



Selling the idea of art to captive commuters

Some people do their best deep thinking in unexpected places. Newton sat beneath a tree. Einstein stared into a mirror while shaving. Ghandi paced in a prison cell. My uncle, a notorious deep thinker of shallow thoughts, would grab a newspaper and head off to a room of white porcelain down the hall. His conclusions punctuated by a resonating flush. For most people in our congested metropolis, deep thinking probably occurs while driving. In the next few years, those thinkers-on-wheels will have something to ponder when they see a specialized Michigan license plate that reads, "Art Lover."

Even for commutators the message is clear: Think art. And if there's still time before reaching your destination, the deeper message should be even clearer: think about supporting the arts. A good idea. A bill introduced recently in the Michigan senate by Sen. Michael Bouchard (R-Birmingham) will earmark funds raised by the sale of the art lover license plate to local arts groups. The idea is to charge \$25 for the license plate with a portion of that fee to go to the county commission in the county where the purchase was made. The respective county commission would appropriate the funds to arts institutions and art groups in their county. "We've been looking for a mechanism to raise more funding support for the arts since the diminished support from government," said Bouchard. Raising money from the sale of state license plates is hardly a novel idea. The current Olympia plates were sold to support the U.S. Olympic Team. In addition to personalized plates, Michigan also has specialized plates designating veterans and POWs. To his credit, Bouchard, a member of the arts caucus in the state legislature, saw another way for the idea to raise money for the arts. Bouchard expects the bill to breeze through the legislature and be signed by Gov. Engler within the next several months. After all, he noted, the bill doesn't mandate tax dollars for the arts. Rather it raises money by giving citizens a choice. Production of the plates could begin next year with funds trickling back to county arts groups within two years. How much revenue would be derived from license plate sales is open to speculation.

What: Senate Bill 886, referred to as the "Michigan Art Lover" license plate bill. Status: Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee for consideration. Expected to be introduced in the senate within next month. For information, contact Dave Patrick, aide to Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-33rd District, State Capitol, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-2523.

Please see CONVERSATIONS, C3



Sparks: Mark Kolodziejczak welds together the metal pieces of the orientation theater. The state-of-the-art display will be erected inside the expanded Institute of Science.

ENTERING A NEW AGE

Expanded Cranbrook Institute of Science blends natural history with contemporary design

Cranbrook Institute of Science

Major features: All new exhibits. Four new exhibit halls. Light Laboratory. Upgraded herbarium. Multi-media science information center. Science garden. Water exhibits. Terrace cafe overlooking reflecting pool. Children's theater and demonstration theater. Large museum shop. Space. Original square footage: 63,000. New addition: 33,000 sq. ft. Total: 96,000 sq. ft. Budget. Construction: \$20.6 million. Exhibits: \$6.4 million. Approximate total: \$27 million. A Time Line. June 12 - Opening of new wing, and summer traveling exhibit, "Robot Zoo." June-Sept. - Installation of permanent exhibit: "Tyrannosaurus Rex Skeleton." "Dinosaur: How Dinosaurs Evolved into Birds." "Tides of Ice." "Mystery of the Mastodons." "Water Gallery," and "Connections Theater." Mid-October - Opening of new traveling show, "Beyond Numbers." Fall of 1999 - Installation of remaining permanent exhibits. Current Exhibit Through May 3 - "Hunters of the Sky," an exhibit of birds of prey, including eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and osprey. Admission: \$7, adults; \$4, children. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 12-5 p.m. Sunday. 1221 N. Woodward Avenue, (248) 645-3200.

By FRANK PROVENZANO STAFF WRITER. So much for cool detachment and scientific objectivity. Giddihood and sentimentality have replaced academic seriousness at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

These days, the notion of evolution is more than a subject for a science exhibit. The 68-year-old natural history museum is in the midst of an unprecedented expansion and renovation. Three months before the doors open to the revamped museum, designed by internationally renowned architect Steven Holl, an attitudinal transformation has commenced. The perceived exclusivity of the Bloomfield Hills campus is about to melt away along with the old-fashioned museum exhibit style of scientific ideas. "We're working to preserve the long tradition of Cranbrook, and to make the science museum more accessible," said Elaine Gurian, acting director of the Institute of Science. "There's a new spirit at Cranbrook," she said. That "new spirit" is largely an effort to extend the Cranbrook Educational Community far beyond the boundaries of the five schools and two museums on the grounds in the affluent northwest suburb. With the growing popularity of the Cranbrook Art Museum, the much-anticipated expansion of the Institute of Science could further the case for a new public perception of Cranbrook. Unfortunately, the person who challenged the natural history museum to inspire curiosity, not just to convey facts, wasn't around for the mid-June opening. In early January, Institute of Science Director Daniel Appleman passed away.



Reconstructing history: Elaine Gurian, acting director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, left, alongside Beth Yorke, project manager. The expansive corridor will be the new home of several permanent exhibits.

During the months of his fight against cancer, he enlisted the administrative support of his close friend, Gurian. The two colleagues had worked together at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in the mid 1980s. "Dan's vision was to blend the perspective of a scientist with that of a public educator," said Gurian, who commutes weekly from her home in Washington D.C.

Destination point. Putting a new spin on topics such as the Ice Age, the fundamentals of physics and natural selection are mere superficial changes. There's a feeling on the Cranbrook campus that what the Guggenheim in Bilbao did for Spain and the Getty Center did for LA, the newly expanded Institute of Science could do for metro Detroit. Well, sort of. "People in the region will begin to look at Cranbrook as a destination point," said Gurian. The \$27 million expansion at the Institute includes nearly 60 percent more space, a multi-media science information center, a demonstration theater and upgrades on the exhibits about minerals, climate, wildlife and ecology that were first installed 55 years ago.

Please see CRANBROOK, C6

Rivers flow to 17th annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition

By FRANK PROVENZANO STAFF WRITER. In his early 1950s painting "Portrait of Frank O'Hara," the world was awakened to artist Larry Rivers' perverse irony. In the famous painting, Rivers' subject stares ahead wearing only black military boots and a "What me worry?" expression. The rest is hardly left to the imagination. Although "Portrait of Frank O'Hara" hardly seems risqué by today's standards, Rivers, an early practitioner of pop art, has often gone where few artists have tread.

This week, the legendary 74-year-old Rivers will judge the imaginative artistic merits of the 61 finalists in the 17th Annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham, (248) 644-0866. Program includes champagne reception, dinner, awards presentation and comments by legendary artist/juror Larry Rivers. Dancing following dinner, with special musical guest, the Larry Rivers' Climax Jazz band. Tickets: \$100/person for bonafides; \$60/person for friends of the BBAA.

"He likes to test the limits of reality," said Janet Torno, executive director of the BBAA. Last year, Torno traveled to New York City in search of a juror for this year's show. She considered artists Chuck Close and Cindy Sherman. But upon hearing that the Kidd Gallery represented Rivers, she figured why not invite one of the century's most irrepressible artists, whose

Please see FINE ARTS, C2



Spontaneous: Legendary artist Larry Rivers will juror this year's competition. Rivers will also lead his band in a performance at the awards ceremony.

EXHIBIT

A Celebration of Lithography: 19th Century Invention and Innovation. What: An exhibition commemorating the bicentennial of lithography with prints by European artists and pioneers in the field. Artists: Theodore Gericault, Eugene Delacroix, Honoré Daumier, Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. For more information, call (313) 833-7900. Where: The Detroit Institute of Arts, 2200 Woodward Avenue. Costs: No charge. Recommended museum admission of \$4 adults, \$3 students, children. Fourteen Society Members free. Reservations: Michigan University art professor Doug Semivan sponsoring the exhibit. Open to the public (313) 833-7900. Saturday, March 14, at Michigan University, 2200 Woodward (1-OS and Lavan). Time: The cost is \$20, you must be a member of the Detroit Arts Council and the University Museum to attend. For more info, call (313) 833-9430.



Honor above all: In 1818, Theodore Gericault recorded the defeat of the Napoleonic army. "Retour de Russie" shows tremendous National pride.

Exhibit's a 'prints' of a show

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER. "The Jockey" by Toulouse-Lautrec and Honoré Daumier's image of a slain man lying on the floor in his night cap and bed clothes are two of the most recognizable lithographs in the world of art. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of lithography, the Detroit Institute of Arts is exhibiting both prints in the first of two exhibitions organized by Nancy Sojka, associate curator of graphic arts. "A Celebration of Lithography: 19th century Invention and Innovation" focuses on European artists who pioneered the medium and draws primarily from the museum's permanent collection with additional lithographs lent

by Bloomfield Hills collectors Marianne and Alan Schwartz and the Toledo Museum of Art. To give viewers a detailed look at the complete process, Madonna University art professor Doug Semivan will give a demonstration Saturday, March 14, in the printmaking studio on the Livonia campus for Graphic Arts Council members. Semivan will take the audience through the various stages from drawing the image on stone to printing. Invented in Germany by Alois Senefelder in 1796 and perfected by him in 1798, lithography enabled printers to produce written text faster and more economically. Shortly thereafter, printers began to encourage artists to adopt



Lovers: Edvard Munch created this provocative lithograph printed by Auguste Clot in 1896.

Please see LITHOGRAPHS, C2