

"Colorful" artist brings Germany, China, Mexico into art

Hobie Anthony
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, artist Morris Kriensky visited Guilford's Leak Room to tell of his life and to present his works.

Kriensky has led a colorful life. Born in 1917 in Scotland, he moved to the United States when he was five. His parents had to postpone his schooling for a year because a case of diphtheria prevented him from immediately learning to talk. When he did start school he failed every subject except for gym and Latin. His brother and sister, however, excelled in school, making him the "black sheep" of the family.

After completing school, Kriensky headed into various low-paying Depression-era jobs. One day, as he was drawing from a photograph, a friend admired the work and suggested art classes at the Boston Museum of Fine Art. Although he was already attending engineering school and working in a factory, Kriensky decided to take the classes. He had no idea of what a museum was, but decided to take his pictures there anyway. When he approached the building, its impressive form awed him. Once inside, he got an incredible feeling from the artwork he saw. This episode, delightfully recalled

by Kriensky's unfailing memory, pictured his feelings as those of a young, innocent man entering a new and promising enterprise.

When World War II broke out, Kriensky decided that he was going to go over to Germany "to fight Hitler." At the Army Air Corps recruiting office, the sergeant misspelled his name, replacing the "y" with an "i," thereby making Kriensky appear to be Polish instead of Jewish, a mistake which made it easier for Kriensky to enlist.

After passing a test at an Army Air Corps base in Missouri, Kriensky was stationed near Pike's Peak, where a crashing airplane split his head open with its wing. But the resilient Kriensky recovered quickly, and was soon back on his feet.

From the adventure at Pike's Peak, he traveled secretly to China as part of the Air Corps squadron "The Flying Tigers." While there, he began to photograph and paint local scenery and people. Kriensky spoke only briefly on his actual war experience as he was more concerned with the human side of the story.

After the war, he painted some of the scenes he remembered not only from China but also from India. These paintings, although done from memory, have graphic

detail, giving a sense that the artist must have just lately seen the action in the painting. Kriensky shows the observer the greatness of nature through works depicting nature as enveloping the person, as well as those showing man as the ruler of nature.

In 1950, he went to Mexico, where he painted scenes of poverty as well as more active scenes, such as his bullfight sequence. This sequence portrays the fight's violence as well as the half-dead bull at the end; as he says, that half-dead is more interesting than fully dead.

In addition to these human scenes, he has also painted a series of landscapes. In one of these he shows an orange hill; when someone contested that there were no orange hills, Kriensky scorned the acquaintance's lack of imagination, as orange flowers could be there or the setting



Morris Kriensky

photo by Charles Almy

sun.

Morris Kriensky is an artist who has attempted through his paintings to bring alive all of life's beauty and ugliness. The responsiveness of the audience attested not only to his humor but also to an imagination of incredible strength and insight.

Fund honors top phoner

Peter Smith
News Editor

Elizabeth Merten, a senior drama major from Chapel Hill, received the Outstanding Student Caller award Saturday for her participation in last fall's student phone-a-thon.

The award, presented by Ed Story, associate vice-president for development, and Lillian Lyndrop, assistant director of the Loyalty Fund and coordinator of the Parents Association, is based on the student who receives the most pledges, money and demonstrates the best spirit and camaraderie during the six-week phone-a-thon period.

Merten was one of several students who called both present Guilford students' parents and Guilford alumni, initiating contacts and asking for financial support of the college. The student callers succeeded in raising over \$21,176 for the Loyalty Fund and over 435 pledges.



photo by Charles Almy

Elizabeth Merten

The award given to Merten is the first of its kind.

Special Thanks To Those Who Contributed to Jacques d'Amboise's Visit...

Dancers: Jacques d'Amboise (Instructor); Donna Abdou, Kathy Adams, Bradley Aldous, Emilie Algenio, Joyce Atkinson, Dan Baur, Alan Beamer, Heather Binion, Eliza Blake, Faye Bublitz, Donna Crane, Carrie Craver, Maura Cronin, Heather Davis, Allison Dean, Ritchie Eanes, Carrie Eby, Cary Eddy, Christie Evens, Amy Fellers, Tim Fountain, Marian Gilbert, Maria Graves, Rebecca Grunko, Tim Hanna, Scott Huger, Anne Jonas, Megan Keiser, Leigh Kemp, Lisa Krell, Tom Lalley, Chrissy Lawrence, Deborah Long, Paige Mahaney, Evelyn Mann, Nancy McCurry, Stacey Mosca, Susannah Mozley, Casey Noblett, Toni Noblett, Sarah Powell, Vickie Prestage, Toya Scott, Laura Smathers, Jennifer Smith, Linda Stakenas, Cindy Swartz, Chiyo Takagi, Angela Termini, Nancy Taylor, Anna Van Ness, Vicki White, George Whiteside, Darlene Whitley, Laura Zimmerman; **Musicians:** Jed Distler (accompanist/pianist/composer); Lou Spaventa (bass), Pete Dennis (drums); **Vocalists:** Jeff Kloss, Katherine Schnorrenberg, Joanna Iwata; **Backdrop:** Design 250 Class - Dan Guyette (Instructor/Designer/Technical Director); Bradley Aldous, Drew Altizer, Anchi Banh, Carl Beehler, Erik Brubaker, Rob Clay, Shannon Craigo, Carol Crane, Beth Offenber, John Offenber, Liz Perkins, Noah Sanders, Heinz Seltmann, Seth Snell, Steven R. Terrill, Keir Tukey, Jennifer Van Goethem, Barry Wilson; **Technicians (Light/Sound):** Steve Gee (Dana Stage Manager); Dan Guyette (Designer/Technical Director); Steven R. Terrill (Facility Aid); **Students - Carl Beehler, Nolen Sanders, Heinz Seltmann, Seth Snell, Jennifer Reid, Mary Rinaldi, Jennifer Van Goethem, Pat Baeder, Assistants - Eric Reid and Paul Coscia; Logistics Coordinators:** Linda Pratt, Joanna Iwata, Katherine Schnorrenberg, Ed Lowe.

...And the 1990 Wellness Fair

Sponsors - Center for Personal Growth, Athletics Department, Sports Studies, Student Activities, Residential Life, Marriott Dining Services, Women's Awareness Group, Community Senate, Images of Women's Committee; **Wellness Station Coordinators -** Jane Caris, Gayle Currie, Richard Ford, Robert Fulton, Judy Harvey, Mel Keiser, Ernest McCoy, Stephanie Mathews, Charlotte Schumickle, Jeanne Sykes, Kathy Tritschler, Mike Welch; **Information Center -** Anne Hokansen, Andrea Catalano, Toni Harvey; **Technical Assistance -** Athletic teams, Athletic Department; **Publicity:** Office of Student Activities, Sarah Morrison, Lisa Schorr; **Planning Committee -** Jane Caris and Mike Welch; Gayle Currie, Richard Ford, Robert Fulton, Anne Hokansen, Joanna Iwata

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The Valentine's Day After-Dinner Extravaganza sponsored by Bryan Hall Council

8:00 in the cafeteria, Wednesday, Feb. 14
dessert, entertainment featuring
Hamster Huey and the Goey Kablooie