

Akbar, Dumaresq to appear at Penn State

by Lauren Capitani

Penn State Harrisburg will have the honor of hearing two distinguished speakers in upcoming weeks. Dr. Na'im Akbar will speak in the Capital Union Building on March 19 at 7:00PM and Dr. Carolyn Dumaresq will speak in the Black Cultural Arts Center on April 22 at noon.

Akbar, one of the world's preeminent African-American psychologists, has helped to develop an African-centered approach to modern psychology. Presently, he is teaching in the Department of Psychology at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Akbar also serves on the editorial board of the *Journal Of Black Studies*. He has made several appearances on television, namely, "Tony Brown's Journal", the "Phil Donahue Show", the "Geraldo Rivera Show" and the "Oprah Winfrey Show". Akbar has also been featured in *Essence* magazine and the *Washington Post*, as well as many other newspapers nationally and internationally.

Akbar has written four books, authored more than twenty scholarly papers and spoken at over three hundred universities, conferences and community settings not only in the United States, but all over the world. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Black

Psychologist by the National Association of Black Psychologists for outstanding scholarship and research in African Psychology.

Dumaresq, the Executive Director for the Pennsylvania State Education Association, is currently an Associate Professor at Temple University. She formerly served as the Superintendent of Central Dauphin School District and Steelton-Highspire School District. Dumaresq has received several honors for addressing educational and school violence issues. Two such honors were the 1997 Community Women of the Year award given by the American Association of University Women, and the 1995 Keynote Speaker for the National Jewish Women's League.

Dumaresq has served as the 1994-95 President for the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, been a past President for the Pennsylvania Women's Caucus and served on the Pennsylvania Board of Governors.



Gallery Lounge concert was a musical delight

Simple Gifts show simply fascinating

by Dani Church

It was a pleasant surprise to find a trio of musicians as talented as Simple Gifts playing in the Gallery Lounge on Wed., Mar. 4 over the lunch hour.

Members Linda Littleton, Rachel Hall and Karen Hirshon played to a full room of appreciative listeners as they wound their way through classic Irish, English and American folk tunes as well as Klezmer, Romanian and Bulgarian pieces. They also demonstrated their song writing talents by playing several original tunes as well.

Each woman showed her versatility by playing several instruments. Littleton, the founder of the group, plays violin, recorder and hammered dulcimer; Hall, who is also a Penn State grad student in mathematics, plays piano and English concertina; Hirshon plays mandolin, banjolin, violin, guitar and dumbek.

"What's a dumbek?" you may ask. (See what you missed?) A dumbek is a type of drum that is played with the hands, much like

a bongo drum. When you strike the center, it resounds with a deep tone that sounds phonetically like "dum." A tap along the edges makes a sound similar to "bek."

Besides hearing great music, it was fascinating to learn about the different instruments. Each member of the band took the time to introduce her more unusual instruments to the audience. Littleton employed what looked like a miniature corner of a dulcimer; a triangular-shaped stringed instrument that she played with a bow. It had a beautiful, eerie ringing sound that felt unworldly.

It was obvious that all three women loved the music that they were playing. Their contagious enthusiasm infected the audience as smiles spread and toes tapped. To describe the music of Simple Gifts in the terms of current pop culture; remember the rowdy Irish dance party below deck in the movie *Titanic*? Well, just add a keg of beer to the traditional tunes of Simple Gifts and you can duplicate the scene. It really is fun music!

Simple Gifts currently has four albums out, the most recent being *Other Places, Other Times* (1996) which has a companion sheet music book available as well.

Gallery Review: batik artist Linda Rugel

by Dani Church

The first thing noticeable about Linda Rugel's exhibit are the vibrant colors that assail the eyes. Then one begins to notice textures. Continuing to scan her works, the true talent of her artisanship blooms before your eyes.

Rugel works with fabrics, laces, and beads, and combines them in a way that suggests inspiration. Her creativity is supreme as she performs a balancing act to bring all of the elements into harmony.

Choose any one particular work that is on display in the "Faces, Phases, Form" series that Rugel now has on display in the Gallery Lounge through April 3. Stand back and let the entire work address you. Then move in slowly, picking up on details of antique fabrics and handmade laces. Notice the nuances of color that are so carefully dyed into the textiles. Examine the carefully inscribed words of spirituality that frame and sometimes form the backdrop of the works. Then, once you have a full appreciation of the details, slowly step back and let a new appreciation of the work give you a completely different perspective. Continue looking at the piece. You will see interplay and harmonies that you didn't originally see. Rugel has achieved her goal—to create masterpieces of contemplation.

Rugel explains in her Artist's Comments, "The works are intended to be meditation devices, objects of contemplation that play with notions of time to help the viewer tran-

scend it." The viewer is indeed enveloped and carried away with the all-elusive notion of time as he or she becomes caught up in the complexity of one of Rugel's pieces.

One work in particular caught this viewer's eye. Entitled "Expectations," the work consists of faces peering out from squares of interwoven antique linen. The cloth is dyed subtle hues of reds, golds and browns, giving a warm, soothing feel, and yet, thought-provoking. Some of the faces look sad; some look pensive, while others appear to be worried. The faces are otherworldly, much like the simplistic art of the Middle Ages, with large expressive eyes and austere noses and mouths. They all look like they are all expecting something to happen. And they continue to wait for something to happen, caught in their own timeless expressions, forever cast into the cloth by a timeless dying process of ancient lands.

To completely appreciate Rugel's mastery of her art, take a good look at "Is All Not One." At first one sees a picture of a perfect looking porcelain doll-type figure perched upon sumptuous fabrics in front of an arched window looking out onto a perfect sky. The texture of the stone masonry framing the window is exquisite. And the blue sky and soft clouds visible through the window look almost photographic; like something from a wonderful dream.

But take a moment to realize that these details have been created through a painstaking process of dying of fabric. Rugel has tran-

scended the common practice of dying textiles into an art form not often seen in our hemisphere.

Take a moment to view Rugel's display. Read her Artist's Comments. Drink in her work. I predict that you will find them fascinating at the least. You will quite possibly become enthralled.

Linda Rugel will be on hand at the Gallery Lounge for an artist's presentation and reception on Thurs., Mar. 26 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Women's Interests & Studies Program Calendar of Events

Flora Singer
Belgian Holocaust survivor
Tues., Mar. 24, 6 p.m.
Gallery Lounge

Lisl Bogart
Czech survivor of Terezin
Tues., Mar. 31, 6 p.m.
Gallery Lounge

Something for everyone

A brief Central Pennsylvania entertainment guide

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra
-Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center
-York
-Wed., Mar. 25, 2 p.m.
-846-1111

"Pavlov's Clown"
-Created & performed by Rand Whipple
-Open Stage
-Harrisburg
-Mar. 26 - Apr. 11
-232-OPEN

Brentano String Quartet
-Rose Lehrman Arts Center
-Harrisburg
-Wed., Apr. 1, 8 pm.
-697-6224