

9 December 2003

Eaglecrest is now open for the winter season

By Amy Sumner
Whalesong Editor

Eaglecrest Ski Resort is now open for the winter season. This is the earliest the mountain has opened in approximately nine years. The ski area is open Thursday through Monday with chairlifts running from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tubing hill is open weekends and holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

According to the Eaglecrest website, conditions for Dec. 9 consisted of a temperature at the lodge of 18 degrees and 24 degrees on top, mostly clear skies with some high wispy clouds, 82 percent humidity with winds travelling 0-5 knots from the East, and a snow depth at the lodge of 28", with approximately 54" on top.

For those of you UAS students who

enjoy skiing and/ or snowboarding, UAS offers discounted day passes for Eaglecrest. UAS day passes cost \$15 compared to the \$26 pass at the mountain. UAS day passes should be available Dec. 10 on through the season. Unfortunately, if day-by-day passes do not satisfy your winter sports appetite, UAS does not offer discounted season passes. Season passes purchased from Eaglecrest cost \$375 for adults.

Students may also take advantage of the Student Activities Center outdoor rentals in order to save money this winter. Snowboards from the SAC can be rented at \$10-15 a day with a \$100 deposit. At Eaglecrest, snowboard rental costs \$20, or \$25 if you need the boots to go with the board, plus a security deposit. Other SAC snow equipment

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New degree programs offered: English, Social Science degrees now available

By Virginia Arrigucci
Whalesong Staff

Due to new programs beginning this semester, UAS students, for the first time, can earn a bachelor's degree in English and Social Science. Previously students interested in those subjects simply earned a B. A. in Liberal Arts. And thanks to the hiring of new faculty, English students now have the option of having an emphasis in literature in the environment.

The addition of these degree programs is part of the university's goal to expand in core areas. The process of adding these programs took a great deal

of effort by UAS faculty. Once a proposal was completed, it was then reviewed by a curriculum committee, other UA campuses, the provost and chancellor as well as outside sources before finally being approved by the Board of Regents last year. However, the long process of careful scrutiny did result in many positive improvements to the programs before the programs were enacted this fall.

"My goal is to see the campus become known as one of the best bets for a small school," said Brendan Kelly, Dean of Arts and Sciences. And his goal is

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Alaska Native Heritage celebration comes to a close

By Amy Sumner
Whalesong Editor

The Alaskan Native reception held at the Alaska State Museum on Nov. 21 started off the final evening of Beyond Heritage Events. Beyond Heritage, founded by Ishmael Hope in 2001, is an event that celebrates traditional and contemporary works of Alaska Native artists. The reception was co-sponsored by Woocheen and Beyond Heritage. Approximately 35 community members, students, and faculty joined in the event, celebrating Alaskan Native Heritage with excellent

company, food, a documentary feature, and a peek at the museum's exhibits.

Present at the event were such talents as Gene Tagaban, actor and producer; Bob Sam, a professional storyteller; and Mary Kennedy, traditional Tsimshian/Tlingit weaver. Also present at the reception were 12 members of the Woocheen club. During the reception, those present got to enjoy such Alaska Native foods as herring eggs, beach asparagus, venison, smoked salmon, and Hudson Bay tea.

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Photo by Amy Sumner

Florence Sheakley, Tlingit language instructor at UAS, and Bob Sam, Tlingit storyteller

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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).

To whom much is given

By Sarita Knull

We live in America. No where else in the world can one take life, health and the pursuit of happiness so for granted as we do. Perhaps I am the most guilty, and when I reflect on this, I become concerned about my values. As a former missionary's child, I have personally seen the horrors that poverty, ignorance and disease condemns upon Third World countries. However, now that I have lived above the equator in the western hemisphere since 1989, I live my blessed life with a minute sense of empathy for those not on our continent. However, once in a while, when I am puttering around my cozy home, I am jolted out of complacency by a television program and spurred on to challenge those around me to carefully consider their actions.

September 16, 2003, was just such a night. My husband happened to light upon an hour and a half PBS documentary about HIV and AIDS in South Africa. To be honest, I asked him to change the channel, but he wanted to understand the struggles of another country. So I continued to watch.

The show followed South African doctors versus politicians and the lives of a cross-section of people that have been diagnosed with HIV in South Africa. The group ranged from children to pregnant and/or HIV positive mothers, to women infected by husbands (and vice versa) to fathers, sons and brothers; it included the poor and middle class whites and blacks. The heart-rending facts in the common folks' lives are: ignorance; the government deliberately misleads them concerning the HIV/AIDS virus, and insufficient funds to access quality treatment. The acid added to the facts is that the few South African people receiving treatment are getting the bare minimum because the South African government failed and is failing to allow everyone to access the appropriate drugs in order to improve their quality of life. Essentially, only a random few and the really rich are being helped properly because the drugs are not allowed into the country due to the South African government's prohibition of "toxic" drugs. Thus the South African government is creating a lottery of life and death, and those getting the appropriate treatment are doing so due to concerned organiza-

tions smuggling the necessary treatment into the country. The show concluded with the fact that, in August of 2003, the current South African president, due to world wide pressure, has finally just begun to change his policies concerning HIV/AIDS treatment.

Needless to say, the show made me really uncomfortable. It brought back memories of people I encountered and/or knew when I lived in Kenya and traveled to its surrounding countries.

The documentary forced me to reflect on key differences between those infected with the HIV/AIDS virus in North America versus our South African counterparts. In North America, most people do not have a good excuse for contracting the HIV/AIDS virus. Since the 80's, there have been numerous campaigns focused on giving the American people the information necessary to protect ourselves from the virus. We have been informed that one should always wear a condom if one does not choose to have an exclusive partner. We have been told that we should be tested and have our partners tested if we choose not to be abstinent. It has been stated that one should at least wear a condom if one or one's partner has been diagnosed with HIV in an effort to refrain from spreading the virus. We have been discouraged from using non-medical narcotics and told that a needle should only be used once, and some states even distribute free needles. In North America, we have been given so much information about the HIV/AIDS virus. Information is everywhere. It is given in schools, on the internet, during television commercials, in free pamphlets, and on billboards. Yet, the virus continues to spread, and when one looks at that facts, one can only conclude that the rapid perpetuation of the virus in North America is due to belligerence.

Or perhaps it is pure arrogance. In North America, we tend to operate under the assumption of, "It's not going to happen to me." Right? Arrogance and belligerence are the only reasons that I can think of that a person on the North American continent would think that he/she can choose share needles and/or indulge in unprotected promiscuity and/or have unprotected intercourse with an HIV positive person and not contract the virus. Quite simply put, as North Americans, we do not have an excuse. Do what you can to protect yourself and others from the HIV/AIDS virus. Use a condom.

Union letter of thanks to students for support

We understand that over the past month there has been a level of uncertainty at the University because of the possibility of a faculty strike. Taking a strike vote after 14 months of failed negotiations was not a step faculty took lightly. It was one that faculty believed necessary to protect the integrity of academic programs and students attending the University now as well as those attending in the future.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the support so many students demonstrated during this trying time and their understanding of what was at stake in the negotiations.

We are happy to announce that the union and President Hamilton have come to a tentative agreement on a contract. We believe the contract will allow faculty to continue to make educational decisions in the best interests of their students and programs.

Again, thank you for the support you demonstrated, for the e-mails you sent to President Hamilton encouraging a reasonable resolution, and for the solidarity you expressed to faculty. We look forward, as we know you do, to the successful completion of this semester.

Bob Congdon, President
ACCFU

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.

Campus & Community

"Tidal Echoes" submissions due Jan. 15

By Virginia Arrigucci
Whalesong Staff

The deadline for submissions to *Tidal Echoes*, the UAS literary and art publication is Jan. 15. A new faculty advisor, Susan Lucas, and three student editors will be working to release the second volume this spring.

Submissions for publication may include poems, stories, interviews, essays, and artwork. Three editors were chosen to facilitate the many different types of material to be printed. The variety should, "stimulate student interest across the board," Lucas said.

Tidal Echoes is a unique opportunity for students to see their work in print, especially those pursuing a creative writing minor. It is also a great recruiting technique that will give prospective students a chance to see a representation of the kinds of students on campus.

Lucas, a new English professor at UAS, was formerly the managing editor of the publication *Interdisciplinary*

Studies in Literature and the Environment (ISLE) and also worked for the University of Nevada Press. Her experience should prove to make the upcoming publication a success.

Although Lucas will oversee production, *Tidal Echoes* is a student-run publication. The editors will decide which submissions will be included. The last volume included 62 pages, with the next expecting to have anywhere between 60 to 100 pages.

Future plans for *Tidal Echoes* are to make it both more notable and more affordable through greater promotion. It should be released before the Humanities conference this spring, and pieces from the final publication will be showcased at an Evening at Egan.

Last year's *Tidal Echoes* was priced at \$7, but is now being sold at the discounted price of \$5. There is still time for students to submit for the next volume! If interested in submitting a piece or in getting a copy of last year's *Tidal Echoes*, contact Susan Lucas at 465-6370.

How to have your cake and eat it too: holiday food tips

By Angela Perez
Whalesong Contributor

After your Thanksgiving feast, are you feeling like the stuffed turkey you gorged yourself on? Have you been noticing a wee bit of a waddle in your walk? Have you been thrilled with all of the decadent delights that are being put before you, or are you dreading the next scrumptious-food filled party?

With the holidays upon us, we're not only faced with making decisions on what to get this person and what to get that person, but we are faced with decisions like: do we want to eat healthy, do we want to eat everything, or do we want to eat at all!

Stuffed turkeys, candied yams, mounds of mashed potatoes, and cherry topped hams tempt us severely and it doesn't stop there. What to do? Are we to walk away from all the yummys of the holidays? Saying no to pumpkin pie, chocolate fudge and strawberry cheesecake is not an enjoyable thought for most people—especially during the holiday season.

Doing push-a-ways (from the table) rather than push-ups later is a choice for some. But who wants to walk away from a delicious feast-filled table that is surrounded by family and friends during the holidays? We want to enjoy ourselves, our friends, and our family members—and all the goodies they bring. "How can I enjoy the holidays and not gain 10 pounds in the process" you ask?

Here are a few tips, so you can have your holiday cake—and eat it too:

1. Ever hear the saying, "A little dab will do ya!" Consider putting teaspoon or tablespoon sized servings of food onto your plate rather than monstrous-sized spoonfuls. This way, you have the chance to sample a little bit of everything on the table, and you just might have room for dessert.

2. You can still choose healthy options when filling your holiday dinner plate, without missing out completely on the decadent menu.

Choose low fat or even fat free for your dairy products. Use zero-calorie Splenda for baking instead of sugar. Fill your plate with more protein based dishes over the carb-packed variety and Eat your proteins first.

3. Beef up your exercise routine. If you ate an extra 500 calories today than you had planned, you can still burn it off. Get to the SAC or your local gym and hop on a cardio machine—a treadmill is a good choice. With a good cardiovascular workout you can burn off those extra calories in no time. Machines not your thing? There are plenty of other ways to burn off the calories, that don't require machines or memberships. Like jogging, biking, hiking, and swimming—just to name a few.

4. Want to fit into that dress/suit for the Christmas party? Drop all the carbohydrates from your menu for 5-7 days before the party date and don't be surprised if you lose some inches in the process. Eating a carb-free diet encourages your body to burn the fat reserves for fuel. Staying carb-free for more than a week is not a healthy choice, so be sure to start adding healthy carbs back into your diet with veggies being the first, then whole grains and fruits—after the party.

One thing I have seen people do when they start falling off their diet wagon is give up completely. They over-eat a bit and then quit their workout routine all together. Instead of accepting the fact that people generally do indulge more in the holiday season, they "beat themselves up" for eating that slice of pie. Survive the delights of holiday eating this season without feeling like the stuffed turkey. Don't feel bad for enjoying the Thanksgiving or Christmas banquet—allow yourself to indulge a little, and allow a little extra time on the treadmill while you are at it.

Angela J. Perez is an NAHF certified Health and Fitness Specialist. You can contact her with your health and fitness related questions at goaskang@yahoo.com. Always seek the advice of a physician before starting a new diet or exercise program.

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rentals include snowshoes, gaiters, snow shovels, and avalanche probes. Check out the SAC website for rental rates for all their equipment.

Eaglecrest offers lessons and clinics, ski bus travel, and fun-filled winter events for those winter sports fans who need help in enjoying the winter or perfecting their techniques. Lessons and clinics are offered in skiing and snowboarding for all age levels. Private lesson are available. The ski bus costs \$3 each way with stops at Mendenhall Mall, Lemon Creek, and various places downtown. The ski bus is best utilized if you plan on skiing/snowboarding all day, as it only travels once to Eaglecrest in the morning, and leaves from the Lodge at 4:00 p.m. If you would like more information about what Eaglecrest has to offer, or if you want the latest update on snow conditions, you can contact Eaglecrest at 790-2000 (Base Lodge) or 586-5330 (Snow conditions), or visit their website at www.juneau.org/crestftp/index.php



Photo from Eaglecrest website
Nordic skiers enjoying Eaglecrest

Student and Community Submissions

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

Student housing celebrates

Thanksgiving

By Joel Webb
Whalesong Contributor

UAS Student Housing sponsored a Thanksgiving dinner for students who stayed over the break. Thirty-one people took advantage of the opportunity to eat and spend time with friends. Appetites were hearty with residents consuming 48 pounds of turkey and ham, 12 pounds of garlic-mashed potatoes, six boxes of stuffing, and over a gallon of homemade cranberry sauce.

Community participation was outstanding; almost every resident attending brought some of their favorite dishes from cherry pie to barbecue beef. We owe a big thanks to the members of the Mendenhall Valley Rotary Club who kindly donated eight delicious pies and a beautiful tiramisu made to feed

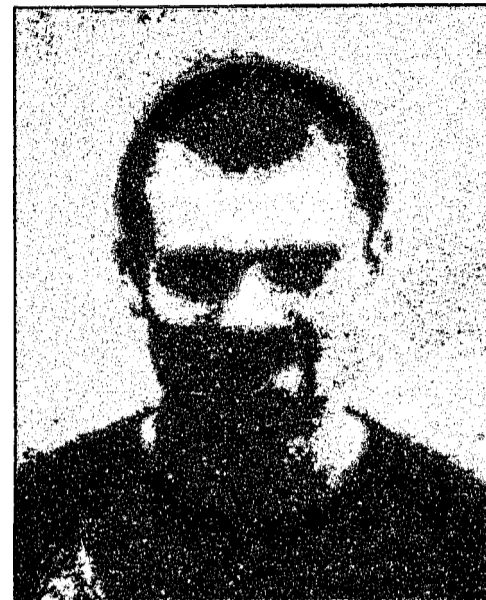


Photo courtesy of Sabra Clark
Joel Webb, Residence Hall Coordinator

50. One of the happiest residents was Sammy the Lodge Dog. He's having a hard time going back to kibbles and bits after ham scraps became a significant part of his diet.

Degree programs from page 1

being met, according to an article in the most recent *Careers and Colleges* issue. The article, entitled, "Great Schools at Great Prices" lists UAS as one of the schools offering a great value, a list that includes such schools as Arizona State, BYU, and Grinnell College. The new Literature and Environment program is mentioned as one of the highlights of the university.

Although, "Biology and Environmental Science are seen as the flagships, it is very important for other core subjects to have a strong offering on their own," Kelly said. The new Bachelor's degrees are an important step in that development and can only have a positive effect on retention. "Students' interests are expected to change at a university, and it is important to provide alternatives to pursue other fields," he added.

The broadly educated instructors also facilitate in making better links between disciplines, which is very beneficial for

students. The collaboration of Biology and Literature and the Environment is being strongly encouraged and has gained a lot of interest on campus. One of the two new English professors is Susan Lucas, who specializes in literature and the environment. Although programs are expanding, the hiring of additional faculty maintains the favorable student-faculty ratio and gives students greater opportunities.

The transition in adding these new programs has been smooth, and the key for students to avoid problems is through academic advising. Overall, feedback has been positive, and the addition of more degree programs is likely in the future. A math degree seems to be a top priority, but another prospect is the eventual breaking up of the B. A. in Social Science into several specialized degrees.



Photo by Amy Sumner
Tagaban, producer and actor, at the reception

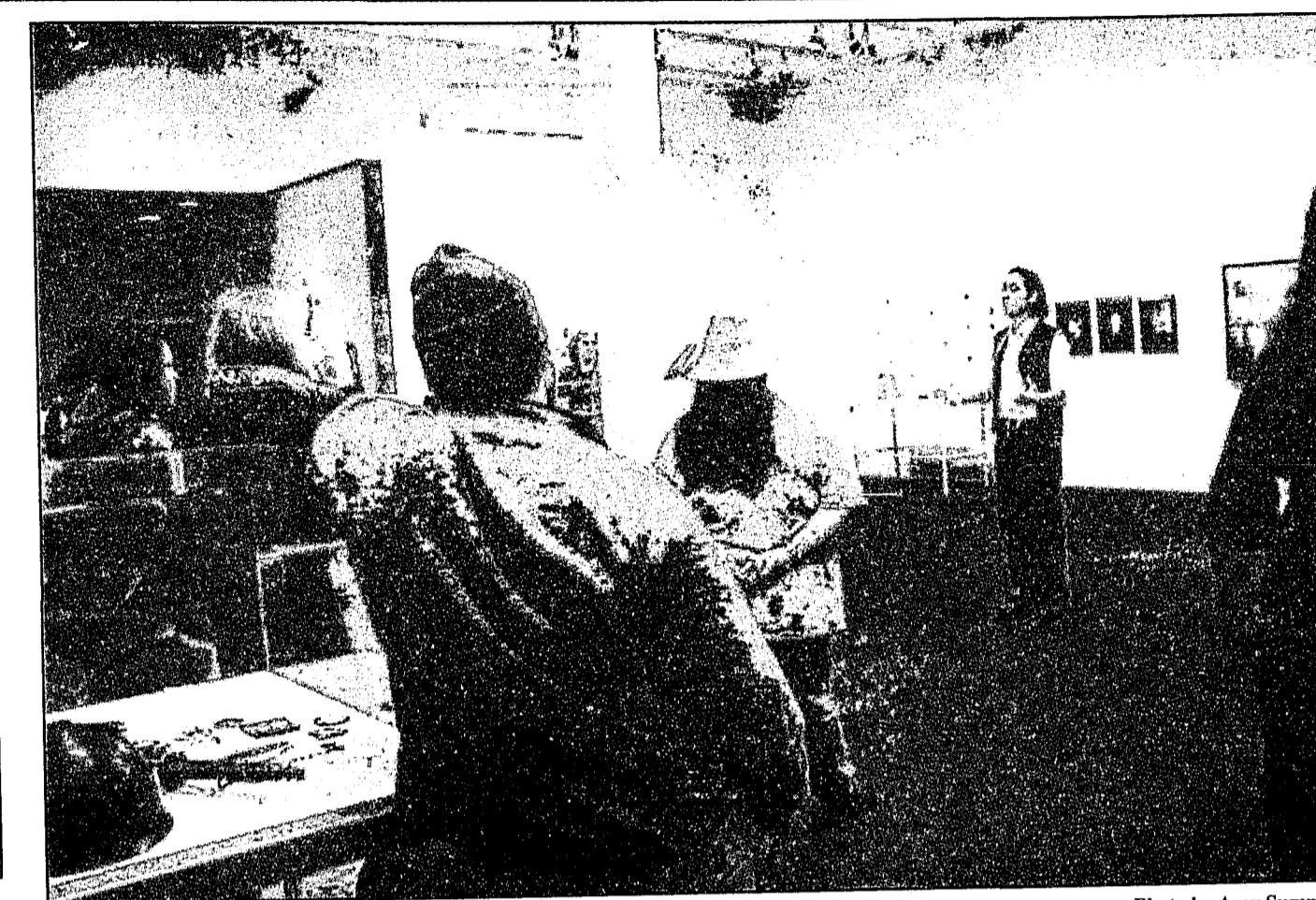


Photo by Amy Sumner
Ishmael Hope addresses the crowd at the Alaska Native reception held at the Alaska State Museum

Internship opportunities abound for college students at the Alaska Sea Life Center

By Cadie Buckley
Whalesong Contributor

The Alaska Sea Life Center, located in Seward, has multiple opportunities for interns and volunteers to participate in research, rehabilitation and education. The Alaska Sea Life Center sits on Resurrection Bay, overlooking the natural habitat of these animals, and at a breathtaking view of the mountains. The facility has several exhibits, a touch tank, Stellar sea lion and Harbor seal habitats and an underwater viewing gallery. Some of the ongoing research includes: assessing metabolism in Stellar sea lions, migratory behavior in Eider ducks and broader studies focusing on environmental issues and marine ecosystems. In 2003, the Alaska Sea Life Center rehabilitated several ringed seals, harbor seals and a Pacific walrus.

The internship program is for college students or recent graduates and it accommodates a variety of interests by offering several areas to choose from, such as, animal husbandry, diving, interpretation, rehabilitation, laboratory research, orca research, harbor seal research, to name a few. The volunteer program and the internship program attract people from around the world and from many walks of life.

Theresa Zabala, volunteer and intern coordinator, said that people come from

as far away as Central America, Europe and Australia plus there are people living in Seward who volunteer year-round, including Seward High students taking oceanography, who participate as volunteers through the WOW (World of Work) program.

While visiting the center, I found it mesmerizing to sit and watch "Woody," the 1,300 pound Steller sea lion, swim about in the underwater viewing gallery. He was so attentive and playful with those of us watching. I spoke with one of the volunteers participating in the WOW program and he said that the Alaska Sea Life Center "changes ones perspective on the ocean." He said that he chose to do interpretation so that he could broaden his understanding and wouldn't be limited to just marine mammals or just birds. The opportunities are limitless and everyone can find an area of interest that suits them.

Internships are 12 weeks long and there are six sessions per year; one in the spring, one in the fall, one in the winter and three in the summer. The program provides complimentary housing for interns and a food stipend. Theresa's message to perspective applicants, when filling out the application, is to "put down everything." She said, for example, if you are applying for something in reha-



Photo from Alaska Sealife Center website
A baby walrus, just one of the many animals an intern could help to rehabilitate at the Alaska Sealife Center

bilitation you would want to include, "walking the dog or working at an animal shelter. Never think that anything is too small to put down."

This is a great opportunity to get hands-on research experience and education, to meet interesting people, work with scientists conducting cutting-edge research in the field of marine biology, and develop career skills at a

state-of-the-art facility. If you are interested, you can contact Theresa Zabala at theresa_zabala@alaskasealife.org and you can check out the Alaska Sea Life Center online at www.alaskasealife.org.

What is the BEST Defense



Your Seatbelt! Use It!



Photo by Amy Sumner
Wooheen Club members at the reception. Top (left to right): Rhonda Hickok, Janice Jackson, Mary Jollett, Joanne Pootoogooluk, Martin Peters, Tony Stevens, Joe Nelson, and Kecia Medina. Bottom (left to right): Mary Kennedy, Chelsea Chalmers, Michelle Martin, and Lily Hudson

Alaska Native celebration from page 1

In an earlier interview with Hope, he said, "I want Beyond Heritage to be a community event." The turn-out of the reception alone demonstrated that Beyond Heritage has, indeed, grown to incorporate the entire community. Though the events of Beyond Heritage and Native American History Month draws to an end, it is obvious that the celebration of Alaska Native heritage will continue on. If you are interested in becoming involved with Alaska Native activities on campus, please contact Janice Jackson at 465-6454.

Arts & Entertainment

Native American poet and novelist Adrian Louis visits UAS

By Amy Sumner
Whalesong Editor

Native American poet and fiction writer Adrian Louis recently visited the UAS campus to present a craft talk and fiction and poetry reading. Louis was born and raised in Nevada, and is the eldest of 12 children. He is an enrolled member of the Lovelock Paiute Indian Tribe. Louis graduated from Brown University with an M.A. in Creative Writing. To date, Louis has published nine collections of poetry, his most recent being *Ancient Acid Flashes Back* (2000). In 1995, Louis published his first novel, *Skins*, which is now a movie. In 1999, Louis was elected into the Nevada Writer's Hall of Fame. Currently, Louis is teaching at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota.

Among his many accomplishments, Louis has also been active in the Native American community as a writer. He is a former journalist and has been the editor of four tribal newspapers, including the *Lakota Times* and *Indian Country Today*. The National Indian Media Consortium twice nominated him for Print Journalist of the Year. Louis was also a co-founder of the Native American Journalists Association.

"Adrian Louis was recommended by Buddy Taber, a community member, for the Egan Lecture Series," said Dr. Alexis Easley, Assistant Professor of English at UAS. "Once I read his work, I fell in love with it. I knew he would be an inspiration to our students." Of Louis' work, Dr. Easley stated, "His work is accessible

and deals with complex universal themes."

Janice Jackson, Coordinator of the Native and Rural Student Center, organized a student luncheon with Louis so that students may speak with the renowned author one-on-one. According to Jackson, about 20 or so students and faculty attended the luncheon with Louis. "Louis was an inspiration to our students," Jackson comments, "He encouraged them to finish school, telling them that school will be the hardest thing in their life, and they are doing well."

Louis impressed Jackson. "During the luncheon, he was genuinely interested in learning more about our students than talking about himself." Jackson continues, "He has a great sense of humor, and he jokingly humbles himself."

Dr. Easley was very pleased with the turnout of the Egan Lecture featuring Louis. "The students seemed to really enjoy him, especially the beginning creative writers," according to Dr. Easley, Louis was thrilled by the turnout himself, as poetry readings usually attract only a handful of people. "He told me that he thought that the audience was warm and fantastic."

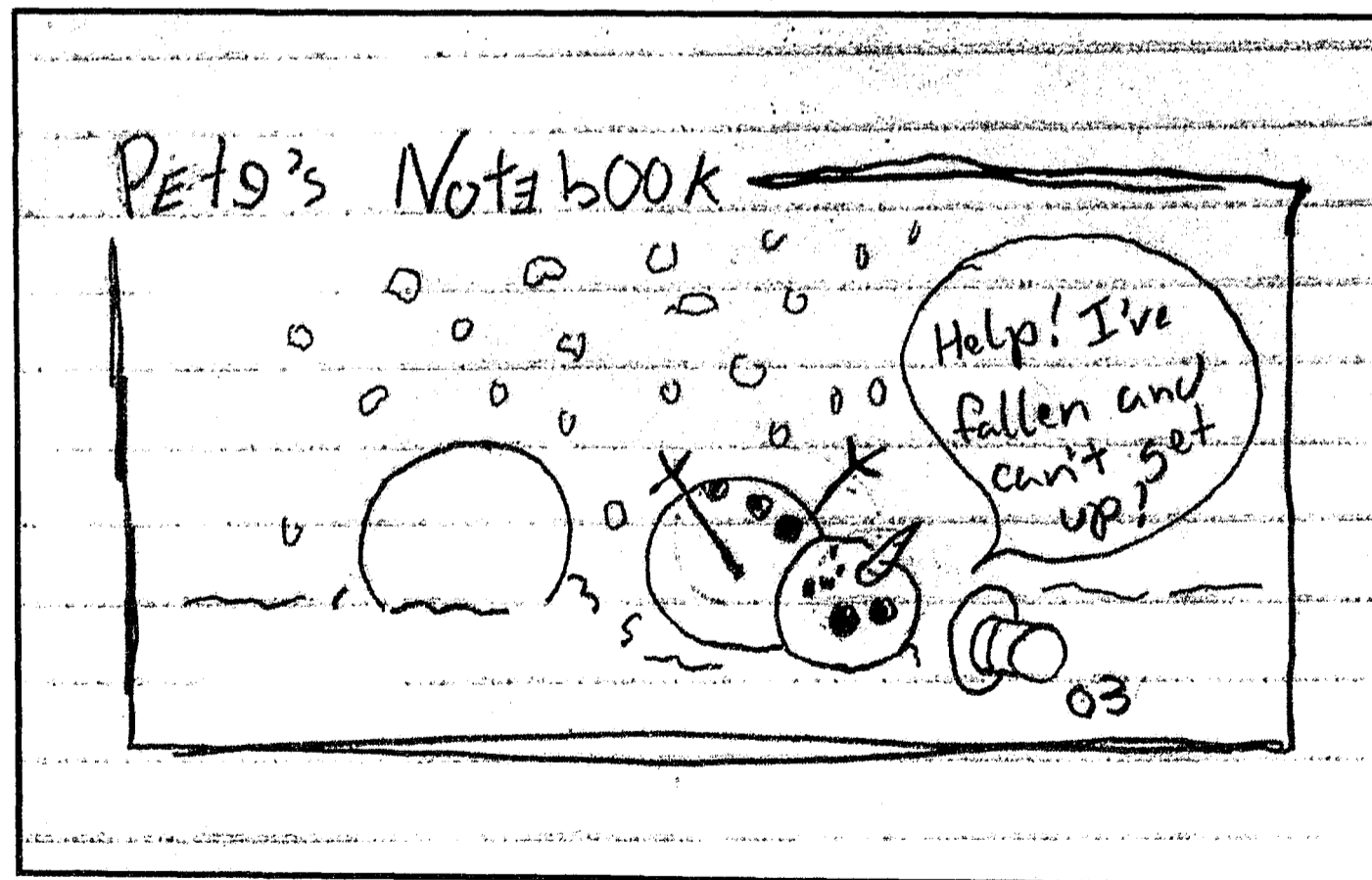
After attending Louis's poetry and fiction reading at the Evening at Egan Lecture Series, I was disappointed that I had missed the craft talk. His poetry was very real; they reflected the rawness of life and the emotions it encompasses. Louis had a delightful down-to-earth personality and a charming sense of humor. For those of you who missed the opportunity to hear Adrian Louis



Photo from Adrian Louis' website

Native American poet and novelist Adrian Louis

read, or who are interested in obtaining a book of his work, Hearthside Books has copies of his poetry collections as does Amazon.com. If you are interested in learning more about Adrian Louis, there are also very good online sources dedicated to the author and his work.



By Pete Sommers



"I'm sorry, I just can't get excited about your suggestions — I'm ALREADY everywhere I wanna be."

Environment

Alaska Board of Game's wolf decision stirs controversy

By Amy Sumner
Whalesong Editor

On Nov. 4, The Alaska Board of Game approved predator control measures which authorize the aerial hunting of wolves near McGrath, and land and shoot measures in areas near Nelchina due to the decline of moose populations. The wolf (*Canis lupis*) occurs throughout mainland Alaska, on Unimak Island in the Aleutians, and on all major islands in the Southeast with a few exceptions. Alaska supports the largest remaining population of gray wolves in the United States, with estimates ranging from 7,000 - 10,000 wolves. Alaska is the only state in which the gray wolf does not have protection under the Endangered Species Act. While the decision is supported by the Alaska Legislature and the Department of Fish and Game, it set off alarm bells for environmental groups and could become a problem for the tourism industry.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Ralph Seekins (R-Fairbanks), which was passed by the Alaska Legislature last spring, allows private citizens to participate in state sponsored predator control. According to a written statement by Sen. Seekins, Senate Bill 155 gives the Alaska Game Board and the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game more options in trying to deal with the issue of predator control, which is becoming a more pervasive problem every year. "The thinning of Moose and Caribou herds by predators is not just upsetting the ecological balance among our wildlife, but is also preventing Alaskans that live off the land from being able to feed their families, because the predators are getting to the herds before the hunters," said Seekins.

According to the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation, residents of the upper Kuskokwim River Basin (GMU 19D East), which includes the community of McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, Medfra, and Telida, have been concerned about declining moose populations in their area since the early 1990s. In a published presenta-



An Alaska wolf enjoying the snow

Photo from Defenders of Wildlife's website

tion, Wayne L. Regelin, Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation, stated, "The density of the moose population is low in [GMU 19D East], and local residents are not able to harvest enough moose to meet their needs."

The aerial wolf control plan approved by the board calls for eliminating 40 wolves from the 1,700 square miles of Game Management Unit 19D East near McGrath. In GMU 19D East, citizens will be allowed to shoot wolves from the air. Predator control in the McGrath area has been considered by the board for nearly 10 years.

In the 7,800 square mile region of GMU 19 near Nelchina, wolves will be shot from the ground after being spotted by planes. Bob Tobey, a Fish and Game biologist, told reporter Joel Gay of the Anchorage Daily News, "The goal is to kill be-

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ADEC approves aerial spraying of pesticides

By Amy Sumner
Whalesong Editor

The Alaska State Legislature has approved a regulatory system that sanctions the use of aerial spraying of pesticides. These regulations, effective since Nov. 30, allow chemicals to be sprayed by helicopters and planes within 35 feet of waterways and 200 feet from drinking water sources. The new regulations were drafted and approved by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation under Commissioner Ernesta Ballard. Though aerial pesticide spraying has been legal in Alaska for 30 years, the new regulations are stirring opposition from the Alaska Legislature and environmental groups.

According to information published by the Division of Environmental Health, previous pesticide regulations did not specify buffer zones, as they were established on a case-by-case basis. In addition to including buffer zones, the Department of Environmental Conservation made the following changes: ability to require monitoring to ensure stipulations are met, increased information required of permit applicants, a public review process for permit applications that require community notification, and appeal opportunities for permit decisions before spraying can occur. More detailed information can be found at:

These changes, however, do not appease anti-pesticide activists in the Alaska Legislature. Senator John Ellis (D-Anchorage), is sponsoring two bills, Senate Bill 27 and 233, and Representative Sharon Cissna is sponsoring House Bill 314 (the companion bill to Senate Bill 27). Currently, all three bills are awaiting decisions in committees. According to a written statement by Sen. Ellis, Senate Bill 27, or the citizen right-to-know bill, will require commercial-pesticide applicators to report to the ADEC the use of their chemicals, and this information would then be made available to the public by the state. This will allow individuals to decide where to hunt, fish, or take part in other recreational activities without compromising their health. This bill also allows for the protection of privacy of the companies utilizing the pesticides.

Senate Bill 233 will altogether ban aerial pesticide spraying in Alaska. According to Sen. Ellis, this bill was introduced following Commissioner Ballard's refusal to hold a public hearing regarding the new regulations on aerial spraying back in late April. Sen. Ellis states, "Alaskans across the state were outraged that she would deny a public hearing on such an important matter." In ADEC's defense, the then Director of the Division of Environmental Health, Kristin Ryan, stated that because public opinions are so strong and varied in regards to spraying of pesticides, a public hearing would not have been an effective procedure to gather input. However, the drafted regulations did include two periods for written public comments. According to public records from the Division of Environmental Health, 335 comments were received and were reviewed by the Pesticide Program staff, and changes were made based on public comments and recommendations.

Environmental organizations such as the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council and the Alaska Community Action on Toxics is rallying against the new regulations. Both organizations are planning a protest on Tuesday, December 2, outside of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation State Headquarters in Anchorage. According to information from the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, speakers at the protest will include Rep. Sharon Cissna, whose legislation will create a state-wide monitoring program for commercial pesticide use; Dr. Ted Schettler, an APHA Health Summit and Keynote Speaker who will address public health links to pesticides; and Shawna Larson, an Alaska Native leader and ex-delegate to the U.N. Persistent Organic Pollutants International Treaty meetings.

According to a publication by the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, the new ADEC regulations do not provide "pesticide-free zones" as claimed. Although the regulations call for a buffer zone around waterways of 35 feet and 200 feet from drinking water sources, pesticides can drift from aircraft in a range of 100 meters to 50 miles. The best method of preventing pesticide drift is to prohibit aerial spraying and to utilize non-toxic, non-chemical management practices.

Wolves from page 7



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tween 100 and 130 wolves which should bring the area's wolf population to a level that should allow moose and caribou stocks to improve." The Nelchina basin's moose population has declined 52 percent in the last 10 years.

Several conservation groups and wolf lovers disagree with the board's decision. In Anchorage, during the board's meeting in early November, 25 wolf advocates, accompanied by wolf-hybrid dogs in mock bullet-proof vests, protested with signs. Much of the opposition hinges on the fact that Alaskan citizens have twice banned aerial hunting of wolyes, once in 1996 then again in 2000. A state ballot initiative in 1996 and a ballot referendum in 2000 banned same-day aerial hunting of wolves. Karen Deatherage with the Defenders of Wildlife has gone on record several times as stating, "The state Legislature, the governor and now the Game Board have trampled on the voters' wishes."

Another position taken by the board's opposition is that aerial hunting of wolves is inhumane. Activists claim that aerial hunting by citizens lead to abuses of the privilege such as chasing wolves to exhaustion, herding wolves and shooting them from the air, and maiming wolves by unskilled hunters. Vivian Singer-Ferris, Executive Director of the Kerwood Wolf Education Centre, has started an online petition asking Gov. Murkowski to "do the right thing - to stop the slaughter."

Even the tourist industry is getting involved in protest efforts. According to an article in the Washington Post, visitors spend more than a half-billion dollars year on wildlife viewing, with wolves being a priority for tourists. The reduction of the wolf population will affect these funds, and there is talk of a tourism boycott. In 1992, this same tactic by the tourism industry persuaded former Gov. Walter Hickel to call off the last planned lethal wolf control program. Game Board Chairman, Mike Feagle, told reporter Joel Gay with the Anchorage Daily News, that he was confident that the programs would continue in spite of tourist boycott threats. He believes that public opinion is swinging back in favor of predator control.

The Alaska Outdoor Council is one organization that agrees with the board's decision. A statement on their website claims, "The Alaska Outdoor Council commends the board for its reasonable evaluation of scientifically based biological data in an effort to promote professional management of Alaska's fish and game resources, and fully supports the department in the professional implementation of these new management measures."

One thing is clear, aerial hunting of wolves continues to remain a large controversy in the state and the issue does not appear to be settled.

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