

Local

Life-modeling a unique experience

By NANCY WEATHERLEY
Battalion Reporter
Clinical.

The word suggests a hospital room: clean, sterile, without movement. However, clinical is how Andy Holland, a junior landscape major at Texas A&M University, describes being a model in the University's only life-drawing class.

"It's like being an object," he said, "you might as well be a chair." Holland is one of six male models working alternately three hours every Monday and Wednesday nights.

"Usually it's hard to find models," Robert Schiffhauer, assistant professor in Environmental Design, said. Schiffhauer teaches the life-drawing course. "We don't have an art program here, and this is the only life drawing course offered," he said.

Holland, who has been a model at other schools, said he first got into modeling while he was taking a life-drawing course. At Texas A&M he heard about it from advertisements and word of mouth.

Even though the models pose nude, Holland said, "There are no sexual overtones. After you do it for awhile, you forget that you're nude; it's a job."

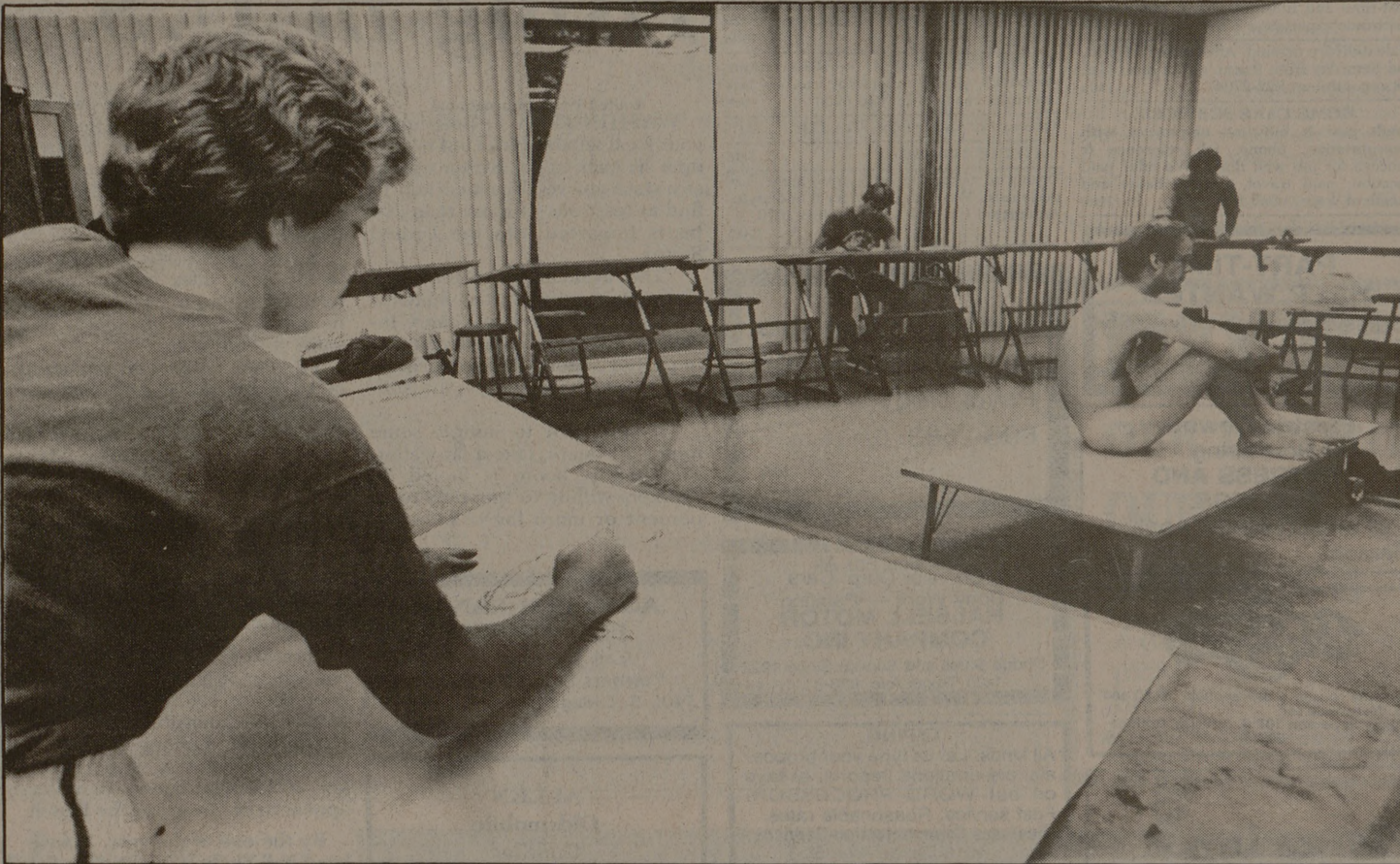
Because Schiffhauer has a lot of environmental design students in his class, he treats the human body as though it were a piece of architecture. "I concentrate on structure, drawing the figure in terms of volumes, such as cubes and cones, using them in the parts of the figure where they seem appropriate," he said. "The kind of exercises we do help students gain perspective and form."

The class does many gesture drawings, quickly sketching the model in action poses which show natural movement. These poses generally last around a minute or a minute and a half.

"The drawings contour what the model is doing, the action, not details of the body," Schiffhauer said.

Holland said that choosing poses isn't a problem. "Whatever you happen to be doing at a given moment is your pose," he said. "You have a minute and a half to decide what your next move is." The only difficulty might be in making sure your pose doesn't make you tense up, he said.

Since Holland has had life-drawing courses, he has an advan-



Maggie Lawler, left, does some short pose sketches of nude model Andrew Holland in the life-drawing class Wednesday.

tage in knowing what poses work well for the artist. "Finding something that is interesting to draw is important," he said. "Stiff figures aren't interesting; I try to make it at least drawable."

"If you're curled up it makes it difficult to draw. You need contours or foreshortening which makes it interesting," Holland said.

Beside the quick poses, the class also draws some longer poses lasting 20 minutes. People sometimes envision detailed poses similar to Renaissance sculptures and paintings. "On longer poses nobody does the standing positions, you're lying flat or sitting," Holland said. "Holding a pose isn't difficult; they don't tell you,

for example, to hold your arm a certain way."

Good action poses are a bonus for the students in the class. "Andy is easier to draw than most people," Mark Williams, a senior biology major said. "Andy gets involved in the class and communicates with everyone, making it more exciting."

Holland said: "I like to have a good time—I talk to the students and become part of the class."

As a full-time landscaping student, who will use his art background in his career, Holland encourages other students in careers that emphasize design to take all the art courses possible. "I think drawing people is the best thing

anybody can do if they're in design," he said. "Everything you do is relating back to the basic forms which are stressed when drawing the human figure."

Even though all the models are male, Schiffhauer said he isn't excluding females from modeling in the class. "Last year I only had two models, one male and one female," he said. "I think it helps the students to have a variation between the two."

When he has as many models as he does now, it doesn't give them much opportunity to model since the class only meets twice a week, Schiffhauer said. "When there are opportunities to work outside the class, such as at other art studios, I let the models know," he said.

The models are paid \$4.22 an hour, with the class meeting from 7 to 10 p.m. during the week. "The amount is considerably lower than what schools with large art programs pay," Schiffhauer said. "I'm trying to get the pay increased to \$5."

Schiffhauer tries to schedule models as they call. "Usually if I'm starting with a new model, I'll have that person come in and observe what the model does so they can get a feel for what goes on," he said.

With more models than he has had in previous years, Schiffhauer said, he has more choice and is able to pick people with greater experience.

Senior citizens' festival Saturday; admission free

The annual Brazos Valley Senior Citizens Festival will be held Saturday at the Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Dr. The event will take place between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Admission is free. Agencies providing services to older adults are sponsoring the event. For more information, please contact the Area Agency on Aging, 822-7421.



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Campus Names

Dr. Perry Adkisson

Dr. Perry Adkisson, deputy chancellor for agriculture for the Texas A&M System, has been appointed to the National Academy of Sciences' newly formed Committee on Relationships Between Universities and the U.S. Government.

Adkisson, an entomologist who was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1979, said the committee will study basic relationships between the nation's universities and the federal government in terms of scientific endeavors.

Dr. Gary D. Potter

Dr. Gary D. Potter, professor and horse program leader in Texas A&M's Department of Animal Science, has been elected president of the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society for 1981-1983. His election took place at a meeting in Airlie House, Virginia.

The ENPS is composed of scientists from across the United States and Canada who actively are pursuing scientific research into problems in equine nutrition and physiology. Meetings are held biannually in Lexington, Kentucky in 1983.

Dr. Lawrence Wolken

Dr. Lawrence C. Wolken of College Station has received a Leavey Award for excellence in private enterprise education from Dr. Robert W. Miller, president of Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge.

Wolken is associate director of the Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise at Texas A&M. He has worked with public schools and the general public in a private enterprise education project. Combining economic theory with practical applications for the classroom was a successful means of getting teachers to incorporate economic education with their subjects.

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