

## What's up today

- Lansing Art Gallery's Marketplace reception 7 p.m.
- "Beanafit" for Sensuous Bean restaurant, 8 p.m. Center for the Arts.

# C

SECTION



Lansing State Journal graphic.

## Your favorite vice: There's a study why you shouldn't

By **SCOTT DUNCAN**  
Baltimore Evening Sun

Coffee drinkers took another one on the chin last week. The beloved brew of millions has been linked to heart problems.

Though the latest study never asked its guinea pigs whether they drank regular or decaf, (details, details) the mood at office coffee machines across the nation was grim: If you drink five or

more cups a day, you have a 2.8 times greater risk of having heart problems than a non-drinker.

On hearing this news coffee-lovers everywhere had a 2.8 times greater risk of having a bad day.

Studies and statistics. In 1962, Americans drank 3.12 cups of coffee a day, according to megatrend maven John Naisbett. In 1984, that average was down to 1.99 cups.

Refill? asks the waitress. Just

.99 of a cup, please, you reply.

Studies and statistics. In February, British scientist David Shore found that instant coffee has been clinically proven to be an effective weapon against herpes.

Make that a full cup, you tell the waitress.

Studies and statistics that dissect and debunk what Americans consume are in high fashion today. In fact, the public seems to be bombarded by them, often

being yanked in different directions by their implications.

Studies and statistics have two things in common: 1. They are rarely conclusive; 2. They have a nasty habit of attacking our favorite vices.

Skulking about with vague catchwords — like "studies have shown," "suggests an association" and the dreaded "significant body of evidence" — these studies and statistics are creating angst

among law-abiding citizens merely trying to make it through the day. This, of course, raises the specter of a study to study the effects of studies on society.

As a study guide to help those trying to chart their course by the latest studies and statistics, here's a status report:

■ **Coffee.** As reported, there are now a half-dozen coffee stud-

See **VICES**, Page 8C

## The art lover

### After 12 years, director leaving MSU museum

By **HELEN R. CLEGG**  
Lansing State Journal

One of the best things about Michigan State University's Kresge Art Museum will leave the place next July 1 — its director, Joseph B. Ishikawa.

Ishikawa has been with the museum 12 years and is retiring. He is 65.

But he has plans to keep him busy at least until his 100th birthday.

Those who know him best say he'll be missed for his extraordinary sense of humor, his gentle ways, his down-to-earth view of art and his willingness to let people realize their full potential — just to name a few.

His Kresge office assistant, Lynne Campbell — also registrar of the art works coming to the museum — said she thinks that "everybody who knows him, both within the museum profession and the people who work here love him dearly. . ."

"He is one of those individuals who brings acclaim and high prestige to MSU and, in particular, to Kresge Art Museum," says Roy Saper of East Lansing, president of the Friends of the Kresge

Art Museum. He credits Ishikawa for almost single-handedly forming the Friends group, which has about 900 members, Saper said.

The auxiliary organization supports the museum with money and activity. Ishikawa began Friends to get the public involved in the museum and as a source of funding.

"Joe has provided such an asset to MSU and Kresge that it can't be overstated," said Saper, pointing out that it was partially due to Ishikawa's efforts the museum has been accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM) — the accrediting agency for museums.

Accreditation has meant that Kresge is eligible for exhibits from the Smithsonian, the Detroit Institute of Arts and other institutions.

"MSU has gained literally hundreds of thousands of dollars due to gifts" to the museum, he said. Contributors have not only been members of Friends but others they have interested in Kresge.

Saper also told of how Ishikawa traveled through Italy last year, at his own expense while on sabbatical, to locate an Italian work. He found an exquisite piece — a three-panel Siense portable altar painting from the 15th century, called a "triptych". The price tag of about \$80,000 was the next obstacle. But, largely through Ishikawa's perseverance and dedication of Friends, the funds were raised.



Lansing State Journal/EILEEN BLASS

Joseph Ishikawa, director of the Kresge Art Museum, regards art as an everyday part of life and of infinite variety.

"Overall, Joe is extremely highly regarded . . . he has tremendous respect," said Saper.

Ishikawa came to Kresge from

a post as museum director at Beloit College, Beloit, Iowa. He had held positions previously with museums at the Universities of Ne-

braska at Lincoln and Iowa at Des Moines, then worked at the Sioux City, Iowa, Art Center, followed by the Beloit directorship.

Born in California, he earned a degree in English from UCLA be-

See **KRESGE**, Page 8C



# Kresge

From 1C

fore embarking on his artistic career.

An extraordinary museum feature is its "Docents" program in which volunteers, who are also members of Friends of Kresge, fill in as guides for tours of the museum's works and to instruct school children on works of art, either in the schoolroom or in the museum itself.

Campbell said Ishikawa is "a caring person," who believes in allowing individuals to reach their maximum by giving them the freedom to explore goals and projects.

A man who likes people, Ishikawa has soft brown eyes that frequently gleam with his sense of humor. When he talks about a work of art, he is easy to listen to because he uses everyday words and no-nonsense descriptions. He makes enjoying works of art seem natural.

Showing a visitor a large, glowing picture under a spotlight, Ishikawa says it is from the school of Peter Paul Reubens. He confides he hadn't been too fond of Reubens "because he is so bombastic" — until he visited his house in Antwerp, Belgium. "Seeing what a complete artist he was, I felt a little bit differently about him. I've always admired his painting."

When the conversation shifts to his wife of 34 years, Olivia, he says it will be three years before she's 62 and able to retire from her job as a disabilities determination examiner with the state.

That's the trouble with marrying a child, he cracks. "First, you have to wait for her to grow up to marry her; then you have to wait for her to grow old, so she can retire and we can ride off into the sunset together."

Olivia says her husband "conceives art as being quite universal and a part of everybody's life and not something confined only to the elite.

"I think he has a marvelous sense of humor. This is one of the things that has been very important through our years together . . . a laugh can often break through tension and strain."

He is very matter-of-fact in the way he sees himself, Olivia said, and "he really accepts other people the way they are, and I think this is what makes him very easy to get along with."

She added she had to learn through their years of marriage that he was "always in the company of many women, interesting women and people who enjoy his work. It took me some time to get used to this idea, and I think it says something for him that he has been able to manage this and we have had a happy marriage as well."

His plans for post-retirement? He will examine going into the Peace Corps. "There are things I want to write, some artists I want to write about and some areas of art criticism."

Ishikawa declares "I started out life wanting to be a writer." Designing furniture — mostly Danish modern, maybe with a little adornment — is another desire. And he likes puttering at cabinet making. Also "some consulting work if somebody can use it." He will also continue as a senior examiner for the American Association of Museums.

Ishikawa is very proud of his museum staff, which also includes gallery assistant Roger Watson, and Dr. Carol Fischer, parttime education coordinator, plus Campbell, the Docents and student staff, who are attendants and greet visitors.

He admits to frustrations: "The museum needs an endowment so that we would have some predictability when we're going to purchase a work. We could collect more systematically. We have done amazingly well from the fund-raising we have had.

"I feel there is unfinished business because we don't have an addition to the building and that we don't have a larger program and staff which would make us more comparable with the Big Ten."