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Beach/Schmidt a 'classy' setting for performance of novel

Rebecca Alstrup
University Leader

The Fort Hays State University Special Events Committee of the University Activities Board will present "The Secret Garden" Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center.

I.B. Dent, director of the University Activities Board, said, "This is a great thing to take a date to. Show your date that you have some class. A classy date should have a classy setting."

Inspired by the classic Francis Hodgson Burnett children's novel, "The Secret Garden" tells the story of a young girl sent to live with her uncle on the English moors in 1906.

On his large, lonely estate she discovers a secret walled garden. Her loving attention brings the garden back to life, even as it heals her own spiritual wounds and those of her new-found family.

Dent said, "This is certainly a show that women know about. Young girls probably either had this story read to them or they read the story themselves. It is like a fairy tale of a girl's story."

He said, "This is a huge hit on Broadway and it is a new show."

The show opened on Broadway April 25, 1991 at the St. James Theatre where it played to sold-out houses.

The show is directed by Victoria Bussert, choreographed by Janet Lover and is produced by Big League Theatricals.

It has received a record 14 Drama Desk nominations, seven Tony nominations and four Outer Critics Circle Award nominations.

It won Tony Awards for best book of a musical, best set design and best supporting actress; Drama Desk Awards for outstanding book of a musical, outstanding orchestration, and outstanding set design; and Outer Critics Circle Awards for outstanding design.

Dent said, "Our students need to have the experience of going to a Broadway show."

Sometimes it is so easy to overlook what all goes into a major production.

Dent said, "There is a tremendous amount of work involved. Sometimes you don't realize all of the other things that go on."

"The truck comes in at 8 a.m. and we have 26 students



COURTESY PHOTO

The University Activity Board will present "The Secret Garden" at 8 p.m., Tuesday in the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center.

that are on the stage crew and they work all day long. We have a crew of about 20 students who work all during the show itself. And then 26 students to load out after the show is over."

He said, "There are two 18-wheel tractor trailer trucks, two buses and a van. This is not a small produc-

tion, it is a major road show."

Tickets for the show are on sale now at the Student Service Center in the Memorial Union. Ticket prices are: \$16 for the general public, \$14 for senior citizens and those 18 and under, \$14 for FHSU faculty and staff, and \$12 for FHSU students. FHSU students also may pur-

chase unreserved balcony seats for \$8.

Dent said, "I think sometimes students don't realize the size of the productions we are doing here. This is not little league stuff, it is major league. I hope students realize what is being provided for them at this ridiculous low price and hope they will take advantage of it."

Senate urges public to attend forum Japanese professor compares education

Julie G. Long
University Leader

At last night's Student Government Association meeting, senators were strongly urged to spread the word about the coming administrative forum.

Phil Covington, SGA vice-president, encouraged the senators to tell all their friends and classmates.

"Let everybody know. Everyone is invited," he said.

Covington also suggested that each senator prepare a question for at least one of the speakers.

"I know everyone of you has something on your mind that you would like to ask one of the five individuals that will be before us next

week," he said.

Anyone having a question or concern, not just senators, will be free to speak during the forum.

"Any type of issue that anyone wants to bring up is completely open. It's their chance to interact with these people on a more one to one basis and get a direct answer," Travis Crites, SGA executive assistant, said.

The forum will be held at 7:30 p.m. next Thursday in the Black and Gold Ballroom, Memorial Union.

Crites returned issue reports, a listing of what the senators consider to be their constituents most important concerns, to the SGA body. There are a wide range of issues listed, ev-

erything from housing to student apathy.

The report was produced "in an effort to receive some additional direction regarding pertinent student issues," he said.

The SGA executive staff hopes to be able to address the issues raised and intends to initiate another report in January.

Crites also spent time this week doing researching student management teams for Audrey Nogle, SGA president, who had not yet returned from the Wednesday and Thursday's Kansas Board of Regents meeting.

"Student management teams are teams formed within the department

by the instructor so the instructor can gain personal critiques," Crites said.

Such a program is being used by the Fort Hays State agriculture department.

In other business, the office of Legislative Affairs has received a list of Kansas county clerks and their addresses for students needing to vote by absentee ballot.

Three open senate seats were filled. Michelle Shweers, Wichita senior, filled a Humanities seat; Luis Marquez, Leoti senior, filled a Health Human Performance seat; and Stephanie Lanning, Colby senior, filled a Social Sciences seat. Several senate seats remain open.

Candas Graham
University Leader

Cherry Kids, development of well-balanced Japanese children, was the topic of discussion yesterday in the Frontier Room, Memorial Union.

Dr. Kunio Wakai, director of research and clinical center of child development at Hokkaido University, Japan, was the guest speaker.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Wakai chose the University of Buffalo, to do his research.

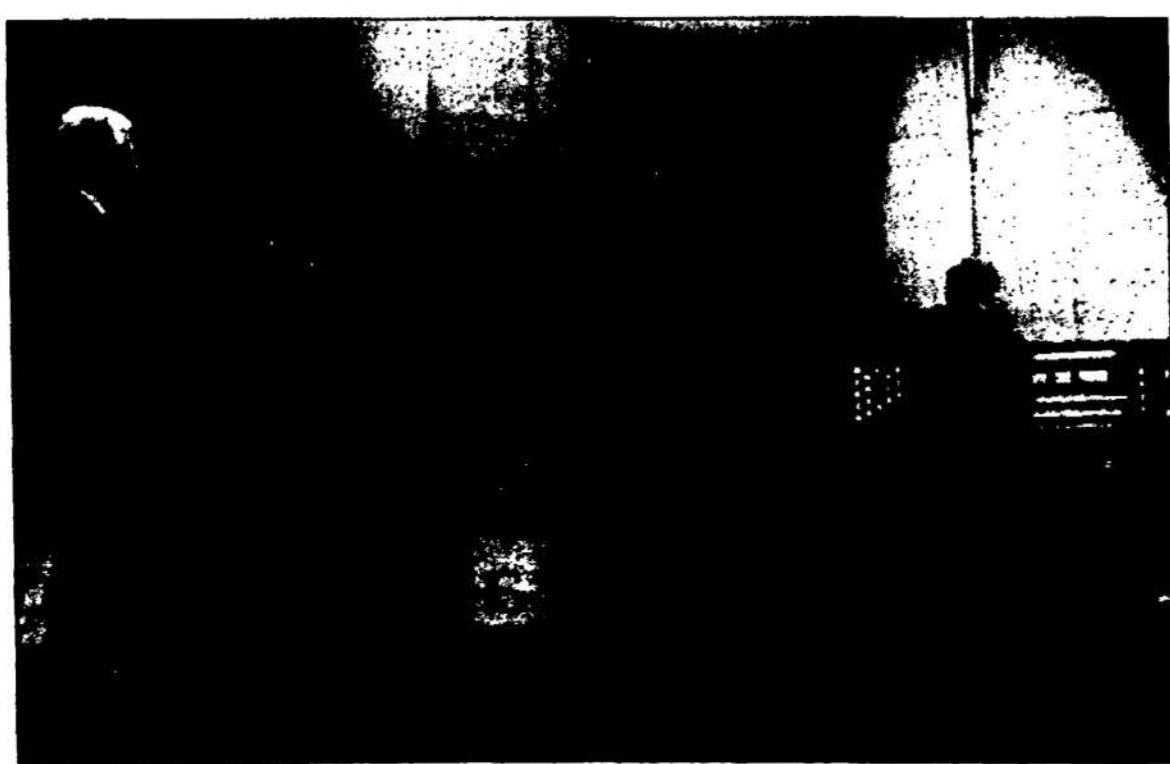
Speaking through an interpreter, Wakai said, "In Japan, the day nurs-

ery, the American equivalent of a preschool, children enter when they are six months old. They enter kindergarten any where from three to six years old."

"When a child graduates from kindergarten, the majority have been in there for at least two years," Wakai said.

"The kindergartens are regulated by the Ministry of Education and the day nursery's are regulated by the

Education / See page 5



JANELLA MLDREXLER / University Leader

Money well spent!

President Edward Hammond thanks the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Logan, for its donation of \$59,677.50 to purchase an electronic organ for Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center. Mike Combs with Mid-America Piano and Organ, Manhattan, demonstrated the instrument.

Housing regulations, problems discussed

Rupananda Misra
University Leader

"Know your rights and responsibilities as a tenant; as a provider" was the theme of the free fair housing seminar Tuesday in the Memorial Union.

The meeting was part of a project sponsored by the Kansas Human Relations Association (KHRA).

KHRA is composed of local human relations commissions and departments of city governments, who are responsible for enforcement of equal opportunity ordinances in the area of housing, employment and public accommodation.

On the whole the purpose the KHRA is "to address human rights, concerns and responsibilities in the state of Kansas," according to the press release.

"KHRA is not an investigative organization. The thrust of the program is to educate the people," Arvilla Vickers, project coordinator, said.

Vickers said fair housing is the right for all people to have safe, decent housing and be able to get such housing without experiencing discrimination.

Vickers said housing concerns "affects all of us" and is "everybody's concern."

"One should know the rights and responsibilities as regards housing in Hays," Vickers said.

She said the FFHA Act of 1988 prohibits discrimination in regard to housing based on family status, disability, race, sex, national origin, religion and color.

The Fair Housing Amendments Act Of 1988 requires that all people be given an equal opportunity to live in, to buy or to rent the housing for which they qualify financially.

Vickers focused her presentation on the discrimination issue. She stressed that the tenant and the landlord should be well aware of the rules of the game.

"Renters should have the same feelings as his or her home and should have the same sense of sanctity as he or she could apply to his or her home," she said.

"On the other hand," she said, "when the tenant is paying the rent, they should have privacy and sanctity."

She said, "Consistency and docu-

mentation are the key."

Vickers said the best advice for a landlord is to let the tenant know about fair housing rules, put posters of the rules and regulations in the business office and let the tenant see the rules and regulations before signing the lease.

"Business is business," Vickers said. "Good business protects everyone and all business should be done in writing."

One of the problems for the students in Hays is the "availability of housing," Hannes Zacharias, Hays City Manager, said.

He said the complaints the students have, is the quality the existing houses. Some of the houses do not meet minimum standards.

Vickers said the possible problems the students might face in regard to housing is not knowing whether the lease is legally correct or not.

Students need to be as responsible as anyone else. They also need to know their rights and responsibilities, so they won't be exploited," she said.

Vickers said both sides have rights and responsibilities.

BRIEFS

Candidate photo-graphs

Photographs of Homecoming King and Queen candidates are due by 4:30 p.m. today in the University Activities Board Office, second floor of the Memorial Union.

Women's abuse group

An Abuse Recovery Group for women will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday night in the Kelly Center, Picken third floor, beginning Sept. 22.

The group is sponsored by the Fort Hays State Women's Center, first floor of the Memorial Union.

Space is limited, so those interested should contact

Karen McFadden, Kelly Center staff psychologist, at 628-4401 for an appointment by Tuesday.

Anchor auditions

Auditions for the anchor position of bi-weekly newscasts on KFHS, the campus television station, will be 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Heather Hall.

For more information, call 628-4428.

Free movies

The Protestant Campus Center, 507 Elm, will be showing the movies "The Addams Family" and "Ghost" starting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Senate Committee

Students interested in serving on a campus-wide committee need to contact the Student Government Association Office, first floor of the Memorial Union.

The deadline for applications is Friday.

KFHS radio

KFHS, the campus radio station is now on the air. It operates on 94.9 FM and 600 AM.

Programs start at 5 p.m. to midnight on weekdays and 6 p.m. to midnight on weekends.

Student Club

The Student Club is a place where students can meet and socialize. It is located in the Student Union, second floor. For more information, call 628-4428.

Homecoming candidate nominees announced

Tammi Harris
University Leader

Look out! Homecoming will be here before you know it.

With homecoming comes nominations for king and queen. Soon the campus will be buzzing with campaigning candidates.

Currently there are a total of 39 candidates.

"With the large number of candidates this year, students are encouraged to vote," Todd Sandoval, president of the University Activities Board, said.

"From what I hear, this is the most candidates we have had in quite some time," Sandoval said.

Preliminary elections will be held Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Memorial Union.

Students should bring their I.D.s to vote. Voting tables will be set up in front of the cafeteria.

The large number of candidates will be reduced to five males and five females.

This year the campaigning will be done differently. For example:

•The outdoor posting policy, concerning candidate fliers, has been changed so that all posting must first be approved by the Office of Student Development.

•Writing with chalk on the sidewalks is still allowed; however, the candidates must first get proper approval to do so.

•Posters can no longer be taped to the ground or light posts.

"These rules were instituted (for the reason of not wanting the campus to look like a big trash site," Sandoval said.

Final elections for the Homecoming King and Queen will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 26-27 in the Memorial Union.

The King and Queen will be announced during halftime ceremonies of the Oct. 1 football game with Fort Lewis College. The game is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

Students nominated for the 1994 Fort Hays State Homecoming Roy-



Fred Hunt / University Leader

The 1994 Homecoming King and Queen candidate nominees are: **Front Row:** Lisa Purcell, Paxico junior; Jennifer West, Abilene sophomore; Tori Kephart, Great Bend freshman; Jolene Wegman, Wheaton sophomore; Angela Linnebur, Dodge City senior; Satomi Kimura, Fujinoki Saeki-Ku, Hiroshima, graduate student; Amy Bruntz, Bazine junior; **Second Row:** Ryan Buchanan, Council Grove, sophomore; Kelly Cook, Ellsworth senior; Amanda Stover, Colby senior; Jamie Mountain, Viola freshman; Melissa Schiepp, Wichita sophomore; Kelly Newell, Meriden junior; Pam Norris, Spearville senior; Tiffani Motley, Lakewood, Colo., sophomore; Lynette Brazda, Goodland junior; Connie Ellerman, Effingham sophomore; Melissa Herrman, Garden City senior; Trisha Jones, Jetmore senior; **Third Row:** Hsi Chu, Taiwan senior; Eric Dexter, Hays senior; Eric Waldinger, Englewood, Colo., sophomore; Ryan Achilles, Hesston sophomore; Aimee McKee, Goodland senior; Tammi Harris, Great Bend junior; Gina Berti, Hays sophomore; Michelle Winkelman, Chase sophomore; Suzette Grimsley, Hays junior; Stacy Wright, Munjor senior; **Back Row:** Mike Turner, Dodge City junior; Travis Morisse, Kingman senior; Rod Spangler, Topeka senior; Tracy Hommon, Smith Center junior; Raphael Chong, Sarawak, Malaysia, senior; Phil Covington, Almena senior; Travis Kershner, Hays junior.

ally include Lisa Purcell, Paxico junior; Jennifer West, Abilene sophomore; Jolene Wegman, Wheaton sophomore; Angela Linnebur, Dodge City senior; Satomi Kimura, Fujinoki Saeki-Ku, Hiroshima, graduate student; Amy Bruntz, Bazine junior.

Ryan Buchanan, Council Grove sophomore; Kelly Cook, Ellsworth senior; Amanda Stover, Colby senior;

Melissa Schiepp, Wichita sophomore; Pam Norris, Spearville senior; Tiffani Motley, Lakewood, Colo., sophomore; Lynette Brazda, Goodland junior.

Connie Ellerman, Effingham sophomore; Melissa Herrman, Garden City senior; Trisha Jones, Jetmore senior; Eric Dexter, Hays senior; Eric Waldinger, Englewood, Colo., sopho-

more; Ryan Achilles, Hesston sophomore; Aimee McKee, Goodland senior.

Tammi Harris, Great Bend junior; Michelle Winkelman, Chase sophomore; Suzette Grimsley, Hays junior; Stacy Wright, Munjor senior; Mike Turner, Dodge City junior.

Travis Morisse, Kingman senior; Rod Spangler, Topeka senior; Tim

Gratzer, Stilwell senior; Tracy Hommon, Smith Center junior; Raphael Chong, Sarawak, Malaysia, senior; Phil Covington, Almena senior; Travis Kershner, Hays junior.

Gina Berti, Hays sophomore; Hsi Chu, Taiwan senior; Kelly Newell, Meriden junior; Jamie Mountain, Viola freshman; Tori Kephart, Great Bend freshman.

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Hays HAM radio group seeks new members

Scott Mullen
University Leader

If you ever wanted to try your hand at saving the world, this just might be your chance.

A 12-week entry level amateur radio study course, taught by Don Gruver, will begin on September 20.

"The Hays Amateur Radio Club has been around since the 1970's. The club is made up of 35 members from a five county area," Gruver said.

Though today most of us familiarize the radio with music and the enthusiastic voices of deejays, those involved in Amateur Radio (often called Hams) aren't interested in gathering the pop chart's Top 40 and playing them on the airwaves.

"It's a hobby. We communicate with other amateurs—locally and around the world. We're primarily a support service dealing with emergency disaster communications."

Amateur radio has assisted with hundreds of life-and-death situations, from the fires in California, tornadoes in Alabama, and especially during the floods that submerged areas of Hays last year.

"Anytime there is a major disaster, Amateur radio plays a big part," Gruver said.

Recently, the Hays Amateur Radio Club was recognized for its life-saving efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and received a grant.

"It's a 50/50 grant. The agency receives hundreds of applications, but only two dozen are issued. Half of these grants went to amateur radio. We feel fortunate to be included in such an elite group."

The grant money will be used to purchase some packet equipment so computers can communicate through radio rather than telephone.

When the amateur radio club isn't relaying information back and forth about rising flood waters and dangerous thunderstorm skies, the group acts as a guardian angel for several charity walks in town, such as the March of Dimes and the upcoming Walk for Diabetes.

"People are stationed along the walk to make sure no one gets injured," Gruver said.

Nearly anyone can become involved in amateur radio, age is no requirement. People from the age of eight to eighty have taken up this hobby. Though radio equipment varies, a basic hand-held radio and a licence is all that is needed to jump onto the emergency airwaves.

"This class will hopefully encourage people to take advantage of electronics to help the community," Gruver said.

Even the sky isn't the limit when it comes to amateur radio. A good part of today's



MATT SHEPKER/ University Leader

Don Gruver, Hays Public Safety and Emergency Specialist, concentrates while trying to make a Packet connection via amateur radio. The Hays Amateur Radio Club operates an emergency communication service out of the basement of the Law Enforcement Center, 101 W. 12th St.

astronauts are licensed amateurs that delve in SAREX—Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiments.

"The astronauts mostly communicate with school children. It's a challenge to see if you can reach contact with them during a mission," he said.

Though amateur radio is a hobby, don't let

that fool you. This isn't a game played without many risks involved. There's been some close calls during some tornado chasing. We'd rather read about other disasters—not be read about," Gruver said.

Just because these communicators are called amateurs, however, doesn't mean they lack in expertise.

"Some have labeled the word amateur as meaning someone who doesn't know what they're doing. But remember that volunteer fireman and the reserves are amateurs, too. A lot of modern technology came from amateur experiments."

The amateur radio study course will be held from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday evenings begin-

ning Sept. 20. The course will be held in the EOC room in the basement of the Hays Law Enforcement Center, 105 West 12th. Cost of the course is \$15, plus a small testing fee.

For more information or to sign up, write to Hays Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 622 or contact Gruver at 625-7115.

Professionals to discuss sexual abuse during conference

Rod Smith
University Leader

Fort Hays State University and the Kansas Association of Marriage and Family Counselors is offering a conference entitled "Survivors and Partners—Healing the Relationship of Sexual Abuse Survivors" on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24.

Featured presenters will be Dr. Paul Hansen and his wife, Mimi Farrelly.

Hansen, who has a Ph.D. in psychology from Columbia Pacific University in California, practices psychotherapy privately in Denver and

Longmont, Co. He works mainly with adult survivors of sexual and physical abuse.

Hansen is the author of, "Survivors & Partners: Healing the Relationship of Sexual Abuse Survivors."

Farrelly is an art psychotherapist in private practice in Longmont, Co. She is also the director of the graduate art therapy program at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Co.

Farrelly holds a master's degree in art therapy from Vermont College of Norwich University, Montpelier, Vt., and a master's degree in early child-

hood education from Columbia University, New York.

The husband and wife team employs a psycho-educational model, which they hope will raise awareness of the impact that childhood abuse plays in a relationship.

By sharing their own experiences, Hansen and Farrelly hope to provide avenues for healing and future intervention, via hopeful and humorous presentations.

Conference activities will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m.

to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Holiday Inn.

Friday's morning and afternoon sessions, which are geared towards professionals, include an introduction by Charles Leftwich, chair of administration, counseling, and education studies; a presentation by Dr. Hansen; and break out sessions for educators, psychologists, health professionals, social workers, counselors, and clergy.

According to Thomas Guss, associate professor of administration, counseling and educational studies, these sessions will be used to allow

professionals to develop strategies of prevention and intervention.

Friday's evening session and all of Saturday's activities are "geared more towards sexual abuse survivors and/or their partners, and will provide excellent opportunities for counseling, support and networking," Guss said.

The conference's goal is to provide help for abuse survivors with specific emphasis on the relationships in which they now live. It also purports to help the partners who share their lives.

Guss said the nature of sexual abuse is far-reaching.

"These people (partners) are as cheated as the survivor himself," Guss said.

Who should attend: (1) Professionals who work with either abused individuals or their partners; (2) those who have been abused or who suspect physical or sexual abuse as a child or adolescent; (3) those who are partners in a relationship with an abused person; (4) and graduate students.

Registration for the conference is \$35 per person each day and includes lunch. Continuing education is available for counselors, social work majors, nursing students and teachers.

Registration forms can be obtained by contacting Guss at 628-4520. The deadline to register is Monday, Sept. 19.

"Sexual abuse is not just a big city problem," Guss said. "Our number one goal is to heighten awareness."

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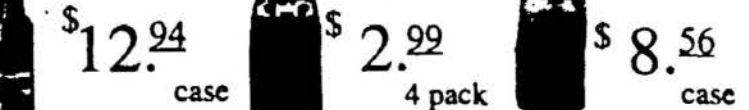


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Professor paints postcard; literally

Scott Mullen
University Leader

Kathleen Kuchar, professor of art, is the kind of woman who knows what she wants...and knows how to get it.

"I've always been interested in art, as well as in teaching, ever since I was a little girl," Kuchar said.

The professor's determination to incorporate art into both her professional and personal life hasn't been without its awards. Named the Kansas Governor's Visual Artist for 1993, the artist's work has been showcased in galleries across the nation—everywhere from New Mexico to Wisconsin.

"I paint intuitively. Using the subconscious," Kuchar said.

The artist's most recent achievement isn't an elaborate mural, but artwork taking on a much smaller form—a postcard.

Kuchar, along with fellow professor of art Michael Jilg, both have paintings which were selected for the Kansas Artists' Postcard Series XVII.

"I've always wanted to get into the show. I started painting a lot of pieces—one just led right into the other. I must have done close to twenty. I narrowed it down to three and sent them into the contest."

Kuchar's acrylic painting "Blue Windows" is one of the twenty-six other works of art which will be transformed into postcards. "My Father Grew Roses," a hand colored etching, is Jilg's award-winning piece.

As for the other paintings Kuchar made in her quest to find the "perfect postcard" entry, all that work didn't go to waste. Eight were chosen to be shown in the Hand Artes Gallery in Truchas, N.M.

Growing up among the prairies of northeast Nebraska, Kuchar received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

From there, she landed her first teaching job at a high school in Minden, Nebr.

"The high school didn't even have an art program before I came in. There was no art equipment, no supplies...it was a challenge. They're probably still using some of the newsprint I ordered," Kuchar said.

But like a fresh canvas, the first-time art teacher had no problem introducing the lessons of technique and style to a school basically new to the field of art.

"The students were really excited about it. It went really well," she said. Kuchar spent two years at the high school before moving on.

"I wanted to get my master's degree; become a better artist."

What school did Kuchar choose to further develop her painting skills? Why, Fort Hays State, of course.

"I didn't even know where Hays was, but I'd heard they had a pretty good art school. And sure enough, they did."

Kuchar's artistic studies have been taken outside the Midwest as well. The painter studied at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, as well as in Europe—where she got the name for her dog.

"I didn't know many words while I was there, except Scusi which means excuse me," she said.

Scusi, the dog, and Freda, the cat, both live with the artist here in Hays.

When Kuchar isn't painting abstract art or buying pet food, the artist can be found knocking down pins for her bowling league. As for the future, Kuchar plans to keep right on teaching at Fort Hays State.

"I've seen a lot of changes over the years. The art department is unique. There's a creative spirit amongst the crew."

The award-winning artist says she learns something new "every time I pick up the paintbrush. It's a life-long learning process."

Kuchar passes on a lot of advice to her students, more than just how to hold a paintbrush.

"You've got to be enthusiastic about what you're doing. Many students just finish work to satisfy the teacher. That's wrong," she said.

"You need to satisfy yourself. And if you don't enjoy what you're doing, you should be doing something else. Whatever you think about all day long—that's what you should do. I encourage my students to experiment. If you mess up—so what? Nothing is ever a total failure."

Participants needed for Leadership program

Connie Ellerman
University Leader

The Hays Area Chamber of Commerce, 1301 Pine St., is now accepting applications for participants in the 1995 Leadership Hays program.

"Leadership Hays is a training program for potential leaders in the community, involving all facets of the Hays area," Kate Schmidtberger, chair of the HACC board of directors, said.

Leadership Hays develops knowledge and leadership in the community in order to solve problems.

Marion McMillan, Bank IV president, said.

McMillan, who had been involved in both Leadership Kansas and Leadership Emporia, said he saw the need for such a program in Hays.

"I saw how the program worked in Emporia and I thought it would work well in a community like Hays," he said.

The fifth annual Leadership Hays

program will consist of a group of 20 people selected through applications submitted to the Chamber of Commerce. People may be nominated by someone else or nominate themselves.

"Anyone who is interested in becoming a leader may apply, the program is not restricted to any one or any field," Schmidtberger said.

The program will consist of seven sessions starting early in 1995. The sessions will entail "learning about

city, county and state governments, education, economic development, oil and agriculture, and major industry," she said.

"It lays the groundwork for individuals to become leaders, placing them a step ahead in the community," Schmidtberger said.

Applications for Leadership Hays are available at the Chamber of Commerce. They are due in the office by Oct. 1.

Education

Ministry of Social Welfare and Public Health.

"Each program emphasizes the importance of establishing good relationships with others and to resolve conflicts in a good way," he said.

In Japan, Wakai said the main focus of the kindergarten is emphasis on academic success and its importance.

"Health and the importance of it are also stressed. We emphasize the necessity of having good language skills and teaching children to express it, whether physically or through feelings, thoughts or pictures."

"Education is expected of all children. Sixty-seven percent of all the children in day nursery go to kindergarten."

"Tuition for kindergarten is approximately \$120 American dollars, 12,000 yen per month. A parent is expected to pay that and if they cannot afford it, the child will stay in day nursery," he said.

Wakai said the Japanese government subsidizes tuition, "but it is still very costly," he said.

Wakai said class sizes in Japan are roughly comparable to those in the United States.

"In the larger cities, like Tokyo, the class sizes can get up to 40 students to one teacher," Wakai said.

"We focus a lot of our attention on young children because they're in the early development phase, and it is so important to lay a good foundation for



Jon Grossman / University Leader

Dr. Kumio Wakai uses a portion of a Japanese newscast as part of his presentation about early Japanese education. Dr. Wakai is in America performing research at Buffalo State College in New York.

later development.

"It is a period of such rapid growth and high vulnerability to the environment, so many mothers feel that television is not very educational, but rather detrimental," Wakai said.

Wakai said Japanese children tend

to be more prepared to enter school than American children because of the structure given early on in their lives.

"They are very focused academically because of the curriculum and rigidity of it," Wakai said.

"Childhood is a very important time. Children are very vulnerable and it is important to intervene early," he said.

"Through the cultural diversities, we can gain a greater understanding and comparison of the two cultures and rear well-taught children."

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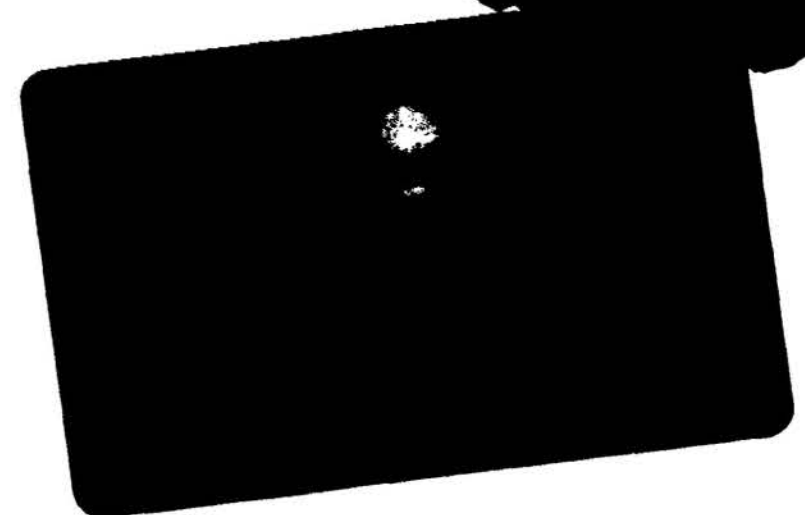
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