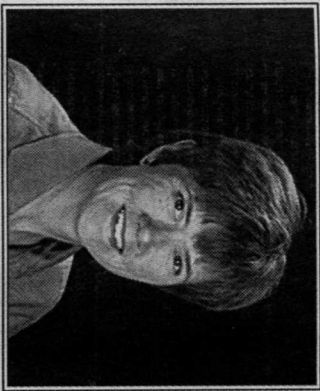


Susan Snyder



Changing attire can be confusing

At my last newspaper, in Utah, the giggling started when the company dress code was updated to ban thongs.

To make sure they were being perfectly clear, human resources personnel had written "sandals" in parentheses.

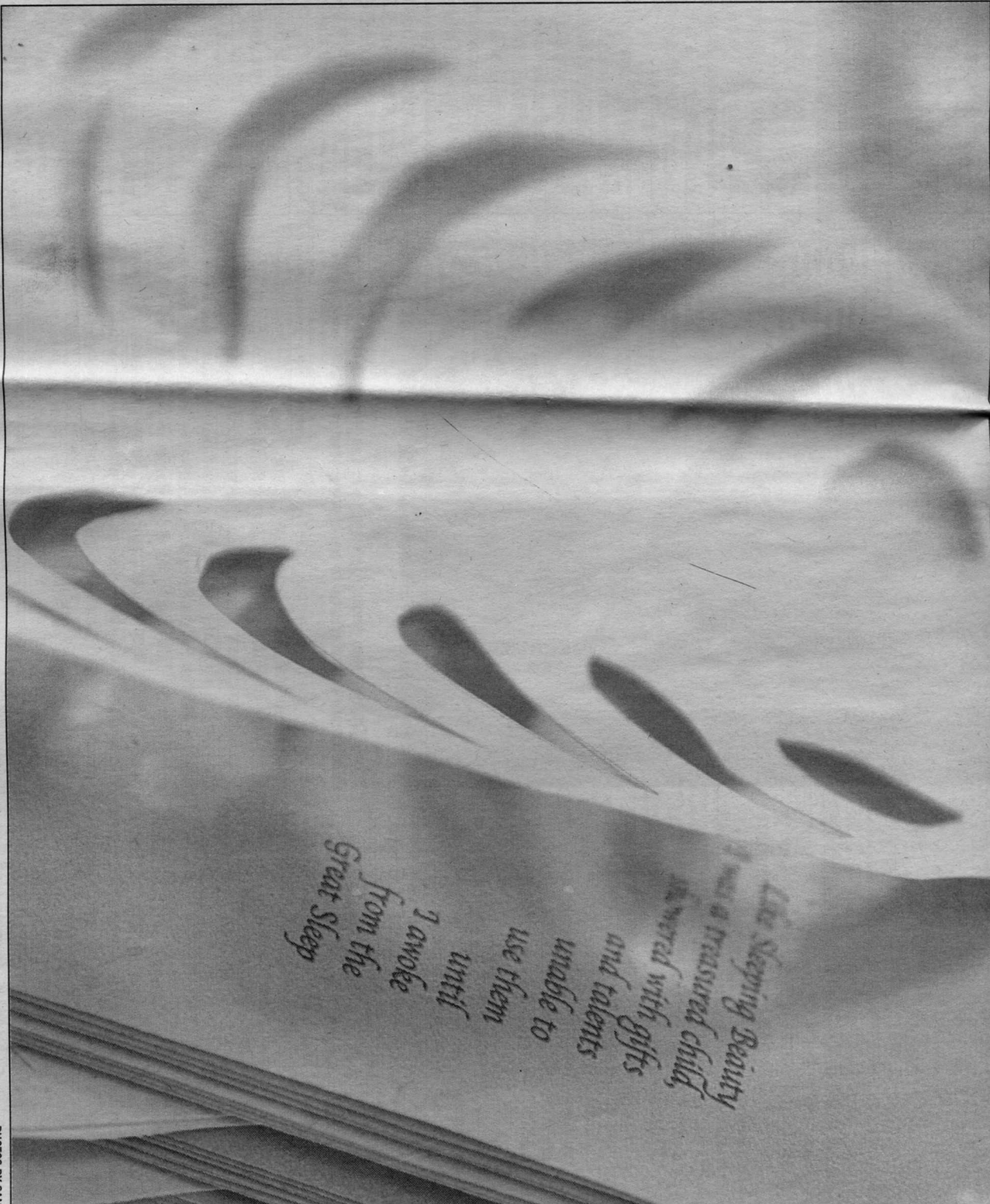
Ever since casual Fridays expanded to casual every days in the 1990s, some corporations have found all hope of a professionally presentable work staff has disappeared in the pockets of suits donated to Salvation Army.

But with the youth-oriented dot-com companies on the skids and big corporations trying to regain people's confidence, some say the tide is turning back toward business attire for, well, business.

"Everything I hear suggests we are," said David Hames, professor of business management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"Nobody ever defined 'business casual' very well. People started showing up in shorts and T-shirts and flip-flops."

(You know, "thongs.")



*The Sleeping Beauty
I was a pressured child,
buried with gifts
and talents
unable to
use them
until
I awoke
From the
Great Sleep*

The book titled "Surgery," by artist Susan Hensel, will be on display at the Charleston Heights Arts Center from Friday through Aug. 24.

PHOTOS BY SAM M

A New Chapter

sual becomes even more difficult to define.

One Las Vegas-based corporation (name withheld to protect the slowly) circulated a memorandum in June reminding employees of what was intended by the company's "business casual" policy.

High on the hit list of cannot-wears: capri pants. These are defined as any pants that taper from the knee and rest anywhere from knee-length to one inch above the ankle.

Fine, except that capri pants have invaded women's clothing sections like aphids at a rose festival. Best to just avoid buying anything new until the trend subsides, which means we'll all save a lot of money until 2006, when the fashion gurus will introduce something else we aren't allowed to wear.

Still, you have to wonder what adult needs to be told that he or she shouldn't wear sneakers, cutoffs, midriff blouses or jogging suits to work. Honestly. Do people still buy "jogging suits"?

Creepy. "People have come back to dress codes because it's just easier to manage," Hames said. "People understand 'business attire.' People don't understand 'business casual.'"

And many grown-ups have decided they don't like "business attire." Most of us just want to retire. A fair number have managed to find ways to telecommute, which can mean cowboy jammies until 3 p.m., if they so desire.

In Las Vegas' service-based economy, many workers don't face any dilemma because they wear uniforms. But if they switch to office work, these folks might find it difficult to figure out what's acceptable work attire unless a company's policies spell it out based on the image it wants to present, Hames said.

Looking to co-workers for guidance seems an unlikely option if a company needs to spell out a ban on such items as "spaghetti strap dresses or tops, spandex pants, jeans, skirts more than 6 inches above the knee," or "clothing with slogans containing profanity" and "lack of proper undergarments." It's probably a good idea that we impose dress codes on some of our

Artist Susan Hensel graduates from clay to multimedia book pieces

By Kristen Peterson
LAS VEGAS SUN

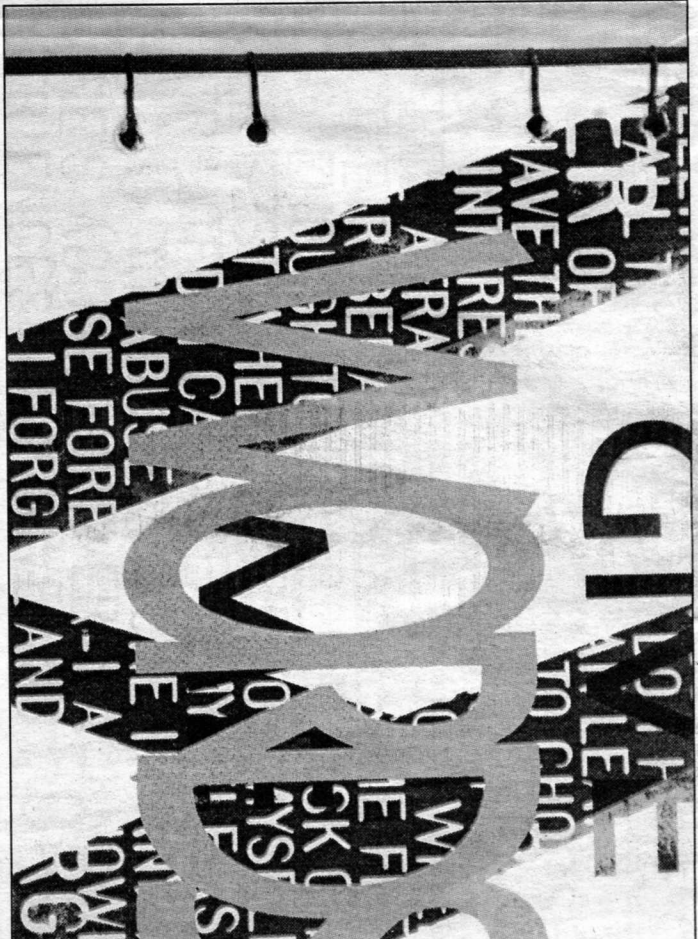
For more than 20 years Michigan artist Susan Hensel molded and manipulated clay. But it was paper that would unleash her muse.

Through paper she came alive. Through paper she became a provocative storyteller. The art form began as a hobby; she made the paper from pulp. Soon the paper became books and the books became multimedia art pieces. With little haste, the clay was ushered out the door.

"What I was doing with clay was way too obtuse," Hensel said from her home in East Lansing, Mich. "It was only meaningful to me. It was important to me to tell my stories in a way that they would become very universal."

Besides, she said, "I have a huge library of books. When I realized I could make them, it was incredible."

A selection of the books will be featured in a solo exhibit opening Friday at the Charleston Heights Arts Center. The exhibit continues through Aug. 24. Colorful and dense, the books are filled with



"Give Me the Words"

objects, images and words that tour Hensel's unconscious while luring readers down their own imaginative pathways.

Some are neatly packaged, opening them becomes an event. Some demand to be explored. No subject is unapproachable. Hensel delves into politics, religion, faith, childhood, and even whimsically examines the brushing of one's teeth.

Among the collection is "Surgery," a thread-bound book with a skeletal rib cage as its cover. Inside, poetry and prose are used to convey a

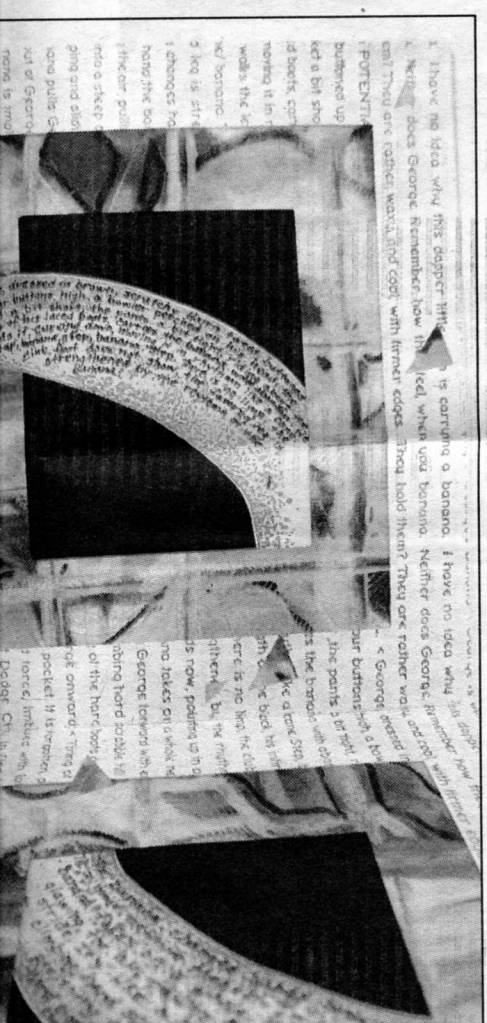
surgery through three voices: a patient's, a sophical scientist's and a fairy tale character. In another book, titled "Stamp Album," Hensel explores the practical use of postage stamps with underlying questions about governments that create them.

The book states the obvious: Stamps are licked, moistened and stuck on an envelope a symbol of a fee for a service. "But then the questions follow: 'Does postage magnify the dream? Does it tell a true history of a true time?' or 'Can postage celebrate how cheaply life is valued?'"

In "Give Me the Words," Hensel looks at helping people through the processes of life. Carefully arranged and text heavy (with each letter of the book's title separating the pages), the is one of Hensel's performance literature.

"I don't know why they trust me so," Hensel writes. "I have no special wisdom. I wander roam in regions of fear just as they do. I have, however, come out of the other side of the bog more than once. I know some trails. I can avoid some of the muck and sand even though I get stuck from time to time and need someone to give me the words."

Hensel, 53, says poetry is her first love



- **What:** "Give Me the Words," art book by Susan Hensel
- **When:** Friday, Aug. 24
- **Where:** Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brainerd
- **Admission:** Free
- **Information:** 702-735-1111

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It's probably a good idea that we impose dress codes on some of our schoolchildren. Maybe their parents can ask them, "Does this look OK for work?"

Susan Snyder's column appears Tuesdays, Fridays, Sundays and Mondays. Reach her

to multimedia book pieces

By Kristen Peterson
LAS VEGAS SUN

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Through paper she came alive. Through paper she became a provocative storyteller. The art form began as a hobby; she made the paper from pulp. Soon the paper became books and the books became multimedia art pieces. With little haste, the clay was ushered out the door.

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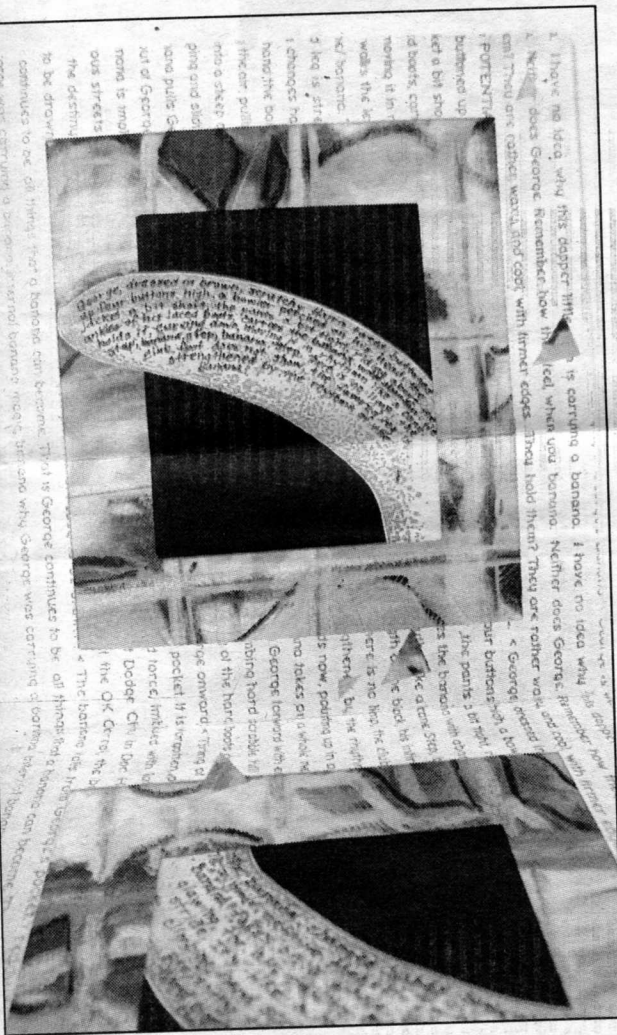
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- **What:** "A Way With Words," art books by Susan Hensel.
- **When:** Friday through Aug. 24.
- **Where:** Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St.
- **Admission:** Free.
- **Information:** 229-



"George's Banana"

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