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Daniel Kolen
New Editor
October 16, 2003

The shriek of a chimpanzee call reverberated off the walls of First Presbyterian Church, and although the call did not come from a chimp, it did come from a being with a 99% identical gene structure—human, Dr. Jane Goodall.

“I thought that would sound good here,” Goodall said about the call—her statement drawing laughter from a crowd of over 600.

Goodall, a primatologist known around the world for her behavioral studies of chimpanzees, came to Lake Forest on Wednesday, Oct. 8 to speak about her studies of animals, environmental awareness, and to give insight on current international politics.

“Finding out [Goodall] was coming here was like hearing the Rolling Stones were coming to ing here was like hearing the Stones were coming to--” freshmen Allegra Knott said. “I grew up on Goodall. I’m a Goodall groupie. She’s a rock star.”

As she took the podium with two stuffed-animal monkeys at her side, Goodall began her speech: “So many places I go are covered with concrete and suffer from overpopulation. It’s nice to speak at a place where this isn’t the case.”

In the summer of 1960, Goodall arrived in the East African forest to study chimpanzees. The British government classified her adventure as “amoral,” and forced her to have a companion with her in the woods—her mother joined her in Africa.

In the early months of her adventure, Goodall witnessed chimps stripping the leaves off twigs to make them useful tools for gathering termites. This demolished preconceived notions that humans were the only species capable of using tools.

“When I took a class on animal behavior, they [cited that study],” Laura Panko, Associate Dean of Students, said. “Much of her work is classical work.”

Some other findings include: chimps form familial closeness, foster-care of orphaned ‘children’ can learn and correctly use 300 or more words in sign language, have fought wars, and can operate a computer.

 “[When looking into a chimp’s eyes,] I know I’m looking into a thinking, feeling being,” Goodall said. “We’re not separate from the animal kingdom, we’re part of it. It’s a wonderful kingdom.”

Goodall concluded her speech by citing four reasons for hope in a world where pollution is at its highest and the future of the planet is being compromised.

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with the College to redesign the site. The exact cost of the site is difficult to determine because of the fact that much of the work will be completed over several years.

Student responses to the new site have been overwhelmingly positive. Working in Admissions, I sometimes receive questions pertaining to the website, and I think that this improvement will be something that will benefit the non-Lake Forest viewers, and will be an all around improvement for our school’s image,” said freshman Corey Howe, a tour guide for the Admissions office.

Prospective students will be able to schedule a campus visit online, apply online, and use the site to check the status of their application (all password protected). Admissions can communicate via e-mail with targeted groups, making it easier to get tailored information out to specific groups of students.

While many agree that the site is a vast improvement over the College’s current site, the new site has some shortcomings, which the WAG plans to work out over the summer.

“There is still some work to be done and we will spend a good deal of time fine tuning the site this summer, but going forward we will be able to maintain the site in a much more efficient way than ever before,” commented Ratliff.

“Her philosophy about life, her ability to find hope in the world when seeing so much destruction is amazing.”

During a question/answer session with about thirty faculty and students an hour before the speech, Goodall answered questions ranging from conservation techniques to diseases that cross between humans and chimps.

In this session, Goodall mentioned Roots and Shoots, a program designed to show “care and concern in three areas: the environment, animals, and the human community.”

David Miller ’77, president of Minnetonka sandals, said his company will give all the money needed to set up a better recycling program on the Lake Forest College campus if the League of Environmental Awareness and Protection (LEAP) brought Roots and Shoots to campus and wrote a grant proposal detailing their ideal recycling program.

“Even if the recycling issue wasn’t brought up, we’d still most definitely be a part of Roots and Shoots,” said junior Eric Heyboer, president of LEAP. “It will create a network of human activist groups, environmental conservation, and community service.”

“Just by having Goodall come here was the selling point [to bring Roots and Shoots to campus],” junior Jessica Price said. After the speech, Goodall held a book signing and posed for photos with audience members. The lines were long and all the books Goodall brought were sold out.

“I liked it in the church,” Goodall said. “It seemed like a nice, friendly audience. People were inspired [by the speech] and that’s the reason to do the speeches.”