

Hearts on display for Valentine's Day

Not much is known about the real St. Valentine but Tom Prevost, junior, has found some of the flavor of Valentine's Day at the Northside Gallery.

The gallery, located across Franklin Boulevard on the bike path, is celebrating the spirit of St. Valentine with a "multi-media" Valentine celebration" through the 22nd.

Six artists are participating in the show which includes metal sculpture, ceramics, weaving and various art forms. Prevost is examining a cloth heart enclosed in a glass and wood box.

Legend has it that St. Valentine was martyred in Rome about 270 A.D. Some say he was a priest or bishop whose crime was performing illegal marriages.

The story goes that Valentine, while being held in prison, became friends with his jailer's daughter. On the eve of his execution he thanked her for her kindness in a note he signed "Your Valentine." Thus was born the tradition of exchanging such notes on Valentine's Day.



Photo by Keith Allen

Vampires

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peal. They may use teeth, razor blades, or syringes to get blood.

A large number of vampires, Kaplan believes, sublimate their blood lust into socially acceptable practices. These closet vampires satisfy their needs "through boxing, bull fights, cockfights, or watching verbal vampires, like William F. Buckley who tear people apart with words. This offers a psychological satisfaction," he says.

Today the vampire finds it easier to get away with kills, Kaplan believes, because of contemporary conveniences. "With modern transportation, a vampire can be hundreds of miles away from the kill in a matter of hours. Unless a large number of bodies disappeared in one area at a given time, no one would suspect." This may be why the modern vampire hasn't been discovered, Kaplan says. He attributes animal murders in the Midwest and the disappearance of 15,000 gallons of blood from a New York blood bank to vampires or blood cults.

The agency refused to release the names of any vampires for fear they will be persecuted or put on mailing lists. However, Kaplan will describe cases. "There is a female vampire in Oregon for example," he says, "who drinks sexual blood. What a way to go."

Kaplan has been criticized for watching vampires drink human blood and for sleeping in a coffin. He says its all part of understanding the psychology of his subject. "It isn't our position to condemn them," he says, "just to observe it

isn't illegal to be a vampire." Kaplan says some people mistake him for a vampire. "I'm a vampirologist, not a vampire, he says. "It isn't contagious."

Before Kaplan admits the existence of a vampire, he goes to his clients lair, converses with it, and often watches it drink human blood. This can be dangerous. "We get death threats every day," he says. "I never go out on a case alone, and we always check to make sure it isn't a set up. I don't mind a ceremony as long as I'm not the main subject."

Since 1970 the vampire has become a popular fictional character in books such as "Interview with a Vampire" and "Satan's Lot," and movies such as "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." Kaplan, who served as technical adviser for the play "The Passion of Dracula" criticizes these books and movies for inaccuracies and sensational use of a serious topic. "For example," he says, "there's a comedy out this spring: 'Love at First Bite.'

"I have a sense of humor, but if you'll pardon the expression, we're staking our reputation and research on our conclusions. What they do as science fiction we do as reality."

Vampires of the future may have relief from social persecution, Kaplan believes, with the popularization of synthetic blood. "In time the vampire will be able to buy his blood just like a diabetic buys insulin," he says, "And the vampire won't have to hide any more."



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Review targets librarian

University Provost Paul Olum has appointed a committee to gather information for a review of the performance of Dean H. William Axford as University Librarian.

The committee consists of Gerald Bogen, Robert Harris, Holway Jones, Daniel Kimble, Albert Kitzhaber, Rayburn McCready, Ryoko Toyama and Luise Walker. Chair is Charles Wright.

A letter sent to all faculty, GTF's and library classified staff is soliciting information for the review. Other persons wishing to contribute to the review are encouraged to write to Wright, in care of the Provost's office by Feb. 23.