

Cultural Events link campus to community

By Timothy Hagan

You are sitting in the Lions Den, and someone with a white painted face comes up to you and starts doing mime. Are you interested? Kathy Branigan hopes so.

Branigan, Coordinator of Student Activities and chairperson of the committee for the Cultural Events series, hopes that using mime in the afternoon will draw students to the presentation of "Quiet Riot," which is a fast-paced comedy, including mime, gymnastics, dance, illusion, verbal comedy, and audience participation.

The use of mime plus posters, fliers, table cards, handouts, and word of mouth, are used to publicize cultural events on campus.

If the promotions are creative, the events must be even more so. Branigan and the committee try to get a good balance of programs for students.

Ideas for events come to the committee from numerous directions—from stacks of promotional materials and from professors and, at times, students.

Each spring, Branigan and Cultural Affairs directors from 19 Penn State campuses get together and exchange information about the cultural offerings submitted. They do "block-booking," which means more than one campus schedules the same event. This

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saves money. The more the event is booked, the less it costs.

This does not mean that all campuses have the same series. But the same event could be booked anywhere from five to 15 times.

The decisions made at the spring meeting are for the cultural events such as dance, music, theater, and mime. The lecture series is a separate activity but it too comes under the cultural events series.

The lecture series is overseen

by a committee which tries to choose a well-known person with "academic principles." They do not just want celebrities.

For the 10 cultural events, the total budget is \$6250. Out of the \$6250, \$2450 comes from the budget here and \$3800 from a grant from Provost Edward D. Eddy of The Pennsylvania State University.

The cultural events can range from \$150 to \$1000 but most cost around \$500. Performers give Penn State campuses breaks in price because of block-booking. The cost to another university for an event can be a lot higher.

The cost of lecturers can vary. If the lecturer is pushing his or her book, the cost can be less. The price starts around \$500 and can go up from there. If they tried to get someone like political humorist Mark Russell, the price would be in the \$8000 to \$10000 range. Unsubstantiated reports have Susan Stenberg receiving \$2200 to \$2350.

The cultural events series is free to the public. Kathy Branigan said, "The events free to the public, build a better relationship between the community and the college. If the

events were so full that the students were not getting the full academic opportunity from them, I would suggest changing the policy."



Branigan emphasizes that the cultural events series is for the students. "Our first responsibility is to anticipate your interest and needs, so we value every student comment."

mime show here tomorrow



The Quiet Riot Innovative Theatre will make its unique style of mime come alive for yet another audience...an audience which will travel through illusion, fantasy, humor, and somber reality. The journey is called "OUT OF CONTROL" and it will all happen here in the Capitol Campus auditorium tomorrow at 8 p.m. The performance is free of charge and open to the public.

The Quiet Riot, a duo of Bill Mettler, an Air Force officer, and Kevin O'Connor, a peace activist during the Viet Nam War, has been a full-time touring company for three years.

According to Mettler, "OUT OF CONTROL" is mime...it is dance. It is comedy and drama, illusions that fool the eye, ideas that challenge and make one feel. In short we offer an extremely high-energy show designed both to stimulate and entertain. Most important we are different."

"Musician Paul Winter once said that to enjoy music you must lose your mind and come to your senses," said O'Connor. "We feel similarly. We want people to leave the control to us, to sit back and lose themselves in the theatrical journey."