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LETTERS FROM READERS**A positive experience**

I am surprised at some of the clamor over Ron Athey's performance art March 5 at Patrick's Cabaret. I attended the performance and never felt in danger of coming in contact with blood from any of the performers. I was sitting quite near one of the lines that had bloodied paper towels hanging from it. The towels were neither dripping blood nor were they disintegrating. Stringing the lines over the audience seemed to draw the audience into the performance. I did not feel that they posed a hazard to anyone in the audience.

I am not in touch with the "hip" uptown, urbane culture that may identify itself more closely with this performance. But I found the evening to be an eye-opening experience. It helped heighten my awareness of the diverse cultures that make up our community. The discussion that followed the performance was enlightening. It brought closure to the evening's performance and helped put many of the disturbing images into perspective. The evening was not an orgy of senselessly brutal acts, but rather an expression of cultural identities that differ from traditional Western ideology.

I support the Walker Art Center for sponsoring this performance.

David Hanson, St. Paul.