

arts

The Performing Arts Festival: a fine show

By Tina Riggs
Of The Print

The second annual Performing Arts Festival, held last Friday, was pulled off with a minimum of problems. The show, which included dance, drama, music, and video programs, began with David Harvey, as master of ceremonies. Harvey not only introduced each act but also acted out several excerpts of Feiffer's *People* by Jules Feiffer.

The music department presented two separate pieces. The first was the Vocal Jazz Ensemble (VJE) under the direction of Lonnie Cline. The ensemble featured special soloists during each of their numbers. Scatting, a style of singing in which voices are used to imitate instruments, was a fascinating and delightful part of the VJE's performance.

The other music department contribution to the festival was Leroy Anderson's Dixieland Jazz Band. The band finished the show with the

pizzazz that only a Dixieland band could.

The dance department performed two dances. The first, "Night People," used not only dancers and props, but video feedback as well.

"Hill Street Blues," their second dance, was a modern-jazz dance. Although the dances contained bits of interesting choreography, they lacked a sense of continuity and seemed almost unrehearsed.

The video department took a major role in the festival year, contributing a documentary of the "The Wheelers: A Fiddlin' Family" and filming the Friday night show for Storer Cable T.V. Their documentary on the champion fiddle players was informative and interesting and is the first of a series of new projects for Video Tech class.

The highlight of the Friday night show was the excellent performance of "Les Mimes Feminiques," a mime duet.

Joette Rose and Rebecca Proulx held the audience captive with their interpretation of 'Inflation' and gave a new

meaning to the old tales of 'Little Jack Horner' and 'Little Miss Muffet.' Rose and Proulx ended each of these old tales with a surprising new twist that the audience understood without one

spoken word.

Friday night's performance was the second of three shows scheduled for the festival every year. The first took place last Wednesday at noon.

Wednesday's show was almost a success. The show was fine, but the mall at lunchtime is not the place for the best performance. Another noon show is scheduled for today.



Staff photo by Tina Riggs

"LES MIMES FEMINIQUES" made a special appearance at the Friday night showing of the Second Annual Performing Arts Festival. 'Little Miss Muffet' (Joette Rose) is shown here conversing with the spider (Rebecca Proulx).

(continued from page 4)

Band blends charm, charisma

band members. As he paces from side to side and back and forth in his allocated "space," his witty comments seem to flash by as fast as lightning, accompanied by broad grins and huge smiles.

Wolfford specializes in picking the mandolin in addition to vocals and guitar. The mandolin's high-pitched vibrations give a special flavor and character to the band's sound. And Wolfford's hands, whizzing so fast that they sometimes appear to be a blur, are a show in themselves.

Standing in the center of the other band members, his amiable demeanor and calm, even-keel appearance add a coordinating factor to the group as a whole.

Hugh McClellan, sincere and earnest, bends down to reach the microphone and provides a diversion with the in-depth pitch fluctuations of his harmonica.

While strumming the guitar, McClellan's voice rings deep and true in the "Tennessee Stud." On some other songs, though, he hits some low notes that initially can be startling; they match the lows of one of the Oak Ridge Boys in the song, "Elvira."

And finally, Monte Trautman maintains the steady beat on the bass guitar with a quiet confidence. But when he performs vocally, the notes follow through in an uninhibited, steady flow.

In addition to furthering their artistic abilities, the band members have all put in considerable time in the educational system. They are all teachers or prospective teachers. (Wolfford teaches psychology-related classes and Mисley teaches a blue grass class at the College) Baker will start teaching beginning in Spring.

Wolfford feels that they are "possibly the best-educated bluegrass band in town. We all became musicians as a way of coping with going to college for that long."

Just out of curiosity, how did the group come up with the name **GOLD RUSH**? Wolfford commented: "There is a bluegrass fiddle tune called 'Gold Rush;' it was a little bit different. And my son, Saul, liked it too." The name also is advantageous due to the fact that it is commonly used for promotions.

The band's banner, which hangs directly behind the stage, is just as unique as the band; it is an appliqued soft sculpture, made from brightly colored fabric by Dennis Burbridge. The huge words "GOLD RUSH" curve over a visual image of mountains and valleys with individually stuffed leaves overhanging them. This fabric applique adds to the mood of the performance.

Last year, **GOLD RUSH** played for the Oregon State Fair. "We are trying to increase our exposure in Washington and Oregon and play fairs and rodeo circuits in the summertime," Wolfford explained. "Oregon has 30-35 fairs in the summertime." The band also plays for private parties and weddings.

According to Wolfford, the band's goal is to become known and perform throughout the Northwest. With their growing popularity at the local scene, this may not be far down the road. One thing is for sure—no matter where the group is playing—the band members and the audience are both bound to have a good time!

Clackamas Community College



Staff photo by Tina Riggs

MASTER OF CEREMONIES, David Harvey, introduced three characters from "Feiffer's People" by Jules Feiffer.

art briefs

"Big Band Ball" slated

A cornish game hen and barbecued rib dinner will precede this year's Big Band Ball, Saturday, February 27. The dinner will take place from 8-9 p.m. in the Community Center Mall, and the dance will follow from 9 p.m.-midnight.

Leroy Anderson's Rhythm Section play favorites from the sounds of Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman.

Cost for the dinner and dance is \$11 per person or \$9 per person with groups of 10 or more. Cost for the dance is \$5 per person.

The Big Band Ball is open to the public. For reservations or information call 657-8400, ext. 245.

