

ARTS

Artist gambles in marketing art

By D. Dietrich
Of The Print

As Einstein flunked grade school math, artist Chip Lais flunked his high school drawing class. Now Lais is attempting to make a living with his unique style of drawing. With thousands of minute dots, Lais is able to create subtle dimensions and shadowing on the subjects he recreates from photographs.

Working in his Molalla home, Lais only recently began working on portraits he said. At a friend's request, he ventured from the more natural themes ("I like trees a

work from. Also an amateur photographer, Lais said he likes the photography part the best. After the photograph is made, the drawing board is where he literally "fills in the dots."

Lais works part-time in the print shop at the Clackamas Community College but spends much of the rest of his time working on his art and trying his hand at marketing his designs. The market isn't always an easy one to make a name in and Lais is finding problems in circulating his work.

Breaking into the art market

you get someone to sponsor you- to get your name out," Lais said. He said he found that he was spending more on the gallery work than he was getting back.

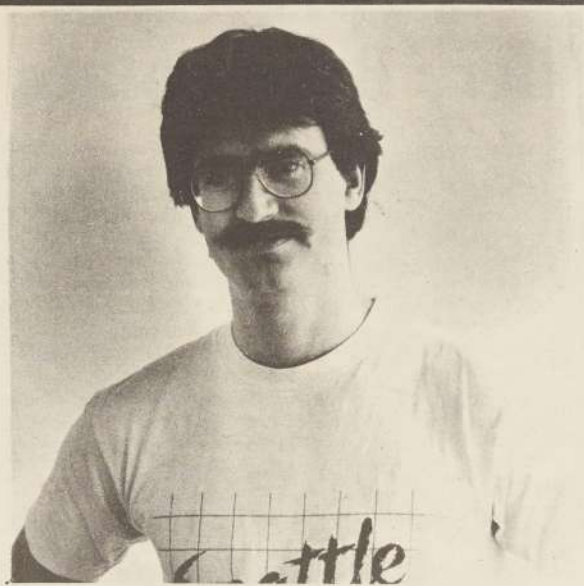
Lais said he spends approximately 5 hours on a typical portrait but can easily spend more time as the detail increases.

He works for what is a low hourly charge for the artistic market, at \$12.50 an hour, time is money. With a second child due in August, time is something Lais can't afford to waste.

Lais has been supplementing his part-time income with an assortment of projects for friends and fellow artists. Supplying the illustrations for an upcoming book of poetry by Joanne Stevens Sullivan, a student at the College is one such project. He has also designed stationary, t-shirt designs and company logos.

Lais recently won a competition held for a design he entered as a logo for the Garden Show held at the coliseum. As often is the case, Lais said the best of the five designs submitted was not the winning entry.

Lais hasn't had much formal education in the art field, but believes "the work should speak for itself." He plans to return to school next fall and take classes at Portland Community College in advertising, art and business. He commented on the high quality of the Graphic Process class that Kevin Forney teaches at the College and said that it helped him learn short cuts used in commercial art.



Artist Chip Lais works part-time in the print shop at the College. His printing experience adds to a comprehensive knowledge of art production.

Influence from other artists is important to one's own style, Lais said. "The essence of art you get studying other people. You build your own style from influences, otherwise you'll stagnate." Lais said. Although he didn't study technique in school, Lais said he has been drawing since he was a kid. He credited his inspirations originating from underground comic books, namely Robert Crumb who is noted for his 'Keep on Truckin' poster, and other "perverted publications", Lais said with a grin.

Working at home, the only tools Lais uses for his intricate

designs and portraits are a homemade drawing table, technical pens and pencils. And while that's all he requires for his work right now, Lais hopes someday to work into color artwork. Lais is up against a saturated market, as are most new artists.

Although he would like to land a job as an in-house artist for a company, now Lais is interested in a wide variety of free-lance jobs. With a strong dedication and about half his paycheck going to art supplies, Lais admits the future is risky. "I'm a gambler right now," he said seriously, "I'm gambling that it will pay off."



Art by Chip Lais

lot") he usually drew to making portraits for several friends.

Lais begins by photographing his subjects and picking the best shot to

is a problem for many beginning artists, and Lais found that submitting work to galleries wasn't the best way to get his name around. "You can't really survive in galleries until

Student art exhibit underway

By Shelley Ball
Of The Print

"It's a pretty diversified kind of show," Les Tipton, art instructor said in regards to this year's Student Art Show, which will be on display from May 23 to June 4 at Clackamas Community College.

On display in the upstairs lobby of the Art Center and the Pauling Center Gallery beginning May 23 will be metal, wood and clay sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, paintings, drawings, basic design and commercial art works and other wood and metal projects.

The exhibit is an annual event for the College's Art Department and will feature works of art from between 50 and 70 College student artists.

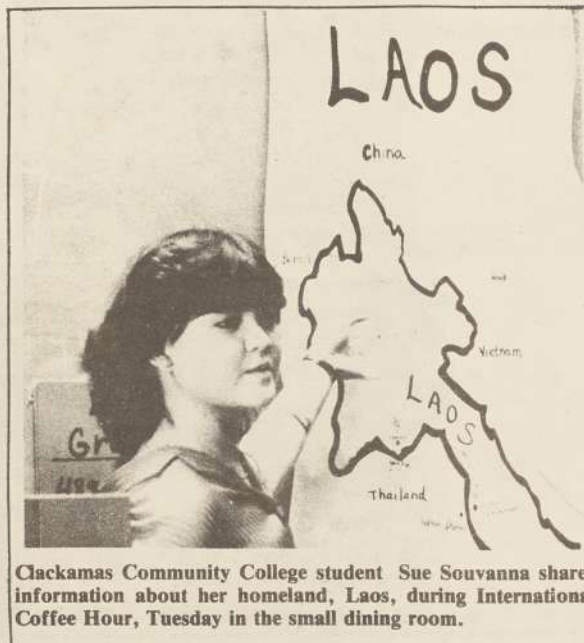
In addition to the exhibit and its opening reception, which will be from 7-9 p.m. May 23, the Art Department will be holding an end-of-the-year celebration earlier that day.

"It's (exhibit) just a nice thing to show the capability of the students at the College," Tipton said. Organized by art students and their instructors, the students will be involved in setting up the exhibit on Tues-

day and Wednesday in preparation for opening night Thursday.

As for the show itself, Tipton said there will be a "tendency for more abstraction to be involved, (and) the human figure will be displayed quite a bit." Some of this abstract work will be in the form of paintings.

There is the possibility some of the work on display will be for sale. Tipton said anyone interested in purchasing any art work should try to contact the student artist at the Art Department at 657-8400, ext. 386.



Clackamas Community College student Sue Souvanna shares information about her homeland, Laos, during International Coffee Hour, Tuesday in the small dining room.

