

"A true artist is a rare, rare bird..."
— Edmund Vance Cooke



MEGAN'S SR SHOW SMASH HIT



TAKES NOTICE IN COMMUNICATOR

Communications

Operator is an artist

(Champaign)—Megan Jackson, part-time operator, is drawing some attention in her community. A University of Illinois art student, she is preparing for a one-woman show of her oil and acrylic paintings and lithographs. It's taking place at the McKinley Foundation, a university-affiliated religious center in Champaign, from February 24-March 8. The exhibit is entitled "Pages in the Diary Of..." and, as Jackson says, expresses "realistic representations of life as seen through the eyes of a woman."

Last year at this time, Jackson's works won top honors at another university art show. Out of approximately 100 entries, only 20 ribbons were given—two of which went to Jackson. "What made that so exciting was that it was judged by some notable artists," she says.

Joe Geringer

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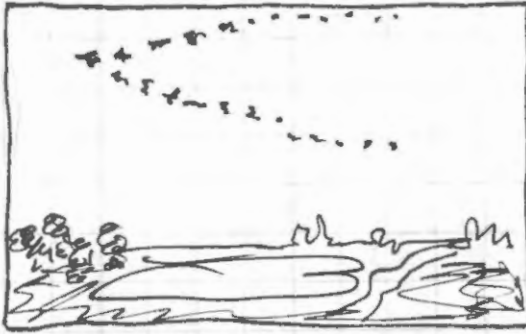
Champaign It was a grand day at the McKinley Foundation when Megan Trevor Jackson, clad in black boots and sweater, magenta slacks & shirt with pink tie, pink & magenta thin ribbons in her hair, with long hair pulled to one side, and sporting two dainty pale green orchids with speckled lips, a gift from Gram & Grandpa Dougau, opened her SENIOR ART SHOW! There were 17 pictures on display, mostly oils, mostly in bright colors, mostly with a hint (or more) of humor. The many guests (including a contingent from Springfield, & Phil & Corly & Morris Koplow from Kentucky) all felt GOOD looking at Megan's paintings. The artist was prevailed upon to lead tours and comment upon her work. One of U. of I.'s best painters & painting teachers, Audrey Ushenko, commented on Megan's art most favorably to her mother & others, & expressed the hope that MTS would continue to graduate school. Several paintings, previously sold, were on loan for the exhibit: "It's A Beautiful Day", from Carol Dell; "TOIF" and "Unidentified Floating Object" from Jacqueline Jackson; "Graduation Pictures" from Jess & Barb Lewis, and "Vanity" from an art student friend. MTS sold several paintings during the show. It was hard to decide which pictures were the most popular: Perhaps "Graduation Pictures" which showed the line-up of all the 6th graders at DePeyster School in 1966, including "me" with eyes, of course, shut. Perhaps "It's a Beautiful Day" with its view of a grieving girl, head first, and all the strength of the grief contained in her hands covering her face, a poignant picture with its cheerful room, blue sky and blossoming trees through open windows. The most recurrent theme is water: "TOIF" and "Some Like it Hot" are both bathtub scenes; "Frog" shows a girl at play in a stream like the pot-hole near the Vt. Cottage, "Unidentified Floating Object" is a girl reading in an inner tube; "Jello" shows a swimmer underwater; "What I Did on my Summer Vacation" shows a girl asleep before a lake. "Babe Goes Swimming" & "Call You Travel Agent" are the same lithograph, but the latter in four colors. Jackson has a talent for catching people in odd poses: the most unusual being the swimmer in Jello: with the rhythm of the arms & legs, and with the head sandwiched between the opposing curves of the buttocks and the breasts. Some people detected social comment in the "Snowscape with Figure", a black man studying a snowman. "Cave Painting # 3" has a jaunty nude perched among the stalagmites & stalactites, and the casual observer wonders what she is doing there.

In addition to all the paintings, the guests had an ample buffet to make them happy, and a centerpiece of white & yellow mum plants (from Gram & Grandpa) tucked among several of Megan's plants, who wanted to come to the party too. A punch of cranberry juice & cranberry sherbet was also served.



From a 2nd or 3rd grade (1st?) arithmetic paper of Megan's, the culmination of a page of apples & oranges. Confronted the teacher, "Such fancy drawings!" Note how even arithmetic drawings tell a story, cast a mood! Note the pathetic rejectee.





GEESE FLY NORTH!
Spfld. On Feb. 18, 19, & 21 JDJ saw and heard large flocks of geese flying North. With temperatures in the 60's on Feb. 22, it is hoped that there will be early spring.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: You asked your readers in Vermont why the Good Samaritan law was passed in our state but never enforced. I think I know the answer. It isn't needed. Let me give you an example.

One afternoon I stopped on the roadside to watch the ever-enchanting spectacle of migrating geese.

Three cars pulled off the road to ask if I needed help.

That's Vermont! Come and visit us sometime. — Burlington Reader

DEAR READER: What a delightful story. Thanks for sharing.

Keene, N.H. A sign at the shoe store: "If your shoes are not ready as promised, we can not be responsible, as we are overburdened with work."

Champaign. Tim Veach's roommate Troy has been discovered to have been only pretending to go to school this entire year. (Troy had a 32 on his AST)

Spfld. A former neighbor of JDJ was murdered recently in Spfld. It so happens that JDJ had in process a book called The House Across the Street, about the dope rehab center which is across the street, & it was to be illustrated with photos. The star was Rose's son, Frankie, along with his little brother Charlie. Now with Rose murdered, the book is in limbo.

Madison A urologist friend of Joe Karl was prevented by his wife from getting Vanity licence plates, 2 P C M E.

EDITORIAL: HOW DO WE LOVE THEM? LET US COUNT THE WAYS

Dear Family & Friends: On May 3 Ronald and Vera Rougan, known as Gram & Gramp, Great Gram & Great Gramp, Mom & Dad, Uncle Ron & Aunt Vera, and possibly other names, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. The Editor of the Empty Nest would like to get out a special edition for this occasion, with contributions from as many of you as write in. Will you send in anecdotes about RAD and VWD (singly or together), your own experience with them, any thoughts you wish to express? To tell everything is of course a large order, but pick out one or two or three things to share. These can be of any sort: funny, serious, etc. Illuminating! If you can write your contribution in black ink (ortype) and try to fit a 1, 2, or 3 column format, we can print you as is. Otherwise the editor will copy. How about the time you & Gram & Gramp all got locked in the cemetery, Cindy? How about when Grampa took you melon stealing, Pete & Jerry? Something from everybody can make the May 3 issue a great one! How about from Walshes, Walsh Kids, anybody? "I remember when" ... Or -- something you appreciate. For instance, I think RAD & VWD have given us an example, all their lives, of generosity, of not being petty. The phrase I have heard RAD say more than once is, "Might as well throw in the towel with the hide." I know all of us have received many hides -- and always with the tail. (Sometimes 2 tails!)

Champaign ART CRITIC REVIEWS SHOW

Ms. Mary Muffet, of Springfield, who knows what she likes, critiqued Megan Jackson's Art Exhibit as follows: "While I enjoyed the showing general I found little to relate to in common experience. All the pictures but one lacked a certain something to make them complete. The exception was "Summer Vacation" where the subject, a small black dog, is nestled in the knees of a sleeping female, on a patchwork quilt. The full nuptial portrayal is especially fine, with a haunting quality to the open eyes. The least successful picture in the show is "Fold-out House", where a complete house is opened out and laid flat, and the parts surrounded by the family: father, mother, brother, sister & neighbor, with a set of clothes for each. Totally omitted is the family dog, a glaring oversight which causes one's initial favorable impression of this large pen & ink drawing to quickly sour. However, "Vacation" holds hope that as this artist matures, she will be choosing her subject matter more sensitively."

Spfld. A Feb. 27 blizzard closed SSU and delivered the ENNL ed. from an irksome 3 1/2 hr. class. Since a snow day rarely coincides with JDJ's classes, she gave this event full holiday

treatment, including working on this issue of ENNL, and a game of Scrabble with part time housemate Karen Fuchs-Beauchamp, who commutes from Champaign. JDJ turned the game into a rout by using all 7 letters on a triple GRAINED, and hooking it onto QUOTE with the R. She finished the game with 395 points, & finished the evening with a half hour's cross country skiing in McClelland school yard next door.



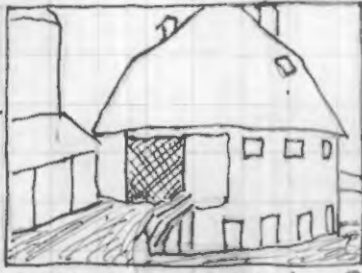
David's biological clock fails him again.



"Sit! ... Sit! ..."

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Spfld The Ed. of the ENNL is happy to announce a special Supplement to this issue, produced by Barbara & Craig Dougan, called Dougan West. It will be sent to all family members plus those who know Craig & Barbara reasonably well (or as many as I can Xerox for.) ENNL lauds this special feature, and urges other readers to do the SAME! Writes Barbara in a cover letter, "The question before you is how can you make two people living in Beaver Creek whose main event of the day is applauding because the rooster crows sound interesting?" Barbara, you've succeeded, and it doesn't even seem as though it were hard! Many many thanks for DOUGAN WEST.



NOW IN ILLINOIS

Somebody fudged that state border up Wisconsin way

BELOIT, Wis. (AP) — Newly discovered documents suggest the Illinois border actually is a few miles north of where it currently appears on the map.

Rock County, Wis., surveyor Don Barnes has discovered 1831 documents that show the real Illinois-Wisconsin border to be north of where it currently is set. If the 1831 survey findings were accepted, several businesses would wind up in Illinois, along with Rock County Clerk Greg Seedfeldt's home and several schools.

Illinois could file a border dispute, which could only be resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court or by Congress, if officials felt the state could benefit from it. But the Illinois attorney general's office, which would file such a suit, isn't commenting on it until it checks on the legality of the documents Barnes discovered.

Assistant Attorney General Bill Schaub said, however, that there could be serious concerns about tax revenues.

"If that state line is wrong (the one in use), what difference does it make? It's been that way for at least 100 years," said Beloit City Manager Herb Holt.

The original surveyor, Lucius Lyon, was stopped by winter weather at the Rock River when he first surveyed the area in 1831, and made the mistake.

KOPLOWS, ENRIGHTS VIS IT

Champaign Both Koplow & Enrights (from Kentucky & Elgin) made it to NTJ's art show, the Enrights, alas, not till the next day. Especially delightful was seeing Morris K. & Seamus & Erin Rose E. Koplow stayed in Spfld & left behind a pillow, pajama top & pair of socks. While there Phil played a tape of his finale for the "Murdered Poets" work, & presented JJD with his first published work, a piano solo called "Card Capers." (Willis Music Co. of Cincinnati.)

DAVID HEGGIE STORY!

Beloit. For those of you spending sleepless nights because of the long-matic headline with no news story in last ENNL, here is relief from your suffering: When

JJD was in 1st grade and David Heggie pre-Kiudergarten, David (who lived next to the schoolyard-Todd) built a fire in the grass, with JJD as an on-looker while waiting for the school taxi. Both David & Jackie got into trouble, but David more so. He grew up living up to his reputation of being a "bad boy" and eventually moved into the country home (on Spring Brook in Turtle Township) of his deceased parents, next door to the bird sanctuary home of Carl & Susan Welty. (The Heggies owned much of the 2-house subdivision, & Dr. Heggie, a dentist, had named the entrance & exit streets, "Deuture Drive" and "Molan Lane.") David, now in his 50's., has spent his time harrassing the Welties, by such tactics as building fires in the night all over their property (he's still apyromaniac) and shooting bullets through their bedroom window. The court, with Ed Grutzner as lawyer, has awarded the Welties \$350,000, but David H. is appealing. Let's pray that he gets his. For non-family readers: Carl Welty is a Beloit College prof, retired, who taught us all ornithology. He & Susan are active in the Ned Hollister Bird Club.

Spfld Recently Jackie Dougan Jackson dreamed about Billy Omland.

RENO From Subscriber Gillian Jackson, about Empty Nest News! "Do you want spelling errors pointed out or would you rather let them slide by?"

Beloit When Pat Dalvit was in Beloit she gave RAD a haircut. Reports Ron, "She even cut a few whiskers off my chimney-chin-chin." News was not available on his ear-hairs or nose-hairs.

MOTHER INTERVIEWED

Champaign When queried about Megan Jackson's early artistic promise Ms. JD Jackson replied, "I knew that Megan had artistic imagination when she showed me a drawing of large puce colored circles & said, "Those are vomit balls. This is a vomit-ball factory."

STILL BEARS GRUDGE

Beaver Creek Dr. R. Craig Dougan, 54, can still work himself into an instant lather whenever he thinks how his complete file of Micky Mouse Magazines disappeared from the Dougan attic. He suspects nephews Jerry & Peter in their early years. "We had no idea then that they'd be valuable," protests VWD. Dr. Dougan plans to carry this grudge to the grave.

LOST THOUGHTS SURFACE

Reno From a visit at least a year ago to Arthur "Skip" Broten's word processing lab at the Desert Research Institute, a pile of papers has surfaced, the result of the ENNL Ed's first experience with a word processor. The Ed. attributes this loss to her Alzheimer's Disease.

HOW NOT TO LOSE THOUGHTS

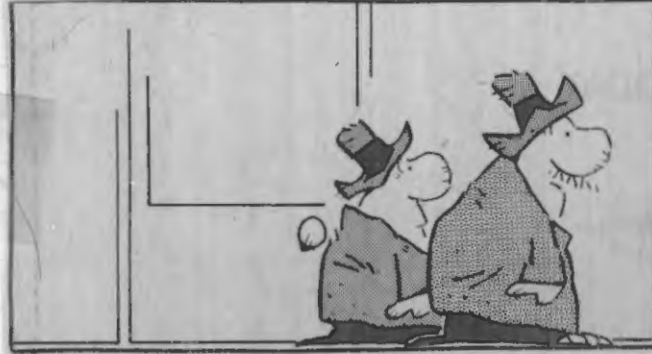
1. Don't have any thoughts, then you don't have any to lose.
2. If you must have thoughts, write them down.
3. Tie them by the tail.
4. Practice mnemonic devices.
5. Don't let them into the computer for they will float out on the void.
6. Use your hand.
7. Use choline and lecithin; avoid aluminum products.
8. I had another thought but I lost it.
9. Thoughts not to lose: this would be terrific for The Empty Nest Newsletter!
10. Now Skip is taking a picture of the editor of ENNL using the word processor. What a toy! I could turn out a fantastic paper with this device!

WAS:

HOW NOT TO LOSE THOUGHTS

1. Don't have any thoughts, then you don't have any to lose.
2. If you must have thoughts, write them down. etc.

WAS: Typed out in a straight line originally. You can alter to any size, in a TWINKLING!! WHAT AN INVENTION, WHAT A BOON TO A NEWSPAPER ED -- OR READER!



DERMOTT, PRENTICE, SMALL
WHITTAKER, WILSON, BALL
PATTERSON, HAYES
GARFINKLE, BAYS
BOLTON, HARCOURT & HALL
A LIMERICK

The Editor of THE EMPTY NEST REGRETS that she is not permitted to PUBLISH certain limericks about certain family members. (to their operations.)

NEWS FLASH: ELLIE TO LONDON!

WILL SPEND 6 MO IN ENGLAND
 Hanover. Word has just been received that J. Ellie Jackson has been accepted into the London Study Abroad program, one of 12 selected out of some 30 applicants. She will spend 6 months in England, starting next September, and plans to visit her friend Norka in Spain. LSA is one of Dartmouth's regular programs. One must be an English Major to apply. We are thrilled, Ellie, and very proud of you!!!

NEWS BRIEFS

Beloit. Completely out of the blue, Ronald Dougan said to Vera, "Who sat in front of you in second grade?" VWD answered without a moment's hesitation, "Hazel Schlein, and she trikkled on the floor. And then she blushed. I'd never seen anyone turn all red before."

Splfld. JDJ's heating bill (natural gas) was higher than her phone bill for mid Dec - mid Jan: \$385. Says Jackson: "I must work harder."



"It's my fault, Officer. The dog should never have been driving!"
 (This joke is dedicated to Buckley Dougan, who hasn't had an accident yet. X Automobile, I.e.)

URSULA LE GUIN USES WATER
 Portland. The ENNL has received word from David Wood, Craig and Barbara's son-in-law, that one of the meters he reads belongs to Ursula Le Guin. "So you see, Aunt Jackie," David writes, "She uses water just like the rest of us."

LOIS HOSTS SPREE

Winchester, IL. Aunt Lois Coultas, (who always gave us each a splendid book for Christmas) is now in her 90's; last fall she decided she wasn't seeing enough of her family and so invited them all to dinner. 55 came! Cousins, nieces, nephews, a sister-in-law, a brother-in-law. A super good time was had by all! Lois, like VWD & RAD, perks along, & is lively as a cricket.

Goat-boy sighted

A military patrol in the mountains above Katmandu reported three bizarre sightings of an amazing goat-boy scampering through the wilderness. The beast was described as having a human head and the body of the goat. It emitted a shrill whistle sound as it scampered through the rocks.

To whom it may concern: the ENNL Ed has lost 10 lbs. and is down to 123 1/2



HINESBURG FLOODED BY DISGRUNTLED TOURISTS
 (by Nantucket correspondent)
 Eager to experience the literary loo of Vermont, two travelers passed several rest areas without passing water. "Off season," muttered Millar as she contemplated the dry toilet. The dilemma was solved by a nature pee that rivaled the high tides of Nantucket.

Mpls. New subscribers, cousins Polly & Sam Mersky, report they both retired in 1983, and have since been wallowing in travel.

Seattle. Rita Bresnahan's new motto, serving February & March, is "Appreciate me now and avoid the rush."

Splfld. A friend, Melody Capaletti, says she was not amused during her childhood by her parents telling people, "Two Catholics using rhythm made a Melody."

leaving for Boston for the funeral of her oldest & dearest friend, Leah-lee-Hiller-Lauenstein, who died of cancer yesterday. She was scheduled to visit in Splfld next week. My heart is broken.

Vacuum cleaner recital: Polished performance

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Sweeping changes in the symphonic world don't faze Marshall University music professors, whose latest recital featured performances on three vacuum cleaners and an electric floor polisher.

The appliances occupied center stage during a performance of "A Grand Grand Overture" written during the 1950s by Malcolm Arnold. Arnold, a London tuba player, dedicated the work to President Herbert Hoover.

The score has been little noticed since the debut of the piece Nov. 13, 1956, at the Hoffmung Music Festival. But it was dusted off Thursday night by four members of Mar-

shall's music faculty who flipped their switches under the conducting baton of concertmaster Richard Lemke.

It was, by all measures, a clean and polished performance by the "Hoover Quartet."

The event featured John Mead on his Sunbeam canister, J.D. Folsom on a Kenmore model 78 and Theodore Heger on a standard Hoover upright. Ben Miller, a percussionist, waxed eloquent on the electric polisher.

Later, Miller was philosophical in triumph.

"All these guys were terribly nervous before the performance, but to me it was just another gig."



9 years ago Monday Bill died. He was the same age as Lee-lee-571.