

Alastair Beattie

'Everybody Likes Jello'

Editor's note: Alastair Beattie is a writer for Northwest Review, a tri-yearly literary magazine published at the University.

The members of Morris Yarowsky's Visual Semantics II class were asked to bring something of value to the plaza outside the art building complex at the University Thursday.

It was decided during class discussion that each person should bring some object upon which he placed value in order to destroy it at the plaza.

The object was to gain insights into contemporary destructive and self-destructing art. The building of igloos in warm climates, dust sculpture and body painting are all examples of this genre.

In the gray afternoon, the class gathered as planned. Posters had been printed and posted so there was a crowd of spectators (approximately 100) milling about. One of the class members acted as emcee and called attention to each event.

A girl spread a red soapy substance on her face and shaved off an eyebrow. Later she commented that she wanted to show that beauty was only skin deep and other than that she did it for fun.

Not Afraid to Kill

A man placed a gold fish in an aluminum mixing bowl from a polyethylene bag and then poured approximately a quarter cup of table salt into the bowl. He said facetiously that he was an American and was not afraid to kill anything including women and children.

Later a man came out of the crowd and with a concerned air removed the goldfish from the mixing bowl. He placed it back into the polyethylene bag and carried it back into the building to revive the fish with fresh water. The man who had brought the goldfish to destroy made no move to stop him.

One man produced several bundles of color slides and proceeded to drive a large spike through the center of each bundle. He then tossed them into the air after removing them from the spike.

Another man with a movie camera approached him when he was finished and offered him several feet of undeveloped film which he removed from his camera saying that it was a filmic record of the event and then adding that the film was exposed.

Meanwhile a large black polyethylene balloon approximately 15 feet square was being inflated

on the roof on an adjacent building. Eventually it began to move along the roof as though there were someone inside.

It was then tossed off the edge into the crowd below. This created a moment of potential violence and there was a certain amount of fear in the crowd. One was reminded of the collapse of bleachers which was photographed at the Indianapolis 500 road race several years ago.

Crowd Couldn't Get Away

It was impossible for the entire crowd to move away quickly enough and some people were engulfed by the black polyethylene which was immediately rolled to the perimeter of the crowd, lodged in an adjacent fountain and deflated.

A man stood on a chair and threw a large cake onto the ground. It smashed but remained in a cardboard box which had surrounded it and was immediately pounced upon by the crowd who stuffed fistfuls of it into their mouths.

Other events included a bag of jello which was thrown from a roof top as someone yelled "everybody likes jello," a television which was smashed loudly with a sledge hammer, a clay sculpture which was jumped upon by a man who first donned a crash helmet for effect, and a dope pipe smashed by a hammer.

A chair's seat was perforated by nails from the underside by a man under the instructions of a girl who stated that she was having someone else do her work as many contemporary artists do.

An alarm clock was smashed as it rang, at length burning up while still ringing. There were other events, most of which could be considered less spectacular.

Destructive Creation

One of the spectators stated she realized that destruction was in some way part of a creative process but was not clear as to its specific function. Another said she could not understand how anybody could destroy something that they considered to be of value.

The crowd was for the most part subdued and self-conscious. When someone mentioned that there was laxative in the cake which was thrown down, a groan of disgust escaped the lips of a well-dressed girl.

Towards the end of the occasion, a fire hose was turned onto the crowd from a third story window. The crowd found it necessary to run for cover in order to avoid the deluge. It was difficult to determine whether the hosing was initiated by a class member or not.

Circuit Court to Decide Legal Parking Policy

A case to decide whether the University has the right to collect fines from students violating campus parking rules will be heard in Lane County Circuit Court at 10 today.

Paul Nolte, a University law student, has brought suit against the University, contending the present parking policy violates Oregon Revised Statute 352.360.

Under this law, the University is empowered to make parking rules, but not to punish those who break the rules. According to Nolte, the University has been punishing violators — by taking fines from a student's general deposit — and this is illegal.

The University, through its system of student courts, has recognized the questionable legality of its fine collecting practices before.

Last year, student traffic court added a provision to its rules allowing court members to relinquish jurisdiction in a parking case to the district court.

But all three district court

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judges here have refused to hear University parking cases because they question the legality of the state law.

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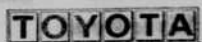
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The Last Hurrah

The University Theatre's production of Jean-Claude van-Itallie's satire "America Hurrah" has been held over for two extra performances this Friday and Saturday. These performances have already been sold out by advanced sales.

Because the actors are starting rehearsals for "Romeo and Juliet," further performances of "America Hurrah" will not be held.

Three of the 12 performances to date have been sellouts, while the other nine performances were near sellouts with an average of only seven vacant seats.

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- 6:30 Huntley-Brinkley
- 7:00 Guten Tag (Repeat)
- 7:30 Nursing Education
- 8:00 Appalachia; Rich Land, Poor People (Repeat)

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