



BARBARA KRISTAL concentrates on the finishing touches of her sculpture before starting to paint it.



MARIETTA ROGELL welds a metal frame together before covering it with canvas.

OCC Sculpture Class Requires Creativity

By KATHY MORAN
Story and Pictures

Creativity may even come spilling from a shiny new garbage can in sculpture classes on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College.

Each individual's creativity and talent are unleashed in the loosely structured labs.

One student may be creating a large chalky white tongue flowing from a silver garbage can while the person next to him may be welding a metal frame to be covered with canvas.

INSTRUCTOR TED Striewski gives the students three "problems" during the 15 week course and leaves them to use their inventiveness in whatever way may meet the assignment.

Modeling is the first assignment, and a student may translate that into working with cement, plastic or fibreglas.

Then they tackle a "construction" assignment where they build something from nothing. It may begin with a few nails and some wood, or may start with a plastic mold and then be covered with Fibreglas.

Before completing the class, students must complete their carving assignment using wood, stone or even a bar of soap.

"THEY HAVE A chance to use their individuality and creativity in the problems," Striewski said.

Some ideas are influenced by 15 lectures and 800 slides students see during the semester, while other ideas may spring from art they have observed in exhibits or in books, he said.

Students utilize plastic casting, Fibreglas buildings, metal casting, stone and wood carving, welding, soft sculptures, and combinations of all.

Each project is expected to take about 30 hours worked, "but there are always some students that go far beyond that," Striewski said.

The effort involved, as it relates to the time required for the projects, determines what grade the student will receive.

His classes rank among the few where students arrive early and linger on afterwards to change this or that, or keep on sanding.

And part of the excitement is seeing the final product emerge from the wire frame and cement or a plastic mold.



IF YOU LOOKED in this shiny garbage can, you would have about the same view as if you opened your mouth and stared down your throat in the mirror. Spilling out of the side of the can is the tongue -- what else? The sculpture is the slithery creation of Dennis O'Brien (left) under the direction of instructor Ted Striewski.



BEFORE HANGING his work on a wooden frame, Dave Dawson polishes and sands his project.

What's in it for YOU?



What's in it for you -- a dad who works with his hands and tries to do right by his three kids in a time when that's a pretty tall order? "Relaxation, that's what's in it for me. I like to sit down and relax with the Observer -- after all, it's about my hometown. I like to check up on city hall, the school board and what my taxes are going to be. I like to check out the sports section to see how my boys are doing and I look at the ads to see where my checks will be going -- my wife loves to shop the ads

in the Observer. I have a basement work shop, so the Home Improvement section always gets my attention. Then there's the editorial page -- I don't read any one thing -- I read it all because it makes me feel that I'm on top of the local scene and part of my community. That may sound corny, but after all, a guy can't change much at a national level, but he sure as heck can be aware of what's going on locally. At least with the Observer he can.

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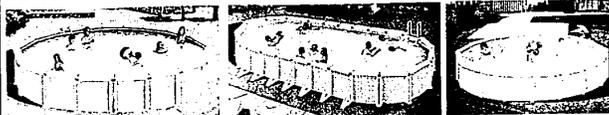
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