

INSIDE: Campus & Community 8 A hidden danger: W water my whole life and I am very healthy." your water? He also stated that although sodium fluoride

By Sandra Galeana Whalesong Staff

On March 30, 2004 sodium fluoride was once again placed into Juneau's water supply. Ironically about a year ago, to avoid a \$35,000 fine, sodium fluoride was removed from Juneau's water because the Mendenhall Waste Water Treatment plant had an unacceptable water quality, which was hurting the environment and aquatic life. City officials turned to sodium fluoride as the cause and removed it from the water.

However, Local dentist Kristen Schultz proposed to the city that sodium fluoride should be placed back into the water supply. "Studies show that sodium fluoride reduces cavities as much as 60 percent," she said. Although the DOD (Department of Defense) Hazardous Material Information from MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) says sodium fluoride is, "Very Toxic by ingestion." When faced with this fact Schultz responded, "On the MSDS, sodium fluoride is pure sodium fluoride and is a solid. The sodium fluoride in our water has been diluted to about .7 ppm (parts per million). This dose is not high enough to cause any damage."

The same response came from a chemist with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) who wants to remain anonymous. He assured, "sodium fluoride is not that bad in low doses. I have been on fluoridated

is toxic the amount that is in our waters is very little and should cause no damage.

Tom Chapin, a resident of Juneau, states otherwise. "This particular fluoride is an industrial waste by-product that is very toxic and corrosive. It comes primarily from aluminum and steel production." Chapin stated further that fluoride is an insecticide (kills insects), a poison to kill rodents, and it is used to fluoridate municipal water systems (for people to drink).

As well as agreeing with Chapin, Larry Buzzell, a local resident, states, "We already get sodium fluoride in our foods such as tea, fruit juices, soda pop, Gatorade, wine, breakfast cereals, canned foods, baby foods with chicken, and fruits and vegetables." Buzzell continued to say that fluoride is everywhere, "sodium fluoride will not disappear so we don't need supplemental sodium fluoride in our drinking water, we already get plenty."

James McCoy, a concerned resident, feels the need to remove sodium fluoride from Juneau's water system as well, "Your toothpaste carries a warning saying keep away from children under six years of age. If you accidentally swallow more then used for brushing contact a poison control center immediately. Now let me say this. Do we want to put something in our water that is considered a poison?" McCoy also states, "some of what fluoridation causes is bone



Auke Lake on April 8, 2004. A sure sign that Summer is right around the corner.

cancer, brain disorders, thyroid disorders, depression, and heart disease. Because of these problems the American Dental Association lost the endorsements from 11 national associations and organizations who considered sodium fluoride to be a hidden danger" (for a list of the 11 national associations and organizations see the end of this article).

Sodium fluoride, considered a hazardous material by the MSDS, used to kill insects and rodents, strengthens our teeth while lowering our immune system causing diseases and possibly lifetime problems, but still considered safe in low doses. Schultz and the chemist with the EPA both agreed that sodium fluoride is dangerous in high doses. That an overdose will cause sever problems and possibly death. But what is an overdose? According to Mary, a specialist at the poison center, "There is no clear way to find out how much an overdose is." So residents of Juneau must take the chance of drinking an unclear dose of sodium fluoride or buy pure water from a grocery store. Whatever the residents choose there is no escaping that Juneau officials have placed a hidden danger in their lives.

See "Fluoride" on pg. 12





SIZE

Folk Festival Looking for six days jam packed

Humanities Conference One of the major themes of the Humanities Conference was diversity. This theme is powerful because it is ...

INSIDE -6-

ALASKA

Sherry Tamone In the late 1980s, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research ers noticed ...

INSIDE -5-

Advice Column **Campus** Poll Student Interview Photo Page

Kids Comer

8

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EDITORIAL & OPINION **Community council is back** CIA analyst

The Whalesong

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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 nembers.

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 responsibil ity 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).

By Jennifer Legat Whalesong Contributer

Some of you may know that student housing has a Community Council. It has not been very active recently, but that is going to change. A few weeks ago a group of housing residents met and decided that it was time that something is to be done. The council provides residents a voice and will help improve the way of life for all the students living on campus. Returning Community Council members are Anne McKay and Pete Sommers. Brian Doyle is also attending as a CA staff member. New members are Louie Silva, Amanda Sauro, Josh Galbraith, Heather Williams, Ryia Waldern, Ayaire Cantil-Voorhes, and myself. Our head advisor is Chris Washko, Housing Program Coordinator. His office is located in Joel Webb's old office. Community Council is meeting every Thursday at 8p.m. in the upstairs room at the lodge. Anyone is welcome to come to the meetings if they have any concerns, thoughts, or just want to know what is going on.

Although the year is almost over, Community Council is trying to get a few things done. The main item we are focusing on is an end-of-the-year celebration. This will be your chance to say goodbye to all your friends who live in housing. A BBQ with a carnival theme will provide good food and music for anyone who would like to attend.

Keep your eyes open for flyers with more information.

Community Council has also worked on a few things for the fall: getting a coin machine for the main laundry facilities, transportation to and from the JRC, keeping the Banfield kitchen is better shape and bringing fresh food from Mourant Café to the lodge on weekends. There is also now a bulletin board across for the lodge desk that Community Council information will be posted on. A suggestion box is in the process, but if you have any immediate concerns please feel free to contact any of the above mentioned members.

All the members of Community Council are working hard to get a solid foundation made so that next year we can start right back up again. Officer elections will be held April 22 during the council meeting, and next fall we would like to elect representatives from each building and each floor of Banfield to attend meetings and to help think of things that need to be done. If you think you may be interested in one of these positions watch for posters advertising them sometime at the start of the semester.

So as you can see, Community Council is back in full swing. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings and is encouraged to give suggestions, complaints, or comments to any of the members. We hope to see you at our end-of-the-year celebration!

criticizes war By John S. Sonin Whalesong Staff

Beginning his speech with a quote made from Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Into the valley of death rode the 600," Ray McGovern noted this equaled the current, March 31, 2004 body count of our American casualties in Iraq. He then proceeded with a rehashing of American and Iraqi civilian catastrophes: Which did not exclude the "war plan" itself! Attending McGovern's Pacific Rim Conference on "U.S. Intelligence and the War in Iraq," This reporter was moved by the breadth and depth of background information this ex-CIA political analyst had on our state of affairs overseas.

Moved even more when he asked for a moment of silence for the families' of these men and women. In the large courtroom/ auditorium at Dimond Courthouse, packed to standing room only with many sitting on the floor in front, it became so still that the rustle of a man's sleeve 15-feet away as he lifted his arm to scratch his nose was abrasive to the silence!

McGovern went on to say, then, that if we had mother's in positions of power, this kind of foolish slaughter would not be occurring, Leaving him a segue to then ask for a show See "CIA" on pg. 5

Governor's mansion mystery

Opinion

By Misty Stein Whalesong Staff

Have you ever wondered what it's like inside the great Governor's Mansion? I'm sure I can't be the only person who has walked past its beautifully decorated pillars at holiday time and thought "I wonder how many bedrooms are in there?" Well, I was invited to the Governors Reception that took place April 1 and while there I

got my chance to explore the premises – at least as much as they would let me. Walking into the house you

are bombarded with a richly decorated reception hall. The furniture has a Victorian feel to it, although most of it was bought in 1983. Karen Newton, Executive Residence Manager and Assistant to the First Lady, greeted me at the door and kindly gave me my own private tour. Newton says the Governors Mansion currently has 6 bedrooms, although more could be quickly remodeled if the need arose, along with 10 bathrooms. The main living quarters for the governor and his family are on the second

floor. My curiosity arose when Newton informed me that I was not to be allowed to see the other floors of the Mansion, including the living quarters upstairs. When I asked why, she stated that "It wouldn't be fair because of the lack in handicap facilitation.' Basically since everyone can't have the

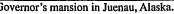
opportunity to see the upstairs, it wouldn't be fair for me to see; not to mention they are PRI-VATE quarters!. I asked her why the Mansion wasn't equipped in

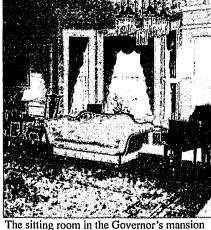
this manner, she said it was simply a money

The house itself was built in 1913 and is an Alaskan relic. While touring the main floor, I was both impressed with the beauty of the décor and irritated that I couldn't see the entire house. Perhaps someday we will have a Governor who is differently-abled and the floors will than be accessible to all or at least a few curious folks. Until then, only part of the 'inside the Governors Mansion' mystery has been solved.

Letters to the Editor The Whalesong glady 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, jywhale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg,







The Whalesong Tuesday, April 13, 2004



WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

Be a part of a new & exciting group on campus! * Get a FREE SAA t-shirt *

In the past year, members got FREE admission to cool events such as:

Leadership strategies luncheon with UA President **Mark Hamilton**

The SAA Etiquette and Networking Dinner

Dinner and a Movie Night at the SAC

The "Music Mavhem" Gameshow

A Talent and Fashion Show at the Pioneers' Home The Annual UAS Holiday Sing at the Noyes Pavilion The Mechanical Bull at the "Non-Homecoming

Homecoming"

WHAT IS THE SAA?

The UAS Student Alumni Association is a student organization that exists to promote UAS pride and tradition, cultivate relationships between students and alumni, and enhance the college experience through exciting, memorable events.

The SAA is funded through the UAS Alumni Association, the UAS Development Office and SAA membership fees. It is comprised of a 5-member board, selected from the student body, and other members who are enrolled at UAS. Membership in the SAA is \$15 per year. Members enjoy many benefits, including an SAA membership t-shirt and opportunities to get involved at UAS and in the Juneau community.

Seats are currently available on the SAA Board of Directors. Please contact the SAA Office if you are interested.

WHAT IS THE OPTIONAL FEE?

The annual \$15 optional SAA fee is automatically charged in the Fall semester to every local student who is taking 6 or more credits. Students must opt out of the fee by the second week of class, or, September 21, 2004.

You can opt out by contacting the SAA at saa@uas.alaska.edu or 465-2848, stopping by the SAA office in the Soboleff Annex, or contacting the UAS cashier in the lower Mourant Building. An e-mail will be sent out prior to September 21 to remind you of the upcoming deadline.

Spaghetti and politics

By Misty Stein Whalesong Staff

Yes, yes, it's that time of the year again. Election time. A couple weeks ago I got a phone call from someone I had never met before inviting me to a free spaghetti dinner downtown. "How did you get my number?" was my first question, to which the answer was "Out of the phone book." Totally blown away my next question was "What's the catch?" (you always know there's a catch when there's free food involved). I found out that while the meal was being served/consumed Democrat Tony Knowles would be mingling and offering a "community conversation" about what he plans on accomplishing if we elect him as Alaska Senator. Knowles served two terms as governor between 1994-2002. This was a fact he used for support at his dinner-speech on April 6.

bread I sat down and listened to some of the changes Knowles plans to achieve if elected Senator. His main theme for discussion was surprisingly enough-EDUCATION. My ears perked up when the person who introduced him called him an "Advocate for Education" Knowles went on to rant and rave at how awful the new policy in place concerning education is.

"No Child Left Behind has turned a dream into a nightmare" he quotes, as well as saying "We need to take education back into local control". Knowles is strongly opposes the "No Child Left Behind" program and wants to get back to putting the kids first. He says "That's what I tried to work for as your governor and if I'm your US senator you will see reform and repeal".

Knowles opened up the conversation and listened to the complaints of anyone in the

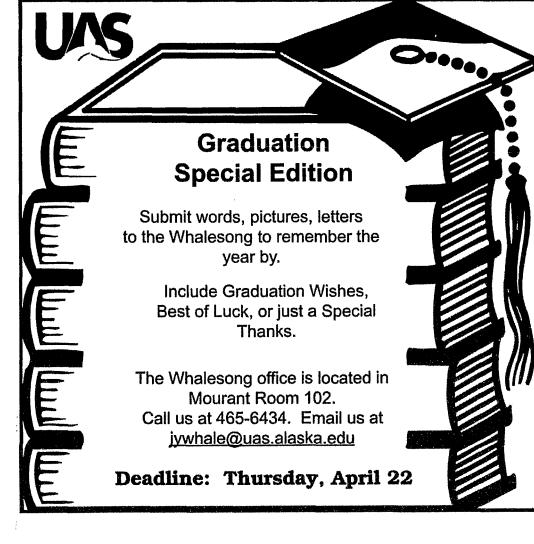
audience during his speech. Although some people present tended to ask very personally relevant questions a lot of other important issues were discussed. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that if elected senator Knowles plans on making education a top priority.

Call for submissions!

If you are a comic, artist, writer, photographer, or creative in any way, submit your talent to The Whalesong for possible publication and Whalesong Bucks!

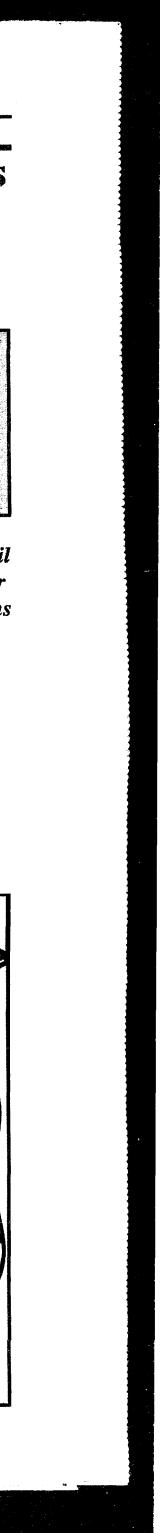
Last issue of The So, with a full plate of Spaghetti, salad, and Whalesong is April 27 until the Fall semester. Get your ads and other contributions in by April 22nd.











News & FEATURES **Don't Miss Alaska's Largest** Folk Music Party: 30th **Annual Alaska Folk Festival**

By Melissa Adams Whalesong Staff

Looking for six days jam packed with banjo picking, square dancing, folk singing, guitar strumming, and dance calling? Well look no further than the Alaska Folk Festival in downtown Juneau from April 12-18. "The Folk Festival is a chance to invite the folk music community into our living room," says AFF secretary Mike Sakarias. Over 450 artists of all ages will perform at the 30th Annual Folk Festival in Centennial Hall.

From Bethel to the Kenai Peninsula, artists travel from all over Alaska to perform at "Alaska's largest folk music party." That's over a 1.000 miles of Alaskan musical talent. "The festival is a community event that has grown to involve all of Alaska," says Sakarias. Artists will also be making their way up from the "Lower 48", with acts from California to North Carolina

The tough decision will be what activities to attend, as the festival includes musical performances, dances, dance workshops, and teaching workshops on a diversity of folk music skills. This year's folk festival will be a particular treat, as the festival features not only guest artist, the Hot Club of Cowtown, but also guest dance band Maya Soleil and dance caller Bill Martin.

Hot Club of Cowtown, hailing from Austin, Texas, plays a fusion of swing, Western, and folk music making for an innovative and exciting sound. They will play the main stage on Thursday and Saturday evening. For a more in-depth look at the Texas trio, workshops will also be given by Hot Club of Cowtown throughout the weekend on how to play their unique swing folk style.

For those interested in how to play some of the fascinating instruments at the festival or dance the traditional folk dances, a variety of workshops will be offered on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4:30pm. Along with swing fiddle and swing guitar by Hot Club of Cowtown, the workshops include Russian Folk dance, Australian didgeridoo, bluegrass banjo, modern jazz dance, Northumbrian music from the British Isles, and Rhythms of Western and Southern Africa. The owner of Capital Records in Juneau and guitar guru Robert Cohen will also teach a workshop on improvisation with guitar.

No folk festival is complete without dancing and the Alaska Folk Festival is no exception with over 14 hours of dances throughout the week, all at the National Guard Armory. There will be traditional folk dances with callers as well as the Guest Dance Band Maya Soleil. The Seattle-based band will perform on Saturday for two hours featuring their traditional African style with Afro-World fusion electric.

Many newcomer artists will perform at the festival as well as plenty of local favorites. Panhandle Crabgrass Revival Band is one feature group from Juneau that will perform on Saturday evening, known for their energetic, thriving bluegrass sound. The "singing house painter" of Juneau, Buddy Tabor, will also perform at the festival. For some laughs, the Bluescast of Juneau will poke fun at politics with both humor and songs on Tuesday night.

Over the years, a steady group of volunteers has allowed the festival to continue with free admission so that everyone can take the opportunity for the musical and cultural experience. As a volunteer for 15 years, Sakarias speaks of the Juneau community's passion for the festival. "People do it because they want to and are inspired by the folk festival," says Sakarias, "you feel like you are a part of the festival."

If you can't leave the books to catch all the performances, KTOO will broadcast the entire folk festival music lineup. For more information, see the Alaska Folk Festival pullout in the Friday, April 9th edition of the Juneau Empire or check out the website, which includes the complete schedule, http:// www.juneau.com/aff/04index.htm. See you at the festival!

AlaskAdvantageTM federal loan consolidation program debuted by New Federal Consolidation Loan Program

Whalesong Contributor

Effective April 5, 2004, Alaska's education loan borrowers will be able to consolidate their qualifying federal student loans through the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education's AlaskAdvantage[™] Programs, regardless of where they borrowed those loans.

For Alaska residents, this newest AlaskAdvantage[™] offering provides an opportunity to combine multiple federal loans with variable rates into one fixed rate loan. Borrowers with both federal and Alaska state loans will also enjoy having a single monthly statement for all their education loans, as well cies for the Commission, "Consolidation as qualify for the Commission's AlaskAdvantage[™] borrower benefit program.

Individual loan interest rates will be calculated as a weighted average of underlying loans, many of which have variable rates

that may climb as high as 8.25 percent. Borrowers who participate in approved direct payment programs, reside in Alaska and who make timely payments may qualify for AlaskAdvantage[™] borrower benefits, which can reduce their interest rates by as much as 2.25 percentage points during qualifying periods. There is no credit requirement and no origination fee.

According to Commission Executive Director Diane Barrans, the AlaskAdvantage[™] Federal Consolidation Loan will deliver cost reductions for the individual borrower and increased efficienborrowers will enjoy a fixed interest rate and the simplicity of having their debt subject to the terms and conditions of a single loan promissory note. In return, the Commission achieves cost savings related to the simplification in servicing that results from convertseparate tracking requirements into a single loan," said Barrans.

Although borrowers' cost savings potential through the consolidation loan is significant, the Commission recommends that each borrower carefully examine the terms and conditions of their current loans to make an informed decision about whether consolidation is the right choice for them. "Borrowers should be aware that some loans may have forgiveness provisions or repayment terms that will be eliminated when those loans are paid off through consolidation," said Stephanie Butler, the Commission's Director of Program Operations and Outreach. She encourages borrowers with questions about terms and conditions applicable to their individual situations to contact the Commission's customer service center at1-800-441-2962 (465-2962 in Juneau), or to visit the Commission's Web site at www.alaskadvantage.state.ak.us.

AlaskAdvantage[™] Programs are a package of financial aid and higher education awareness services offered by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, an See "Loan" on pg. 5

The Folk Festival will be running from April12-18 at Centennial Hall. The artist for the 2004 poster is Eric Bealer ing multiple loans with varied terms and



4

The Whalesong Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Loan continued ...

enterprise agency of the State of Alaska, to assist Alaska students and the Alaska economy in taking advantage of the benefits of higher education. AlaskAdvantageTM Programs are self-sustaining and are funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation, a public corporation and enterprise instrumentality of the State of Alaska since 1987.

Contact Kris Cole, Customer Service Officer, at 465-6676 for more information.

CIA continued . . .

of hands by those who had relatives engaged on the ground in Iraq.

When no hands went up, he marveled in the magnitude this issue had achieved. As McGovern's discussion weaved through the web of deceit this Bush Administration had woven by creating what he termed "corrupted intelligence"-after exemplifying the virtue of the information when given to administration officials by telling of how a one time associate of his had to be "physically restrained when asked how much corrupted intelligence amounted to respectable dishonesty." McGovern then went on to say that there were three reasons why this duplicity had occurred.

He was able to describe those reasons using an acronym, not unlikely an interchangeable pseudonym for the kind of social power, now and in the scarce-resource-future. this Administration must be seeking, "O.I.L." This he said stands for, of course, (O)il and an unimpeded supply to assure the West's future dependency; (I)srael and its strategic

See "CIA" on pg. 11

UAS Professor Sherry Tamone unravels the the Biomedical Research Infrastructure endocrine disrupter mystery Network (BRIN) in Alaska to conduct

By Melissa Admas Whalesong Staff

In the late 1980s, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) researchers noticed something odd about the snails around the harbor in Auke Bay. Nearly all of them were males. After investigating the "macho" snail phenomenon, they made an even-more-eerie discovery. The snails had in fact developed male and female sexual organs after exposure to Tributyltin (TBT). TBT is an anti-fouling paint chemical that leached into the water from boats. A decade later, scientists are still unraveling the mystery of how environmental contaminants like TBT encourage abnormal development and physiological function in exposed marine life. One at the forefront of the field is UAS Biology Professor Sherry Tamone.

Tamone is known at UAS for her expertise in all things "crabby." As a crustacean physiologist, she studies how hormones control molting and reproduction in commercially-important crustaceans like snow, Tanner, and king crabs. Her research is key for Alaskan fisheries to understand crab reproductive cycles.

Now Tamone is upon a new horizon in her research: understanding the mechanisms by which endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) might wreak havoc on her wellstudied crustaceans. EDCs are industrial

contaminants (such as TBT) that invade an animal, disrupting normal physiological processes that regulate development, growth, and reproduction. "These compounds have two main avenues of action, to mimic or disrupt hormonal regulation," says Tamone.

EDCs act to alter the metabolism or synthesis of endogenous hormones resulting in hermaphroditic or developmental deformities, such as the case of the gender-bender snails at Auke Bay. The key hormones that suffer due to EDC exposure are steroids like estrogen and testosterone. What is still fuzzy is how these environmental contaminants confuse the normal production of steroids. "Chemically, the contaminants look nothing like steroid hormones, though they have the potential to act like steroid hormones," says Tamone.

With her expertise in crustacean endocrinology. Tamone hopes to use the endocrine system of crabs as a window into how EDCs are able to physiologically behave as steroids. "Crustaceans have large, extractable glands analogous to a gonad in human," says Tamone, "... the steroids released work by similar mechanisms across organisms."

The complex, well-understood endocrine system of crabs translates into a good model for how EDCs in the environment can potentially impact animals from the Dungeness crabs to humpback whales to humans. Tamone was awarded a sizable grant from comparative research using her crustaceans as a model for potential ill effects from EDCexposure in vertebrates. BRIN seeks to build up biomedical research in Alaska, and researchers across the state are implementing similar research to understand the mechanisms underlying contaminant-induced anomalies and the impact on environmental health. EDCs know no boundaries, as pollutants called dioxins have been found far north in Alaska. Researchers funded by BRIN in Anchorage are beginning to elucidate how dioxins make their way into human breast milk, rendering potential damage to infants.

Studies that Tamone has conducted under the BRIN grant have allowed for a greater understanding of the complex system of hormonal regulation in crabs, a system that in many ways is analogous to our own endocrine system. She and her students have gained great insight into how vitellogenesisthe production of egg yolk proteins called vitellins-is cued by hormones. "We need more basic research on the system," says Tamone, "in order to learn about how exposure to contaminants can interfere with the process."

Using her "reductionist approach" to better understand basic crab physiology, Tamone can apply both steriodogenesis (the production of steroid hormones) and vitellogenesis as environmental indicators of EDC exposure. The production of vitellins in male crabs would indicate feminization, as the

UAS STUDENTS!!!

Announcing the Grand Opening of the Mendenhall Branch of True North Federal Credit Union at 2777 Postal Way in Vintage Business Park!

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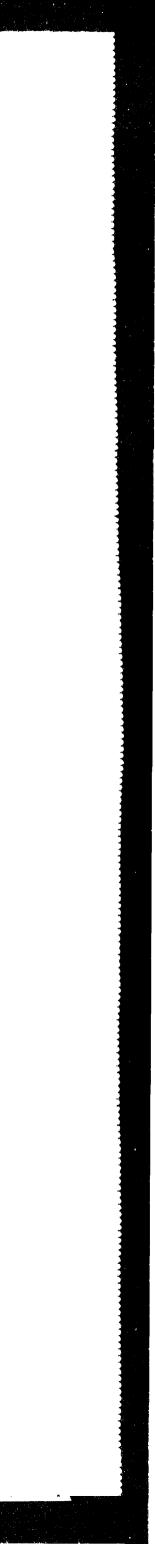
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Humanities conference: As diverse as our shoes By Joshua Reeder

Whalesong Staff

One of the major themes of the Humanities Conference was diversity. This theme is powerful because it is largely about accepting the diversities in life and avoiding negative stereotypes that work to separate people; this separation leads to poverty, stagnation, and misunderstanding.

For me, one of the most powerful images from the conference was an exhibit, titled "As Diverse As Our Shoes" set up specifically in Egan across from the coffee shop. "As Diverse As Our Shoes" is an installation art piece

that was set up in a small walls. The room was of shoes ranging from to goulashes, to flip



room with stained canvas filled with different kinds winter boots, to sneakers, flops. The shoes repre-

sented all different walks of life, yet they all had the unifying theme of being shoes, worn on feet, and essentially used as a walking aid.

In the center of the room, three music stands were set up with powerful quotes acknowledging a wide range of humanity. The quotes all dealt with peace and acceptance and where taken from a wide range of humanitarians. Placing the quotes on music stands portrayed imagery of the musical and poetic power of the humanitarian words. Mirrors were hung above the music stands. The three mirrors hung at different levels so that as you read the quotes one mirror would reflect your face, then when you went to the next stand the next mirror would reflect your chest. The mirrors, I believe, represented various ways of self reflection.

This was a powerful peace of art for me because it was accurate in portraying diverse walks of life, symbolically of course. The very nature of it was poetic and musical. And it derived its power from words, most of which were taken from speeches. It was about breaking down barriers that separate the different walks of human life, not with assimilation but with acceptance.





WHAT IS RACE?

"Interview RACE HAS BEEN USED WASSIFY DIFFERENT FEDRE BY THE WAY PERPETUMED BY THE PEOPLE OF NO ANY GIVEN PLACE , THE FEAR OF UNRNOWN IT'S A LAZY PERCEPTICI LEARS TO LABELING. IT'S REALLY A CONSTRUCTION BECAUE WERE ALL FA ME HUMAN RACE.

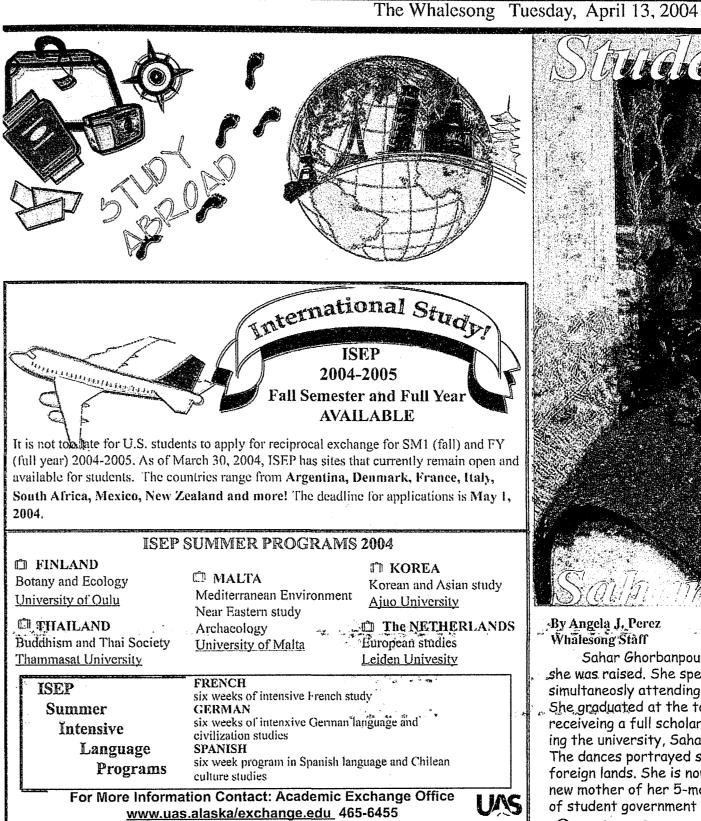
What: 2004 Pacific Rim Forum Humanities Conference Where: UAS Juneau campus 👘 When: April 1-3, 2004

Who: UAS students, faculty and conference presenters

Why: A comunity of thinkers, speakers and writers focus on Tolerance & Diversity.

collaboration between the Juneau World Affairs Council and the University of Alaska Southeast Umanities Department.





Watch for the special edition feature in next issue, celebrating 10 years of study abroad at the University of Alaska Southeast.





By Angela J. Perez Whalesong Staff

Sahar Ghorbanpour began her life in Iran, before moving to Juneau where she was raised. She spent two of her teen years in B.C., Canada while simultaneosly attending high school and correspondence classes through Alyeska. She graduated at the top 10 of her class, becoming an Alaskan Scholar and receiveing a full scholarship to get her bachelors degree at UAS. Before attending the university, Sahar went to Korea as part of a dance group "Soul to Seol". The dances portrayed social messages, such as equality & substance abuse, in the foreign lands. She is now a third year student at the Juneau campus, as well as a new mother of her 5-month-old son, Jonas. She is currently the vice-preseidnet of student government at the UAS Juneau campus.

Q: What do you aspire to become after graduation?

Since my sophmore year in high school, I wanted to become a doctor. A: However, after having Jonas, I don't think I want to sacrifice my family for my career. Now I am exploring other options in the medical and social science fields.

O: What is your favorite class? Why?

 \widetilde{A} . My college experience has been great over all, however this semester I have been able to apply what I'm learning every day of my life. In English I am now able to express myself more through my writing. In psychology class I'm learning about the life span of a human being, which allows me to be a better mother, because my interactions with people have become more than one-dimensional. This has also assisted in my communications class. And in American sign language my cultural viewpoint has been broadened . and I have a new tool I can use to communicate with Jonas.

Q: Do you work outside of school?

This is the first semester that I have not had 'to work outside of school, A: but being the Vice-President of Student Government I do work in that office.

Q: What kinds of activities do you enjoy?

A • I love outdoor activities, such as family hikes and kayaking. This Summer, I was thinking of taking up mountain biking or Kung-Ful When I have time, I really enjoy just hanging out with friends.

O: What is your pet peeve?

- \tilde{A} . There used to be a lot of things that would really get under my skin. However, I've been working on living a more stress-free life and being a happier
- person. So I try not to give attention to minor irritations.



Campus & Community

Comparing UAS campuses:

By Kelsey H Erickson Whalesong Contributor

Life in Juneau is definitely different from the life I'm used to in Sitka. I have attended school at UAS, Sitka campus since Spring 2000, mostly full time, this was my first semester in Juneau. Through my experience this semester. I learned what it was like for the first time to be the new kid. These campuses, Sitka and Ketchikan, are linked through the UAS system and both do wonderful jobs tailoring to the variety of students. However, the individual campuses uniqueness allows the experience to be very different.

I am used to a very relaxed and laid back atmosphere on the Sitka campus. Getting to know just about everyone on campus from the students to the faculty is a normal part of the Sitka campus experience. The ratio of student help from teachers and other staff members is excellent. Since Sitka has such a small campus and is in a small town, the activities offered by the campus are limited. But we work with what we can. Another downfall is that there is no student housing available in Sitka, although this is not at the fault of the campus. The Sitka campus has one of the most beautiful views of our harbors. You really feel as if you are part of the group and can expect to see the same faces just about each time you visit or attend class.

Coming from a small school and

Buckle Up! It's the LAW

town, Juneau seemed to be much bigger for me. I felt like I was actually immersed into a "real college" environment. Feeling as if you are just one of the many faces in the crowd can be good or bad, depending on personal preference. The staff here is just as helpful as the staff in Sitka and my transfer ran very smoothly. The only difference is the amount of students needing assistance. As we all know, that just means a bit more waiting time for things like financial aide and book store help. Having a diverse group of individuals allows the University to have a larger amount of extra curricular activities available. I like the fact that Juneau has a variety of activities for students that are educational, informative, and entertaining. Housing is also a positive aspect of this campus. It gives students not only a convenient place to live but a chance to meet classmates and peers. One problem encountered has more to do with the fact that I grew up in a small town (in comparison to other SE Alaska towns), and small town rules do not apply. It was hard for me to create bonds with other students and teachers in my short semester. The few classmates I did get to know were unique, ranging from young adults fresh out of high school, to schoolgoing mothers, to older students working and attending school part-time. This range in students holds true for both campuses.

All in all I would have to say that going to UAS, Sitka and Juneau campuses, has made a positive impact on my life. I am thankful for the opportunity to attend school with so many different people, the students and the educated staff, and to do all this in such a beautiful environment.

20

The college gender shift By Howard and Matthew Greene

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

While the media and most observers of higher education these days have concentrated their concerns on the increasing competition to gain admission to a quality institution and to find the means to pay for rising tuitions, another significant trend has occurred with much less fanfare, namely the larger proportion of women than men enrolling in college and attaining degrees.

For the first time in the history of American higher education, women outnumber men on four-year campuses by a wide margin. In 2003, 712,000 women earned a bachelor's degree, compared with 531,000 men. More women than men received twoyear associate degrees. And 274,000 women received master's degrees, compared with 194,000 men. Present undergraduate enrollments and the ratio of high school graduating students indicate that this disparity will continue to grow.

This phenomenon represents an academic revolution when one considers that it was not too long ago that far fewer women attended college at all and many of the elite colleges admitted only men.

There are a number of conjectures as to why this gender shift has occurred and what the implications will be for the future of our society and individual graduates. In the first instance, we believe that young women are maturing earlier than their male counterparts and thus tend to achieve academically at a higher level at an earlier age. As more public and private colleges have been become more selective for admissions, a greater number of young women present a more impressive

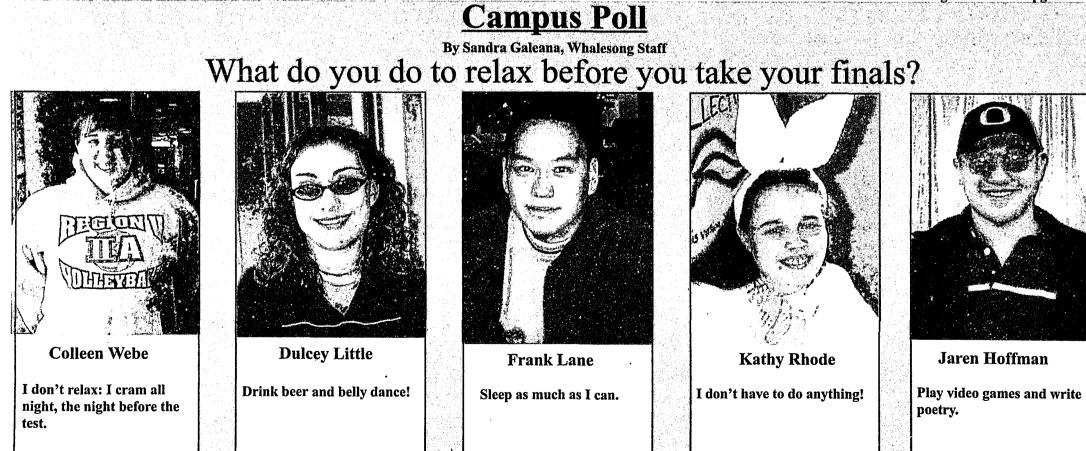
academic, and often leadership, profile to admissions committees.

Two-thirds of four-year college students enroll in public universities, which put greater emphasis on statistical qualifications high school grade point average, quality of courses taken, class rank and test scores in selecting their entering class. The result is that a higher percentage of women are accepted. Some of the flagship state university campuses now have an imbalance of 60/ 40 women to men on campus.

The cultural shifts that began a generation ago and that generated greater freedom and opportunities for women of all ages have encouraged and empowered the present generation of young women to set their sights on personal independence and professional careers, with a college and graduate school education being the means to such ends. It is no longer a question of whether a woman will become an educated professional but rather which career direction she will choose

Another factor in play is the extraordinary explosion of technological knowledge and the expanding opportunities for careers this has created. It is only in the fields of physical sciences and engineering that men still outnumber women in degrees achieved. Many young men are attracted to jobs in the technical fields directly out of high school and thus decide to bypass a college education.

Of great concern is the even greater gap between young men and women of color and economically disadvantaged backgrounds who enroll in college today. The spiraling costs have persuaded many young males that a college diploma is beyond their reach, that See "College Gender" on pg. 12



The Whalesong Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Hello, my name is Miss Informed and my partner is InfoTraitor. He and I will be doing this advice column so that an inquirer will get two viewpoints, one from a female and one from a male. Please realize what is said in these columns are only suggestions and for entertainment only. The inquirer must decide to use the advice using his/her own judgment. Miss Informed and InfoTraitor

Is My Girl A Cheater?

Dear Informed Traitor:

A friend of mine just told me that my girl is dating another guy. My girl has been with me for over a year and I trust her but I just can't help but feel my friend is telling the truth. I want to ask her but I am afraid she will take it wrong and think I don't trust her. How can I find the truth without telling her about it? Mr. Secret

Dear Mr. Secret:

Well to be sure you heard correctly from your friend I would ask your friend again about who she was with, what time of day, and where they were. At least then you have solid information (if your friend is telling the truth). If it all flows then instead of sneaking around and looking like you don't trust her, just ask her. If she is insulted then perhaps she does have something to hide. But if she loves you she will take the question like an act of love and reassurance.

If you continue to have doubts about her answer watch her actions. If she has changed her feelings for you, then there may be another man. But, if there is no change I would slug your friend and stick with your girl. Besides we girls know what we are doing and would never leave our man for another guy (unless of course Orlando Bloom waltzed into town and decided he wanted a date.)

Miss Informed

Dear Mr. Secret:

Alright dude, this is a tricky situation but I think we can handle it. So here's what you do, you come home and tell her that you just got in a big fight with one of your friends. (You may want to get a friend to hit you a couple of times so this looks more believable.) Be sure to tell her that you won the fight, *this is key*. She'll probably ask you what the fight was over. So, here's where you make yourself look good and you tell here that you were defending her honor. This is sure to peak her interest. So then you tell her that your friend told you that she was cheating on you. Then be like, "I can't believe he said that! There's no way you're cheating on me, right? What could have made him think that?" This way you give her a chance to explain and reassure you, or she can come clean if she has been sneakin' out the ol' back door at night. Anyway, she

won't be mad at you because you didn't really accuse her of anything, plus you beat someone up for her (chicks dig that sort of thing). One more thing, if she doesn't think it is hot that you beat someone up for her she is definitely cheating. Peace I'm out. **Ol' Pappa Info Traitor**

My Girl Is A Cheater!

Dear Informed Traitor:

I recently started dating this girl and she is beautiful. The problem is she has another boyfriend, which she has been with for over a year. I love her and want to keep her but I hate the idea that she is cheating on another guy. What should I do? Second Mishap

Dear Second Mishap:

Hopefully you are not the guy Mr. Secret was talking about. I also realize now that some women are backstabbing liars and should never have a date in their lives. Here is my advise to you. This girl sounds attractive and totally willing to go the extra mile to get whatever she wants. Personally I think you are wasting your time with this girl. Obviously she doesn't love you completely because she still has feelings for another guy. So I would dump her before she dumps you.

Besides, do you really want a girl that cheats? I mean if she does eventually break up with that other guy who's to say she won't go out with someone behind your back. There is a trust factor that has been broken in both yours and the other guy's relationship with this girl. It is up to you, but I think you owe it to yourself to find a trust worthy girlfriend. **Miss Informed**

Dear Second Mishap:

Second Mishap? What kind of a penname is that? From now on you are to refer to yourself as Smooth Operator if you want to get the girl. First off, don't tell her you love her, you've got to play it cool, ice cold. You've got to make her want you more than the other guy, and she can't want you if she already has you. You've got to be more exciting, more fun, tougher, and more romantic. Take her on some fun dates. Tell her the other guy picked a fight with you, but you just laughed at him and pushed him out of your way. (This will make you look tough and make the other guy look like a jerk.)

See "Advice" on pg. 11

1

Write Informed-Traitor:

If you would like to submit a question you can email it to:

informedtraitor@yahoo.com

or place your questions in the box outside of The Whalesong office.

Informed-Traitor advice | Healthy Living: jolting facts about caffeine even then, they need not specify the amount. Dr. Marvin Lipman, chief medical adviser **By Carolyn Poirot**

Knight Ridder Newspapers

How can we tell if we are consuming too much caffeine when no one seems to know how much "too much" is?

And how can we tell if we are consuming any caffeine if it's not listed on the label?

Caffeine is the most frequently ingested pharmacologically active substance in the world, according to Consumer Reports, yet it is not mentioned along with total calories, fat and sodium content on food and beverage labels.

Linda Green, director of testing for Consumer Reports, says she was most surprised by the amounts of caffeine hidden in such products as bottled water, orange soda and ice cream. Glaceau Vitaminwater Energy Tropical Citrus, for example, has 21 mg per 8 fl. oz. and the same amount of Sunkist Orange Soda has 23 mg. Dannon Natural Flavors low-fat coffee flavored yogurt has 36 mg., Green noted.

Everyone knows that regular coffee, colas and chocolate have their fair share of caffeine, and the infamous Mountain Dew and Red Fusion have more than their share, but vitamin water?

I wasn't surprised to learn that Starbucks Coffee Frappuccino has 83 mg., but I was surprised that manufacturers are only required to mention the fact that their products contain caffeine if they added it to the product, and

for Consumers Union, an independent, nonprofit testing and information-gathering organization, calls caffeine "the most wellknown and exploited central nervous system stimulant" around, causing increased wakefulness and alertness, and at higher levels: anxiety, muscle tremors, increased heart rate and even seizures.

But he admits that experts do not agree on how much is too much, especially for children, and the United States has no government guidelines or recommendations on the subject.

Consumer Reports offers these recommendations:

Opt for food and drinks labeled "lowercaffeine" or "caffeine-free" when the choice is available.

Drink the smallest size of caffeinated soda not the increasingly popular 20-ounce bottles or fast-food "super-sized" drinks.

Consider limiting intake of products flavored with coffee or chocolate.

Choose milk chocolate and "chocolatecoated" over dark chocolate and solid chocolate

Urge the Food and Drug Administration to require food and beverage labels to specify caffeine content

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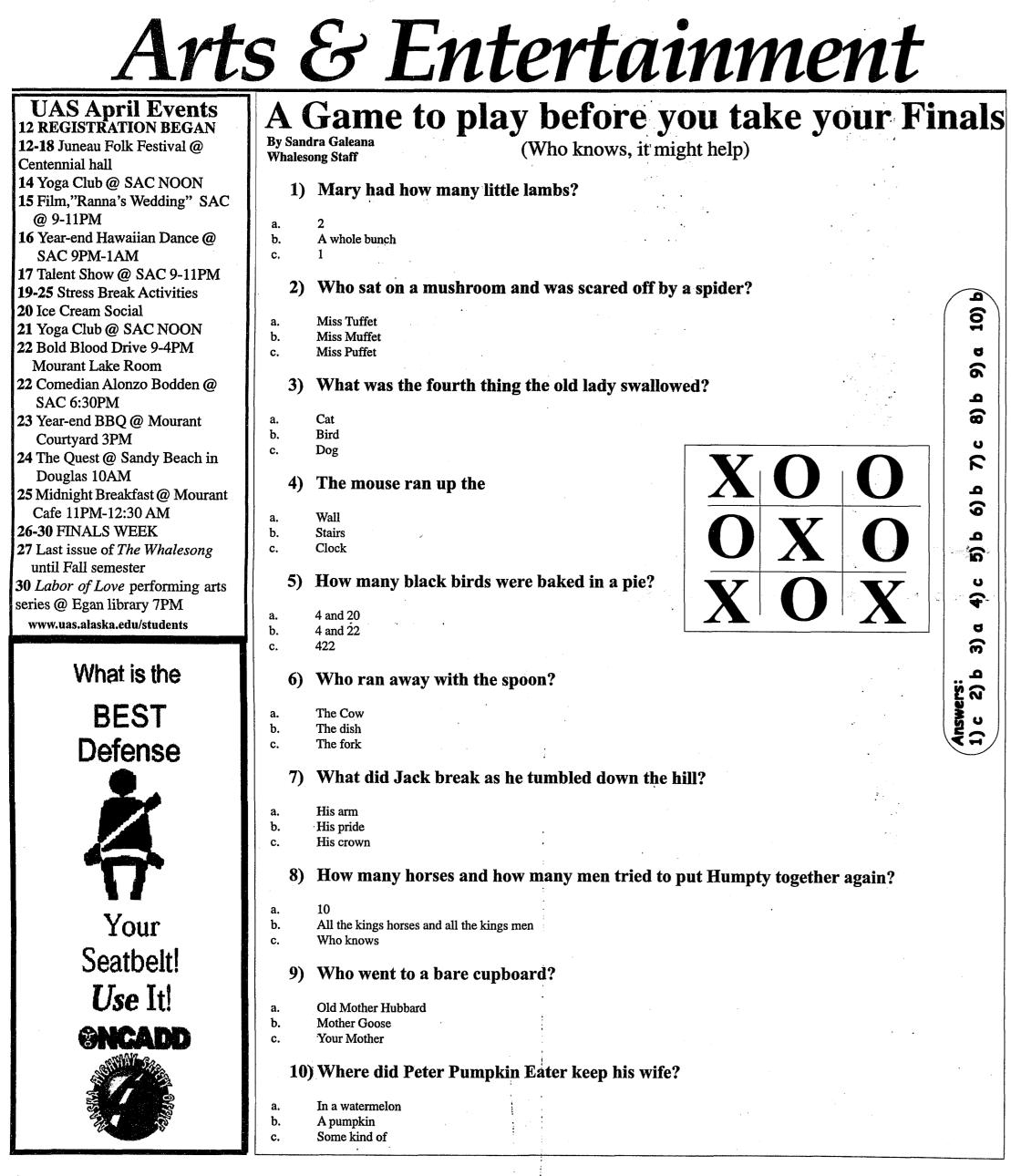
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10



The Whalesong Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Advice continued

Basically you have got to be better than her other guy. Too bad I can't hook you up with a little bit of my world-renowned-funkypimpolistic-supercalifragalistic mojo, but you'll just have to get by with advice. Hopefully, you are enough of a smooth operator to pull it off. For more information on how to get girls, check out my pimpology 101 class that may be offered here at UAS in the fall. (Leaves won't be the only thing "fallin") Peace I'm out.

Ol' Pappa Info Traitor

Review

P.S. First off thanks for the props everyone. Your letters really keep me going good. However as a disclaimer, in case my advice seemed violent or against moral code, I would like to say I don't condone violence or immoral activities of any kind, (I do understand them), and it is possible that I watched a bit too much ultimate fighting championship in the past few days. Thanks again for the props dudes and dudettes. Peace I'm out.

The Passion of the Christ

by Shawn Stigall Whalesong Contributor

Here is a film that everybody should go and see. The title of the film is The Passion of the Christ; it is produced, directed, and financed by Mel Gibson. Unlike some of the other films, he has directed such as Braveheart, he is not actually in the film. This film has beautiful scenery, special effects, and terrific sound quality. In addition, this film was made to be as realistic as possible; to make this a reality it was filmed in Aramaic and Latin with English subtitles. When I sat down to watch this film I was expecting to see it start out at his birth and end with his resurrection. Instead, the film starts when he is arrested and it ends when he leaves his tomb.

According to the story of Jesus, in his last few hours he was severely beaten. Because of this, Gibson has portrayed this fact very graphically, which is why I am giving a warning about the film. It was given an R rating for sequences of graphic violence. After watching it I believe that gore should have been added to the rating because of a particular scene: The scene is when ' the Roman soldiers with cattails are whipping him. This scene was so graphic that I could not watch it. So be warned the scene could make you a bit wheezy. In addition, it is my opinion that children under the age of fourteen should not watch this film. Unlike many other religious films such as Moses, this one is not a family film. Furthermore, this film is extremely well

done for the budget that they had for the film. Mel Gibson paid 25 million dollars for the film out of his own pocket.

There is a big controversy over this film. The controversy is that the film portrays the Jews in a bad way. To make amends with the Jewish church Gibson cut out a scene from the film that would really fuel the controversy. The scene was a speech that came from a one of the rabbi's. Personally, I believe that the film was a great success and that the film does portray the Jews in a bad way. However, it is only towards the Jews at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. In addition, there are concerns that The Passion of the Christ might fuel anti-Semitism, which will be based on how movie-goers might view the role that Jews played in the death of Jesus. Gibson has defended the film by saying "all humanity and each individual shares the blame for what Jesus went through on our behalf." Furthermore, The Passion of the Christ is playing at the glacier cinema. For groups the theater can be rented out during a specific time for matinee showings.

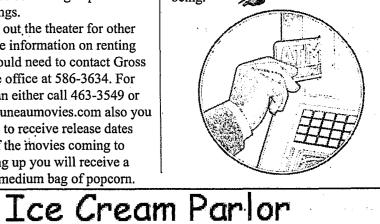
Groups can, rent out the theater for other films too. For more information on renting the theater, you would need to contact Gross Alaska's corporate office at 586-3634. For show times you can either call 463-3549 or go to http://www.juneaumovies.com also you can sign up online to receive release dates and show times of the movies coming to Juneau. For signing up you will receive a coupon for a free medium bag of popcorn.

CIA continued ...

importance to that region; and the (L)ogistics of our presence in the Middle East.

Being able to hear more of his good news (good because it came from this disciple wanting nothing more than the well-being of humanity), at his ensuing discussion here at the Egan Auditorium on April 2, and a subsequent private interview, he revealed his feelings on our world's continued dependence on fossil fuels. When queried on the philosophical reality of America and the Western industrial nations controlling the lion's share of what the "state-of-the-art" in energy conversion had produced, and noting that for others to achieve First World status a redistribution must occur, the erudite Mr. McGovern characterized the political will of this country stating that, "Sustaining our way of life means others have to suffer, AND WE DON'T CARE!"

As just one of the many Humanities symposiums available, this was the soulful revival necessary for this reporter's wellbeing. 2



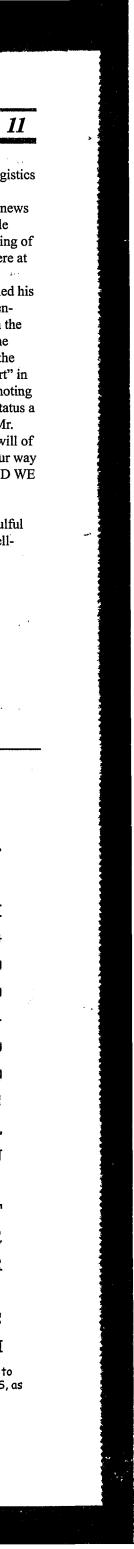
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W T N F U D G E B R O W N I E F X M Y

The Whalesong will be accepting articles, stories, and artwork from children of UAS students, staff, ad faculty for the Kid's Corner section. Please drop off submissions in the Whalesong office or to Sahra Clark at the Activities and Housing desk of the lower floor of the Mourant Building. Please include with the submission the child's phone number, address, name of the parent who attends UAS, as well as a photograph in an envelope with "Whalesong: Kid's Corner" written on it. For questions please call Emily McLean at (907) 465-6434 or email at jywhale@uas,alaska.edu.





March 16, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Juneau's By the People Project Launches Community Events

Ten community organizations have joined forces to encourage Juneau residents to learn more and talk more about foreign policy issues that affect them as Juneauites and Americans. By the People-Juneau is part of a national By the People initiative intended to engage citizens and enhance the national dialogue about America's role in the world.

The Juneau groups are sponsoring a full calendar of local discussion groups, forums, films and speakers throughout the spring to give local residents the opportunity to talk to each other and learn about the relevance of foreign policy issues to local concerns. (See attached calendar of events.)

"The sole purpose of the project is to promote informed dialogue," said Sandra Strandtmann of the Juneau chapter of the Alaska Library Association, one of the local partners. "**By the People-Juneau** supports no particular positions, policies or perspectives."

Other partners include Juneau World Affairs Council; League of Women Voters Juneau; Global Connections at the University of Alaska Southeast; Juneau-Douglas High School Model United Nations; UAS Humanities Department; Juneau People for Peace and Justice; Perseverance Theatre and KTOO.

By the People-Juneau began last year when KTOO-TV was chosen as one of 15 public television stations around the country to receive a grant to produce programming and encourage local involvement in the national dialogue about foreign issues. The half-hour program, "Juneau: Our View of the World," produced by KTOO and based on interviews of Juneau residents, premiered last month on Alaska One and is being used as a resource in a number of local discussion groups. A live stage performance, "Juneau in the World," based on the same interviews is being produced by Perserverance Theatre and will be performed over three nights at the end of April.

"With our partners we want to create a wide range of opportunities for Juneauites to debate and discuss our country's foreign policy options," said Jim Mahan, project coordinator for KTOO. "We hope it will make people realize their opinions count and there are ways to make their voices heard."

The national initiative, By the People: America in the World, is produced and administered by MacNeil/ Lehrer productions with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS. For more information go to www.by-the-people.org.

Contact: Betsy Brenneman outreach coordinator, By the People-Juneau 586-2817

KTOO☆

College gender continued ...

it is safer to take a job once they graduate from high school; and a small proportion of poor students completes high school, thus eliminating the possibility of attending college.

What does all this mean? In the short term, female students considering college should be aware of the population mix on the campuses of interest to them and the social environment this creates.

On some campuses the relative shortage of men may make relationships difficult to establish. It is understood on a number of campuses that a woman has to play the stereotypical "dumbing down" role in order to have an active social life. Or women must be highly successful academically, and simultaneously face significant social pressures to be attractive and athletic in order to fit in.

Another major issue concerns the availability of courses and programs of interest to women. While the institution may have more women than men enrolled, it does not automatically follow that the major fields of study are those many women might want to pursue.

In the longer term, employers in both the public and private sectors of our economy must recognize that more women will be seeking employment and, over time, leadership roles that in the past were reserved for men. Well-educated and ambitious women are a major force today in leadership roles in business, medicine, government, media, and social and educational sectors.

Those who are presently in the position of screening and hiring employees must recognize this demographic gender shift and help make their organization's environment receptive and adaptable to the talents, ambitions, and the particular needs of this growing force in our society. And all sectors of our society need to join forces to assist disadvantaged youth of both genders in making the transition from high school to college so that they, too, will take their places as educated and independent citizens. (c) 2004, Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

Fluoride continued . . .

Editors note: National Associations and organizations that stopped endorsing the American Dental Association: *American Cancer Society *American Heart Association *National Kidney Foundation *American Academy of Allergy and Immunology *American Diabetes Association *Society of Toxicology *Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Activation Network *American Psychiatric

12

Mystery continued ...

Sec.

compound is typically a females-only one. Compounds with feminizing capabilities in the wild could also harm crab growth and reproduction as feminized males may physically resemble their sisters. Ultimately, exposure to environmental EDCs could mean problems for survival.

One known EDC that Tamone will investigate is the flame retardent polybromi-

nated diphenyl ether (PBDE). The compound yields a double-edged sword of toxicity, as PBDE both persists in the environment and bioaccumulates in food chains, meaning a greater risk for higher-end organisms. Exposure to PBDE has been linked to disruption of normal thyroid hormone function in humans, leading to neurological damage and even mental retardation. Characterizing the interactions of PBDE with crustacean steroidogenesis could "reflect the pollutant's ability to alter hormonal mechanisms in vertebrates." Collaborating with Chemistry Professor Dr. Lisa Hoferkamp, Tamone will also study the endocrine-disrupting abilities of other contaminants that may be lurking in the water.

Tamone will teach a Current Topics in Biology course this Fall on the science surrounding the environmental EDC dilemma, with special attention to physiology, chemistry, and environmental Association *American Civil Liberties Union *Nation Institute of law Municipal Officers *American Chiropractic Association.

science. Biology 375 "Hormonal Chaos" will entail readings and discussions on the issues generated by the presence of industrial contaminants in the environment known to disrupt normal endocrine function in animals.

