

Local / State

Be part of art, professor says

By **JOHNA JO MAURER**
Battalion Reporter

To experience the drama of modern painting, one has to be a participant, not just a viewer, Dr. John J. McDermott said in a lecture on abstract expressionism Thursday night.

McDermott, philosophy professor and director of humanities for the Texas A&M University College of Medicine, spoke in conjunction with an exhibition of recent abstract art on display through Nov. 12 in Rudder Exhibit Hall.

Modern art "has a staggering sense of reach" to it, McDermott said. "I feel as if I could walk right into it."

McDermott gave a historical synopsis of different trends leading to the abstract art movement. The nature of New York City

during the 1940s and 50s says much about abstract expressionism as an art form, McDermott said.

He said the vertical structure of the city and the brick, glass, and stone kept the reach of vision very short, causing vision to be internalized.

He pointed out the difference between New York City and Texas, where space is an abundant resource and vision is almost endless.

This explains the "interior life" of the New York School of abstract art: the paintings were emotional expressions of internalized vision, he said.

McDermott concluded with a quote from W. H. Auden concerning abstract art: "Are we to be tossed into being or are we to seize it and make it our own?"



Dr. John J. McDermott

Gospel music will play at record smashing

United Press International
DALLAS — A devilish but obvious question facing evangelical promoters of the huge rock record-smashing rally proposed for Saturday was what kind of music to play for the smashing.

"It sounds like a silly question," said sponsor Jack Rabito, general manager of gospel radio station KWJS, "but we wanted music that would attract the kids, yet not the kind of music we were asking be destroyed."

He said the event's planners settled on a contemporary gospel sound and a group that used the instruments and rhythms of a rock band.

Rabito, a former "secular" disc jockey who said he loved the early music of Bob Dylan and the Beatles, insisted the rally — expected to draw 1,500 people — was needed because popular music had fallen into a "deep void of bestiality, sexual debasement and violence."

"The record industry must hear

our statement," he said.

He said teenagers from 24 area churches were participating in the demonstration to be held in a high school auditorium in suburban Hurst, Texas. He said about \$50,000 worth of records and tapes would be heaped up and eventually destroyed.

"That's a lot of expensive vinyl, but not much good music," he said. "We feel this may be the biggest rock protest ever attempted."

Originally the event's sponsors planned to have youths hurl records into a bonfire, but city officials said that would violate air pollution laws since plastic gives off toxic hydrocarbons.

So promoters said they would be happy to smash records instead.

But city officials told them they could not destroy property in a public school auditorium.

"After all this red tape we decided to just dump the records on stage Saturday and destroy them later," said Rabito. "We'll probably take them to our radio station parking lot and smash them on the asphalt. Imagine the mess."

Two months set aside for Ataturk

City will honor Turkish liberator

By **RANDY CLEMENTS**
Battalion Staff

A proclamation by the College Station City Council has declared October and November as Ataturk Commemorative Months in honor of the founder of the Republic of Turkey.

This year marks the centennial of the birth of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who founded the Republic of Turkey in 1923. And following a request by members of the Texas A&M Turkish Students Association, the council issued the proclamation at a Sept. 24 meeting.

Similarly, cities all over the United States are honoring Ataturk for what he stood for, in addition to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, which has proclaimed 1981 as Ataturk year. The honorary year began May 19 and will end May 19, 1982.

Why is there a worldwide celebration in his honor? Primarily because of his leadership abili-

ties and his political, social and cultural reforms as he united Turkey under one name and flag after the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1918.

His accomplishments won him world recognition.

Ataturk founded the Republic of Turkey on a cultural concept.

He found that culture was the common bond needed to unite the multi-religious, multi-national and multi-lingual remnants of the Ottoman Empire.

From 1923 to 1938, he worked on modernizing and industrializing the nation by replacing Islamic law and Koranic education with Western governmental and legal institutions and secular education.

He adapted forms of the Swiss Civil Code, Italian Penal Code and German Business Law and applied them to running the government. Every city participating in the commemoration will send that city's proclamation to Ankara, Turkey where they will be exhibited at the Ataturk Mausoleum.

Mehmet Sahinoglu, graduate student in statistics from Izmir, Turkey, said the celebration allows Turks all over the world to remember the great things Ataturk did for Turkey and teachings for the world.

"He was a person full of sacrifice and had a strong sense of statehood," he said.

Sahinoglu said speeches telling Ataturk's accomplishments are given every year on the anniversary of his death, Nov. 10, 1938.

"When I heard the Nov. 10

speeches I would start crying," he said.

His voice faltered as he asked rhetorically, "How could one man do so much?"

Kenan Alpan, President of the Turkish Students Association at Texas A&M University, said films and exhibits about Ataturk will be part of the celebration at the end of October and during the first week of November.

Displays will be set up in the Memorial Student Center and on the fourth floor of Sterling C.

Evans Library, he said.

Alpan said Ataturk was a great military and political leader.

"He (Ataturk) gave character back to the people after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and a new personality for Turks," he said.

Sahinoglu said the celebration is important because it tells everyone that now is a good time to remember the past and reevaluate the present.

"It tells me, 'Let's shape up and give a little more of ourselves,'" he said.

New dormitory to be dedicated

By **LISA SURMAN**
Battalion Reporter

A ceremony to honor Ammon Underwood, Class of '07, will dedicate one of Texas A&M University's two newest residence halls scheduled for Saturday.

Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services, will preside over the dedication of Ammon Underwood Hall which is to begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Commons.

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver will present Underwood, 94, with a gift to commemorate the occasion. A portrait of Underwood, will be unveiled and hung in the 302 woman modular dormitory. H.R. "Bum" Bright, chairman of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents will unveil the portrait.

Residents of Underwood Hall plan to host a reception for guests in the Commons lounge area, following the dedication ceremony.

Underwood Hall is the fifth dormitory to be built in the Commons

Housing Area; however, it is not connected to the other four in the Commons dormitory complex. The second residence hall to open this semester was Clements Hall, a modular dormitory located in the North Area.

Underwood, who received his degree in civil engineering, has donated \$1 million of real estate to the University. Eventually, the University will receive the rest of Underwood's estate.

In 1912 Underwood, who now lives in Buchanan Dam, went to East Africa as an irrigation engineer until 1914. The natives of Africa called him "miracle worker" because they thought his professionalism and ability enabled him to work miracles.

Underwood served in World War I and later began banking and ranching. He worked for the Federal Land Bank 17 years. In 1948 Underwood retired from the Farm Credit Administration.

He says he gives Texas A&M credit for his extensive travels and success in life.

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Counties to receive cash for roads

United Press International
AUSTIN — Treasurer Warren G. Harding announced today that more than \$25 million will be distributed next week to the state's 254 counties for construction and improvement of county roads.

The monies, known as the Lateral Road Fund, were appropriated by the past Legislature and include allocations for fiscal years 1980, 1981 and 1982. Harding said his office decided to distribute the 1982 funds now rather than wait until the end of the fiscal year.

The Lateral Road Fund is supplied by revenues generated from the state's five-cent gasoline tax and are distributed based on a county's square mile area, rural population and the road mileage.

The counties are responsible for reporting their expenditures to the treasurer's office.

Of the state's three most populous counties, Harris receives the largest share, \$1.67 million. Bexar County will receive \$482,454 and Dallas County \$82,079.

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