

# Grand Traverse Express striving for 'glitter, flash'

By Kathy Foreman

When the Grand Traverse Express (GTE) performed Monday at the University Club in the Stuart Building, the atmosphere was posh, the audience was mostly over thirty and the purpose was fund raising.

About 200 people sat in cramped quarters, or stood, to listen to the premiere of an eight-piece band composed of former college students from UNL and Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Band leader and musical arranger Robert "Buck" Bucholtz said the purpose of the performance was to demonstrate "the musicality and entertainment value of the Grand Traverse Express to any persons who might be interested in providing financial support for the group." The five man, three woman band, hoped to raise about \$10,000 for sound equipment, costumes and publicity.

### Family, friends

The invitation-only crowd was a mix of family and friends of the band and local night club representatives. Bucholtz said GTE obtained the 11th floor room of the Stuart Building without charge in exchange for one evening of free entertainment. The University Club dress code required a suit and tie.

Opening with a 30-minute set of originally arranged Top 40 music, Bucholtz told the crowd the dance set was "necessary to keep the group competitive in today's night club, hotel and showroom market." While he urged the audience to use the dance floor during the first set, the band leader explained most of GTE's show is to be watched and listened to.

Following a brief intermission, the

Lincoln-based band returned with an energetic rendition of Broadway and television music, complete with dance and several costume changes. Bucholtz said this type of entertainment is aimed at an audience of 25 and over.

### Making it

The 24-year-old band leader said GTE is an off-shoot of a 10-piece band called "The Kids" that formed in May, 1977 to perform at a Bellaire, Michigan ski resort. After a "very successful summer" a portion of the band came to Lincoln to take their musical entertainment concept on the road. Members of the band quit their former jobs Oct. 1 to devote themselves entirely to "making it."

Although the band's members are relatively young (ages ranging from 20-25) Bucholtz said all are successful and competent musicians. Some even hold music degrees. Lead vocalist Robert Jenkins added that the band thinks of themselves as "primarily vocal" and has "tried to attain the best vocal sound through a mix of male and female voices." Jenkins said although GTE hasn't yet used any original material on stage, every member is capable of composing.

Goals for GTE include getting on a circuit that would enable them to play in large hotels throughout the nation. Ultimately, GTE would like to be part of the "glitter and flash" of Las Vegas. "We hope to be playing Vegas in 10 months to a year," Bucholtz said.

Currently, The Grand Traverse Express has bookings for Hutchinson, Kansas, Holiday Inn and will return in January to the Bellaire, Michigan ski resort they played at this summer.

# Free film on Darwin

Quentin Keynes, great grandson of Charles Darwin, and nephew of Lord John Maynard Keynes, the British economist, will present a showing of his film *Exploring Darwin's Islands* at the Roxy Theatre, 12th and Q streets, tonight at 8:30.

The film, made by Keynes, comes from

his world travels and concerns Darwin and the voyage of the Beagle. Keynes is also credited with participating in making the British Broadcasting Corp. film series *Search for the Nile*.

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