

DOES NOT
CIRCULATE

What's HAPPENING

Guide to Local Arts, Entertainment & Events



free

◀ **Horsing
Around in
Lane County**
is an exhibit
at the Lane
County
Historical
Museum
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Maude Kerns Art Show of Terry Jackson's Paintings Will Benefit His Defense Fund

The last couple of months before his arrest, Terry Jackson experienced a tremendous flowering of his artistic talents. He and his friend Rich Klopfer spent the winter of 1986 doing a series of still lifes, then last winter they often painted each other. The canvas pictured here is Terry's painting of Rich, showing the influence of an exhibit of Japanese art they visited in Oakland, California.

Starting Sunday evening, and for three days only, there will be an exhibit of Jackson's oil paintings at Maude Kerns Art Center. All paintings will be for sale, with proceeds going to Jackson's defense fund. At worst, Jackson faces 50 years in prison stemming from the alleged bombing attempt during an anti-war protest in 1969. His trial is May 4.

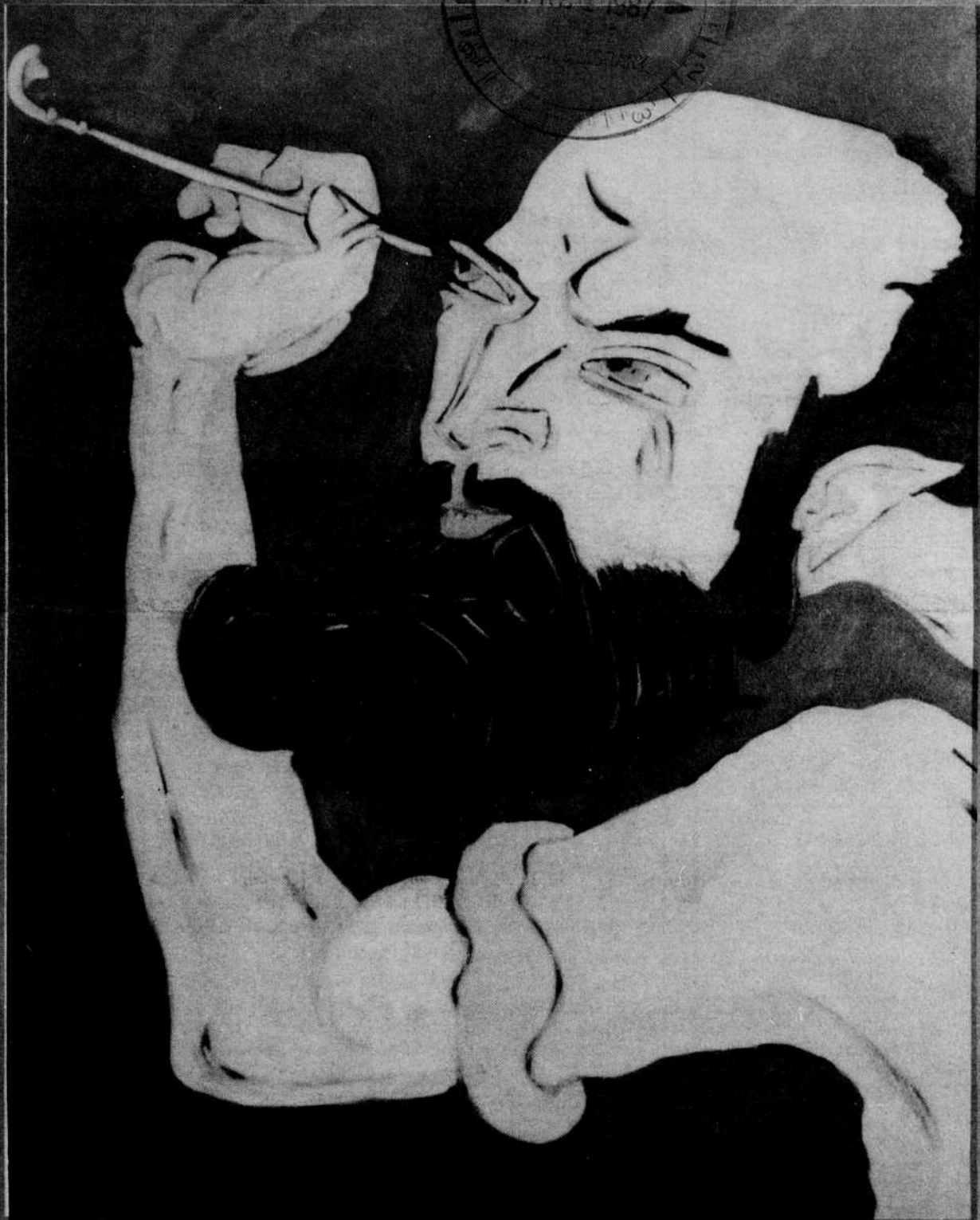
Another fundraiser coming up before Jackson's trial is a contra dance on May 2. The Eugene Folklore Society, of which Jackson has been an active member for many years, sponsors the dance, with live music at Colin Kelly Middle School. No cover charge. All dances will be taught.

Jackson's work shows strong influence from Fauvism and from German expressionist painters. Several of his canvases also were inspired by the late nineteenth century French photographer Nadar, and by the works of E.J. Bellocq. The first thing which strikes a viewer, though, is how Jackson's canvases seem the work of a person who deeply loves the richness of life.

When arrested by FBI agents at his home in Eugene, Jackson made national headlines. Although he has since legally assumed the name of Terry Jackson, he was formerly Silas Bisell, wanted by the federal government and the state of Washington on charges stemming from an alleged bomb plotting, in a building on the University of Washington campus. The alleged act was during early morning hours, and it was at the height of the Vietnam War.

Bisell and his former wife, Judith, were arrested, jailed, then went underground while awaiting trial after Bisell's father provided bail money. Judith Bisell surfaced in Houston in 1977 and served time. Jackson is now out on bail after his January 20 arrest, after 16 days in jail, and after four Christians pledged their property as security for his release.

During the fugitive years, Bisell managed to earn two



Photograph by Cynthia Bulinski

more college degrees, pursued a career as physical therapist, and firmly established himself in our community. Those who knew him before his arrest seemed uniformly surprised that such a respected community member might be connected to a crime against property, and that he had successfully eluded the FBI for 17 years. Many who didn't know Jackson before, but who learned of him through the media, feel a natural curiosity about him.

On April 14, I interviewed Jackson at his Eugene home, which he shares with Shirley Atwood. We first met about two years ago, through a mutual friend, when my partner and I had a booth at Saturday Market. "Pogo," as I knew him, like many of our friends, came by the booth now and then. We had some good conversations, none of which were about politics. We spoke of art, and life, and spiritual and philosophical considerations. I was surprised to learn of his arrest, for my acquaintance seemed so conscious a human being. I asked myself if it weren't his very consciousness which

drove him to the alleged political action. His life brings to question the amount of dissent a democracy will allow.

When talking to Pogo before his arrest, I always was impressed at his tremendous knowledge and awareness of so many fields. Most importantly, it was always a pleasure talking to him because he listened well, too. The night of the interview, I was newly impressed, this time with the quality of his art work and his literary ability, the latter obvious in a poem he shared with me. The man has so many depths.

Terry is a very unassuming person, naturally reticent about his personal life and quite reluctant to speak of any details pertaining to his pending legal case. After showing me some bold and vividly rendered oil paintings which will be in his show, we settled into his kitchen for our talk. Terry sat at a simple table, which was overloaded with the work occupying his "free" time. (Since 1981 he has been a physical therapist at Sacred

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