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APR
2005



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Mentalist Chris Carter reads and blows minds in stunning performance at UAS

By Daniel Buck
THE WHALESONG

On the night of Saturday March 28, about 30 students gathered at the Student Activities Center to see mind-reader and hypnotist Chris Carter. Before the show, some people were skeptical of what they were about to see. "I don't think anyone can read minds," said Brittany Porter. "I think I will be able to see through his tricks."

Christopher Carter is recognized as one of the world's most skilled, 'mind

readers'. Nominated for the Performing Arts "Entertainer of the Year" Award by The National Association of Campus Activities, Carter performs at over 150 college campuses per year traveling on the road eight months out of the year, covering over 100,000 miles a year.

"I became interested in mind-reading when I was as a child," says Carter. "My uncle allowed me to sit in on a poker game. Observing the body language of the players, I realized that people broad-

See Carter, pg. 6

Do your course evaluations

By Jana K. MacInnis
THE WHALESONG

Something has been different for the last two semesters. It's something that students might not readily notice, but the instructor's jobs are completely dependant upon it. This is the one way to either praise your instructor or tell them how you really feel about their teaching methods. Course evaluations have been in place at this university for decades, and they were all the same little sheets that students filled in with a number two pencil, until spring semester 2004. This was when the trial for the electronic evaluation system went into its pilot program, while instructors and computer experts worked to make it perfect. This is now the only form of course evaluation on campus, as of the fall 2005 semester.

There will be no more manila envelopes with tiny half pencils inside for students to evaluate their classes. This change has been a big transition for students and faculty alike, both of whom depend on the evaluation system for a successful experience at UAS. In the

old system, a whole or half class period was devoted to handing out the evaluation and feedback forms, nominating a student to bring the results to the main office, and then having the instructor leave the room while students evaluate the course. The electronic system is essentially the same in concept; the students fill out the evaluation without the instructor present, and are given space to leave feedback about the course. Differences include the integration of a username and password interface and a time limit for completing the evaluation.

Eliminating in-class time for doing evaluations has put it more weight on the students to finish the evaluation, and limiting the amount of time during which they can complete it makes it even more difficult. If a teacher doesn't remind a student to evaluate the course, and the student doesn't receive notification via email, they will not be allowed to complete an evaluation after the time limit is up. Evaluations take place during the last few weeks of instruction.

See Evaluations, pg. 3



Photo by Daniel Buck

Entertainer Chris Carter has his eyes taped shut in a stunt trying to read audience members minds. This was just one of his many acts during the night that left the audience members in awe as they left the building.

UAS student discovers beauty of the Oregon Coast

By Daniel Buck
THE WHALESONG

As the rental car agent handed me the keys, I asked, "Unlimited miles, right?" He said yes, and I was thrilled to finally have someplace to drive other than the 40 miles in Juneau. It was 10 p.m. and I had just arrived in Eugene, Oregon for spring break.

Located halfway between Oregon's border in northern California and Portland in the north, Eugene is a city of 140,000 people which hosts a wide diversity of cultural events and outdoor activities. The city is built at the confluence of the McKenzie River and the Willamette River and has been home to the University of Oregon since 1876.

Orderly streets are lined with Victorian houses, all with their own unique characteristics, and giant Douglas Fir trees in the front yards, standing like sentinels over the street. Every Saturday during the spring, summer, and fall, residents of the city gather for a public market, where vendors sell arts, crafts, and organic produce. More of a social gathering, this public market is one of the highlights of Eugene.

My girlfriend and I stayed in Eugene for a few days to get to know the city a little better. We are planning on moving to Eugene later this summer, so we were taking this opportunity to explore our future home.

Our stay in Eugene was short but

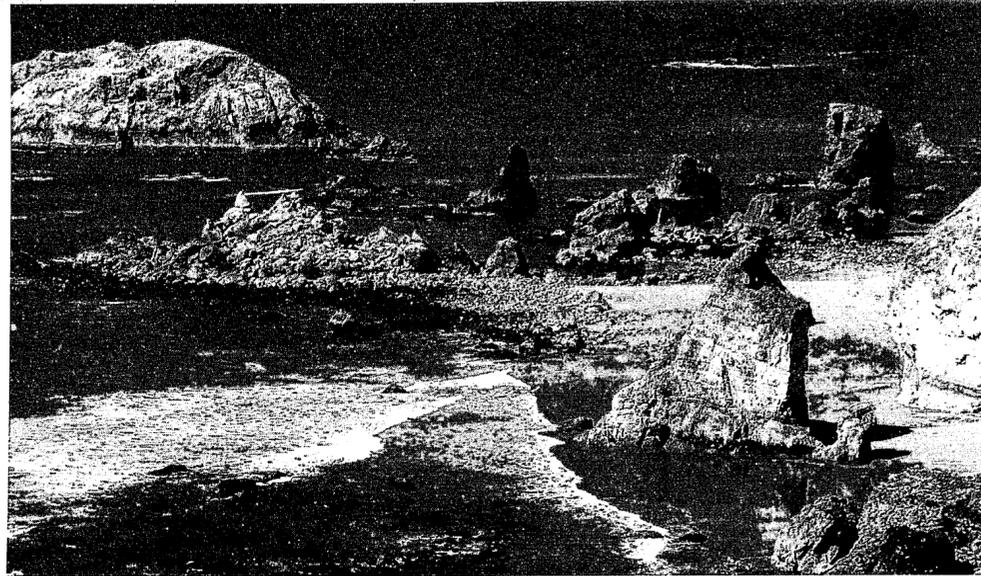


Photo by Daniel Buck

Along the Oregon Coast, Daniel Buck viewed spectacular sights where the forces of nature sculpted cliffs, beaches and dramatic sea stacks. Just another way of Mother Nature showing her true beauty.

sweet. We had many other places around Oregon to explore, and not that much time. We packed up and took a nice day trip up into the Cascades. Within an hours drive of Eugene, we found ourselves atop a high mountain pass overlooking wilderness areas. Tall cathedral-like mountains abruptly shot out of the forested landscape, creating

jagged spires reaching for the heavens. Short hikes along the roadside took us to beautiful waterfalls which cascade down into fern and moss covered grottos. The shade of the forest and the mist from the waterfall was a nice cool relief from the unseasonably warm and sunny weather.

After many hours of exploring, we began to work our way back to the Eugene area. One thing to note about driving in Oregon is that every turn you make reveals a new view of the excessive industrial logging that takes place in Oregon. We're lucky in Juneau that there are no major logging operations near us (not yet at least...). It was painful for me to see whole mountains violently scraped clear of their once pristine and ancient old-growth forests.

By now we've put a couple hundred miles on the car, but we're college students on a mission, which was to go anywhere in a Ford Taurus. On we drove, this time an hour to the west of Eugene to the famed Oregon Coast, where the vast North American continent abruptly clashes with the turbulent Pacific Ocean.

The coast has been carved by the waves and wind for millennia creating breathtaking sculpted cliffs, beautiful

sand beaches, and dramatic sea stacks off the coast. There are hundreds of state parks and recreation areas along the coast. Oregon law states all beaches below mean high tide line are public property, so public access to the ocean is very simple.

Lighthouses dot the coast, one in particular that we visited was Heceta Head. This lighthouse is perched atop a large cliff above Devils Elbow. It's beacon alerts sailors of the rocky coast, and has become a favorite spot for locals and visitors. Another interesting attraction near Heceta Head Lighthouse is the Sea Lion Caves. This cave is the largest ocean cave in the world, towering 120 feet high and as wide as a football field. There is a group of a couple hundred sea lions who live in the cave. We were able to take an elevator down into the caves and look at the sea lions. It was an amazing sight, but I think I'll have a harder time forgetting the smell of hundreds of sea lions stinky fish breath.

Highway 101 skirts the coast for over 400 miles in Oregon alone. The road continues up to Washington and down through California. This narrow and curvy road offers spectacular views and

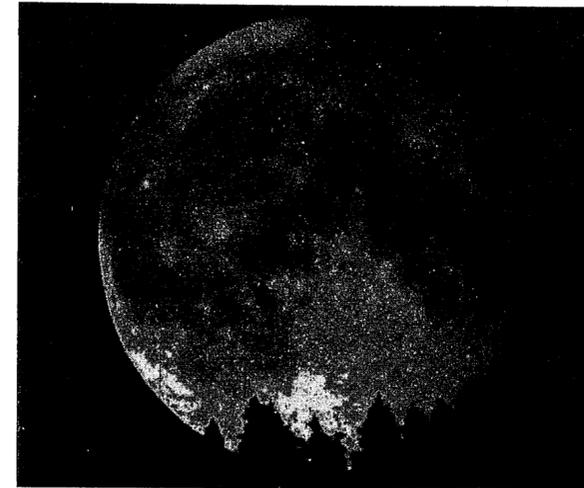
See Break, pg. 12



Photo by Daniel Buck

Heceta Head lighthouse stands watch on the coast, alerting sailors of the dangerous rocky shoreline.

CAMPUS CALENDAR "The flood of print has turned reading into a process of gulping rather than savoring." - Warren Chappell



April 3, 4:30 p.m. Wrestlemania, SAC
April 4, 3-5 p.m., Spring Climbing Orientations, SAC
April 4, 7-8:30 p.m., Poet Barbara Hurd reading, Egan Library
April 5, 9-9:45 a.m., Wooncheen club meeting, Student Lounge
April 5, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Poet Barbara Hurd craft talk, Lake Room
April 5, 3 p.m., Ice Cream Social, Mourant Cafe
April 5, 3-4 p.m., Poet Stephen Dunn craft talk, Lake Room
April 5, 7-8:30 p.m., Poet Stephen Dunn reading, Egan Library

April 6, 7-9 p.m., Spring climbing orientations, SAC
April 8, 9-11 p.m., Pre folk festival open mic, SAC
April 9, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Spring Fling Rendezvous in Vegas, SAC
April 10, 4 p.m., Knitting club, SAC
April 11, 3-5 p.m., Spring climbing orientations, SAC
April 12, 2-4 p.m., Scholarly publishing workshop, Glacier View room
April 13, 7-9 p.m., Spring climbing orientations, SAC
April 15, 5 p.m., Last day to withdraw
April 17, 4 p.m., Knitting club, SAC

Daniel Buck/Whalesong

A clear night allows people to catch a glimpse of the moon above Thunder Mountain.

Let us know what's going on in your corner of campus! Send your calendar events and birthdays you want announced to jywhale@uas.alaska.edu.

from evaluations, pg. 1

before final exams are taken and grades are submitted. Students can see if their course is ready for evaluation by going to their UASOnline class site and looking for the course evaluation link on the homepage.

Why Have Evaluations?

Evaluations are done for two reasons, basically for the benefit of the students and the benefit of the teachers. When a professor is evaluated, it helps determine their tenure at the university. Tenure is the professor's guarantee of a job within the university and is done every year, two years, four years, six years, and 10 years of employment. You may think that your evaluation isn't important, but good or bad feedback can remain in a teacher's file for decades. Once a professor has established tenure, course evaluations are used to assist in determining salary and raises.

The second aspect of course evaluations is for students to let the instructor know what they are doing well, and what they should change in their course to make it better for the next students. Students have this medium to confidentially express any compliments or criticism to the instructors, for example if a student felt that the course was well done but needed more weight in homework as opposed to tests, the course evaluation would be the ideal

place to leave feedback.

Confidentiality is an important part in keeping the evaluations unbiased when they are read by instructors. Professors do read their evaluations, but there is no way for them to find out who left each particular item of feedback. Remember, it's not the best place to suggest a continental breakfast during trigonometry class, be objective and not too hard on your professors during the evaluations - their job depends on it.

How To Do Evaluations

- Go to <http://uas.alaska.edu/online>, or click on the 'Students' link from the main <http://uas.alaska.edu> page and then click on UASOnline.

- Log in with your student username and password.

- Don't know your username or password? Click the login help link.

- Password expired? Click the login help link to change it.

- Having any problem with logins at all? Click the login help button. If you are still having problems contact the UAS Helpdesk at 465-6400.

- Click on the course you want to evaluate from the list of enrolled classes on the right side of your screen. (You must do a separate evaluation for each course)

- On the course homepage, click on the 'Course Evaluation' link.

- Evaluate your class

Help make fuzzy thoughts

By Jana K. MacInnis
THE WHALESONG

On March 20, I decided to stop by the newly formed UAS Knitting Club to see what it was all about, and I found great people and yummy snacks! Founded by student Mari Velazquez, it all started as a community service project for "Caps for Cancer", an organization that knits and crochets hats for cancer patients, and has since expanded to include making hats and neck muffs for the Glory Hole. There are going to be a lot of very warm and happy Juneau residents by the time the Knitting Club finishes out the semester.

Knitting has been a part of Western history since about the 15th Century, according to encyclopedia.com. It spread rapidly over Europe and then the United

States, especially for sailors who were out on the ocean and needed something warm to wear. Historians are not sure if it was first founded in Scotland, Italy, or Spain. One thing is for sure, knitting brings a warm, fuzzy, heartfelt thought to mind.

The club meets Sundays at 4p.m. in the Student Activity Center, and staff advisor Anna-Mariah Kelly has organized snacks and materials for knitters and crocheters of any skill level to come by and create things to donate to the community. I highly recommend anyone with an interest in knitting and crocheting to come join the club, even if you don't know how to knit but want to learn it's a great way to socialize and give back to the community. The UAS Knitting Club gets an A+.



Photo by Jana K. MacInnis
From left to right: Heather Okland and Anna-Mariah Kelly are enjoying a Sunday afternoon while knitting, at the SAC. The knitting club meets every Sunday at 4pm.

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).

OPINION

Advertisements contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper. — Thomas Jefferson

Juneau residents can't live with wild animal

By Daniel Buck

For the past two years, the people of Juneau have been blessed to get a close look at a wild wolf, an animal which is generally very reclusive. As a juvenile, searching for a new pack, he took refuge around Mendenhall Lake where there were lots of dogs being walked by their owners. He was friendly with and very interested in the dogs around the lake, and as word spread of the wolf's presence, more and more people brought their dogs to the lake to see the wolf. They brought food for it, and some actually thought that it would be a good idea to try and mate their dogs with the wolf.

Living by Skaters Cabin, I have heard the wolf howling in my backyard for over a year now. It's a reminder to me of how wild Alaska is, and how situations such as this should be looked upon as a reminder for us all. We abused this blessing by imposing ourselves on this wild animal. By habituating a wild animal to human presence, it sets up a recipe for disaster, and it was only a matter of time before the wolf attacked something.

Last week a small dog was killed by the wolf in the Dredge Lakes area. The owner believes that the wolf was in the woods and his dog ran into the forest

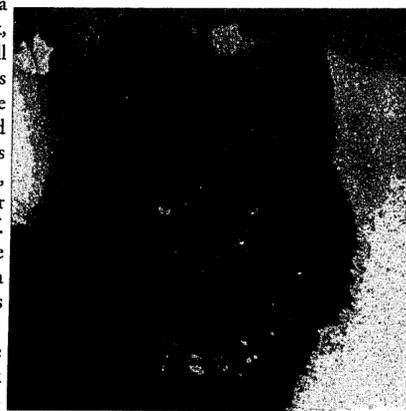


Photo courtesy of <http://www.kattzwarvlz.150m.com>

Juneau residences have had a tough time living with a wild animal as they continue to feed the wolf and try to have their dogs mate with it.

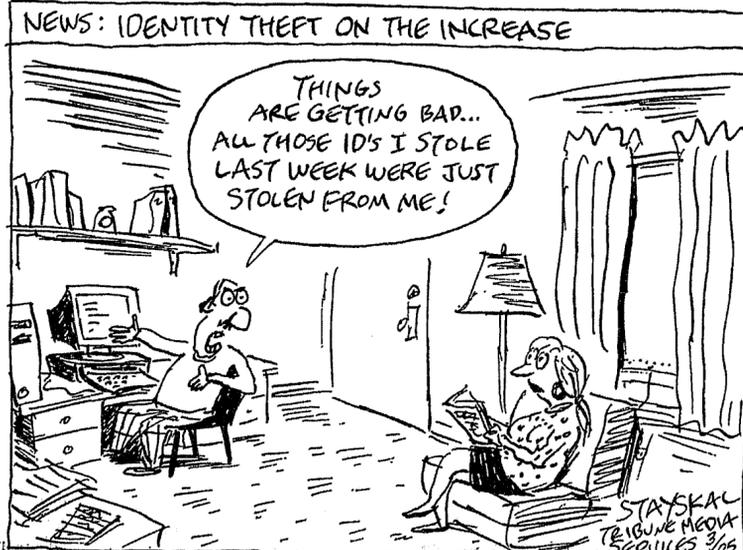
to investigate. He heard some barking, and then silence. Upon entering the woods, the owner found blood on the snow, but no dog. It is unfortunate that someone's beloved pet had to die, but

knowing that there was a wild wolf in the area, the owner should have taken a little more caution and obeyed the city's leash law.

If only we had let the wolf live its wild existence, then we wouldn't have been in this situation. Scientific studies have shown how the more human interaction a wolf has, the more likely it is to attack.

I wish that the Forest Service and Department of Fish and Game would have taken greater action to prevent this predicament. There should have been heavier policing of people feeding and interacting with the wolf. Also there should have been greater measures to pressure the wolf to move somewhere else.

It's too bad that we were not responsible or mature enough to handle the presence of this lone black wolf in our community. Instead of having a respect for this animal, we treated it like a stray dog. Shame on us for not being able to take responsibility for our actions. We need to realize that where we live is home to thousands of other organisms, and we need to take care not to disrupt the flow of nature.



Have an opinion? Want it read? Then today is your lucky day! Send us your opinion and you could have it printed! It needs to be 800 words or less. Email it to: jyw@uas.alaska.edu Don't ask us what the Y stands for.

POETRY CORNER

Freezing Flea Pink Cookie

With a caterwauling constitution,
Joints screaming their way to dust
Powdering a panoply of nutrients
Once scouring with instinctual lust.

Time is twining soon to be one.
Crumbled powder destiny
Of life ubiquitously composed
Yet soon it'll unify me.

-John S. Sonin

Physical Farewell

Stomach, knitted knots with the
rose aroma reek.
My mind, circular successions
Of a life now schism'd. No more
frolic fortun'd in time.
The embalming blast stifle
Sarcophagi-ing our mind.
Your Mom, somewhere whim-
pers.
I see. And
Fixating her pout, perceives I.
A blubbering burst in her hug,
And I, limp as dummy, dulled by
your death.

-John S. Sonin

The Mystery A Sorry Son

Mystical,
This human fog-shrouded shape
Under lamp lit path,
Approaching,
A flowing ghostly gait,
Mysterious
As it nears.
Gaining,
Though superstitions fear,
My faith yearns,
Yet the sighting still scares.

Question, query,
As image emerges.

The form female creates fear afar.

-John S. Sonin

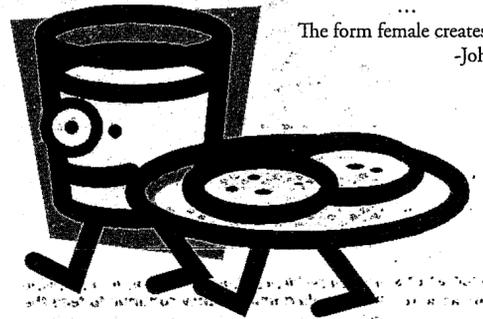
When you told me you were dying,
I shrugged.
As child you told me suicide was your desire
Did this mean you now were a liar?

Then I saw you beginning to shrivel
And knew you were always true.
But though in bed you lay all day
I'd leave the coffee burning

Hoping you'd appear
Every day of your dying.
Still, I ignored you seeking my needs
Letting you wither without a friend.

Standing beside your bed,
Once of your 30 dying days,

When I willed with emotion and
You said, "It's okay to cry."
With that I then couldn't
Instead, I left you to die alone.
-John S. Sonin



Spring Fashion

Fashion victims please!
No Capri pants or flip flops
Bermuda shorts. Bad.
-Jana K. MacInnis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The struggle to think freely

By Stuart Thompson

Recently, UAS academically punished a friend of mine for using her ability to evaluate the worth of material being used to educate her mind. Let her student peers and university educators consider the following thoughts.

There are enduring threats inherent in public education. Countering these threats engage both teachers and students in every generation. Teacher struggles for academic freedom reflect the necessity to resist social engineering by economic and political powers. Student struggles to think freely reflect the necessity of continuously challenging the accuracy of what is being taught.

Teachers losing the struggle for academic freedom become instruments of mind control. Students losing the struggle to think freely become intellectual slaves to proscribed prophets of prejudice in fields of knowledge. In this way education becomes 1) a saboteur of the marriage between human

What are professors teaching?

By Ann Dinkens

Dear Editor

As an outsider looking in, I am puzzled by the way some professors teach their college courses, especially when it comes to English classes. I have talked with four students who are taking a literature class, and they are getting tired of it just being about one subject. In fact, one of the students stated that her class should have been called, "The Teaching of Homosexuals," because almost every writing assignment and play has been

Students should not feel intimidated to speak in class.

about homosexuals.

To top it all off, I found out about a young girl who insisted on learning

different subjects and verbalized this in class. She is now under ridicule for wanting to learn more than sexual preferences in a college course. The four students I talked to are now afraid to say anything in fear that this sort of ridicule will happen to them.

I can understand having one subject, off homosexuality to write about, but there is a lot more to literature that can be taught to the students as well. In my opinion, literature is a diverse subject. After listening to these students and their explanations, I question the professor's teaching methods. Students should not feel intimidated to speak in class.

This concern has left me to wonder, are the professors in UAS trying to force their liberal opinions on a class? Are the professors unable to find someone else to preach their cause to? Having one subject on homosexuality is culturally enhancing, but being taught one subject, the entire semester, is going a too far.

From Carter, pg. 1

cast their thoughts in ways beyond mere words." Carter went to college where he studied psychology and theater.

Carter has learned how to tell what someone is thinking based on eye movement and slight adjustments in weight. On Saturday night, Carter was able to figure out which card certain audience members were thinking of. He was able to successfully determine all of our cards just by looking at our body language. Okay, so he's good at reading peoples body language, but what he did next amazed everyone.

He had everyone in the audience write down their name, something about themselves, a number, and a question. These slips of paper were put into a bowl as Carter had a volunteer to blindfold him. This was no ordinary blindfold. Two silver dollars were inserted into his eye sockets, and then six pieces of duct tape tightly pushed the coins against his eyes and sealed them from all light. Next a heavy duty black blindfold was tied around his head and was secured by

another four pieces of duct tape. There was no way he could see anything.

The bowl was brought up to Carter who began picking up pieces of paper from the bowl and asked that if he said anything that related to what we wrote down on the paper, to tell him. He began saying initials, and then names of people in the audience. Upon talking with audience members more, Carter was able to answer the persons question on the paper as well as figure out the number written. There was no explanation on how he could be doing this and the audience sat amazed as he 'read' everyone's mind.

Okay, so he had some kind of trick to be able to figure that out, but the show he put on was not only funny, interesting, and mind-blowing; but a great way to spend a Saturday night with friends.

"I'm impressed! He was a lot better than I thought he would be," reflects Porter. "I don't know how he did some of the stuff that he did, but I'll be able to figure it out next time."



Photo by Daniel Buck

Chris Carter involves a student in one of his demonstrations. A mastermind in the psyche, Christopher Carter attempts and succeeds at reading peoples minds.

UAS Spring Fling

"Rendezvous in Vegas"

Saturday April 9, 2005 9pm-1am

Students, Faculty and staff invited

Semi-formal \$5 non-SAC members at the door

Covered DJ, Prizes, Casino

Complimentary tickets available at St. Activities 106 Mowbray

Confirm your attendance and pick up your free tickets by Wednesday April 6th at noon and be eligible for the drawing! Grand Prize Drawing April 6th at noon. Two Hour live music performance at 10pm with \$ of your friends (you pick them) and \$100 Gift Certificate at Doe Waters for April 6th.

CAMPUS POLL

by John S. Sonin
THE WHALESONG

"Do you know anyone in Iraq? What are your thoughts on the war?"



Paul Berg

"Our son-in-law who calls everyday from Baghdad. The justification for pre-emptive is the nation is in eminent danger. We went to war on false pretenses. No threat existed."

Virginia Berg

"I've a son-in-law in Iraq, we should get out of there."



Anders Peterson

"No. I was in favor but not for the same reasons as Bush. I now think we should get out of there."



Mariza Stephens

"Not at the moment but I think we should get out as soon as possible."



Marissa Kosky

"No, not at the moment. We didn't go in for the right reason. We said it was for weapons "of mass destruction" but it was for the oil."



Captain James Kirk's 'hometown' survives 'Invasion Iowa' prank

By Joanne Weintraub
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL
(KRT)

As the "Star Trek" faithful know, William Shatner's character, the beloved Jim Kirk, was born, no, in fact, will be born, in Iowa sometime in the 25th century.

Seizing on that crumb of information a couple of decades ago, an enterprising member of the town council of Riverside, population 928, boldly went where no Iowan had gone before and erected a sign proclaiming his community "The Future Birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk."

From that audacious act grew Riverside's "Trek Fest," featuring \$3 vials of "Kirk Dirt," themed costume contests and mockups of such sacred sites as the bridge of the Starship Enterprise, an annual event that over the years has made its way into newspaper stories and travelers Web sites.

So it was probably just a matter of time until Riverside's cheeky little joke on Hollywood prompted Hollywood to turn the tables.

The result is Spike TV's "Invasion Iowa," a four-hour reality miniseries about the making of a "make-believe movie."

The show, which, not coincidentally, concluded on April Fools' Day, was dreamed up by Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese, the producers of Spike's successful "Joe Schmo." "Joe" was an elaborate hoax in which a man believed himself to be competing in a reality-show when, in fact, all the other participants were actors.

"Iowa" ups the ante by making the pretend production a science-fiction movie set in Riverside. The star? None other than Kirk's alter ego, Shatner himself. The target of the ruse? The entire population of the town.

"There was this delicious idea," Shatner told TV critics a couple of months ago at a Spike promotional event in Los Angeles. "What happens if we take a movie company to a small town

(and record) the perennial soap opera of a movie (production) where there's always something going wrong?"

Last year, Reese, Wernick and Shatner, who also served as one of the show's producers, did just that.

Shatner, who won an Emmy last year as loopy lawyer Denny Crane in ABC's "The Practice", played himself, the movie's director and star.

With him, in addition to the producers and crew, were his nubile leading lady, a starlet named Gryffyn (played by actress Desi Lydic); Max (Garz Chan), an irritable studio exec with a British accent and a perpetual sneer; Herb (Michael J. O'Hara), Shatner's puppy dog of an assistant; Tiny (Kirk Ward), the star's boisterous body double and nephew; and Steve (Ernie Grunwald), Shatner's tofu-brained spiritual adviser.

The plot of the movie is as silly as the entourage, involving an android she-villain with the improbable name of Disintegratrix 3000 and a plot twist in which a virtuous farm girl, played, like many of the faux film's characters, by a local amateur, offers to bear the child of Shatner's character in order to save her town from ruin.

For the most part, Riverside welcomed the filmmakers with open arms. Scores of would-be actors and extras lined up to audition for parts, happy to sing "Pinball Wizard" if Shatner demanded it or to repeat a line with a Cajun accent this time" if that was what the star wanted.

The Canadian-born star, who has spent decades doing what even some fans recognize as a tongue-in-cheek William Shatner impression, seemed to charm almost everyone he met.

What other 74-year-old could get away with observing that a group of Riverside women who appeared to be exactly his own age, give or take a few months, reminded him of "the grandmother you always wished you had?"

And, of course, there was the

From the cave to the classroom: Professor combines cave adventures with teaching

By John S. Sonin
THE WHALESONG

Dr. Dan Monteith, associate professor of Anthropology, has studied caves in Southeast for as long as he's taught in the UA system. His daring summer exploration of a seemingly bottomless abysses is in the great tradition of Indiana Jones. But for him, these dim caves are a treasure trove of information not a "Temple of Doom."

Monteith earned his B.A. in Anthropology and a M.A. in Social Science from the University of Chicago. He then went on to get a M.A. and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Michigan State. Having earned his degrees, Monteith moved to Ketchikan to work with the U.S. Forest Service.

Eventually a senior Forest Service geologist noticed Monteith's resume. He had proclivity for rock climbing as a hobby and his speleological adventures

soon began.

His first foray into the caves was surveying, mapping, and archeologically excavating El Capitan cave on Prince of Whales Island. It is the largest cave in Southeast. Monteith has been rock climbing ever since.

It was in El Capitan where he and other spelunkers, including Paleontologist Tim Heaton from the University of South Dakota, made an exciting discovery. They found brown bear remains 9,000 to 12,000 years old. Because there are no brown bear currently residing on Prince of Whales, this finding had significant implications on the history of glaciations in Alaska.

Monteith has been declining and exploring caves since 1988. But he finds time to pass his knowledge onto students in the UA system since he joined the UAS faculty in 1999. Maybe the "Ark of the Covenant" is next.



Photos courtesy UAS photo gallery

Dr. Dan Monteith is making his way through some tight caves. He has been studying caves for as long as he has taught in the UA program.

From Invasion, pg. 7

apprehension everyone from the Spike production felt about informing the good people of Riverside, after more than a week of shooting, that they'd been taken for a ride.

As Shatner sees it, he and his fellow pranksters needn't have worried.

"Did we hurt their feelings? Did we stun them with the truth?" he asked. Shatner said no, absolutely not.

Riverside Mayor Bill Poch, reached by phone last week, said yes, at first.

When Shatner told him about the hoax, "I just looked at him and put my head down," recalled Poch, who, before the film crew came to town, had spent days showing a location coordinator around. "It wasn't a low point in my week or my month. It was a low point in my life."

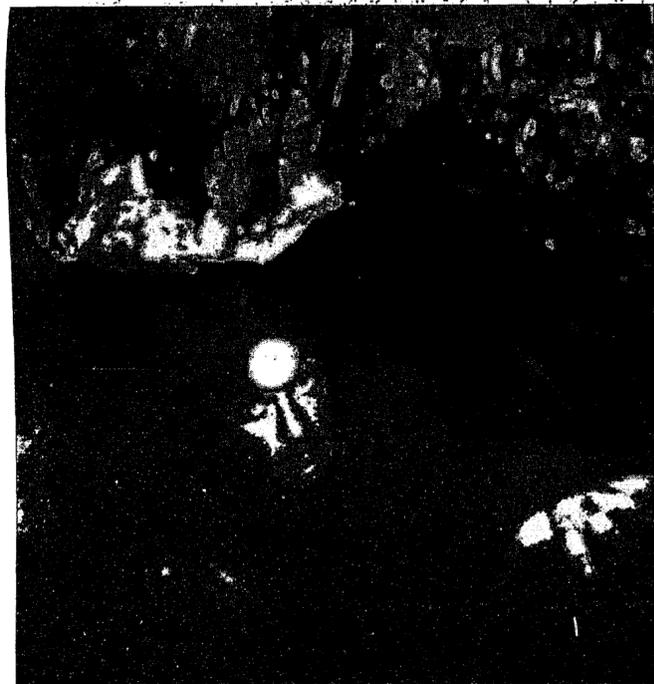
But that was before he learned what was in it for Riverside: \$100,000 from the producers, earmarked for municipal services, plus a \$12,000 donation from the cast and crew for a school book fund. That, combined with the chance to see Riverside on TV, if not in a movie, seemed more than fair to him, the mayor said.

Tom Wheeler, of the state's Iowa Film Office in Des Moines, also felt Riverside and Iowa came out ahead.

Not surprisingly, Shatner was of the opinion that a good time was had by all.

"We didn't really dash their dreams, we enlarged them," he said grandly. "They're on national television from Tuesday to Friday."

Happy April Fools Day.



Photos courtesy UAS photo gallery

Dr. Dan Monteith looks up just in time to be caught on camera. It may look like a tight fit, but Monteith enjoys studying the caves around him.

Fun and games with a video gaming major

By James Janega
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
(KRT)

CHICAGO — Promising it as a way into the future, and maybe stoking the worst fears of college parents, Chicago's Columbia College will decide this spring whether to let students major in video games.

As early as next fall, the school could start the course program for designing games, not playing them. The curriculum would be similar to a major in film studies. History of Games 204? Believe it. Don't forget Selling Your Game 406, either.

Quick as a mouse click, Columbia hopes to cash in on the gaming industry's winning outlook. Across the country, schools have added courses and even academic majors in video game design. The academic offerings have joined a \$7 billion industry in which single games can have budgets up to \$30 million and creative staffs of 200.

The proposed major has been in the works for two years at Columbia, long enough to be the main topic of conversation among students nearing, and even second-guessing, graduation.

Inquiries about the games major have been steady at the college admissions office, said admissions executive director Murphy Monroe.

"We are confident that this would become very big for us," he said. A final decision is expected as early as March.

To the strumming of classical guitar recordings in

Columbia's Interactive Media studio, one young woman shuffles game elements around a screen. Another man glares with open animosity at a shoe reluctantly taking shape on the monitor in front of him.

Student Peter Martinez builds his perfect woman. She has blue hair and red eyes. She fights unjust authority. Her name is Reflex, and she has the ears of a mouse.

"It's a story I've always had in mind," Martinez said, his words hurried and his slender fingers a rapid blur. "A lot of comic book guys have that, where they have a story in mind for a long time."

Growing up in Chicago, he knew when he was 6 that he loved video games. At 10, he knew he could make them better than anyone else. At 22, he is about to graduate with a degree in interactive multimedia.

"At the time, it sounded like the closest thing this school had to a game development curriculum," he complained.

As gaming's star has risen, a whole field has built up around it, said Reilly Brennan, director of media relations for Midway Games, Inc., the Chicago-based company behind Mortal Kombat, MLB Slugfest and SpyHunter 2.

"This industry is growing every day," he said. "It was a learn-as-you-go thing. People got into it because they liked video games." Now, the games are more complicated, the applications more widespread, and the appeal to create them more broad-based, he said.

Academia has taken note, and colleges and design

schools around the country have added courses devoted to video game design.

In the bigger programs, the course load is technical and broad, and needs to be, say game designers.

"I know the tools. That's no problem," Martinez said. "But a lot of the important things, like tweaking your game, where to start from, what people to pick to help you on a project, I didn't know any of that."

Until final approval is given, the details of Columbia's curriculum are secret, but Columbia faculty supporter Dave Gerding sums it up in two words, "crazy hard," and therein lies its appeal.

The payoff is a crack at an industry already infiltrating everything from Hollywood to education. The mounting complexity of new games has made a well-rounded education essential, said Jason Della Rocca, executive director of the International Game Developers Association.

"You're not picking up kids off the street to do that. You need people with specialized knowledge and experience and a certain level of education," Della Rocca said.

Columbia's proposed curriculum closely follows the association's suggested course outline. The idea has been to foster games that are beneficial to education or that build problem-solving skills, though shoot-'em-ups like the one starring Martinez's mouse-eared vixen will not be discouraged.

"With any luck," Gerding said out of Martinez's earshot, "Peter portends the future."

Are you in a campus club?

Submit photos of your campus event to the Whalesong.

- Include captions describing who, what, when and where.
- Photos should be saved as jpeg, and 300 dpi.



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IT'S FUN. IT'S A RESUME BUILDER. BEST OF ALL, IT PAYS!

From Break, pg. 2

fun hikes. There are also many campgrounds right on the water.

I couldn't think of anything better than camping on the Oregon coast as the sun sets below the horizon, igniting the clouds with saturated hues of red, magenta, orange, and purple, as night creeps across the sky.

We continued driving up the coast to Newport where we went to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. We got a close view of puffins, sea lions, sea otters, harbor seals, sharks, and starfish. This aquarium had a nice set up that was educationally driven.

After leaving the aquarium we had to stop at the Rouge Brewing Company to do some beer sampling. Located in an old warehouse next to the docks in Newport, this small brewery has been creating a wide variety of beers since the 80's. I particularly enjoyed the orange honey wheat, while my girlfriend enjoyed the hazelnut brown nectar. As nice as it would have been to stay at the brewery for a few days, we still had a lot of miles to cover. We slowly worked our way along the coast, enjoying view after view of waves crashing on the rocky coast.

We finally had reached the coast of southern Oregon, and needed to head inland to Ashland, Oregon to visit some friends. Before leaving the coast, we

headed further down into northern California to take a short hike in Redwood National Park, where giant redwoods and sequoias can grow up to 20 feet in diameter, surviving for millennia. Though our hour long hike through this forest was not nearly enough time to explore the park, we needed to keep moving.

Back into the mountains, we reached our final destination, Ashland, which is a small town of 20,000 people nestled in a small valley. This town is home to the famed Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where people come from all over the world to see professional productions.

I won't lie to you; there are a lot of hippies in Ashland. Well, that actually could be an understatement. This quiet mountain town has become a Mecca for the counter-culture. If you were to drive through Ashland and happen to not see any hippies, then a quick stroll over to Lithia Park will end your search.

Lithia Park is beautiful. Lithia Creek trickles down from the mountains. All along the creek, large moss covered trees have created a very peaceful setting. The blossoms were in full force on the cherry and pear trees, which added to the magic quality of the park. We walked around the park for well over an hour exploring hidden areas of the park, one of which was a beautiful Jap-

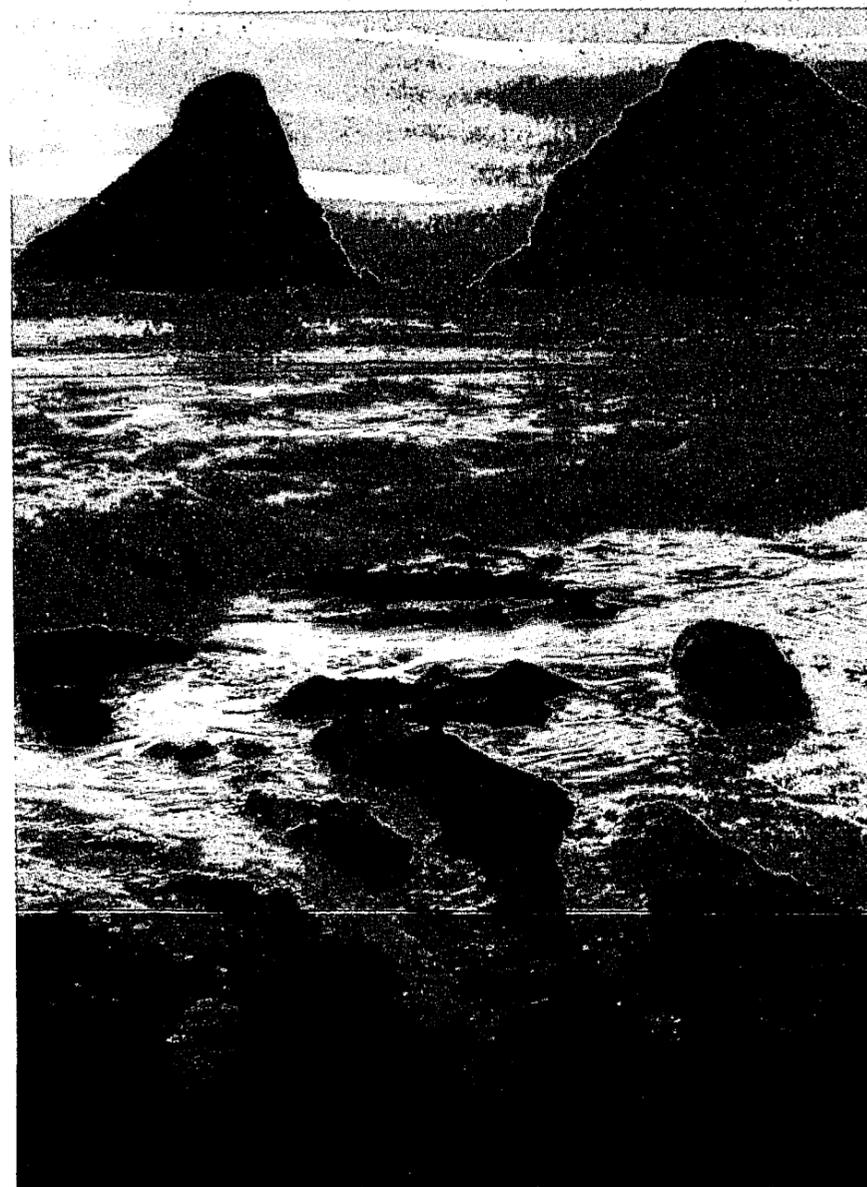


Photo by Daniel Buck

Devils Elbow is a group of large cliffs and jagged rocks. It is one of many tourist attractions on the Oregon Coast that Daniel Buck visited during spring break.

anese garden that was very serene. Our friends that we were visiting told us that "no visit to Ashland is complete without taking a drink of 'Lithia water'". Coming directly from the source of the creek, there are two large water fountains near the entrance of the park.

I put my lips up to the water fountain, took a sip, and quickly jumped back with a bitter look on my face. After laughing at me, our friends explained that the water tastes very bitter because of the high mineral content of sodium. It is also believed that there are trace amounts of Lithium in the water. A lot of the hippies in town drink only Lithia water all day, maybe hoping to get a little buzz off the stream.

After our stay in Ashland, it was time for us to think about coming back to Juneau. We began working our way up Interstate 5 to Eugene, and made it

back in only a few hours. We had dinner with my uncle who lives in Eugene, and walked around the town a little.

By this time, we had been driving so much that I was ready for a break from our spring break. As I pulled into the parking spot at the airport, I checked the mileage on the car. We had put over 1,200 miles on our car. I think the rental car company might rethink their 'unlimited mileage' policy after us.

I love sitting in the airport in Seattle coming back from breaks. I always see so many familiar faces from classes in the past, all of us on our way back to our small Alaskan town. The landscape here in Juneau always seems so much more dramatic when you've been away for a while, just like when the sun breaks through after a month of rain. It helps us to not take this special place for granted.



Photo by Daniel Buck

The city of Eugene is built at the confluence of two rivers, the McKenzie River (Pictured above) and the Willamette River.