

# Visual Arts: Small But Growing

By LORI GOTTEMOELLER  
Essay Staff Reporter

The smallest department at NCSA is the 18-student visual arts department. Although the three-year-old program is struggling against lack of funds and facilities, faculty members are looking forward to expansion in the near future.

## Little Recognition

Little recognition is given to the visual arts department in the school catalog and other publications. A photographic display that was sent to UNC-Chapel Hill contained no information about the department. At the recent Central Piedmont Scholastic Art Awards in Greensboro, however, NCSA received nine Gold Key Awards and six Certificate of Merit Awards - more than any other school.

When questioned about the place of a visual arts department in a school for the performing arts, Dean John Sneden said, "It's difficult for them. They must do individual work by themselves, and dormitory rooms are unsuited for that. The department tends to be overshadowed by Design and Production, too."

He said, however, that visual arts is not merely a feeder program for D&P studies in college: "It was one of the ideas in establishing the program originally, but the majority of the students will not enter the D&P department," he concluded.

The Essay asked Lewis Cisle, a teacher in the department, about the Scholastic Art Awards. "It's a program in which high school students compete for scholarships and prizes", he stated. Gold Key Awards were won by Sandra Boswell, Leigh Ann Freeman, Susann Glenn, Melissa Rinehart, Diane Syrett and Susan Stevens. Jane Moody won three. Certificate of Merit Awards were won by Susann Glenn, Diane Syrett, Amy Salganik, Sonny Reavis, Marguerite Gusdon and Melissa Rinehart.

## Potential to be Excellent

Cisle had this comment to make about the awards: "Although our work is exceptional, we are still submitting work that can be duplicated, in media, by other high schools. Next year we'll be entering etchings, welded and cast metal sculptures, stone carvings, and greater numbers of paintings and silk screen prints. My students have the potential to be excellent, and that's what I expect them to be."

On Jan. 9 the visual arts students met with Sneden to discuss some complaints that they had. Sneden said that the complaints had concerned regularity of classes. "It was rather unfortunate," he stated. "Members of the staff had over-committed themselves to other things. Those problems have been cleared up now."

## Lack of Facilities

The Essay also asked Sneden about the lack of facilities. In the past year the students and faculty have repaired and refurbished the sculpture, drawing and design studios themselves. Sneden said that the new Workplace that is planned should take care of that problem with "three new studios at least twice as large as the present ones."



V.A. STUDENTS AT WORK

Essay Photo  
by Marshall Thomas

Cisle sees the major problems of visual arts as lack of state funding for improvement of present facilities. "When I came here last year they were a shambles," Cisle stated. "When I was hired, I sent a letter to the administration outlining the improvements that needed to be made. The sculpture studio needed new wiring, plumbing, and the addition of an office and a tool room."

"Up until three weeks before school began, virtually no work had been done," Cisle continued. The maintenance staff is too small to repair what needed to be done. If we hadn't done it, it wouldn't have gotten done. The windows were all broken and they wouldn't have been repaired. There is little left to do now, though."

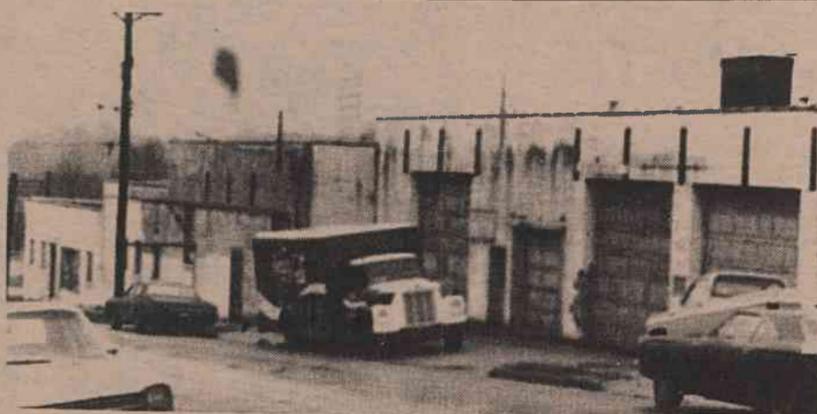
Maureen Trotto teaches a class in drawing which is working on self-portraits drawing in stages. "They find objects-tin cans, cooking utensils, any metal objects-and construct a suit of armor for themselves," she said. "Then they do a self-portrait of themselves in the armor."

Ms. Trotto said of the lack of facilities: "Lewis Cisle has improved the old studios by painting, rearranging, and reorganizing. The space is still small, but the environment is much better. The best studio is out-of-doors on nice days." She added that she would like to see another full time teacher added to the staff. "High school students need more personal attention than college students,"

Mark Pirollo's senior painting class is working on an open project using acrylics. His design class is doing a project using color mixing and repetitive patterns in nature, and his critique class finished a project on "The Crucible" and is now doing based on the word "decay". Pirollo says that the program of weekly projects has been "highly successful."

## Works on Display

Works by the students of the visual arts



BILT-RITE BUILDING

Essay Photo  
by Marshall Thomas

Hyatt told a student affairs staff meeting that, according to his interpretation of the rules, Ms. Shortridge could resign at any time until the effective date of her dismissal, March 31, 1974. He also said that it was his understanding that if she did appeal Hyatt's action to either the North Carolina University Board of Trustees or the University Board of Governors, that either of these boards could only determine whether or not her rights had been violated. They could not,

Hyatt contended, question his judgement in this matter.

In an interview with the Essay, Ms. Shortridge told of her desire to remain with the school until the end of the 1973-74 school year.

## Not Resigning

"I'm not resigning. He (Hyatt) can't do that; it's not due process," commented Ms. Shortridge. Ms. Shortridge also said that she did not presently plan to return to NCSA next year.

# D & P Looks At Bilt-Rite

By MARSHALL THOMAS  
Essay Staff Reporter

The Bilt-Rite Auto Parts Co., a building which could alleviate severe space problems at the D & P department here, is up for sale.

The sale status reopens the opportunity for a quick expansion of the department only one month after the state seemed to close that opportunity by refusing to act on the acquisition of the Pearce Laundry.

The Bilt-Rite building, 179 Waughtown St., is just north of the present shop. It currently houses the retail showroom and storage facilities for the company which is moving to new and larger facilities. The company plans to vacate the building in the next 30 days, according to owners.

John Sneden, dean of the D & P department, said last month in an ESSAY interview on the Pearce Laundry that, "The present D & P building is overcrowded; we get tighter and tighter the more shows we do, and this affects the other departments."

## Good For Community

Owners of Bilt-Rite said that when it moves, the school will be given a purchase price for the building, the lot between that building and the D & P buildings and another lot directly across the street from the D & P shop.

G.G. Young, owner, said that the school would get the first chance to purchase the properties because "we (my father and I) believe that what you are doing at NCSA is good for the community and the state."

We'd rather you people would buy it instead of some commercial interest."

The exact size of the buildings and the configuration of the rooms inside is not known by officials at NCSA. It is known, however, that the upper building is centrally air-conditioned and heated and that the middle building is broken up into several small rooms. The present owners are reluctant to allow people from the school or appraisers to enter the buildings for fear of damaging relations with the current tenants. There has been speculation about the possible uses of the building should the school decide to purchase it.

## Stone Agrees

Sam Stone, Director of Institutional Planning for NCSA, and Max DeVolder, Technical Director of the D & P department, agree that the space could be used to relocate the school's storage facilities. The current storage warehouse is the Butler Enterprises warehouse on Sunnyside Ave. The Butler warehouse, which is used primarily by D & P, is also used by the maintenance department and by the North Carolina Dance Theatre. It is built of wood, which increases the danger of loss by fire, and is being rented from the Butler Enterprises Co. Stone said that the \$230-a-month rent now paid on the Butler building could be used to make payments on the Bilt-Rite building.

## State's Decision

The final decision on whether or not to buy the property rests with the state. If the state should decide not to buy, the NCSA Foundation could purchase the property, but that would not leave money with which to make capital improvements on the building.

Dr. Peter Bourne is the man responsible for property acquisition for the state. It was Bourne who last month decided that the state was not interested in purchasing the Pearce Laundry building for D & P.

In spite of this, Martin Sokoloff, Administrative Director at NCSA, says that "in the long run, Bourne's judgment usually pays off." Sokoloff said that Bourne will be here this week to determine whether purchasing the property will take care of the total space needs for D & P, thereby eliminating the need for a new D & P building. Sokoloff said that then the state would probably buy the property if the money could be found.

DeVolder said that he preferred that the state buy the property because needed capital improvements are easier to get for state property. "We're glad to have the foundation interested, though, in case the state doesn't come through," he added.