This Thursday night, 20 May, there will be an artists’ gala and gallery showing of artwork in connection with the Deaf Way IL II “Our Culture, Many Faces” Conference located at Holiday Inn O’Hare International in Chicago, Illinois, from 20 May through 23 May. Featured artists include Susan Dupor, Orkid Sassouni, Chuck Baird, and Mary Thornley, among others. Also happening at the conference are workshops that include topics such as Deaf Art History and teaching children ASL Literature. For more information, please visit: http://www.deafwayillinois.org/.

(I’ll be there on Saturday, by the way.)

Also happening over the same weekend (Zounds! Where’s Calvin’s malfunctioning Transmogrifier when we need it?) is the first Florida International Deaf Film Festival, held in at the Tampa, Florida, May 20-23. The festival will be held at Hilton Garden Inn in Ybor City’s Historic District, a New Orleans style area of Tampa known for its variety of nightlife. Filmmakers will come from countries like Japan, New Zealand, and the UK. Also advertised is an exhibition of work by deaf artists, but there is no further show information, just the call for submissions. Check out: http://www.floridadeaffilmfestival.com/

The Buff and Blue, an undergraduate student newspaper at Gallaudet University, recently concluded their year with the Manus and YOU issues. Manus, which means “hands” in Latin, is an art and literary showcase of student creativity, with a juried competition and awards (Our own Man on the Street, Chris, was one of the judges!). Here are the first place winners: the Literary category goes to Emily Jane Steinberg with her poem “A Language Lesson;” the Photography category goes to Kristen Suiter with what appears to be an untitled self-portrait; and, the Art category goes to Laurie Bishop for her work entitled “Pastel in Color.” The YOU issue is a pop-style magazine portfolio featuring colorful and notable characters in the Gallaudet community, which includes faculty and staff as well as students. Amy Mowl recently finished her post at the helm as EIC and is passing the torch on to her brother, Anthony, who will assume the leadership this coming fall. On that note, here’s the next tidbit.

Anthony Mowl is currently aboard the Deaf Nation Road Tour bus, writing dispatches for all of the Deaf and Signing Communities to enjoy as he and the other members of the Deaf Nation team make their way across the country. The 40-state tour kicked off with a party at Gallaudet University on April 28th and will be touring for 93 days. For more information, go to: http://www.deafnation.com/dnroadtrip.asp. Be sure to read up on Anthony’s journal entries—his sense of humor adds a wonderful touch to the topsy-turvy view of Deaf America as we witness it through the eyes of the tour team, which is a good augury for his career in journalism. All that hands-on, or eyes-on, experience! Now, now, can’t help being a bit envious of the guy, can we?

And in closing, please be reminded, or perhaps informed for the first time, that the 2004 National ASL Poetry Prize competition is coming up. (I might just finally get over being camera-shy, but we’ll see, won’t we?) To see last year’s winning poems, click your way over to: http://www.slope.org/asl. The deadline for entries has been extended to July 15th. For more information or guidelines regarding this year’s competition, please e-mail Rita Rich at: RitaJRich at mac.com. Good luck!