

## Art Review

# Critic Sizes Up Artist's Collages

By Derrick Stokes

Remember pasting strips of paper together to create forms and structures in elementary school art class? Remember your art teacher telling you that your mess, ahem, art work was a collage?

A collage is a composition made of fragments of different materials stuck together. It is also the medium that Lancaster native Jerome Hershey prefers.

His most recent works, titled "Vessel Series, 1985-Present", grace the walls of the Gallery Lounge. Hershey

attempts to explore "the nature of man, woman and child, both individually and in relation to each other." Hershey's statement sounds poetic; unfortunately, his works fail to incite any emotion.

Like ugly people dressed in attractive clothing, Hershey's decorative frames overwhelm the drab collages. Instead of enhancing the compositions, the frames distract the viewer's eye from the collages.

The collage *Flight* appears to sprout wings becoming ethereal and light. Nevertheless the black, studded frame steals the viewer's eyes.

*Pessimism* is another piece that seems to work. Hershey plunges a knife like form into a sea of melancholic blue and black.

Its counterpart, *Optimism*, hangs on the wall in despair. Red and black stripes color a knife like form which carves itself a place in the cream background. The awkward color scheme confuses and disturbs my eyes. I found *Red Motion* more appealing though.

In *Red Motion* Hershey applies his collage technique to create a fragmented painting. The parallelogram and triangles work well within the realm of

fragmented shapes; never disrupting the eye-catching red background.

In the largest piece, *Dream*, Hershey's bold and even brush strokes compliment the color scheme. Hershey cleverly breaks his fragmented painting into three separate but equally important components. This triptych is the most engaging piece in the exhibit.

Hershey's art will divide his Penn State Harrisburg audience. The exhibit is definitely for people who think with the right side of their brain.

## Professor D.J.'s Folk Music Show

By Mary Lee Schnable

Do you remember hearing Peter, Paul, and Mary singing "If I Had A Hammer," or the Kingston Trio's "Hang Down Your Head Tom Dooley?"

While those songs may not be true folk songs, they are examples of a folk music revival that took place in the 1950's and '60's.

A member of Penn State Harrisburg faculty is a person who has a special interest in folk music.

Dr. John Patterson, Professor of American Studies, is the host and producer of "The Chords are Stacked," a folk music show that airs between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on radio station WITF FM 89.5.

Patterson is also president of The Susquehanna Folk Music Society, a

group that holds folk dance and music events in the CUB, usually on the first Saturday of each month. The group, which began in 1985, has members from Gettysburg, York, and Lancaster, as well as Harrisburg.

Patterson's interest in folk music began when he was a child near Lake Champlain, New York, he said, when he was part of a group of about a hundred people who would "sit around and sing."

True folk music, Patterson said, is handed down orally from generation to generation. You don't really know who wrote it, and the words may vary in different localities.

Patterson received a BA in Folklore from Indiana University, and, following an interest in the boundaries between traditional "folk" culture and mass culture, pursued his Ph.D. in American Studies.

## Winston Discusses Communications Developments

By Debbie Bayura

People will accept new ideas only as long as they don't infringe on things they're already doing, Penn State's Dean of Communications said Feb. 2 during a speech on campus.

Emmy award winner Brian Winston spoke about what forces inhibit communication innovation. His Penn State Harrisburg audience heard many examples of Winston's "Law of Suppression of Radical Potential."

According to Winston, a prime example of suppressed potential is the computer which was first thought of around 1850 but took more than a century to become a commonplace means of communication.

He said overall telecommunications has had a long and rather secret history. "The information revolution we are living through took a long time getting here."

Winston cited digital audio tape (DAT) and high definition television (HDTV) as two current examples of technological suppression.

The compact disc industry could have been ruined by DAT technology, he said, so the use of DAT was halted in 1983 after 84 companies unanimously agreed to squelch its introduction.

HDTV, television's equivalent of 35 mm cinema film, will take even longer to be introduced because it must be transmitted through satellite instead of the ordinary cable system, Winston said.

In Winston's opinion, we are not in the middle of a technological revolution. "Nothing happens fast; it's business as usual," he said. "Maybe we've reached our saturation point in the information revolution and we'll only experience expansion of existing communications."

Winston's career spans nearly 25 years, and includes six published books on various aspects of media

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