

Panelists assail media view of artists as 'creatures on fringe of society'

By MICHAEL REDMOND

Panelists at the 1988 National Arts Convention of the American Council for the Arts decried a tendency by the American media to portray artists as "exotic creatures on the fringes of society," and called for widespread acceptance of artists as "working professionals who deserve the same recognition, rights and respect as other working professionals."

According to Edwin Wilson, theater critic for The Wall Street Journal: "The general public does perceive

'either/or' stereotypes in the media's presentation of artists: Either creative poverty or creative celebrity. The notion of the artist as part of the fabric of American society has not penetrated."

Also addressed during afternoon sessions in The Crossroads Theatre, New Brunswick, were legal issues affecting American artists.

Among these were resale royalties for visual artists, the intense controversy generated by the commercial colorization of classic black-and-white motion pictures, federal income tax policies on capitalization accounting, and

Speakers call for same courtesy other working professionals get

the imminent U.S. signing of the Bern International Copyright Convention of 1986.

According to Eric Schwartz, policy planning adviser to the Register of Copyrights in Washington, D.C.:

"The convention should be signed within a week, increasing protection for

all American copyright artists in 77 nations, including 24 with which the United States had no previous agreements."

The session on "Artists' Rights. Is Legislation the Answer?" shed light. The session on "The Artist and the Media: Surface or Substance?" shed heat.

Coming under intense fire were the commercial television networks.

"I don't know how commercial TV can improve its coverage of the arts. The greed of commercial TV in this country is unbelievable. When commercials during opera sell for more than commercials during football, then you'll have opera on commercial TV," said Robert S. Northshield, senior executive producer of CBS News.

"The media are no better or worse than the total ecology for the arts in this country. There's a wide variation in

media coverage of the arts," Wilson said.

"If you want arts coverage of the highest standard, rather than coverage that emphasizes hype and personalities, you have to demand it. The leadership in the community—business, professional, academic—has to make the point to editors and program directors."

"But you're still dealing with a society in which most people appear to be more interested in Mike Tyson's relationship with his wife and his mother-in-law than in what's happening in the ring," said Wilson.

George Koch, vice president of National Artists Equity, explained and defended the proposed Visual Artists Rights Act (HR3221, S1619), sponsored by Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), which would provide resale royalties to visual artists through a percentage on resale profits. In the U.S., only California has a resale royalty law.

The proposed legislation would also introduce the concept of "moral right," which exists in French law, into American law. "Moral right" would guarantee an artist's right to protect the physical integrity of his work after it has been sold, preventing "intentional alteration" of the work.

Koch supported the concept of "moral right" with horror stories concerning the defacing and mutilation of art works by their owners.

The artist has a "moral right" to intervene in such cases, Koch explained, because the identity and reputation of the artist, and consequently his career development, is intrinsically linked to his works.

Paul Skrabut, an attorney who represents the million-member Artists for Tax Equity (ATE), said that as a result of nationwide protests by artists, the IRS has created a "safe harbor" policy governing the deduction of capital expenses.

Under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, these expenses could be deducted only when a work is actually sold. Artists protested this policy as a hardship.

The new IRS policy permits artists to deduct their capital expenses over a three-year period. ATE is still pushing for legislation that would completely exempt artists from Section 263A of the tax code.

"This is a bread-and-butter issue for every artist in America," Skrabut said.

Cops probe car shooting

Orange police are trying to determine who fired several gunshots and used a baseball bat to damage a car parked outside a public housing building on Wilson Place, Police Director Charles Cobbert said yesterday.

The incident happened about 8:15 p.m. Wednesday and involved a 1981 Mercedes Benz owned by Aldan Lindo of North Centre Street in Orange, he said.

"All the car's windows were broken, gunshots were fired through the car glass and the car's front right fender was damaged," Cobbert added.

The incident occurred in "a major drug trafficking location where people have been killed," the police director noted.

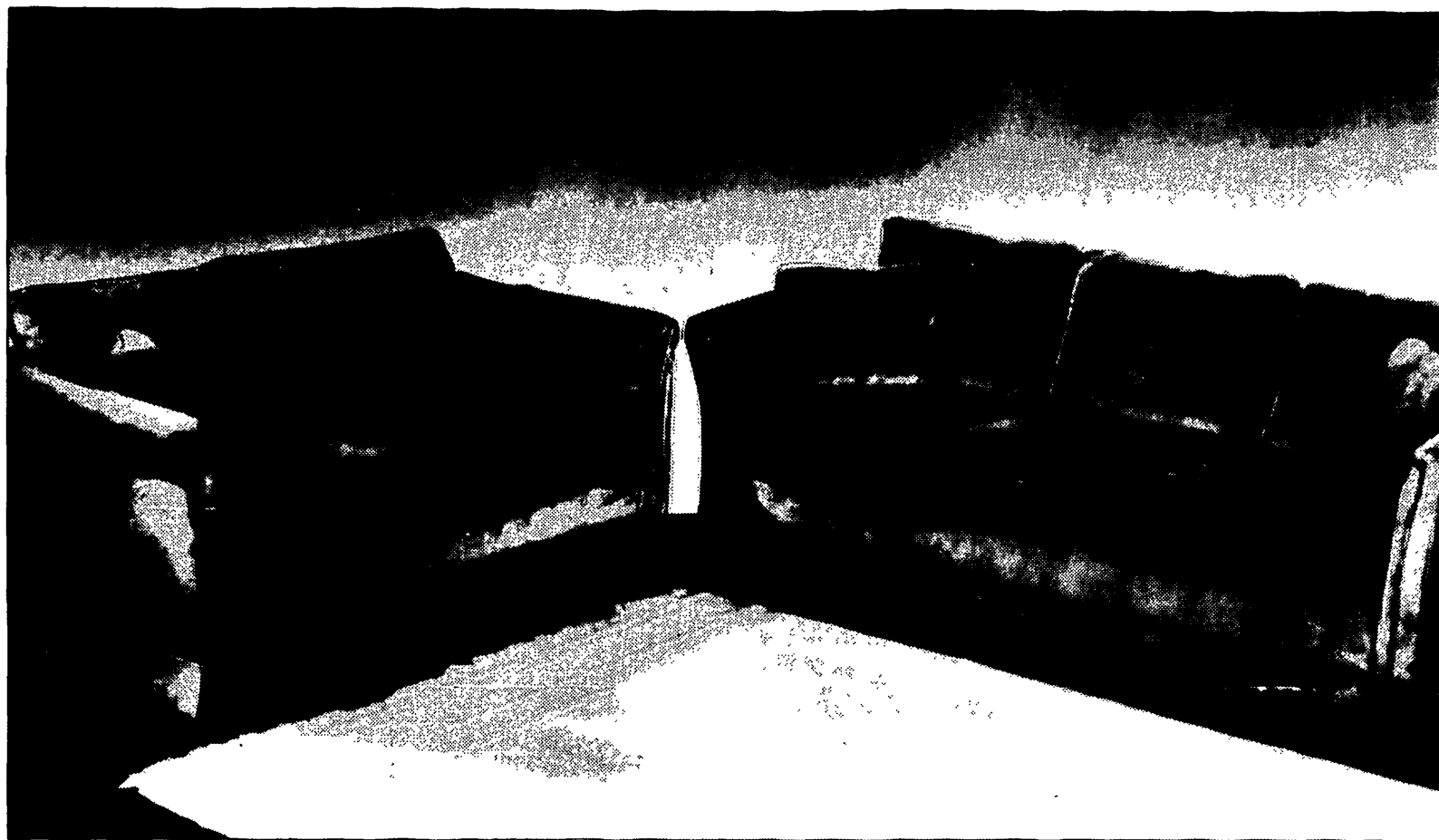
According to police, the man who damaged the vehicle fled toward East Orange in a white colored car.

Authorities asked that anyone with information on who fired the gunshots and damaged Lindo's car call the Orange Police Department and ask for either Detective Capt. Anthony Benevento or Detective Clarence Derricott.

35%-50% OFF

ORIG.*
PRICES

SAVINGS IN OUR CLEARANCE CENTER START TODAY



SOFA/LOVESEAT SETS SALE \$699-\$799

Orig.* \$1400-\$1600

The variety of traditional styles in our selection of sofa/loveseat sets makes this a great sale! You'll find • Variety of sofa frames • Outline quilted patterns • Textured fabrics • Plaids • Pindots • Many colors, even solids • Fabric blends and more.

CLOSEOUT!

Famous maker sleepers in twin, full and queen sizes. You'll find a magnificent assortment of contemporary, traditional, den, modular and more styles to fit into your daytime decor. Then, you can switch to your personal nighttime sleeping comfort in twin, full or queen size. At tremendous savings like these, that's what we call having a choice!

SALE \$499 Orig.* \$800
STUDIO SIZE TWIN SLEEPER

SALE \$499 Orig.* \$900
FULL OR QUEEN CONTEMPORARY SLEEPER

SALE \$599 Orig.* \$1000
FULL OR QUEEN TRADITIONAL SLEEPER



CLEARANCE

SHOP RTE. 4 & 46 FURNITURE STORES PLUS RTE. 22 & NEWARK CLEARANCE CTRS.

macy's
WE'RE A PART OF YOUR LIFE

*Original prices quoted were those previously in effect at Macy's stores, intermediate price reductions have been taken. We'll deliver for a small charge. Shop our Furniture Stores on Rte. 4 (Paramus) Rte. 46 (Willowbrook Mall) plus our, Rte. 22 (Springfield) and Newark Clearance Centers. All sales final.

DIAMOND CUTTERS INVENTORY CLEARANCE

Come in and fill out a coupon to
WIN
2 Free Tickets to the
Jets vs. Bills
Game on Mon. Eve.
October 17, 1988
Retail Value \$40.00
Drawing on October 14, 1988

SAVE UP TO
60%

PRICE GUARANTEE
We unconditionally guarantee that the diamond you select will sell elsewhere for 10% to 20% more than you pay, and that anytime within 7 days of your receipt you will not be able to find a diamond of equal quality for less, or your money back. (Does not apply to special orders.)

EMPIRE DIAMOND & JEWELRY EXCHANGE
225 N. WOOD AVE., LINDEN
(201) 925-7720