

N O R T H E A S T T O D A Y

December 1, 1986

NMSU Live—That's The Ticket

It almost had all the trappings of a nightclub.

The stage carried the familiar graffiti-splattered brick wall and a lamp post as props. Round candles glowed dimly on round tables where the audience crammed in to see the night's amateur entertainment. Onstage, comics told their jokes, singers sang their love songs, and musicians strummed bars from familiar tunes.

Gone, though, was the canopy of smoke hanging just above the crowd. Patrons sipped fruit punch instead of alcohol and watched their friends, classmates and teachers perform in a cafeteria turned nightclub.

NMSU Live took off with its best attendance yet in the Georgian Room, Nov. 23. Four hundred nineteen faculty, staff and students gathered to watch 12 of their peers perform in this year's second NMSU Live. Nine musical acts and three comedies featured semi-professional performers and amateurs.

Backstage talent was partly responsible for the twofold increase in attendance, up from an average audience of 200 last year.

Talent like Chairperson Mary Jo Schmidt and her NMSU Live committee spent approximately 25 hours auditioning acts and publicizing and setting up the event. Schmidt said she doesn't know what they would've done without their backstage man, Lloyd Rhoads, who set up lighting and sound for the production. Rhoads was responsible for the change last year from a spotlight propped on the table to its current professional lighting system. One of Rhoads' art appreciation classes also built a stage last year for the Student Activities Board for the productions.

The increased professionalism of the show has attracted even better talent. Kenny Kehner, who is one of NMSU's top piano students, accompanied singers in four acts, singing in two of those. Senior Jerry Riggs, on electric keyboard, wrote the two songs sophomore Kelson Houston sang. Freshman Lisa Holbrook played a classical song on piano. Other acts included comics, instrumental musicians and singing groups.

Several of the best performances at the

Nov. 23 show will be part of the Best of NMSU Live in the spring. Acts are chosen from each of the four productions during the year to be part of the grand production.

"Each time the show has grown in terms of much better talent," Rhoads said. Audience response has also improved in number and in mood.

"The crowd is more open and more responsive. That helps the performers. If a comic tells a joke that doesn't go over well, (this year's) crowd would give him a break. In the past, I felt they were almost out to get the performers," Kehner said.

NMSU Live began as Purple OMEN (that's NEMO backwards) as an outlet for University talent. It became the Greenhouse Theater to keep up with the times in 1979 and changed to resemble the Saturday Night Live format in 1982.

"It (the NMSU Live format) is yet another step beyond, to make it more in touch with what's current. It's portraying the show as funny and fun and rewarding and maybe a little zany," Vonnie Nichols, director of student activities, said.

Nichols said the popularity of NMSU Live is twofold.

"NMSU Live reaches the element of campus that wants to perform in a relatively comfortable setting and those who want to see local talent perform in that atmosphere."

NMSU Live gives students a hands-on experience in their liberal arts education.

"I think some people have a secret desire to be performers, but they don't see it as a real goal. This is their shot," Schmidt said.



Mary Jo Schmidt, NMSU Live committee chairperson, and committee member Mike Schrage judged 14 performances during tryouts, Nov. 13. "If they have the courage, ... if they want to perform, they usually get in," Schmidt said.



Freshman Lisa Holbrook performs "My Tribute," a classical piece, during tryouts.

1 MONDAY

Alpha Sigma Gamma service sorority will sell chances to win three \$25 gift certificates from the Campus Bookstore, today through Dec. 9, A/H lobby and SUB.

7:30 a.m.—Classes Resume

8:15-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.—Open Enrollment, today through Thursday

7:30 p.m.—Men's Basketball vs. Grand View (Iowa) College, Pershing Arena

2 TUESDAY

7 p.m.—Christmas Tree Lighting Spectacular, SUB fountain. Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m., with lighting at 8 p.m.

3 WEDNESDAY

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Pictures with Santa, SAB Office, SUB. Pictures will be taken in Ryle Hall lounge from 7-9 p.m. Cost is \$1.

5 p.m.—Student Senate Applications for vice president and chairwoman are due, Student Senate Office, SUB. Any student with a minimum 2.5 GPA may apply. The appointment will be made at the meeting at 7 p.m., Sunday, in the SUB, Conference Room. For information, contact the Student Senate Office, 785-4193.

8 p.m.—Alpha Phi Sigma national scholastic honorary fraternity meeting, Violeta Hall 290. Luette Drumheller, Chairperson of the Committee for Student Concerns, will speak.

4 THURSDAY

Missouri Board of Probation and Parole and Reliable Life employment interviews. Contact the Career Planning and Placement Center, McKinney Center, for information.

1:30 p.m.—ACT Assessment Make-up (sophomores), SUB, Activities Room. Inquire in the Testing Services Office, A/H 103.

4 p.m.—Intramural Manager's Meeting, Pershing Building 314. All "AST" teams must be represented.

7-9 p.m.—Pictures with Santa, Centennial Hall lounge. Cost is \$1.

9 p.m.—Slave Auction, sponsored by Pi Kappa Phi little sisters, Missouri Hall lobby.

5 FRIDAY

New York Life employment interviews. Contact the Career Planning and Placement Center, McKinney Center, for information.

5-7 p.m.—Winter Warm-up Weekend "HAPPY HOUR," SUB, Snack Bar. A plate of nachos supreme and a bowl of chili will be served for 99 cents. Trivia contests and music will be played.

THIS WEEK

Non-alcoholic "Happy Hour" is the beginning of "TGIF events" in the SUB.

5:30 p.m.—Women's Basketball vs. Quincy (Ill.) College, Pershing Arena

6 p.m.—Campus Gold Girl Scouts open meeting, SUB 4. All interested women are welcome.

8 p.m.—'til Tuesday Concert, Baldwin Auditorium. Tickets are \$9 or \$5 with an SAB sticker and are available from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the SAB Office, SUB.

6 SATURDAY

7 and 10 p.m.—The Color Purple, an SAB movie, Baldwin Auditorium. Cost is \$1.50 or free with an SAB sticker.

7:30 p.m.—Men's Basketball vs. Morningside (Iowa) College, Pershing Arena

7 SUNDAY

10 a.m.—Departure for Christmas Shopping Trip to Columbia Mall, A/H circle drive. Cost is \$3 or \$2 with an SAB sticker. Sign-up in the SAB Office, SUB, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

7 p.m.—Purple Rain and Purple Hearts, SAB movies, Baldwin Auditorium. Cost is \$1.50 or free with an SAB sticker.

NOTES

The Library Media Collection has "Looking Forward to Retirement," "Planning Today for Tomorrow" and "Because The Future Begins Today" available for video presentations.

The ACT/COMP Objective Test Make-up will be at 1:30 p.m., Dec. 9, in the SUB, Activities Room. Inquire in the Testing Services Office, A/H 103.

NMSU's United Way Representatives



Meet some of the people who were instrumental in raising 110% (\$24,191.50) of the United Way Drive goal.

Front row: Winston Vanderhoof, Melvin Courard, Brian Harkler; second row: Angie Petre, Ann Lytha, Judy Mallins, Beulah Watson, Meredith Wilcox, Elsie Gaber, Ron Gaber; third row: Rod Fothhoffer, Diane Hamm, Mona Davis, Melinda Wood, Linda Anderson, Mike Kacir, David Noble, Dennis Mackeson.

Not pictured: Lori Haxton, Lee Myers, Irma Beets, John Jepson, Margarita Heissver, Joan Martin, Barb DeWitt, Cliff Brown, Dr. Morgan, Ed Carpenter, Marcia Dixon, Ray Burrow, Jim Edwards, Jeff Romine, Jason Haxton, Mary Beersman, Roger Tebo, Paul Wohlfeld, Eva Jane Nov, Christine Pilon-Kacir, Kyle Palmer and Jackie Conds.