

Personality Profile

Bonds Continued from Page 30C

used in classes just to see them in person.

Bonds said she does most of what she does because of her love for the theater and the arts, a love she said is apparently not shared by many.

"It seems to me that in the United States, the arts are not treasured," she explained. "There are a small elite group of people who recognize theater and recognize art, and support it and want it to continue."

"But my impression is that a majority of Americans are more interested in making money, big business, self advancement, right clothes, right car, right house and sports.

"I mean, you're never going to see a costume designer get

paid what Mike Tyson gets paid, right?" she joked. Bonds said it is increasingly difficult for young actors, actresses and artists to find their artistic self in such a society which is prevalent today.

"(It's almost impossible) for someone to find the artistic self in a society where that is not valued, it's edited out from the time when we're children," she said.

Bonds said such problems are caused by budget cuts in support for the arts.

"The recent controversy between Congress and money for the National Endowment for the Arts," she said. "It's just terrifying for them to say if we don't like your art then we're

going to reduce your budget by that much when the budget for NEA is so miniscule compared to the budget for defense."

Bonds also has heard the excuse in support of defense over art, but she said the focus is important. If one focuses on the human spirit, enlightenment and understanding, there would not be a need for defense, she said.

"This is one of the things I tell myself in my work because there is that part of me that says I should join the Peace Corps and go out to do my bit for humankind," she said. "But I also feel what I'm doing is Peace Corps for the soul, Peace Corps for the spirit. Theater can be a learning experience."

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