

When all is said...

by
Corinne
Abatt

Needed: Spokesman for the arts

Four or five people came up to me after the opening session of the Michigan Congress on the Arts last Thursday to comment on the speech by state Sen. Jack Faxon (D-Detroit). They remarked how funny and witty he was—how clever he is with words. Of course, most added, you get tired of Faxon's lively patter if you hear it too often.

I got tired of it before I heard all of its bombastic, iconoclastic time. Even once is too often.

Internship starts for Greene

Randall Bruce Greene received a Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) degree this month during commencement exercises at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Kirksville, Mo. Having completed four years of professional study, he leaves for the Sun Coast Osteopathic Hospital in Largo, Fla., to begin his internship. Greene is the son of Dr. Norman P. Greene, of Southfield, and Mrs. Francine Schwartz, of Farmington. He received his premedical education at Wayne State University.

Council for the Arts, Faxon was a poor choice to lead off the congress. He is a spokesman whose time has passed.

He is a verbal stand-up comedian, deft in off-the-cuff alliteration, quick with barbs and verbal jabs and references to classical literature and opera. Amusing? Possibly. But at what price?

THE GUFFAWS and applause came readily as he made fun of his fellow legislators, who, in turn, make fun of him and consider the arts a dalliance unbefitting the American machismo image.

In the past, some of these derogatory remarks about the arts have made it into print and they almost are embarrassing to read. But Faxon was falling into the trap of practicing the same bellowing as his detractors, further deepening the schism that already exists between the two camps.

Each side tries to make the other look ridiculous. They form little groups—one that laughs about "fags in pink tights" leaping around a stage to music, the other joking about jocks who don't know a Baskin from a basket or "Burdles from BVDs."

Arts boosters have a penchant for pitting themselves against sports boosters. If the schools will spend X number of dollars on sports, why not the same for arts? If sports programs are retained in the face of declining

school budgets, why not the arts, too? Arts are more important to a child's development than sports, they cry, citing recent scientific findings.

FAXON EXPLOITED the arts-versus-sports controversy to the amusement of his audience, but revealed an annoying form of reverse bigotry in the process. This places him in the position of being as ignoble as his enemies.

He proudly admitted that many of his proposals for arts funding have made it through the legislature simply because his peers figured that was the only way to shut him off. Diarrhea of the mouth is his tool, and the feeling among many arts people is that the end justifies the means.

Maybe it did once, I don't know. But, now I find this all childish and out of place.

Desperately needed is a literate spokesperson who can begin to mend

fences and promote understanding between the playing fields and the staging areas for the arts.

Sports and the arts relate in many ways. While generally fostering more creativity, the arts, like sports, are intended to promote a sense of well-being and satisfaction, inculcate a discipline, and challenge some problem-solving abilities. As many parallels as differences can be drawn.

In the public's eye, art has been the underdog for a long time. But, broader appreciation and understanding of the necessity of the role of the arts in our lives won't be achieved by developing a cultist elitism. That's one of the causes of the problem in the first place.

Better we should have positive reinforcement, as any good art teacher knows, if we are to wean legislators who still are in their creative infancy to our side.

Seminary college graduate 3

Three Farmington area residents were among 21 students who recently received degrees from St. Cyril and Methodist Seminary and St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake.

Mark Springer, of Clairview in Farmington Hills, received a master of divinity degree. He is youth minister at St. Colman's Parish in Farmington.

Sr. Rene Bourque, a former associ-

ate principal at Mercy High School in Farmington, received a master of religious education degree from the seminary. She will join the religion department at Benedictine High School in Detroit in September.

Loro F. Stajka, of Maple Street in Farmington, graduated from St. Mary's College with a bachelor of arts degree. He was a theology major.

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