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# Local State

*Still under media seige*

## McKeel returns home

United Press International  
BALCH SPRINGS — Marine Sergeant Johnny McKeel Jr. ended his 444 days of Iranian captivity more than a week ago, but he remains under seige from the media.  
His celebrity status is something he courted with his well-quoted

comment that he would recover from his ordeal as soon as he returned to "drinking beer and chasing women."  
However, he also said he would be relieved when the publicity subsided and he could live a more normal life.  
But that day may be a few months off.

New Orleans spokesmen Sunday said McKeel will reign as Bacchus XIII, the god of wine and revelry, at this year's Mardi Gras parade.

The selection of McKeel is a departure for the Bacchus organization in selecting its king, who normally is chosen from the entertainment world.

Unfortunately, all the attention he got kept McKeel from realizing his main goal.

"I haven't had time to chase women," he confessed at a Balch Springs news conference prior to his mammoth homecoming parade Saturday.

However, several young women chased him as he rode in Saturday's parade. Ignoring police warnings to stay clear of the convertible, they rushed the car and planted kisses on the former hostage.

Dressed in blue jeans and a Texas Rangers baseball cap before the pa-

rade, the slight, soft-spoken marine discussed his ordeal.

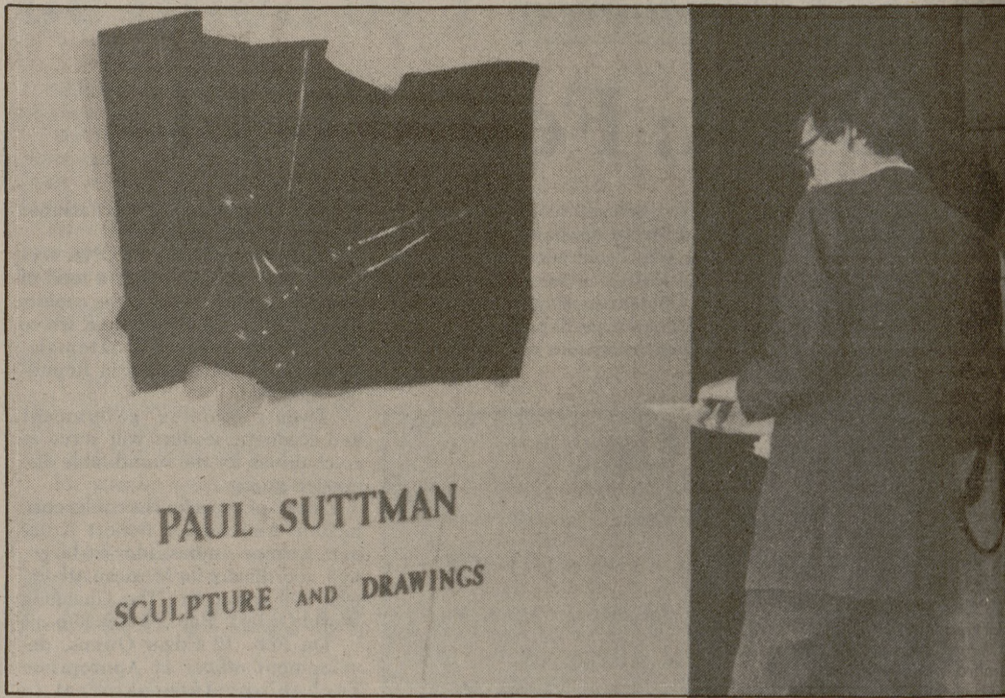
"At one point I was interrogated for 12 hours," McKeel said. "I was put in solitary confinement, told my mother had died, threatened with execution, and at one point I was made to take off all my clothes with a rifle pointed at my head."

McKeel kicked off his homecoming celebration by climbing a ladder at his parents' house and removing an American flag so tattered no stars remained.

Wearing clusters of yellow ribbons in their hair, Balch Springs housewives watching the press conference applauded as he finally removed the flag which had been fastened to the roof by his father for more than 14 months.

McKeel said he was somewhat embarrassed by the amount of attention the hostages have received since returning to the United States.

"I never was the hero type," he said. "I went to downtown Dallas the other day in civilian clothes and walked into a building and before I could get to the elevator, I was mobbed."



PAUL SUTTMAN  
SCULPTURE AND DRAWINGS

Joe and Martha Dixon contemplate a sculpture by Paul Suttman. Suttman is the artist in residence at Texas A&M University. Most of the pieces in his display are bronzes. His work will be on display until Feb. 24 in Rudder Exhibit hall.

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QUALITY FIRST

## These apples are works of art but don't try to eat them

By CATHERINE J. THOMAS  
Battalion Reporter  
Most people eat apples. But artist Paul Suttman bronzes them.

"People ask me if I like to eat apples — I do," said Suttman, the

artist-in-residence for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design for 1980-81.

Suttman's apples, complete with bronzed grocery sacks, are on display at Rudder Exhibit Hall with

some of his drawings, lithographs and reliefs dating from 1964 to the present.

"I don't feel that any are perfect," he said in an interview at the reception held in his honor Thursday night.

"The next one," he said, "will be my best work."

He said he is much more interested in what he is doing than what he has done.

Suttman said he usually works on six to eight sculptures at a time.

"I take turns working on them because doing just one gets stale," he said.

He makes his sculptures by the lost-wax method. He makes a plaster mold of the object, fills it with wax, heats that in a kiln until the wax melts out and then pours the bronze in the mold.

After the bronze has hardened, he chips the plaster away and treats the sculpture with acids.

Half of his display features apples of some sort, but Suttman, who deals primarily with still lifes, has also included bronzed envelopes and figures to his exhibit.

There's even a piece that could tempt Eve: "Adam's Bag X," an upright bag stuffed so tightly with apples that one has fallen out.

Suttman's sculptures are also displayed in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Walker Art Center in Minnesota, the Hirshhorn Museum of Art in Washington D.C. and other museums and private collections in the United States and abroad.

Suttman will continue teaching a course that relates sculpture to architecture as his post as artist-in-residence at Texas A&M University until May.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Texas A&M University Art Exhibit and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, will be open through Feb. 24.

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