Art shows visitors the way

By JILL LUBLIN
Southfield-Lathrup Correspondent

Southfield Lathrup High School's commercial art department is planning a method to help visitors and new students find their way through the high school.

"We want something to beautify the building and also help people find their way," said art department chairman Bill Deeter. "This is a long range goal and has to make sense. It is very difficult and complicated and cannot be done overnight."

One idea is to paint different stripes in conjunction with different halls. Another thought is to hang painted panels in the hallways, distinguishing one from another, Deeter said.

This will be an extracurricular project, not one done in class.

"Our business is to teach students and we feel if you go off on side projects you are not doing your job the best way," said Deeter, adding that the students must be at a certain skill level before attempting to color code the halls.

Many colorful murals already line the walls in the art wing of Southfield-Lathrup but they aren't part of the color-coding scheme.

"Those walls are part of the curriculum and are done as art projects by art students for classroom work," Deeter explained.

The murals were done because there were "big, blank spots on the walls just crying out to be painted. We see the walls as big, empty canvas."

He added that the wall painting is allowed only because the principal, James Smyth, allows it. "The administration is flexible. Mr. Smyth will listen to someone's ideas."

IN THE FUTURE, more murals will be painted, Deeter said. "They (the murals) are an ongoing thing and as it fits with our curriculum, we will do them again."

The Karen Ann Knight Gallery is also housed at Southfield-Lathrup as a memorial to Karen Ann Knight who died of leukemia in the ninth grade.

The gallery is considered an educational gallery. The art work in it is done by art students or comes from shows from other places.

Family and friends provide the funds which maintain the gallery and the Southfield-Lathrup art bus, started by Karen's memorial funds.

The art bus was a broken-down school bus which has since it has been remodeled and turned into an art gallery on wheels. It visits elementary schools.

The Karen Ann Knight Scholarship is an award given to young, beginning art students, usually ninth graders. To be a recipient, students must contribute to art classes, possess artistic potential and ability, and cooperate with classmates and teachers alike. Winners and ability, and cooperate with classmates and teachers alike. Winners receive a plaque and a bond.

Southfield-Lathrup participates in an art show, the Southeastern Michigan Region Scholastic Art Awards. This year the regional contest will be at Hudsons in downtown Detroit. Each school teacher may enter 10 students' works.

Entries are juried by the art teachers at Southfield-Lathrup and by judges at the show. If a student wins the regional contest, his work is then sent to the national contest and judged for the third time.

"It's a honor to just get in to the show," said Deeter.

Floral students turn gray

By LINDA TAYLOR

Students in SWOVEC's (Southwest Oakland County Vocational Education Center) floral arranging and design class are learning why florists turn gray during the holidays.

Students, mostly girls, have been frantically busy stocking their school "flower shop" since the holiday buying season started. The shop serves as a training ground for the students, who take turns making arrangements, stocking the refrigerator with cut flowers and making change for customers buying flowers.

The shop held its open house last week when the public was invited to survey the festive atmosphere created by a gaily decorated tree and walls crowded with wreaths and stands of poinsettias.

Each item for sale bears two prices, one for in-house sales (students, instructors, SWOVEC personnel) and a higher price for outsiders.

But even that price is low compared to those of some floral shops. Instructor Margery Haggerson is quick to point out that the student shop does not intend to compete with commercial florists.

THE STUDENT shop, divided into a display area and a work space to the rear, is in the vocational center at 1000 Beck Road. The center is administered by Walled Lake Schools and include students from seven surrounding school districts including West Bloomfield, Walled Lake and Farmington.

Mrs. Haggerson shares teaching duties with Margery Guzzio.

The shop is open to the public for sales during class hours: 8-10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2:30-5 p.m. weekdays.

NEXT DOOR to the floral shop is the school's greenhouse, which is also offering live plants for sale to the public during the holidays.

The retail sales are conducted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, said landscape and greenhouse instructor Mike Kiler.

"We're selling lots of plants for Christmas gifts," he said. "Most of these will be sold in the next couple weeks."

As instructors explain, the "shop" atmosphere is a learning tool for the students, many of whom may choose to go to work rather than college after high school graduation.

Students learn actual working conditions, including the hectic pace of peak sales periods, while completing their graduation requirements.

People pull strings to enliven holidays

By DONALD FREDERICK
National Geographic News

How things are as appealing to children and adults alike as a holiday wish strings.

In fact, puppet shows can enliven almost any season.

"The ancient art form has never been more popular," says Phyllis Nerendorf, company manager of Nicolo Marionettes.

The puppets teach children to be an appreciative audience and give them the experience necessary later to enjoy real theater performances. Adults relate even more to the little stringed figures. I guess they appeal to the child in all of us."

PUPPETS AND PEOPLE have been making magic together for centuries. Some say the people of India were the first to enjoy puppet shows and that Arab traders took the art to Europe.

String puppets were popular in India and Burma, but the Javanese favored intricately carved shadow puppets and stylized rod figures. Later, actors and dancers adapted the movements and costumes of puppets to live performances.

Ancient Greek scholars grumbled about the preference shown for a string puller over serious drama.

ARISTOTLE described little figures so realistic that even their eyes moved. Jugglers who followed Roman soldiers over the Alps probably carried hand puppets with them. During the Middle Ages, churchmen used animated figures of teach Bible stories to a populace that was largely illiterate.

The word marionette may mean "little Mary," and refer to images of the Virgin. The puppets called marionettes probably were an Italian invention.

The word puppet comes from a Latin term for girl, pupa, which became poupette, or little doll, in French.

PUPPETS WERE ALL the rage in Europe from the 16th to the 18th centuries. Elaborate marionettes minced and twirled for the gentry, while country folk delighted in simple hand puppets. A favorite folk hero was an ugly clown called Kasperle in Germany, Pulcinella in Italy and Punch in England.

Puppeteers may put fingers, hands or whole arms into the puppets' bodies and heads or they may animate the characters by moving them with metal rods from below. Figures manipulated with strings are commonly called marionettes.

Puppetry faltered and nealy died in the glare of 20th-century entertainment. Children, however, saved the ancient art with their open, imaginative minds.

Today grownups have rediscovered what children always knew—that puppetry can educate as well as entertain. Puppets sell products on television, walk in protest marches and even appear in sophisticated Off-Broadway revues.

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