

Kaleidoscope

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The Magnificent Magnifier: Dr. Alan Comer, UNCA associate professor of biology, explains the intricacies of the scanning electron microscope donated to the university by American Enka Company. The instrument creates new research opportunities for the science departments.

Photo by Pam Walker

Enka scope enlarging at UNCA

By Leigh Kelley

UNCA students majoring in biology now have a sophisticated new tool at their disposal -- a scanning electron microscope.

American Enka Company, a local textile manufacturer, recently donated the microscope to UNCA.

Sylvia Boone Mast, a scientist for American Enka's research department, says the company management decided to donate the microscope to UNCA because the school was a worthy recipient.

"It just seemed the logical place to donate it," she says.

Dr. Alan Comer, an associate professor of biology at UNCA says the microscope is very useful to the department.

"There are at least three areas here that it will be used for," he says.

"It will be used for cellular biology classes" to aid in learning

principles, says Comer. Also, he says "students can take pictures of cells with it."

Comer says the electron microscope "will be used by senior biology majors for their research projects and members of the faculty will use it for their own research."

Mast says the scanning electron microscope has a higher magnification than an ordinary microscope.

"It makes an image much larger than a regular microscope does," she says. "It helps in

looking at surface detail and it has a greater depth of focus than most microscopes.

Although the microscope is 11 years old, it is still operable and the company did not want to just throw it away, Mast says.

"So far it hasn't given us any major problems," Comer says.

"When it was moved from Enka to here the microscope had to be taken apart and reassembled. A technician from Cambridge Electronics, the people

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Whether or not the weather: Career Day, sponsored by the UNCA SG, gave freshman Veronica Johnson a chance to look at the weather as an occupation (rather than a preoccupation). Here Roy Wall, UNCA senior atmospheric science student, counsels her about what courses she would take for a meteorology major.

Photo by Sue Ives

Living in the nuclear age

By Ramona Huggins

Twenty million people died during the Black Plague in Europe. Over 40 million died in World War II. After the next war human life may cease to exist altogether, said Dr. Phillip Bennett, speaking in the Carmichael Lecture Hall Oct. 27.

Bennett is an associate professor of philosophy for the State University of New York. He is also a member of the Ithaca Society of Friends which is sponsoring his lecture tour which began last June.

Slides of survivors of the World War II

Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombing illustrated what could be the fate of those who might survive a nuclear attack.

The environment, as well as human life would suffer, perhaps irreparably, from a nuclear holocaust.

Bennett said that the use of large numbers of nuclear weapons could deplete the ozone layer which screens out ultra-violet radiation from the sun.

"Without the ozone layer this radiation would blind all animals and humans as well as cause severe sunburn to plants and animals," said Bennett.

He said a 10 percent

depletion of the ozone layer would kill all one celled organisms in the ocean. This would have a devastating effect on the food chain.

Bennett recommended that people "come to realize their interconnectedness" and work together to prevent a nuclear build-up.

The sense of personal powerlessness is strong in people, Bennett said. However, there is power in unity.

Traveling throughout the east and midwest, Bennett has been speaking in churches and universities and to peace groups.

Weather

Forecast courtesy of the Atmospheric Science Department.

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Increasing cloudiness today. Showers early Friday, clearing and turning much cooler. Partly cloudy Saturday. Sunday, fair.

Highs Thursday and Friday in the upper 60's, dropping to the 50's Saturday and Sunday. Low in the 40's Friday and Saturday.