Man-talk stirs controversy

Collegian Staff Writer

The Second National Conference on Men and Masculinity (M&M) to be held at the Holiday Inn this weekend has become the source of a local controversy, resulting from University denial of facilities for conference use.

The conference, expected to draw 300 men and women from the United States and Canada, is to discuss "important issues related to being a male," according to an M&M source. The participants will explore basic assumptions about their traditional roles and will confront cultural phobias about race, class and homosexual relationships.

The conference had planned and had been encouraged for six months to hold the conference on campus, a steering committee member said, but was told recently that University facilities would be unavailable.

The first conference, held in Knoxville, Tenn. in April 1975, had been supported by the University of Tennessee through its departments of educational psychology and guidance. The State College conference has been patterned in format and content similar to the first.

Just why the University has refused permission is what is controversial. An M&M source said the conference originators had discussed plans to meet about men's issues with Continjuing Education representatives in the College of Human Development and with Individual and Family Studies administrators. Having received encouragement and procedure suggestions, they approached Continuing Education at the J. Orvis Keller Conference Center in February with a rough draft of the conference's workshops and with plans for a grant proposal to cut costs, according to the M&M source. Keller staff agreed to help M&M prepare Na budget for its grant proposal, he said.

Seven weeks later, the source said, Keller spokespersons told M&M they could not discuss a budget until a University academic department or division had approved the con-

Members of the steering committee had also presented their unedited, brainstorming ideas to the IFS division that was to sponsor the conference through Continuing Education. IFS had requested a series of changes in M&M's wording of planned workshop topics "to prevent misunderstanding about the conference's intent and to strengthen its academic sub-.. stance," an IFS spokesperson said.

The M&M source said IFS spokesmen indicated they thought some of the workshops were more experiential and "'not academic enough.''

"The concern was the wording, not with the intent of the conference coordinator," an IFS faculty member said. The revised proposal was to be reviewed by a division committee composed of IFS faculty and students.

However, the conference source said, the smaller planning group of the steering committee decided IFS's suggested revisions would change the conference's essential nature, so they chose to withdraw their proposal from IFS.

"I felt that the aims of the conference as envisioned by the

steering committee could be better met through another sponsorship," the source said. Because M&M withdrew its proposal before it had been taken to the IFS review committee, the division was never forced to make an official decision about the conference, he said.

This M&M source said that several University faculty and administrative members had encouraged the steering committee to ask students from the Free University to sponsor the conference. Another M&M steering committee member said the Free U seemed more supportive of the conference goals. "What I saw there were a lot of very warm and open people," he said. The Free U agreed to provide classrooms for M&M's workshops and submitted a request to the Hetzel Union Building for a room to accommodate conference registration and general meetings. The source said M&M was told their request would be processed within ten

Nearly four weeks later on June 10, the source said, M&M had planned to mail 2,000 hand-folded borchures that included conference information and named the Free U as sponsor. After several inquiries, he said, M&M learned that Free U

could not obtain University facilities for the conference. "There was no direct statement as to why," the source said. According to M&M, neither the Free U nor M&M have ever received a written statement explaining why University facilities were denied.

The Free U said they'd heard several implicating rumors about the conference that they believed contributed to M&M's difficulties in gaining support. They said they did not know where the rumors originated. "All we've been given is hearsay, too," an M&M steering committee member said. He said he was disappointed the conference "had stirred up opposition at all levels within the University." He also said he had sensed officials were afraid that merely discussing sensitive issues at the conference "might upset the 'delicate' balance' between the University and the state legislature.'

Both M&M and the Free U said they suspect the University's delays may have been deliberate. They also said neither of them had clearly understood the University's bureaucratic channels. The Free U claimed that even after M&M had asked them to sponsor the conference, their request had to be processed by Continuing Education, anyway. Sources said it was possible that the Free U, as a university organization serving the community, could not sponsor a national conference. The fact that Continuing Education never received the required "academic" division sponsor, they said, might explain why conference facilities were denied.

"I'm angry that I was never told why," the M&M member said. He said he felt the University's non-written denial has contributed to rumors about the conference. "We've been left up in the air so often," another conference member said, "but we're busy right now trying to make this the best conference

Conference registration begins at 5 p.m. Friday and workshops will continue until 1 p.m. Sunday.

Collegian arts

Ballet's balance pleases all ages

By RICHARD HEIDORN JR.

Collegian Arts Writer The Pennsylvania Ballet offered something for everyone Friday night, presenting a balanced and varied program ranging from the classical dance of George Balanchine to the American premiere of a piece inspired by Richie Havens and Jimi Hendrix.

There was a question at first whether the program could hold the interest of a diverse University Auditorium crowd that included kindergarten kids, the social security set and every group in between. But the audience was patient and polite and showed a willingness to experience

The biggest surprise had to be the enthusiasm that greeted the ballet's debut performance of Gene Hill Sagan's "Sweet Agony." The piece did not get off to an auspicious beginning as the tape recording of Richie Havens' "End of the Seasons" nearly shook the unsuspecting audience from their seats. That was to be expected, Sagan said later. "The first performance is always trial and error."

There was no error on the part of the dancers, however; they persevered despite the technical problem, and once the sound level had been adjusted, the audience was captured.

The dancing was restrained and gentle during the Havens song that opened and closed the piece, but grew more aggressive with the first notes of Hendrix's "Machinegun." Sagan's choreography translated Hendrix faithfully, right down to the feedback and, barring a slight lack of timing at certain points, the dancers matched Hendrix's fury, step for lick.

Unfortunately, the sound of the late guitarist's voice threatened to make the piece morbid, but the overall mood was not destroyed.

The piece was aided by excellent lighting. An electric blue backdrop set off the black, red and maroon-clad girls so that at times they seemed to be running into space, their molecules dissimilating and merging with the

shadowed background. At other points, their sparkled costumes made them galaxies of stars flying across the universe.

The response to the piece was enthusiastic, even among the Geritol group, and some of the younger people were uninhibited enough to clap their hands above their heads rock-style, Others were content to grant a standing ovation and demand a half-dozen curtain calls — a pleasing reception for Sagan in the first performance of his piece outside Israel.

Sagan said he chose Hendrix and Havens as sources because of their complementary styles. "I was impressed with the pulse of Hendrix. I wanted to capture the excitement and movement he had as a person and do a piece without classical or modern boundaries. Havens for me represents a totally different school in music. It's a very exhausting piece - I wanted to balance the sensitivity of

Havens with the energy of Hendrix."

A resident of Israel "for years and years," Sagan will be leaving for London shortly to direct the piece for London's International Ballet.

Also featured Friday night was "For Fred, Gene and M.G.M.," a tribute to the movies of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, when anything was an excuse to break into dance.

One wouldn't have recognized the steps from out of "Ziegfeld Follies," however. The piece was not intended to be a recreation of the actual dancing of that era but, "an evocation of the spirit of the scene typical of the

The piece featured Marcia Darhower playing hard to get but finally submitting to Dane Lafontsee's charm to the single piano accompaniment of Aaron Copland's "Four Piano Blues." The piece was pleasant enough but did not seem particularly convincing as a tribute except for a few rousing moments where Lafontsee did some quick tap steps and sailor salutes a la Gene and Fred. Whatever relationship the piece had to that era was esoteric: it was never revealed to the audience.

Movie breaks Bronson mold

By JIM LOCKHART Collegian Arts Writer

"St. Ives" is a standard detective movie in the tradition of "Mannix" and "Harper." The self-deprecating sleuth mugs his way through the picture, dropping an occasional wisecrack and flirting with the always-available pretty girl.

What makes this movie different is that the title character is played by the near-Neanderthal himself, Charles Bronson. Bronson making wisecracks? Bronson flirting? What happened to the stone face that dispatched half of New York in "Death Wish?"

Bronson plays Ray St. Ives, a crime reporter turned novelist. He is down on his literary luck and is hired to pick up a few extra bucks by acting as

go-between for a mysterious millionnaire (John Houseman), who is trying to recover stolen journals. Before the journals are returned, and more importantly, before their contents are analyzed, several corpses are strewn around the seedier sections of Los Angeles.

While Bronson could never be called appealing, he does break out of

movie review

the silent mold of his last several movies and exhibit some personality. He will never be confused with Cary Grant, but at least he no longer resembles a lump of clay.

Houseman, too, seems to have been affected by this change-your-image attitude. After too many roles as a stuffy intellectual, it is nice to see him as an everyday neurotic.

Jacqueline Bisset is around for window dressing, a task for which she is amply suited. She does little more than drink champagne and look elegant, which is all one can expect of a working girl in these not-soliberated days.

J. Lee Thompson (Guns of Navarone) directed the movie with an eye toward cutting out any fat. It comes in at a few minutes over an hour and a half and there are no wasted shots. Thompson also toned down the violence usually rampant in a Bronson movie. There are shootings and knifings, but no flying body parts as has been the recent vogue.

Schorr investigation lacks funds

WASHINGTON (UPI) - "No confession has been After four months of private obtained with respect to the investigation and a week of public hearings, the House -Ethics Committee is still at point zero and running out of money in its search for the person who gave reporter Daniel Schorr a copy of a intelligence banned

David W. Bowers, a former FBI agent conducting the investigation for the Ethics. Committee, reported at a session last Monday opening Executive Branch had been two weeks of public hearings: completed," Bowers said.

vestigation in the House of Representatives and the

Police crash pot party

charged for drug possession and six juveniles will be referred to a juvenile probation officer after University Police entered a: suspected pot party in Schultze Hall Thursday night. Responding to a telephone tip, police went to the room and discovered 15 pipes, 2 bags shand 5 vials of suspected marijuana, 1 film cannister of suspected hashish, marijuana

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A female student will be seeds, and an air pistol laying in a drawer.

document because it con-

"Virtually all logical in-

tained classified material.

An employe at College Heights Exxon surprised a burglar who had broken into the service station Thursday night, State College police said. The suspect fled in a car parked in the station garage and abandoned it two or three blocks from the station, police said. It is not known whether anything was missing from the station, police said.

The Ethics Committee today launches the final week of public questioning. Faced He referred to publication with serious investigative in the New York Village Voice , worries in connection with last February of a House intelligence report which CBS reporter Schorr said he alleged misdeeds of several House members, the committee is expected to close the supplied. The full House had case with a report by the end voted not to release the of the month saying it is an

Bowers said the committee had been advised that Schorr, who has been suspended with pay by CBS pending outcome of the case, "would in no way agree to a voluntary in-terview and, if subpoenaed, would . . . provide no information whatever that would identify, or tend to identify, his sources."

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

Monday - Tuesday, July 26 - 27

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, July 27 Shavers Creek Nature Center, "Frogs, Toads and Snakes," 7 p.m., Stone Valley. Festival Theatre, "Little Mary Sunshine," 8 p.m., Pavilion Theatre.

SEMINAR

Biomechanics, 4 p.m., Room 206 Biomechanics Lab. Dr. Ian A. F. Stokes. Polytechnic of Central London, on "Forces on the Foot as a Cause of Injury and

MEETING

Monday, July 26 Penn State Overcomers, 7 p.m., Room 110 Sackett.

EXHIBITS

Museum of Art: American Paintings and Furniture from the Permanent Collection. Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts Juried Crafts Show. Prints by Penn-

HUB Gallery: Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts: Elementary and Junior

Kern Gallery: Constantine Kermes, multi media Amish theme. Ann Fisher, pain-

tings and drawings of Central Pennsylvania Amish.

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