

Campus Commentary

You Be The Judge!

By Jan Travers

Recently a student came to the Capital Times with a charge that censorship was taking place on campus. The student was referring to an incident where two nude paintings of women were moved from the art exhibit in the Gallery Lounge because it was thought they would be distracting as a backdrop the the guest speaker, Bertha Waters, the first speaker for Women's History Month.

The matter was cleared through channels before removing the pictures for what was termed a "short time." But the fact remains that someone made a decision for others as to what was appropriate. Linda Ross, art instructor and informal coordinator of the art exhibits said that as an artist, she found the comments that the display was offensive "ridiculous. Nudes are a typical assignment at any art school," she said.

But Ross did acknowledge that the art may have been a distraction.

"The problem is that the Gallery Lounge is a multi-function room. It must act as both an art gallery and a lounge/meeting room," she said.

Sharleen Martenas, member of the Women's History Month Task Force agreed. "We had reserved the room for that time period. Once in the room we are captive of what is on the walls. We have the option, the same as in a classroom, to structure the room to create the optimal learning environment," Martenas said.

Does this mean anyone who reserves the room is allowed to remove any or all art on display at the time? Ross said she wouldn't be happy if just anyone took art down. When an exhibit is booked in the Gallery Lounge it takes hours to arrange and hang it.

Was this censorship? Or does the fact that the Gallery Lounge is a multi-purpose room have any effect? We put it to you, the students, to make the decision. Take the time to write a letter to the editor with your opinion.

Dear Fellow Students,

In the last issue of the Capital Times I gave you a lengthy account of my trip to the Soviet Union. I want to share a bit more with you concerning that trip, but this time along the lines of factual information in the event that you might be interested in travel to the Soviet Union on your own PEACE MISSION. If you're an art buff you will want to visit the Pushkin Museum in Moscow (and the great Tretyakov Gallery once it re-opens).

Your visit to their largest children's toy store will disappoint you, perhaps, but nevertheless, it is worth a visit and that is where I bought my souvenir pins for only pennies. The name of the store is Children's World.

The Metro is dirt cheap, only five kopecs (about 8c) and it will take you almost anywhere in Moscow (the same deal in Leningrad). I am told that these beautiful subway stations were built to serve as bomb shelters. Many of them have beautiful mosaics, crystal chandeliers and other works of art.

If you go in the winter season you must have all the proper clothing including thermal insulated shoe insoles (better than heavy socks.)

The Bolshoi Theatre is a must whether you are a ballet or opera fan. Leningrad is a beautiful city in its own right. It has been said that it is one of the most beautiful cities of the world. In Europe, I rank it third; Paris is first, Vienna second, and then Leningrad. I am speaking mostly of its beautiful architecture. London is a favorite of mine, but for other reasons: theatre, art (London's National Gallery). Of course in Leningrad you will enjoy the Russian Museum and the world famous Hermitage.

The school's recent trip was arranged through the Citizen Exchange Council. For more information regarding future travel write c/o Andrea Sengstacken, 18 E. 41st St., New York, NY 10017. I hope you will enjoy your peace mission abroad, whether it be to the Soviet Union or Greece or China.

P.S. Please remember if you have not traveled abroad, it will be different. But then isn't that what it's all about? A new experience in a new country.

Sincerely,
Gene Albano

April Fools

Because complaints have been received about the distance from Olmsted to the newly proposed library, changes have been made in the master plan. Pneumatic tubes will be installed connecting the roofs of the two buildings for quick transportation.

