



Photo by Jerry McBride

Playing the piano is one of many pastimes for Michelle Schumaker, who is living with her mother, an artist-in-residence, in the Neihardt Residence Center.

Neihardt resident, 12 years old, says college life 'not normal'

By Mary Fastenau

Michelle Schumaker is 12 years old, going on 20.

Strumming her guitar in a lounge corner in the Neihardt Residence Center, where she lives with her mother, she looks 12, but her quick wit and charm say she must be older than that.

"I am not old enough to be a college professor," she said, "but old enough to know better."

Michelle's family is full of college professors. Her father is chairman of the philosophy department at the University of North Carolina and her mother, an artist-in-residence for the Centennial Educational Program, will be teaching at UNL until Oct. 21.

Michelle admits she is not quite ready to be a college student.

Her sparkling eyes, framed by her long brown hair, seem to laugh as she talks about what it feels like to be "in college."

Young and short

"I feel short," she said with a noticeable Southern drawl. She also gets tired of people asking, "Aren't your a little young to be a freshman?"

There is no such thing as a "normal day" for a 12-year-old in a world of 20-year-olds, she said.

"A normal day, if there is one, consists of having to go to school, do homework and go wait for supper."

She said there were some problems with doing junior high homework in a college atmosphere. One night she was studying while there was a disco in the lounge right next to her room, which created some problems.

Michelle uses the lounge to play the piano or her guitar which, she said, cost her "an arm, a leg and two picks."

Most of her spare time is spent reading.

She reads just about anything, and is currently absorbed in two Agatha Christie novels.

She has contemplated writing a book, but has never "gotten anywhere" with the idea.

Star Wars dance

She has, however, shown her creative talent in a Star Wars dance presentation which she and her best friend, directed, wrote, starred in and produced.

She is unsure of what she wants to do with her life but plans to merge two of her loves into an English/drama major.

She has been in quite a few dramatic productions including "South Pacific" and "Magic to Do."

"I perform every day," she said.

"The whole world is a stage," she said she jumped onto the low table that sat in front of her.

From the table she hopped to the floor and lay on her back, explaining her actions with a dramatic sigh.

"It is like as the world overturns," she said.

"But you can't use that, she added as she popped into an upright position, "It has been copyrighted."

RHA to consider money for speakers

A \$1,000 contribution to Union Program Council's Talks and Topics committee for political and ideological speakers was proposed last night to members of the Residence Hall Association as part of its 1978-1979 budget.

RHA president Bill Skoneki said the contribution was originally his idea and was included in the budget after discussions with Talks and Topics committee members, ASUN President Ken Marienau and other executive member of RHA.

Skoneki said according to information he has received, the contribution, which is from refrigerator rentals, would not conflict with the Board of Regents' ruling which restricts student fees from funding speakers.

"This could be viewed as a way of subverting the system," he said, "but it seems terrible to call bringing in different points of view subversive."

Other budget proposals include \$350 for publicity and support of All University Fund money raising projects.

A trivia bowl, penny drive and non-computer dating service are being considered as possible residence hall activities which also would raise money for AUF.

These budget proposals will be voted on at the next RHA meeting on Nov. 12 to give members time for discussion with hall residents.

In addition to fund raising projects, RHA has established committees to study dormitory room and board rates, the RHA constitution and to investigate the costs of installing cable television in the residence halls.

RHA also is considering the establishment of a Hall Judiciary Board to replace the Housing Hearing Board.

The present eight-member board contains four student representatives and serves as the appeal board for disciplinary actions taken by residence directors.

The proposed board would serve the same function but would be made up entirely of students with one faculty advisor.

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