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'Is it Heaven or Hell that Demands the Dream?,' mixed media by Eric Purves

Dream Series of three-dimensional images on exhibit Nov. 13 at Cultural Arts Center

Eric Purves of Boone, N.C., will be exhibiting his Dream Series of three-dimensional images at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center at 1204 N. Patterson from Nov. 13 until Dec. 8.

There will be a reception from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 13. At 4 p.m. he will present a program on his artistic process. Admission to the program, reception

and the gallery is free.

Purves has been a practicing artist and educator for 35 years, drawing his inspirations from his wide range of life experiences: art professor in LaGrange, mailman for the Empire State Building and African safaris with his father, according to Roberta George, arts center director. He is a teacher, blue grass musician, spelunk-

er and rock climber. Among his many honors and prizes are two C.G. Jung Foundation Awards. He exhibits his work widely across the United States and has 11 shows scheduled for the coming year. While at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the doctoral program, Purves was a student of Valdosta State University's Dr. Stephen Lahr.



Dreams of Water, Land, and Air

Dream Series by Eric Purves

Mixed Media Nov. 6 - Dec. 20, 1995
Cultural Arts Center Valdosta, Georgia

2-C Thursday, November 23, 1995

The Valdosta Daily Times



President Rose Ware and Vice President Lee Griffin of the Valdosta Symphony Guild admire an Eddie Norris watercolor donated by the artist for the auction held in conjunction with the ball. — Times photo by Paul Leavy



Enjoying the Symphony Ball are Gerri and Wade Coleman, Mary and Ed Crane, Sandy and Romulo Alvarado, Betty Dow and Charles Templeton. — Times photo by Paul Leavy

Symphony Ball held

VALDOSTA — White lilies with natural accents such as twigs and Spanish moss along with antique candelabras helped create an elegant setting for the Valdosta Symphony Guild's Ball held Saturday night at the Valdosta Country Club.

More than 200 guests attended the dinner dance and auction which benefit the various programs and projects of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra such as the South Georgia String Project and the Youth Orchestra.

Valdosta attorney Wade Coleman, who serves as chairman of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra Advisory Board, welcomed attendees and

thanked them for their support. During the auction which followed, items such as an antique sideboard, vacations in Highlands, N.C., gourmet dinners and parties in the homes of guild members, and an Eddie Norris original watercolor made this portion of the benefit the most successful one yet, according to Guild member Ann Schutt.

Co-chairmen for the Ball were Rose Ware and Lee Griffin. Committee chairmen were Sue Cox and Sarah Ellerbee, auction; Sandy Alvarado and Gloria Price, decorations; Marilyn Henderson, favors; Sandra Fletcher, invitations; Judy Hinton, programs; Ms. Schutt, publicity; Pam Elkins, reservations and

tickets; Carolyn Eager and Laurie McCall, sponsors; and Nancy Dewar, storage.

The next scheduled performance of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is 7 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Valdosta State University P.E. Complex Gymnasium. A special Pops concert of favorite Christmas music which entire families can enjoy will make up the program for this performance, Ms. Schutt said.

Adult tickets are \$10 each, and student tickets are \$2 each. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance at First Federal Savings and Loan, NationsBank, First Union and Park Avenue Bank. Call 333-2150 for tickets.

Leisure

Schools ... Page 2-C
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Martha Reynolds as Maureen Kinkaid and Pauline Player as Martha Ann Siskinger talk with their husbands Floyd Kinkaid, sitting, and Clarence Siskinger played by Maurice Wood and Jim Britt.



Theatre Guild presenting 'The Oldest Living Graduate'

By BEN BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Preston Jones' play "The Oldest Living Graduate" offers "a slice of life" that Valdostans can appreciate, according to the play's director, Dr. Mary Helen Watson.

Theatre Guild Valdosta will perform "The Oldest Living Graduate" today through Sunday and Feb. 20-22 at the Deats Theatre.

Curtains close at 8 p.m. except Sunday and Feb. 22 which are 2:30 p.m. matinees.

"You really get the feeling that these are real people," Dr. Watson said.

The play is set in the small, Southwest Texas town of Bradleyville in 1962.

The lead in the play played by Jack Pruden, is Col. J.C. Kinkaid, a World War I veteran who, due to age and shell shock, is not always possessed with all his mental faculties, Dr. Watson said.

"The Oldest Living Graduate" is one play in a trilogy about Bradleyville written by Jones.

It is the best known of the trilogy, and characters show up in minor roles in the other two plays.

In the play, Col. Kinkaid is the oldest living graduate of Mirabeau B. Lamar Military Academy, a small institution in Galveston, Texas.

The academy plans to honor the colonel whose son, Floyd, convinces the school's representatives to come out to Bradleyville to meet Col. Kinkaid.

Col. Kinkaid, who is confined to a



Michael Barr as Cadet Whopper Turnball reads a proclamation as Clarence, J.C. Kinkaid, in wheelchair played by Jack Pruden, and Jerry Ellis as Maj. Leroy Ketchum listen. — Times photos by Paul Leavy

wheelchair, lives with Kinkaid and his wife, Maureen.

The Kinkaid's are part of an old, wealthy oil family, and the colonel owns a large amount of land. His son, expecting the attendance of loads of military brass at the ceremony, sees it as an opportunity for possible real estate development.

The playwright hails from Southwest Texas which helps make his characters believable, Dr. Watson said.

"You see some of the same kinds of interaction," she said. "I think Valdosta is still pretty much a small town, and these

people are pretty much small-town people.

"They accept you for what you are. They are aware of the good and the bad, and even though they rant at each other occasionally, they accept each other for who they are.

"I think you can put these people almost anywhere rural. You can relate to them."

Tickets are \$8 per person and group rates are available. For more information call TGV at 247-8243.

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Artist of the Month ... Page 3-C

Leisure

The Valdosta Daily Times
Friday, November 29, 1996



The cast of "The Littlest Angel" rehearse a scene from the play. They are, from left, Mary Ann Green, Allison King, Kristy Barton, Mike Glasscock, Jenna Hughes, Carl Glasscock, Sarah Gossolus, Segal Owens, Donna Joyner and Phyllis Childree. — Times photo by Paul Leavy

'The Littlest Angel'

Theatre Guild Valdosta performing play Sunday

By BEN BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

The voices of children fill the Deats Theatre as the cast of the play "The Littlest Angel," prepare for rehearsal.

Theatre Guild Valdosta will present two performances of "The Littlest Angel" at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday as a part of Downtown Valdosta's Holiday Open House.

Tickets are \$1 each, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Director Rick Patrick estimates the Deats Theatre can hold 150 people.

"The Littlest Angel," written by Patricia Costa is based on a children's story by Charles Tanswell.

"It's a children's classic that deals with a little boy who finds himself in heaven," Patrick said. "The object of the story is that it's about a little child in a grown-up world."

"Everything he does — just everything he does — is wrong."

The play is 30 minutes long and features a monologue to the stage as the littlest angel.

Carl Glasscock, 10, has never performed in public before.

"I think it's a fun thing," he said. "It's not that whenever you act, you get to put out your emotions."

Patrick, a former music teacher, directed a one-act play for the

Theatre Guild last year.

The most challenging parts of putting on "The Littlest Angel" were some of the technical aspects, he said.

He added that the most rewarding part was working with the cast.

"This has been a fantastic cast to work with," Patrick said.

According to assistant director Liz Miller, Carl shines as the littlest angel.

Even though the littlest angel is in heaven, he deals with the same problems earthly kids have.

"(The audience) is going to learn that it's very hard to be a kid," Carl said.

The littlest angel has a harrowing experience in Heaven until a heavenly messenger goes down to earth to retrieve the littlest angel's prized possession. It is a box filled with wonderful things — a butterfly, a bird's egg, two white stones and a dog collar.

The time comes for the birth of Christ, and each of the angels is expected to give a gift. The only thing the littlest angel has is his special box.

The littlest angel learns the value of giving," Patrick said. "Any gift given with sincerity — no matter how small — can become something great."



The littlest angel, played by Carl Glasscock, talks with the understanding angel played by Mary Ann Green. — Times photo by Paul Leavy

UP WITH PEOPLE COMING FEB. 11

The Val.
Thursday

By BEN BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

For more than 30 years, Up With People has spanned the globe to provide focus for the idealism and energy of students age 17-25.

The traveling performance group was founded by J. Blanton Belk in Michigan in 1965.

Almost by accident, the program which started as a summer youth conference grew into an international, non-profit, educational program.

A cast from UWP will perform in Valdosta at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at Mathis Municipal Auditorium.

Tickets cost \$6 for students and seniors and \$10 for adults. All proceeds go to the Valdosta Food Bank.

Kris Ponto, 20, from the town of Camrose in Alberta, Canada and Steve Stokes from Denver, Colo., are members of the UWP Advance Team. Ms. Ponto and Stokes visit towns three weeks ahead of the troupe finding host families, places for the cast to eat and promoting the performance.

"Uppies" always seem to gravitate toward one another.

Valdostan Rick Patrick was a member

of Up With People in 1980. He met with Ms. Ponto to give an idea of how the program has changed over the years.

"The focus of the program since its inception in 1965 has been to help build bridges of communication between cultures," Patrick said. "There have been some changes — some evolutions."

According to Ms. Ponto, the group stresses communication between its members as much as with the community. Before a group travels to a state or country, members of the troupe from the area do a presentation for the group telling them what to expect.

Students in the troupe meet in discussion groups to reflect on their daily progress.

"The theme of communication goes on much more now than 15 years ago," Patrick said. "The community service aspect has also greatly expanded."

According to Ms. Ponto, Uppies perform about four and a half hours of community service for every two hours of performance.

"We try to focus on what the community needs," Ms. Ponto said. "Getting other people in the community involved is another focus."

On Feb. 10, all 158 members of the cast

will be at area grocery stores for canned food drives. As part of the drive they will be providing activities for children such as face painting and games.

UWP's Valdosta perform is sponsored by the Valdosta Rotary Club and co-sponsored by *The Valdosta Daily Times*, *The Mailbox Post*, FM-96 and WVLD.

Another part of UWP that has changed is the cost. When Patrick traveled with the group it cost \$4,800. The cost now is \$12,600.

Students must raise the money to travel with the program. About half the students receive scholarships, and UWP encourages students to apply regardless of financial status.

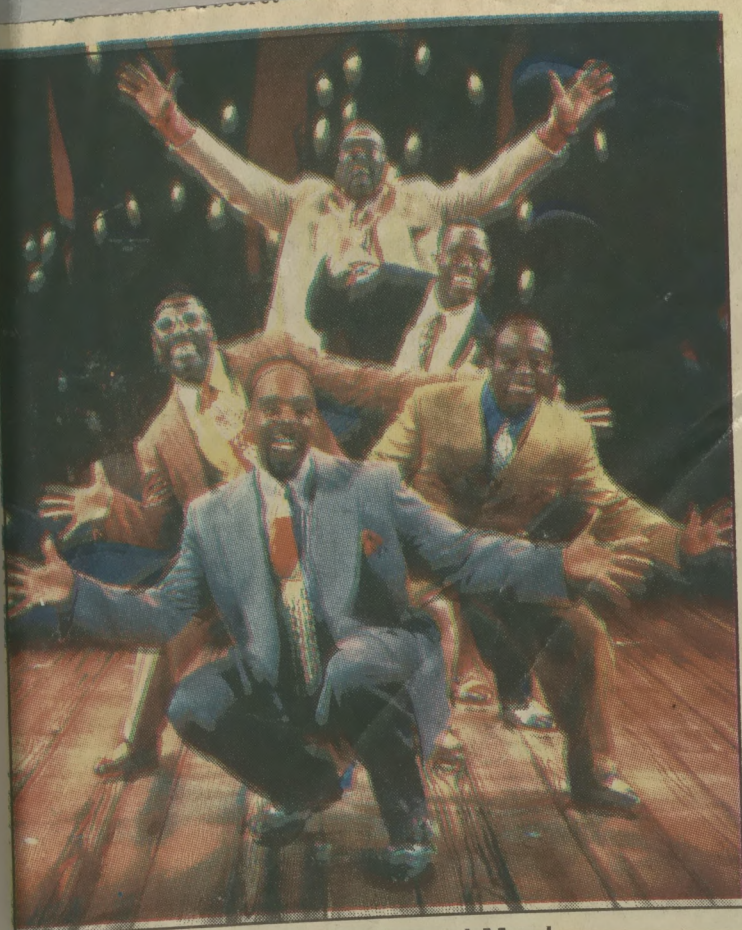
"UWP doesn't let the cost be the only reason a student doesn't go," Ms. Ponto said.

One part that hasn't changed is the internationalism of the cast.

"It definitely breaks down stereotypes," Ms. Ponto said.

Both Ms. Ponto and Patrick agree that the most important parts of UWP are communication and community service.

"The show is just a tool," Patrick said. "Almost to a person, that's what (Uppies) will say."

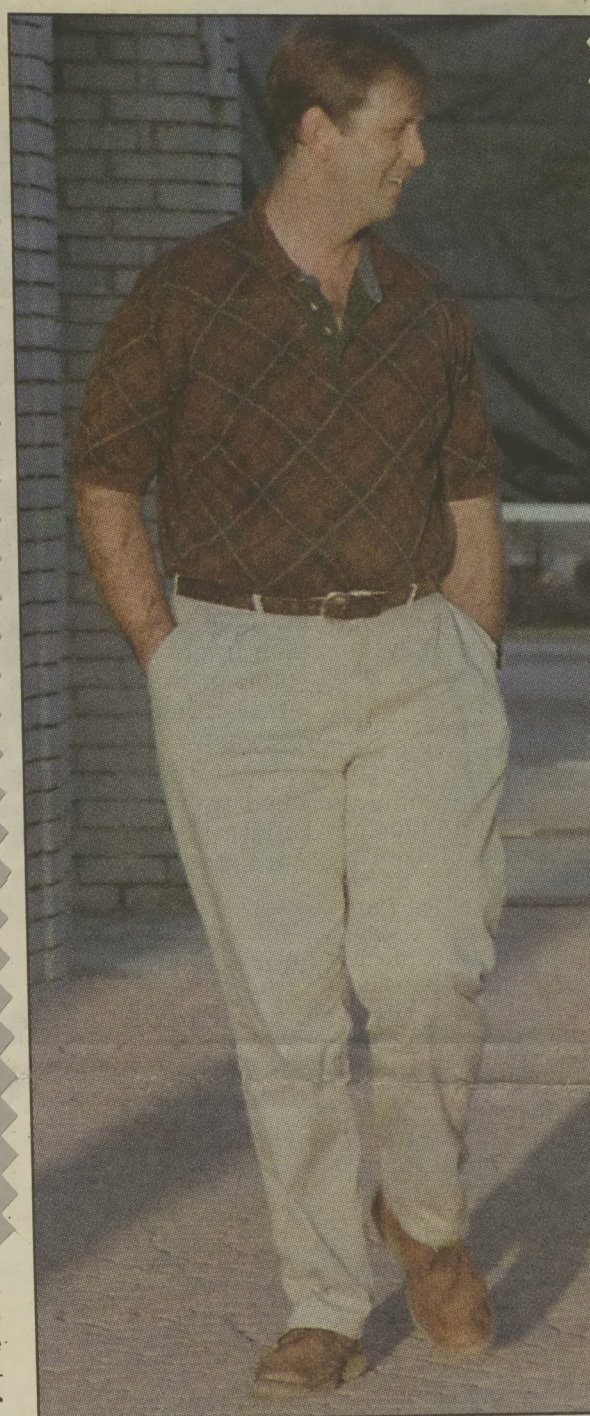


'Five Guys Named Moe'

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission will present 'Five Guys Named Moe,' the song and dance celebration featuring the music of 1940s jazz great Louis Jordan, at 8:15 p.m. tonight at Mathis Municipal Auditorium. — Contributed photo

The Valdosta Daily Times
Tuesday, January 9, 1996

B



Kris Ponto, right, and Rick Patrick discuss changes in Up With People over the last 15 years. — Times photo by Ben Butler



Above and at left are the high energy performers from Up With People who will perform Feb. 11 at Mathis Municipal Auditorium.

Pictured at right is the company of the 1995-96 Big League Theatricals Tour which will present 'Five Guys Named Moe' Jan. 9 at Mathis Municipal Auditorium. — Contributed photo

Valdosta Daily Times
Monday, December 15, 1995

'Five Guys Named Moe' coming to Mathis

By JOE DUNLOP

The Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission is bringing the choreographed musical "Five Guys Named Moe" to Mathis Municipal Auditorium for one night of song and dance *Time* magazine called "an absolutely joyful experience."

Opening on Broadway in 1992, the show is still running.

Charles Augins, the show's choreographer, won London's Olivier Award for Best Choreographer, and the show won for Outstanding Entertainment of the year.

The main character, Nomax, is listening to a late-night blues show, reflecting on his romantic life, which had taken a recent downward turn after he forgot his girlfriend's birthday.

Leaping out of the radio and into Nomax's room are a quintet of guys, each named Moe, as the title implies. Wearing rainbow-colored zoot suits, the five Moes, (No Moe, Little Moe, Big Moe, Four-Eyed Moe and Eat Moe) act as singing guardian angels for the love sick Nomax.

Besides the dancing, audiences get to feast

their eyes on the elaborate sets featuring stylized skylines and dancers.

Providing the music for the two dozen songs performed by the Moes and Nomax will be a five-piece ensemble performing the music of Louis Jordan. That music is an integral part of the performance, as there is little dialogue involved, just enough to connect the songs.

In fact, the musical is named after one of Jordan's songs. Maybe that's one of the reasons why they are on stage with the performers, rather than out of sight in a pit in front of the stage.

Jordan's music became known as "jump blues," and he was a key figure in the development of rhythm and blues. The late Jordan and his alto sax hold the record for top 10 rhythm and blues hits, with 55.

Jordan songs like "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't Ma' Baby," "Let The Good Times Roll" and "Messy Bessy" fuel the performance, and the resultant mixture of dancing and music has been known to get crowds out of their chairs.

Director and Choreographer Charles Augins is a three-time winner of best choreography awards, the Olivier award, NAACP Theatre Award and the L.A. Theatre Ovation Award. Augins was also nominated for best director for

the same awards. When he was 9, a recreational tap-dancing class made him an early fan of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. From there, he went into professional dance.

Angelo Adkins (Four-Eyed Moe) has performed in "Law & Order," "Carlito's Way" and in several musical productions, including "Hair," "West Side Story" and "Oklahoma!"

Thierry Laurence (Eat Moe) has toured Europe with "Hair" and "Broadway Musicals." He's also appeared on "Cosby Mysteries" and "The 1992 Miss Georgia Pageant."

Michael Shepperd (Big Moe) has been active in his hometown Chicago theater and New York theaters. He has a recurring role on ER as Larkey.

Dennis Stowe (No Moe) has played in "West Side Story," "My One and Only" and most recently on TV on the Fox series "House of Buggin'."

Dennis Wilson (Little Moe) has performed in "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Hair" and "Ain't Misbehaving."

Tickets for the 8 p.m. Jan. 9 performance at Mathis Municipal Auditorium are available at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center at 1204 N. Patterson St. Tickets are \$25.

1995 - 1996

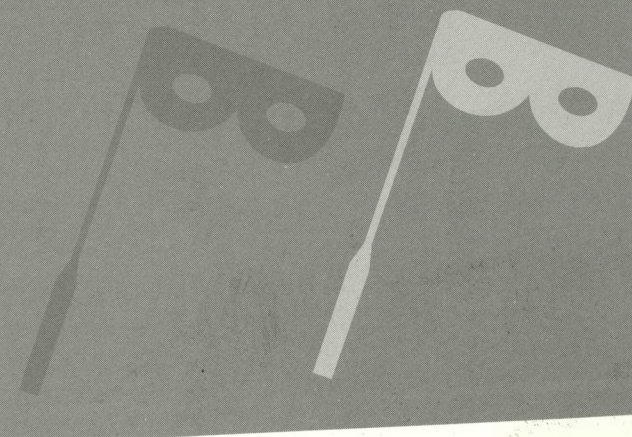
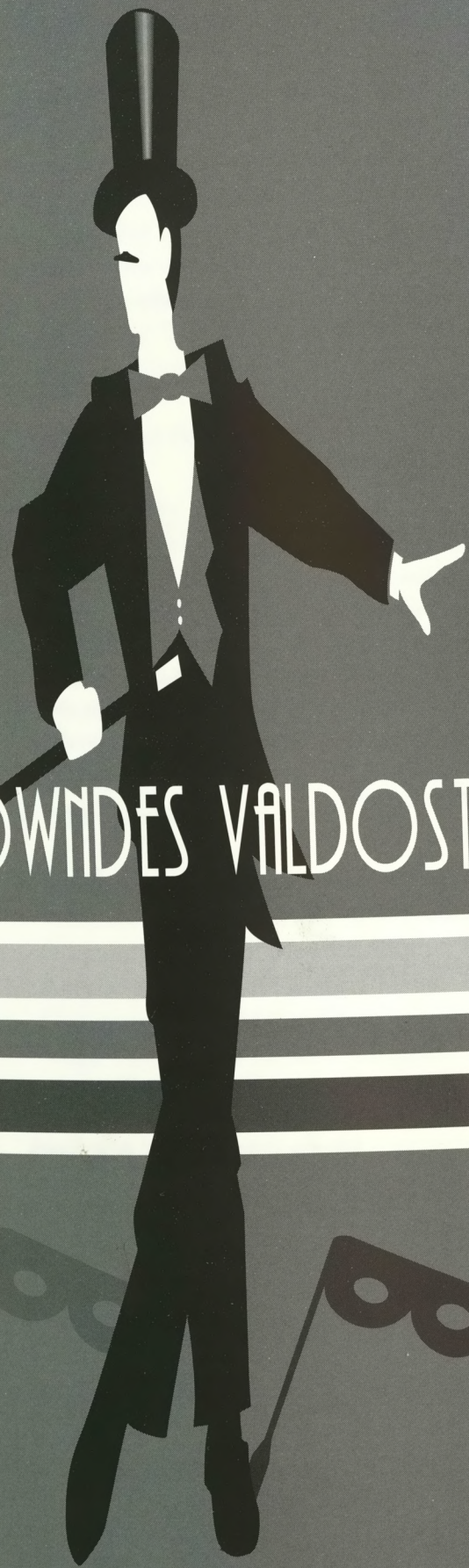
MORE
EVENINGS
TO
REMEMBER



THE LOWNDES VALDOSTA ARTS COMMISSION

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE

JANUARY 9, 1996



LifeTimes

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Theatre Guild Valdosta acts up

By BEN BUTLER
Valdosta Daily Times

Each year, Theatre Guild Valdosta offers "A Night of One Acts." TGV will perform three one-act plays Friday and Saturday and Jan. 17-18 at the Donte Playhouse (121 N. Ashley St.).

All three plays are performed each night. The show begins at 8 p.m. each day, and tickets are \$5.

The Guild will present "Late Sunday Afternoon, Early Sunday Evening" by Jean Lenox Toddie, "Life Under Water" by Richard Greenburg and "When God Comes Over for Breakfast, You Don't Burn the Toast" by Gary Apple.

"One of the purposes of one acts is to do things that stretch us as actors, but that also stretch our audiences," said Mary Ann Green, one of the characters in "Life Under Water."

Despite minimalism of the set and the smaller amount of lines and blocking, Ms. Green said just as much intensity goes into the preparation of the plays, if not more.

According to director Debbie Parrish, the first play, "Late Sunday Afternoon, Early Sunday Evening," is a story of coming of age — with a twist.

In the play Olivia, a very conventional grandmother — who happens to talk to ghosts — decides that life is boring and that she must make a change.

"It's about how it affects her and her granddaughter," said Liz Miller who plays Libby, the granddaughter.

"It's funny but it also has a message," she said. "It's a message you have to find yourself."

According to Ms. Parrish, the play mixes humor with tenderness.

"I think the audience will have a deeper appreciation for the human spirit," Ms. Parrish said. "They'll get a laugh and a cry out of it."

The second play, "Life Under Water," directed by Richard Iginia, explores the loneliness of life and the possibility of people toward others.

"Something happens, the play is a reflection of life."

"It shows how some people are," Iginia said. "I believe it's true to life."

Ms. Green plays one of the characters in the second one-act and said the structure of the play is also unique.

"In terms of the scenes, it's much like television," she said. "It jumps from one scene to another and sometimes between as many as three scenes at a time."

According to Iginia, the play has some funny moments, but it is definitely not a comedy.

"It's got some poignant moments and some very sad commentary about what we look for in relationships," Ms. Green said.

"Life Under Water" is not recommended for audience members under the age of 13 due to strong language and content.

In the third play, Harry and Beatrice Katman invite God over for breakfast. In the spirit of the film "Oh God," the Almighty comes down in very human form for a visit.

"It's just a visit, but every time He comes to people, they want answers," said director Linda Boyett.

Phil Jones has the formidable task of playing God, complete with linen suit and pith helmet.

"It's about if God were to come visit a family," Jones said. "Probably no one would take it seriously or you wouldn't know whether to believe it or not."

"It's very funny."



Above, Heather Hull, left, as Amy Beth, and Kristy Barton as Amy Joy, as best friends have fun with a beach ball in a scene from 'Life Under Water.'

Three one-act plays running Friday-Saturday and Jan. 17-18

Times
photos
by
Paul
Leavy



Above, Donna Joyner, as Olivia, tells a story about her past reincarnation to Libby, played by Liz Miller, sitting on the floor, during a scene from 'Late Sunday Afternoon, Early Sunday Evening.'



Playing a married couple, Phyllis Childree as Beatrice and Robert Hatton as Harry have breakfast with God played by Phil Jones during a scene from 'When God Comes Over For Breakfast, You Don't Burn the Toast.'

After 10 boys, a girl ... Page 4-C
Sandra Connell ... Page 6-C



Marshall Norris joins Oreo, Bambi and 'Oil Pan Harry' in his front yard. — Times photo by Ben Butler

By BEN BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

GREENVILLE, Fla. — Oblivious to the presence of the dinosaur, two calves graze on the grass in Marshall Norris' front yard.

Grown accustomed to "Oil Pan Harry," Oreo and Bambi are more weary of the electric fence that prevents their escape than the beast they're penned in with.

Norris' sculpture, made from mostly old car parts is well-known to Valdostans. Harry was on display at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission Lowndes Cultural Arts Center, the Lowndes County Historical Society Museum, and he now grazes with two of Norris' dairy calves in the front yard.

Must be an herbivore. In addition to his sculptures, Norris also enjoys painting in water colors, oils, acrylic, pencil and pen and ink.

"I like it all," he said. "It's something I've been doing all my life. I never took any classes — I guess I was just born with it."

The artist does sketching and portraits and considers himself a realist. His work has also been described as "reminiscent of ... Grandma Moses — beautifully earthy and original."

"What I see is what I usually paint," Norris said.

Norris didn't begin selling his works until 1990 — about the time he was regaining his vision after nearly three years of blindness.

Norris, a self-proclaimed jack of all trades, makes his living as an emergency medical technician with Lafayette County Rescue.

In 1976, Norris was involved in an ambulance accident. According to Norris, the accident sped up a condition Norris has called keratoconus, a disease which causes the eyeball's shape to warp into an oval.

"My head injury caused it to progress real fast," Norris said.

His vision began to degenerate in the early '80s, and by 1989, Norris was legally blind. In February 1990, Norris underwent eye transplants that involved the reconstruction of his left eye and the replacement of 90 percent of his right eye.

"I couldn't do any painting or drawing — I couldn't see it," Norris said.

Gradually, his sight returned — first in black and white and later in color.

"For a while after he regained his vision, his paintings were very dark — he used a lot of dark colors," said Norris' wife, Barbara.

"I appreciate my sight," Norris said. "I appreciate colors and art — everything is beautiful."

On Oct. 30, Norris was involved in another ambulance accident that left him with injuries to the neck, knee and left arm.

Since the accident, Norris has not produced many works, but he estimates that he completes 60-70 paintings a year, of which he sells half.

Norris sells most of his paintings at shows, and most of those purchased have been for private collections.

Norris paints on commission and no project is too large or too small.

"If you want a \$5 painting, I'll paint you one — If you want a \$5,000 painting, I'll paint you one," he said.

Greenville, Fla., sculptor overcomes his blindness



Another one of Marshall Norris' sculptures, 'Buba,' roasts hot dogs over a natural gas fire 'made from lima beans' and drinks 'Buba tea.'

Local pharmacist keeps 'art' alive

By BEN BUTLER
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Vonceil Ferguson has Parkinson's disease — a condition which is characterized by tremors or shaking palsy.

When her husband, R.H., took her to Emory University to receive treatment, he was told there was only one place to get the medication his wife needed to control the tremors.

Luckily, it was his hometown. While much of the prescription medication people purchase is mass produced by pharmaceutical companies, smalltown pharmacists still have need for a mortar and pestle, the tools of the trade.

The Fergusons were referred to Mike Rentz, director of pharmacy for the retail stores of Barnes Health Care Services.

"The art of pharmacy is compounding," Rentz said.

Compounding is the act of chemically combining two or more elements in definite proportions.

According to Rentz, most compounding is done to change the dosage or the way the medicine is received.

"The industry has gotten away from that, but we're finding out there's still a need for it," Rentz said. "To sum it up, we specialize in solving problems."

Medication can be compounded into the form of a capsule, liquid, suppository, patch, injection, trochee (tablet absorbed under the tongue) or creme.

Under the supervision of Mrs. Ferguson needed to control her tremors, Rentz was first produced by a pharmaceutical company, but the company discontinued the drug because it was not profitable.

Rentz began compounding the drug for another patient several years before, and once it was tested to make sure it worked the same as the manufactured drug, began selling it to other patients.

"I bought up as much as I could (when the company discontinued it), but I figured there must be a way to make the drug," Rentz said.

While there are other drugs on the market that do the same thing, ethopropazine's side effects are milder, Rentz said.

A small amount of the active ingredient in powder form is mixed in a gelatin capsule with lactose to fill the remainder.

Even though big business has dominated Rentz's industry, he believes there is still room for the corner druggist.

"It seems like every community (has) a pharmacist that does this," Rentz said. "This is where independent pharmacists will need to go."

"It's not a dying art."



At left, Mike Rentz, director of pharmacy for Barnes Health Care Services, puts medication in capsule form in a process called compounding. Above, the medicine is contained in a gelatin capsule which dissolves in the stomach.

Times photo by Ben Butler

Valdostan on her toes at the University of Utah

Valdostan Jessica Roan of the Utah Ballet Company danced in two productions during the holiday season.

Jessica was featured as the Sugarplum Fairy in "The Nutcracker" in a presentation at Burley High School in Burley, Idaho.

A student at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, she also performed in the Utah Ballet Company production at the Alice Sheets Marriott Center for Dance on the university campus. She danced in "Paquita," the story of a young gypsy who discovers she is a princess by birth; "Pas De Deux A Trois;" "Punch and Judy," a duet detailing the behind-the-scenes story about the loving relationship of medieval theatrical puppets who comically beat each other; and in "Enya Variations."

Jessica has danced with the Utah Ballet Company two years. She attended the Georgia Governor's Honors Program in dance in 1992 and was accepted to Julliard School two years later. At the University of Utah she was awarded the Olga V. Alexandra scholarship for her dancing ability, character and academics.

She has studied with the Boston Ballet Children's Workshop and the Joffrey Ballet in New York City.

IN STYLE



ELIZABETH BUTLER

Her performing credits have included all the major roles in "The Nutcracker," and she has danced in "Sleeping Beauty," "LaBayadere," "Rapture in Time," and "Totem" with the Joffrey Ballet and "Giselle" and "The Wooden Prince" with Utah Ballet.

She was featured in an article in the Burley, Idaho, newspaper which said Jessica's talents "come alive with her performing abilities. Equally at home in both classical and contemporary movement, she is musical and has a strong technique and beautiful and inspired face."

Jessica's proud parents are Chris and Dr. John Roan.

Other parents in our community are getting together to form a support group to provide educational enrichment opportunities for our children. It's called SEE (Support for Educational Enrichment).

Among those involved are Cathy Bradley (247-5676), Cynthia Francoeur (253-9223) and Jan Specht (244-2308).

"We hope to become an 'umbrella' organization which will encourage communication and cooperation throughout the area," Mrs. Bradley said. "The mission of the Georgia Association for Gifted Children (GAGC) echoes the group's philosophy which is to advocate for gifted children and youth by working with educators, parents, policy-makers and the community to meet the needs of the gifted."

Still in the exploratory phase, the group is contacting other similar local organizations and the GAGC, as well as professionals with experience in this field.

For example, they spoke with John Adams, former president of GAGC. "He encouraged us to be involved in positive advocacy for enrichment for all children," Mrs. Bradley said. "He stressed the value of educating ourselves about the needs of our children and the school systems, so that we will become an additional resource for the entire community."

"We are fortunate to reside in one of only 28 states where education for the gifted is mandated, and Georgia has committed to provide funding. We appreciate the complexity, richness and diversity of working with parents and educators from several school systems. Each has much to offer for the benefit of our children. We encourage your ideas and participation."

Interested parents and educators are invited to attend the next meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1521 N. Patterson St. Guest speaker will be Dr. Cuba McKay, Valdosta State University professor of Gifted Education.

Elizabeth Butler is LifeTimes editor of The Valdosta Daily Times.

Incredible Acrobats of China perform

VALDOSTA — For the grandest of grand finales of the 1995-96 Presenters Series programs sponsored by the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, The Incredible Acrobats of China will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at Mathis Municipal Auditorium.

With their roots in centuries-old traditions and culture dating back more than 2,500 years, acrobats are regarded with high esteem in China and earn the same respect bestowed upon ballerinas and opera singers in the United States.

Their praises have been sung. "It is absolutely incredible!" — Johnny Carson. "Show-stopping varieties of daunting difficulty." — *Los Angeles Times*. "A combination of graceful balletic gestures, balancing power and incredible calisthenics." — *Dallas Morning News*. For ticket information, call 247-2787.



Art Talk

Spring 1997

A publication of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission

Life is short, Art is long.

WHO WON????

May 5 from 5-7PM, artists and art lovers will meet at the L/VAC Center for the reception of the Best of the First State Bank Show to see who won Best In Show and four places in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. Hank Fleck of Havana, Florida, and Dr. John Schmidt of Savannah, Georgia, spent four hours one Sunday afternoon on May 4th, jurying in eighty-one pieces. "Selecting and awarding prizes is a strange, interesting, and difficult business," said Roberta George, Director of L/VAC, who followed the judges around and listened to their comments. "Jurying and judging a show is so individual. With another two judges, I'm sure the outcome would be completely different. Artists just have to remember that the real joy of art is in the making and not in the prize."



Pictured L - R: Wilby Coleman, Roberta George, Eddie Norris, David Clyatt, Ann Norris

"SPRING INTO ART" Candlelight Reception Was an Evening to Remember

On April 14, approximately 130 exhibiting artists and 300 guests entered under a 30-foot archway (made of helium filled balloons in a rainbow of colors), that flanked the entrance to The First State Bank. The arch made the statement that something wonderful was about to happen! Later on that evening Eddie Norris was seen with arms outstretched jokingly saying, "It's bigger than MacDonald's, and there were more than a billion served!"

Just inside the doorway, floral arrangements and more than a dozen, lush, ten-foot ficus plants filled with soft, white, lights beckoned guests to "come on in". Several couples were seen swaying to the romantic chamber music of the VSU String Quartet. Led by Patricia Nulte, the group said, "We look forward so much to this event... We can't believe we get in free and get paid to enjoy ourselves too! We'll be happy to do it again next year!"

A work of art in itself, the food, catered by Ahh...David! was a culinary delight. Amidst large cherub vases filled with sunflowers, sat the smoked blue herring, roast beef, pasta salad, chicken salad, sliced ham, pickled vegetable salad, baked brie, selections of international cheeses, crackers and bread, marinated vegetables (artichokes, asparagus, and mushrooms), and tartlet shells with lemon curd strawberries and whipped cream. The wine and tea were served in colorful artistic, hand-blown glasses.

"I've never witnessed such enthusiasm, and sheer joy from so many artists and guests on any occasion. I'm more in awe of the people than the art. We can't get one-fourth this crowd!" said Diane Rabideau-Wise, exhibiting artist from Jacksonville, Florida, as she wandered through the Bank in amazement.

The day after the reception, she sat in the office of the Arts Center asking for some insight on how to get Macon people involved, and those same comments came from Jackie Ivey-Weaver, another well-known artist who had art in the exhibit. "We can't get nearly the crowd to come out to any of our art openings like L/VAC had at the First State Bank Reception!"

The artwork (280 pieces this year, and better than ever before), started selling immediately. "It was truly an evening to remember, and I would like to thank some of those responsible for the occasion," said Ann Norris, Organizational Committee Chairman. "They are as follows: My Planning Committee (Margaret Mittiga, Mary Crane, Gloria Price, and Pam Scruggs); Ahh...David! (caterers); Pam Scruggs, (decorator); Joe Glenn Smith, and Pam Scruggs (for hanging the show); Eddie Norris, Maggie Davis, and the First State Bank staff; and many of the Arts Center volunteers, Chaired by Lucille White. There were many individual and corporate sponsors (too numerous to list) including other local banks and financial institutions, proving that dedication to the arts was the reason for the evening."

Leisure

Advice ... Page 3-C

Classified ads ... Page 4-7-C

The Valdosta Daily Times
Thursday, April 10, 1997

First State Bank

Candlelight Art Reception Monday

It's spring again here in the South, and just as the people of Lowndes County can depend on the beautiful yearly flowering of azaleas and dogwoods, they can count on The First State Bank Show to bring in the newest and finest art work from local artists near and far.

Started in 1986 by Eddie Norris, president of First State Bank, as a place for local artists to show their work, the show has become the most anticipated art event of the year.

Chaired this year by Ann Norris and decorated by Pam Scruggs and Party Pizazz, First State Bank will host the gala Candlelight exhibit of 250 entries of paintings, sculpture and mixed media work. In addition to patrons seeing all this artistic magnificence, there will be a generous hors d'oeuvre buffet catered by Ahh...David! Art, flowers, food and music by Valdosta State University strings will be on the menu! The reception for artists and guests will be from 7-9 p.m. Monday for a donation of \$25. For reservations, call 247-2787.

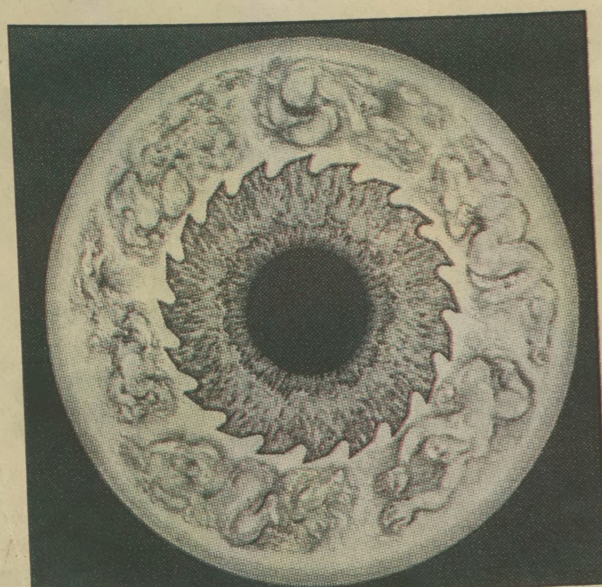
The work will be juried by John C. Schmidt of Savannah and Hank Fleck of Tallahassee, Fla. Prizes of \$2,500 will be awarded May 5 at the L/VAC Arts Center on Patterson Street.



By Don Pettigrew



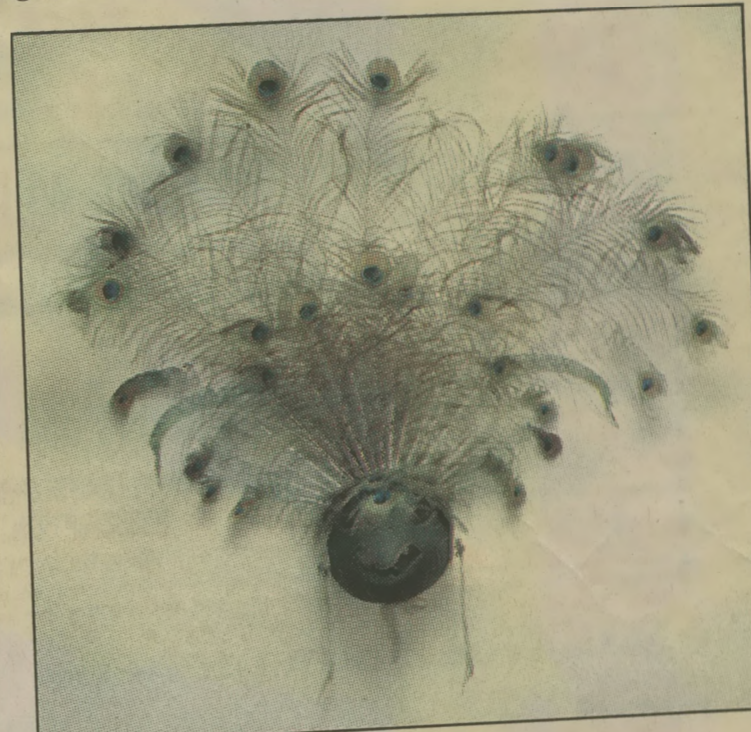
'Mickey' by Ted Sauls



'Eye Wall' by Richard Duncan



By Bill Hoopes of Quitman



'Dance Mask' by Jim Strange

Photos by Mike Tanner

VSU Gallery director exhibiting at L/V Arts Center



'Untitled,' mixed media

The new art exhibit at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center at 1204 N. Patterson St. bring the best of several art worlds together.

In the main gallery is Karin Murray's exhibit "The Inner Circle," a brilliant display of color, form and design. Ms. Murray, originally from Germany, is the gallery director and assistant professor of art at Valdosta State University. Owner of her own gallery at one time, she brings a wealth of art experience to her work, having taught and exhibited extensively throughout the South. A combination of her mixed media: collage, charcoal, pastel and handmade paper will be on exhibit until Sept. 30. A reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. Monday. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

In the hall gallery will be the colored pencil drawings of Ronnie McGriff of Jacksonville, Fla.

Center hours are from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 2-4 p.m. Sunday.

Also featured will be lunch Sept. 14 with Ms. Murray and a discussion of her methods, inspiration and work in progress. The luncheon is for those interested in art or the artistic process. Catered by Giulio's, call 247-ARTS for reservations.



'Untitled,' oil

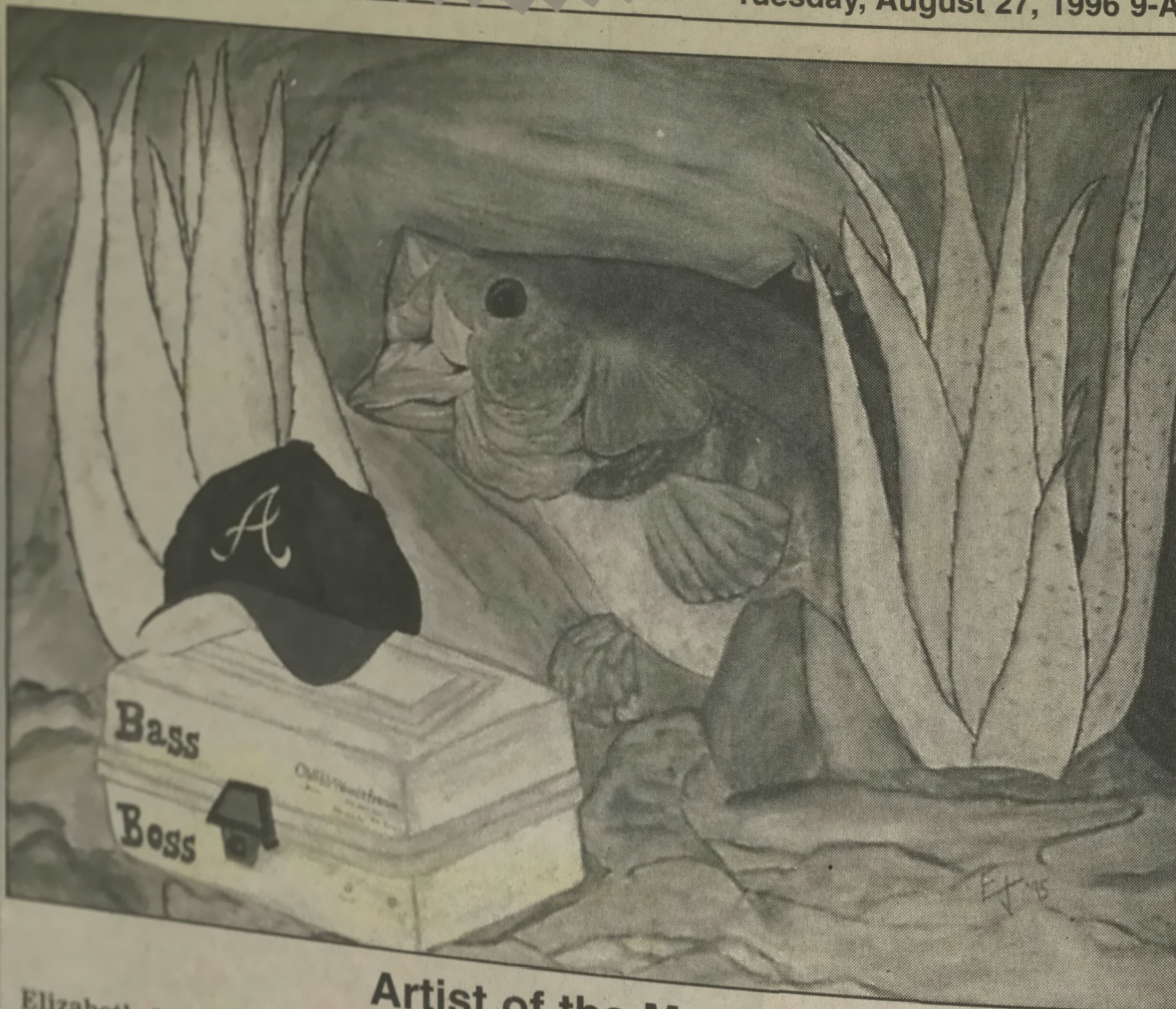


'Ocean Series I,' oil on canvas



'Sunken Realm,' watercolor

Tuesday, August 27, 1996 9-A



Artist of the Month

Elizabeth Jane 'Betty' Catoe is the Artist of the Month for the Southern Artist League of which she is treasurer. Some of her works, including the one above, are on display in the lobby of The Valdosta Daily Times. She enjoys working with acrylics, watercolor and pencil. Ms. Catoe has drawn since a child but started painting in late '80s and is trying to make more time to paint on a continued basis. She is self-taught, but also took Design I and II classes in Melbourne, Fla. 'Painting is my outlet from the real world,' Ms. Catoe said. 'I love it!' Her other interests include calligraphy, crafts and computer. She is always trying new things, creating new ideas. Her largest project was a wall mural. Her most recent venture is making clay bowls which she is enjoying very much.

Photo by Paul Leary



The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra directed by Jim Miller — Oct. 10



'Can Can,' Nov. 26

L/VAC

presents ...

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission presents its 1996-97 Presenter Series. This year L/VAC has four Five Star Broadway shows — all performances direct from New York.

The events are scheduled as follows:
Oct. 10 — Enjoy the sounds of the 1940's with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra.

Nov. 26 — Find yourself transported back in time to an era when romance, honor and a tantalizing dance were the rage with "Can Can."

Jan. 14 — Start off the New Year by celebrating the 30th anniversary tour of the Tony Award Winning Broadway musical "Mame" starring Morgan Brittany.

March 1 — The biographical musical of Cole Porter's life features his outstanding Broadway hits in "Red, Hot & Cole."

All performances begin at 8 p.m. at the Mathis Municipal Auditorium, 2311 Williams St. Each show is also preceded by a theme dinner catered by a local restaurant and served in the multi-purpose room beginning at 6:30 p.m. before the 8 p.m. performance.

Season tickets are \$75. Individual tickets are \$25 per ticket, and each dinner is \$15 (by reservation only, includes two drinks and dinner). "So join with family and friends for an exciting season of dining and entertaining," said Roberta George, Cultural Arts Center director.

For more information call Elaine Kent, 247-ARTS.

Photos from L/VAC



'Red, Hot, & Cole,' March 1



'Mame' starring Morgan Brittany, Jan. 14

Artoberfest

Exhibit features artists' interpretations of 'Bubba'

On Monday from 5-7 p.m., the Lowndes-Vidalia Arts Center will be hosting area artists' work focusing on a light-hearted approach to what is traditionally called "Bubba," a southern way of saying "brother."

"While the rest of the country seems to be melting down into general homogeneity in language, ruled by television, the South keeps its focus," said Roberta George, director of the Center. "Art always comments on

culture, both negatively and positively, and this is an opportunity for our artists to do whatever they feel expresses the term 'Bubba' or 'brother.'"

Elaine Kent, assistant director at the Center, added, "It's a roast and toast of 'Bubba,' the good, the bad and the ugly."

Featured will be Hubba-Bubba music, barbecue sandwiches for \$3, and a look at what artists think of "Bubba." The event is free and open to the public. The exhibit will be up until Oct. 30.



'Daddy' by Betty Catoe



'General George Armstrong Custer' by John Devock



'Bub' by Betty Smith



'Autumn Innocence' and 'Time' by Lavonne Orenstein



'Home Front' by Ronnie McGriff

Times photos by Paul Leavy

Dr. John Steedley, left, and Polly Talley talk with artist Earle McKey about the print that the symphony Guild is selling. — Times photo by Paul Leavy



Valdosta Symphony Orchestra unveils its first poster for sale

Before a capacity audience, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra unveiled its first poster ever on opening night of the 1996-97 concert season Saturday on the stage of Whitehead Auditorium.

The poster features a copy of the Earle McKey original, "Azalea & Honeysuckle Vines," from the collection of Dr. and Mrs. John Steedley. The display poster was framed courtesy of Ashley Glass & Mirror Company.

On stage for the presentation of the poster were Sue Cox and Polly Talley, ways and means co-chairmen of the Valdosta Symphony Guild. The Steedleys and McKey were present for the unveiling and were recognized by those present for their generous contribution to the future of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra,

said Martha Blackburn, publicity co-chairman of the guild.

The guild will have 1,000 copies of the poster for sale. Also available will be note paper with the same azalea motif. This is a major fund-raiser for the Valdosta Symphony Guild whose primary purpose is to support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

Posters and note paper will be on sale at the following locations: Art South, University Park, 906 Slater St.; Covington's; Betty Webb Ltd.; and That Finishing Touch.

All Valdosta Symphony Guild members will be selling the posters and note paper. For corporate or special orders, contact Polly Talley, tel. 244-4049 or Mary June Higgins, tel. 245-1906.

High School Art Exhibit at Cultural Arts Center

The Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission is sponsoring the seventh annual high school art exhibit until Nov. 15 at the Cultural Arts Center.

All regional high schools were invited to participate, and Lowndes, Valdosta, Brooks County, Georgia Christian, Valwood, Echols, Clinch and Lanier County high schools responded. A panel of judges awarded prizes of \$250.

Featured on this page are the top winners in the exhibit. Other winners include Fourth Place Two Dimensional — Melissa Smith of Valdosta High School, "Country Side," chalk, and Monica Davis of VHS, "The Scarlet Letter," colored pencil on graphboard; and Fourth Place Three Dimensional — Jamon Williams of Brooks County High School in Quitman, "Untitled," mixed media.

Honorable mentions went to Ryan Jackson of Georgia Christian School at Dasher; Amy Lin, Lisa Retterbush, Meghann Hummel, Donald Shackelford and Michael Buffaloe of VHS; Michael Coalie, Juli Ceaser and Erin Griffin of Brooks County High School; and April Newsome of Lowndes High School.

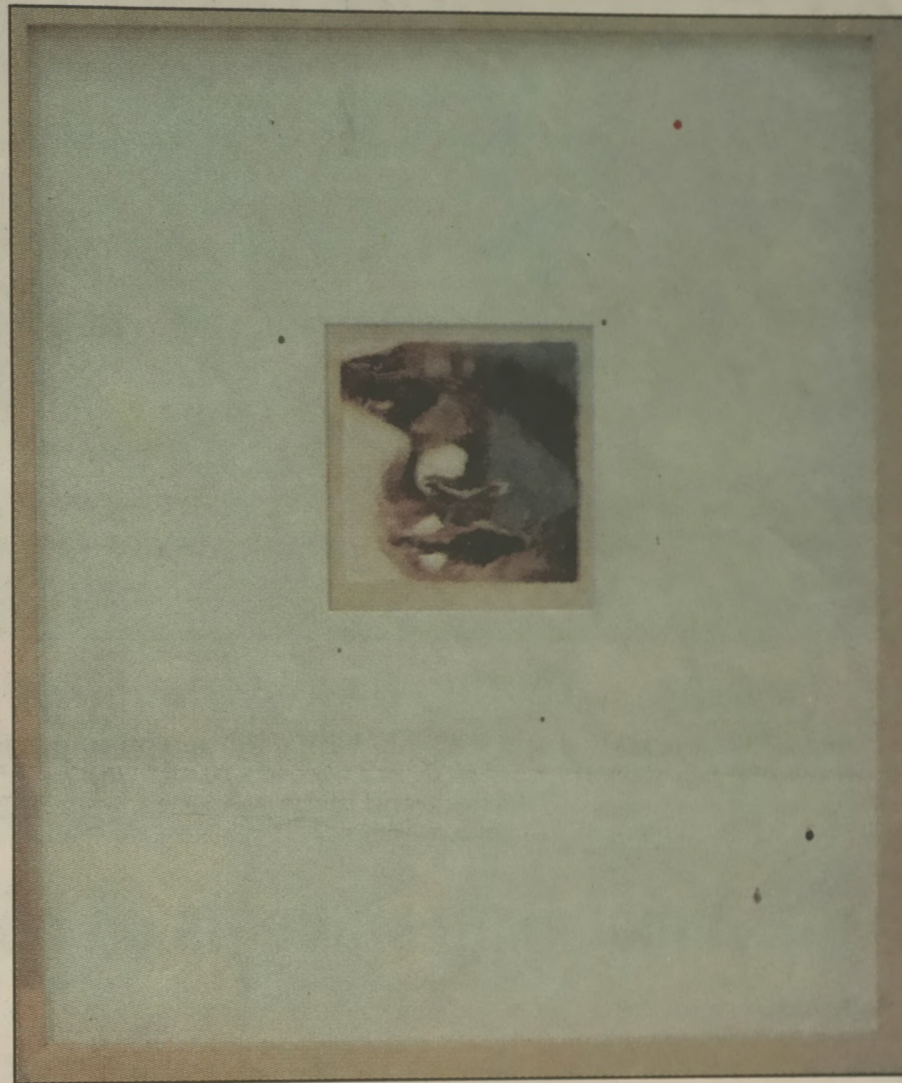
"Everyone says the quality of the high school art show is improving," said Roberta George, Cultural Arts Center director.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For more information call 247-ARTS.



First Place Three Dimensional — Sarah Corbett of Echols County High School in Statenville, 'Illusions of Psyche,' clay/watercolor



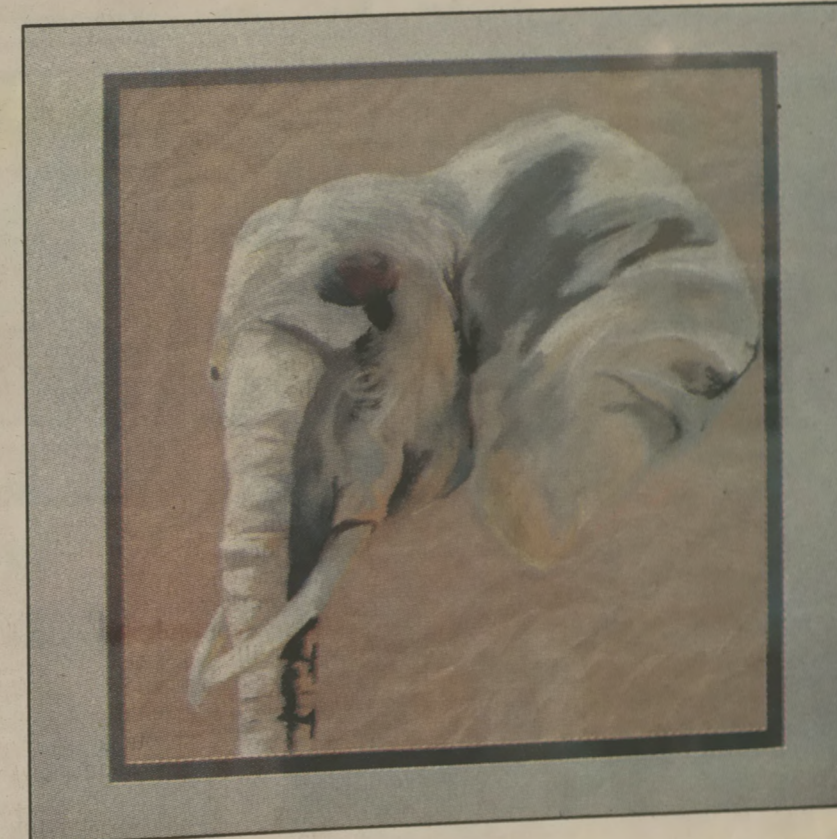
First Place Two Dimensional — Zane Ally of Valwood School, 'Self-Portrait,' oil on paper



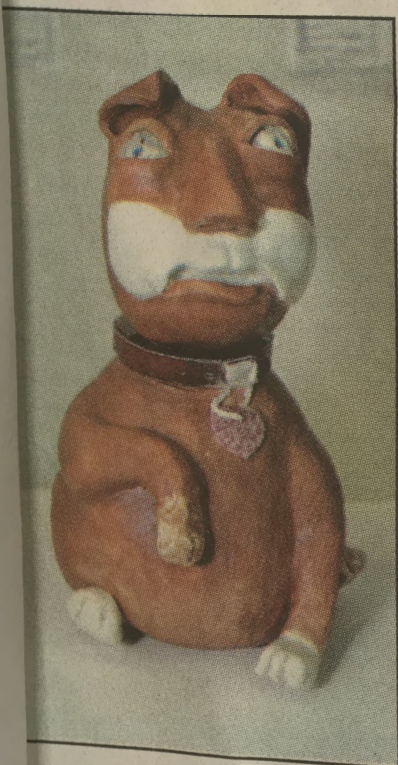
Second Place Three Dimensional — Sarah Corbett of Echols County High School, 'Unborn,' clay acrylic



Second Place Two Dimensional — Bill Shenton, 'Untitled,' acrylic, Valdosta High School



Third Place Two Dimensional — Marinda Wells of Valdosta High School, 'Elephant,' oil/pastel



Third Place Three Dimensional — Cory Riley of Brooks County High School in Quitman, 'Untitled,' clay ceramic

Times photos by Paul Leavy



Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center presents 'Expressions in Color'

VALDOSTA — The Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center will host a reception from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 18 featuring an "Expressions in Color" exhibit of the works of Julie Bowland and Lynn Priestley.

"These two Tallahassee artists work in brilliant colors which look wonderful together, but are achieved by very different methods," said Roberta George, center director. "Julie Bowland paints thick impasto landscapes, and Lynn Priestley paints a variety of subject matters in colorful acrylics. This is a 'must see' exhibit for anyone interested in the varied uses of bright colors."

The show will stay up through December.

In the Hall Gallery, the Southern Artists League has its yearly Christmas gift shop of original art, crafts and jewelry. Betty Smith, president, asks all artists to participate in this show, and for everyone "to come by and buy their Christmas gifts."



Julie Bowland, 'Tree Dance,' oil on canvas



Lynn Priestly, 'Radishes,' acrylic



Julie Bowland, 'Gatorland,' oil



Lynn Priestly, 'Irises,' acrylic



Lynn Priestly, 'Boat Dock on Lake Munson,' acrylic



Julie Bowland, 'San Marco,' oil



Boaring Fork, nn., oil



Abby ... Pg 2-B
Dr. Gott

Lowndes Middle School Students

Asthma ... Page 2-B
 Advice ... Page 2-B

Life Time Education

DEAR ABBY: For some time now, I have been reading about parents who can't decide who should inform kids about sex. Some argue that each of us should do it. I agree. The American Social Health Association (ASHA) offers a helpful booklet titled "becom a help-ful parent." How do you think your child will react to my first-aid kit?
DEAR ABBY: Frank communication is an important means of influencing a child's behavior before a problem occurs. The American Social Health Association (ASHA) offers a helpful booklet titled "becom a help-ful parent." How do you think your child will react to my first-aid kit?
 even though I am a widow, I prefer that only my close friends address me by my first name.

L/VAC presents 'Doddscapes' through Feb. 6

"Doddscapes," the art of Irene Dodd, professor of art at Valdosta State University, will fill the main gallery of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center in January with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Monday.

The exhibit is free and open to the public and will remain up until Feb. 6.

Ms. Dodd, daughter of the recently deceased nationally known artist Lamar Dodd, received her bachelor's degree from Duke University where she majored in psychology and music. In 1967 she received her master's degree from the University

of Georgia and majored in painting, drawing and art history. Ms. Dodd's credits and professional awards are too numerous to list; her work has been shown in six one-man exhibitions throughout Georgia. The work in the gallery will be oils, watercolors and drawings from scenes in Europe and the United States.

Ms. Dodd will be the guest of honor at a catered luncheon on Saturday, Jan. 25, where she will give a talk about her art.

The luncheon is by reservation only at a cost of \$8. Call L/VAC at 247-2787.



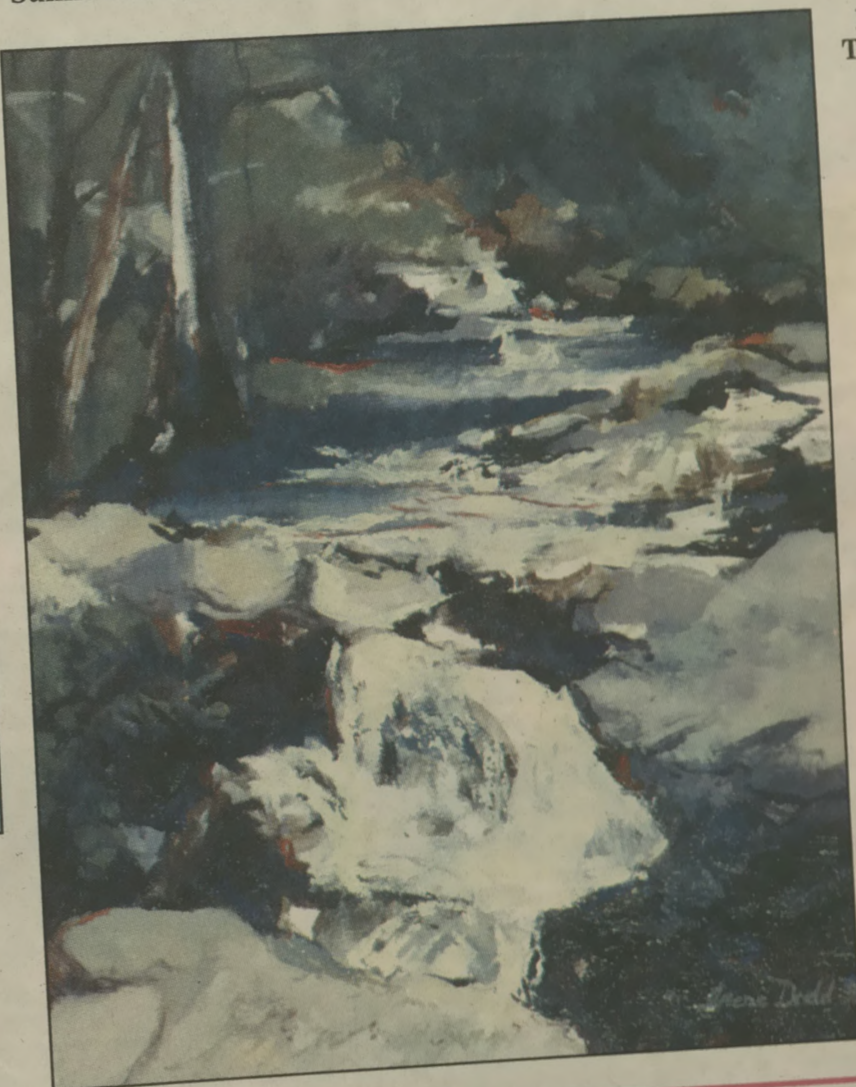
Forest at Edge of Whitehead in Maine



Cathedral Woods Path in Maine, oil



Sunlit cliffs from Little Whitehead in Maine, oil



Roaring Fork, Tenn., oil



Lynn Priestly, 'Boat Dock on Lake Munson,' acrylic



Julie Bowland, 'San Marco,' oil

HARVEYS
SUPERMARKETS

DEAR ABBY: For some time now, I have been reading about parents who can't decide who should win from their kids. The American Social Health Association says that before a problem occurs, friends that only my close friends address me by my first name. I am a widow. I prefer that only my close friends address me by my first name. Frank communicates an important means of influencing a child's behavior before a problem occurs. I believe that parents should not be afraid to communicate with their children. I believe that parents should not be afraid to communicate with their children. I believe that parents should not be afraid to communicate with their children.

both at home and school
kids need sex education

Advice ... Page 3-C
Youth & Schools ... Page 4-C

Life Times

The Valdosta Daily Times
Thursday, August 22, 1996



'Untitled,' mixed media

VSU Gallery director exhibiting at LV Arts Center

The new art exhibit at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center at 1204 N. Patterson St. bring the best of several art worlds together. In the main gallery is Karin Murray's exhibit "The Inner Circle," a brilliant display of color, form and design. Ms. Murray, originally from Germany, is the gallery director and assistant professor of art at Valdosta State University. Owner of her own gallery at one time, she brings a wealth of art experience to her work, having taught and exhibited extensively throughout the South. A combination of her mixed media: collage, charcoal, pastel and handmade paper will be on exhibit until Sept. 30. A reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. Monday. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. In the hall gallery will be the colored pencil drawings of Ronnie McGriff of Jacksonville, Fla. Center hours are from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 2-4 p.m. Sunday. Also featured will be lunch Sept. 14 with Ms. Murray and a discussion of her methods, inspiration and work in progress. The luncheon is for those interested in art or the artistic process. Catered by Giulio's, call 247-ARTS for reservations.



'Untitled,' oil



'Ocean Series I,' oil on canvas



'Sunken Realm,' watercolor

LIFETIMES

B-C Wednesday, January 29, 1997



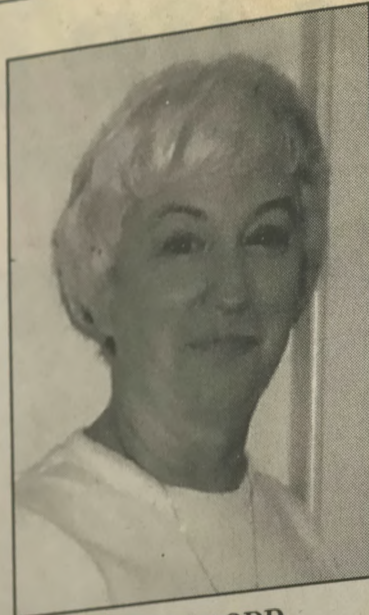
MARGARET MITTIGA



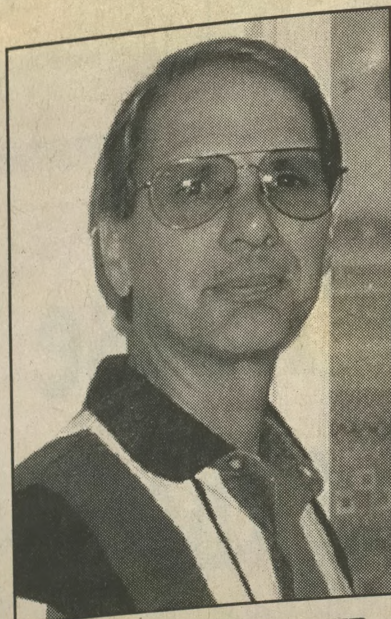
DON PETTIGREW



J. MICHAEL DOVER



IRENE DODD



DR. J. STEPHEN LAHR



ANN NORRIS



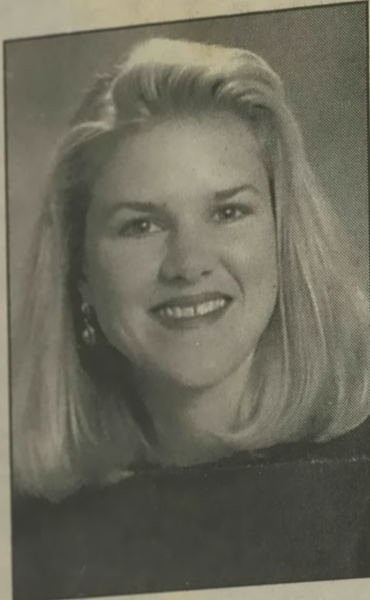
ROD CASEY



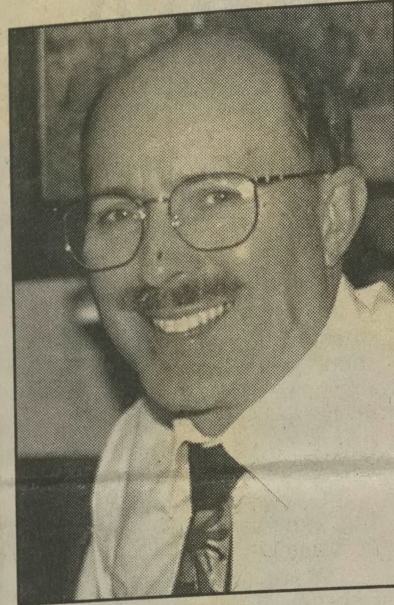
ARCHIE GRIFFIN



PAM SCRUGGS



KATHARINE COURSON



JIM BLACK



DR. ERNESTINE CLARK

Mittiga new chairman of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission

Margaret Mittiga recently was elected to the position of chairman of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission after having served for several years as the vice chairman.

Mittiga is an active volunteer and served in the past as a member of the board of directors of the Valdosta Art Center, the newly formed Valdosta Art Center, the newly formed Valdosta Art Center and as an officer of the First Presbyterian Church and now leads its Boarding Committee's Church Fund Drive.

Other new members of the Arts Commission are:

Don Pettigrew, a native Georgian, received a bachelor's degree in art from Western University. A professional artist since 1975, his artistic and teaching experience are included in gallery and private collections in five continents and from Miami to Hawaii in the United States. His awards include the Governor's Award of Excellence award, first place in the Georgia Wildlife Management and Game Competition, second in the National Black Sheep Competition, purchase award in the National Fine Arts Competition, and numerous awards at regional art shows. He is a member of the National Wildlife Watercolor Society, which exhibits annually at the Atlanta Arts Festival and is a member of the local chapters in five languages. Through his efforts as a volunteer, he has worked in silk, acrylics, watercolor and other techniques.

J. Michael Dover is a partner in the law firm of Bostrom, Dover, Bostrom, Miller, Bostrom and Bostrom, and has served as past president of the Valdosta City Kiwanis Club, past president of Valdosta Heritage Foundation, past chair-

man of the Board of Trustees of Valwood School, past president of Brookwood North Neighborhood Association. He currently is trustee for First Baptist Church. His special interests are architecture, history, art, antiques, reading and gardening.

Irene Dodd, professional artist and member of the Valdosta State University Art Department faculty received her bachelor's degree from Duke University where she majored in psychology and music. In 1967 she received her master's degree in fine arts from the University of Georgia and majored in painting, drawing and art history. Her additional academic work has been with the University of Georgia (Summers 1969-74) concentrating on aesthetics and art history. She illustrated a book by Dr. Spencer King Sr., *Darien, The Death and Rebirth of a Southern Town*, Mercer University Press, 1981, (in its second printing). Ms. Dodd's list of credits includes professional memberships, awards and prizes and numerous exhibitions (both juried and invitational) throughout Georgia and the U.S.

Dr. J. Stephen Lahr received his doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1979 and has taught art at every scholastic level and served as the first State Art Director for the Nebraska Department of Education. He taught at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Missouri-Columbia. Professor Lahr came to the VSU Art Department in 1985 where he served as department head and the Fine Arts Gallery director. He belongs to numerous professional associations and has received many honors and awards at local, state, regional and national levels for his acrylic landscape paintings and watercolors. He also has many paintings in the Midwest and the Southeast. Last year, Dr. Lahr was included in the Archives of Southern Artists at the Morris Museum in Augusta. This summer, he will teach art courses at Roehampton Institute outside

of London.

Retired U.S.A.F. Lt. Col. Rod Casey is a graduate of Delta State University with a degree in biology and chemistry. He is also a graduate of Valdosta State University, where he completed a master's degree in public administration. Col. Casey, a retired Air Force fighter pilot and decorated veteran, served 22 years in the USAF and after a distinguished military career, started his own advertising specialty business in Valdosta. In November 1995, he was elected to the Valdosta City Council. He is a member of Rotary, serving on the board and as chairman of the membership committee. He is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce committee to study school consolidation, coach for YMCA baseball, member of Scouting and member of Azalea City Baptist Church and an Adjunct Instructor for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He and his wife, Deborah, have two sons, Jeff and Hunter.

Ann Norris, a former member of the Arts Commission, returns to the Board after a one-year retirement. She is a former president of the American Cancer Society, Columbus, and was an active member of Columbus Junior League. She is a member of the Altar Committee and chairman of First United Methodist Church of Valdosta. Her love for the arts makes her a great asset and inspiration for her husband, well-known professional artist, Eddie Norris, president of the First State Bank of Valdosta.

Archie Griffin, a native Valdostan and graduate of the University of Georgia in 1955, spent three years in the U.S. Navy. He began a career in the insurance business in 1959 and is presently president of Blanton and Griffin Insurance Agency. Griffin is a sports buff, an avid golfer, and lover of the arts — especially classical music, which is an asset to wife, Lee, who is president of the Valdosta Symphony Guild.

Pam Scruggs, a former elementary school art

teacher, received her bachelor's degree in art education and her master's degree in interior design from Florida State University. A professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers, Ms. Scruggs has spent the last 20 years pursuing a career in interior design. She says her painting is a hobby, although her art has won many awards in professional art shows such as The First State Bank Candlelight Art Exhibit (an annual juried art competition in Valdosta). She is married to Ferrell Scruggs with The Scruggs Co. of Valdosta.

Katharine Carter Courson, a legal assistant for The Ellerbee Law Firm, received her bachelor's degree in marketing and a master certificate in legal assistant studies from Valdosta State University. She has been a Board Member of the South Georgia Association of Legal Assistants for five years and is a member of Camellia Club. As a member of the Valdosta Junior Woman's Club, she has been a member of the Conservation Department, Arts Department, Public Affairs Department and chairman of the Conservation Department. She is a member of First Christian Church and enjoys riding and showing horses especially as a volunteer with New Freedom, horseback riding for handicapped individuals. Ms. Courson, a native Valdostan, is married to H. Byron Courson, a partner of Valdosta Insurance Services.

Jim Black holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia with a major in foreign languages. Since 1969 he has been on the teaching staff at VSU and has been the Director of Auxiliary Services and assistant professor of Modern Foreign Languages since 1980.

Dr. Ernestine Clark, previously a professor of Educational Leadership at VSU, has been the dean of the Graduate School since 1988. She is an active member of Valdosta Rotary Club, Board of Directors for YMCA, Valdosta Symphony Guild and VSU Theatre Guild.