## You've Gotta Have Art (To Graduate)! Art Opportunities Abound On Campus

by Judith R. Belson

On Saturday, November 11, a group of 98 Penn Staters and friends celebrated Veterans' Day by going on an excursion to New York City. The trip was arranged by Mrs. Connie Kirker, art instructor, for her classes, with additional interested people also joining. Two buses departed from Penn State for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Chinatown at 7:30 in the morning.

The ride to New York City was relatively uneventful. But once we reached the outskirts of New York City (the Holland Tunnel), we could tell we were approaching New York. First of all, we could view from afar the magnificent skyscrapers. And secondly, we were a part of the infamous New York City traffic jams, which are very, very noisy, scary, and especially vocal. Fortunately, our bus driver was well-equipped for this matter. When we finally arrived in New York, our bus driver gave us a few fatherly words of advice — don't leave anything on the bus, and be careful!

Once off the bus and into the museum, everyone waited in line to get a special purple button. We found that there really was no set admission, but everyone should give a general donation of \$2.50—an insignificant price for all that the museum encompasses. All around there were people from all over the world.

Guides and maps were available in English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, and Japanese. There were plaques naming many of the creators, founders, and benefactors of the museum. And the most important part was the artwork from every age and land. There were Egyptian statues, Greek bracelets, Chinese tapestries, Japanese garments, a special display of paintings by Velazquez, portraits, mummies, statues, sculptures, Biblical depictions, Renoirs, paintings by Degas and many others. The gift shops were also very interesting.

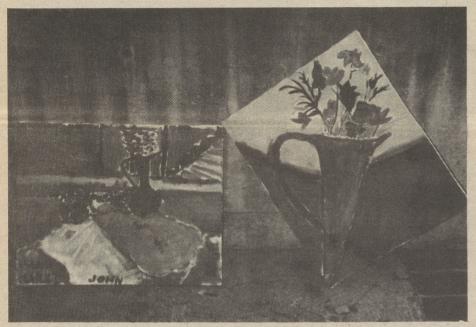
Outside, while we were enjoying a delicious lunch of hot dogs, pretzels, and ice cream, we were treated to the local art: skateboarders, skaters, joggers, yuppies, and dog walkers. Taxis mingled with limousines. An especially interesting scene occurred when a few kids did a small, lively, but vague rap show. This ended with the distinct words, "Donation." We were not amused.

When the time came to leave New York, we could view it in all its splendor, the lights glimmering like those of an amusement park. But this is no ordinary amusement park. It is a busy metropolis and one of the most famous melting pots in this country. This is the merging of many different backgrounds and cultures which have become our own. Yes, this is indeed America to me.



Art instructor Connie Kirker displays some of the objects she uses to get students involved in her classes.

Photo by: Patrick Kim



If "Team Painting" (everyone in the group gets 5 minutes to work on the picture) sounds like fun, sign up for Art History 100.

Photo by: Patrick Kim

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

to

All Students, Staff, Faculty and Administration

from the

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



SGA Officers: (front row) Cyndi Kugelman, V.P.; Marni Hollis, President, (back row) Brett Eiseman, Secretary; John Palka, Stud. Activ. Comm.; Tony DiTrolio,

Photo by: Nancy Eberly

