

# Colleges Urged to Back Academic Freedom in the Teaching and Exhibition of Art; Controversial Show Puts Illinois State U. in the Center of Debate Over Federal Aid

## Show at Illinois State

By CHRISTOPHER MYERS

NORMAL, ILL.

"Tongues of Flame," a show of works by the New York City artist David Wojnarowicz, completed its run at Illinois State University two months ago.

Now Mr. Wojnarowicz's photographs, sculptures, and huge collages are wrapped in plastic sheets and cardboard and stowed in the basement of the university's art building. Soon they will be sent to the Santa Monica Museum of Art, where the show is scheduled to open in July.

But if "Tongues of Flame" is gone for now, it is hardly forgotten. Recent criticism by members of Congress and religious organizations has moved the show to center stage in the continuing debate over federal support of the arts. And members of the arts faculty here say the flap has broadened the way they think about pre-

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Barry Blinderman: "We've expanded our perception of the role a university gallery can play in a community."



## Academic freedom

VIENNA, VA.

A group of faculty members, administrators, and museum directors urged colleges and universities last week to uphold academic freedom in the teaching and presentation of the fine arts.

"Faculty and students engaged in the creation and presentation of works of the visual and the performing arts are engaged in pursuing the mission of the university as much as are those who write, teach, and study in other academic disciplines," said a statement released by the participants in a conference here on freedom of artistic expression on campuses.

The conference was sponsored by the American Association of University Professors.

"Artistic expression in the classroom, studio, and workshop therefore merits the same assurance of academic freedom that

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