

Constitutional play, panel discussion ends program

By Ingrid Petersen
Emerald Reporter

A free theatrical performance entitled "A More Perfect Union" will conclude the University's 1987 Convocation celebration tonight at 8 p.m. in the Silva Concert Hall at the Hult Center.

The play addresses the entire political movement that led to drafting the U.S. Constitution, featuring much of the arguing that occurred before and after the constitutional convention, according to Berkley, Calif., author and historian Henry Mayer, who serves as the historical reviewing consultant for the play.

"It is a pretty unusual

historical drama because of its immediacy," Mayer said.

The 45-minute production is carried off by six actors and actresses portraying 40 different characters. Scheduled immediately after "A More Perfect Union" is a panel discussion concerning the accuracy and issues of the dramatic portrayal of the framing of the constitution, Mayer said.

Panel members include Mayer; James O'Fallon, University law professor; Cheyney Ryan, head of the University's philosophy department; and Stanley Katz, a Princeton University history professor and keynote speaker for the 1987 Convocation ceremonies.

The play both maintains,

historical accuracy and is entertaining, according to O'Fallon, convocation chairman.

The play emphasizes how the framers of the Constitution chose not to deal with controversial subjects such as slavery and women's issues, O'Fallon said.

"It points out how the Constitution evolved in order to be a viable document in governing the country," he added.

"In the play we learn a lot about what people (in 1787) expected, and the play helps clarify issues of what the Constitution is about," said Mayer, who recently published a political biography about Constitutional convention delegate Patrick Henry.

During the discussion, Mayer said he hopes to talk more about the amending rather than the drafting of the Constitution because of its important role in refining the document.

Free tickets to the play are available in the EMU ticket office today and at the Hult Center ticket office tonight.

The play will follow a day-long celebration of the start of the academic year and the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution beginning at 2 p.m. with Katz's keynote address in

the EMU Ballroom.

At 3:15 p.m., following the keynote address, there will be various seminars in the EMU on historical and contemporary topics concerning the Constitution. "Women and the Constitution" will be discussed in the Fir Room; "Federalism: Dead or Alive?" in the Walnut Room; "Advertising and the First Amendment: Madison and the Marlboro Man" in the Forum Room; and "Constitutional Landmarks: Oregon Contributions" in Cedar Room A.

Et al.

MEETINGS

The Council for Human Rights in Latin America will hold its first volunteer meeting of the term today at 5:30 p.m. at 511 E. 12th. Everyone is welcome.

The Student Senate will meet today at 3:30 p.m. in Century Room E of the Erb Memorial Union. All senators are required to attend.

Pre-PT/OT Club meeting tonight at 5:30 p.m. in Century Room C, in the EMU.

The Student Economics Association will meet today at 5

p.m. in 412 PLC. New members are encouraged to attend.

University Women in Transition invite students to its first Brown Bag Lunch, to be held Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Women in Transition office, Room 316 EMU. Additional information can be gathered by calling 686-4099.

MISCELLANEOUS

Students interested in applying for editorial assistant positions are asked to attend the Literary Society's meeting today at 6 p.m. in Century Room D, EMU.



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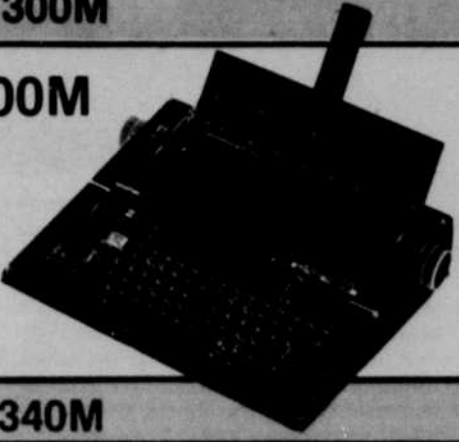
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