

The Death Penalty

A DISCUSSION ON POLITICS, JUSTICE, AND WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO ABOUT AMERICA'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL SENTENCE

TUESDAY, NOV. 22
12:15-1:30
In the Laurel Forum
Karpen Hall

From the STUDENT TEACH-IN SERIES, THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE HUMANITIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION, & THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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Senior Profile

Senior art student draws inspiration from childhood

By Becky Rinas
STAFF WRITER

Senior art student Ian Dennis's sculpture of a gun-wielding three-eyed alien, which he calls "Captain Murder," stands out distinctively in the UNCA ceramics studio, next to vases, pots and various other realistic sculptures.

"When people think of ceramics generally they think of functional pottery; bowls, teapots and the like, generally they don't think of space monsters," Dennis said.

Dennis incorporates his admiration of comic art, toys and cartoons in creating his sculptures, aimed at pleasing a younger audience.

"Since I have a lot of younger family members, an 11-year-old brother and cousins who are eight and two, who I'm really close to, my work, which is basically the only other thing I do besides other school work, is geared towards them," Dennis said. "They're my imaginary audience."

Because his mother works at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston Salem, Dennis said he essentially grew up in an art museum. His interest in making art appealing to children stems from his extensive exposure to and experiences with art as a child.

"I've been exposed to really heavy-duty conceptual art my entire life," Dennis said. "I've seen some really interesting stuff, and I've also seen some other art, particularly when I was a little kid, that was the most baffling, daunting, boring stuff ever; when it comes down to it, I wanted to



CONTRIBUTED BY IAN DENNIS

Above and below, are ceramic figurines made by Ian Dennis, senior art student, which were inspired from his childhood upbringing in art museums and galleries. After graduation, Dennis plans to attend graduate school and later teach ceramics at a university.

make art that 8-year-old kids would be interested in seeing, because I didn't have a lot of that."

Dennis has an immense appreciation of creativity and said most activities he engages in are aimed at enriching his imagination in some way. There is no lack of imagination in the world if one knows where to look, according to Dennis.

"I think that even people that you wouldn't expect a lot of imagination from people who sit in cubicles all day under florescent lights and enter numbers into computers, still take time out of their days to make little pigs out of erasers and thumbtacks," Dennis said.

Dennis appreciates manual art, different from virtual art, because of the importance he places on uti-

to disconnect you from the physical world that you can't really help but be a part of, and I prefer making three-dimensional objects to something like Web sites for that reason."

Dennis derives additional influence from childhood memories when creating his sculptures by reminiscing about toys he had or wished he had. He cites the beginning of his art creations as elaborate dioramas he assembled with toys as a young boy.

"I would pretend I was making a comic book instead of just playing with toys and create panel compositions with figures and look at them for a while, then move them a little, and actually say 'to be continued' out loud," Dennis said. "That was really the beginning of what I do now."

The mood of Dennis' artwork shifted notably in high school due to growing political awareness.

"The ceramics I did in high school were more realistic, like angst-ridden, screaming busts of people," Dennis said.

"Just to give you an idea of how angst-ridden and teenage my stuff was then, one of my favorite pieces of all time was a ceramic head vomiting a TV, and the TV is pushing all its teeth out of their sockets."

Art history student Chandra Noyes, a close friend, admires the balance Dennis achieved following the evolution of his artwork.

"He does a good job of combining the light-hearted side of things with the more serious context of things," Noyes said.

In addition to the time invested

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Sometimes I feel like people have too many preconceptions of what art should be and they expect all this seriousness from it, when really it can be used to communicate just about anything.

IAN DENNIS
senior art student

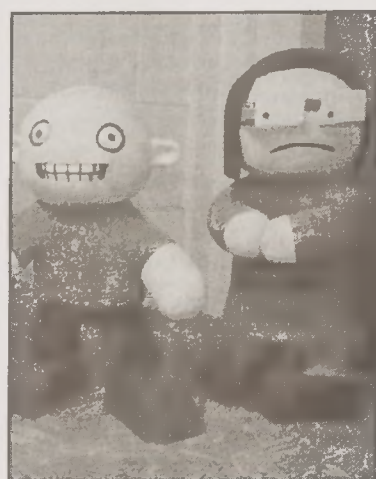
in his artwork, Dennis works part time as a security guard at the Asheville Art Museum and enjoys the exposure it gives him to different kinds of art.

"There are some really intelligent people that I work with there that really have their collective fingers on the pulse of contemporary art and are looking to bring more stuff like that to Asheville, and I think it's high time that they did that," Dennis said.

After he graduates in May, Dennis said he plans to eventually go to graduate school. Ideally, he hopes to teach ceramics at the university level one day.

By teaching ceramics, he hopes to encourage people to expand their concept of art beyond that, which they already know, according to Dennis.

"Sometimes I feel like people have too many preconceptions of what art should be, and they expect all this seriousness from it, when really it can be used to communicate just about anything," Dennis said.



CONTRIBUTED BY IAN DENNIS

lizing all of the senses.

"I think it's a lot more satisfying being able to do hands-on work," Dennis said. "At the end of the day I think that relying too much on one set of senses is only going

Alumni Profile

Alumni reminisce on career at UNCA and post-college life as a cou-

By Leah Shellberg
STAFF WRITER

Amanda and Derek Edwards prove that UNCA prepares its students for the "real world."

Amanda and Derek both graduated from UNCA in 1999. They met during move-in day their freshman year and got married July 24, 1999.

"A little interesting side note—we were Homecoming King and Queen together in 1999," said Amanda, whose maiden name is Thorn.

While attending UNCA, Amanda served as the philanthropy chair for Alpha Xi Delta, and was an Resident Assistant in South Ridge for three years. Derek was an RA in South Ridge and Swain Hall.

Amanda graduated with a degree in mass communication and a minor in women's studies, while Derek graduated with a degree in biology.

Amanda currently serves as the executive director of the Literacy Council of Buncombe County.

"When I was a senior, I knew I



CONTRIBUTED BY AMANDA EDWARDS

Amanda and Derek Edwards, both met freshman year at UNCA and were married the summer after graduation.

wanted to do something creative in public relations, but I also wanted to use my job to help make people's lives better," Amanda said. "I was the philanthropy chair for Alpha Xi Delta

my senior year and was so moved by helping put together campus activities for Big Brothers-Big Sisters that I intentionally looked for non-profit work."

Derek teaches math at the alternative school for the city of Asheville.

"I teach my kids math, but also, and more importantly, I try to teach them to be thoughtful and upstanding citizens," Derek said. "My job is challenging every day, but also incredibly rewarding. It's great to leave work each day knowing that those kids are better off because you're there to help them."

Amanda also continued her education in the master's program at the University of Tennessee.

"I knew that non-profit work was truly where I was meant to be professionally and decided to go back to school for a master's degree," Amanda said. "I started classes the fall of 2002 at the University of Tennessee and graduated with a Master's of Public Administration in May 2004 with a specialization in non-profit

management and fundraising. It was a specialization that a classmate and I designed for the university."

Derek and Amanda both said they feel UNCA offered them skills they use in their careers now.

"Not only did I gain a top-notch education, I gained a greater understanding of the world and the people around me," Derek said. "Everyone at UNCA; from the professors, administration and the staff teaches the students to broaden their minds in all directions. These reasoning skills help make the students more thoughtful, tolerant and understanding."

Amanda said she felt completely prepared for graduate school thanks to UNCA, and also gained close friends.

"I think the small classes really helped prepare me for the future," Amanda said. "Outside the classroom, I gained a family. My best friends are the ones I made at UNCA, and when I moved back to Asheville I had a family to come home to. That family was

friends that I made in college."

Amanda also commented on her favorite classes and professors. "One of my favorite classes was public relations with Phyllis Lang because it challenged me creatively and ultimately played a role in my career decision," Amanda said.

Derek also offered advice to current UNCA students.

"Enjoy your time as an undergrad. Learn as much in your classes as you can, but also take time to learn about yourself and those around you."

"Take time to build strong relationships with those around you. It's these friendships that will make your life truly rich and you'll cherish them forever," Derek said.

Derek said he had an extremely positive time attending UNCA.

"I had a fantastic experience at UNCA," Derek said. "All of my experiences, from my classes and professors to my friends, fraternity and on-campus jobs were outstanding. I would not change a single thing."

The Blue Banner Classifieds

Event

Ethical Society of the Asheville Area

Dr. John Hoad, former Leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis (Missouri) will be presenting the topic:

"Translating Jesus for Today", a vision of the Humanist Jesus.
Sunday, November 20, 2:00 pm

In the Library of Asheville Botanical Gardens, 151 W.T. Weaver Blvd. (next to UNC-A).

For more information, contact 687-7759, or to find out more about Ethical Culture, please visit www.acu.org

Help your parents understand why Thanksgiving weekend might be a milestone for you and them and your relationship.

Check out the article "Why Thanksgiving Weekend is a Turning Point for College Students" on the Counseling Center Web site at <http://www.unca.edu/counselcenter/>.

Employment

Sitters and Nannies Needed!

Group of professional parents need childcare.

Transportation, child care experience & CPR/BLS recommended.

Sporadic care, part time/ full time position available.

Call or e-mail Vanessa (828)-277-6221

vanessab@avlcsurgeons.com

Part time responsible nanny with her own transportation needed for a 6 month old in Weaverville home.

Sixteen hours a week
7:30-10:30 M-F

References a must!! 658-0092
Lynne

Opportunity

The Blue Banner

Submit editorials, articles, story ideas, photographs, artwork, or comic strips.
E-mail to banner@unca.edu
Open to EVERYONE!

Questions or comments?
call 251-6586

Roommate needed

Female Roommate Needed

Early January 2006
Looking for responsible, fun-loving, student to take over one of four bedrooms in big, beautiful house in safe Kenilworth neighborhood one mile south of Orange Peel. Bike to campus in 15 minutes.
Rent: \$300/ month, plus 1/4 of gas Utilities included
Contact Shay at 828-777-2654

For Sale

Motorcycle For Sale

2002 BMW R1150R \$6,900 Type: Sport Touring 13000 miles CC Size: 1150 Black, Excellent cond. Black sport ws and clear touring ws. Eclipse tank and saddle bags. heated grips, battery tender, accessory plug, (828) 335-1884

Auto For Sale

1988 Mazda Rx7 Convertible - A great one owner classic Must See!! \$4,500 OBO Red w/new grey interior and black top. 13B Rotary Engine with 5 speed/rack&pinion steering runs GREAT!! New tires, New exhaust system, New N.C. inspection (828)335-1884

Auto For Sale

2000 Ford Taurus SES \$6,900 OBO Florida car in GREAT Condition! Tan/champagne color exterior/interior. 3.0 24V DOHC V6 96,000 miles recent tuneup, new tires A/T, P/S, P/B, A/C All power/wind-downs/locks/seat/trunk
Contact Gary at (828) 335-1884

Opportunity

Spring Break 2006

Travel with STS, America's #1 Students Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Capulco, Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations: 1-800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com

Money For College

The Army is currently offering sizeable bonuses of up to \$20,000. In addition to the cash bonuses, you may qualify for up to \$70,000 for college through the Montgomery GI Bill and Army College Fund. Or you could pay back up to \$65,000 of qualifying student loans through the Army's Loan Repayment Program. To find out more, call 828-253-6921