

## Arts & Entertainment

### Revue pumps up energy to make audience move

By Pat Higgins

*WHOT Radio*, a rock and roll musical revue, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Nebraska Union. Among the many entertainers involved in this production are local bands the Excessives, the Travis Wagner band, Cost of Living, and the Neoclassic Jazz Orchestra. Producer Danny Meldon previously did *Carousel for Freaks*, an original production, as well as a version of the Who's rock opera *Tommy*.

"There is going to be a lot of energy going on during *WHOT Radio*. Hopefully it will make the audience want to move," Meldon said.

The musical, sponsored by the University Program Council, is a combination of music and dance with a skit in the middle of the show. A fictional disc jockey for *WHOT Radio* named A. Bobalu Mac ties the piece together.

"The idea is that the artists involved are portraying stars of the '50s who are trying to make a comeback today. It is played up

to be somewhat humorous and it is political in a sense that it kicks Nixon around," Meldon said.

Choreographers are Trudy Knicy Kos and Cindy Monohan and director of the program is Bob Beadell.

"Pretty much everyone involved is a professional," Meldon said. "It has been hard to get it together because everyone has different schedules, but it is all falling together now."

Dave Wagner and Bart Becker wrote some original tunes for *WHOT Radio*. The other songs are covers of rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues classics augmented by a horn section.

"This is a flashy type of show. We are going to have a dance contest for the audience and will give away Charlie Burton 45s to the winners," Meldon said.

"A lot of these people were in *Carousel for Freaks* (a mid-seventies musical). Our disc jockey, Alan McCracken has a real knack as a showman," Meldon said. "We put a lot of people together to create some energy."



Photo by Dave Beatz

Danny Meldon (front) and Butch Berman (rear) rehearse music for this weekend's presentation of the *WHOT Radio Rock 'n' Roll Revue*.

### 'Performance dancer' teases audience at Bo's

By Cydney Wilson

Calypso, a male "performance dancer" is currently performing at Little Bo's Center until Saturday and Jan. 27 through 30, with three shows nightly at 8:30, 10 and 11:30. His show is filled with dancing, music, singing, jokes and questions from the audience. He selects his three shows from eight listed in the show's program. His costumes, which he quoted as costing \$1,500 to \$2,000 each are reminiscent of a Las Vegas floor show.

The Wednesday night crowd at Little Bo's consisted of one male, the rest female, ranging mostly between middle 20s to early 30s. As Calypso came out there were shouts of, "take it off," etc. He performed a series of Elvis songs, beginning in a rhinestone-studded pantsuit and cape, (the cape he used in an interesting spinning scene with black

light and strobe effects), and ending in a G string.

Sometimes he appeared quite serious about his work, while at other times he really hammed it up. He strutted around the stage, approached the women in the first row and talked to the audience. Many of the women responded to his gestures, and some helped him remove his clothes.

#### Audience appeal

He tried to appeal to all of the audience members by covering a wide range of music styles. Calypso, western, Elvis, Sesame Street and the Muppets and Alice Cooper.

In talking to Calypso, (David J. Calhoon, 27, of Green Bay, Wis.) I saw a quiet, nice guy, who hopes that whether or not people like his show, they simply can forget

their troubles for a while. He does his own choreography. He has taken dance lessons and also studies great male performers. He hopes some day to take choreography lessons. He took his name from a style of music, for which Harry Belafonte is famous.

"He's my idol, I think he's excellent," Calhoon said. "His music is primo. To build a show you hear music you like so you work around it, developing a number to perform."

He got into the world of burlesque dancing on a dare when he was 18. He met a few female strippers, and went to their show, and was impressed because it was not sleazy or cheap, as he had previously assumed. They dared him to come on stage, and he did. That was seven years ago.

"At first it was hard for my family to accept — but now they're all into it. My aunt helps make my costumes, and my mother helps out a lot."

Thus far he has only taken it all off once, in Marshfield, Wis.

"It has to be a prime audience," he said. He said that our audience was close to prime.

#### Prefers couples

He prefers working to couples.

"They really enjoy the show, as it's kind of a Las Vegas-type show. I'd like to be called a burlesque comedian — not a male stripper. I like working with my audiences, learning names, etc., because the same people return when you perform again in their town."

Calypso has never married because he feels it would be unfair to leave someone at home while he's on the road 29 weeks of the year. When he first entered the burlesque business he was a sophomore in college studying elementary education.

His last performance was entitled "S and M in Bondage." He explained at the beginning it was controversial, and he was not trying to sell it. He said his performance does not mean he does it in common practice. To this extent he showed some professionalism. It was definitely not something that appealed to all of the audience members.

Up to this point, he had been quite responsive to the audience. He showed little respect for the audience when a group of women got up to leave, assuming the show was over. He remarked: "I don't know where you ladies went to school, but where I went, people didn't leave in the middle of the show."

One audience member I talked to summed it all up, "You have to come out here with an open mind and have fun."

Calypso is an entertainer. Like all entertainers, he will appeal to some people who see him as he sees himself: a burlesque comedian. Others will think he is simply a male stripper.

### 'What's NU' features women in previously all-male roles

A look at increased enrollment by women in previously male-dominated areas on all NU campuses is presented when *What's NU?* airs "Women in Non-Traditional Roles," Friday, at 8 p.m., repeating Saturday, at 1 p.m. on all stations of the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

UNL will present a segment on women majoring in the College of Engineering and Technology. In another segment UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources focuses on a female farm loan officer in a bank and a woman majoring in animal science.



Calypso