Sculpture's alteration disrupts gallery opening

By Cathy Nabity

The controversial alteration of a sculpture constructed under the direction of the Rev. Lee Lubbers, S.J., marred the gallery opening of the annual Faculty Art Show.

The opening for the show, which will continue through March 17, was held Feb. 20 at 8 p.m.

The artists whose works are featured in the show were present at the opening. They include Bob Boscoc; the Rev. Michael Flecky, S.J.; Joan Frost; the Rev. Jonathan Haschka, S.J.; Jerry Hornig; Vicki Lockshak; Lubbers, and John Thein.

"One of the most interesting occurrences at the opening was the spontaneous alteration of the large sculptural conceptual work by Father Lubbers," said Roger Aiken, director of the gallery.

Immediately after Lubbers left the gallery, Aiken and performing arts technical director Tom Mazur helped disassemble Lubbers' sculpture in reaction to what he interpreted as a philosophical statement by him. Aiken said that Thein and former Creighton student Cliff Dossill also contributed.

Lubbers said he instructed about 10 students from his General Sculpture Radio and Contemporary Sculpture classes to construct the sculpture in 12 hours on Tuesday morning, Feb. 19.

They were given wooden boards and other materials to put together any way they wanted and were allowed to add whatever they wanted, such as wire, a water faucet and a Budweiser beer can.

Arts sophomore Anna Garcia said, "In class last week we were given wood and to do with it whatever we wanted."

Lubbers said he did not see his sculpture until the gallery opening Wednesday night.

"We interpreted this as a statement of dadaistic philosophy that 'the motivation is the art. The artist's contribution was to provide the motivation to put it together. The viewers should be motivated to reverse that and to take it apart.'"

"Dada!"

Arts sophomore Jim Flemming, who helped construct the sculpture, attended the opening. He said he approached Mazur while he was destroying the piece and asked him why he was doing it. "All he said was 'Dada!,'" Flemming said. "I was shocked and insulted that they took apart our work and I don't really understand why it happened."

Aiken, who teaches art history, said, "We acted in the tradition of Marcel Duchamp, the great dada artist of the 20th century, who thought that senseless art should be destroyed."

"It is the nature of this type of work to be altered by the audience. The sculpture demanded ongoing alteration, so we grabbed hammers and went to it. We hope it is well taken," Lubbers said.

"The work was characteristic of all the artists, but Haschka's style is very new for him," said Aiken.

Haschka, who teaches sculpture, shaped and used computer parts and medical instruments into slightly distorted, but very eye-catching, figures of a man and a woman. He said he salvaged some computer parts that Lubbers had discarded and some hospital instruments, such as "rib spreaders, knee joints and two pacemakers," to create his untitled sculpture.

"Looked like fun"

"I saw the junk lying around and making something out of it looked like fun," he said.

Thein, who teaches printmaking, is displaying intricately composed prints made with watercolor, ink and pencil. He said that his prints are "all life-size and contain human figures in an abstract design" to enhance the one-on-one effect of the art on the viewer.

One of Thein's unique prints, Night Sun V, is the union of two different works that, he said, did not individually satisfy him.

"The final product represents different thought patterns at different times to create an unexplainable image," he said. Hornig's double wall ceramic pots are nearly perfect.

"I pay attention to both the outside shape and the inside because when you look at the outside you get one feeling, and when you look at the inside you should get another," he said.

Boscoc, who teaches drawing and painting, is displaying watercolors that he made five years ago and black and white photos.

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Former reporter blasts news media

By Jim Flanery

The news media have become too powerful, and consumers are responsible for putting a halt to the abuses brought on by this power, according to former Omaha World-Herald and wire service reporter Steve Kline.

Kline, who now works in Creighton's public relations and information office, told a group of students and faculty that "the news media, first and foremost, have their own interests at heart." He labeled the news media a "wealthy, arrogant and powerful institution."

Kline said consumers need to help the media recognize its shortcomings. In addition, Kline said he believes community action groups can put pressure on the media to reform.

Much of the responsibility for reform lies within the industry itself according to Kline. He said the media ought to be more up front in admitting they aren't so noble.

"Reporters and broadcasters need to lighten up," Kline said at the Feb. 20 lecture. He said he believes reporters would do better if they would go out and live in the world on which they say they are reporting.

"There's no way a reporter can get everything right," Kline said. A big weakness of the news media he said, is that they don't admit this.

Kline cited the factors which lead to inaccurate reporting: technological advances and competition. Kline said information is hitting the editors so fast they don't have time to make sound decisions.

Intense efforts to be the first to break with a story have led to "fierce, vicious, backstabbing competition," Kline said. "Sales will take priority over accuracy," he said.