Director Richard Linklater comes to campus

See Page 4 for details...
The Stentor is looking for the following positions:

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**NEWS**

The ending of one journey begins another

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For those of you who have had the opportunity to enjoy Residence Life here on campus, you may have met John Malsam. He has worked as Assistant Director of Residence Life, and his wife Casey was the Program Director in the Gates Center. The couple has been at Lake Forest College with their family since 2006. Since their start, they have worked to refine and improve programs and services for both the school and the students.

The Malsams came to Lake Forest for new opportunities, and as a new family starting out, they wanted to be closer to their roots. The move was bittersweet. Before living in Illinois, John and Casey had been working at Ithaca College in upstate New York. The college, nearby to Cornell University, holds about 6,000 to 7,000 students compared to Lake Forest’s modest 1,400. The amount of students, as well as the location, allowed for a ‘great diversity’ and ‘great community,’ says John Malsam. Ithaca is well-known for its journalism and music programs, which led to many interesting stories of past students. There were instances when they would see an old student’s name on the credits of programs as familiar as Adult Swim. The couple, newly married when they came out to the area, enjoyed many of the cultural attractions the area had to offer and was somewhat sad when it came time to say their goodbyes.

As their family grew, they decided to come back to the Midwest, where both are originally from, to set up home closer to family. At LFC John was in charge of the physical processes of Residence Life. From LFC and on to their new journey to Colorado State University, where he will remain Assistant Director of Residence Life, he will be in charge of a greater body of students.

For John, seeing a college evolve is a pretty ‘cool’ opportunity, and he wants not only to be a part of that, but also after some time to take a step back and be able to watch the seeds of change grow and with it a stable future for the college and its young minds.

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“Since he started, John has worked to bring in better resources, a great quality staff, and has been proud to be a part of the changes he has seen in his four years.”

“Change is inevitable; it’s different, but it’s good,” he says. For John, seeing a college evolve is a pretty ‘cool’ opportunity, and he wants only to be a part of that, but also after some time to take a step back and be able to watch the seeds of change grow and with it a stable future for the college and its young minds.

“This week’s cover image courtesy of FOX Searchlight Pictures.”

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

1/30-Men’s Basketball vs. Grinnell College at 3 pm in the Sports Center
1/31-Men’s Hockey vs. UW-Eau Claire at 2 pm in the Alumni Memorial Field House
2/1-Men’s Basketball vs. Grinnell College at 3 pm in the Sports Center
2/2-Women’s Basketball vs. Monmouth College at 5:30 pm in the Sports Center
2/3-Speed Networking Training 2010 from 3:30-4:30 pm in Buchanan Hall
2/3-Beginner’s Resume Building Workshop from 4:5-30 in Meyer Auditorium
2/4-Speed Networking Training 2010 from 6-7:30 pm in Buchanan Hall
2/4-Movie: Where the Wild Things Are at 9 pm in McCormick Auditorium

**DEADLINE EXTENDED:** Student Symposium Students have until Wednesday, February 10 to submit abstracts for the 2010 Student Symposium, which will be held April 5-6, 2010. Submit online at www.lakeforest.edu/symposium.
Steven Galovich Memorial Student Symposium

April 5-6, 2010

Submit abstracts at www.lakeforest.edu/symposium

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Deadline extended to WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Presentations can be based on independent studies, senior theses, Richter Scholar Projects, performances, class projects, internships, study abroad experiences, student organization activities, demonstrations, and more! Poster submissions strongly encouraged!

Questions? Visit web site or contact:
Professor Ben Goluboff (X3270), Professor Jason Oddy (X3693), or Harriet Doud (X3181)
CARL LaMARK
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Capping off a festival spanning two semesters and a body of work culled from two decades of effort in the world of independent and mainstream cinema, Tuesday saw a laid back and mellow evening in the company of director Richard Linklater. The crowd consisted of equal parts of the college’s student body, faculty, and residents of the town and surrounding area, including more than a handful of teenagers waiting eagerly to pose their questions concerning the Jack Black star vehicle and TNT stalwart School of Rock.

Linklater is a major figure in the world of independent film as a director, screenwriter, producer, and occasional actor who emerged, along with the likes of Quentin Tarantino and Steven Soderbergh, during the American independent film renaissance of the 1990s. His films feature verbally dextrous characters who, in works such as Waking Life, Before Sunrise, and Slacker, wax philosophically, usually over the span of a single day. Linklater is also well known for his use of a rotoscoping technique that, using inexpensive laptop technology, colors over the faces of live action footage frame by frame, creating images that seem to vibrate at every moment with vitality. One audience member drew a comparison between this technique and the “ground-breaking special effects” in the Golden Globe winning work of James Cameron’s Avatar. Linklater laughed as the audience member asked if “he is expecting credit” for Cameron’s similar, though astronomically more expensive, methods that blend animation and live action. Linklater admits that he “has not seen Avatar yet.”

Moderating the event was dean of the college’s faculty Janet McCracken, who sports an impressive roster of common friends with Linklater, most notably Professor Robert Solomon of Waking Life and University of Texas at Austin fame. In an interview with the Stentor back in November, Dean McCracken considered Linklater to be the “leader of indie film makers.” Before turning the conversation over to the audience for questions, McCracken inquired about Linklater’s early life in East Texas and the theme of adolescence that appears over and over again in his work both in commercial hits such as Bad News Bears as well as his more lyrical, independently minded productions.

While he didn’t provide many specifics about his more formative years (“I played sports...chased girls, nothing I’m really proud of”), this line of questioning gave him an opportunity to speak candidly about his first studio experience of making Dazed and Confused, which many people in the audience referred to as being a film made outside of the studio system, even though it was financed and released through Universal. He thinks of the film as his “high school” movie, and he gave hints at another film, his “college movie,” he has had on the back-burner for a while that might see the light of day within the next few years.

The young School of Rock fans brought out interesting features of Linklater’s personality, which is usually reported as being mellow and accommodating. When asked about what he asked Jack Black to do during filming, he stated, “I don’t remember where it is, but somewhere there is an interview with Jack that has him saying he has never worked harder doing work on a movie. I’ll tell you now that that was the easiest thing I ever shot!”

What seemed to really pique the crowd’s interest was Linklater’s mention of a movie that he has been shooting for nearly five years now that attempts to tell a story using the same actor as he grows from infancy to his late-teens. After a large audition process, Linklater found a child who he considered “interesting” for his little experiment. The film still has another five years of shooting left.

Among the thoughtful questions by staff, students, and local fans, one audience member asked a question on behalf of her son, who wishes to pursue a life as a screenwriter and author. Linklater offered the self-deprecating advice that, “given the collaborative nature of film that creates a large distance between the screenplay and the finished film, if you have a real literary talent, be a novelist or some other type of writer. If you have an interest of directing, acting, or producing as well as writing, go into film.”

Linklater stayed well after the two hours or so the evening was advertised to last, accompanying those interested to the Wood Lounge for further conversation that continued until close to midnight, a very generous allotment considering he needed to be up early to visit several classes the next day.
L'Art

L’Art is the resurrection of a past Stentor column that explores the arts on campus. This week, and for several following weeks, we will be examining the works of students who participated in the Senior Seminar for Studio Art.

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I made an installation entitled “Homework Helpers” for my studio art senior seminar art final with Professor Lebergott. We were asked to make work that interacts with our audience.

I chose to demonstrate the abuse of prescription drugs on campus, via his piece entitled “Homework Helpers.” There were six of us: Ben Cady who participated in the Senior Seminar for Studio Art.

I was stressing how unnecessary these medications are to students. I also informed them about statistics concerning speed drug abuse. I was really happy with how it turned out.

However, I started out with 50 pill bottles and ended up with only four left. My intention was not to have the students take the bottles, but I think it showed interaction even better, as well as how much they really enjoyed the project.

On wining and dining with Linklater, and others

ANDREW VAN HERIK
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As the final interaction between Linklater and our campus community, I think this dinner was rather poetic. Having attended Janet McCracken’s interview with the filmmaker the night before, and having heard about some class visits and lunches from others, I couldn’t help but notice a certain theme to it all. That theme is comfort. The stage in front of the most packed Chapel I’ve seen in a while, or in this quiet dinner setting, Linklater exuded a sense of calm, unassuming reserve that removes any concern from his audience.

It is clichéd to gush over how “human” a public figure really is, and, in the case of Linklater, a quintessentially individualistic and personable filmmaker, it is what we would expect. But, I must say, when the six of us sat down for dinner it was instantly clear that all hierarchies, all personas, were no more. We were just six people sitting and talking about whatever came up. And so we conversed for, as I mentioned, some good number of hours. It wasn’t an interview, though his films and some stories of actors he’s known did arise. We students definitely got in some questions on this front. Becker asked about Dazed and Confused, his second major film after Slacker, and Cook and I followed suit with our own inquiries. We learned some fun tidbits.

For instance, Linklater mentioned some indications he’s had in the past that a film was not going to perform as well as he may have hoped. For one film, he was sitting with Matthew McConaughey on the set of Carson Daly’s “Total Request Live” when Daly said that he liked the film, but he thought he was going to hate it. McConaughey was happy to hear this, but Linklater remarked that, more likely than not, if other people felt the same way they probably wouldn’t get past the first draft, so they wouldn’t see it at all.

He had a similar moment with Me and Orson Welles, his film that is now in theatres. Here, Zac Efron’s participation played a part. Upon hearing that Perez Hilton, the infamous celebrity blogger, had declared that he did not want to see the film because Efron was getting all serious (a strange thing to say, Linklater noted, considering the film is quite funny), Linklater knew that he had lost a large section of the population to the blogger’s dismissal.

These stories and others we heard, though at no point were they played for pity, were simply humorous observations on the nature of making films in this country. They were also spread about in a glorious mixture of philosophy, campus life, politics, random trivia, and tales of the University of Texas at Austin. Here are some examples wholly free of context, and in lovely sentence fragments.

The theory that John F. Kennedy was killed for choosing not to actually put on a cowboy hat offered him at the Dallas airport three hours before the assassination. The heroic tale of Cook’s cat George Lopez that follows the comedian’s life path in a staggered pattern. Cats in general, whether as representation of Janet McCracken’s deanship, and as other catalysts of controversy, General bemoaning of congress. Becker’s fine work as a T.A. for Janet McCracken’s Aesthetics class. An analysis of the generational gap amongst the participants (we knew a lot of the music, but few of the books or films our companions were referencing). A general praise of Facebook for making worldly connection so easy. Also, Cook’s “quite successful” drawing of Chad McCracken that currently graces the professor’s profile. And much else.

But, mostly, we all just had a lot of fun.
The Supreme Court: Making politics even more petty

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Last week, the Supreme Court decided to rewrite campaign finance law. If you missed it, and it was rather easy to miss, the decision essentially allows corporations and other private entities to contribute to and advertise for specific candidates in political elections. Overturning decades of progress in the opposite direction, including the McCain-Feingold act of 2002, which the former presidential candidate always emphasized as part of “cleaning up Washington,” the decision is a major step backward for politics, and for our society in general.

Here’s why it matters. Remember all those ads thrown in our faces in 2008 about how much better each candidate was than the other? Those ads were supported by either the parties themselves, or by Political Action Committees, private groups organized in support of one or the other candidate. From both groups came slander and lies, but each were still acting under strict guidelines. Only a certain amount of money was allowed per group. PACs absolutely could be organized by corporate powers or any other collective entity as long as their participation was under the table.

That last election wasn’t too pretty. I still vividly remember the fear mongering of both sides, the general manipulation of the public perspective. I was happy with how it turned out but not with some steps along the path to that end.

Now, imagine all the petty bickering and veiled accusations of that election, but with the insane cash of corporate powers behind it. Suddenly, McDonalds or BP can spend millions on bumping up the candidate that will let the horrors of factory farming or gathering fossil fuels go unchecked. All the brands that you trust, all the organizations that may hold your money, your job, or just your interest, will be able to leverage that power for political gain.

This is horridous. Already lobbying bodies make sure the status quo remains intact in Washington, and now corporations don’t even have to work within those parameters. I hate hyperbole, and I hate broad generalization, but I cannot help it here. Our democracy is in danger. Most of us already feel like our voice doesn’t really matter in comparison to all of this backroom dealing. Now, it matters even less.

It would, however, be inaccurate to depict all of these new powers as your faceless corporate overlords. The decision renders all groups, be they nonprofit, unionized, or what have you, able to support a candidate. Yet, even among more ethical groups, this still becomes a contest of winning support through the means of money and power. The power of the people, the foundation of our Republic, is lost.

The opposing argument from the five conservative justices who voted for the decision is one of personal freedom. They argue that to restrict any form of politicking is to restrict free speech.

Words from abroad: Anti-smoking ads funny, but ineffective

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The most memorable advertisement series that I recall is the string of “This is Your Brain on Drugs” advertisements. I remember the videos of losers doing nothing all day, hanging out in their underwear and playing video games. And I recall the burners being on slightly too high to properly fry an egg. I remember, however, the more prominent occurrence of making fun of the advertisements.

In high school, I worked at a burger stall called Johnny’s Dairy Bar, and one of my associates was a middle-aged bachelor who totally had his brain on drugs. Daily, he would crush burger meat on the grill and say, “hey Paul! This is your brain,” pointing to the fresh meat. He would then point to the browning meat on the grill and say, “this is your brain on drugs.” He would repeat this epigram when he swept up at night. He would find a French fry that was about a week old and that was covered in meat and cheese and say, “This [here he would pause to make it dramatic] is your brain on drugs.” I thought about video taping him at work one day to make a much more realistic and annoying this-is-your-brain-on-drugs commercial, but he wouldn’t have been an effective advertisement.

What it comes down to is that the advertisements were more respected for post entertainment, entertainment value. The advertisements were ineffective because in the early 1990’s it was kind of cool to seem a little burnt out. Nirvana made the burn out into a fad. When they redid the commercial series in the late 1990’s, Jackass (the television show) was right there to reinstate the burnout culture. Hence, the hyperbole and fear (instilled by the frying egg) not only became a joke but a fad.

This brings me to my main point: smoking cigarettes. Cigarettes don’t really need to be advertised anymore because they have a culture; they are a fashion that transforms into a nasty addiction. Think “Coffee and Cigarettes.” Think art.

What people want to become is not something work or stealing a car in order to smoke.

The ads work for two reasons. First, American T.V. watchers adore hyperbole, so it grabs their attention. People don’t watch family guy for the plot, for there isn’t really a plot; they watch it for the unrelated segments of hyperbolic situations that point out political and social vices.

Second, the ad makes the viewer seem intelligent because they have already made this profound distinction between the necessary and sufficient conditions. In other words, Americans do not watch “Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?” to watch smart kids win money, do not smoke when you drive (D→S). The problem is that if you were a logically consistent person, you would agree to the first term and deny the conclusion. If you accept the conclusion, you commit a “converse error.” Hence, the commercial only has the semblance of a smart commercial. But I guess that’s all it really needs.

Furthermore, if I stop smoking when I drive that’s definitely not going to stop me from getting out of the car and saying, “hey I’m not in the car, so I might as well smoke a whole pack before going to work.” In other words, if I change my smoking routine it won’t necessarily stop me from smoking. But it may help (I don’t know).

There is one more problem with this ad. If it really wanted to succeed, it would be preventative, gearing itself to younger people. This crowd favors irony. Our culture no longer responds to drugs aren’t cool tricks. We want to be ironic. We want to be the people on the inside of the joke.

Hence, if this commercial weren’t merely hyperbolic but also ironic, it would appeal to younger people as a cultural fad. Fads work and fads will inhibit people from starting smoking. This commercial nearly pulls off the irony, but it is too forward in outwardly missing smoking.

I think you “Become an Ex” for your awesome advertisement, but you should learn a trick about ironic culture from Geico, Budweiser, and YouTube. They make their viewers the in crowd by implementing the best and most complicated irony.
Seeing hope for the future in heroism of the past

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President Schutt gave for the women, the Voice of Inner Peace’s melodies which were interspersed throughout the program, or even the speech itself which Seay and Mansfield spoke. Instead, I want to focus on what every piece of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Program embodied.

Everyone would expect to hear that the Martin Luther King Program represented how far our country has come, the preciousness of freedom, and the importance of fighting for justice—and it certainly does. But the idea which stood out to me the most from the program was how much people really do need each other.

President Schutt had asked each person in the audience to truly care for one another during his introduction, and the importance of people doing that kept swirling through my head even after the program was over. Schutt had reminded us that we are all dependent on each other and as he spoke the words, “History may be a nightmare but it is our responsibility to wake from it,” it summed up the reason for what Seay and Mansfield had done years ago and for what they are doing today.

The two had spent so long in the prison because at twelve years old they had decided to care for each other. The two had grasped that the Civil Rights movement wasn’t just about rights, but about the people involved.

In order for it to succeed, and the reason it did, was that so many people had decided to care and fight for each other. Just as the girls had to unite in the jail cell to stay strong until they were released, so also everyone in the Civil Rights movement had to unite to reach for equality. Each person within the movement was dependent on the others, and without the care they gave to each other there would have been no way for the movement to succeed.

But it did succeed. And so President Schutt’s call to aid one another couldn’t be more representative of the women who had told us their courageous stories or more necessary for our future society. Seay and Mansfield are no longer in jail and the fight for racial equality has largely been successful. But care for each other is still something we must fight to have every day. If we are to awake from our past nightmares, we each have to give the support to others that we know we need ourselves. And with the knowledge that we need each other, should come the sensibility to, ourselves, be the support that we know someone else needs every once in a while to help wake them up.

And so, as Carol Barner Seay and Sandra Mansfield turned to face the crowd and me in the midst of the program, I didn’t see two stolen girls, so much as two women who had stood up for each other in the past at twelve years old and who were standing up for everyone now, forty years later. I didn’t just see two women who had done what was right; I saw two testimonials to how each of us should act now, in our own lives, every day.

If only you were as creative as your kegs are full

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It’s either Friday or Saturday night, and the same clandestine—or oftentimes, not so clandestine—activity can be found in numerous rooms across campus: the consumption of C.H.OH-laden liquids. (id est: Students are drinking. Usually with the aim of intoxication.)

For many students, this is just fine; getting smashed is a highlight of their week. For some of us, however, it’s inane and boring. And on most weeks, I ask myself: Doesn’t this ever get old? This musing, of course, goes hand-in-hand with the complaint often expressed by students: There’s never anything to do here...

With $115 assessed to each student account every semester in the name of “activity fees,” the College must be making some effort to entertain us. And some things stand out: the recent visit from Jim Wand, hypnotist extraordinare, is one such example, as well as the “Ghost Hunters” who visited in October. But on most weekends, students are left to their own devices, and this usually results in the archetypical alcohol binges.

The problem, however, is not that the College doesn’t try; rather, the weekend malaise students experience is the result of misguided efforts on the part of the administration. Rather than spending needlessly on All Campus Parties (aka: ACP’s) almost every weekend, why not save the money and spend on something more... interesting? I think many would agree that they would gladly sacrifice the all-too-common ACP for something of greater entertainment value, even if this would imply fewer weekend functions. The repetitive ACP’s are, to be frank, tired. Most participants do not even arrive until over two hours into the event, choosing to “pre-game” and arrive in a numbed state of mind.

Additionally, some of the responsibility lies with the students themselves. There are ample opportunities to amuse oneself here. Find a friend with a mode of personal transportation, and with whom you would like to shop at any one of the malls in our area. (And if you are low on funds, window-shopping is always light on the wallet.) Go to the cinema in Vernon Hills, where they offer $4.75 admission for students. Not to mention the wonderful resource known as Chicago, our nation’s third largest city. (The Shedd is always free to students!) If you would prefer to stay closer to home, check out some DVD’s from the town library, and hold a private film screening with friends. (Perhaps with some sparkling cider and a plate of Smoked Gouda.) Or, here’s a shocker: do some homework.

Ultimately, the suggestion to students and admin alike is, quite simply, get creative, please!
Every afternoon a pulse resonates within the walls of the basement of Lake Forest College’s Sport Center. The pulse of slams, echoes, and athletes jumping off of walls come from the endless hours of dedication and preparation the men and women’s handball teams put into practicing for completion.

Lake Forest College has always had a nationally ranked handball since coach Mike Dau started coaching back in the early seventies. This year and like many years before it is no different. The Foresters are dominating the handball courts.

The men and women’s teams have competed very strongly in all of their meets. In the men’s most recent meet the I.H.A. Singles junior Pat Jarvis was victorious in the Class A bracket and sophomore Riley Kloss was victorious in the Class B side of the bracket. Both were great wins for each individual.

Number 1 seeded Shun Lee and one of Lake Forest’s most dominant players unfortunately lost in the quarterfinals of the tournament. He however still maintains a high ranking in the country. The Lady Forester handball players have also had a solid start to their season and are looking forward to having strong performances at the City Circle Tournaments in Indianapolis, Indiana. Aimee Ulbert and Emily Zender have been showing strong performances on the courts as well.

When asked about the success of the team this year junior Pat Jarvis said “We have been working really hard this year. After being national champs last year, we are really striving to repeat that success this year. We only have a few meets left so we are going to have to make the most of them, and having great practices is the way to achieve that success.”

Both the men and women’s handball teams only have two meets left before the national championships in College Station Texas. If they are able to repeat last year’s success, then the Foresters will have a total of 34 national championships.

Seeing the handball team practice, one could tell that the team is certainly on the right track to having success at the National Tournament in both the men and women’s divisions. This demonstrates why they are one of the top rated collegiate handball teams in the country.

Senior handball player Shun Lee works to perfect his serves. Lee is one of the top collegiate handball players in the nation. For their next competition, Lake Forest College travels to Indianapolis.

**2010 Handball Schedule**

- **Fri.-Sun., Jan. 29-31 @ Circle City Tournament Indianapolis, Ind.**
- **Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 11-14 @ I.H.A. Men’s & Women’s Doubles Des Plaines, Ill.**
- **Wed.-Sun., Feb. 24-28 @ U.S.H.A. National Collegiate Championship College Station, Texas**

Look to the Lake Forest Stentor Sports page for updates on scores and schedules during Spring 2010!