



photos by Ted Kirk and Steve Boerner



# HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT



By 7 p.m. Friday evening, the Nebraska Union had become more than a place to grab a cup of coffee or catnap between classes.

After four months of planning and coordinating between the 15 Union Program committees, Winter Walpurgisnacht arrived. Eight hours and about 7,500 people later, it left, "successful beyond our wildest dreams," according to Suzanne Brown, assistant director of the Nebraska Union.

In German tradition, on Walpurgisnacht—which is celebrated in May—the ghosts and goblins emerge for a night of revelry.

Friday night there were no ghosts, and January is not May. But the spirit was there—the school-carnival spirit tying together an impersonal university with a showcase of talent at prices even a student could afford.

"I overheard several students say as I was walking through the crowd, 'I didn't realize what a neat place the Union could be,'" said Sara Boatman, program adviser for the Union. "It showed students what student fee money could do.

"As a Union person, I thought the dynamics of the evening were absolutely incredible. How so many people—from the Union Program committees on down—could work so hard together."

By 4 a.m. the last group of people had drifted into the South Crib to listen to folk guitar music.

And after the last of the revelers had been turned back into the night, the custodians took over, clearing away the paper and cigarette trails before the Union reopened a dawn away.

