

International Institute reatures ethnic array

Picto-Graphic Communication is a visual exhibit of international marks, signs and symbols that are universal to people on all six inhabited continents.

The result of a year of planning and a lifetime of collecting and studying art, Cyril Miles has created The International Institute Hall of Nations exhibit

for public viewing through May 1984.

Miles, Highland Park Community College art teacher and community volunteer, hopes to sharpen the con-

sciousness of all people to the universality of some non-verbal communications through this ethnic display.

"Universality," said Miles, "being defined as that which is the common denominator amongst people." The exhibit is designed to be a browsing, ethnic enrichment experience that allows audiences "from ages 6 to 96" to understand and easily identify with other cultures.

Open to the public during business hours at the institute, and during special events, exhibit regular hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is no admission charge, but it is recommended that visitors call 871-8800 before coming, in case the hall is scheduled for a private function.

THE INSTITUTE will host a special opening of the new exhibit from 2-4:30 p.m. Institute president Fred Adams will welcome visitors, and artist Miles will be on hand to answer questions about the new exhibit which includes a contribution from the Michigan Association of Calligraphers.

"We are deeply indebted to Cyril Miles for her continued efforts on behalf of ethnicity and for her contribution to universal understanding among people of the world," said Mary Ball, executive director at the institute. "Her displays are completely international and leave no people unrepresented."

Miles began collecting and researching articles for the Picto-Graphic Communication exhibit in 1981 while putting the finishing touches on last year's Hall of Nations exhibit which depicted universal body adornment.

Seventeen different signs, marks and symbols in more than 250 different ethnic forms are displayed throughout the

showcases in the Hall of Nations. Some examples are replicated or transformed in size to fit the display, but each item is authentic to the nationality it represents.

The 17 universal pictographs are the sun, moon, star, cosmos (or universe), tree, egg, fish, bird, serpent, horned animals, heart, eye, hand, foot, cross, triangle and wheel.

The International Institute is a Torch Drive supported agency that provides social services to new immigrants and foreign speaking people. It also provides educational and cultural programs about the different ethnic cultures of Detroit.

The institute is at 111 East Kirby, at John R., in Detroit's Cultural Center.

Identification program established

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more aware by keeping good records," said Crumb.

"It may be a deterrent, where a potential child snatcher or killer might see it as an aware community because they do keep good records," he said.

Pediatrics Associates, which is made up of seven pediatricians, is making the program available free of charge to all the communities they serve. These areas include Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Southfield, Plymouth and Canton.

The identification program is also underway in Livonia. Kay Siebert, a member of the Livonia Youth Commission, reports the organization is working to start the pro-

gram. In a combined effort by the commission, the Livonia Parents and Teachers Association and the Livonia Police Department, the program will be promoted when classes resume in the fall. Even though all plans aren't finalized, the goal is to fingerprint all the children in Livonia, Siebert said. Only parents will have a copy of the prints.

"One missing child is like 10 too many," she said.

This type of child-identification program is snowballing across the state and the country.

The Macomb County Sheriff's Department began providing parents with their children's fingerprints at the beginning of the year.

"There's a small portion of parents

who oppose the program, probably less than 5 percent," said Macomb County Deputy Sheriff Robert Hutchins. "But the majority of parents were concerned enough to go ahead with the program."

Some parents felt their privacy was being invaded by the "Big Brother" syndrome, but police assure parents that only one card is taken and that that card is given to the parents.

"I have a daughter, and if her body were found and the fingerprints were the only way to identify the body, then I would like to know if yes it was her, or no it wasn't," Hutchins said.

In May, Farmington police also spearheaded a campaign to fingerprint children. During the first two sessions, about 300 children were fingerprinted.

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