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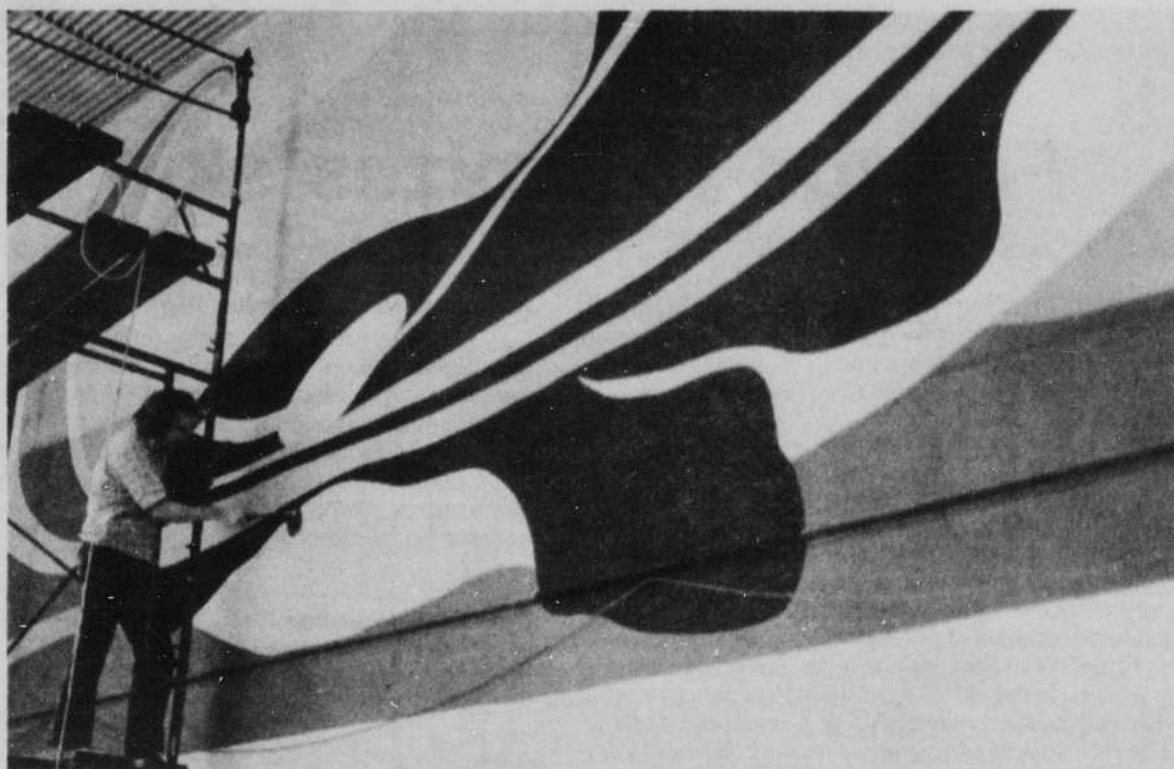


Photo by Tonya Houg

Leighton's killer whale mural sparks no fear of devourment

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald

Swimmers at Leighton Pool will have to watch
out for the pool's latest addition — a killer whale.

But this whale is not likely to devour any students. It is part of an 88-foot long mural begun last Wednesday by the art department. "I've been trying to get something like this mural for seven years," said Jim Willis, pool director. "It's just beautiful."

Willis calls the whale "my mural" and claims full credit for its production. "Last quarter during practice I spotted an art class sitting on the bleachers drawing swimmers," he said. "I ran over and told the teacher I wanted a mural for one of my walls, and we set up production."

Cheryl Bowers, the art teacher in charge of the project, said the mural is only about one-fourth completed. At present, the whale, done in black and white against a blue water background, covers the top one-fourth of the pool's shallow-end wall. The rest of the design, according to Bowers, is still a mystery.

"We want the mural to be a surprise," she said. "It adds to the final effect."

Bowers describes the tone of the painting as "eastern." The mural is not planned to cover the entire wall, she said, because of coming changes on the lower half, which would disturb the painting.

All of the work on the mural is done by Bower's

class, which meets three times a week to do the painting. The whale was finished in a matter of days; however, Bowers said it will be four to five weeks before the rest of the mural is completed.

The subject for the mural was also decided by students. "All I told them was that I didn't want swimmers," said Willis. "We see enough swimmers around here already without having them on the walls." Bowers said her class thought the whale would make an interesting subject.

In real life the male killer whale averages 31 feet in length, making the Leighton whale seem comparatively small. It has 40 to 50 large teeth and is capable of attacking almost anything in water, including other whales. It is one of the few species of whales not presently on the endangered species list.

Willis said the mural is part of his overall plan to brighten up the pool area.

"When I came here seven years ago this place was just gray," he said, gesturing toward the pool walls. "I put up all these slogans and banners."

"It was a lot of work getting people together. Even after I had gotten the class to do the work, I had to get the scaffolding and order the paint. I didn't even try to get consent from the physical plant because I knew they wouldn't get things going until next year," Willis said.

Student reaction to the project has been good, according to Willis. "My mural is something everybody can enjoy, not just swimmers," he said. "We need more of this type of thing all over the school."

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Heating prices double by '85

WASHINGTON (AP) — You may think your home heating bill this winter is too high, but the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) predicts it will nearly double by 1985.

Most of the increase will be due to inflation, the FEA said Wednesday, forcing prices up some 58.4 per cent.

On top of that, the FEA estimated that residential energy prices — a weighted average of natural gas, fuel oil, electricity and motor gasoline — will increase an estimated 24 per cent.

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