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Brazos Stock Exchange hosts exhibit
Local artist blends body of art, contemporary music

By Terri Welch
 The Battalion

Imagination, emotion and combination. No words sum up the work of artist/musician Richard Rhodes better than these. He describes his own inks, drawings, paintings and photos as modern. Nothing appears to be done without a purpose.

But what makes the art so interesting is the fact that Rhodes' music and art are connected. A member of the duo, Pleasant Nightmares, he constantly refers to his work in association with his music.

"I'm not sure if all the pictures are named after songs or the songs are named after all of the pictures," he said.

The connection is clear. Playing the drums, guitar and keyboard, Rhodes explains his music as middle of the road combining rock, jazz, new age and pastoral music.

"We (he and his partner Don Overby) don't believe in one kind of music to represent one kind of people," he said.

One painting was done during an event this summer where MTV came to College Station. In the center of a large canvas emphasizing primary and pastel colors, there is a prison wall with the MTV logo behind it. Underneath the logo exists lots of hand prints in all sorts of colors.

"The painting represents what people were trying to get out of it, but couldn't have," Rhodes said. "They (MTV) have a logo now that looks just like the painting."

Another piece of his work, titled "I love you," combines soft beiges and browns to form the shape of a heart in a texture made up of cloth, feathers, hair from loved ones and an electrical outlet cover.

"The plug shows how now days it seems people just plug into one relationship and then unplug and move on to another," he said. "That's not really the way I interpret love."

Rhodes does interpret his photograph of an old veteran sitting in a wheelchair with a cardboard sign asking for any kind of a donation as bothersome.

"It kind of reminds me of the Russian thing," he said. "Everybody's worried about the politics and the people just want a cheeseburger. It's kind of crazy."

Currently a recording engineer, Rhodes began his career painting clowns with his mother in their basement. As a child, his folks bought him a candy blue Zengar Electric guitar where he learned the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction" and a few Roger Miller tunes.

A child of the 60s, he found himself knee deep in the anti-war movement when his family moved to England. He finished high school and began his first band there.

His artwork is mostly from 1989 to present, Rhodes said. He sold most of his previous artwork at a show in Tennessee in 1988.



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Artist Richard Rhodes and his body of art work can be seen at the Brazos Stock Exchange in Bryan.

"I was sort of forced into doing this show," Rhodes said. "People kept saying, 'You need to get these paintings out so people can see them.'"

"I always think of it as a hobby," Rhodes said. "I hate to think of it as commercial."

Rhodes' third showing of his work is currently on display through Dec. 10 at the Brazos Stock Exchange open Mon. through Fri. from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. in downtown Bryan. The restaurant features an art gallery on the stairs.

Coroner establishes 'death metal' reputation on 'Vortex'

Continued from page 3

The other songs are decent enough metal tunes, but they contain nothing special. The songs' three strongest points are volume, volume and volume. Coroner is

just a trio, but they sound like a much larger band.

Lyrics, who needs them? Certainly not Coroner. Perhaps their English is poor or singer Ron Royce has a speech impediment because only two or three words

are intelligible on the entire album. Royce growls and garbles his way through every song. But a beautiful voice is not a prerequisite for metal singers so it is not that big of deal.

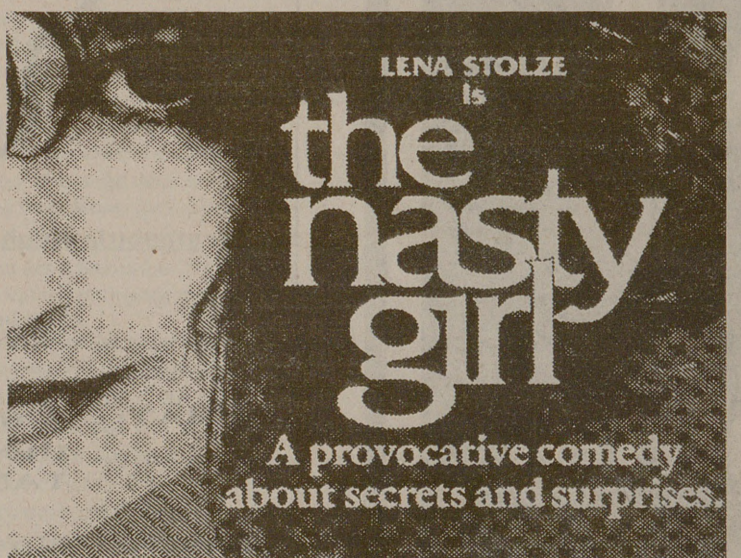
A lyric sheet is included with

the album, so you can read it. Royce supposedly said. They firmly establish Coroner as a "death metal" band, if it was obvious from their name. "Death metal" is alive and with Coroner.

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