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## The Grizzly, March 24, 2011

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# The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Collegeville, Pennsylvania

Thursday, March 24, 2011

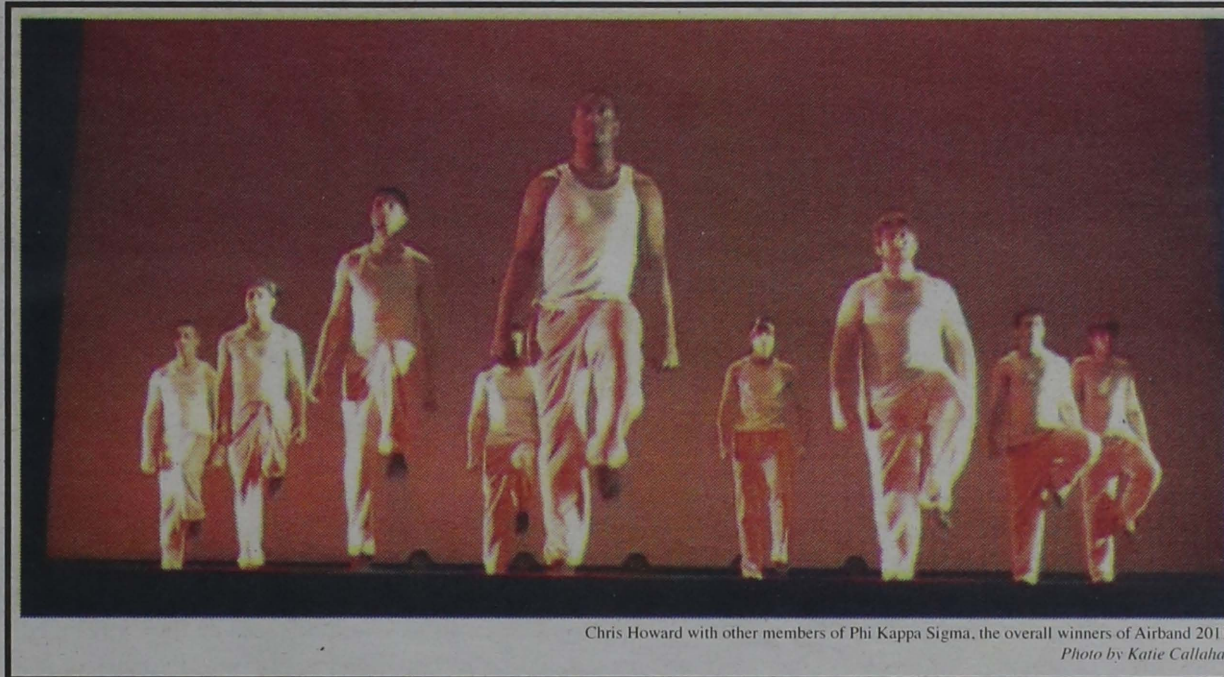
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## Phi Kappa Sigma wins Airband 2011

By Brett Cohen  
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On Saturday night, the Lenfest was packed with students, staff, family members, etc, all anxious to see Ursinus' Annual Airband competition. The show, comprised of a series of themed performances, was filled with nonstop song mixes, lip syncing and dancing. The sold out show, in conjunction with the Date Auction event that took place early February, helped raise \$2500 to help the Frankie's Fight Foundation.

Erica Schindewolf and Robyn Clarke, Executive Directors of the Airband committee, played major roles in the production of Airband and the Date Auction event, which is annually sponsored by the Airband committee. There's a lot of planning that has to go into this event but with the support of the campus, and the money the event helps raise, it is well worth the hard work put into the process. Airband started out as a way for the campus to do something cool



Chris Howard with other members of Phi Kappa Sigma, the overall winners of Airband 2011. Photo by Katie Callahan

and fun that everyone can enjoy, while contributing to a cause in the process. Schindewolf, confirming this, stated: "Airband was originally started as a way to raise money for a charity, and continues to do so." Sam Cermignano, another committee member, had a personal connection to Frankie's Fight. "She is very close with the family," Schindewolf said.

It's to no surprise that Airband is a big event on campus. It's our thing. Some may even say it's bigger than homecoming. It's an event where student's, and sometimes faculty even, get to have fun, be creative, show off dance moves and escape the demanding life of being in college. Why wouldn't we love it? "We love it because we can compete while

looking ridiculous and making fools of ourselves!" said Schindewolf, "It brings together all of the organizations on campus for one night so that we can all laugh and interact with each other. I think the future of Airband is that it is just going to become bigger and

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## Music Department visits Ireland during Spring Break

By Jess Orbon  
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This year a select group of Ursinus students had a very unique spring break experience. The music department, including Meister Singers and the UC Wind Ensemble spent a week in Central Ireland, playing free concerts and exploring Irish culture.

In attendance were twenty-four students, six boys and eighteen girls. Two chaperones, professors from the music department, Dr. John French and Dr. Holly Gaines accompanied the students. They were lucky this year because recently there hasn't been enough interest in a trip like this over spring break. The travelers were able to schedule a singing tour using the World Culture

Tours travel company. The price was fair and it was a great opportunity for students to go away for spring break with friends while still having an academic and cultural experience. The group played three free admission concerts in three different churches around Central Ireland.

This was a great chance for students to gain an understanding of the difference in Irish culture, especially music throughout Ireland. Sophomore, Meister Singer Mike Dunlea described his experience, "As one of the few guys I was a little nervous but it turned out to be fantastic. The music was awesome! Every pub you

*"Ireland" is continued to Features, page 4*

## Students give back through Philadelphia Reads program

By Nikhil Popat  
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Ursinus' first Books on Tape Drive kicked off to a great start a week before Spring Break. Organized by the Ursinus Bonner Leaders, the drive provided recording packets that allowed Ursinus students, faculty, and staff to read a children's book and record it to a CD using their laptops.

Ursinus community members were free to choose from hundreds of different children's books to record an audio book. Once the recorded audio books (over two hundred so far) are reviewed, they are sent to the non-profit organization Philadelphia Reads. Philadelphia Reads seeks to improve literacy rates among children in Philadelphia

and adds the recorded books to the "Free Children's Book Bank" they maintain. Teachers throughout Philadelphia can then select books from the book bank to take back to their classrooms for students to read and listen to.

The creation of the Books on Tape Drive began as part of the "Big Idea" initiative championed by the Ursinus Bonner Leaders. The Bonner Leaders program, helmed by Dr. Christian Rice and Elizabeth Cannon, tasked smaller groups within the organization to come up with community-bonding activities every month that Ursinus students, faculty, and staff could all participate in.

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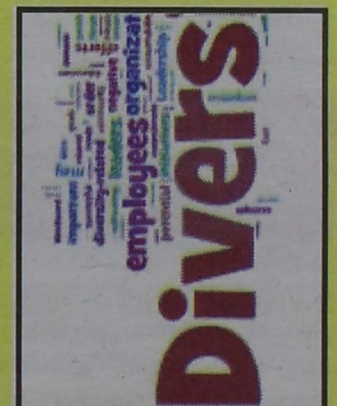
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# International News with Lisa: Sex crimes and civil unrest

By Lisa Jobe  
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Both pro- and anti-government factions have been increasingly resorting to violence in the struggle. Protesters are frustrated with corruption and unemployment; around 40 percent of Yemen's population lives on \$2 a day or less. The United States has long seen Saleh as a force against a wing of al Qaeda based in Yemen, but US officials have condemned the bloodshed and supported the protesters' right to demonstrate peacefully. (Article from Reuters, hosted on NewsDaily.com)

Wednesday, Mar. 16

**UNITED KINGDOM** – An international investigation has destroyed what British police are calling the largest online pedophile network in the world. The investigation, termed Operation Rescue, consisted of the UK's center for child protection, Europol (the European police agency), the US customs and immigration agency, as well as members of police from Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Canada. Operation Rescue, which spanned three years, exposed 70,000 members

Wednesday, Mar. 16

**HUDAIDA, YEMEN** – On Wednesday, one person was killed and another 200 wounded when Yemen security forces attacked protesters participating in a sit-in in the city of Hudaida. A doctor who treated the wounded said that security forces and plainclothes police had attacked with clubs, daggers, tear gas, and live and rubber bullets. Yemen has been rocked with weeks of protests against the 32-year rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

of the ring and led to 184 arrests internationally. The operation identified a total of 670 suspects, as well as 230 abused or at-risk children. Police were unable to say how many children had been taken into police care as a result of the investigation. The network operated behind the website boylover.net, a discussion forum in which members would share their sexual interest in young boys without taking any kind of illegal action. However, once members had made contact via the forum, they would move to other means of contact such as email to share images of child pornography. Operation Rescue began in 2007 when police discovered the existence of boylover.net. (The Guardian Online)

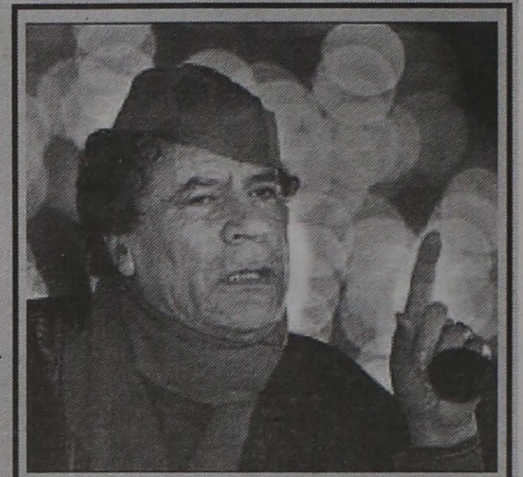
Saturday, Mar. 19

**TOKYO, JAPAN** – Japanese engineers at the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station struggled to restart systems designed to cool the nuclear reactors and prevent the escape of radiation on Saturday. A Japanese official announced Saturday morning that engineers had managed to

restart cooling equipment at two of the plant's reactors. On Friday, Japan raised the severity level of its nuclear crisis from four to five on a seven-level scale established by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The adjustment was an acknowledgment on the part of Japanese officials that the problem was worse than previously stated. With Japan's permission, the United States has been flying data collection planes over the plant in northeastern Japan. This data indicated that the worst of the radiation has not spread beyond a 19-mile range initially established by Japanese officials. (New York Times Online)

Saturday, Mar. 19

**TRIPOLI, LIBYA** – French fighter jets flew to Libya on Saturday to counter Moammar Gadhafi's forces as they advanced on the rebel-controlled city of Benghazi. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Saturday, "Our air force will oppose any aggres-



The UN has authorized the use of force against Colonel Gadhafi. Photo courtesy of itravelshop.com

sion by Colonel Gadhafi against the population of Benghazi." Sarkozy made his announcement after a "top-level, international meeting" in Paris. The sudden show of international intervention is much-welcomed by the rebels who have asked repeatedly for international backup against Gadhafi. A new resolution by the UN has authorized the use of force to protect civilians from Gadhafi's government. Libya has been torn by violence in the past weeks as protesters call for democracy and an end to Gadhafi's nearly 42-year long rule. (CNN.com)

"Airband" is continued  
from front page

better! Hopefully we can find a way for more of the campus to see it and we can create new ways through Airband to raise money for our charity."

At others schools, Airband is limited to Greek performances. While Greeks heavily populate the numbers of acts at Ursinus, there's still room for dynamic performers like the Seismic Steppers or eccentric performances like the "Social Iconoclasm" piece done by members of Ursinus' Improvisational group. "I think Airband is one of the few things that have been so long-standing at Ursinus. For almost 30 years, this event has been occurring and is a ton of fun for all students," says Clarke.

Repeat host, Davis Howley welcomed newcomer Corey Barkers to the stage, to help entertain the crowd throughout the transitioning of each routine. As an Ursinus Senior, Howley said he was proud to now pass the torch to Barkers, his co-host and friend. The dynamic duo complimented each other with their crafty humor. They even wrote



Airband hosts Corey Barkers and Davis Howley. Photo by Katie Callahan

an untitled "love poem" for one of the Airband performers, which was a crowd favorite.

"I thought the show went really well; I loved being able to see the acts prepare and then progressively get better. I loved how

invested people became with the event; it made me feel like Airband actually meant something to those participating! We all had a great time and I can't wait to do it again next year!" said Schindewolf.

## The Grizzly

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# Planned Parenthood no longer able to provide services

By Eva Bramesco  
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On Feb. 18, the United States House of Representatives voted to cut the entire \$317 million budget of Title X. This vote was in direct opposition to President Obama's proposed budget which sought to offer more funding to Title X. Though this decision has yet to move to the senate where Democrats still hold a slight majority and will most likely not approve the full suspension of funding, Representative Mike Pence (R - Indiana) has additionally proposed an amendment to completely defund Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood is only one of hundreds of Title X organizations in the United States, but the Pence Amendment is targeting Planned Parenthood specifically because of its abortion services. Though there is already a law in place that states that no

federal funding may be allotted to providing abortions, Pence states in his amendments that any monetary support offered to Planned Parenthood is akin to funding abortion. Planned Parenthood receives a large percentage of funding from Title X, and there is no doubt that in the event that funding is drastically cut, PPH will have to greatly scale back its services. The decision has been met with glee from conservative and outrage from liberals.

Planned Parenthood provides reproductive health services to both men and women in 800 clinics around the country. For 95 years Planned Parenthood has been providing American youth and adults with birth control, counseling on body image, emergency contraception, general health care, men's sexual health care, pre natal health care, relationship counseling, sexual orientation counseling, STI screen-

ings, and women's general health including breast cancer screenings, procedures to prevent cervical cancer, female infertility counseling, menstruation education, ovarian cancer prevention, pap tests and HPV tests, pelvic exams, urinary tract infection treatment, and yeast infection treatment. Despite these varied and numerous services offered by Planned Parenthood, the subject of much of the debate and the heated and emotional arguments on the floors of the House and Senate have revolved around the organization providing abortions despite the fact that only 10% of the services provided by Planned Parenthood are related to abortion.

In 1973, Roe v. Wade declared that a citizen's right to privacy was broad enough to encompass a woman's right to choose whether or not to abort. Though Roe v. Wade has not here

been overturned, there is no doubt that a lack of funding for Planned Parenthood will certainly reduce the availability of legal and safe abortions, setting the movement back decades. Organizations such as NARAL have declared this legislation an attack on women's reproductive rights in general.

Michele Chausse is the Communications Director of a Title X organization in Massachusetts called Health Quarters. Health Quarters provides reproductive health education, screenings, exams, and contraception for underserved young women. Abortion is not among the services offered by Health Quarters, and as Chausse reports, 46% of Health Quarter Funding is federal. "Without that money we would not be able to operate effectively," she says. "Most of the girls who come in here are young, and either poor or scared. Where else are they going to get these services?" Health

Quarters is one of many organizations that offer their services for free or as much as the individual is able to pay, and as Chausse points out, "these Representatives want no funding for contraception, or affordable abortion, but they also don't want to see these young women and their children on Welfare."

This issue has become a trend on Twitter, as well as a movement on Facebook. "I stand with Planned Parenthood" is a group, an event, a phrase seen in hundreds of photos, even posted on the home page of the Planned Parenthood website. However the movement in favor of the Pence amendment is just as vocal as the movement against as can be seen in comment feeds and message boards alike. What remains to be seen is the final decision that will be handed down by the Senate and the response from the American people to this final decision.

"Ireland" is  
continued from front page

went into there were local musicians playing all types of music. Despite the cold weather and minimal audience our concerts went really well. Overall it was a really beautiful experience. I'm a sucker for scenery so I would go back in a heartbeat. I look forward to visiting Ireland again."

The students had the chance to visit several famous sites such as the Book of Kells which is one of the oldest illuminated manuscripts at Trinity College, which is the largest college in Ireland. They also visited St. Patrick's Cathedral, as well as The Irish National Stud, and Japanese Gar-

dens. The more recreational trips included a trip to the Guinness Factory, Whiskey Distillery and Kylemore Abbey. There was a significant amount of downtime from concerts for students to truly enjoy their spring break in a different cultural setting.

Junior, Liz Palovick had nothing but great things to say about the trip, "I think it was one of the most rewarding experiences/spring breaks I've ever had. The scenery was so different and the people's demeanors were so different. The people were very welcoming and there was no hostility towards us because we were American. Hearing their music and the local musicians doing what they loved was really great.



Photo courtesy of Michael Dunlea

It was amazing to see that they loved to make music."

It turns out that the students learned about more than just mu-

sic and Irish culture. Freshman, Tess Casper's experience allowed her to make memories that she would undoubtedly take back

with her to UC, "I was excited to go to Ireland but I was nervous about the people because I didn't really know anyone. I came out knowing everyone there were no clicks and I made so many great friends and made so many great memories. Now I see them on campus and we still talk. We took a lot of pictures and had a lot of fun."

These twenty-four should consider themselves lucky to have had a great overall spring break experience that they will remember forever. Filled with fun, interesting culture, new people, great food and inspiring music, I'm sure that gaining interest in this trip in years to come will no longer be a problem.

## Word on the Street

with Jessica Orbon  
jeorbon@ursinus.edu

"Describe Charlie Sheen  
in three words."



**Brittany Williams**  
Junior  
Biology

"Crazy, insane, addict"



**Liam Marston**  
Sophomore  
Int. Rel./Busi. & Econ

"Colorful, imaginative,  
champion"



**Chelsea Maher**  
Sophomore  
Spanish

"Eccentric, ignorant,  
egotistical"



**Jordan Demcher**  
Freshman  
Undecided

"Winner, bro. boss"



# Jamaica welcomes Bonner Leaders for Spring Break

By Allison Nichols  
alnichols@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus College Bonner Scholars decided to pass up Cancun this spring break and spend it renovating and constructing houses in Jamaica.

Their weeklong trip did not leave much time for sun bathing. The Bonner's spent their days under the sun working to improve the conditions for a few of the 14.8% Jamaicans who are living below the poverty line.

The Bonners teamed up with a few other students from Moravian College and worked on five different sites.

Three of the sites consisted of rebuilding severely damaged houses, one of which was ruined by a hurricane. "We ripped down two walls and replaced siding," said Josh Picard, a Bonner Scholar.

Another volunteer site was dedicated to building a cement garbage dumpster in an area that had no existing trash receptacle. The Bonners at this site mixed cement and put up cinder blocks. Before they created this dumpster, trash would just end up on the ground around the area.

At the final site, the volunteers painted the outside of an unconventional orphanage, which was more of a home than an institution for the care of orphans. Here the children all called the caretaker mom, and it was made sure that they had a reliable job or comfortable home before they left.

At each site, there were contractors that showed the volunteers what to do. There was also much participation from local community members, who were very excited to have the American volunteers among them.

Liam Marston, a sophomore Bonner Scholar recalled that

one Jamaican woman said, "God has blessed us by you being here."

The Jamaicans were generally very grateful for the presence of the Bonners, and the Bonners were equally excited about interacting with them. That is why, for Picard, "sports day" was his favorite activity while in Jamaica.

Sports day is a day similar to field day in the United States. Last year the Bonners happened to be volunteering while the elementary school students had their sports day and were able to partic-

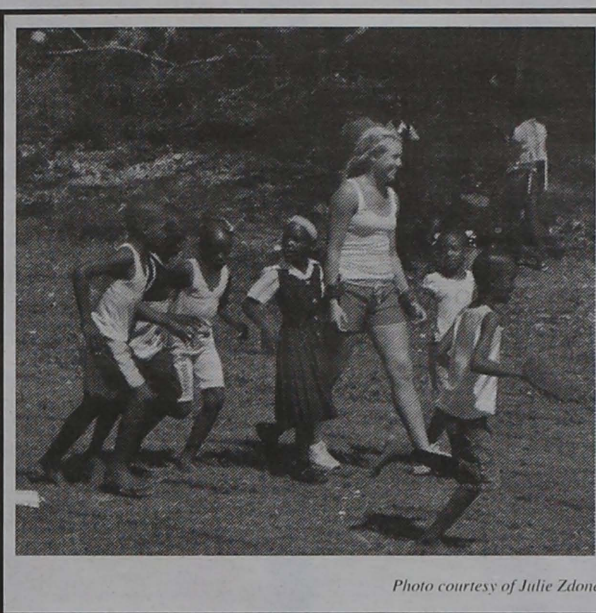


Photo courtesy of Julie Zdonek

ipate. The students had so much fun with the Bonners that they planned their sports day around the Bonners' trip this year.

The welcoming spirit of the country was Marston's favorite aspect of the trip. Marston commented on the friendly atmo-

sphere of the country compared to our relatively cold culture. "Being around the people is so refreshing. They instantly include everyone," Marston said.

The friendly, giving spirit seemed to be the theme of the week. There was a woman named Nelly who took a week off of working and volunteered to cook Jamaican food for the Bonners. The food included many different fruits, chicken, rice, beans, and used a lot of jerk seasoning.

After spending the majority of their day at their prospective work sites, the Bonners did some sight-seeing. They went on a crocodile safari and got to explore the landscape. They climbed a waterfall and enjoyed the warm weather.

The Bonner's spent their spring break helping a population that maybe be poor, but is rich in kindness. "They may be poor, but they have each other," said Marston.

## Junior Jumpstart

By Sarah Bollert of  
Career Services

Juniors who are grad school bound should be jumping straight in to the grad school search and application process now. Start by searching for programs and developing criteria you can use to evaluate the programs you are considering. Identify and read professional journals in your field so you can learn about the leading researchers and institutions for your field of interest.

Filter through program materials online. Use online tools such as gradschools.com and Petersons.com to research specific facts such as: location, faculty research, funding options, etc. Develop your own standard of locating the "right" program for you by talking with your faculty. Let them help you narrow down your choices and share their perspective on programs.

Begin investigating what admissions tests are needed in your discipline (GRE, GMAT, MCAT, or LSAT). Register and determine how you will be preparing and studying for the appropriate standardized test. Make sure to carve time out to study this summer and, if possible, take the test you need be-

fore returning to campus in the fall. If you need information on prep courses or study guides be sure to check in with the advisors in Career Services

Senior year will go smoothly if you take time before returning to campus to narrow down the programs to which you are interested in applying. You can even begin to prepare your "statement of interest" essay. This essay, sometimes called a personal statement, will be required by most graduate schools. It is a critical piece of your application package as it will be evaluated by all admissions offices and faculty in your program of interest along with your test scores, recommendations and transcripts. Make sure you develop your ideas and review your essay with your faculty. Take advantage of the writing center, and certainly get help in Career Services. There are several books in the Career Services office to help you get started.

Don't forget to research scholarship and fellowship money for grad school. Use tools like fastweb.com and finaid.org. For more information on your grad school search and to develop a working strategy for applications- schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor in Career Services.

"Books" is continued  
from front page

Following in the footsteps of previous "Big Ideas," including the well-received Diversity Monologues and the popular Hunger Banquet, February's "Big Idea" was to involve the Ursinus community in a campus-wide initiative to expand educational access. Freshman Bonner Leader Elizabeth Lopez first came up with the idea of recording audio books as a way to encourage children to read, and thereby increase their prospects academically.

A study published in the journal *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* noted the strong correlation between academic success and early literacy. Children whose families had at least 25 books were more likely to complete an additional two years of school than children who did not have access to books at home. An assessment of basic prose literacy skills, the ability to comprehend

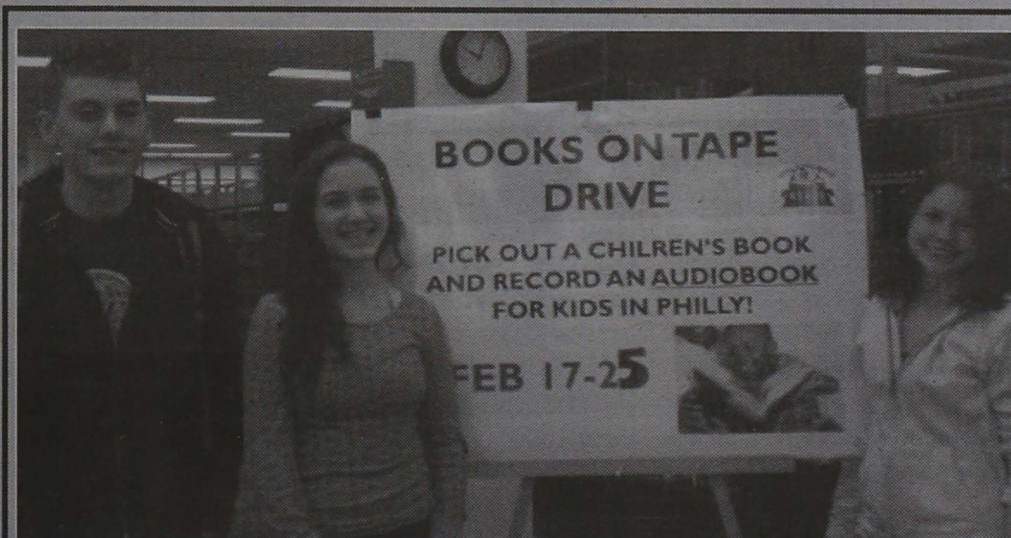
material arranged in sentences and paragraphs, conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics revealed troubling results: 22 percent of Philadelphia adults lacked these basic skills. Compare this to the national average of 14.5 percent of adults that lack basic literacy skills and the problem becomes even more apparent.

Research indicates, however, that audio books could prove to be a valuable tool in combating this trend. Researchers at the Milken Family Foundation found that educational programs supplemented with audio books were more effective in increasing children's literacy than programs that did not use them.

Ursinus faculty members appeared enthusiastic about the

drive's prospects. Professor Jennifer Gehret, of the Psychology Department, spoke highly of the drive's intentions: "We can look forward to a better tomorrow when we take the time and effort to build up our community by investing in our youth today."

Many participants were eager to invest their time in the project and commented on the educational benefits of the program. "I enjoy working with kids and am passionate about education, so this was a nice way to help out," said Danel Berman, a sophomore at Ursinus who helped coordinate the program. Amber Samuels, a sophomore at Ursinus, was equally enthusiastic: "I love to read and even though I'm twenty, children's books always make me feel nostalgic."



Sophomores Adam Rosenberg, Danel Berman, and Allison Nichols in the Myrin Library display.  
Photo courtesy of Nikhil Popat



## “Let the Right One In” review

By Fran Macera  
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As every pre-adolescent child knows, the mesmerizing burden that surrounds one's first true infatuation can never be a facile task to cling to each and every day, as it blossoms like the first daffodils of the spring. However, imagine how much more troublesome it would be if your love interest were a satanic female vampire who hires a shady pedophile to murder young boys for her meal!

Thus begins the enchanting, yet morose, tale that is *Let the Right One In*, a 2004 *New York Times* bestseller from the enigmatic mind of Swedish author John Ajvide Linqvist. Set in a quiet wintry hamlet known as Blackeberg in 1980, the story examines the agony that comprises twelve-year-old Oskar's life. His parents are divorced; his mother rarely comprehends his moods that ride a treacherous roller-coaster; his father, although brilliant when he does not have to act his age, can turn into an arrogant and appalling drunkard; and he is perpetually tormented by a gang of drug-ridden classmates. At numerous times they corner him on a playground, whip him mercilessly, and demand that he humiliate himself by “squealing like a pig” until they are satisfied. This lends a hand in showing why Os-

kar has a grisly fascination with murders and arsons, particularly when a string of sadistic attacks leaves teenage boys drained completely of blood.

However, miniature rays of sunlight enter Oskar's life when he discovers that a pale and precocious young girl, Eli, has moved in next door with an elderly gentleman he presumes to be her father. Although she speaks like a nineteenth-century governess, only emerges at night, and demands that Oskar properly state that she may come in before she crosses his threshold, she becomes the jewel of his eye in a matter of days. The two become fast companions before eventually declaring their restless and haunting adoration of each other. Of course, everything is marred drastically when it becomes evident that Eli's secret may be the key to solving the gruesome killings that reach Oskar's apartment complex very quickly.

Despite the fact that this book is chock-full of nauseating descriptions of body organs and flesh that is ripped to smithereens, it truly can be seen as a majestic vampire fable. Compared to the *Twilight* series or HBO's *True Blood*, *Let the Right One In* is bewitching in how it portrays this bloodthirsty creature as a lonely citizen aching for a chance at finding redemption through its encounters with humanity. In this

case, Eli seizes her chance when she befriends Oskar and discovers how he yearns as well for an opportunity to channel his grief through other means than those that revolve around murderous thoughts of mutilating the bullies.

It is also worth noting how every child throughout the pages—including Oskar's glue-sniffing neighbor Tommy and his main enemy Jimmy—can never seek advice from the adult figures in their lives. In fact, their parents, teachers, and employers all appear timid and childish, which renders the chance for the children to fight back via astounding measures.

In 2008, a Swedish film adaptation was released to universal critical acclaim, but it was sadly tossed aside when it came time to announce the nominees for Best Foreign Language Film. Hollywood, being the ignorant lazy foundation that it is, premiered an English version starring *The Road's* Kodi Smit-McPhee and that adorable saucy child Chloë Grace Moretz, but it could never live up to the reputation that comprised the brilliant original screenplay. For the first time in quite a while, it is possible to observe a vampire saga amidst the countless other examples that stain our pop culture universe that boldly shows a dash of morality across every bloodsucking description.

## The Diversity Column: Diversity through film

By Tracie Johnson  
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After much talk about diversity on campus, I've come up with the idea of creating a film about diversity at Ursinus. This film will serve as a catalyst for not only informed and genuine dialogue, but as a call for action. The film will follow the format of a documentary rather than a movie script, for after all, its purpose is to be academic and informative rather than an amusing form of entertainment.

To start off, I would like to address the fact that problems, issues, and conflicts regarding social taboos, like race, gender and sexual orientation are not mere representations of the Ursinus community, but of the social order at large. In many discussions regarding diversity at Ursinus, students have expressed their frustration with the presence of certain faces of oppression on this campus, but I think people should first understand that these problems are not just Ursinus' problems, for they are institutionalized systems of oppression that no campus, neighborhood, or workplace is exempt from.

It is for this very reason that I believe taking a more microscopic look at these issues here on our very own campus will not only serve as a great contribution to

entertained, but you must have it all make sense in the end—one of the most daunting tasks for me in my own experiences with improv. At Ursinus, I will occasionally visit a practice for our own improv troupe, *Zombie Bitch Slap*, which meets Wednesdays and Fridays at five in the Kaleidoscope. It is co-run by Emily

Ursinus' progress but the progress of our society at large. Assuming that the research, editing and film content is done exceptionally well, this documentary can be a token of hope and change that Ursinus can use to hold itself not only to a standard of “niceness,” but of authenticity, cooperation, and compassion, when coming to grips with the stifling products of systematic oppression. I say this because a lot of people would like to believe it's about bias and ignorance, failing to realize the number one reason for why we call it oppression...it's about power. It's about the need for the supremacy of one group, at the disadvantage and disparity of another, which I believe may have a little more to do with our capitalist economic system than most will allow, but I'll save that for another article.

This film I believe, if done right, will be something for Ursinus and all members of the Ursinus community to be proud of. I know that for me personally, it will validate what it means to be an Ursinus student. When I graduate I can tell others what it means to have gone to Ursinus, a true pioneer in liberal arts education.

The proposal is still in the makings, although the general outlook and format is concrete and solidified. Also, the film is open for student and faculty participation. In fact, there is a strong emphasis on student and faculty participation, because in order for this to work, there has to be an accurate account of how Ursinus' views and handles social taboos. The Ursinus Bonner Diversity team, along with the Diversity Monologue performers, are all on board with this and we are all anxious to make this happen as the next step from the Diversity Monologues. If anyone, has any questions feel free to email me at trjohnson@ursinus.edu.

Garmisa and Abe Woycke.

The guest director, Bobbi Block, has a long history of theater behind her. She has been a part of, and directed, many improvisational troupes in Philadelphia, including groups like *ComedySportz* and *Tongue and Groove*.

## Theater Review: “Playing Favorites”

By Anna Larouche  
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This past week, Ursinus College Theater presented “Playing Favorites,” a completely improvised performance directed by guest artist Bobbi Block. The show ran from Wednesday night to Saturday night—and as is inherent in improvisational theatre, yes, every show was different from the last.

There were ten players featured in this production: seniors Abe Woycke, Joshua Aungst, Emily Garmisa, Briana Kelly, Jeff Thomas and Melanie Stefan, sophomores Rebecca Hollenbach and Pat McAndrew, and freshman Maddie Ford. All had varying degrees of previous experience with improv.

I attended two nights, Wednes-

day and Thursday—the show followed the same basic format both times. Upon their entrance, each audience member would be handed a pencil. They would then be seated and there would be an opening speech informing them about the show to follow. Cards asking each audience member a question would be handed out, the audience member would write in their answer, and the cards would be collected and tossed into a bowl. Once the show began, each player would take a card from the bowl—one of the nights, one of my cards was chosen (that was really exciting for me).

The show consisted of long-form scenes, monologues, and a couple of story-telling games that tested each player's ability to work with his or her castmates—an exhilarating and sometimes nerve-wracking experience for the

audience. One audience member exclaimed to me after the show, “I was so anxious the whole time, I was so afraid they wouldn't come up with anything!”

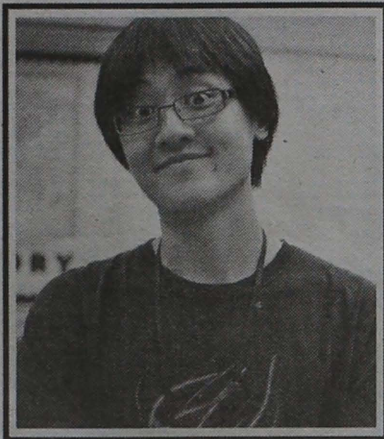
However, such a fear never came to fruition, at least during the two nights I attended. Each player had been well-trained during the month preceding the show, and was always able to come up with a compelling answer to each and every question posed within a scene. Throughout the show, the audience was kept thoroughly entertained, and there was never a lack of laughter or sympathy for the characters onstage. The sound of laughter, however, may or may not have been heavily aided by my own incredibly loud and annoying laugh.

Improv is a tough beast to tackle, as you not only have to grab your audience and keep them



# Japan: Equipped to rebuild after natural disaster

By KyuChul Shin  
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In light of the recent tragic events that have occurred in Japan, it is great to see that so many people have shown so much concern for the lives of people on the other side of the world. Without a doubt, Prime Minister Naoto Kan was correct in saying that "in the 65 years after the end of World War II, this is the toughest

and the most difficult crisis for Japan." The death toll is rising exponentially, the northeast portion of Japan is absolutely devastated, and nuclear power plants may release radioactive material into the atmosphere. Yes, the prime minister is correct in saying that this is Japan's toughest crisis since the end of the Second World War. However, despite all these difficulties, I have a strong feeling that, in the end, the nation will come out only stronger and better prepared for disaster.

Having been just a little bit over a year since the earthquake in Haiti, the destructive power of earthquakes is fresh in the minds of people all over the world. Haiti was, for lack of a better word, completely demolished because of its earthquake. Haiti simply did not have the infrastructure to deal with such a powerful quake. However, Japan is different. Located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, where large volcanic eruptions

and powerful earthquakes are the norm, Japan has dealt with earthquake and tsunamis for centuries. For years, buildings have been specifically constructed to stand the force of these monsters.

The Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995 and the great Kantō earthquake of 1923 were some of the worst earthquakes that have hit Japan within the last one hundred years. The 1995 earthquake claimed over 6,000 lives while the 1923 earthquake is estimated to have claimed over 100,000. There was a tremendous amount of property damage



Photo courtesy of bbc.co.uk

in both, yet Japan moved on, unfazed by these disasters.

Aside from earthquakes, let us not forget the Japanese people have also weathered other great disasters. Perhaps the greatest crisis they have faced was the completely

ruined nation that they had to rebuild in 1945. Due to allied bombing and, of course, the two nuclear bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the survivors of World War II literally had to start from scratch. Sixty years later, Japan is the third largest economy in the world and is

the envy of much of the world.

Truly, there are probably no people better prepared to deal with disasters than the Japanese. Everyone is taught how to deal with natural disasters from a very young age, so everybody knows what to do in times of disaster. In addition, the highly ordered and structured nature of Japanese society has helped (and will continue to help) the Japanese people maintain order during this difficult time. Perhaps the prime minister said it best when he said, "We Japanese had a lot of difficulties in the past, but we were able to overcome those difficulties to reach this peaceful and prosperous society we have been able to build." These are the same people that managed to repel two Mongol invasions. You read that correctly; two Mongol invasions. If they can do that, they can do anything.

# Facing segregation in the 21st century through campus programs

By Tom Nucatola  
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Allow me to introduce myself: I am a senior, I am male, and I am a history major. I love Ursinus College, and I want it to become more diverse. We have a segregation problem, and there is no denying it. I believe firmly that our problems with race are not due to a lack of effort, but can be attributed to our copious programs designed to support minority students. In particular, I am referring to our SPINT housing and the W.R. Crigler Institute (formerly The Bridge Program). These programs promote self-segregation and are inherently racist.

Let me explain the latter claim first. These programs are racist because they assume that minority students cannot be successful without significant and special support from Ursinus College. This type of racism is the worst kind of racism. It not only fails to admit that it is racist, but it seeks to deceive minorities into believing that they are furthering their equality, when in fact it is preventing the fulfillment of true equality. I realize that this support is part of a program designed to prevent minority students from dropping out, and to improve

academic achievement among minority students, but why not make the program open to all students with academic red flags? This program is addressing an educational need of a target population, but only on a race basis.

Academic struggle is colorblind; every student at this fine institution will experience it during his or her time here. The present program makes the education gap an issue of race rather than an issue of broader social, economic, and educational problems, which are not specific to race, but to all Americans. Let's embrace the idea that our educational challenges are not racial; the longer we accept this idea, the longer we will truly be racists. Accepting these changes would defeat the notion that minorities receive "special treatment" from Ursinus College, and promote a common feeling amongst all students with disadvantages that they are in this together across racial lines. The W.R. Crigler Institute is representative of an outdated view of America, and a simple statistical understanding of education gaps. This view of America sees Americans in terms of race, instead of as individuals. Viewing gaps in society primarily in terms of race will prevent us from truly embracing the uni-

versality of human existence.

America no longer has a problem of segregation; it has a problem of self-segregation. We do what is comfortable, and that usually means eating, interacting, and partying with people that look like ourselves. This is wrong, and it is a problem for all racial groups in the United States. Who is to blame is a subject for a much longer article by a much more capable individual. What is clear, however, is that SPINT housing designed for specific communities on campus are retarding the growth of tolerance and understanding. When I speak of specific "communities," I am talking about communities formed along lines of race, and sexual preference. I single them out because I fear that they are being founded not to promote an idea, but to allow these communities to seek protection in the confines of shared place of residence. Clearly, these housing arrangements have no labels that say "gay only" or "minorities only," but I believe that they are likely to become the place where gay people live and the place where only minority students live. If this occurs, it will reduce our understanding of one another as social groups, and it will exacerbate our already existing racial

and sexual tensions despite these group's outreach programs. Outreach is no substitute for real and sustained interaction with people that are different from you.

In addition to the SPINT dilemma, the W.R. Crigler Institute has contributed to segregation unintentionally. Due to the "minority only" status of the institute, incoming minority freshmen form a network of friends that are limited to other minorities. All of us know that the friends you make in your first year either remain your friends for your entire stay at Ursinus, or they link you to potential new groups of friends. The problem here is twofold; people who keep their friends will not venture out and meet people outside of their minority group, and those who seek new friends will have limited interactions with white people because their friend network is not likely to include many white college students. This is because white freshmen students are excluded from the W.R. Crigler Institute.

Additionally, from the perspective of incoming white freshmen who are looking to meet new people, interacting with an already established friend group is intimidating. That white freshman not only feels vulnerable due to his status as a freshman

in college trying to meet friends, but also as a person attempting to break into a group of established friends with shared experiences at the W.R. Crigler Institute. We cannot ask every white and minority student to break the trend and simultaneously to overcome the systemic obstacles to meeting members of a different race. It is simply not likely, and probably not possible that every freshman will be able to meet this challenge. The way we have designed our mechanisms to destroy racism, segregation, and education gaps, are contributing to the problems that we are seeking to solve. We need to make it easier for freshman to reach across racial lines and embrace the universality of their freshman experience.

Let us end these policies. Ursinus College needs to embrace the needs of all students as individuals and not as racial or sexual communities. These programs were formed with good intentions, but they are not good for this college. We need to stop clinging to these outdated conceptions of race as the foundation of society, and discover that, in fact, we have many things in common despite our complexion differences. Students need to get out of their comfort zone and meet new people, regardless of race.



# Women's Lacrosse looks for return trip to playoffs

By Nick Pane  
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Consistently building on past success is a good way to maintain stability and continuity for teams looking to prove that they are for real. Having success year after year helps to establish a program, as it is an attractive draw for potential future players. The Women's Lacrosse team looks to build off their recent ascent into the upper echelon of the Centennial Conference, as they look to make back-to-back playoff appearances after being the #3 seed in last year's conference tournament. Despite a disappointing result in their only playoff game last year, the Bears come into the season determined and focused.

Head Coach Erin Stroble, in her seventh year as the squad's head coach, is simply looking that her team continues to grow and get better. "We had a very successful year last spring and improved a lot from the previous year," said Stroble, "our main focus for this season is continued improvement. We made it to the conference playoffs last year. I'm confident we're going to have an-

other successful year [this year]." Despite last year's season-ending loss to Franklin & Marshall in the conference tournament, the Bears gained valuable postseason experience while replenishing the talent pool with seven incoming freshmen. Coach Stroble is excited at the balance of experience and youth.

Of the 22 players, nine are seniors and juniors, while thirteen are sophomores and freshmen. Stroble is hardly concerned with the ratio in favor of the underclassmen. "It helps because the upperclassmen can obviously set the tone leadership wise," says Stroble, "They know what's expected. And it's always nice to have young players who come in and are just really excited and love to play and work really hard and enjoy it. It brings the fun that we always want to have." Hard work and dedication are clearly crucial elements to a successful season, but the love of the game must also be a factor as well. The Bears have a strong balance or their priorities, which is exemplified by their captains.

This year's captains consist of Midfielder Allison Furman,

and Defenders Kim Johnson, and Lauren Distler. Stroble certainly seems happy with the decision after a voting process that considers the team's opinion and a final evaluation by the coaching staff. "They are a good balance for each other," says Stroble, "Ali's a more vocal and enthusiastic, energy-type person. Lauren is really good with working with the girls individually. Kim is good with organization." Stroble believes that the captains will play to their strengths in order to create a cohesive unit that is expected to put a lot of goals up on the scoreboard.

One of the team's probable advantages, as the season is underway, is their ability to create scoring opportunities from a variety of players. "We're going to

have a really balanced attack," says Stroble, "We're going to have a lot of different people scoring. Teams are going to have a hard time defending against that." Such a binge of talent will certainly make the team exciting to watch, and should generate the wins that the team expects of it-

self.

The team has gotten the season off right, opening both the season, and conference play with wins. The Lady Bears look for continued and consistent success for the duration of the season as they look to take the next step forward in the playoffs.



Photo by Katie Callahan

## NCAA Tournament brings big surprises to fans

By Sara Hourwitz  
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With all of the surprising upsets in the first three rounds of the NCAA Tournaments, college basketball fans all over the nation probably feel like ripping their brackets into pieces.

Many teams that were predicted to make it deep into the tournament will not be there. One of the biggest names that will not be seen playing in the Sweet Sixteen is #1 Pittsburgh, who lost in the third round to Butler. The Bulldogs defeated the Panthers 71-70, in a close game, with a late foul by Pitt, which cost them the game.

After their huge victory, #8 Butler will face the Wisconsin Badgers in the Sweet Sixteen. Although Wisconsin has a higher ranking than Butler, the Bulldogs will put up a fight against the Badgers and have great potential to pull out another upset. Sophomore Kaylani Wertman believes that Butler has "experience from last year's tournament to help

guide them" in order to make it even further in this year's tournament.

Another major team that will not be headed to the Sweet Sixteen is #4 Louisville, who was defeated by #13 Morehead State. Louisville's loss dashed the dreams of the Cardinal players, while also distressing fans who filled out brackets. According to ESPN, less than five percent of the brackets submitted to its website had Morehead State defeating Louisville. Many Ursinus students also had picked Louisville to defeat Morehead. Sophomore Kevin Janowski believed that "Louisville would have won at least two or three games in the tournament." Although Morehead State looked good against Louisville, the team failed to make it past the third round against #12 Richmond, who is on hot streak after defeating #5 Vanderbilt in the second round. Even with all this early success, Richmond will have to really bring the heat in the Sweet Sixteen if they have any hope of beating #1 Kansas, a team that likes to demon-

strate its dominance.

The madness of the tournament doesn't end there. #2 seed Notre Dame, #3 seeds Syracuse and Purdue, and #4 seeded Texas all failed to advance past the third round in the tournament. The 2011 NCAA Tournament has certainly proved that rankings aren't everything. It's rare to find ten seeds playing eleven seeds in the Sweet Sixteen. However, these lower ranked teams like Richmond and FSU will not be able to slack against teams like Kansas, Ohio State, and Duke.

Kansas continues to be a favorite to win the tournament among President Obama, sports' analysts and fans alike. Janowski thinks "Kansas will take it this year. There aren't many guys in the tournament that can stop the Morris brothers, and they're playing really well." Conversely, Wertman believes Duke will be the NCAA Tournament champions, saying that "if they play tough defense like last year's tournament, then they are definitely a contender to win this year."

With all the hype around Duke

and Kansas, some individuals seem to have neglected Ohio State. The experienced Wildcats have plowed through their first two opponents, defeating GMU by 32 points. Not only do their starters like freshman forward Jared Sullinger and senior guard David Lightly demonstrate tremendous skill, but even their bench players show tremendous talent. Freshmen guard Aaron Craft, who can barely be considered a bench player, had 15 assists in the game against George Mason.

Although Kansas, Duke, and Ohio State are all exhibiting dominance on the court, they are still going to need to put up a fight for the championship. Lower ranked teams have been proving themselves in this tournament. Don't be surprised to see #8 Butler Bulldogs making it even deeper in the tournament. Even #11 Marquette could surprise Roy Williams and his #2 Tarheels with a victory over them in the Sweet Sixteen.

In this year's NCAA Tournament, it seems like anything can happen.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 24:**

**Men's Tennis**

4:00PM vs. Swarthmore

**Women's Lacrosse**

4:00PM vs. Rowan

**March 25:**

**Gymnastics**

NCGA Championships

**Men's Lacrosse**

@ Eau Claire, Wisconsin

**March 26:**

**Men's Lacrosse**

12:00PM vs. Dickinson

**Track & Field**

@ Goucher College Invite

**Baseball**

12:30PM vs. Gettysburg

**Softball**

1:00PM vs. Dickinson