

## State and Local

# Program depicts racism in '80s as worse than '60s oppressions

By Elisa Hutchins  
Staff Writer

Jacob Holdt's "American Pictures," a multi-media show Monday that showed oppressed blacks in the United States in both slides and film, met with emotion from many who attended the program's first showing on the Texas A&M campus.

The program is shown at U.S. colleges and Holdt, a Dane who came to America in the 1970s and hitchhiked about 118,000 miles all over the country, said his pictures are proof that racism is not getting better, but worse.

An A&M black professor who asked that her name not be used said it is really sad that a foreigner has to come here to make people realize that bigotry is present even in the Bryan-College Station area.

"When is the University going to make an effort to change things?" she asked. "People here are backward; I have belligerent students in my class who need to accept that racism is on this campus."

The professor's main disagreement with the presentation was Holdt's portrayal of blacks in a poverty-stricken environment and rich white people on plantations.

Holdt displayed picture after picture of black Southern sharecroppers living in shacks and materialistic white home-owners.

Carol Schmidt, double majoring in English and anthropology, agreed with the professor.



Jacob Holdt, presenter of "American Pictures"

Photo by Sam B. Myers

"To some degree, he's leaving out the middle class, both black and white," she said. "He only focuses on the extremes, but maybe it's just for the emotional response from the audience."

Holdt, who has presented his show in schools such as Harvard and

Berkeley, said he was warned by other people in Texas about the conservative nature of A&M.

"College students are still reachable as far as changing any racist thoughts they may have grown up with," Holdt said.

Of the more than 300 students who showed up, Holdt said it was one of the smallest groups he's had in a long time. He also said he hoped to instill the sense of responsibility in wealthy whites that they should have toward the poverty-stricken.

Holdt took pictures and recorded speakers at a 1983 Ku Klux Klan meeting in the South. He sneaked into the meeting by covering himself with a white sheet.

"The Klan is here when the law becomes inoperable," a Klan leader shouted. "We didn't need to spend millions of dollars trying to find Martin Luther King's assassinator, because he was not an important figure. He was only a nigger."

Holdt said racism is worse in the '80s than it was in the '60s. "Louisiana plantation owners only pay black workers \$3,000 a year to cut sugarcane," he said. "The landlord owns the only store where prices are 30 percent higher than regular prices. Blacks are in debt to the landlord and see no way out."

He said the government should work toward a national free health-care plan and try to reach and educate the underclass.

"By the end of the century, half the population will be black or Hispanic," Holdt said. "There are presently 22 million people living in poverty and if we don't do something to reach them, and about racism, we'll lose half of our possible sources for knowledge."

# Faculty Senate passes document regarding academic honesty

By Cindy Milton  
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate, during Monday's meeting, approved a document on academic honesty that has been revised several times since its introduction in March 1986 by Dean of Faculties Clinton Phillips.

The purpose of the policy on academic honesty, the document suggests, is to acknowledge and recognize an individual's contributions to works of authorship and experimental observations in the University.

The document states, "in all activities of the University, it is essential that term papers, reports, results of laboratory experiments, data presentations and analyses, studio and design work, journal articles, examinations, research reports, books and other intellectual efforts presented by any individual or team be the honest work of the individual or group."

The document defines academic dishonesty — especially plagiarism and cheating — for both students and faculty and it suggests sanctions when academic dishonesty is identified.

The policy, introduced Monday by Dr. Walter Buenger of the Executive Committee of the Senate, was discussed for nearly an

hour before the Senate approved its revisions.

Sen. Mark Busby encouraged the document's passage and dissuaded long discussion of the policy.

"The document needs to get out there for students," he said. "It's important that they see this." Implementation of the policy would affect students who use term papers and reports bought from other students or companies and used for credit, he said.

The approved policy, which includes the Senate's final wording revision, will be sent to the administration for final approval.

Dr. Edward Funkhouser, chairman of the Senate's planning committee, later introduced a resolution on study lounges. The resolution recommends that more adequate study facilities be provided to students.

Funkhouser said the committee found Sterling C. Evans Library to have inadequate study space for students. He suggested that other places for studying should be made available.

The resolution was approved and will be sent to the administration for future action, including the possibility of opening several classrooms during the evenings for students to use as study facilities.

# Lecture series aims to build awareness of AIDS among A&M students

By Doug Driskell  
Staff Writer

The E.L. Miller Lecture Series "AIDS: Why Should I Care?" is designed to build awareness of AIDS among the student body at Texas A&M, a representative of MSC Political Forum said at the MSC Council meeting Monday night.

This program personally was endorsed by President Frank E. Vandiver with a

\$2,500 donation from the president's office, said Tim Fitzgibbon, chairman of MSC Political Forum.

Promotion for this lecture series has support from a non-campus group, Fitzgibbon said.

"To help us promote the program, Brazos County Planned Parenthood donated 2,000 condoms, with brochures explaining how to use them," he said.

"We have put together an advertising

packet with a schedule of the program and a condom," he said.

The symposium will be on Nov. 18 and will consist of lectures in the morning and afternoon on different aspects of AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and will conclude with a panel discussion in Rudder Theater, he said.

In other actions:  
• The purpose of presidential candidate Michael Dukakis' scheduled Friday visit was

questioned by Duke Dukobs, an adviser to the council.

This resulted in an explanation of the purpose of MSC Political Forum by MSC Director Jim Reynolds.

Political forum brings speakers to campus to lecture on topics that have educational value, he said.

Once the candidate leaves the auditorium, political forum does not have much of a say on what the candidate does, he said.

Fitzgibbon said, "We want a speech to be an educational experience whenever a candidate visits A&M. If the candidate wants to do something political we turn it over to a student political organization or we discourage the candidate."

• The selection process for the Fall Leadership Committee was moved from April to November. This was to give the new members more time to plan the Fall Leadership Conference next fall.

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