

Robert Bateman

'Honesty may offend, but he's a darling'

By LOIS CRAWFORD
Special to The Champion

Robert Bateman did his best to try to offend his audience this week. But it didn't work. He is still the unchallenged 'darling' of the Burlington art world.

Mr. Bateman warned his audience at the Burlington Cultural Centre Monday night that "I'll probably offend everyone here tonight," and that he looked "forward to give and take" after his presentation.

Instead he was only gently reprimanded by one for using European and American artists as his examples. And another queried the reproduction of his paintings as perhaps "vulgarizing" his work.

In answer to the latter, he responded that as long as it makes people happy to be able to own a reproduction of his work, then there is nothing wrong with it. As for signing the prints, it is simply for marketing purposes, as he signs the 1,000 copies of each picture.

At last count, 80 pictures of his have been reproduced, each one putting 950 into the market. Spread out over the world, that is not really a great deal.

Questionable statements that might have been challenged were:

— Abstract art is finished; it was only a historical phenomenon which never touched the public.

— "We've seen the end of progress in art. The best music was written 100 years ago. Could the same be said about art?"

— Women should paint ladies standing outside the church—something they know about." (Women also love nature, know flowers, and experience emotion in a variety of settings!)

Mr. Bateman also threw in a few caustic remarks about public galleries: "I used to be able to go down to the (then) Toronto Art Gallery and see what my contemporaries were doing—work by the Academy painters for instance. Not any more."

He criticized what he called "pot-boiler" art and "kitsch". That's the stuff you see at the Burlington

and in furniture stores. (The big-eyed poppets and dogs).

As for the idea of "the hand of the artist" being involved in art, Mr. Bateman told the 200-odd people that international artists such as Vasarely and Dali and Warhol have all created art without even seeing it.

He said Vasarely sits in his high-rise office in Paris, picks up his phone, calls down to his technicians on another floor, tells the exact dimensions for a print, the number of cubes, the placement, the

color-code number, etcetera; and the print is run. It was discovered that Dali has signed thousands of blank papers so that after his death more copies could be made of his work.

And of course, we all know that Reubens loved to attend parties while his stable of apprentices did the actual painting. Reubens signed his name when it was finished.

Warhol effected the ultimate in "hands-off" art,

when, as Mr. Bateman tells it, the artist ordered cartons of a certain size from a container company. He then had pictures of Brillo pads blown up to fit the oversized cartons, instructed them to be put on the boxes and shipped directly to the gallery in New York where the show was to be. He never saw them first! A true story? Could be.

The point he was making was that as long as it is the artist's idea, it doesn't matter.



ROBERT BATEMAN

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Mountain Union W.I. Quilt blocks

On March 24, 1982, Mrs. Don Taylor welcomed the members of Mountain Union WI to their beautiful rural estate. The president, Marjorie Powys, thanked Hazel Bundy, Edna Waldie and Helen Jones for the attractive quilt blocks with their fine stitching. Reminders were given to Winnie Harbottle, Laura Dixon, Lillian Farlow, Anne Drew and Marjorie Powys attending the workshops on Home Repairs. Mrs. Anne Drew presented an inspiring motto.

Mrs. Anne Drew, reporting on citizenship and world affairs, discussed the unemployment situation in Canada and the importing of skilled trades. Mrs. Cora Wrigglesworth, education convener, commented on the proposed closing of Campbellville School and the advantages and desirability of young children in the early grades attending a community school. Ruth Taylor warned about the bank inspector scam which continues. Winnie Harbottle reported on safety and the unemployment commission and Marjorie Powys on the highlights of the district board meeting. A letter and donation from Velma Kennedy were received and her continuing loyalty much appreciated.

Mrs. May Bell, volunteer from Halton Women's Place told how the planning began in 1970 and the hostel opened in 1980. Since that time, it has been used by 195 women not counting almost 400 children. She explained that violence is learned—most men who abuse their wives and children grew up in a violent and abusive atmosphere. Helen Jones graciously thanked the speaker and presented her with a booklet of Laura Dixon's poems. Two of these same booklets are going to the Canadian Federated Women's Institutes meeting in Fredericton this summer.

Edna Waldie and Marjorie served refreshments. The annual meeting will be held the evening of April 28 at the home of Marjorie Powys.



It's still handy

Barry Stanley, second from left, of King St., Milton was the winner of a \$500 snow blower. The machine was the first prize in a contest sponsored by the Halton-Burlington Provincial Liberal Association recently. From left to right, Don Heath, director of finance, Mr. Stanley, Julian Reed, Halton MPP and Al Wilson, president of the association.

GIVE A PLEDGE...PLANT A TREE



HELP SUPPORT TREES FOR CANADA (MILTON BOY SCOUTS)

When a Scout, Cub or Venturer calls, give him your pledge. Your contribution will sponsor him on tree-planting day on May 1. At Sixteen Valley Conservation Area. About 6,000 young trees will be planted on your behalf to improve and conserve the ecology of our community and the future resources of our country. Each boy plants approximately 50 trees.

Notice: The Trees for Canada project is in addition to the Scouts' monthly paper drive, held the third Saturday morning of each month. We care about our ecology... please care enough to support us generously. Thank you.

You and Your Child

Volunteers

Volunteers—what would we do without them?

Since this is Volunteer Recognition Week, I would like to devote my column to the volunteers who serve the Children's Aid Society so well. Our volunteers bring an added dimension to our work that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Society's staff to duplicate.

To our clients, the volunteers represent the community, and the extended family that so many of them have lost, and are often able to break through the defensiveness and resistance that can sometimes exist between clients and social workers.

For instance, our case aides are able to help reduce our clients' isolation by providing friendship and support; often teaching them life skills or child management skills.

In addition, our volunteers provide a variety of other services to the Society, and the quantity of the service that they provide us is tremendous.

In an average month, 105 of our 135 volunteers will work in 165 client centered assignments, plus doing 250 drives. This represents approximately 2,000 hours of work, which would take at least 14 full time staff people to replace.

Most of our volunteers wear more than one hat; for example, many of our case aides also work as volunteer brothers or sisters, or as tutors to client children.

Beside the tasks already mentioned, our volunteers do work with mothers' and Children's groups, home studies for both the adoption and foster care departments, community education, parental relief, and driving our clients to and from a variety of appointments. Our drivers, many of them retired persons, provide us an invaluable service, driving every day of the week, and in the evening hours as well. In an average month, the number of miles driven by our drivers will exceed 12,000.

We at the Children's Aid Society feel that our volunteers are truly a special group of people, who deserve much of the credit for the success of our programs.

Tender Course attracts

A recently completed introductory course on the Baha'i faith (held at Milton Public Library, March 17/24/31) attracted a good number of interested individuals each evening.

The first evening Terry Spratt, a recent high school teacher and instructor on comparative religions, gave the audience an interesting look at the Baha'i faith's teachings and their relevance to today's world. Douglas Martin spoke the second evening on the dramatic history of this relatively new world faith (in its 137th year). The last evening hosted Dr. David Smith, who spoke about the very positive forces leading mankind to world unity. Tapes are available on all three talks on request from the spiritual assembly of the Baha'is of Milton.

Tender changed

Regional councillors have taken away a tender award given to an Oakville auto dealer.

Council last week approved awarding a tender for a propane-powered pick-up truck to Georgetown Chrysler rather than to McCallum-Wilson Motors Ltd., as recommended by the administration and finance committee.

GREAT GETAWAY WEEKEND
MAY 28, 29, 30
(Friday Night Departure)
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

\$129 (twin acc.)

- return deluxe coach
 - tour of Hyland Park (world's largest floral display)
 - tour of George Eastman (Kodak) home
 - 2 nights acc. downtown Holiday Inn
 - shopping Saturday & Sunday
 - all gratuities
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- Tickets available for Bob Fosse's Chicago (extra charge)

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Truckload Savings April 17

12 noon - 4 p.m.

All growers who purchase their pesticides from me on April will have one chance to win a

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