

# Inspired by people, artist paints ideas

By KEITH KING  
Features Editor

A casual glance at the paintings of futuristic cities and nationally-known personalities does not reveal any religious motif, but Kurt Garrett says his artwork is divinely inspired.

"I don't know where they come from, I just go to the canvas. Whatever it is, I have faith that I can do it," Garrett said.

Any religious representation in the paintings has been reduced to triangles and objects in groups of threes, which Garrett said came from the Christian Trinity.

"I don't feel there is any religious theme as such to my work," he said. "There's just a strength and success that I can only explain through a belief in God. Why else should they come out the right way?"

Garrett has been painting only since last October, although he had been interested much earlier, when he borrowed \$75 from his brother to buy materials.

"I knew I would be out of school for a while and painting gave me something to do in my free time without getting put into the working world," said the 24-year-old former chemistry major. "I got the paints and canvas and went to it."

And went to it he did. Garrett has had shows in Upendo Lounge and at the Apple Chill street festival, sold a number of paintings (one for \$125) and sent a por-

trait of President Ronald Reagan to the White House as a welcoming gift. ("I decided to do it after the election. He'd [Reagan] said so much about having to leave California and move to the East Coast — I thought I'd show him we're a friendly people," Garrett told a local newspaper in January.)

Garrett currently has a display of his works in the North Carolina National Bank on Franklin Street.

Much of Garrett's work is of people and he says if he had to choose one form of painting to concentrate on, it would be portraiture.

"I thrive on the energy of people and that makes a reflection in my art," he said. "I'm particularly interested in people who are conscious of and constantly in the public eye."

Some of his paintings at NCNB are of President Reagan, singers Kenny Rogers and Bruce Springsteen and former Carolina basketball player Al Wood.

Garrett has transformed his Northampton Plaza apartment into a studio. He has financed his painting through his work at the Carolina Union and the sale of some of his paintings.

"Selling something you've worked so hard on and put so much of yourself into can be painful," he said. "But I know the people that buy them want them and will take care of them."

Garrett's latest line of work is a series



DTH/Keith King

NCNB displays Garrett's third showing since October 1980 ... people, places, current events dominant subjects

of black and white paintings done with an airbrush that he said represents the Earth of the future or at least some type of man-made environment.

These hyper-realism paintings, as Garrett calls them, have such names as "Energy Conversion of an Inactive Volcano," "Airport Terminal" and "Night Star."

He explained the paintings with the detail of a science fiction writer. The paintings, with a soft glow produced by the airbrush, contain space pads, subways, energy conversion facilities and lava terrains.

Another of the air brush paintings,

entitled "Future Rock," might interest Tar Heel basketball fans.

"Future rock is basketball played on a completely black court," Garrett said, "using a glowing basketball and a red hoop suspended in mid-air without a backboard. It (the hoop) turns green and makes a loud sound when a basket is scored. The players wear insulated shorts and the shoes and socks are combined."

Garrett hopes to turn his inventive talent toward commercial art school and possibly bigger showings.

"In another year I want to be three times as good and big as I am now," he said. "I want to do it all."



DTH/Keith King

Chapel Hill artist Kurt Garrett works on the 'Triad' ... the painting represents his theme of composition

## Audition sign-up to begin

Are you a budding Beverly Sills?

Auditions for the UNC choral organizations which include ChamberSingers, Carolina Choir and the Glee Club will be held this week in room 106 Person Hall, where sign-up sheets and information regarding the audition procedure is available.

The ChamberSingers are a mixed voice choir that performs a capella works from the Renaissance as well as choral/instrumental works by such composers as Bach, Mozart and Stravinsky. The ChamberSingers number from 15 to 20 singers.

The Carolina Choir plans works for this year's repertoire by Pachelbel,

Brahms, Kodaly and several Canadian composers. The Carolina Choir numbers from 50 to 55 mixed voices.

This year the Glee Clubs will combine for a 120-voice choir and will perform several major works for chorus and orchestra including Mendelssohn's "Die Erste Walpurgisnacht" and Verdi's "Four Sacred Songs."

Even those who have never sung in a group before are encouraged to audition. Almost everyone who tries out is placed in a group.

— JED LELAND

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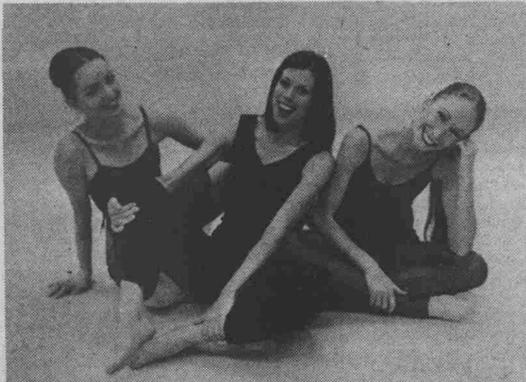
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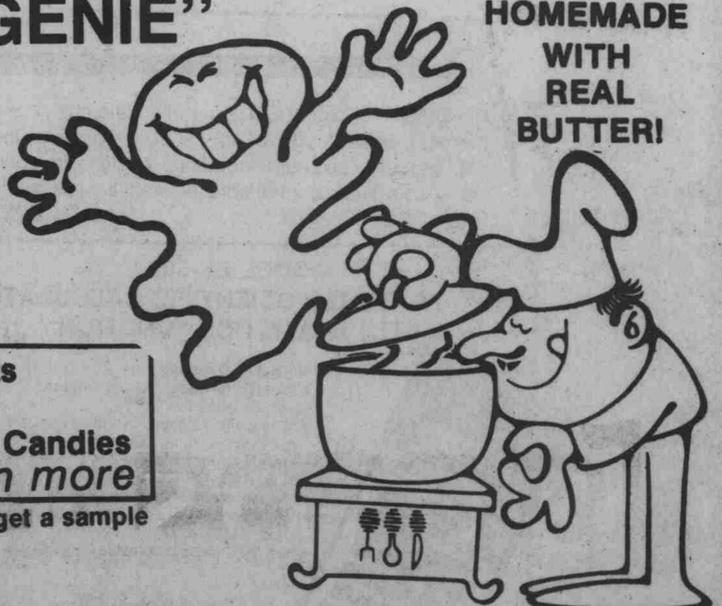
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