



staff photo by Octavio Garcia

*The news hit the floor*

Aggie fans assumed their "I don't care" position Saturday night by holding *The Battalion* across their faces to block view of the SMU basketball players being introduced. The Aggies won 85-77.

## Lecturer urges art appreciation

by Melissa Adair  
Battalion Reporter

The person who doesn't like art probably doesn't understand art, Dr. Peter Guenther, art historian, said Saturday night.

Guenther's lecture in Rudder Forum was sponsored by the MSC Arts Committee in conjunction with the "Modern Masters" exhibit in the MSC Art Gallery.

Guenther said most people who go to an art exhibit enjoy it as long as they recognize what each of the paintings represent. However, when people see a painting they don't recognize, they often don't like the painting because they don't understand it, he added.

Many people look at paintings expecting to see a replica of something they already know. But, he pointed out, many great books and great paintings are totally abstract.

Guenther, a University of Houston art professor, specializes in iconology, the study of artistic symbolism.

"Art is a part of life and if we don't know about the history and the meaning of art, we are in trouble," he said.

Guenther said art historian Paul Klee explained art well when he said, 'Art doesn't repeat the visible, it makes visible.' In order to really see a painting, people must learn to be patient and keep an open mind to anything.

"The most boring picture in the world is the Mona Lisa, that is for the first two hours," Guenther said. "But after that you can begin to really see and understand it."

"To make ourselves open to art doesn't mean we'll always skip happily out of an exhibit, but hopefully we'll leave a little wiser," he said.

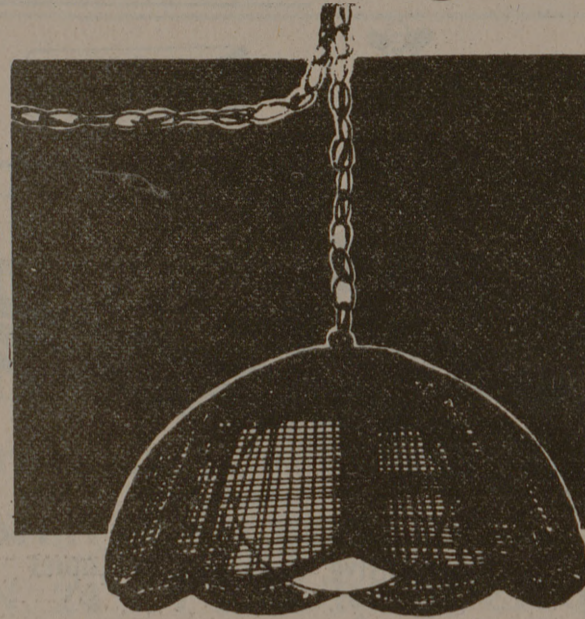
The "Modern Masters" exhibit from the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation consists of 11 paintings from various late nineteenth-century artists.

The Blaffer Foundation brings art to areas that usually don't have access to such paintings.

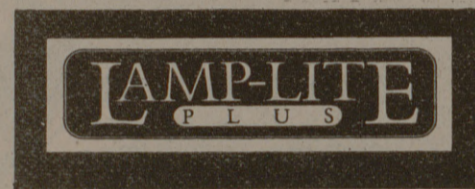
Jane Blaffer Owen, daughter of the late Sarah Campbell Blaffer, said her mother believed that art often is appreciated most at a university.

The exhibit will be in the MSC gallery until Feb. 5.

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## Swimmers and runners get workout in March biathlon

by Dena L. Brown  
Battalion Reporter

Can you swim 20 laps and then run 6.2 miles?

If so, you should consider entering the College Station Parks and Recreation department's first annual biathlon, which will be March 5 and 6 at Thomas Park in College Station.

The biathlon is sponsored by the Beer from Miller breweries and local competitive swim teams.

Participants will swim 1,000 meters in the Thomas Park pool, change into running gear and then run a 10-kilometer race

which will end at Thomas Park.

Charles Szabuniewicz, aquatic superintendent for the parks department, said the biathlon is a warm-up for the Texas Triathlon to be held in College Station in April.

Szabuniewicz said the biathlon will help show participants what to expect in the triathlon, which adds 18 miles of biking to the swimming and running.

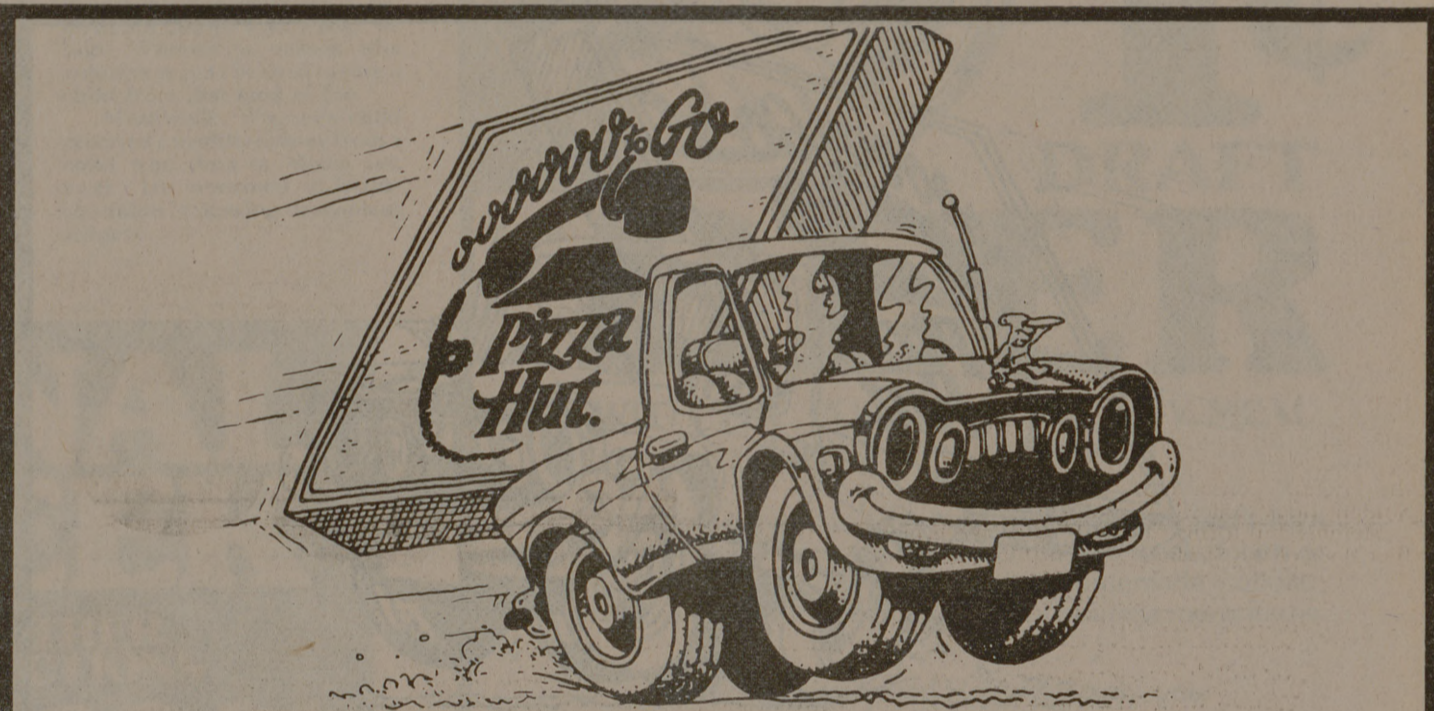
Entry fee for the event is \$10. The deadline is Feb. 25 and participation is limited to 360 people.

Trophies will be awarded to

the top three finishers in seven age groups, the oldest participant and the overall winner. T-shirts will be given to all participants.

Szabuniewicz said he hopes to hold the biathlon every year to promote awareness of public pools and parks. Another biathlon is scheduled for next fall at Bee Creek Park in College Station.

The biathlon also is a fundraising project for the department, Szabuniewicz said, and the money will be used to buy swimming equipment.



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