



# ArtFBI

## ArtFax

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A Faxazine of Arts Information from Cyberspace to the Mid-Atlantic Community

### NATIONAL GROUPS CONDEMN BOOKSTORE ATTACKS

National anti-censorship groups representing booksellers, artists, librarians, writers, religious leaders and educators have denounced a nationwide campaign to force booksellers to stop selling the works of internationally-acclaimed photographer Jock Sturges.


According to a report from the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression; Freedom to Read Foundation; National Campaign For Freedom of Expression; and the National Coalition Against Censorship, the campaign against Sturges, which is being led by Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family and Randall Terry, the former leader of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, has fostered protests at more than 20 bookstores across the country during the past three weeks.

The anti-censorship coalition reports that protestors destroyed copies of Sturges books at stores in New York City, Dallas, Denver, Omaha, Kansas City and Independence, Missouri, and Salem and Beaverton, Oregon. There were four arrests at a bookstore in Dallas after a group of

15 protestors tore up several copies of a Sturges book and refused to leave the store.

Oren Teicher, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, expressed deep concern over the tactics used by the protestors. "The destruction of books is very disturbing. Everybody has a right to protest. That's what the First Amendment is all about. But it does not give people the right to enter a bookstore and deface a book that someone else might want to buy. They are denying other Americans their First Amendment right to decide for themselves what they will see, read and hear."

Jock Sturges is a photographer whose work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Bibliotheque Nationale and many other museums. Sturges is particularly known for his nude photos, which include many depictions of minors.

According to the anti-censorship group, Focus 

on the Family claims that Sturges' photos involve "the exploitation of children and should be prosecuted as illegal child pornography." A Focus on the Family statement urges members to pressure law enforcement officials to prosecute local booksellers who are selling "any Jock Sturges collections."

"By ripping up the books we are insuring that the prosecutors will get them as evidence. And we're destroying the weapon. I mean, these are the tools of child molesters," Terry, whose group is called Loyal Opposition, told a radio interviewer, according to the anti-censorship group. During Terry's tenure as leader of Operation Rescue, the group was known for its aggressive attempts to close abortion clinics.

David C. Mendoza, the executive director of the National Campaign for Free Expression, an organization that promotes artistic freedom, condemned Terry and Dobson. "Once again Randall Terry is using strong-arm tactics to violate the First Amendment rights of the public. Tearing up books in bookstores is like the Nazis burning books in the street. It is a crime against freedom and democracy. Dobson and Terry have made themselves the judge, jury and executioner of artistic freedom," Mendoza said.

Mendoza also quoted a statement that Sturges made during an earlier controversy over his work. "There is no harm or crime in my work just innocence. When innocence is judged obscene, the obscenity

is the eye of the beholder," Sturges said.

"It is especially ironic because for the past two years Focus on the Family has charged us with exaggeration when we talk about banned books," said Judith F. Krug, the director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the executive director of the Freedom to Read Foundation. "What would you call ripping up books?"

For further information, contact any of the following: Oren Teicher, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression 914-591-2665, ext. 267; David Mendoza, National Campaign For Freedom of Expression 202-393-2787; (web site: <http://www.artswire.org/ncfe>) Joan Bertin, National Coalition Against Censorship 212-807-6222; or Judith F. Krug, Freedom to Read Foundation 312-280-4222.

Source: NCFE on Arts Wire

### Doug Rice Defends Blood Of The Mugwump

In article to be published in the **Columbia Daily Tribune**, Doug Rice, author of **Blood Of The Mugwump**, has eloquently responded to a recent attack of his novel on the Senate floor by Senators Helms and Ashcroft.

Rice begins by quoting Helms as saying about Blood of the Mugwump "Whether all this garbage is metaphorical or literal or whatever, I don't



Last month, the influential art journal HIGH PERFORMANCE mailed out its last issue.

"We've had to fold the magazine after 19 1/2 years for financial reasons. The Web site will remain online as an archive, although there are no resources to expand it beyond its present state," Editor in Chief Steve Durland writes by email.

Founded in 1978, High Performance (HP) was a quarterly magazine about the performing, visual and media arts. Since 1992, HP has focused on art in communities, education and activism. The magazine has experienced continued critical success, and in 1994 won the Alternative Press Award for cultural coverage.


ART IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, (API) co-directed by Durland and HP Founding Editor, Linda Frye Burnham, will remain in operation at <http://www.artswire.org/highperf/APIhome.html> API provides an online version of High Performance that makes available selected articles from past issues.

LEGAL ISSUES OF FUNDRAISING AND MARKETING ON THE NET

"Did you know that your web site may be subject to the laws of hundreds of states and countries?" the organizers of ARTS AND CULTURE ON THE NET ask.

"If you solicit donations on the net, did you know that your organization could be subject to numerous state and local charitable solicitation laws? Come to the Arts and Culture on the Net conference to learn how to market and raise funds successfully and legally on the web and protect your own intellectual property at the same time. Prepare for the future now!"

The Full-Day Conference, to be held in Washington, DC on November 19, is sponsored by the American Association of Museums; Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington; McKenna & Cuneo, L.L.P.; Smithsonian Office of the Special Counselor for Electronic Media; and Washington Area Lawyers.

Topics include Fundraising in Cyberspace; 

know, I don't care and I don't want to know." Helms admitted that he had only read a half a page of the book.

Stating that Helms' comment "embodies the pathos of the state of reading in America....A reader retired to an easy chair, comfortably numb, rocking to and fro, expecting every novel to be all that he ever wanted it to be," Rice writes that "The 'garbage' Helms refers to is my novel, BLOOD OF MUGWUMP: A Tiresian Tale of Incest (FC2, Black Ice Books, 1996)."

In the book, Doug, one of the characters and one of the narrators, has incest with his sister, Caddy. Rice comments that the word "incest" terrifies Helms and Ashcroft and asks "Has no one read Faulkner?"

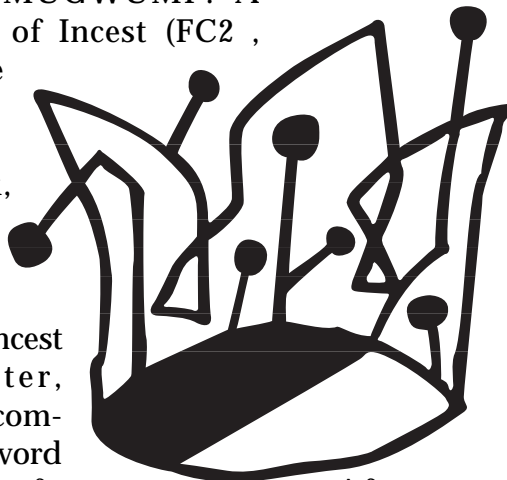
"Caddy," Rice writes "has finally come uncaught and broken through the closed spaces and has begun speaking. Lips bloodied, scarred by the barbed wire of cultural denial. These characters incestuously work within and against literary and cultural histories."

Rice also explains that he did not write his novel while living off a grant nor did he design it in order to create shock to "receive free publicity via the 'endorsement' of Senators bent on destroying diversity."

"I also was not writing 'for' an audience; I was writing writing,"

he says. "That is, I desired to discover language to make speech possible.....Writing this book was difficult; reading it, I would guess, it is also a bit difficult. This language was painful for me to discover, just as living inside the values of an America that forces me to deny my difference, reminds me to hide my difference, is very painful."

Doug Rice can be contacted at Kent State University-Salem 2491 State Route 45 South, Salem OH 44460 Tel: 330-332-3657



Source: As posted on Arts Wire

NEA Survives With \$98 Million For FY98

After an arduous midsummer siege by House Republican leaders, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has survived with an appropriation of \$98 million for next year, close to its current level of \$99.5 million.

"...the conferees have strongly reaffirmed the critical role of the NEA in the lives of American citizens," the Omaha World Herald quotes NEA Chairman Jane Alexander as saying. "I believe that we have turned a corner."

The \$98 million compromise for the NEA was substantially below President Clinton's request of \$136 million for the agency. However, the House bill, passed in July, had practically eliminated funds for the 