

By David Astino Alaskan Clothesline Project raises awareness of violence against women/



Airing the truth: Norene Otnes of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium chants a blessing for the Alaska Clothesline Project.

Photo by David Asti

A clothesline full of colorful t-shirts expressed horrific stories of violence committed against women.

The shirts lined the dining area from Oct. 24 through Oct. 27 in the Mourant building. The collection, named the Alaskan Clothesline Project, travels the state displaying color coded shirts that describe the type of violence committed against its victim. One shirt displayed a message about a child asking her father why she was sexually assaulted by him.

Norene Otnes of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) blessed the hanging of the shirts with chanting and spiritual beating of drums.

"I want to come and support by encouraging," Otnes said.

The purple, orange, green and red t-shirts signified women who were victims of rape, physical assault, child abuse, and anti-lesbian hate crime. Especially noteworthy were the white shirts which were created in memory of women who were murdered.

http://www.uas.alaska.edu/whalesong/archives/2007/2_12_2007/Clothesline_project.html

Student wellness supervisor Cheryl Loudermilk helped facilitate the display of the project at UAS.

"Having (the shirts) here for a few days gives people a chance to read and become aware of the issue," Loudermilk said. "People will be aware and not make those choices to repeat alcoholism and violence."

According to the Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE) website, every 15 seconds a woman is severely beaten in the United States. Alarmingly, one in two relationships involves domestic violence.

AWARE is responsible for bringing the Alaskan clothesline project to Juneau. Ann Ropp, a psychology professor at UAS, works for AWARE.

"I think it's one of those things that people talk about that is hard to admit but is made easier by looking at a t-shirt," Ropp said. "In Juneau, there are on average four domestic violence calls per day."

Ropp and Loudermilk pulled the shirts down in a deserted cafeteria, on an otherwise busy Friday.

Loudermilk suggested that the graphic content of the t-shirts made eating in the area uncomfortable for students, but believed the discomfort was worthwhile in order to spread the message of the project. She hopes UAS students will start their own clothesline project next year.

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Off the streets and into university office

Ernestine Hayes faced discrimination and difficulty on long journey home to Juneau

By: By Laura Lemire

On and off the streets, in and out of food shelters, Ernestine Hayes became bound and determined to leave California and return home to Alaska.

It was a long journey from the streets of California to her current position as an assistant professor at UAS.

"I was a half-breed, illegitimate daughter of a unmarried, single, full-blooded Tlingit woman," Hayes said. "We lived in the village, we were poor, it was territorial Alaska. There was segregation."

Hayes' mother had relocated to California when Hayes was 15-years-old. "Not a day went by when I didn't want to come home," Hayes said. "When I turned 40, I said 'let me go home or let me die facing north,' and I came back home. I had always wanted to come back home because it felt like this (Juneau) is where I belonged."

Hayes' book, *Blonde Indian*, chronicles her journey and detailing the obstacles she was faced with and overcame. "It wasn't expected for unkempt little native girls in dirty socks and wrinkled skirts to have ability. It was just so unexpected that it wasn't recognized," Hayes said.

Homeless because of poor choices she made in her life, which ultimately led to upheaval, Hayes embarked from San Francisco and began her long journey home. She left behind her three sons and her mother, the only family she had. "It was really difficult for me to make that choice to come home leaving everyone I loved behind," Hayes said.

"After I got a bank roll together, I put my dog in my old station wagon and we drove to Eureka," Hayes said.

Hayes spent the winter in Eureka, long-lining for albacore to scrape together enough cash for the next leg of her journey. Living out of her car, Hayes found meals where she could.

From Eureka, Hayes drove to Seattle, where she stayed homeless.

In May, Hayes abandoned her station wagon and boarded a ferry, destined for Ketchikan. She was returning back to Alaska, but her

Blonde Indian: Professor and author Ernestine Hayes sits in her UAS office. Photo by Josh Christie

journey was far from over.

"It took eight months to get from San Francisco to Ketchikan and a little over three years to get from Ketchikan to Juneau," Hayes said. During that time, Hayes worked for a couple months at the Ketchikan Indian Corporation before she got a job in the court system.

Returning to Juneau, Hayes found a happiness within the landscape and atmosphere of Juneau that she had sought since she left and slowly began taking steps to achieve goals she had set for herself long ago, such as attending college and graduating with a degree.

"Once I came back, I didn't all the sudden start making good choices," Hayes said. "It took me a long time to figure out what it was to be me and along the way, I kept making the same mistakes over again."

At the age of 50, Hayes enrolled at UAS as a freshman, accepted into the two-year paralegal program at the school. After two years of school, Hayes switched into the Bachelor of Liberal Arts program.."

"I started taking creative writing classes. I had been writing throughout the years," Hayes said. "But when I went up to Anchorage to do my MFA (Master of Fine Arts) and began assembling them into a book-like thesis, that's when I caught a glimpse of the possibility of writing a book." The book came out in September.

Blonde Indian is based on the thesis Hayes was required to write for her MFA in Creative Writing and Literary Art. Hayes submitted the manuscript into a contest.

"I was very excited when the University of Arizona press e-mailed me an offer of contract," Hayes said. "I was a little surprised in how much work was still involved and it was like a year and a half between the (book) contract offer and the actual book coming out. I've been gratified at the recognition that it's gotten"

Graduating from UAA in 2003, Hayes was hired to UAS as adjunct professor that same year and the following year was given an appointment contract for three years.

"I would like people to know that I am a product of this university system," Hayes said. "I took my undergraduate degree here at UAS, I got my graduate degree at UAA and I'm back here now at UAS. The opportunities that presented themselves here to me were no different than those that are available to everyone

By Andrew Hall Humor column/

Columns of angry flesh and jersey-tee clash like competing fish under the backboard. An invisible smack, the ball on the ground, out of bounds, better think fast.

What's the call Ref?

The call? Well, I know it's out. On who? Green. Yeah Green.

On me? What about over the back! Reaching around! Come on ref!

Think fast ref, that's your job right? Assertiveness and consistency. Make calls but make them evenly. Off green, red ball. That's the call. Seconds later, there's another dispute.

Travel! Where's the whistle? Whaaat, no call!?

Look straight, be consistent. Hell, I didn't see anything. There's eight guys clustered together like angry, headless hens. As soon as one drops an egg, or the ball in this case, the world stops. All necks turn to me, the ref. My decision will dictate which team hates me more, but this is what I love the most about my job.

I've enjoyed being hated most of my life and I've become pretty good at it. In elementary school, I was the book club. In middle school, I headed junior conservationists and in high School, I lead the History Explorers Club. Back in those days, I was simply teased for being different, though not truly hated. Being a ref, I can receive pure anger-driven hatred; the kind smoking lobbyists and meter maids receive.

As referees, we have our own outfits that can be recognized by non-ref haters. This is an advantage we have over bureaucrats and city workers. This also works perfectly for my lifestyle, as I can wear my out fit any day of the week and be seen as the guy who made some bad calls and ruined a team's season. Whenever I feel like it, I can be the perfect person to hate.

With ten minutes left in the last half and the scores only a few points apart, intense anger comes from all directions. This is my time to shine. I blow my whistle, hacking on the shot. I give two foul shots to Green. Green pulls ahead, and all of a sudden they aren't angry with me anymore; something's wrong.

http://www.uas.alaska.edu/whalesong/archives/2007/2_12_2007/Humor_column.html

Five minutes left and Green is still ahead. Red is getting redder and beginning to accept their loss. This is when my job gets boring. At this point, the game could ref itself. There aren't many more chances for me to make bad calls, so I hang back and wait for the buzzer.

After the game is the hardest part for me. Most referees are glad to finish, but I usually do my best to hang around the loser bench and comment on the game and why I thought they should have won. The losers go on hating me until they win, and the winners go on liking me until they lose. It's the black and white nature of my job and I love it.

Famous native wood carver works crowd like a comedian

Tlingit artist Nathan Jackson entertains a full house at Egan lecture hall

By: By David Asti

World famous Chilkoot Tlingit artist Nathan Jackson entertained an audience at UAS during his visit to campus on November 11. A malfunction with the slide projector might have caused a halt to the presentation if it weren't for Jackson's charm and story telling.

Tlingit artist: Nathan Jackson explains carving techniques during Egan Lecture.
Photo by David Asti

Jackson has been working in Alaska Native arts since 1959 and has been a freelance artist for almost four decades. The Evening at Egan event is the latest of many visits to Juneau and UAS.

Jackson started off the discussion by telling of his artistic beginnings and listing people of influence to him. He first began creating art to waste time while he was in the hospital for inhaling toxins while he was preparing a boat for a fishing trip.

"They thought I had tuberculosis, I stayed in the hospital for about 55 days, so I built a showcase with miniature poles and portraits," Jackson said.

Jackson mentioned Carl Heinmiller and Bill Holm as individuals that influenced his artwork, as well as Ted Lawrence, saying "[Ted] challenged me to do some miniature poles early on." He also made special mention about his mother's influence on his art.

Jackson spoke of the various tools that he uses for carving throughout the night. He is proud to use an electrical chainsaw and jokes about it.

"They say that this is a Haida tool, it hides when people are around," Jackson said, referring to the electric chainsaw. "In order to get the job done, you need to use one of these tools. As long as you have it out so people can see it, it's not cheating."

Jackson also spoke about the two prerequisites to becoming his apprentice; excellent drawing ability and zero involvement with alcohol.

"I don't go hunting for an apprentice in a bar," Jackson said.

Jackson reviewed dozens of slides that showed examples of his works. He discussed his various carving techniques and where each piece of art could be found today.

Jackson also reviewed some of his son Steven Jackson's art work. Jackson urged his son into art at the age of 14. "You can either work for McDonald's or you can work for your dad," Jackson said.

Jackson ended the night answering questions from the audience. Afterwards, he escorted his smiling mother from

Outdoor studies bring the classroom outside

Students get hands-on training in outdoor skills

By: By Laura Lemire

Set in one of nature's playgrounds, the University of Alaska Southeast uses the mountains and bays as a classroom through a popular Outdoor Studies program.

The Outdoor Studies (ODS) program allows students to learn skills for exploring the wilderness while earning credits toward a certificate.

"A lot of schools have (classes) in specific environmental areas," said Amanda Brown, a 21-year-old senior from Hebron, Conn. on exchange from the University of Maine at Farmington, "but they won't just have classes where you can go out and kayak for credit or go mountain climbing or backpacking or ski for credit. I think that is definitely a unique opportunity for anybody."

ODS was first conceived at UAS in the early 90s by university instructors Kevin Krein and Beth Weigel, said Forest Wagner, the current coordinator of the program. In 2001, the program became official and since then it has been growing.

"It's only getting better," Wagner said. "I really think it is a great opportunity for students both in bachelor degrees here and visiting students to get a good feel and take away some skills from Alaska."

Being able to explore Alaska's outdoors is a big draw for students, Brown said. Katie Boucher, a 21-year-old senior from Ridgefield, Conn., is another visiting student drawn to UAS by the ODS program. Boucher, also on exchange from the University of Maine at Farmington, is majoring in international studies, but enrolled in several ODS classes.

"My outdoor sport of choice is skiing, but while I have been here I have taken kayaking classes and backcountry cooking classes," Boucher said. "It has really helped me expand my horizons a little bit."

To make it easy for students, most equipment is provided through the Rec. Center and covered through course fees.

"We don't have to pay to check all the stuff out," Boucher said. "It's really nice because coming here on a plane, packing your life into two bags and a carry-on, you can't always

Above the tree line: Students in the backpacking class hike up a Juneau mountain.
Photo by Forest Wagner

Floating along: Katie Boucher takes a break from paddling on Auke Lake.
Photo by Laura Lemire

bring all the outdoor equipment you need or even have it shipped here.”

Most of the ODS classes include some classroom time, which provides students the information they need before they take it into the real world. Regular outings allow students to apply what they have learned in a real life situation.

“I like that we got all the information stuff out of the way and went straight to the practical and spent more time on the practical side of it instead of the theoretical side,” Brown said, who took the backcountry cooking course. “You could put in to use what (the instructor) was telling you instead of having to remember it and try to use it later.”

The backpacking course held two outings and taught the basics of backpacking and survival in outdoor Southeast Alaska.

“It is interesting having a backpacking class in October because hiking up the mountains, you don’t know if you are going to run into snow or rain.” said Matt Kern, 20, a sophomore from Juneau who took the introduction to backpacking class offered in the fall semester. “It’s nice and short; it’s only three class periods and two outings, so I think it’s worth it just to get one credit for it.”

Individual ODS classes are open to all students, regardless of major, as physical education credits. Or students can enroll in the full ODS program to earn a degree certificate.

The ODS degree certificate can be completed in a year, making the structure of the program different than a regular 4-year degree program. Students are required to complete a fall semester of programs, 13 credits, specific to the degree: wilderness first responder, introduction to leadership, leadership 2, capstone experience, and perspectives on the natural world.

In addition to the required classes, 12 skills class credits, chosen by the students, and 9 elective credits are needed to finish the program for a total of 34 credits.

“I wish I could stay longer and take the rest of it and get my certificate because that would be pretty cool,” Brown said. “They cover a lot of the territories that people would be interested in if they were going to start working in some aspect of the industry.”

The program curriculum has continued to develop through the years. Originally ODS required a separate small group communications class, which has now been integrated into the other classes. In 2007 the backcountry cooking class will be combined with the introduction to backpacking class for two academic credits, Wagner said.

“A big part of our mission here is offering educational opportunities and preparing students to be able to react to the outdoors,” Wagner said.

The instructors of the ODS programs are skilled in their fields. Jodee Goldsberry, who teaches backcountry cooking, has been involved in outdoor activities since she was a child. She would tag along on expeditions her parents ran in the backcountry. Brock Tabor, the sea kayaking instructor, guides in Panama during Juneau’s off-season. They bring a level of hands-on experience and expertise with them into

the classroom.

“One thing that I really like about the ODS program, their teachers are not just professors, they do this for a living, they do it on a daily basis,” Boucher said. “They really like what they do, and they are kind of teaching the class just to supplement having a little bit more fun and you can see that.”

The instructors are also prepared for emergencies. When a student on a backpacking trip overloaded her pack, instructor Goldsberry hiked with the student most of the way. Then Goldsberry ran to the end of the trail, dropped off her own pack, and ran back to carry the student’s pack out, Boucher said.

“My overall experience was definitely really good. I met a bunch of cool people and got a chance to get outside when I probably wouldn’t have if I had just been taking normal academic classes,” Kern said. “Basically, it’s just a good opportunity to meet people that have similar interests and get out and see some places you wouldn’t normally see.”

Regents approve FY08 operating and capital budget

Regents discusses budget and future plans

By: By Carolyn Shuckerow

The UA Board of Regents convened Nov. 1 at the UAA Commons for a full board budget meeting. On the table for discussion were the fiscal year 2008 operating and capital budget requests, and the fiscal year 2007 Natural Resources Fund Budget Allocation; all requests were approved. President Mark Hamilton, UAA Chancellor Elaine Maimon, UAF Chancellor Steve Jones and UAS Chancellor John Pugh also attended and provided input.

“The whole budget comes down to a five percent program growth,” Hamilton said.

This five percent equates to approximately 14.7 million additional dollars, raising the total proposed FY08 operating budget to nearly \$315 million.

The purpose in raising operating costs is to prepare Alaskans for the industry boom associated with building a natural gas pipeline in Alaska – an issue of contention this election year. According to the Board’s budget proposal, “the oil pipeline of the mid-1970’s caught Alaskans by surprise.” Consequently, the majority of pipeline jobs went to non-Alaskan “outsiders.”

“Over the next 1,000 days,” states the budget proposal, “the university will embark on a program to anticipate high-demand jobs of the future and again work with Alaskan industries to create degree and certificate programs those jobs will require. The result will be a trained Alaskan workforce ready to respond to the needs of a prosperous state.”

In addition to budget issues, Hamilton gave his President’s Report, articulating themes of accountability, increased enrollment and competitive research. Recently, Hamilton met with gubernatorial candidates to discuss the future of the University of Alaska but related the difficulty in gauging their support since “it is in their best interest to give us time.”

“I’ve been spending time talking to legislators because they’re all running for office, so they love us,” Hamilton said. “I’m pleased with how much the university is part of the debate ... it’s not always as exciting to hear the answers.”

Board Chair Mary Hughes said accountability, in terms of student success and program support, is a burgeoning issue.

“The accountability question is going to be huge this year ... the public is demanding it. No matter how much people love us, they think we

are paid too much money (and that) we don't teach enough courses," Hughes said.

However, Hamilton said that accountability is a "myth" and that "we've got a lot of ammo on this issue (of accountability)."

The Board of Regents allotted approximately one hour for public testimony; four UAA faculty members addressed the board. Grant Baker, chair of the science of engineering program, briefed the Board on the progress of the two-year-old Bachelor of Science in Engineering program. While the BSE program is expanding, the Engineering, Science and Program Management program is faltering.

Jang Ra, ESPM professor and chair, spoke passionately to the board and exceeded his time limit of three minutes. The Board allowed him to continue, as he described the need for more faculty – he is the only full-time faculty members in the program – to share the burden of the program. "I am maximized," said Ra, who is responsible for recruiting students, designing new courses and teaching.

Professors associated with the College Preparatory and Developmental Studies Department, Sarah Kirk and Tara Smith, also addressed the board.

The Board of Regents meets again Dec. 6-7 in Fairbanks. The agenda is available at www.alaska.edu/bor.

Variety of Scholarships available for spring semester

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Scholarship opportunities for the 2007 spring semester are now available online. There are scholarships for a variety of majors, including art, music, welding, flight training, civil and mechanical engineering, public administration, computer science, sociology, automotive and diesel technology, and journalism. Information regarding deadlines, qualifications and the application procedure for spring semester scholarships are available at <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/scholarships>. For either questions or concerns, call UAA Financial Aid Scholarship Coordinator Rachel Daugherty at (907) 786-1517.

Annual Ski Swap a Hit

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UAS student Chelsie Harris and her friends camped outside Centennial Hall from midnight to morning to be first in line for Juneau's annual Ski Swap held on Nov 4.

The cost to get in and potentially leave with a good deal was only two dollars. Everyone who purchased ticket was automatically entered in a drawing sponsored by Eaglecrest for a season's pass to the mountain. Money raised in the fundraiser went to the Juneau Ski Patrol and the Juneau Ski Club.

The line wrapped around a taped area marked to designate where people were to sit or stand. A main concern of the staff was to pack bodies inside the hall as tight as possible so that less people would have to stand outside in the cold. By 8 a.m., the line was almost past where the tickets were sold at the entrance to the hall. When the doors opened at 10 a.m., Harris was one of the first through.

There were skis and snowboards for sale at varying prices and an assortment of accessories, including boots and bindings. Items sold at the swap were gathered from local residents and companies around the area and brought from Anchorage to be sold.

Harris said she lined up for the swap hoping to get a hat, but she came out with a snowboard.

Four years a good deal at UAS

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The average four-year degree, at a public institution, costs \$5,836 this year, according to CollegeBoard, a national, nonprofit organization that looks at the costs of colleges. The cost for a UA student is only \$3,835 a year.

The cost of a two-year degree however is a bit more at a UA school. The average tuition at a community college for a two-year degree is \$2,272 annually; this puts the two-year degree at UA on the higher end of the national spectrum at \$3,825 a year.

"If you compare us to other community colleges, we are high. If you compare us to universities, we're low," said Dennis Clark, director of the University of Alaska Anchorage's Mat-Su College.

At one point, Alaska did have a community college system held separate from the UA system, but in the 1980's, the larger UA network absorbed those colleges. Prince William Sound and Kodiak, two of the former community colleges, offer reduced tuition rates, according to Kate Ripley, a university system spokeswoman.

About 20 percent of UA students are on an associate-degree track, Ripley said.

Outside community colleges are structured differently than UA, making it easier for them to keep tuition down. Many of them are subsidized by the cities where they are located. This isn't possible in Alaska, where they are situated in very small communities, Ripley said.

Alaska students get more for the higher tuition, with access to resources that may not be available at community colleges elsewhere, Ripley said. And the community campuses allow people to pursue degrees close to home.

SONGS OF THE SEA

The ways that whales communicate

By: By John S. Sonin

Whales may communicate in ways humans don't understand, but researchers like Jim Darling keep trying.

In Lynn Canal, the moans and groans of humpback whales reverberate through the hulls of small boats in the summer, making it a popular destination for whale watchers and researchers.

Darling, a professor of zoology from British Columbia, has researched whales for the past 25 years. He came to UAS-Juneau in October as part of the Egan Lecture Series.

Darling and the West Coast Whale Research Foundation began studying cetaceans and their songs in March of 2001 for the Jason Online Expedition program and the National Geographic Society. As with many academic pursuits, their insights have created more questions than they had hoped to resolve.

Observations early in the expedition allowed scientists to distinguish between individual humpback whales by noting unique pigment patterns on the underside of their flukes and dorsal fins. By documenting the locations of these individuals off Maui, Hawaii, the researchers recognized the same whales when they migrated to Mexico in the winter and Alaska in the summer.

Becoming intrigued by humpback singing off the coast of Maui, the researchers started their investigation on the assumption that Hawaiian waters were breeding ground for the pacific humpbacks and the murmurings were some sort of courtship activity. Since all the individuals analyzed were male, it was thought these subterranean songs were used to attract females. After all, that is usually the purpose for spontaneous and deliberate behavior in other species.

Since the researchers determined females were never involved or near the singing males, courtship as an explanation was ruled out. Investigations then shifted to the hypothesis that the moaning and groaning vocalizations were made to establish hierarchy so Darling and colleagues began noting the sound patterns and usage. Again, however, since the songs sung when individuals grouped in one pod were not even similar when these same individuals joined another, as a theory this too was debunked.

Essentially, the Whale Research Foundation was able to ascertain confidently that:

- 1) The singing only occurs among males.
- 2) There are two distinct roles engaged in by singing whales the Foundation refers to as "Singers" and "Joiners."
- 3) Groups will begin collecting when one or more individuals join a solo-singer listing in a dive position in 30-40 feet below the surface, near the ocean floor. The joiners echo the musical chords in a similar but slightly different fashion from those emitted by the listing singer.
- 4) After a period of arias with variations on a similar theme, the group will begin dispersing, often one at a time, and sometimes, but not always, eventually join with another singer's chorus.
- 5) The original singer may become a joiner elsewhere and then echo the chords, with slight variations, of the new singer.

Now researchers think the vocalizations satisfy some other function for the humpbacks and they are continuing to research. Until they find an answer, whalesong is beyond human understanding.

Students had a whale of a time at Sitka's annual Whalefest

Wonder and science mix in study of whales

By: By Lexa Meyer

Calls of ecstasy and joy that would have sounded at home in a naughty movie could be heard bouncing off the water in Sitka Sound on Nov. 5.

"Oh my, oh my goodness!" "It's sooo big!" "It's coming! It's coming right at the boat!"

Excited UAS students uttered these exclamations aboard the Whalefest whale-watching cruise. Why the orgasmic exclamations? Many were marine biology students new to Alaska and had never seen whales before boarding the Allen Marine catamaran. Now gray and humpback whales were lulling alongside. Others onboard were just in love with whales or had dedicated their academic careers to studying them.

Whalefest brought another elusive mammal to Sitka: marine mammal researchers.

If the whales were the stars in the water, the researchers were the stars in the lecture hall. For students from the UAS Juneau campus, the opportunity to listen to nine presentations by leaders in the field of marine mammal research was as memorable as watching the whales.

The topics covered were diverse and fascinating. How about killer whales traveling thousands of miles to and from Southeast Alaska to Hood Canal, Washington to gorge themselves on harbor seals?

These whales fed exclusively on marine mammals, said researcher Josh London, in his presentation "Mammal Eating Killer Whales in Hood Canal, Washington." Two different groups of killer whales showed up in the fjord without ever having been there before, leading to more research questions. Could it be that the whales followed one another from Southeast Alaska? Could it be that the whales are telling each other where to go?

"Learning about killer whales that showed up in Hood Canal was the most interesting thing that I learned," said Rekkan Keppinger a student from the UAS Juneau campus. "It is interesting how they went from Southeast Alaska into unknown and unusual places to eat seals."

Whales are protected, but the exceptions allow whaling to continue. Phillip Clapham illuminated Japan's whaling practices and the

loophole they exploit in the International Whaling Commission's rules in his talk "Managing Leviathan: Can The Whaling Industry Be Trusted?" The Whaling Commission allows the Japanese to continue killing whales under the guise of "scientific whaling," even though there is a global ban on whaling. Clapham said this continues even though there are non-lethal methods to research whales that have been used by western researchers for decades.

The students attending the presentations were from the current topics in marine biology class taught by Beth Matthews. This semester the course focuses on Changes in Marine Mammal Populations, preparing them for the conference.

"The current topics class was a great resource for background information on Whalefest. I felt fully prepared to ask questions because we had read the papers that the speakers were presenting in the class," said Renee Moseng a senior at the UAS Juneau Campus.

UAS Sitka campus students also attended the lectures for credit. Students were able to meet with the presenters after the lecture period for a more intimate question and answer series.

"They (the speakers) were good at not making you feel inferior," said Keppinger. "You felt like you were able to ask questions- even though they have Ph. D.s they didn't make us feel inferior."

For those inspired by the lectures to conserve marine life, representatives from the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council and the U.S. Forest Service were present promoting the conservation of marine habitats in Alaska. If you suddenly felt like a career in marine biology, the University of Alaska and Sheldon Jackson University had recruiters at booths ready to help you on your way.

Whalefest hosts many other events and most are fundraisers that keep the symposium going. Why so many fundraisers? Well, scientists are expensive. The Marketplace was set up inside of the Sitka ANB Hall featuring artists from Sitka and elsewhere in Southeast selling everything from photographic prints to jewelry to handcrafted beadwork. Booth fees paid by the artists went to Whalefest. Many of the artists also donated a piece of work to the Whalefest auction to fund next year's Whalefest festivities. Most of the artwork for sale, and in the auction, was inspired by the muse of the ocean. Hand beaded starfish pins adorned with salmon teeth, whale tail pendants and earrings and woodblock prints of seascapes, just to name a few.

The main fundraiser for Whalefest was a banquet on Saturday night. National Geographic photographer Flip Nicklin, who lives in Douglas, was the keynote speaker. Nicklin has the enviable position of being paid to swim with marine life in the world's most beautiful oceans. He presented photos of his life as a research photographer and photo journalist covering marine science in "National Geographic Whales."

Attention on Nicklin's presentation waned a bit when the banquet dinner was served: salmon and crab followed by desserts prepared by a local chocolateer, including a chocolate shaped like a pinto abalone shell, a mollusk found in local Sitka waters.

New club plans a community on bikes

Bike club would rent from Rec center

By: By John S. Sonin

Even if you haven't got your own bicycle, Karen Michael's wants you to experience the pleasure of commuting on two-wheels.

Maybe you'd like to bicycle from campus to the Nugget Mall; to Fred Meyer; or to any and everything commercial in between. Or maybe you'd like to bike to the movie theater, the glacier, or possibly Auke Rec. You only have one little problem, you don't have a bicycle because it wasn't worth the trouble to bring up here from Washington State, Chicago, Atlanta or wherever you may have called home.

UAS-Juneau and its new Bicycle Club intend to rectify your problem with a rental program offered out of the Rec. Center. The program is still in the development stage, but rentals may end up being free to all Rec. Center members.

As the student leader, Michael hopes to organize students on campus for trips around Juneau. She also hopes to encourage bicycle awareness and use, and community adoption of bicycling as an alternative mode of travel by "celebrating and promoting transportation by bike." Further, she wants the group to "help each other fix, maintain and create bikes by using deserted bikes from around town."

Michael requested UAS support from Student Government last September. Then, at a meeting on Oct. 13, she petitioned for financial support from the Activities Department.

Michael proposed the club would gather, refurbish and then maintain old or abandoned bicycles and go on bicycle tours. She wants "everyone in the Club to have a comfortable and safe riding experience." Phil Paramore, Rec. Center Manager, concedes the idea had already been in consideration in some variation before Michael made her proposal.

Paramore said that the general plan is to have bicycles available for check-out much as kayaks, tents and other outdoor gear. He also says that there are some other concepts being considered. He would like to make rental available for up to one year, not just over night or on weekends, for starters. Paramore would also like to have a bike repair shop accessible to all Rec. Center associates and possibly the Juneau community at large. Bicyclists often don't have the apparatus or tools to make their own repairs and must instead contract with professional technicians.

It would be the responsibility of the Bike Club members to maintain the rolling stock and make the major capital investments for the shop, but UAS and the Rec. Center would keep the shop stocked with service goods like machine screws, lubricants, rags and other cleaning

supplies.

John Bilderbeck, faculty adviser for the new club, envisions bringing awareness of bicycling to the community as an important aspect of the Club. He would also like to see the Club have community repair days.