

Penn State Mont Alto Nursing Program Gets Fresh Start with Changes in Staff

Changes in the nursing faculty this year are expected to give the program and its students a fresh start. Penn State Mont Alto hired three new nursing instructors over the summer, after the resignations of LaVonne Johnson, Julie Doyle, and Mary Ann Blum Condon. A committee has already been selected to hire a new program coordinator. In the meantime, Instructor Carranda Barkdoll is acting as Interim Program Coordinator.

With all of these changes, Barkdoll hopes to keep the program student-centered and

continues to build strong relationships with community leaders in the medical field. Mont Alto has to compete with HACC, Shephard, York, and Wilson, so it is important to maintain the established network with the area hospitals and nursing facilities.

Despite conflicting rumors on campus, enrollment in the nursing program has steadily increased over the last several years. Last year, there were 160 applications for entrance into the nursing program; only fifty are accepted each year. Of the fifty that enrolled, there were

thirty-one graduates in the class of 2005 – a 62% graduation rate. Penn State Mont Alto has a licensure test pass rate of 94% according to Barkdoll. The national average is only in the upper seventies to lower eighties. Mont Alto's percentage was slightly lower in 2004 as a result of changes made to the licensure test.

Last year, the varying expectations of students and instructors generated much conflict in the nursing program. To help prevent issues from arising this year, Francis Achampong, Director of

Academic Affairs, addressed new and returning nursing students to outline the University's expectations of the students.

As Achampong explains, students sometimes assume the role of a customer, rather than a student in academia, and want guaranteed satisfaction or their money back. It is true that students pay for their seats in a classroom; however, they should remember that their money does not pay for their grades – those have to be earned. Barkdoll points out that such attitudes can be found

among students of any age and in all majors. She speculates that this is a result of the lack of responsibility for our own actions among today's members of a litigious society.

Barkdoll looks forward to transitioning a new program coordinator into the challenging role as "Ambassador of the Mont Alto Nursing Program." Barkdoll will not be applying for the position. She says, "I'm not ready to give up my patients, although I will continue to teach."

Movie Review: *The Brothers Grimm* Fails to Meet Expectations of Fairytale Retellings

Travis Keefer

Terry Gilliam's "The Brothers Grimm" is a work best suited for those who have no expectations regarding the actual history of the brothers or the content of the fairy tales for which the brothers are most famous. The movie winds through twists and turns at breakneck speeds, and like being on a rollercoaster, you expect it all to come together in the end, but the film never does.

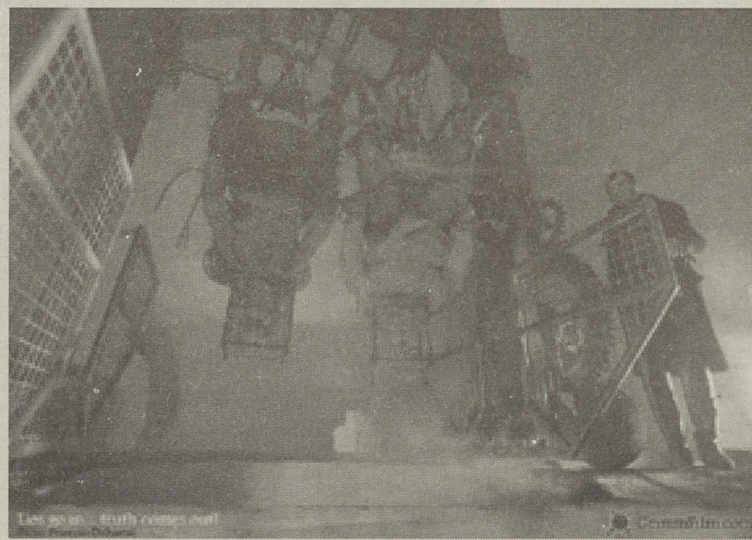
The film follows Wilhelm Grimm (Matt Damon) and Jacob Grimm (Heath Ledger). The two are con-artists who devise ghosts and demons out of villages' local legends and then show up to exorcise or kill the demon they have created in a manner that impresses the locals and of course, the brothers receive a large payment for their helpful services. Soon, the brothers find themselves in a town that possesses an actual enchanted forest that is populated with a were-beast, Rapunzel's doorless tower, and a host of other magical creatures from the fairy tale world. The brothers are guided on their quest

through the forest by the local shunned woodsman, Angelika (Lena Headey). The story then fumbles its way through a French invasion and the charlatan brothers' many attempts at dealing with the real curse held over the forest by a wicked witch (Monica Bellucci).

Surprisingly, the acting overall is fairly well-done. There were times when I forgot that it is Matt Damon on the screen, and with some of his previous films, this is a very redeeming quality of the film. Lena Headey's character has become a constant staple for screen writers in pre-modern era films, such as "King Arthur's" and "Pirates of the Caribbean's" Keira Knightley, Guinevere and Elizabeth, respectively, or "Van Helsing's" Kate Beckinsale, Anna. As a result, the character becomes boring and, at times, a trifle annoying

since we've seen it all before. The most excruciatingly painful moments to see in the film are when the French characters are on the screen. The French, as secondary antagonists to the Brothers Grimm, are portrayed with extremely over the top

brilliant directing job done by Terry Gilliam manages to convey an ever-present sense of darkness. Unlike the most popular retellings of the Grimms, fairy tales, the original stories told by Jacob and Wilhelm are usually dark and often very violent. Though we never actually see any of the tales given their due in the film, the dark undertones and the violence is often at the forefront of the film - that is, when the



ridiculous acting, making me wonder if the director, writer, Ehren Kruger, or both purposefully sacrificed too much of the film to make fun of the French.

One thing that is impressive about the story is that the writer, Ehren Kruger, with the

brothers aren't making fools of themselves. The accurate feeling of the film in relation to the feeling one gets when reading some of the old tales is a credit to Terry Gilliam's skill and the film's superb cinematography presented throughout. Gilliam's eye for a crisp, clear, and concise shot does the film

an incredible amount of justice, even if the script does him none at all.

No matter how good Hollywood gets with presenting the bigger, badder wolf, the true darkness and the true scariness of anything is not how creepy they can make something look on screen, but how creepy we can make something appear in our own minds by not seeing anything at all. The imagination is the source behind the chills one receives from the original stories because we could not see the wolf, or the wicked stepmother. These are things obviously forgotten by yet another Hollywood blockbuster that fails to engage the wonder or the imagination of the audience. If you are a fan of Terry Gilliam's screen work, then I suggest shelling out the eight bucks to see it. If you were expecting to see some interesting re-inventions of these old fairy tales on the big screen, my suggestion is that you should wait for "The Brothers Grimm" to hit DVD.