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Speaker gives cultural critique of regional artistic movements

By Chuck Lovejoy
Staff Writer

The opening of "The First Texas Triennial," an art show at Rudder Exhibition Hall, came complete with commentary.

Marise McDermott, art and political commentator for the *San Antonio Light*, inspected the ongoing trends in the Texas artistic community and discussed the views of several of the artists featured in the "Triennial."

McDermott immediately announced that she was not present to give a review of the exhibition.

"I come here not as an art critic," McDermott said. "I came here tonight to give more of a cultural critique of ongoing artistic movements."

McDermott elaborated with a detailed description of the history of Texas art.

She said regionalism, the creation of a central, distinctive style used by many of the artists in an area or state, dominated the Texas artistic scene in the beginning.

McDermott said the regionalism of Texas artists resulted in the state's western image, as the artists dealt mainly with the Texas landscape and Texan themes, such as cowboy hats and rattlesnakes.

But, McDermott said, as the "Triennial" shows, this style dominates the Texas art world no longer. She even went so far as to call the exhibit "patently anti-regional" and reflecting the current trend in Texas art, a promising trend that almost shuns regional themes.

"The art in this state is hot," McDermott said. "If you're not in New York or Chicago, you need to be in Texas to be a writer or visual artist."

Following the brief artistic history

lesson, McDermott began to concentrate on the exhibit itself, taking a journalistic approach in describing the works of art featured in the show.

She relayed to the audience portions of interviews she had with several of the artists represented in the "Triennial," allowing those attending the lecture an insight into the artists' motivations and feelings about their work.

McDermott also gave descriptions of other types of Texas art forms, including the writings being produced today in the Texas literary field. She focused briefly on the present San Antonio artistic community as well, since the "Triennial," which was compiled by the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston from artists around the state, has such a strong Houston influence.

McDermott herself found the showing to be extraordinary, calling it a "milestone in Texas art history."

"When I went through the exhibit, I was struck with the amount of global issues that were represented," she commented.

In her closing statement, McDermott said that although she found this worldwide awareness in art exciting, she said it worried her as well because it practically spells the end to the artistic image of Texas, the regionalistic one, and also threatens the regionalistic artist.

"I am just worried that people are being left out," she said.

"The First Texas Triennial" is being sponsored by Texas A&M University Art Exhibits and will be on display through February 18. The exhibit's hours are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

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What's Up

Friday
CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: will have a Friday Night Alive meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 108 Harrington.
DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: will have a membership drive and a diskette and paper sale from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Blocker lobby.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon at the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.
RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration in 159 Reed for basketball, pre-season basketball, 3-on-3 basketball and aerobics classes.
TAMU RUGBY: will play at the Woodlands Rugby Club. For more information about schedules or practices call 846-3122.
CLASS OF '89: is accepting pictures and negatives for the senior banquet slide show in the Student Programs Office.
STUDENT Y/T-CAMP: applications for counselor and T-Team are available in 211 Pavilion.

Saturday
ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: will present a gospel concert by Ysis Espasa at 7:30 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel.
STUDENT CHAPTER AMERICAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION: will present "Working Dog Exhibition" from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Pearce Pavilion. For event information call Therese Norris at 696-0682.
PERUVIAN ASSOCIATION: will meet to coordinate semester activities at 6:30 p.m. at Manual Zuniga's house.
TAU KAPPA EPSILON: will have an open party at 8:31 p.m. at 102 S. Parker.

Sunday
CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a Bible study at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.

Monday
CBA HONORS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
COLLEGIATE 4-H: will meet at 8 p.m. in 123 Kieberg.
TAMU RUGBY: will practice at 6 p.m. in the Penberthy softball complex. No experience is necessary.
POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC.
ALPHA KAPPA PSI: will have an informational rush meeting at 6:30 p.m. in 201 MSC.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon at the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.
MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF PRE-HEALTH AGGIES: will have an ice cream social and elections at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.
TAMU AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 228 MSC. All students are welcome.
ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder. Everyone interested in astronomy is invited.
ACM: will have a membership drive and T-shirt sale from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Zachry lobby.
PARENTS WEEKEND COMMITTEE: Parents of the year applications are available in the Guardroom, Pavilion, Evans Library, and the Student Programs Office and are due Feb. 10.
BUCK WEIRUS SPIRIT AWARD: applications are available in the MSC, Student Affairs offices and the vice president of student services office through Feb. 1.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Police captain: Schoolyard killer 'hated everybody'

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — Patrick Purdy, the gunman who killed five Southeast Asian children in a crowded schoolyard, had no grudge against any particular ethnic group, just "a hate for everybody," police said Thursday.

Thirty other people were wounded in Tuesday's attack at Cleveland Elementary School, which ended when Purdy — a loner with drug and alcohol problems and a fascination with all things military — killed himself.

Most of his victims were children of Southeast Asian refugees, but Capt. Dennis Perry said that through his lifetime, Purdy had developed a hate for everybody.

Perry said Purdy's enemy list apparently varied from day to day. He might be mad at one group but "the next day if he talked to Joe Dokes and he talked about the Lebanese ... he probably didn't like them either."

Purdy was described as a danger to himself and others and suffering from "mild-mental-retardation-in-a-mental health report prepared after his arrest in El Dorado County in 1987, Perry said. Arrested for firing at trees with a pistol, he tried to hang himself and slit his wrists while in custody, authorities said.

Perry described Purdy, who at-

tended the school as a boy, as a "loner, no friends, no particularly known girlfriends, a problem with alcohol, a problem with marijuana and a distinct dislike for everybody — not a particular race, everybody."

"In a way he beat us, because we'll never know" why he did it, said Perry, chief of the investigation.

Purdy, 24, slipped into the schoolyard after detonating a pipe bomb in his battered station wagon. He fired more than 100 bullets with a Chinese-made semi-automatic AK-47 assault rifle before taking his own life with a pistol.

The five youngsters killed were all children of Southeast Asian refugees. A 6-year-old boy remained in serious condition Thursday and 17 pupils and a teacher were in stable condition. The others were treated and released.

Steve Sloan, who worked with Purdy at a Stockton machine shop, said Thursday he remembered a conversation in which Purdy expressed his dismay at how well Vietnamese refugees were treated in the United States.

"We allow Vietnams to come in and we give them a place of residence and a car and money and help to find a job," Sloan said in describing Purdy's attitude.

Hormones
(Continued from Page 1)
ban could result in export losses for "variety meats" of between \$77 million and \$145 million a year, but these market losses could have a substantial impact on domestic American markets," he said.

The only way to change the image of growth-promoting hormones is for the consumers to know the whole truth, Cross said.

"If consumers could see the whole picture and get all the information and facts at one time, they would come out strongly in favor of hormones," he said. "The major safety concern is not residues in meat. It's the controlling of pathogenic organisms that grow on our food. But, most consumers aren't concerned with that."

In comments to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Texas Agriculture


Commissioner Jim Hightower expressed a view of the ban opposite from the Texas cattle industry.

"There is no good guy in this," Hightower said. "This is a health issue, not a trade issue."

Cross, who worked on Hightower's Lean Beef Task Force, said Hightower is trying to find scientific proof backing the claims that growth-promoting hormones are dangerous, but he can not.

"I disagreed 100 percent with Hightower when I worked for him and I still do," Cross said. "Hightower won't find any negative scientific facts about the hormones. Experts, including a commission in Europe, an international marketing group and the World Health Organization concur that growth-promoting hormones pose no risk to consumers."

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