

ARTS

# Multimedia art laden with political tones

By Emma Williams  
Staff Writer

The subjects of "Reports from the Third World War," an exhibit opening today at the Carrboro ArtsCenter, are ripped from international headlines.

But the show's artist lives two blocks from the gallery.

It would be inappropriate to describe the artist, Stephen Ausherman, as "local," even though he is a UNC graduate student who lives in Chapel Hill.

Throughout his first solo exhibit, Ausherman declares himself a citizen of the world.

The drawings, paintings and collages "are about the frustration and panic that I see over there," Ausherman said.

"Over there" is China, India, Nigeria, Kenya and many other nations where Ausherman has worked and studied.

The title "Reports from the Third World War" is not set in the future; it refers to the war now being waged against Third World countries by the wealthy nations of the world.

"Most of the works are pretty blatant, slap-in-the-face, almost," he said.

"Things Fall Apart II," a charcoal and newspaper collage, typifies Ausherman's style.

The artist zones in on two Africans, a man and a woman. The woman is in the foreground, screaming and clenching her fists. A layer of newspaper clippings surround her. She grabs and tears them. The angry-looking man hides behind her like a memory or a potential aggressor.

The shading of the best drawings clashes the darkest blacks with the

brightest whites, so that both shapes and emotions are razor-sharp.

Overall, the works bear a resemblance to the German Expressionists, which the artist said is unintentional.

Ausherman said the show's reporting theme was inspired by his journalism background. Studying journalism and working as a journalist in India has made him concerned about the way the media portray the Third World.

"(The Third World) doesn't get enough attention," he said. The way newspapers are written also makes it difficult to empathize with victims in other countries, he said.

"You don't feel for anybody when you read about them in the paper," Ausherman said. "You're not supposed to."

One collage closes in on an Asian face, with eyes closed and a pained expression. The face is framed by a rectangle of clipped headlines announcing his death.

One goal of the exhibit is to put an individual face with a news event. Ausherman said that he is inspired mostly by memories of his travels but that he borrows images from newspapers and magazines to fill in his mental pictures.

Despite the intensity of the images, Ausherman said he censored his most gruesome memories out of his work. For example, he said he does not exploit shocking images, such as leprosy or female circumcision. "I'm interested in going beyond just grossing people out," he said.

The works incorporate events that people know about but perhaps have



'Things Fall Apart' by Stephen Ausherman

never experienced with sensitivity and without sensationalism before.

Before his senior year of college, Ausherman never studied art formally, and he still considers himself a writer

rather than an artist.

However, he said that art sometimes offers greater emotional freedom than writing because, "you can be more extreme in art than in words."

## Construction

from page 1

"Hopefully, they'll issue it this week," he said.

Riddle said disposing of benzene-contaminated soil was difficult.

State codes require contaminated soil to be disposed of before construction can take place.

Developers can dispose of contaminated soil in one of four ways, Riddle

said.

Riddle said the contaminated soil could be:

- covered with plastic to allow the sun to dry out the benzene,
- spread thinly across a large parcel of land,
- burned to make bricks or
- extracted mechanically.

## Campus Calendar

**FRIDAY**  
1 p.m. UNC Juggling Club will meet and discuss the upcoming convention in Carmichael Ballroom.  
3:30 p.m. Christian Science Organization will meet in 205 Union.  
10 p.m. Phi Beta Sigma will have a party in Great Hall until 1:30 a.m.  
**SATURDAY**  
9 a.m. Carolina Consortium on Human Development will present a Symposium on Developmental

Science in Morehead Planetarium Faculty Lounge until 5:30 p.m.  
10 a.m. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will help students, employees and others with income tax returns for free in the Union lobby until 2 p.m.  
2 p.m. CUAB and Senior Class will sponsor a film fest with "Go West" and "The Graduate" in the Union.  
7 p.m. Great Commission Students will welcome Timmy Powers to offer advice on love, sex, dating and marriage in 100 Hamilton.

# PlayMakers will spread Neil Simon's 'Rumors'

Kathleen Flynn  
Theater

What do you do when you arrive at a 10th anniversary party to find the wife and servants missing and the dazed husband with a bullet hole in his ear lobe?

If you're like the guests in "Rumors" — prominent people with all sorts of reasons to hide a seeming suicide attempt — you go to farcical lengths to pretend all is well.

Once that essential implausibility has been accepted, the Neil Simon play being performed this weekend by Department of Drama students at the PlayMakers Theatre offers side-splitting humor and outstanding performances.

Sophomore Jonny Elkes as Lenny Ganz got many of the best lines and used them to magnificent advantage, with deadly wit and a perfect sense of timing. When he impersonates the husband to fool suspicious police at the end, he was particularly effective. Junior Amanda Pringle's performance as his wife, Claire, also was excellent. Her restrained but rapier-like contrast Elkes' over-the-top performance.

Anyone would want this fun pair at his or her next party.

Seniors Ashley Browning and Chris Patrick, who play the first arrivals Chris and Ken Gorman, deliver a somewhat uneven performance. The opening moments of the play feature Browning and Patrick shouting silly instructions at one another, and express the characters' stress at their strange situation. But they sound more peeved than panicked.

Browning in particular is not convincing, acting at the top of her lungs. In later parts of the play, however, especially when she is pretending to act normal for the benefit of the guests who haven't yet been told, she is luminous, subtle and totally in command of her material.

Patrick has long stretches in which

he is utterly convincing as a lawyer on the verge of a nervous breakdown — but there are a few moments where he just isn't.

Physical humor forms a crucial element in this play. Nearly everyone at the party has hurt him or herself in some improbable way by the end and is crawling on the floor with a bad back, doubled over with whiplash or bleeding from the nose. A scene where the guests are pretending to dance (to "La Bamba" no less) to fool police officers into thinking it's just a normal party, is one of the play's most unforgettable.

In general, the group seemed more comfortable with repartee than slapstick, and it sometimes failed to make the most of comic possibilities.

Everyone gets the chance to be funny in this play, even the police. Senior Ali Webster milks humor from an incomprehensible police radio, while junior Stephen Shelley, as the officer who gets to talk, seems thoroughly at home in his sarcastic role.

The other two couples, the later-arriving guests Ernie and Cookie Cusak and Glen and Cassie Cooper, are less well-developed, seeming more like caricatures than characters. Nonetheless, the actors carry off these roles credibly.

"Rumors" will be performed at the PlayMakers Theatre at 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday, with 2 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday. Tickets, \$7, are on sale at the Paul Green Theatre box office or may be purchased at the PlayMakers Theatre starting one hour before the performance, if available. For information, call the Paul Green Theatre Box Office at 962-PLAY.

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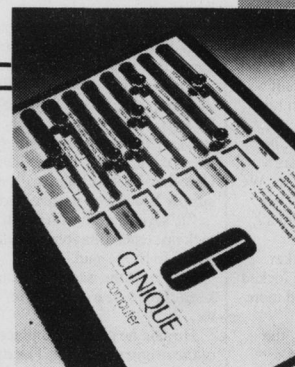
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