

Museum director talks of controversial clash

By WILL MAHAN
Staff Writer

On Monday, September 16th, Dennis Barrie, current director of the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) of Cincinnati, will speak in the Russell House Ballroom on the First Amendment and the freedom of expression.

Barrie is most noted for his involvement with a controversial exhibition of photographs by John Mapplethorpe at his museum. The photographs were a part of a respective collection entitled "The Perfect Moment" that toured the United States in 1990. The collection consisted of 175 photographs by Mapplethorpe, seven of which authorities in Cincinnati deemed to be obscene for their depiction of homoerotic acts and semi-nude children.

Barrie

At the opening of the exhibition in Cincinnati on April 7, 1990, uniformed officers moved those citizens interested in viewing the exhibition out of the museum, while the Cincinnati vice squad collected evidence by videotaping and photographing the pictures. Criminal indictments were then issued against Barrie and the CAC on charges of "pandering obscen-

ity" and "the illegal use of minors in nudity-oriented materials."

The trial that followed was notable because it was believed to be the first instance an art gallery was tried on obscenity charges. The prosecution attempted to use the conservatism of the jury to its advantage. Only the seven photographs in question were allowed to be entered into evidence and shown to the jurors. Taken out of the context of the entire exhibition (which included such harmless subjects as celebrities and flowers), the trial was the equivalent of passing judgment on a book based on a single page.

On October 5, 1990, a jury took two hours to acquit Barrie and the museum of all charges. Mapplethorpe's exhibition, in spite of opposition from the conservative Citizens for Community Values, was a huge success during its run at the CAC, with a record 80,000 visitors viewing the exhibition in the museum.

Barrie has received numerous awards during his career, including the 1990 Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award for his refusal to remove the exhibition in Cincinnati and the Post-Corbett Award, a regional award for achievements in the arts.

Barrie received his master's degree in American Cultural History from Oberlin College in 1970 and a Ph.D. in American Cultural History from Wayne State University in 1983. Before his work at the CAC, he served as the Midwest Area Director of the Archives of American Art/Smithsonian Institution.

The presentation, sponsored by the Carolina Program Union and paid for, in part, by Student Activities Fees, will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include a question and answer session. A reception will follow. Admission to the program is \$3 for USC students and \$6 for the general public.

B.O.A. Continued from page 5

B.O.A.'s original music is hard to categorize because it crosses so many different styles. Some songs are pretty heavy, while others are more like dance songs or funk, and yet others are entirely impossible to compare to anything. They definitely stand on their own as original

creations.

"We aren't influenced by other bands in our writing," Alewine said. "Our songs have our own style."

If you haven't seen B.O.A. perform, Rockafella's will be the

place to be Saturday night. If you have seen them, you can count on the enthusiastic, live performance which is their trademark, along with the opportunity to hear some of their new stuff.

Opening for the show will be Insane Jane.

Folk band

Continued from page 5

cause of Yarbrough's desires to explore other horizons. "I never intended to entertain after the Limelitters broke up. I thought singing was something you did til you grew up. I thought I would like to take a crack at sailing around the world."

Before he was able to embark, he made another album for RCA, *Time to Move On*. From this album sprung the Top 40 hit "Baby, the Rain Must Fall," which gained him further success and began his solo

In 1967, he arranged for the construction of a school for underprivileged children in the San Bernardino mountains of California, supported fully by Yarbrough. Soon after, he began to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a sailor and began the construction of his first boat, *Jubilee*.

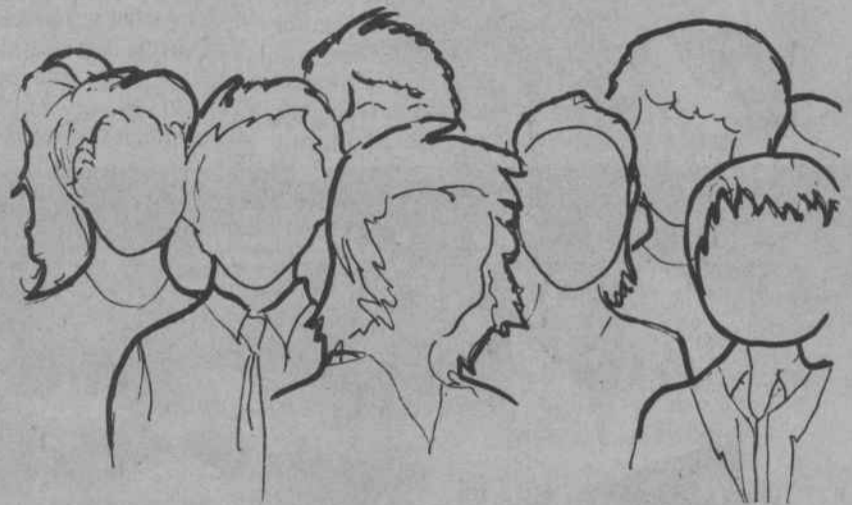
He lived on his boat for five years, sailing from Mexico to the Bahamas to Central America. His proficiency as a boatman and a sailor has gained him the famous

nickname of "The Singing Sailor."

In 1973, the Limelitters reformed with Yarbrough's name preceding the remainder of the group. Their shows have since become highly acclaimed with both Yarbrough and the Limelitters playing independently of each other on many occasions.

This weekend, Columbia is being treated to both legends, together again, and this show promises to be a noteworthy one. The Limelitters' past shows have been described as "spectacular," "outstanding" and "unequaled."

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