

Seminar aims to enrich relationships

By BETH HARMEN
Collegian Staff Writer

Far away from the long St. Patrick's Day line at the Phyrst, 111 1/2 E. Beaver Ave., and the crowd at Rec Hall this weekend, three couples decided to enrich their relationships.

A relationship enhancement seminar, held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and yesterday in Henderson Building East, aimed "to bring couples closer by giving them tools to deal with conflict," said Patricia Yoder, the seminar leader and assistant to the director of the Penn State Individual and Family Consultation Center in Beecher House on campus.

The seminar, sponsored by the center, was designed to help couples build more supportive and satisfying relationships and learn to deal with

problems that arise from personal differences.

The program appeals less to couples facing major crises than to those, like LeeAnn and Bryan Stover from Spring Mills, simply looking to make things better, Yoder said.

Married for four years, the Stovers feared they wouldn't be able to afford the \$200 cost per couple. But, after seeing a marriage counselor, "we wanted our communication skills to be concrete," LeeAnn Stover said.

Bryan, the personnel manager of Mellon Produce Company, 300 Shiloh Road, said, "The RE program is teaching us the importance of reflective listening." Reflective listening is a skill taught at the seminar to enforce listening by repeating the partner's idea.

Yoder, who has a master's degree in human studies from Penn State and

eight years of experience in the program, talked about relationship dynamics — the causes of problems or source of conflicts in relationships.

Mary Wojnas of Warren, N.J., said she and her husband are "going through a passage in life where our children are leaving. We've gained better communication skills in our relationship."

Conflicts sometimes occur because of the preconceived ideas about roles or behaviors expected by partners, Yoder said. And she said conflicts occur in any relationship.

"Disagreements do not mean that love is not there," she said. "Try to understand that managing conflict is a process. It's tedious. If it's a hot situation, you will see how important details become."

After an explanation and demonstration of a skill, such as expression

and problem resolution, the couples went to different corners of the room and, sitting face to face with legs touching, began to discuss issues pertinent to their lives.

They addressed topics including weekend trips, spending money, communicating effectively, dividing and sharing household responsibilities, coping with careers and expressing affection and sexual needs.

The couples left with positive attitudes about what they learned.

LeeAnn said she learned better ways to deal with anger.

"We have learned good ways of working through our problems without yelling and screaming," she said.

Bryan said that even though his relationship with his wife was healthy before the seminar "this seminar gave us the extra tool we needed to problem solve."

1990 record year for cellular phone market

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rapidly growing cellular telephone industry added an average of more than 150,000 subscribers a month in 1990, its best year ever, an industry report said.

The industry expanded its customer base by half and revenues increased by more than a third, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association said in the report to be released today.

The industry group said 1.8 million cellular subscribers were added last year, bringing to 5.3 million the number of Americans with cellular phone service. Revenues totaled a record \$4.55 billion, up 36 percent from \$3.34 billion in 1989.

In 1984, just over 91,000 people had cellular phones, generating revenues of \$178 million for the industry.

The increasing popularity of cellular

The industry expanded its customer base by half and revenues increased by more than a third.

phone service "is testimony to the usefulness of our service and proof that cellular is not a perk to be dispensed with during bad times," association president Robert Maher said in a statement.

The association conducts a nationwide survey of the industry every six months.

The survey also showed that the average monthly bill for cellular customers declined last year from \$83.94 to \$80.90, while the average length of a phone call fell from 2.3 minutes to 2.2 minutes.

Critics agree, Schwarzkopf has makings of candidate

By JILL LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — He's more than chubby, he's less than tactful and he doesn't have much hair to blow dry. But experts agree: Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf has the makings of an excellent political candidate.

"He exudes a strength and a warmth and comes across exceedingly well on television. He'd be a media consultant's dream," said Frank Greer, a Democratic ad-maker.

The charismatic Desert Storm commander said last week that he would not "slam the door" on a political career. No one seems to know if he's a Republican or a Democrat or even if he's registered at all, so both parties are free to spin electoral fantasies.

Florida Republicans are talking up Schwarzkopf as a possible 1992 challenger to Democratic Sen. Bob Graham.

Greer is thinking on a somewhat bigger scale. "Wouldn't it be great if the Democrats could recruit him to run against George Bush?" he mused. "He instills confidence. That's what Americans want. They're looking for somebody to say, 'We can do it.'"

Hardened professionals offer nothing but rave reviews of Schwarzkopf's tough-but-compassionate persona — a hybrid of Fozzy Bear and Gen. George Patton or a teddy bear and a grizzly bear, in the words of Barbara Bush and Life magazine, respectively.

If he doesn't look like Tom Brokaw, they say, so much the better.

"He's not too pretty and that's an advantage. He looks like everybody's grandfather, father or brother," said Democratic media consultant Bob Squier, whose clients include one Bob Graham of Florida.

Lyn Nofziger, former political director at the Reagan White House, said the bulky Schwarzkopf might want to lose a few pounds for a campaign — but not too many. "I'd rather he looked like a linebacker than an inside tackle," said Nofziger.

And by the way, he went on, forget the Senate. "I wouldn't run him for a legislative body," Nofziger said. "He's a commander. I'd run him for governor or president. He'd go crazy in the Senate. He's a take-charge guy."

Schwarzkopf's trademark candor — he talks openly, for instance, about falsifying enemy body counts during the Vietnam War — is rare in politics and accounts for much of his appeal, political professionals say.

Coming from the wrong mouth, such bluntness could lead to gaffes and abrasiveness. But Schwarzkopf has already test-marketed his style on a national audience and emerged a star.

The challenge facing candidate Schwarzkopf and his advisers would be to stretch his image beyond that of the triumphant battlefield commander.

"The biggest mistake you could make would be just to run him as Stormin' Norman the military hero," said Republican media consultant Larry McCarthy. "I'd show him more as a person who can get things done overall. I'd try to broaden the resume so people would feel comfortable that he has a grasp of something besides waging war."

Greer said he would try to depict "the human side" of the man. "You need to portray him as a family man, a compassionate, concerned citizen who wants to help improve the lives of average families," he said. "If you did that, he'd be unstoppable."

But maybe not. Any campaign would mean farewell to those familiar desert fatigues, hello to telegenic blue suits and red ties. The exotic, war-torn desert backdrop would be a thing of the past, as would the emotional greetings of troops. Dynamic briefings on brilliant military strategy would give way to speeches on the federal deficit. Could Schwarzkopf survive the transition?

In a domestic rather than wartime context, some strategists say Schwarzkopf's opinionated style could seem more grating than refreshing to pro-

"What we've seen so far is arguably the best general we've produced in modern times speaking on the thing he does best, which is generalship," said Squier.

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