

Performance Thursday at 7:30

Dance group perfecting steps

By KARI WEEKS
Reporter

"Do you feel comfortable with what we've learned?" Cathy Girard asks.
"No, I'm confused," Ellen Stover says.
"I can't believe I've learned it

so fast," Girard says.
"I know, I'm still not sure of that last part," Stover says.
Girard and Stover are not discussing an upcoming exam. Instead, dressed in tights and leotards, stretching in positions comfortable only to those peo-

ple with limber bodies, they are discussing their tap dance for the Dance Arts Society's annual spring performance.

In the last few days, before members of the Dance Arts Society strut, leap and pirouette onto the stage of Rudder Theater, they are painstakingly trying to perfect each individual step for the show Thursday night at 7:30. Admission to the show is free.

The theme of the performance is Dance Expressions and the show will highlight dance from classical ballet to aerobics.

Seventeen acts are scheduled to perform. Most acts are groups, but there are some solo performances. The one classical ballet act is "The Variation of the Sugar Plum Fairy" per-

formed by Cheryl Hooks. The other acts use original choreography and range from humorous and satirical to serious.

A special feature of the show will be the emcees — Scott Hamilton and Don Wilder, who are members of the Singing Cadets.

Members of the society have been choreographing and rehearsing since February for their two hours of fame. For some the preparation for their dance has required hours of exhausting work.

Paul Licce, a full-time special education teacher and part-time dance instructor for the society, says it takes a lot of sweat, blood and blistering feet to be a dancer.

It's worth it though, says Stephanie Hubbell, one of the dancers. Hubbell, who is performing a solo character dance, says it's good to know that you can accomplish the dance.

Other members in the dance club are just as intent to perfect the performance, but are mainly interested in the society

as a form of relaxation.

"I take 18 hours; I work and I need something to relax to," Girard says.

"Professional dance is just not for everybody," Stover says. "What we are doing is pertinent, but it's easy-going," she says.

The president of the Dance Arts Society, Vicki Tallas, agrees that the society is a fun way to release energy.

The main purpose of the society and the performance is to have fun, she says. "We offer classes at nearly all levels of skill in ballet, tap, jazz, aerobics, pointe, modern dance and technique," Tallas says. People aren't required to have any previous dance experience.

Seven teachers instruct the classes and choreograph the dances, and for them, the dance club is more demanding and time consuming than for many of the students, Tallas says.

The aerobics teacher, Renee Vermaelen, says that the choreography and teaching do take up a lot of time.

"I love to teach though," Vermaelen says. "I'm a people person, and I like to pep people up."

It is her pep and exuberance that got Vermaelen into some of the other acts, Vermaelen says. Even though she doesn't



Photo by DEAN...

Kay Dalton, one of Dance Arts Society's ballet teachers, and Tom Van Dyke perform a pas de deux to Scott Joplin's "Solace."

have any formal dance training, she enjoys being a source of humor in some of the lighter acts, she says.

While these dancers may not become professionals, you can hear by their steady counts of

one, two, three, four and these dancers love what they're doing. And while it may be a bit of a challenge to balance with school or strain muscles, the love of dance and satisfaction of accomplishment are worth the work.

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