

American Pictures shows darker side of America...

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America." During his five-year journey Holdt lived with over 400 families, hiked 118 miles, sold plasma twice a week to buy film, worked in southern slave camps, attended a Ku Klux Klan meeting, followed criminals during muggings and robberies, and spent time with both the poorest and richest in America. By the time he returned to Denmark, 12 of the Americans he met had been murdered. As of Tuesday, 22 of his friends had been murdered, thrown in jail or disappeared.

Holdt's show deals with "a side of America that many people would rather not see; that is, the underclass," he said. "The people you see here are nowhere near the social ladder; they can't even think about climbing up and out of poverty."

Holdt said much of the pain and suffering in America is caused by prejudice and racism. "The problem is prejudice is instilled in us before we can deal with it."

He said children are often given prejudicial beliefs long before they have the intellectual ability to understand what those beliefs mean. Doors being locked while travelling through a bad neighborhood, a mother pulling her child just a little closer when a black or Hispanic walks by on a bus -- these are all signals, according to Holdt, which instill prejudice in people. "Racism," he said, "comes in a form of love."

The worst part, according to Holdt, is that racism and prejudice is a vicious circle which reinforces itself on both sides.

At the moment, Holdt is touring the country with his show and updating the pictures in it. Along with *American Pictures*, he also holds workshops with sociologists about racism and prejudice.

Eventually, Holdt says he'll hit the road again with his Canon.

"From time to time I need to get back out there and take in more of America. That's my inspiration for continuing the tour. America faces tough times ahead, but every time I go out I see hope for a better future."

Whites are given beliefs at early ages and what they see later on tends, in many people, to reinforce those beliefs," Holdt said. "Whites see blacks and other minorities unemployed, on welfare and not doing as well as they could in school and the workplace and assume it's them."

On the other hand, he said blacks and other minorities tend to internalize racism, blaming themselves for their problems.

"This internal guilt; a dialogue with themselves where blame is placed on themselves for their predicament," said Holdt.

He compared the internalization of racism in black children to that of a frog in the bottom of a well.

"When the frog looks up at the sky it's only as big as the well opening, so he believes that's how big the sky is -- and it just isn't true.

"That's what happens with black children. They believe, through the views of society, that they're not supposed to do well in school -- and that isn't true either."

Unfortunately, blacks and other minorities don't have the social power to change their position, as they have to go to whites to get ahead, according to Holdt. "That's racism: prejudice with the social power to enforce itself," he said.

He also presented frightening statistics about American society:

- Today, more people are behind bars in America than any other country in the world in the entire history of man.

- By the year 2000, 70 percent of black men will be unemployed.

- By the year 2050, one-half of the American population will be minorities.

"If the whole boat (society) is sinking, than we're all going down; whether we're poor and struggling in the ghetto, or have a college degree and living in the suburbs to 'be safe' from the ghetto," Holdt said.

So how do we stop this vicious cycle of racism and prejudice?

"There isn't an easy answer," said Holdt. "I conduct a three-hour workshop on racism, which merely opens people up to their prejudice sides. It's a far more complex thing to end racism."

He noted that much of the pain and racism in America is started in childhood and grows from there. "When people are in pain, they become dangerous. When there is no pain they are at peace with society. The goal of *American Pictures* is to try to get more people to be at peace with themselves."



Nation

Pennsylvania -- Harris Wofford (D) was elected Tuesday night to fill Pennsylvania's empty senate seat, beating former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh (R) with 56 percent of the vote. "I think I'm lucky to be the messenger of a message that was there," Wofford said. "People want action from Washington to help working families. This was a time for action: I want to go down there as an agent of action and change." Thornburgh, who received 44 percent of the vote, said the loss was "a reversal, but not a defeat." The election was held to fill the seat left by Senator John Heinz's death in April.

Washington -- The Senate voted to confirm Robert Gates to head the Central Intelligence Agency on Tuesday after one of the most long and in-depth confirmation hearings in Senate history. Gates was confirmed despite Democratic questions about his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal. He was confirmed with a 64 to 31 vote.

Washington -- Hoping to find common ground over abortion, President Bush sent a letter to Congress saying he "could be flexible on the question and could agree to allow (abortion) counseling under some conditions." Some House members, on the other hand, say the President has already defeated one compromise and warn they have the votes to defeat a presidential veto of the House's bill.

Washington -- The Postal Service governors voted to keep postal rates at their current prices. But Postmaster General Anthony Frank said holding the line now means a rate increase as much as five cents would probably occur a year earlier, in 1994 instead of 1995. Frank said keeping the price of a first class stamp at 29 cents will cost the post office about \$800 million annually.

Los Angeles -- Fred MacMurray, father of Rob, Chip and Ernie on the second longest running show in television history, "My Three Sons," died Tuesday of pneumonia. He was 83. Along with his role as Steve Douglas, MacMurray starred in several Walt Disney films such as "Son of Flubber," "The Shaggy Dog" and "The Happiest Millionaire."

Phones...

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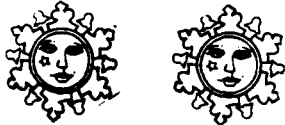
academic buildings and one near the parking lot near the apartments. The fourth location has not been specified, but Tropezar mentioned another possibility is somewhere near Dobbins Hall.

An advantage of the phone system would be a quicker response time in an emergency situation.

Tropezar said "because Behrend is getting larger and larger it (the emergency phone network) will be an asset to the school as well as the student's safety."

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