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Congressional Anger Threatens Arts

By WILLIAM H. RONAN

WASHINGTON, June 11—Angered by what they see as the erosion of their influence over the National Endowment for the Arts, many members of Congress are demanding greater accountability by the agency they created 30 years ago to promote the arts.

"A confluence of factors has made this the most serious crisis for the endowment in the 30 years of its existence," said Lyndon B. Johnson, who was chairman of the endowment during the Carter Administration and the author of a bill in the House called "The Administration and the Arts." He listed "the assault on the endowment" by Representative Bob Livingston, a hard-line conservative, and the absence of President Reagan's attention "as elements that have inflamed the situation.

"Mr. Biddle added another factor. "The religious element has never been more visible in the national debate," he said. "The debate is over the role of Congress in setting the arts policy.""

The immediate focus of friction is an exhibition of photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe, a photographer whose works, including some of men engaged in sex acts, was described as pornographic. The exhibition was to have opened at the Corcoran Gallery here on July 1, but was canceled by the galleries' owner, J. S. Drell, Jr., and two other members of Congress, including Senator Robert Dole, R-Kans., and Representative Bill Young, R-Fla., were able to secure the show for the year.

Although the endowment has also come under close scrutiny, particularly by Representative Dick Armey, a Texas Republican, for being one of several supporters of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, N.C., which gave $15,000 to Mr. Serrano, Mr. Serrano described his photograph as a protest against the commercialization of sacred imagery.

By ROBIN FINN

Athletes Stretch the Mind To Motivate the Body

Psychological training is as important as sit-ups and wind sprints.

Gardner, a psychologist for the New York Knicks and the New York Rangers, although many are still unwilling to tell the world about it, athletes in various fields have sought psychological advice to help them top competition at their best.

"The human mind is the most valuable commodity in sports," said Gardner. "It's as important as sitting and wind sprints are to the body."

Therapists who specialize in treating athletes find a growing demand from high schools, colleges, Olympic teams and professional sports franchises concerned with keeping million-dollar stars healthy in mind and body. Sports psychology is fast becoming as familiar in training regimens as weight lifting, wind sprints and sit-ups.

"A certain level of public acceptance has been reached where it makes intuitive sense, blowing that an athlete can say, 'Why can't I work on my mind?'" said Gardner.

"But athletes are on the rise. You see this in the military, in law enforcement, in racing. The mind is as important as the body."

Dr. Gardner, a native of Canada, was trained in psychology at the University of British Columbia and at the University of Toronto. He is the author of "Sports Psychology in Competitive Sport." He is currently working on a book on sports psychology for athletes in competitive sport."
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is extremely rare," said Representative Sidney R. Yates, the Chicago Democrat who has long been chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations that authorizes the endowment's $120 million budget. "If 10,000 grants, less than 30 have been found to be objectionable. That's one-quarter of one-tenth of a percent. Actually, the endowment has done kind of a remarkable job. Surely, Mr. Arment can't intend to punish the symphony and the opera and every other class of art because of this one piece of visual art. I would oppose any such penalty.

Senator D'Amato Wrote

In a letter written May 18 to Ms. Slusher, Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, the New York Republican, and 35 of his Senate colleagues de­manded changes in the endowment's grant-making procedures to deny funds to the sort of "shocking, abhor­rent and offensively categorized" art they say the agency has supported.

"If the endowment does not change its grant-making procedures, Senator D'Amato said in an interview, "they have to be prepared to face legis­lative consequences."

"In a similar letter on June 8, 107 members of the House, at the prompt­ing of Representative Arment, asked Mr. Southern what steps the endow­ment is taking to end its sponsorship of "morally reprehensible trash.""

Legislators see pornography and blasphemy in two photo exhibitions.

As the heat rises to a constitutional last summer when he led a rally in Los Angeles against Mark Serrano's movie, "The Last Temptation of Christ." In a newsletter, Mr. Wildman wrote that the endowment officially is responsible for permitting tax money to sub­sidize the Serrano photographs "should be fired," and he called on readers to write letters of protest to their congressmen. Mr. Wildman said in an interview that the newsletter has a circulation of 300,000, including the copies sent to 170,000 churches.

Within days, Mr. Wildman received apologies from Richard B. Jennings, the chairman of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and Peter C. Gould, the president of the Rockefeller Foundation. For its part, the agency responded with a statement expressing "deep regret" for any of­tion that the endowment gathered additional material that the show closed, that the exhibition catalogue came to the attention of the Rev. Donald E. Wildman, a United Methodist minister and the executive director of the American Family As­sociation of Tupelo, Miss. Mr. Wildman was among those who expressed a district north of Dallas "where religious conviction is very high." Monday With the Chairman.

Last week, Representative Yates learned that Mr. Armey had set up a meeting with two members of his subcommittee to urge him to sign his letter. "I said he ought to talk to me since I'm chairman of the sub­committee," Mr. Yates said.

Accordingly, last Tuesday Mr. Yates held a private meeting in his office in which he brought together Representative Arment, Representative John P. Murtha, a Pennsylvania Democrat; Mr. Southern of the endowment, and staff assistarits. Mr. Southern said that he would oppose demands to end the support of the exhibition catalogue. Mr. Southern said that he would oppose the demands to end the support of the exhibition catalogue, and he called, "Mark was paid for by the endowment." And he said he would like to try to write some letters."

"I wanted a perfect ending, so I sat down to write the book with the ending in place before there even was an ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle and end. Like my life, this book has ambiguity. Like my life, this book is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next!"