend to rush to

be eligible for participating in New Member Education in spring 2010.

The fair and the other mandatory events occurring in the coming weeks are focused around ensuring students' knowledge of the various Greek organizations before engaging in New Member Organization.

"I think the fair was a good idea," said a sophomore member of a sorority who chose to remain anonymous. "I think that students should know a little about each organization before starting the New Member Education process."

Because the New Member Education process is constantly being revised by Ursinus College administrators, the requirements for being eligible to participate in New Member Education are also altered frequently.

"I think that the requirements for being eligible to rush are beneficial because it gives freshmen a broader perspective of all the sororities and fraternities instead of focusing on just one," said Chrissy Walsh, a junior.

The current schedule for rushing and the New Member Education Process includes about a month of social functions from Oct. 31 through Thanksgiving Break, and one week of formal rushing in January, with the New Member Education process following shortly after the rushing period has ended.

Students have a selection of seven sororities and seven fraternities to choose from; there is only one national sorority and there are only two national fraternities, while the rest of the Greek organizations are local.

The requirements for being eligible to rush for a local organization versus a national organization ask for the same obligations to be fulfilled.

"I think the administration is doing a good job of compelling students to learn about the several organizations," said a member of a fraternity who chose to remain anonymous.

"The point of rushing isn't just to party, but to explore what Greek life truly has to offer. I think the fair did well in showing the many sides to Greek life at Ursinus."

RETRACTION:

The Grizzly would like to correct a statement from the Oct. 29 issue in which an article entitled, "Senator John C. Rafferty speaks in Olin" by Staff Writer, Chris Wierzbowski, had a factual error.

The article stated: "a female staff member of the Federal Depository Library in Myrin Library, one of 53 federal depositories in the state (but only three in Montgomery County), explained that the library is facing a 50 percent cut in the program's funding." This was a misunderstanding.

In actuality, the library that the Myrin Staff member was referring to was not the Myrin Library at Ursinus College, but the State Library of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, PA. We sincerely apologize for this mistake.

Sophomores learn about the ILE

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On Tuesday, Oct. 29, Ursinus students were invited to attend an informal meet and greet to learn more about the Independent Learning Experience in Myrin Library during lunchtime. As a part of Sophomore Week, which was held from Oct. 26-30, the event was aimed at sophomores looking for ways to fill this requirement, but was open to anyone with interest in obtaining more information.

At the event, tables were set up for visitors to talk with upperclassmen about their various ILE experiences. Upperclassmen that have completed their ILE requirements through abroad study, Summer Fellows, or with an internship were on site offering helpful advice for sophomores looking to make the best decision to complete the requirement.

"It is an important planning year for sophomores," said Maria Beazley, Director of Advising, Tutoring, and First Year Programs. Calling the afternoon event "one-stop shopping" for sophomores looking to find useful information on all the available options, Beazley hoped that the program would "bring students together to talk with other students."

Career Services also had an informational table where Amy Brink, an Ursinus College Career Adviser, talked with students about major upcoming career decisions, stressing the importance of having outside experience. Whether it is through an internship or research, "95 percent of employers who see related experience on a resume," Brink said, "are more apt to bring in that candidate for an interview."

Brink also used the ILE event to introduce Career Services and everything they offer to students who may not be familiar with them. "We are available in our office to meet with you and help you strategize your internship

plans," she noted, "and we have a lot of resources and tips to help navigate through the whole internship process."

At the event, upperclassmen in various areas of study met with sophomores about their future plans, discussing the pros and cons of each opportunity. Senior Abbie Cichowski, who completed the Summer Fellows program, advised students to be prepared. "I would really consider whether you like research or not," said Abbie, "Summer Fellows really helped me think critically about a job I would eventually like."

For some upperclassmen, the event was a great starting point to help students begin thinking early about their futures. "I don't remember going to anything like this when I was a sophomore," said senior Laurel Salvo, who was there to discuss her internship with BlackHeart Records in New York City. "I hope it can give [sophomores] a broad scope about ILE."

Unfortunately, the library was not a happening place to be on Tuesday afternoon. Students trickled in and out, talking briefly with upperclassmen and advisers, before heading out. Although it drew some attention on campus, there was not an overwhelming response. For some, the one-on-one discussions, were invaluable. "I think it is great," sophomore Lindsay Hogan, a history major, said. "I love that [the ILE event] is small and not busy. I love being able to ask specific questions and get a feel for it."

For others, the event was simply another way to confirm previous decisions on choosing the right ILE. "A lot of it isn't new information, so it sort of gave me confirmation," said East Asian Studies Major Zoe Yousik. "It's more specific stuff that doesn't come up on the website."

Although sophomores were the stars of this week, the ILE event also helped to provide a subtle (or blatantly obvious) reminder to upperclassmen who have not completed this assignment. For some, there is only one semester left, so stop into Career Services today.

"Keim" is continued from page 1.



Image courtesy of willkeim.com

body, you have to develop it. Be a scholar, go see your professors outside of class" he said.

Aside from being successful in the classroom, the doctor encouraged students to be more philanthropic in their everyday lives. He pushed the audience by stating, "I want you to study, to serve and to make peace with people regardless of race, creed, color, religion and sexual orientation."

Senior Laura Prahlad was especially touched towards the end of the speech when Keim made his eighth point on how to build character, which was to thank or forgive one's parents.

"After the speech I called my parents and left them a message thanking them for everything that they've done for me" Prahlad said.

Keim recognized that there were undoubtedly people in the audience who had strained relationships with their moms or dads, but he stressed the power of a simple thank you.

As his closing statements were made, the audience erupted in applause that lasted well over two minutes. Many students lingered around speaking with one another or asking Keim questions before venturing back to their dorms carrying with them multiple keys on how to lead successful lives.

Behind the Scenes: The Association for Computing Machinery

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The Ursinus College Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) held its weekly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 29 to discuss the events it has already hosted, is planning to host, and to talk about other technologies on the horizon. Since the meeting was taking place two days before Halloween, the conveners shut off all of the lights in the room so that only a projector illuminated the room. The ominous feel was balanced, however, by plenty of jokes being cracked by members over the course of the meeting.

The highlight of this ACM meeting was the weekly Current Technology Contest (CTC). Attendees of the meeting

find fascinating new technologies and present their findings to the other members. The person with what is deemed to be the most impressive technological find wins a small technology-related prize, such as a Flash drive or a CD. For this particular meeting's CTC, Jeff Sisler showed a program called Sketch2Photo, which is in developmental stages. The program allows a user to make a basic freehand sketch electronically and then label the picture with descriptive text. The system then searches the Internet for images that fit the text labels, and it seamlessly stitches parts of several different actual photos into the composed picture, to make one final picture based upon the original freehand sketch. The system can make authentic looking

photographs of seemingly absurd circumstances, from cheetahs chasing motorcyclists to elephants catching Frisbees. Imagine how you could prank a friend with a Sketch2Photo-created image or design a custom desktop background for your computer.

Not surprisingly, the ACM members were thoroughly impressed by Sisler's presentation and awarded him Halloween candy as his prize. "As a programmer, Sketch2Photo looks absolutely ridiculous!" says senior Stephan Hennion. "It's the kind of stuff you think just isn't possible. One of our CTCs two years ago before it was publicly available like it is now, was Microsoft Photosynth, which took a bunch of pictures of a region - such as a courtyard or building - and just from looking at the pictures, designed an incredibly accurate 3-D model." It is likely that in the future, technologies such as Sketch2Photo will be available to the public and every person with a computer, whether they are an ACM member or not, will have access to it.

When asked for his source for CTCs, Sisler, the meeting's CTC winner, slyly replied, "I have a source which I'm not going to reveal so I keep on winning." Hennion was more open, saying "For CTCs, I generally look at Web sites like Slashdot.org, Digg.com, Hackaday.com, and Hackmod.com." Hennion added that often CTC participants are not even regular members of the ACM. What this means is that, if they are so inclined, students

with ideas about exciting new technology are welcome to come just for the CTC held at the beginning of each meeting.

The club also discussed two new technologies that are on the rise. The first is called a Theremin. It is a musical instrument that is played without even touching the instrument. The person playing it moves their hands in a certain way and the instrument senses how far the person's hands are from the machine and plays a corresponding pitch. The second technology discussed was a Lego Turing machine, which is a computer which can perform basic tasks even though it is built entirely out of Legos.

Another task on the agenda was to go over events that the club had hosted and was going to host. ACM Vice President Stephan Hennion reviewed the Super Smash Brothers video game tournament that was held Saturday, Oct. 24 in Pfaller. Approximately 25 competitors showed up, which the ACM deemed a successful turnout. Hennion, however, had to push projectors all the way across campus in the rain, which was not a fun experience for him. Sisler said, "Everybody knew from the start that one person, sophomore Andy Garron, was going to win the tournament. He plays international video game competitions." Sure enough, Garron dominated the competition and captured first place.

One of the events that was previewed at the meeting was the Oct. 30 Photoshop competition, which was held the day following the meeting. The contest had participants partake in Photoshop contests that fell under five different categories. The contest was unique in that it allowed participants to bring along and use previous Photoshop work. Each of the five winners received a \$25 Wawa gift card. Another event that the ACM intends to host sooner rather than later is a screening of the new "Star Trek" Hollywood movie. However, due to legal

"ACM" continues to page 5.



Photos courtesy of the UC Association for Computing Machinery.

Educational effect of the International Film Festival

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Reading books, listening to music, talking with others... besides these, it must be good for you to watch movies when you learn about foreign countries. Each semester, Ursinus College holds the International Film Festival to make opportunities to show movies which represent all languages that are taught on campus - Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese and Spanish - to students and publics.

Dr. Colette Trout, the coordinator of the festival and professor of French says the aim of the festival is "to get students exposed to a variety of cultures through movies." She says each movie from various countries reflects its own culture, and has its own habits and rules that differ especially from the Hollywood movies. By looking at these differences through a movie, students could approach the way what people in the countries think and behave. According to Dr. Trout, suggestions from professors in each language department determine what movies they are going to show. The genres of the movies vary from classics to thrillers, romances, animes, dramas, and comedies.

Watching movies is a beneficial way to learn about foreign countries. In the magazine "Education Week", Katie Hanifin, a teacher at Canastota high school refers to

the psychologist, William Glasser. He discovered from his research that "we remember 10 percent of what we read, 20 percent of what we hear, 30 percent of what we see and 50 percent of what we see and hear." Based on the result, Hanifin suggests using visual and hearing effect as a tool for teaching a foreign language.

Dr. Matthew Mizenko, professor of East Asian Studies at Ursinus says "movies are helpful for all levels [of students who learn languages], especially for higher levels." He explains students could try to catch what characters say in the movie, and it is good for listening to the rhythm of language, learning phrases and ways of expression. Abroad Languages.com introduces the way to improve language skills on their blog. On Sept. 24, 2009, the entry states watching movies is one way to improve speaking and listening skills. They suggest viewers to look at how characters in the movie speak language, and to watch repeatedly for deep understanding of what they are saying.

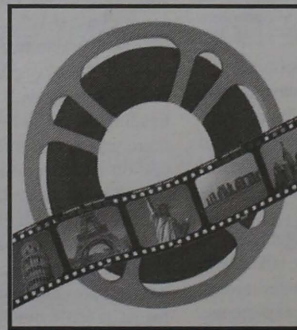
Sophomore student, Christopher Herpel has been to the International Film Festival five times in a past few years. He goes there because he wants "to have fun watching

international films." While he thinks catching foreign language through movies needs repeated practice, movies help him to learn foreign cultures. Herpel talks about a Japanese historical movie called "Hara Kiri", which he

recently watched in the festival. He said, "I learned about ancient Japanese culture such as how to act in front of strangers or superiors and the art of hara-kiri" through the movie.

Dr. Mizenko points out the recent trend of media affecting students' attitudes towards watching movies. As we can see on campus, laptops and cell phones are necessities for college students. The data from the Internet World Stats indicates the population of Internet usage in the U.S. reached 74.1 percent in Aug. 2009. Relating to the fact, the use of online videos also

grows. According to pewinternet.org, nine in ten (89 percent) Internet users among 18-29 years old use online video-sharing sites like Youtube and Google Videos. This frequent use of online video sites is what Dr. Mizenko calls "visual literacy." He thinks because students have experienced watching movies through the Internet, they are open-minded to watch movies. He said "I feel students' growing interests in the festival."



Career Corner:

Top 10 reasons to work for the federal government

Career Services

career@ursinus.edu

- 1. The Nation's Largest Employer is Hiring**
Increasing demand for services and retiring baby boomers mean tens of thousands of job opportunities.
- 2. Federal Service is Public Service**
Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of Americans and your community? Federal employees can make a positive difference in the lives of Americans and play a vital role in addressing challenging and pressing national issues.
- 3. Federal Jobs Pay Better Than You Think**
Low federal pay is a myth. Federal salaries are often competitive with the private sector, plus there are great benefits, job stability and opportunities for advancement.
- 4. The Federal Government Can Help Pay for School**
Federal agencies may help you pay back up to \$10,000 per year in student loans, and some agencies will pick up the tab if you decide to pursue a graduate degree.
- 5. You Can Develop a Unique Skill Set**
The federal government offers cutting-edge training and professional development, from information technology to foreign language immersion.
- 6. There are Federal Jobs Around the Country... and Around the World**
Nearly 85 percent of federal jobs are outside the D.C. area. Looking to go global? More than 44,000 federal employees work abroad.
- 7. The Federal Government Values Diversity**
Federal agencies serve as a model to the private sector in achieving workforce diversity, and actively encourage minorities and individuals with disabilities to consider government service through internships and fellowships.
- 8. There are Jobs for Every Interest and Major**
Not a political science major? Not a problem. There are federal jobs suited to every interest and skill, from art history to zoology.
- 9. Federal Jobs Promote Great Work/Life Balance**
Agencies offer flexible work schedules, world class benefits, job sharing, on-site child care and other incentives to facilitate a high quality of life.
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Haunted Ursinus: Good ole' ghost stories

Joe Walsh

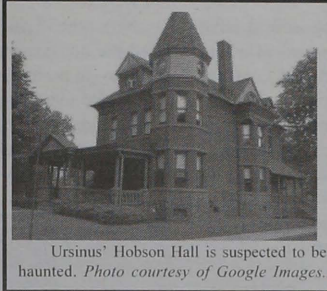
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Most ghost stories rarely transcend cult status, and for good reason. The stories often involve the solitary inhabitants of old, creaky locals, and are unverifiable unless one wants to believe hearsay. Nevertheless, the stories have obvious appeal. They affirm the idea of life after death, provide an unknown against which science falls short, scare the crap out of people, and provide excellent fodder for Halloween stories. And America is not alone in its belief in ghosts. All cultures have some kind of ghost. It isn't surprising then, that a place like Ursinus, which is 140 years old, has a wide array of popular ghost stories which surface every Halloween.

Hobson, Shreiner, Clamer, and Reimert have specific ghosts associated with them. Hobson appears to have a particularly compelling history of paranormal activity. Charles J. Adams III's "*Montgomery County Ghost Stories*" contains accounts and research compiled by Ursinus residents, mainly Jennifer Heil, a senior in 2000. Heil's journey begins in Reimert Suite 301, home of the Delta Mu Sigma fraternity. According to Heil, the ghost of a pledge killed in a car accident taps on the window from the outside, to frighten unsuspecting visitors. It may be easy to write off this by saying that a student is doing the tapping, but that logic won't work in this case, since, notes Adams, the window is on the third floor.

Similarly, Shreiner Hall was plagued by ghosts "[f]or years" according to Heil, before a local priest was called to perform an exorcism. Students taking a shower in Shreiner have reported hearing a growling noise. Unintelligible at first, the growls would eventually form the words "get out." The ghosts in Hobson hall, in contrast, are friendlier and have names: Terri and Kenny.

People who report seeing Terri tend to be alone in Hobson. One resident reported seeing Terri sitting in an impossible to reach area of the tower of Hobson. She is accompanied by Kenny, the ghost of a boy who died in a car accident. They are both benevolent ghosts, who like to prey on those left behind alone during semester breaks. Kenny kicks doors when Hobson is nearly empty. Terri watches over him (apparently not doing a very good job as a disciplinarian), pretends to use the bathroom while people are in the shower, and says 'hi' to people every once in a while.



Ursinus' Hobson Hall is suspected to be haunted. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Ghost stories aren't limited to secondhand accounts. One RA who went through training in Clamer says she heard scratching noises early in the morning. Admittedly, some of the noises were squirrels. In other instances, the sounds sounded more like the laughter of a little girl at play. Another anonymous student Clamer resident claimed to be called by name by a disembodied voice, very close to her ear. Ten minutes after the student had lain down to sleep, she heard a voice scream very close to her head. The student checked to see whether her roommate had called, but when that turned out not to be the case, the student went back to bed. The significance of the incident may not have occurred to the witness, except that the same thing happened to her roommate before she herself had moved in.

These are only a few of the stories which animate Ursinus haunted history (stories which were made possible with the aid of the UC Cinematic Guild, which happens to be producing a short film about haunted Ursinus)! Whether or not they are true is a much more difficult question to answer. What is true is that, regardless of the presence of "real" ghosts, the spirit of Halloween will pervade the campus again each year. On that note, hope everyone had a happy Halloween.

"ACM" is continued from page 4.

issues, they first have to wait for it to officially be released on DVD, which is Saturday, Nov. 7. Then, on Nov. 22, the ACM will be traveling to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia to explore the Body Worlds exhibit, where actual human specimens are on display. Other future events include a screening of the film "*Office Space*" on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in a room to be determined, a joint event with the Ursinus Rising Sons organization, and the weekly ACM lunch, which is held on Wednesdays at noon behind the Wismer salad bar.

Next semester, the ACM will hold the third annual campus programming competition. Educational institutions from the area, including Bloomsburg University, Drexel University, and University of Delaware, will participate. There will be prompts which will ask each team to make a computer code that performs a certain task. The team which creates a working code the quickest for the most prompts will win.

According to President Christin Rodgers, the Ursinus ACM boasts approximately 25-30 members, and about 10 usually show up to the meetings each week. The club has its own "ACM Room," which is Pfaler 105. for professors which focus on new technology in the professor's subject area. Sometimes, the professors take the knowledge they gain from the ACM tutorial and teach the new technology to their own class. For example, Rodgers mentioned that

the ACM has "talked to biology professors and they've directly implemented bio-related technologies into their classes." Treasurer Tim Sidie, who manages the club's budget, wanted to let the Ursinus campus know that the ACM is "open to everything. We exist for the student body. We're not here for ourselves. We're here to have fun with anyone. You don't have to be into Computer Science."

Secretary Lennon Pukowsky echoed similar sentiments and even made it a point to address a possible misconception about the ACM. "The ACM, and in fact the Ursinus Computer Science program as a whole, are great for anyone who has even considered an interest in computers. Students shouldn't assume it is only kids who have been living in their basements working on computers their whole lives." In fact, according to Rodgers, over half of the ACM members over the last few years have not been Computer Science majors. "We want to spread the idea of technology," she says. "Everything is interdisciplinary. You can't major in one thing and not use technology." Rodgers mentioned that all four of the ACM officers are graduating this year, so the fact that underclassmen may hold the offices next year is further incentive for students to get involved.

If you want to get involved with the ACM, e-mail acm@ursinus.edu or visit ucacm.org.

Where did the lounges go?: The cramped UC community

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This past summer I received an E-mail from Residence Life on what was happening to dorm rooms across campus. Whether it was changing doubles to triples or changing common room spaces in houses on Main Street into living spaces, I was concerned.

I live in Hobson Hall which is right across from the main gates of Ursinus. Last year, we put on a haunted house for the community, coffee houses, and a masquerade ball. All of the events were free to the students, and all of the events were fueled by the use of the common room.

The common room, like many spaces, was converted into a triple during the summer and the RAs' room was converted into a double. Hobson is also a Special Interest (SPINT) house on campus for community service. The great thing about the house is everyone who lives here wants to contribute to community service on and around campus. In the spring there were nearly forty applications (or more) for the fifteen spots available for the house. Six of those spots went to students who lived there in previous years. Because of the conversions, there are now twenty students that live in Hobson.

I have a lot of problems with this situation in our house and around campus. Room and board costs about \$9,200 a year. Gabi Poretta, a senior who lives off campus, pays about \$12,000 for her apartment which includes two large bedrooms, a living room, full bath, and a full kitchen for twelve months, split between she and her roommate (\$6,000 each). If compared to Ursinus' eight month long living arrangements, she only pays \$4,000. I'm assuming she does not spend over \$5,000 for food during that time period because that would equal out to roughly \$160 spent on food per week.

I live on campus because I like the students that go here. That seems like a legitimate reason. I live on Main Street because I like living with smaller groups of people in a more personal setting. I live in Hobson because I like community service. I continued to live in Hobson because of my amazing experience last year. That atmosphere has drastically changed.

As a SPINT house, we also are supposed to have house meetings and house events. When I asked where we were supposed to go, they told me to get creative. Creative? Okay, can we use the basement? No, the basement is off limits because you cannot have anything combustible downstairs. What else would be creative? The twenty of us could invade Fetteroff while they are all studying and living in their own house, we could leave our house and walk to Olin to meet about our house...in a classroom, or we could just not have many house events. It's a pessimistic attitude, and I'm not pessimistic.

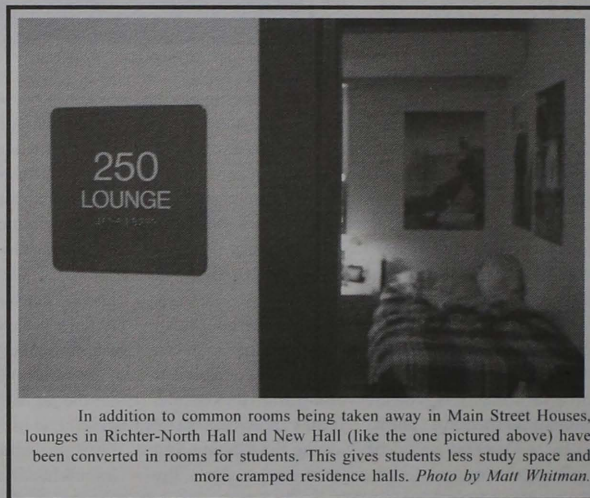
Although Poretta loses out on campus safety, the camaraderie of living with others, and use of the dining hall for regular meals, she saves money with more space and is less than a quarter mile away from the campus gates.

I live on campus because of the above mentioned list, but when does Ursinus stand up for the students and stop letting huge classes come in? I think it is taking away from the small-school community that drew me into the school in the first place. Yes, the common room will be back 2-3 years from now, but what does that do for me, for our classmates? Why should students in

Hobson have to get creative in finding places to meet when we do community service that ultimately makes the school look better?

This article doesn't even include that RAs have lost their extra spaces in their rooms to meet with students. I'm sure if I was in a situation, I'd love to only have the option of sitting on my male RAs bed to sit on, if that were the case.

Now when I give tours of the UC campus, I can't brag about the housing arrangements on Main Street like I use to; I have to try and avoid the topic all together because to me, it's not something UC should be proud of. It'd be nice for someone to stop feeding us facts about square footage and costs and just apologize for the massive screw up that hit our campus this year; maybe that's all I want.



In addition to common rooms being taken away in Main Street Houses, lounges in Richter-North Hall and New Hall (like the one pictured above) have been converted in rooms for students. This gives students less study space and more cramped residence halls. Photo by Matt Whitman.

"Escape Velocity" continued from page 1.

seemed to tell a sort of love story, as portrayed through the lyrics.

Each of the seven pieces, however, was not lyrical. The show varied in terms of its dance styles, despite having a general theme. According to Artistic Director/Producer Roger Lee, the show was given a theme to make it "more cohesive to an actual dance company." Lee asked choreographers to develop dances that incorporated "any type of time representatives." This could mean anything from the movement to the music, and was especially present in pieces such as "Circles of Myself," choreographed by sophomore Annabelle Clarence. Clarence headed the contemporary piece, which was performed to Imogen Heap's "The Moment I said It." At several points, dancers ran in circles, which seemed to

represent the passage of time. The piece was expressive, complex and beautiful to watch.

"It's just bare bones—you just see us," said Lee, who cares not for elaborate costumes, stage props or technical details. And truthfully, with a group of dancers as talented as those from Escape Velocity, these elements seem entirely unnecessary. The choreography speaks for itself.

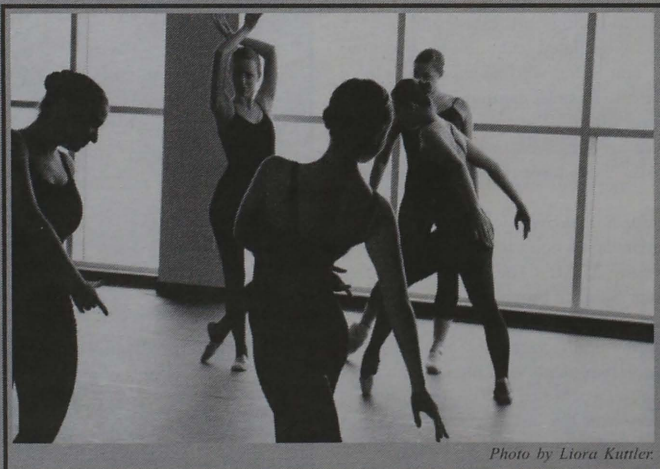


Photo by Liora Kuttler.

"I'd rather them just be in here dancing their hearts out," said Lee, who performed two pieces himself. Each exemplified his incredible talent as both a dancer and choreographer.

His solo piece, titled "The Time is Now" was a fusion of several styles: ballet, contemporary, hip hop. Lee has, time and time again, demonstrated his ability to perfect a variety of dance styles.

Likely to be a favorite was his second piece—an homage to Michael Jackson, titled "Never Forgotten." Nine dancers performed a mix of three Jackson classics, switching up the moves for each one. We saw the moonwalk for "Beat It" and the signature ghoulish movements for "Thriller." The late Jackson would have likely been pleased with the performance, which appropriately ended the show.

A piece which encompassed this same energy was "Conversion," a mix of popular songs including Lady Gaga's "Love Game" and Prince's "Black Sweat." The piece was largely hip hop, and the constant use of locking and tutting really suited the music. Dancers were clad in what seemed to be retro, '80s inspired fashion. Some wore scarves and shutter shades, while others wore legwarmers and florescent hoops. All had on electric colors— at least by the end of the performance; the group's male dancers had initially been wearing all black, and were gradually accessorized through the finale. The costumes stood out, and were representative of how fun and funky the performance was.

For such a large group of dancers (17 in total), the piece was surprisingly tight and in sync— at least when it sought to be. This can be said for each of the show's seven performances; every dance was clean and well-rehearsed. Those who were unable to attend "Timeless" truly missed out on an impressive production, and would be smart to invest in the show's DVD (coming soon for \$5). Look for emails with further information and buy it immediately! After all, time is money.

Texting and Facebook IM: Our Generation Conversation

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The ability to keep in contact with everyone, no matter where they are and no matter where you are is a luxury that makes life much simpler. Parents can keep track of their kids. You can find your friends at the mall or double check the address of the restaurant your meeting at. You can also distract yourself from the incessant boredom that comes with living in a world where many things occur in minutes if not seconds. This is where my irritation begins.

These new forms of instant communication drive me insane. And I'll admit, I use them just as much as anyone and would be lost without the ability to text and IM people. However, there is a line that gets crossed on a regular basis, where we push keeping in touch into causing annoyance or interrupting. One of my least favorites is the "what's up?" text from out-of-state friends. I respond that I'm in my room watching TV. I'm truly touched that they want to know. Really, I am. And the one text is fine. It's the continued stilted texted conversation that follows where I learn that they don't want to feed their cat and that they're going to dinner right now but they'll talk later.

The occasional "what's up?" conversation isn't solely enough to get on my nerves. It's the combination of all the strange forms that I find texted or IM conversations taking. Another is the conversation where no matter how short or abrupt your responses are the person continues to send paragraph long texts in response throughout the course of the day. You think it's finally over. It's been off and on all

day, with bursts of conversation occurring in two-hour intervals. But, it's been a while since the last one and you're going to bed. You of course wake up to beeping at 3 a.m. Should you get it? The knowledge that someone sent you a message eats at the back of your mind for several seconds as you debate. Maybe it's someone you actually want to talk to... nope "Hey, what's up? Are you awake?"

An interesting phenomenon that I've come across while texting is having separate conversations twenty seconds apart, only, with the same person. A quickly typed second text that follows your previous reply blossoms into a completely unrelated topic. And you engage in a relay race of texting as you respond to one text about your night and another about what you think of a kid in your class. And so the tag team continues until finally one person just stops responding to the second conversation out of irritation.

I think one of my very least favorite forms of communication is Facebook IM, for a variety of reasons. To start, it's very difficult to not use it, given that it's right there. But I've decided that it's been designed to never

work properly. I don't think I've had a single conversation on it where the person doesn't mysteriously go offline in the middle, or a response takes five minutes to send — during which time I make a bowl of ramen, or the entire conversation disappears just as I receive a legitimate essay about my friends day.

Setting aside the *constant* war that occurs between man and Facebook's IM software, I find that some of the most uncomfortable conversations I have ever had have occurred on Facebook. I think the combination of the title "Friend" that's given to everyone who joins the Facebook network and the sense of anonymity that comes with faceless and voiceless interaction lends itself to uncomfortable encounters with a variety of cousins you've never met, exes, friends you haven't seen since preschool, and generally people who you friended because you felt bad ignoring their request.

I think this is something that comes with any new form of communication. I imagine the first landline phone users dealt with similar issues of learning when was appropriate to call and how one should respond or lead the conversation. And it's something that our generation will learn through experience. I generally find keeping my phone on silent and my IM on invisible as a good solution to the problem.

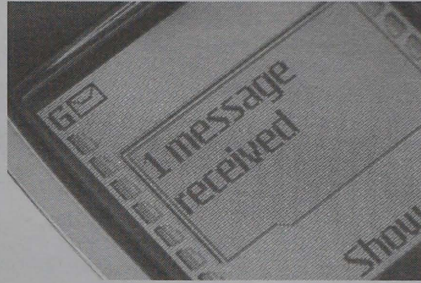


Image courtesy of Google Images.

Drop the Natural Light and expand your beverage horizons

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Photo by Matt Whitman.

College is the time for "expanding your horizons" — right? Come on, we go to a liberal arts school. In this world of competing pedagogical processes, how can we say that we've actually received the broad education that Ursinus promises if we don't learn to try as many new things as possible?

I say we start small. Let's start with beer — plenty of college students drink beer.

CORRECTION, plenty of college students drink Natural Light — a light American-style lager with 4.2% ABV and one of the lowest price tags in the beer aisle. I won't vilify the stuff, though — it's already as infamous on college campuses as the GRE's — and both will make your head spin.

Natural Light and the other ultra-low-cost beers certainly have a place on college campuses. In fact, they are staples of college life. And they are not the worst things we could be putting into our mouths. Plus, they're inexpensive enough that you can literally hand them out to people. And these are reliable beers. They're in snap-able cans and they have alcohol — people are going to guzzle them no questions asked.

Today, however, I encourage you to step out of your beer comfort zone and throw a few dollars to another brewery

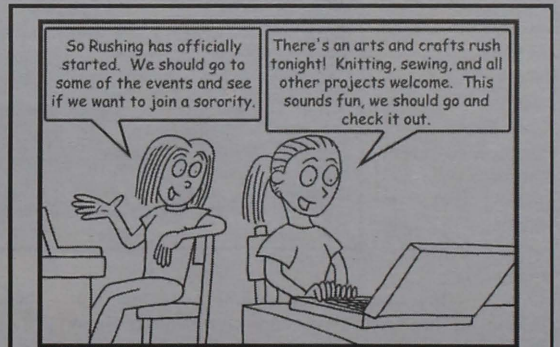
— even if it's just once. Here in southeastern Pennsylvania, we are literally surrounded by small, product-focused breweries that pump out high quality oat sodas — often at a generous price.

To our east, we've got the Yards brewery and the Philadelphia Brewing company — both with excellent strong ales. I've sampled these plenty of times and they have a taste that will give you a nice kick every time. Head west and you'll find Troegs of Harrisburg. South of us is the revered Dogfish Head brewery. And to our north, you'll find an excellent low-cost option at the D.G. Yuengling and Son brewery with flavorful brews — from light lager to stout — that give you much more to savor than a Natty Light. All of these companies ship their beers to distributors, restaurants, and Wegmans in the area.

Speaking of Wegmans, we now have an excellent resource for trying new beers! If you walk through their beer section (technically, it's a 'pub' due to PA law... but that's another article) and you'll find competitively priced beers coming from Maine to Munich. And even better is the beer fridge stationed at the checkout line with SINGLE beers for sale — in case you want to just try one bottle before investing in a whole six-pack.

With these resources waiting at the doorstep of Ursinus, we must at least consider leaving the Natty behind for a moment — maybe not at every Saturday party — but at least when you're in the mood for some 'academic investigation' beyond texts and laboratories. Break the mold! Try a beer you might not like and pawn off the rest to your friends. Beer is the new wine as far as I'm concerned.

Be picky and buy yourself the good stuff sometime. Oscar Wilde said that "work is the curse of the drinking class". If that's the case, then I'm hexed for life — come join the dark side.



UC Athletics Spotlight: Alyssa Thren of Field Hockey

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The strength and force of the Ursinus College Field Hockey Team is well known to many, but this week, we pay special attention to a particular star-player: Alyssa Thren.

This year as a sophomore, Alyssa has seen her role on the team expand and grow. When asked about this, she explains, "Each player has a different role on the field and brings a special key component. My main role on the team would most be a finisher. And if I can't finish the ball in the cage, I'm at least there to cause havoc in the circle making it easier for my teammates. I bring speed and a sense of urgency on the field as well."

And the statistics have proven that Alyssa is certainly a finisher. This season as a center-forward, she has taken approximately fifty-nine shots on goal and stunningly scored twenty-eight times. Alyssa's scoring percentage is over thirty percent, which is one of the highest on the team. In key game-winning moments, she is tied on the team for scoring that infamous buzzer-beater goal to put Ursinus ahead on the scoreboard.

Coach Moliken and Alyssa have been focusing on turning her into a more demanding player on the field as well. She has been concentrating on being more assertive in the scoring circle and becoming more of a weapon on the team.

Alyssa Thren not only pushes herself on the field, but pushes those around her as well. She describes herself as a "leader by example", explaining that she is "the type of leader that is quiet on the field, but can still make a big impact." Alyssa does not exactly describe herself as a team motivator, but it is hard to see how such a driven athlete is not a motivator in a similar way in which she is a leader.

She praises her teammates often and says that they continually push each other every day at practice, which is why they see the results they want during the games. Losing the star players of last year was a setback, but Alyssa proudly states, "I think the players this year have really stepped it up and filled in those spots nicely. Our junior class especially is a major part of our team that will help us go far this year and hopefully next year."

The future of the team is something the field hockey women thinks about often. Alyssa says, "We have a strong and skilled group of girls on the team right now so we've set a high bar for ourselves."

They are looking forward to finishing out a strong regular season and continuing well into the Final Four.

They strive to again host the regional tournament to make it a little easier on themselves before hopefully traveling to Massachusetts for the national championship.

As a student at Ursinus College, Alyssa is an Exercise and Sports Science major. She is excited to see what the



Photo courtesy of UC Sports Information Dept.

future brings and habitually makes every effort to be the best athlete and the best student she could possibly be.

On Saturday, Alyssa and the Bears registered a solid win again Johns Hopkins. Ursinus tallied eight goals to Johns Hopkins' three. Alyssa had three shots on

goal, scoring twice. The Bears' next game will be a post-season match up, against an opponent to be named within the next week.

Adding Injury to Infamy: Celebrate at Your Own Risk

Luke Benko
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Once again the city of Philadelphia is feeling the joy of being winners. With great success however comes great pain. There is the pain of sacrifice in order to achieve the success and then the pain of having to live up to the success in the future. These are the pains that one would probably immediately identify.



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

However, would one think of the pains of celebration? In a Sports Illustrated article the Phillies Jimmy Rollins comments on the pain of celebration after his walk off hit against the Dodgers in game four of the National League Championship. On Rollins way into the dugout he was met with a tackle from the Phillies two-hundred sixty pound first baseman Ryan Howard and was immediately put on the ground. Rollins knowing what was coming, went into the fetal position and started throwing punches until teammate Ben Francisco restrained him allowing the whole Phillies team then to piled on top of the hundred seventy pound Rollins. "It can be pretty dangerous" Rollins told Sports Illustrated.

Should the fans be concerned about injuries occurring from celebration, especially with the Phillies on their way to another World Series? Well, reasonably due to past examples of celebratory injuries, one would be inclined to say yes. TheGateWayOnline.com cites two great examples

of celebrations gone wrong. The first was of the football place kicker for the Arizona Cardinals, Bill Gramatica, who in celebration of a game winning kick against the Giants in 2001 tore his ACL by simply doing a jumping fist pump. While the jumping fist pump is a classic celebration to be appreciated by any sports fan, it is less dangerous than a thirty man pile up and it was able to cause serious harm. Some people remain unconcerned though. Junior Joe Obenshine commented saying, "I'm not personally concerned. Injuries from celebration are rare and I believe that celebrations are an important part of the game."

While some believe that celebration injuries are freak accidents, others are on the fence about how they feel. Sophomore Robert Lavoie stated, "It's not a major concern of mine, but I can't imagine how mad I would be if someone was injured due to something stupid." The second example however is very similar to Rollins experience on the bottom of the Phillies celebratory pile and may sway those on the fence to be more worried about celebratory injuries. In 1993 Kevin Johnson drained a game winning basket to secure a win for the Phoenix Suns. Charles Barkley was the first one to greet Johnson after his winning basket and gave him a bear hug so powerful that it broke Johnson's ribs. The craziest correlation between Johnson's celebratory injury and the Phillies pile on Rollins is that while playing professionally, Charles Barkley was almost the exact height and weight as our Ryan Howard. This correlation could defiantly create some anxiety towards celebration. Our Philadelphia Phillies are on their way to the World Series and some fans would like the celebration to occur after the World Series. Senior

Brendan Walsh said, "Personally I would like it if they would save their celebration until after they win the World Series. They can hurt themselves celebrating after we have the second straight World Series (Commissioner's) trophy in our hands."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 7

Wrestling @ Messiah, 10 a.m.

Field Hockey hosts F&M/Haverford (CC Semifinals), 11 a.m.

Football hosts Muhlenberg, 1 p.m. (Senior Day)

Swimming hosts Lycoming, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 8

Field Hockey hosts Centennial Conference Championship