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Project Vote Smart Scholarships available for Alaska students

Great Divide Ranch, MT – March 10 - Project Vote Smart's founding board has approved funds to cover all expenses for up to five University of Alaska Southeast students to spend ten weeks at its unique political research retreat center.

Considered the nation's most independent, dependable and accurate political research organization with over 5,000 sponsoring news organizations and libraries, the project conducts background checks on over 30,000 political candidates and issues.

"We lack researchers from Alaska and we are very interested in attracting students from University of Alaska Southeast," said Lisa Coligan, the Project's Intern Coordinator.

With its headquarters in an exclusive high-tech wilderness park 6,000 feet up in the Rocky Mountains, the Project's volunteers have created what the New York Times says "is a program so good even the Federal Government recommends it."

"We are still building the retreat research center and are in need of students willing to work on everything from candidate interviews and presidential research to building corral fences and painting lodge facilities," said Coligan. "The big payoff is seeing the hundreds of news stories and thousands of citizens' right to the facts instead of the rhetoric. The work is hard and terribly important, but you get to live in an incomparable paradise that features fishing, hiking, swimming, boating and horseback riding.

Students must commit to a ten-week internship, which can be scheduled at any time, but those interested in serving during summer 2003 should act quickly before spots fill up. Although political science, communications and journalism majors are particularly encouraged to apply, interns from all backgrounds, including recent college graduates and graduate students are accepted and eligible for scholarship support.

Additional information and applications for Project Vote Smart internships are available on the Vote Smart website (www.vote-smart.org). Students can also call the Voter's Research Hotline for more information (1-888-868-3762).

The Alaska Native Oratory Society Contest: it's not just about the money

By Vita Wilson
Whalesong Staff

I laughed, I cried; my face puckered at the mention of eating human eyeballs. No, I wasn't watching the latest award-winning film; I attended the First Alaska Native Oratory Society Contest held at UAS. The contest was open to high school students and anyone taking at least three college credits, and over a dozen college students from UAS and UAA competed this past Sat., March 22, in one or more of the following categories: oratory, dramatic declamation and storytelling. My first intention was to take few photos for this newspaper, but the speakers were so talented and their stories, oratories and declamations so intriguing,

that I stayed until the very end of the awards ceremony.

Calling this the First Alaska Native Oratory Society Contest is a bit misleading. This is the first one held at UAS; the actual first ever contest was held last academic year at UAA, and UAF held their first one earlier this academic year. UAA will host their second annual contest this April 19, which will feature UAS' own Tlingit Cultural Dancers, and maybe some of them will even compete in the oratory.

In fact, the Alaska Native Oratory Society itself is a fairly young entity created by Executive Director Dan Henry (with lots of support from UAA and corporations such as the First

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The UAS Tlingit Cultural Dancers performed at the Alaska Native Oratory Society awards ceremony.

Photo by Vita Wilson

UAS adding to the menu

By Sean Smith
Whalesong Staff

Two new appetizers and three new entrees were added to the UAS menu when the UA Board of Regents met on Feb. 19-20. The additions made their final formality when the Board ruled in overwhelming favor for UAS to offer a bachelor's degree in English, social science, and information systems, and one-year certificate programs in automotive technology and building science. Also added to UAS's repertoire is a minor in gender studies.

UAS is showing a commitment to meet students needs. Paul Kraft, dean of students, said, "(The programs) will

have the greatest input on those students who come to college undecided." Kraft also said that retention was a key aspect of the future of UAS. In order to get an understanding why students would leave UAS, calls were made to students that had left and asked they wanted a change. The study showed that a majority of the students said they left because UAS did not have the programs in their area of interest.

There are large hopes that by offering bachelor degrees in areas that were previously bachelors of liberal arts (B.L.A.) degrees will help retain students that want to stay in Juneau. "By offering a B.A. in social science it

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Quit the band and get off the wagon

By Michael Johnson
Whalesong Staff

Saddam Hussein deserves to die. Guilty of mass racial cleansing with biological nerve agents, amongst other atrocities, few terrorists on the planet can compete with the horrific ruthlessness of Hussein's destructive deeds. Alright, people, I know what you're thinking; "George Bush is the real terrorist, bladdy- oil incentive-blah, U.N. consent-blah,, yakity-schmakity-I-hate-America-blah ..."

I fear Juneau's lack of physical connections with the outside world has severed its inhabitants cerebral connection with reality. Indeed, disdain for the prospect of war runs rampant at UAS, where peers feed off each other's unfounded rhetoric with blinding intensity— not unlike a torch and pitchfork-wielding townsfolk mob that congregates to do something stupid before shamefacedly disbanding (*The Simpsons* comes to mind). Smart UASers have deteriorated to Salem-savvy, s__t-swallowing zombies, itching to burn Uncle Sam at the stake. But before you all spend the rest of your life searching for dry, Bush-burning wood, (nothing more than myth in soggy Juneau), pucker up and brace yourself for enlightenment.

Point 1: You don't know what you're talking about. For that matter, neither do I, really. After spending hours examining differing positions on the war with Iraq through numerous mediums of mass media, I decrypted one indisputable truth: no news organization, no matter how global, is free from personal preconceptions, presidential pressure, and philosophical prejudices that produce deceit. CNN, NBC, IRAQ TV ... they're all slanted and they're all we've got. Depending on what you watch, read, or listen to, even "statistical" data can be "interpreted" in extremely adverse manners to depict opposing realities. Unfortunately, most of my opinionated peers have learned the majority of their information, typically encompassed by the phrase "war is bad, so is Bush," from popular buttons and the utopian folks who showcase them— a far less objective and reliable source than even the media.

Point 2: Everything is political. *Whoeeey, Jimbob, would ya look at that those freaks ... that country is acting in its best interests. Dry cleaning was one thing, but I never thought I'd see the sick day when people loved their countrymen more than the rest of the world. Boys, get the pitchforks 'n round up the posse, we goin' hunt ourselves some patriots.* Today there is all this talk of America's oil incentive. Sure we want our pudgy, McDonaldized fingers in their sweet black elixir, but while I concede that oil certainly may be a stimulus for the war with Iraq, calling it the catalyst would be a forgone conclusion. Bush asked Congress for \$90 billion as a mere starting appetizer for the war with Iraq. Certainly there must be easier, more economic ways for our capitalistic country to obtain oil if that is all we



want? If Iraq wasn't in violation of its biological and chemical weapons retention regulations, if their leader wasn't a globally acknowledged tyrant, even with the oil, would we attack? Of course not. Iraq could be drowning in oil, Saddam could be swimming in the stuff, and still we wouldn't be doing a damn thing to take it (much as we'd like too). War may not be the right answer, but there are noteworthy reasons, public and undoubtedly classified, why our government claims it is.

Point 3: You have no faith in the folks you hired. Love him or hate him, George Bush is the man we elected to presidency. He's a product of our crude form of democracy; he didn't create the Electoral College. We can't blame this screwy man for producing our screwy system; we must blame

our screwy system for producing this screwy man. We hired him to make these very decisions—the tough, controversial decisions—like the Iraq decision. We decided he was the most qualified.

Consequently, as president, he knows plenty about America—and Iraq—that should not be made public for obvious security reasons. I don't like Bush but this is his call, and I do respect his Americanesque grit in the face of the scorning public. Would you prefer that we had a leader who buckled under the weight of the world? I have been to 26 countries, most amuck with oppression and corruption, and citizens in nearly all of them had more love and trust in their government than we do in ours. Bush is the man chose by us to choose for us. He has stuck to his principles, he has stuck to his guns, he has done what I expect our leaders to do.

Point 4: Keep your focus on the issue at hand. Several influential countries, headed by the ungrateful French, have done an absolutely superb job of redirecting the peering eye of the universe to point directly at the arrogance that characterizes America. I won't deny that Bush is an ignorant ego-maniac, and I don't condemn other countries for hating him for this. I admit, as a world traveler, I resent the insensitive, incognizant icon that our commander can depict: he provokes foreign anti-American sentiment and migratory miscreants, like me, give those sentiments a face to hate. My options and safety suffer accordingly, as do my aspirations to do travel writing. But don't let my griping exonerate the reality that Saddam (madd-aS) Hussein is an exceedingly inhumane, abominable man that must be stopped. The issue we are dealing with isn't American arrogance or even politics, at the root. Saddam *must* be stopped. Even the French, who funded the first nuclear plants in Iraq, don't dispute that. After the first day of bombing, the news was overrun with reports that Hussein may have been killed, but no dice. While it's a bummer that we didn't nail him, I was gratified to see that our efforts were clearly focused on his precision elimination. But if we can't assassinate Hussein, alone, what options do we have?

It's a tough question. I am unconvinced that war offers a valid,

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Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, and grammar. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

Juneau's Public Health Fair is coming!

This year's Public Fair is being held on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29 at Centennial Hall in Juneau. I am encouraging my fellow students to volunteer and assist these efforts to make low-cost and no-cost medical screenings available to the public in Juneau and to take advantage of the services offered as well. These screenings have saved lives in Alaska.

We are looking for medical and non-medical volunteers to assist with registration, traffic control, medical screenings, check out and evaluation and tabulations. This is great community event that can only happen if the volunteers make it happen! If you have a few hours on the morning of March 29 you could make a big difference in a short time. **Health fairs are fun and they help save lives.** Alaska Health Fair, Inc. is a nonprofit organization and statewide program that allows tens of thousands of people to access no-cost and low-cost medical screenings every year at over 120 locations. They happen in both small rural native villages as well as large population centers. They happen because volunteers make them happen!

Free health screenings offered this year will include body fat analysis, body mass indexing, height and weight measures, vision screenings, foot and ankle screenings, glaucoma screenings, blood pressure checks, hearing tests and more. In addition, low cost blood tests are made available. These include complete blood chemistry profile, the Prostate Specific Antigen test and the Thyroid test. Attending a Health Fair could lead to a change in lifestyle, raise awareness of a



health-related problem, or it may be a place of gathering information for your family and friends. We had over twenty five hundred folks come through the doors last year to access these services.

In the short time you are volunteering your time to the community you may be the catalyst to someone's early diagnosis of a very serious or life threatening disease. Please join Alaska Health Fair, Inc., the Department of Health and Social Services, and our loyal Juneau community health fair volunteers and make the 2003 Health Fair the most efficient event it can be! I appreciate your input, ideas, and most importantly, your time!

Most Sincerely,

Valerie O'Hare
SE Program Director
Alaska Health Fair, Inc.

Footnote: I encourage any student or facility member to give me a call at 790-4072 to ask any other questions or acquire any other information. Students may also exhibit at the fair on any subject related to health, health education or physical well-being. This event is free and open to the public.

Space shuttle Columbia, almost home...

By Sheena Burkett
Whalesong Contributor

When the United States space shuttle, Columbia was consumed by flames over Texas 16 minutes from landing killing all seven astronauts aboard, the tragedy hit the entire country much the same as the attacks on 9/11 did. Americans are bonded in mourning for these lives and what they meant to the rest of us, like 9/11 before it, this tragedy has felt like a blow the country as a whole. This is a time to pay tribute to those lost in the incident and the family and friends that sacrificed for America.

The seven astronauts included six Americans and one Israeli. These were America's mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. NASA insists the program will continue to explore space despite this tragedy. Columbia's demise has caused the world to look past the current affairs with America and see that the country has suffered a great loss.

Many world leaders have commented on the incident; the Chinese president agrees with America's decision that the space program should proceed. I agree that NASA should continue with explorations of space. It is tragic that these people lost their lives, but I remind myself that they knew the risks they were taking by stepping on that space shuttle. They were all professionals who knew full well the dangers of the mission they almost completed.

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Slam Poetry presented by

broken word

Friday, April 4 at the SAC
Show starts at 7 pm.
Free for SAC Members,
\$5 for non-members.

Drawing for Scholarship Raffle!
Buy your tickets now from
Student Government! \$5/ticket.
Grand Prize: 2 AK Airlines Tickets

FEATURES

Get a real job; UAS makes it easy

By Michael Johnson
Whalesong Staff

Now everyone sing with me: I wanna be a kayak ranger, (*I wanna be a kayak ranger*), living a life of sex and danger, (*repeat*). Scuba-diving, 69-ing, got a real job and my life is flying (*repeat*). Actually, I stole that song from my college in Australia, (we were the CQ Rangers), but there is strong reason for doing so. If you think there are few better summer jobs than getting paid well to kayak in beautiful Alaska and tell a few campers what to do—in Juneau I think that damn near includes everyone --then there is a woman you should see, a miracle at UAS that can save your lazy butt.

Lynn Uhl is the liaison for community employment and internship at UAS, she is the counselor for our careers. After interviewing her, I was impressed by her expertise and enthusiasm when directing students toward countless educational and career-specialized options. Available positions, from PFD accountant to kayak ranger to legislative intern, are "... tantamount to career building," according to Uhl. Even if your intended career isn't one of the specific titles offered, once you see the myriad of possibilities offered you'll agree that only positive experiences and increased qualifications could come from such unique, meaningful occupations.

Many of the internships can be used to earn college credit, some while you also get paid. That's right people, you can have your cake and eat it too. Academic internships must be coordinated through faculty, but Uhl, the "facilitator of internship information," is the perfect person to talk to if you like the tune I'm singing. She will gladly set you up.

Uhl has also contacted alumni and community leaders, launching a program to establish these people as mentors for UAS students, and opening up numerous

potential opportunities for job-shadowing. With the appreciated help of the Student Leadership Program, Uhl is artfully guiding this program through the "pilot stage," and made it apparent that this is the time to slip into some prime positions, especially if you are interested in politics.

Maybe you are lazy, or if I wanted to be politically correct, "careful with your choices." Perhaps you are thinking, "Well, some great help all these awesome internships are if I don't even know what I want to do." And I'd be the first person to agree with you. But, as luck would have it, Lynn Uhl is also the person to talk to if indecision is your situation. She can deftly access a wealth of information concerning possible careers; how and where to obtain them, what options might best fit your personality and interests, and the benefits that these various occupations provide. Uhl will even help you make a resume so ridiculously deceptive that you'll get hired.

It's not like you'll be put on the spot, either. In fact, there are numerous sources UASers can access to do some extensive research, themselves. One fine example, Bridges.com, is what Uhl calls an "expedient career resource." You can also click on Employment Ops off the Site Index on UAS's main page for Student Assistant Positions. If you have a resume, Uhl has created a painless way for you to apply for various positions. Simply upload your resume to Ecampusrecruiter.com/uas, and you have the option to send it to any number of the employers and mentors that post openings there.

You'll need to know how to contact Uhl. She is located behind the student lounge, downstairs in the Maurant Building, and is available during normal weekday hours. So there, I've eliminated all your excuses. Head down to Career Services or call 465-6368 and get your show on the road.

Mobile Test Lab delivered to UAS

By Mike Musick,
CCHRC Project Manager

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) located in Fairbanks, Alaska delivered a Mobile Test Lab to the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Technical Education Center in Juneau on Monday, March 3, 2003. The Lab will be used to test different types of wall sections for resistance to moisture problems.

A major challenge in the wet and windy climate of Southeast Alaska is building homes that will keep the wood in the walls and roof dry and therefore not subject to rot. The Mobile Test Lab was constructed

with grant funding from the Department of Energy's Build America in Alaska program. Under this grant CCHRC is testing and promoting advanced building techniques that will allow homebuilders in Alaska to construct more energy efficient, durable, and healthy homes.

By the end of school on Tuesday, two construction technology students at UAS had designed and built a rugged set of stairs to provide access to the Mobile Test Lab (MTL). On Wednesday students were installing a heat recovery ventilator in the workshop area of the lab to control airflow and, with the aid of a humidifier, the relative humidity in the test lab. By late Wednesday afternoon a weather station was ready to begin transmitting data to a remote terminal that records outdoor and indoor temperature and relative humidity, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, dew

point, and rain fall. A small photovoltaic panel powers the weather station.

Soon, under the tutelage of Marquam George, Assistant Professor of Construction Technology at UAS, the students will design and construct a number of different wall sections that will be installed in the test bay of the Mobile Test Lab. The



Photo courtesy of Mike Musick

The MTL leaving Bulletproof Trailers in North Pole, AK on its way to Juneau. It was recently moved closer to the channel and it is now more exposed to the elements. It is now "hot" and with the heaters on, drawing only 20 amps. HRV is working. Students are being installing flashers to keep rain out. Columns between panels are being insulated to reduce conductive heat loss.

wall sections will be monitored for a full year to see how they perform in Juneau's wet, windy weather. The moisture content of the walls will be monitored, along with temperature and humidity inside and

outside of the Lab.

The Mobile Test Lab (MTL) is designed to be moved around the State of Alaska to test walls, windows, doors, ventilation equipment and so on. After testing walls, or windows, or doors, for a year or two in Juneau it will be shipped by ferry to other communities in Southeast Alaska to continue the search for affordable, durable, safe, and healthy building components for buildings in Alaska. The MTL can be barged by sea or river to rural villages or towed to any community on the road system to take a critical look at present building practices with an eye to developing Best Management Practices for housing construction in all regions of the state.

The 8'x 8'x 24' Mobile Test Lab is constructed of fiberglass reinforced plastic/ plywood glued to a 3" urethane

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Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Send them to 11120 Glacier Hgwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jywhale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Maurant Bldg.

Juneau World Affairs Conference a success

By Sean Smith
Whalesong Staff

A slew of Asian Pacific leaders and experts made their way to UAS for the first Juneau World Affairs Conference (JWAC) held in the Egan Library on March 14-15 to speak to a crowd of approximately 50 people about topics ranging from Japan to the Korean nuclear crisis. The guest ranged from ambassadors to generals to a general consul to the Philippines that packed the two day event with speeches and discussions.

The guests got a chance to get their groove on Friday night at the JWAC Asia Pacific Rim Ball where the Filipino Community Dance Team did a jig as well as Sitthida Sukkamon doing an authentic Thai Dance. About 50-60 guest speakers and community members attended the ball, enjoying the Thunder Mountain Orchestra and thematic entertainment.

"The mix of speakers was excellent and (the topics were) relevant to the current world situation," Donald Hellmann, professor at University of Washington, Jackson School of International Studies, said about the variety of topics and speakers. Hellmann spoke on both days about the Korean nuclear crisis and the rise and fall of Japan.

Elizabeth Schelle, a JWAC Board member and UAS Academic Exchange Advisor, said the UAS administration feels that bringing in experts on the subject and community involvement is something that we ought to be involved in. She expressed the Board's hope that the conference will grow into a distinguished annual Pacific Rim Forum that will bring people not only from around the state, but from the entire Northwest to the UAS campus.

The president of the Juneau World Affairs Council, Bruce Botelho, said "[The conference] is a wonderful event that is clearly in the first of many here at UAS." Botelho said that the Council would like to hold the annual event at UAS in order to garner some support from students and faculty.

Mobile Test Lab continued from page 4

foam core and mounted on a custom trailer fabricated by Brett Rotermund, proprietor of Bulletproof Trailers of North Pole, Alaska. The Lab can test nine different 4' x 8' wall panels at one time or perhaps identical pairs of walls on the north and south sides to see how wind and weather affect performance. More Mobile Test Labs will be built as money comes available. The project manager for the Building America in Alaska program is Mike Musick of Ester, Alaska.

The sponsors of the Mobile Test Lab include the Alaska State Homebuilding Association, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Fannie Mae Corporation, University of Alaska Southeast, U.S. Department of Energy Building America, and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.

Oratory Society continued from page 1

Alaskans Institute) shortly after his arrival at UAA in fall 2001. Previous to teaching at UAA, he lived in Haines for 20 years, conducting oral history research with Tlingit elders. When Henry began teaching at UAA, he decided he was tired of seeing Native students overlooked, and was determined to do something about it.

"I knew they had stories to tell, issues to discuss. The past 20 years have been an ache in my heart to get this out," said Henry. So after a few phone calls to prospective sponsors, the Alaska Native Oratory Society was born. Henry hopes that the contests will prompt the beginning of a bureau of Native speakers throughout the state who can be called upon to speak at various schools and events. Already, winners from last year's contest have spoken at a number of conventions around Anchorage, said Henry.

It is obvious why these speakers would be in demand. Rose Natkong's Haida philosophy story and Karla Booth's storytelling (during which she became her aunt living in Metlakatla in the 1940s and 50s) made me smile; Ekatrina Oleska's retelling of Robert Davis' poem "Saginaw: why I keep going back," and Crystal Swetzo's oratory of the relocation of her people from the Aleutian Islands to Hoonah during WWII brought

tears to my eyes. I was astounded by Karol Dixon's recitation of William Paul's "We Own the Land" speech to the American Federation of Natives Board of Directors and hypnotized by Yarrow Vaara's story of the "Good Luck Woman." Hans Chester related with humor previously undocumented information about spruce root weaving (which he discovered through personal interviews with Tlingit elders) and the significance of continuing the

weaving tradition, and Wes Roberts' and Marsha Hotch's very personal and poignant narratives stressed the importance of education and preservation of Tlingit language, respectively, for natives today. And how could I almost forget Kecia Medina's wonderfully appropriate tree analogy of Native kinship and sharing her own experience as a shy first-year student at UAS. I apologize for not including comments on anyone else's performance who I happened to miss due to rounds in more than one category being held simultaneously.

Keynote speaker Rosita Worl summed up the whole day nicely: "You have done a great tribute to your ancestors," she told the contestants. "Through your stories, you brought the knowledge and anguish they experienced...yet at the same time, you showed the strength of your ancestors."

Maybe it sounds cliché, but all participants truly were winners; not one walked away empty-handed. Each of the twenty Juneau businesses that were



Photo by Vita Wilson

UAA student Crystal Swetzo won first place in Storytelling for her rendition of "The Moon's Sister."

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People & Entertainment

Preview

Tuesday, March 25-

Conductor/pianist Joel Revzen and soprano Cynthia Rhys are performing "Award Winning Songs from the Silver Screen,"

Treadwell Room of the Baranof Hotel, 7 p.m.

Tickets \$50 in advance at Hearthside Books and Rainy Day Bookstore.

Thursday - Sunday from now until

April 6

"Winesburg:

Small Town Life,"

by Perseverance Theatre

Tickets \$17 for adults, \$13

for students/seniors on Thursdays and Sundays, \$22 for adults, \$18 for students/seniors on Fridays and Saturdays, available at Hearthside Books



Running through

March 28-

Exhibition of art by Don Weir

Juneau Arts and Humanities Council gallery

Running through April 19-

Earth, Fire and Fibre

Alaska State Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Whalesong wishes everyone an week filled with entertainment! Look for Issue 13 on stands April 8.



It's a bird, it's a blane...no, it's SuperKent!

By Kaci Hamilton
Whalesong Contributor

So I was standing outside the Perseverance Theatre after an exhilarating performance of *Working*, trying to explain to my friends where we were going afterwards. I had been invited to a party in downtown Juneau by Kent Scheler, and he told me I could bring people. In the process of figuring out where we were going, I had to explain to a friend who Kent was, so I gave my best physical description but it wasn't working. Then all of a sudden my friend belted out, "Avalanche Kent?!" I immediately responded, though never having heard him being called this, "Yeah. At least that's what the ladies call him." The four people around me busted out laughing. They continued laughing. After they stopped, there were still a couple more giggles. And then they laughed a little more.

I didn't think my joke was that funny. Neither did Kent. Don't get me wrong, he wasn't offended or anything; he just felt very conspicuous and embarrassed about an analogy between the effects of his bedroom skills and one of earth's major natural disasters. Kent isn't really big on being in the spotlight, which is why the only reason why you're hearing about him for this student profile is because he owes me. Twice. He's probably cringing at the fact that all of UAS now knows that he has been, and continues to be called, 'Avalanche Kent.'

Despite that this nickname came about by accident, it's quite fitting, really. A self-proclaimed snow nerd, he started skiing at age seven and when snowboarding broke out in the late 80s, he didn't hesitate to get in line. At age 14, he made the change from skiing to

snowboarding full time. For many who pick up the snow sports at an early age, they don't really do anything other than recreation with it. Not Kent. He became a semi-professional snowboarder at 19 and continued until the ripe old age of 24. Trust me, I've seen him in action on Eaglecrest. The boy is good. Though he loved it, the industry wasn't very good to him. Corporate sponsors weren't very understanding when it came to injuries, and after riding for a season with his arm in a sling, he decided to move on to greener pastures. Now you can find him quite often in the multi-disciplinary science lab working hard on his favorite thing - Snow. Yeah, I bet you didn't know you sat next to a regular Jhnnny Mosley in lab class. Kent is an Environmental Science major with an emphasis in snow Hydrology and a math minor. He claims he's not a masochist, but I wonder...

So what do you do with an Enviro Science degree that emphasizes in snow hydrology? Well, Kent wants to be that haunchy-paunchy guy who comes in and says, "Ok, boys, so based on the thin ice base here and the wind dynamic, yada yada yada, blah, blah, blah, you can't build a whatever it is you want to build, because the chance of it being demolished by an avalanche is 99.9888889%." This is the future, according to Kent Scheler. When he's all done reaping the abundant UAS fruit, he plans to get his Masters in Engineering, following in his father's footsteps. Where he plans to get that, he's not really sure just yet. Nevertheless, jumping into a new environment won't be too tough. Before coming to UAS, he spent some time at both Eastern Oregon

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Life in the Matrix

By Dixie Normus & Alotta Vogyna

Whoever said a hike was a semi-strenuous walk in nature is completely deluded. It's a conversation highway on the road of your companion's mind, an exhilarating ride through the dank, mysterious caverns of the exploration of another person's personality. That is what my hike with Phillip was.

I'm sorry I've been absent, my adoring fans, but things went so supremely well that I had to give it a week or two to acquire all the juicy details. Boy, have things gone well. The hike lasted for four hours. Two hours each way. Phillip and I talked non-stop the whole way. OK, that's a lie, we actually stopped talking on about four occasions, for roughly five minutes at a time. This was because we both, without mentioning it to each other, thought we may be yakking the other person's ear off. I don't know what his excuse for thinking that was, but I am especially conscious of my verbosity, as an acquaintance once asked me, "Do you always talk this much?" Yes, he did. So Phillip and I talked about everything - Christina Aguilera, President Bush, pro snowboarding, what kind of food we like to eat, past

relationships, what we want to do when we grow up, our parents, what animal we would be...the list really goes on. It was simply amazing that we were so comfortable with each other so quickly. Then the best part... he brought chocolate (the good kind) and bagels and cream cheese to toast on this little propane stove.

Hello, I am ready to have this man's children. Ok, maybe I am exaggerating a little since he is the best thing that I have seen this side of the sun in awhile, but I am basically trying to convey how well we 'hit it off,' Phillip scored massive points with Alotta too (that would be the co-author of this article, for those of you who are going, "huh?"). So I had to be back in town by 3:00 to help her cook for a dinner she was throwing. Phillip, with zero coercion, offered to help. Can we clone him? Unbeknownst to him, Alotta had mentioned her loathe of chopping vegetables and other meal essentials, and Phillip, in the same breath used to offer his time, stated, "I'm really good at chopping vegetables and cutting things." The clouds parted and Angels began singing, "Hallelujah!"

Now the funny part about this whole story is that I

Continued on page 7

The Best Movie You Never Saw...

Joshua Edward
Whalesong Staff

Review of *Donnie Darko*

So, last fall the ol' ball and chain and myself sat down to watch *Donnie Darko*. We were, quite frankly, not optimistic. I mean, the cast boasts Patrick Swayze, Noah Wylie and Drew Barrymore; need I say more? We had, however, rented just about everything Juneau has to offer, and it was a "Sundance" offering, so we took a gamble and hit cinematic paydirt. I now find myself endorsing *Donnie Darko* with a near religious fervor- and am constantly amazed that so few souls have found their way.

Directed by Richard Kelly and starring Jake Gyllenhaal, *Darko* is basically a black comedy disguised as science fiction, or is it a black comedy disguised as a coming of age standard? Or, is it all satire and none of the above? I've now watched it multiple times, and I still couldn't tell you. I do know it is certainly one of the most overlooked offerings of the past few years, and the catalyst of our home's burnin' love for lil' Gyllenhaal. A few highlights without revealing too much:



- Schizophrenic teenager
- Plane crashes
- Time travel
- Scary monster rabbit
- Slow motion teen dance scene set to Tears for Fears
- Jake Gyllenhaal

It's rare, as a blabbermouth, to find myself at a loss for words. As someone with an English degree, it's even stranger. I just can't find myself doing justice here – I can only say trot to your local video retailer and *RENT THIS MOVIE!*

Why You Should Rent This Movie: It's seriously quirky fun.

Standout Scene: Tears for Fears dance sequence
Illegitimate Lovechild of: *Heathers, 2001: A Space Odyssey*

Menu continued from page 1

will allow the discipline to be much more intensive on those issues," Ashley Ahrens, professor of social science said. Out of all the B.L.A. degrees offered, students were most attracted to social science issues, said Ahrens. This will give students the chance to get a more specified education and be better prepared for graduate school.

The Bachelor of Science in Information Systems degree (B.S.I.S.) is going to be offering three emphasis in E-commerce, Networking, and Programing. All the programs will be kicked up in the fall to add to the UAS menu, according to Paul Kraft. The programs will also be a used to entice students from around the state and country that UAS has a lot to offer. How to get attention drawn to UAS will be the job of the new Director of Admissions, who is said to be hired in the next few weeks.



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NAT 29
Ad size - 5" x 3"

Matrix continued from page 6

was not seeing Phillip in a romantic way *at all*. Maybe I was having so much fun with him as a friend that no cute boy vibes were coming my way. All this time, Phillip was totally checking me out and trying to send romantic vibes *my way*. Apparently, when a mutual friend introduced us in the cafeteria, his presence in there was not to talk to that mutual friend, but to get introduced. So on the drive back, he asked how the boys on the Juneau scene were treating me, and I told that I had been asked by only one measly boy on a date (whom I had no intention of going out with again). He had the perfect response. "I can't see why no one would ask you out. They'd be a fool not to. Well if no one's going to ask you out, I will." So we made a dinner date and I would be cooking. It was my turn to suffer from lack of telekinesis interpretation. I thought he was asking me out just to be nice; I still had no idea that he was even slightly interested.

It wasn't until after the dinner, after Phillip had chopped every vegetable we needed, after he had repeatedly washed dishes when we needed utensils while we were cooking, after he had set the table, done taste-tests and offered to get his barbecue grill when ours wasn't working, that I started to look at him in a different light. He's one of those people who become increasingly beautiful the more you know him. I experienced this tenfold as the days passed and we spent more and more time together. It was the most comfortable first stages of a friendship I have ever experienced. After a few drinks at Squire's one night, I made him crash with me on my spacious twin bed. He did nothing. No token squeeze of the boob while pretending to be asleep, no strategic placement of the face so that I'll turn and our lips would touch. Nothing. Trust me, I almost did the token boob squeeze, to make the first move on the way to satisfying my sexual drought. But he was such a gentleman. And he continues to be. I'm so used to those horn dogs who undress you with their eyes that I thought something was wrong with him.

Anyway, this definitely has potential but if it doesn't go anywhere, I know I'm going to at least have a friend for life. He is truly a unique individual and I'm really happy I fought the urge to stay in bed after a night of alcoholic fun and went on that hike.

There is only hindrance in the whole beautiful Michelangelo fresco: the ex-girlfriend. Yes, ladies I groaned too. Now, unfortunately she's not the psycho freak I wished she was. She's a delicate-one-of-a-kind butterfly that he agreed to break up with, i.e. he misses her and is still emotionally attached. This is also, unfortunately, understandable. I, among countless females, have been there myself. You don't turn off love overnight. In addition, the night is young. Things are looking like the Garden of Eden right now but who knows? Though there is enough sexual energy to make my fleece crackle with static cling, there really have been no wedding plans and naming of children. Phillip may realize that he wants something or nothing or I may wake up tomorrow and realize I'm gay. Hypothetically speaking! I'm just watching this like a wanderer watches the wind. I'm ready, however. I'm ready for whatever this Phillip thing or life brings. Bring it! Bring it on like an avalanche!

Phillip and I haven't had that 'Dixie's cooking' date, but they do say that the fastest way to man's heart is to give him a strip tease. I'M KIDDING! I'll cook him some really good food and see if the fastest way to his heart is between the fourth and fifth rib. I'll tell you all about it next week. Promise.

Columbia continued from page 3

The loss of these brilliant people has hit the country hard as we all mourn for the families and friends involved in this tragedy. President Bush sent his condolences to the country stating "these men and women assumed great risk in the service of all humanity." It is important that the country understand and appreciate the sacrifices made everyday by people just like these seven astronauts. They sacrificed their lives in the end to give extensive knowledge to America about the universe that surrounds us. We as a country are forever in debt to their loved ones who are left behind to live with the memories of what might have been.

Oratory Society Contest continued from page 5

contacted for donations contributed gifts that were put into a take-home canvas bag for each contestant. Some participants were big winners, of course, with the third prize in each category set at \$500, second prize \$1000, and first prize \$2000. Between the oratory contests held at all three UA campuses this year, over \$31,000 for educational purposes will be given away.

Even the audience members, though they didn't go home with money or a gift certificate, left with an indescribable special sentiment. Clarissa Booth, mother of contestant Karla Booth, said, "Just being an observer, I feel I'm walking away with something."

Alaska Native Oratory Society Contest Results:

Dramatic Declamation:

4th place recognition: Vivian Mark

3rd place: Kecia Medina

2nd place: Karol Dixon

1st place: Ekatrina Oleska

Storytelling:

3rd place: Yarrow Varra

2nd place: Karla Booth

1st place: Crystal Swetozof

Oratory:

4th place recognition: Rose Natkong

3rd place: Hans Chester

2nd place: Wes Roberts

1st place: Marsha Hotch

Voice on Campus Poll

Photos and quotes collected by Evelyn Cushing

What did you do over spring break?



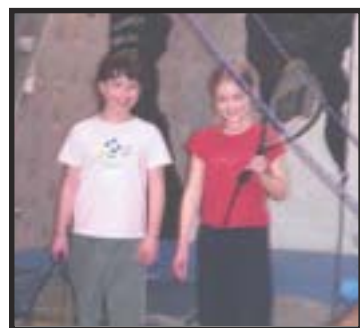
Brenden Sullivan

"I went to Alberta and visited my mom."



Matthew Brock

"I slayed a crab!"



Zoe Bigelow and Brittani Baxter

"I had fun!"

"I hung out with Zoe!"



Liz Gifford

"I spent as much time as possible taking advantage of the outdoors skiing and hiking."

CAPTAIN RIBMAN by Viva La France!

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



Kent continued from page 6

University and Boise State.

If you thought snowboarding was the extent of Kent's adrenaline sports, think again. That earlier mention about riding for a whole season with his arm in a sling, that's because he dislocated his shoulder on a white water kayaking trip. Now I've never white water kayaked, but I imagine that you would have to face some gargantuan Colorado River rapids to throw things that out of whack. In addition, he's actually missing some of his skull (no he's not really crazy) from a climbing accident. Apparently, he was behind a friend and boulder (yes, a boulder) fell and landed smack, right on his head. With blood gushing down either side of his face, his friend led him to the road to get help, with Kent continuously repeating his name and social security number. In times of an emergency, it's always good to remember the important things!

He snowboards, he kayaks, he mountain-climbs, he wants to make the world an avalanche-safe place, and he's not to shabby upstairs. Not too bad for someone with the same name as Superman; or one name, at least. Ladies, grab him while you can because Avalanche Kent is a man whose movement is dictated by the snow. As he said, "Where it snows I must go." And the way it's been all season, we may not have him much longer. But in the meantime, next time you see him, ask him why he would he opt to be a flying squirrel if he got the chance!

The Whalesong is running its annual short story contest!



-Stories should be 2-3 pages double spaced.

-All stories will be read by the staff and advisor of the Whalesong class. The winner will be chosen by a unanimous vote.

-Stories should be turned in by April 9th or they will not be entered in the contest.

-Submit stories with name (first and last) to the Whalesong office, put it in the drop box at the bottom of the stairs in the Mourant Building, or e-mail to: whalesong@uas.alaska.edu

The winner will receive a UAS sweatshirt and your story and picture (preferably relating to your story) will run in the April 8th edition of the Whalesong.

The short story theme is:

"What I did on my SPRING BREAK."

Call us at 465-6434 or stop by our office, room 102 in the Mourant Building if you have any questions.

Quit the band continued from page 2

longstanding solution to the problems plaguing the Middle East, but I am also unconvinced that any real changes will soon be made without it. The diplomatic route would've lessened a skyrocketing hatred for America, but we've watched for eons how little diplomacy accomplishes with Iraq. It's paradoxical, really: what do you do when the war you wage is intended to ensure national security, but by doing so new threats to our country's security will undoubtedly emerge? Forget about it? Hope and pray that Iraq isn't plotting to nuke-bio-chemo us, or fund terrorists who would?

If I wasn't American, I'm unsure how much I would appreciate this insecure country of ours. Manufacturing consent, compromising seldom, destroying culture, constructing democracy... we really can be oppressive. But I *am* American, and easy as it would be to sit back and bitch my brains out up here, totally detached from threat, I won't let myself. Americans today take the unmatched freedom that our government provides and use it against them. Want to hate Bush and bash the war? Fine, speak your mind, hate the war, hate Bush. You have the freedom to hate America and say so. But don't forget that we live in a unique and beautiful country that respectfully accepts such appallingly unpatriotic betrayal.



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Sarah Carter, your bunny expertise is needed! There is a note on the Whalesong bulletin board waiting for you!

Sheena Burkett, please pick up your Whalesong buck from the Whalesong bulletin board. Thank you!

Classifieds

Classified ads are \$7 for approximately 30 words. Words of emphasis (bold, italics) are an additional 30 cents per word. Ads run for one issue of the paper. Ads are free to UAS students for personal use. Contact Virginie at 465-6434, fax at 465-6399, or email whalesong@uas.alaska.edu to place an ad.