

Artist-in-the-schools

Frans van Baars teaches students to see

One could say that Frans van Baars thinks with the left side of his brain. It is widely held that motor and logical thought processes occur on the right side of the brain, while the left is reserved for the senses and creative thinking. Frans thinks too much emphasis is

placed on logical thought, with too little on creative thinking. And while serving his semester as Perquimans County's Artist-in-the-Schools, he is going to try to change that. "Education gears everything toward the logical portion of the brain," said van

Baars, "and it's a problem to turn off the logical side to let the creative side take over." He feels that changes in art education need to be made. "Most of the public schools begin art classes on the high school level," said Frans. "I think that's putting the cart before the horse because by

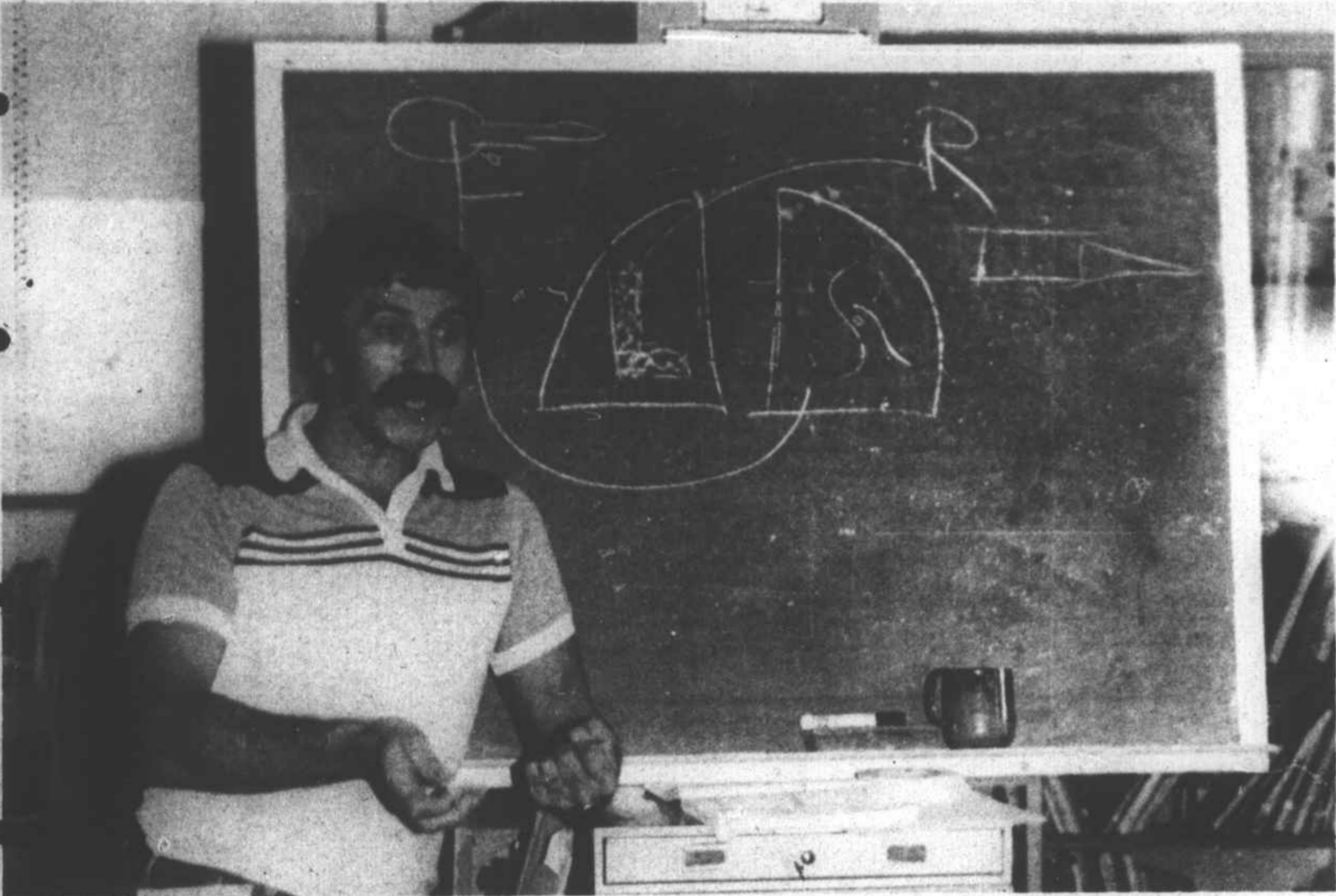
the time a child gets to high school, he's already locked into a life style of his own." He believes the ideal time to begin a child's art education is sometime between the grades of 4-6 because his or her mind is "still open." And art, according to Frans, needs to play a far greater

role not only in education, but also in life. Said van Baars: "In our society, we have more leisure time than any other society in the world." But he does not feel that Americans utilize their free time wisely. "I am finding more totally bored people in this country because they do not direct

their energies positively," said Frans, citing as example what he considers to be the American people's increasing reliance on alcohol and drugs. "People think these things (alcohol and drugs) are mind-expanding," he said, "but I call them mind shrinking." And art, in any form, be it drama, writing, drawing, or music, is what Frans terms as the necessary key to mental health. "Art has a therapeutic importance in our society," said van Baars, who has worked extensively as an art instructor for the mentally handicapped.

something that can be taught." Frans said he has already noted a fear of failure in his students. "People are afraid and say 'I cannot do this,'" he said. "And I attribute this to what I call the 'Polaroid Syndrome' — people think they have to have an instant likeness in 60 seconds or it's no good, but it doesn't work that way." While Frans said it is not his intention "to create a whole society of artists," he did express his desire to foster widespread appreciation for art.

are both involved in the arts; his wife is a musician and his son is a drama and dance student. His semester with the Perquimans County Schools System was made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council and by matching funds from the schools' budget. Of his own artistic style, Frans said he enjoys painting both realistically and "non-objectively." "I like to deal with atmospheric things within my realist paintings and I also like to paint in the non-objective — or what most people refer to as 'abstract,'" said van Baars.



van Baars enthusiastically conducts an art class at Central Grammar

While considering van Baars' thoughts on the importance of art in life, it is important to note that he really does not separate the two: he defines art as life. "Art is simply living and enjoying," he said.

And part of enjoyment is being able to recognize it. "I try to teach people to see — to visualize life around them," said Frans.

He is working with grades 4 through 8, as well as with teachers of those levels. "I'm taking the instructors through basically what the students are going through," said van Baars, "but I'm emphasizing the 'why's' and the 'what's' with the teachers more than I am the 'how to's.'"

His semester-length program will concentrate on drawing and painting. "I have found that most people cannot go beyond a 10 or 12 year-old level in drawing," said Frans. But he says this is not related to ability, but rather underdevelopment. "Drawing is not a God-given talent — it's

"I just want people to learn to see and to enjoy what they see," he said. "In this country we're in too big of a hurry to take the time."

A native of the Netherlands, Frans, 44, is a U.S. citizen and now resides in New Bern, N.C. He has worked as an art instructor at Coastal Carolina Community college in Jacksonville, and has exhibited widely throughout Eastern North Carolina. He is married, and his wife and son

see," he said.

FOR SALE

GAMBREL ROOF

STORAGE BARNS

Made to your specifications.

CALL FOR PRICES

426-8356 Nights

WINSLOW-BLANCHARD UNVEILS THE 1981 FORDS WITH SOME BRAND NEW BETTER IDEAS!!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

THE NEW WORLD CAR



ESCORT

FORD BEATS THE IMPORTS WITH THIS FRONT-WHEEL DRIVE FUEL MISER 44 MPG HWY. (EPA ESTIMATE)



GRANADA



BUILT FOR A CHANGING WORLD.



PLENTY OF TOUGH NEW TRUCKS IN STOCK!!



BIG TRUCKS



YEARS-AHEAD BRONCO



TOUGH FORD PICKUPS



CLUB WAGONS



FORD COURIER

OPEN 'TIL 7 P.M. FOR OUR NEW CAR SHOWING!!

DEALER LIC. 1741

U.S. 17 N. — HERTFORD, N.C.

PHONE: 426-5654