

'Every Little Crook and Nanny'
Performed by the
Koinonia Players at
Christ Memorial
Lutheran Church
October 22-24 and
October 28-30



Fitchburg STAR

Thursday,
Oct. 21, 1999
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Haunted Barn
at Eplegaarden

7-10 pm October 22/23

1-4 pm October 23/24



This Week in the Star



Toys 'R' Us

The long awaited opening of the national chain toy store is over. Fitchburg Ridge gets a new business

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Panther Pride
The Oregon Men's Soccer team conquers the conference and prepares for state.

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Oregon High School expulsions devisive

by Eric Neuwirth
Oregon Correspondent

As squad cars rolled past in slow succession last Thursday, approximately 40 Oregon High School students gathered on a lawn across from the school in protest of the expulsions of three classmates who created a hit list.

"We're protesting because they shouldn't be expelling the students," said sophomore Heather Ries.

The students made signs saying things like, "Let the students come back now" and "Expulsion is too harsh a punishment."

Very early last Wednesday morning, the Board of Education finished a second night of prolonged hearings. Having expelled one of the students a day earlier, the board meted out the same discipline to the two other students involved in drawing up the list, which carried the names of 70 students and 25 teachers.

Students received letters notifying them of the rally late Wednesday afternoon, according to Ries. They met early in the chilly morning on the lawn of one of the students.

The protesters were informed by police that they were not

allowed to block the sidewalk or smoke on the premises or they would be ticketed for loitering or tobacco use. Also, they were warned not to interfere with vehicle traffic or trespass on private property. They said they were not allowed to enter the school, where they sought to increase their numbers.

Assistant principals, Anita Koehler and Richard Conroy, briefly visited the students about 9 a.m. to explain the protesters would be facing an unexcused absence.

"My mom wrote me a blue slip. She thinks that what I'm doing is

right," said senior Dusty Schanck. Several students responded similarly to the principals' warnings.

Koehler said the parents' calls would not erase the unexcused absence since the administrators could see them outside the school.

"We're not here to be controversial. You can do what you want. We're here to help you make good choices," said Koehler.

The principals left as the students started jeering their reprimands and saying "I hate Oregon High School."

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The artwork on display at the Biopharmaceutical Technology Center shows the versatility of the leather medium. One of the prominent artists in the show is Silva Fox, who's pieces incorporate a variety of textures to bring the art to life, as in the leather painting above, "The Challenge" and below, "Giraffes".

Photos by Lucas Piper

Leather show gives old medium new life

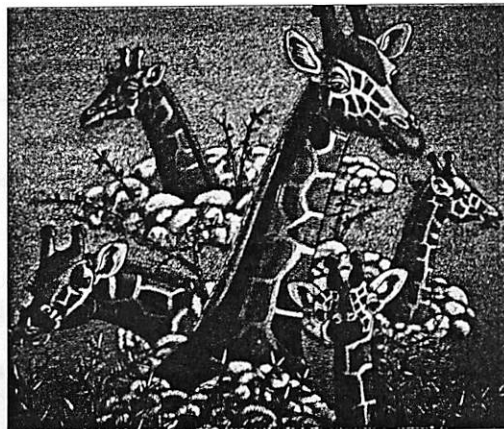
by Lucas Piper
Fitchburg Star Editor

Leather has quietly reached new heights becoming a serious form of artwork, and "The Fine Art of Leather...An Exhibition" currently showing at the Biopharmaceutical Technology Center (BTC) may be the best opportunity in the world to view this remarkable art form. Those that work in leather have combined the intrinsic skills of other art forms, such as painting, sculpting and drawing into a single piece of leather that defies the common perception of art.

Traditionally thought of as a hobby or craft, work in leather has reached a new pinnacle and continues to grow as the medium of choice for artists. "It's truly and art form. We've moved away from the craft. Most of these are original designs by each of the artists," said Silva Fox of Chicago, one of the artists showcased in the exhibition.

Daniel Swadener, who organizes the art shows on behalf of Promega and the BTC, also over saw the organization of this unique opening. "Most of the projects I do, I start from the ground and work

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Appearing at the opening of the show were (l-r) Silva Fox, show producer Daniel Swadener, Ann Waters and Roz Kaohn, in front of Kaohn's fantasy piece, "The Forgotten Realm."

Photo by Lucas Piper

LEATHER

Continued from Page 1

my way up through it. This was unusual, in that I didn't have that big of an involvement with it." The majority of work fell upon local leather artist, Ann Waters of Oregon.

All but one of the artists in the exhibition are members of either one of two leather guilds. The International Internet Leather Guild, with 320 members worldwide representing 26 countries and the other guild is the German Leder Gilde, a prestigious invitation only guild with 60 members worldwide. Waters, who is president of the International Internet Leather Guild, is also a member of the German Leder Gilde.

The discovery of leather's versatility, was actually a mistake. Rob Barr, of South Dakota, made a mistake while tooling a piece of leather. "He kind of developed this by accident," said Waters, "and he liked the look of it and wanted to see how far he could take it." Barr is the first person to take leather from a craft and transform it into an art form.

The three-dimensional work displayed in the exhibition gives

testament to the versatility of leather. Included in the show are leather sculptures, pieces in a fantasy genre, equine and wildlife. "When you look around the world at who's doing everything, there's very few people that do this figurative fine art work and are good enough at it to be professional," added Waters.

One of the prominent artists in the wildlife genre is Silva Fox, who has been working in leather since 1976. She has meticulously used texture to create life-like art. She says the nature of leather is tactile. It has proved very much so, in the work she presents to the blind. "I will hand someone a pine cone as a reference, and then hand him a leather painting that has a pine cone in it, and the people are absolutely delighted," said Fox. "It feels the same."

Continuing her emphasis on texture, Fox's giraffe piece uses different types of leather. "The giraffe's are done with inlaid, marketry-type way of working," explained Fox, "where a section is removed and another piece of leather put in. In this case I use

suede to give different textures." The result is a vivid lifelike image. So much so, that according to Fox, a six-year old girl stood and had a conversation with the baby giraffe in the picture while she was stroking his nose. "It was the funniest thing I've ever seen. If a kid is convinced that's real, then it's real. It was quite delightful."

Another of Fox's pieces, "The Laughing Zebras", uses high embossing to make the animals come alive. The dark stripes on the zebras are embossed, which means they are raised from behind, and the light stripes are actually put down giving depth to the picture and allowing people to see the stripes on the animals. "The stripes lead you from one animal into another animal, and the teeth are very distinct," described Fox. "It's a never ending versatility. Hopefully it will be the medium for the new millennium."

Swadener commented, "Even people who have said it isn't their cup of tea, have really marveled at the technique. It's pretty fantastic. I can't find this kind of thing anywhere else." All of the artists showcased in the exhibition are quite proficient. They have all learned to use their medium very well. They've transcended the traditional craftsmen perception of leatherwork. They are artists.

The exhibit features a selection of work from around the world, including Australia, Germany, Taiwan, England and Mexico. The exhibit will be open until Friday, Dec. 10, and is open to the public from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Large groups are asked to make an appointment by calling the BTC at 277-2669. The BTC is in the Fitchburg Research Center.

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