

# 8 local artists from N.C. Watercolor Society display works in Student Union Gallery

By NANCY ATKINSON  
Staff Writer

Watercoloring is usually the first form of painting that children are exposed to, and many people think of watercolors as unsophisticated landscapes of transparent hues.

But the versatility and beauty of watercolor is being shown in the Union Gallery exhibit of works of eight local watercolorists. Each artist is a member of the N.C. Watercolor Society and has exhibited her paintings in shows and businesses around the country. "They are very respected in the area," said Marcella Butler, Gallery Chairperson of the Union Activities Board. "It was hoped that they'd be up for a show, because we wanted local artists for the beginning of the year."

For the Union exhibit Billie Gronemeyer, an active society member, contacted artists whose quality work represented a broad range of techniques, and she let each choose the paintings to be contributed. In addition, three of the works are from Gronemeyer's own collection.

Describing her painting style as "free," Gronemeyer said a painting usually took a day or a day and a half to complete, while painters who did abstract paintings with a lot of color took longer.

"They'll go away from it (the painting) and then decide how they're going to develop it," she said.

Louise Francke, who has four works in the exhibit, paints both abstractly and colorfully. She said her experience with lithography and photography had influenced her current works, and her use of color had been evolving toward its present brightness.

"My painting used to not be so intense colorwise," Francke said. "I'm getting to the point where I'm putting pastels in the pictures."

Frances Calhoun, another exhibited artist, also said she had changed her technique over the years. She began doing nothing but watercolor in 1969, painting landscapes exclusively on location. Later, she branched out into a "wet and wet" technique, and now paints in her studio from reference slides and sketches.

"I like to work in my studio because I'm working large," she said, "and I can be more creative because I don't make it look exactly like it is."

Spontaneity, freshness, challenge and joy are all reasons why these artists enjoy watercolor. Unlike oil painting, watercolor cannot be reproduced or repainted, and it is virtuous for being easily transported and fast-drying.

"It's sort of a thrill with watercolor, because you

are never sure how it will come out," said Calhoun.

The N.C. Watercolor Society was begun in 1972 for North Carolinians interested in watercolor, and membership in 1985 is more than 500. Two of the society's four meetings each year are used for the spring and fall juried exhibitions, where a nationally acclaimed artist judges the 200 or more entries, and businesses sometimes buy paintings for their offices.

"The prizes are getting better each year, up to \$400," said Gronemeyer. "The competition gets stiffer every year, too."

The society also holds educational meetings in the winter and summer which feature a technical demonstration by a watercolorist.

Said Gronemeyer: "Some of the demonstrations have been bringing in new thought. Some have been very abstract and free, and others are more traditionally oriented."

The Union exhibit will continue through Sept. 13, but more watercolors will be shown at the society's next scheduled event, a fall juried exhibition and demonstration in Winston-Salem beginning Oct. 6. Sponsored by the city's art association, the month-long exhibit is free, but there is a charge for nonmembers who wish to attend the demonstration.

# STV 'Video Yearbook' puts memories on tape

By SALLY PONT  
Staff Writer

When students leave Carolina after graduation, they can now take their memories along on videotape.

STV's Video Yearbook rolls four years worth of scraps of paper, basketball games, tearful farewells and drunken reveries into a perfectly packaged, thirty-minute, instant memory.

The video is designed for sale to students, alumni and parents.

"I don't see how people can resist this," said Amy Doyle, a senior RTVMP major from Wrightsville Beach and this year's producer of Video Yearbook. "The emotional appeal is there. We cover every person's impression of Carolina."

"It's different from the Yackety Yack," Doyle said. "There are things you can capture with video that you just can't put on paper. Video is the only media that can capture a party or a speaker. The audio really makes all the difference."

Shaun Wallace, a senior from Greenville and an STV staff member, was confident in the Video Yearbook and its producer. "Amy's really got a jump on last year's Video Yearbook producer," Wallace said. "She worked on it last year so she really knows what she's doing. And she's

already jumped into crowd-shooting around campus."

Doyle began filming before classes began, and captured one of Carolina's most infamous experiences, drop-add in Woolen Gym. Last year's Video Yearbook, STV's first, began filming after Christmas.

Doyle said the bonus of an added semester to this year's Video Yearbook schedule will also help in marketing. Doyle plans to show "teasers" throughout the year in the Pit and in dormitories. Doyle has also been advertising for the Yearbook during weekly programming on STV.

"Starting late really hurt last year's yearbook," said Doyle. "No one knew about it. This year we won't have that problem."

"What we need now is a small team who is willing to see the project through to the end," she said. "I'm putting together a core staff right now. Applications are available at the Union Desk. With a committed staff I think we'll do very well with the video and with marketing."

Felicia Barlow, Doyle's assistant and a junior RTVMP major from Oxford, said: "We'll do really well once parents and alumni hear about it. Once we let them know about it, they'll want it."

# Cheaper costs make N.C. up and coming film production site

By ROBERT KEEFE  
Staff Writer

Is North Carolina becoming the Hollywood of the future?

With two movie production studios in the state, the Earl Owensby Studios in Shelby and Dino De Laurentiis' N.C. Film Corporation in Wilmington, North Carolina is gradually becoming a well-known producer of feature films. "We're getting a pretty good name," said Janet Price, a spokeswoman for Owensby Studios. "Depending on our schedule, we usually make one to three movies a year."

In the De Laurentiis studios in Wilmington, the schedule is a bit heavier.

"We probably make about five feature films a year," said George Halverson, general manager of the N.C. Film Corporation.

Since its opening in the spring of 1984, De Laurentiis' studios have turned out such films as Michael Cimino's

"Year of the Dragon," and Stephen King's "Cat's Eye," and "Silver Bullet."

King is presently working on his latest film, "Overdrive" in Laurentiis' studios also. It was King's "Firestarter" in 1983 that gave producer De Laurentiis the idea of opening a permanent studio in Wilmington.

"Mr. De Laurentiis saw the place and noted that it had many varying looks to it," Halverson said. "It was also near to the beach, and to the airport, and everything was beautiful; it's just a nice place to be."

The N.C. Film Studio now has five indoor sound stages and one back lot. A \$1.45 million street was built for the filming of "The Year of the Dragon."

According to De Laurentiis in an April 8 *New York Times* article, the same street would have cost \$4 million to build in Hollywood.

"Mr. De Laurentiis once said that everything you can do for \$10 million in Hollywood, you can do for \$7 million

here," Halverson said.

Referring to Shelby as a good site for film-making, Price said, "It seems to be a lot cheaper to film up here." She added, "The economy is just so much bigger in California, you can always get something cheaper in North Carolina."

Earl Owensby went into the movie business in 1976, with virtually no experience at all. A former tool distributor, Owensby has developed his studios into a thriving business that covers 150 acres of land in Shelby.

Owensby plans to set up another movie studio in Myrtle Beach expected to house 12 sound stages.

The Owensby Studios produce mainly films that are sold overseas, with budgets ranging from \$1 million up, depending on the script.

"Presently, we're working on a movie called 'The Order of the Black Eagle,' which is being produced by a group of producers from Santa Barbra," Price

said. "So evidently they feel it's cheaper up here also."

Price said her studios like to employ a lot of local talent, which helps to keep cost down.

The Wilmington studio also employs a lot of local help from time to time, including many aspiring acting students from nearby UNC-Wilmington.

"The (UNC-Wilmington) students participate in the realm of acting, viewing and critiquing films so we can try and find the mood of the audience," Halverson said.

Other studios around the nation are starting to put the pinch on Hollywood's production levels also. In New York, the nation's second largest film producer, approximately \$350-\$400 million was spent on movie production last year.

Studios have sprung up in Texas, Illinois and Massachusetts, where five movies were made last year. Of the 165 feature films that were produced in the United States last year, only 56 were shot entirely inside of California, according to the California Film Office. Twenty-nine were filmed both inside and out of the state, while 80 movies were made entirely in other states around the nation.

"I think that it's just a cyclic thing," Halverson said. "But it's a whole different ballgame here because we do mostly Mr. De Laurentiis' films."

"There is a studio in Texas, for example, that did only one feature film, 'Silkwood', and after that, it hasn't been used at all."

Halverson said the chance of smaller studios eventually taking over the majority of Hollywood's business is slight.

"There were a lot of ghost-town studios built in the heyday of the cowboy films, in places like Nevada and Utah," he said. "But they have all sort of gone to the wind now."

North Carolina will not replace Hollywood in the movie industry, according to movie producers, but it probably won't go to the wind as producers like Dino De Laurentiis pump money in the Tar Heel state's economy.

# Student volunteers needed

The Chapel Hill Interfaith Council is seeking student volunteers to help man their shelter for the homeless. The shelter, recently opened in the old municipal building on the corner of Rosemary and Columbia Streets, is being organized and needs staff volunteers.

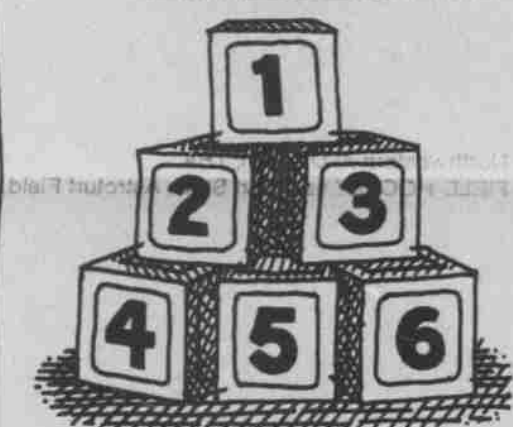
Students who are interested need no special qualifications or training, but the Council prefers people who are over 20. They only need to be willing to donate one night per month. The Council will provide training for volunteers. For more information, call Sue Baker at 942-2742.

# HELP A FRIEND BREAK A HABIT ON NOV. 21

If you have friends who smoke, help them quit during the Great American Smokeout on November 21. Keep a friend from smoking for one day, and you may keep a friend for life.



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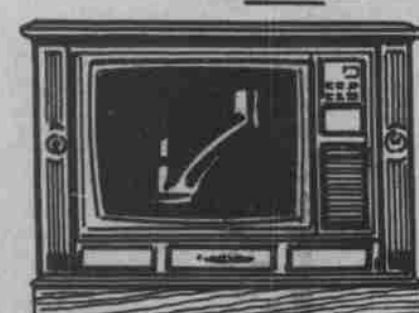


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