

Culture

reviews | humor | profiles

Inside Culture...

- Ever wonder why Muslims fast during Ramadan? Learn more about Islam on PAGE 10
- To find out how one CHS student took his love of comic books to a new level, flip to PAGE 13
- Kissing--the ultimate tease. Discover everything you need to know about the art of exchanging spit by turning to PAGE 18

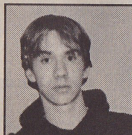


Fading light

CHS graduate's film

"This message needs to be heard."
 Filmmaker Lane Wyrick

Filmmakers OF THE Future



Chris Liddell-Westefeld '03

Most recent film: "Malabar" (seen at the 2001 CHS Film Fest)

Upcoming film: "A musical about Ritalin, a movie about Homecoming, or nothing."

Favorite aspect: editing

Inspiring film: "Out of Sight"



Liz Roberts '02

Most recent film: an "emotion video"

Upcoming film: a music video to an Ataris song

Favorite aspect: "Everything, although I do like to direct—it brings out the control freak in me."

Inspiring film: "Go"

compiled by Emily Yoshida

By Jocelyn Berbaum
 Little Hawk

Shortly after the completion of his documentary *The Nazi Drawings*, producer and CHS graduate Lane Wyrick presented the film to Iowa City high school classes. Students were moved by the documentary's examination of Mauricio Lasansky's series of life-size drawings depicting the horrors of the Holocaust.

"The images were very powerful," Michael Somsky '02, said. "[The film] definitely made a lasting impression on me."

Students' reactions were mirrored by an audience of over 500 at the film's recent Los Angeles Film Premiere, part of the qualifications process for entrance into the Academy Awards.

Wyrick did not always enjoy such critical acclaim. His documentary film career began in fifth grade with a less ambitious project, an impromptu movie called *Magic Show*, which was shot with an extra roll of super eight film. He says this is when he caught the film bug that led him to years of film school earning him prestigious awards such as "Best Documentary" and "Best Director" at the New York International Independent Film Festival.

Wyrick first encountered Lasansky's Holocaust drawings when working in film production at the UI Museum of Art. Filmmakers at the University had long considered the series as the potential subject of a documentary because of the poignancy of the artist's message.

"The first time I saw the drawings I was disturbed. They are very emotional," Wyrick said.

Within its brutal portrayal of Nazi atrocities is a call to end violence and unnecessary human suffering.

"Since I was a child it bothered me, the suffering of people that is not necessary, is made by people. It makes me feel so bad, you see. Still we have a lot to learn as human beings," Lasansky said in the documentary.

Lasansky rarely speaks to the press, so the documentary provides one of the few commentaries by the artist on his work. At the age of 87, Lasansky is still creating prints and drawings in his Iowa City studio, and the Lasansky Room at the UI Museum of Art is dedicated to the permanent display of his work.

Lasansky's message to protect human life and human dignity is especially relevant today considering the questions of war and poverty that have come to the forefront of many peoples' minds. Wyrick is dedicated to delivering this message to a wider audience through his documentary. He now faces the task of finding a distributor.

"Whatever happens we'll find a way for it to be seen because this is a message that needs to be heard," Wyrick said.

The recognition that the documentary has received may pave the way for Wyrick's future projects and successes, but the filmmaker has not forgotten the long path that brought him to this point. He remains eager to share his knowledge of the business and his passion for making films that speak to the emotions with young filmmakers. Wyrick offers them this advice:

"Make the movie you want to, a movie that makes a statement that comes from your heart. You want your project to stand out and be unique and it won't unless you use your personal viewpoint in creating it. It's definitely a discovery process."

"The images were very powerful. [The film] definitely made a lasting impression on me."

Michael Somsky '02



Holocaust hits home: Drawing entitled "Number 17" (1966, mixed-media on paper) is from Mauricio Lasansky's series entitled "The Nazi Drawings" and is loan from the Richard S. Levitt Foundation, Des Moines, Iowa, to the University of Iowa Museum of Art. Lasansky explains in Wyrick's documentary, "I felt I wanted to put a strong emphasis on children. Everything else hurts but that hurts more than anything, to cut off a life at that time."

Lane Wyrick gives advice on creating films

- Subject:** "Find something which creates emotion in you, whether it's funny or serious or strange."
- Location:** "You don't have to go to L.A., you just need to find an environment that you like and feel comfortable in."
- Filming:** "Shoot on video and then you can always transfer it to film later, because film is expensive and video is just a great way to experiment."
- Editing:** "Spend as much time as you can on the editing process. Show it to people and listen to their comments. You can learn a lot from people's gut response."
- Business:** "Get both creative and business experience. It's called the film business for a reason. It's really difficult to get anything done without any understanding of the process of the business."