Art teacher offers sessions on how to survive in business

By Geri Crawtia special writer

As school districts across the nation face budget cuts, staff reductions and decilining enrollments, the very existence of art departments is in jeopardy.

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For the control of the contro

FROM AN ORIGINAL field of 600 school districts, seven, including Whitehall, were selected for further evaluation and documentation, based on the ation and documentation, based on the use of history, criticism and production in their art programs. According to press releases, the Get-ty, deeply concerned about the quality of arts education in the school, believes

cducation.

The Whitehall art curriculum, which Plank presented at the National Art Educators Association convention at the Renaissance Center in March, is based on a philosophy which Plank described

based on a philosophy which Plank de-scribed on a philosophy which Plank de-scribed on the philosophy of the philosophy of a rat history, one-third criticism and one-third product. The whole concept is new, she said, citing the need to con-vide administrators, school board offi-cials and parents that art is more than the production of take-home craft lees or drawings, if art programs are gothern of the production of the production of the whitehold children do have 'hands on experiences,' but they are the end re-sult of study, not the major focus of an art class.

sults of study, not me mayor con-art class.

From kindergarien through high school, students are exposed to art his-tory, art criticism and the role art plays in society. Their projects develop from museum trips and artists' visits, as well as class instruction.

"THE STUDENTS MAY discuss how artists have expressed themselves through the process of making art, where they discovered their ideas, how they worked with the media and how they transformed their ideas into concept larges?

ing transfers to other areas as students apply their knowledge of art to economics, history, literature and other subjects. The curriculum is adapted to the emotionally and physically handicapped students. Your elementary students have 80 minutes of art instruction per week and each of the seven schools in the district — elementary and secondary — has a full-time art educator," said Plank.

Plank, a master's degree candidate at Ohio State University, spearheaded the development and writing of the present Whitehall curriculum five years ago. She also designed a curricu-lum for the artistically gifted. Whi-tehall is the only school district in Ohio with such a program.

lum for the artistically gentled. Since the hill is the only school district in Ohlo with such a program.

Realistically, Plank said, "With art education, in general, being cut back so badly, the arts, no matter how fantastic, will not survive. We need to find a way to get teachers involved in art history and crifiteism and to get children interested in works of art and to verbalize about them."

Teachers and students are involved and enthusiastic in Whitehall, a bine-colar, lower-middle-class community where parents can seldom afford private art lessons or art gallery excursions.

crete images." "SUCCESS BREEDS enthusiasm."
Plank added that much of the learnexplained Plank, "we have highly

motivated people who started with nothing and wrote a curriculum which-saved the art department and their jobs when a levy defeat was imminent."

This curriculum, she said, brought national recognition to the staff, school districts and community.

She is confident that other school districts can put "art in the mainstream of education," too. By taking advantage of the research results which will be published by Getty next year, educators and school personnel will have a blue-print for programs based on the "models" now under study.

The Getty Center anticipates using the data to develop institutes for teachers and principals and seminars for superintendents and school board members, thus broadening the understanding of art history and criticism as the basio of an art curriculum.

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Everyone in this picture shares something in common. They've all had cancer, and are leading happy, normal lives.

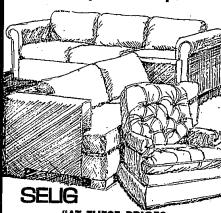
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