

### 'Laughing': just gags and mix-ups

By JOHN WARD  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Robby Benson doesn't have an acting style; he has charisma. With his baby blue eyes, perfect teeth and bashful smile, he sets off unabashed ear-tweakers in the hearts of teenyboppers everywhere. He's the movie industry's answer to Shaun Cassidy, Lief Garrett, Andy Gibb and all the other singing idols. That might be the most frightening thing about his new film, "Die Laughing," he's trying to hit the music market.

As Dan Pinsky, the movie's beleaguered hero, Benson plays with a soft-rock group called Rush Hour. The group is trying to win a contest in which the winner receives a recording contract. Benson sings several songs with snappy lyrics and melodies that fill so much they're half-asleep. The first we see Benson, he's waiting one of those cotton-candy specialists, something called "Mr. Weinstein's Barber Shop."

But this is only a small side of the film's real content. "Die Laughing" isn't a musical; it's a frenzied, slapped-together chase comedy with Benson being pursued by a bunch of the sorriest-looking villains you ever saw. It starts when cabbie Benson picks up a scientist carrying a strange box. The man is

killed in Benson's cab, and through an improbable mix-up, Benson is tabbed as the murderer and runs off with the box.

In the box is a monkey with a fantastic memory; it seems the scientist taught him a formula for turning nuclear waste into high-grade plutonium. Now all the bad guys are chasing Benson to get the monkey.

If this plot sounds the slightest bit inane, I suspect it was unintentional. Benson, who wrote the script with his father Jerry Segal, just can't write plausible conflicts. (Benson and Segal also wrote "One on One," a clear-cut "Rocky-esque" tale in which the good/bad lines were drawn for us.)

In "Die Laughing," the characters are caricatures, and hence the conflict is a punchline farce. The story is laced with moments when Benson goes off to his way to show the repulsiveness of the villains. There's a moment when a tall, spindly guy looking like a cross between Wyatt Earp and the Phantom of the Opera, is knocked to the ground. When a boy scout helps him to his feet, he shoves the kid in the face. The scene is so ludicrous it provides one of the film's few genuine laughs.

Some good character actors are stranded in this general morass. Elsa Lanchester has a small bit as Benson's

mother hen; Charles Durning is her son, the head of Benson's cab company. When Durning steps in front of MacArthur and Patton posters to address his men, it's a wonderful comic bit. But the most surprising cast member is Bud Cort, known for his performances in "Harold and Maude" and Robert Altman's "Brewster McCloud." Cort seemingly does a film every three or four years; he's a selective actor. So why the hell did he pick "Die Laughing" to stage a comeback?

Cort has an offbeat manner, but it's not suited for this film's obvious shenanigans. At times he waggles his tongue in a leering, disgusting manner that reminds one of Gene Simmons with acne. Just when we've got him pegged as an effeminate wimp, he comes out for the finale dressed as an angry punk rocker (Johnny Rotten hair-do and all) and ruins it for us.

But the blame should lie with Robby Benson. I left the theater feeling cheated, as if the film was a long series of gags and mix-ups built around Benson's three song performances. I didn't go to see Benson the singer. I went to see Benson the actor. It turned out I didn't get to see much of anything. Maybe Robby Benson's just too cute for his own good.

### Community Theatre to hold auditions

The State College Community Theatre will be holding auditions for this season's productions from 7 to 10 p.m. today through Saturday at the LifeCenter in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Musical auditions will be today and tomorrow. The theme for the company's 1989 Boal Barn season is Silver Summer.

The company intends to present Cabaret, George Washington Slept Here, Charley's Aunt, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, and Robber Bridegroom. Those intending to try out for Cabaret or Robber Bridegroom should prepare a chorus from either a ballad or an up-beat song. A rehearsal pianist will be provided and a wide range of parts is available.

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, which requires a number of teenage girls, will be cast on Friday and Saturday. Charley's Aunt calls for people in their twenties as well as older people, and George Washington Slept Here requires characters of all ages.

Slow Memorial Library should have copies of comedies on reserve for those interested in trying out.

The State Community Theatre encourages everyone in the community to audition. Those who have appeared in previous SCCT productions are required to join SCCT before they try out.

Anyone not interested in acting but who would like to work backstage is invited to sign up for crew assignments at the same time as the corresponding tryout.

### Depiction of the artist's feelings

By DIANNE GARYANTER  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The art of turn-of-the-century Vienna indicates a shift of emphasis from depiction of the outward appearance of the era to representation of the inner-most feelings of the artist, Alessandra Comini said Thursday night.

Comini, professor of art history at Southern Methodist University, emphasized and compared the works of Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele to demonstrate this transition.

Klimt's works, in the style of Art Nouveau, portray facade and decoration, while Schiele's paintings matter and isolation, as in the Expressionistic style, Comini said.

There are many self-portraits of Expressionist artists in which "their central core of psyche is exposed," said Comini. The Art Nouveau style is a "nostalgic expression of the 20th century," she said.

Comini has published five books on the subject of art in Vienna. Her book "Schiele in Prison" was nominated for the National Book Award in 1975. She has organized exhibitions on Klimt and Schiele for the Guggenheim Museum and the Armand Schoenberg Centennial Exhibition for the combined museums of Vienna.

An exhibit of "The Fantastic Art in Vienna" is on display in the Main Lobby of Pattee through Monday.

### Melodies and memories

By COLLEEN MORRIS  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A calypso carnival atmosphere created by a steel drum band brought calls from people eager to dance to such infectious cheerful music Sunday night at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. Helping to celebrate Caribbean Night, the Trinidad Stars Steel Band from Philadelphia combined limbo feats with well-executed drumming.

Fellow band members and an enthusiastic crowd spurred one like musician to do the limbo — to bend the upper body and head backwards under a bar set close to the ground. The synopated rhythm grew faster and the musician-dancer limbered up for an even more daring limbo. He threw off his jacket and shirt, lowered the bar one more notch and placed a bottle in his mouth. Bending his legs and curving his back, he slipped under the bar with deceiving ease and emerged with the bottle in his mouth.

Each melody that accompanied these gymnastics sounded crisp and had a ringing metallic sound. Musicians played on the tops of steel drums that have tempered and indented surfaces.

The many indentations give a variety of notes and the height of each drum determines its pitch. Musicians use rubber and copper mallets to hit each note.

Singing by the Caribbean Student Association Choir brought back memories to some audience members who joined in the familiar tunes. Two choir members sang a haunting song, "Sitting Here in Limbo," with much sensitivity. Other songs played by a master of ceremonies added a more comic touch to the evening.

Many audience members laughed and sympathized with Sonny — a Caribbean student from Mosquito Creek who comes to Penn State — from his departure to his return home. No one at home believes him when he says that white snow can turn black and Sonny finds that hamburgers taste better than peas and rice. Written by Caribbean students, the skit describes the differences between two cultures.

With such variety and high spirits, Caribbean Night recaptured a more carefree and melonious culture for an evening and must have brought back fond memories for many audience members.

### Iran's hostage game put on playing board

By MARGIE MARRON  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Now that the Iranian crisis has dragged on for months, it seems like everyone has an idea on how to handle the situation — including two State College board game makers.

Samuel Rockwell and Michael McCrery have invented "Operation: Jihad," a game that lets players recreate the hostage situation and work out simulated military solutions for the conflict. Rockwell and McCrery are co-owners of the StarDragon game company, which they operate from McCrery's home in Park Forest Village.

Jihad is an Islamic term for a holy war.

"The game came about because both of us felt that nothing was happening in the Iranian situation," Rockwell said. "One day Mike went to Pattee and got a copy of a map of Tehran, and we started fooling around and came up with the idea that it might make a good war game."

The two-player game, which Rockwell calls a "simulated, mercenary strike to free the American hostages," sells for

\$6.95 and consists of a black-and-white street map of Tehran and a rule book. Percentile dice and counters for the game must be bought separately.

Rockwell said he believes the game can help a lot of people relieve some of their frustrations about Iran while the crisis is going on.

"When I play the game I get a feeling of releasing inner frustrations, like I've done something others haven't done in regards to the hostage situation," he said. "Even though it's only a game, it is a worthwhile feeling."

Rockwell said that he and McCrery are defensive about comments they have heard about the game being exploitive.

"At times, I've wondered if the game is exploitive, but I don't believe it will have much effect on the actual situation, and it might be helpful to people who buy it," he said. "Personally, I've done nothing to help the hostages, and I felt the game was something I could work at."

Rockwell said that six trial games are now available, but he is not sure how well they are selling. However, the State College merchant, who is carrying the



**Pennsylvanian painter**  
Horace Pippin was born in 1888, in West Chester, Pa., where he spent much of his life. Injured in World War I, he painted by supporting his right hand with his left. Discovered at the age of 49, Pippin had a short-lived career as a recognized artist, for he died in 1946 at the age of 58. His work, "Domino Players," dates from 1940 and is among a collection on display in the HUB Gallery through May 10.

**CIVIL ENGINEERS**  
Herbert R. Imbi, Inc. is presently interviewing sophomores & juniors for CE Co-op positions in our heavy & highway construction dept. Positions may be open for graduating seniors who have some experience in heavy construction. For details call Personnel Director 814-238-5071.  
An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

PSUBAMS presents  
**Dr. Craig Bohren**  
"ONCE IN A BLUE MOON"  
Wed., April 23 7:30  
608 Walker  
also: May 3  
Meteorology Picnic  
sign-up & details in 503 Walker

**Stage Door Deli**  
—Fraser St. Mini Mall  
**50% OFF**  
with coupon  
**Any Sandwich**  
OFFER GOOD 4/23/80-4/26/80

**Stanley H. Kaplan**  
Educational Center  
TEST PREPARATION  
SPECIALISTS SINCE 1938

Class	Starts
LSAT (June 28, exam)	April 27
GMAT (July 12, exam)	May 18
Summer Term	
GRE (fall exam)	June 22
MCAT (fall exam)	June 22
LSAT (fall exam)	June 29

contact Eleanor Coburn  
444 East College Ave.  
State College, Pa. 16801  
(814) 238-1423

**GOLD AND SILVER**

Leland Enterprises will be buying gold and silver at the Penn State Sheraton Inn on Wednesday, April 23, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. We are a local business located 15 miles from State College, but have noted the difficulty some students have had obtaining transportation, so we have decided for mutual convenience to buy "in town" this Thursday. We guarantee nothing but the fairness of our prices and cash settlement. Please compare. For information call Leland Enterprises 355-1642 any time.

**BRIARWOOD BASH**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, NOON TO 11:00 P.M.

LIVE BANDS LIVE KEGS GOOD TIMES  
TICKETS \$3.00

T-SHIRTS \$3.50  
CALL 234-9079 FOR MORE INFORMATION

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES NOT SERVED TO MINORS

A TOWNHOUSE TAVERN PRODUCTION

**George's Floral Boutique**  
Corsages  
at prices you can afford...  
Also Formal Roses, Nosegays, and Boutonnieres...  
For the finest in formal flowers

482E. College Ave.  
State College, Pa.  
Across from South Halls 237-2722

**EDUCATION**  
IS AN END IN ITSELF

*E=mc<sup>2</sup>*

**TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTESSORI**  
A.M.S. Approved  
Teacher Training this Summer at Beaver College (PA) & Cornell Univ. (NY)  
Information and brochure call TOLL FREE 800-524-8874  
PA Call collect 215-233-0141  
AFPCO MONTESSORI  
1400 E. Willow Grove Ave.  
Phila., PA 19118

Penn State  
**WATER-SKI CLUB**  
meeting tonight  
7:00 p.m., 267 Wil.  
Bring Drawing Tickets

**Pick a Flick.**  
Reviews to help you choose.  
ads define the times.

Collegian

**BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Swamp Road  
Newtown, Pa. 18940

Get More From Your Summer Than A Tan

Don't neglect your mind this summer. Look at our summer sessions. Add some credits toward your degree. Get a required course out of the way. Study for fun.

Look for our brochure in your neighborhood, or call the Admissions Office at 968-5861, ext. 221.

**The TAMING OF THE SHREW**  
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Presented by The Penn State University Theater Company  
The Playhouse  
May 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, 1989

Curtain Time 8:00 PM; URTC Box Office/865-1884

Arts II Building  
Tickets: Senior Citizen and Student - \$2.75 & \$3.00  
Adult - \$4.75 & \$5.50  
Directed by Wilson Kelly

feel fine  
**Poor Charlie**  
TROPICAL PRINT SHIRTS...

represent the fashion excitement in warm weather casual wear this season.

Find them at FEEL FINE by "POOR CHARLIE" of California in dazzling red, black, yellow, peacock, royal blue, and white. Sizes S-M-L. Washable 100% rayon challis. \$24

NITTANY MALL

**Danks**  
DEPARTMENT STORES

**WEDNESDAY SPECIAL**  
**40% to 50% off**

one day only  
Save on Ladies Rainwear!

Wrinkle free Folding Raincoats  
**17.99** Regular \$36

Reversible Sport Jackets  
**5.69** Regular \$9.50

Transparent Jelly Bean Brights, Ponchos and Bomber Jackets  
**4.29** Regular \$7 and \$8

State College-Second Floor 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Nittany Mall 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Bellefonte 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sorry, No Phone Orders... No Layaways!

**Moms are very, very special.**

Be sure to remember yours with a beautiful Mother's Day Card.

American Greetings  
Creative excellence is an American tradition.

**Penn State Bookstore**  
on campus  
McAllister and Hetzel Union Buildings  
Owned and operated by the Pennsylvania State University

**Spring Ring SALE**

**20% to 40% off**

Save on absolutely every ring at Kranich's! Breathtaking engagement rings... wedding rings... rings in a sensational variety of designs to dazzle someone you love! Our low sale prices are even more exciting, now that the price of gold has increased. A glittering selection... yours now at big savings from Kranich's!

**kranich's**  
Accounts Invited, or use your VISA or MASTERCARD. A small deposit holds your choice.  
216 EAST COLLEGE AVENUE • 234-4481  
REGISTERED JEWELER • AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY