

Committee pledges captivating acts at talent show

By Cydney Wilson

One of the climactic events of Greek Week — the Greek Talent Show — will be presented in the Nebraska Union tonight at 7:30 p.m. Dawn Penney, chairperson of the talent show committee, said this year's show is a "step up."

"The program is a professional-quality show built around amateur acts, and is designed to keep the audience motivated," she said.

In the past, the master of ceremony's job was to be humorous entertainment, while this year's "MC," Jeff Maddoux, is simply there to see that the show runs smoothly.

"He's more of a straight man this year," said Matt Wallace, a committee member.

Show committee members and chairpeople of Greek Week said many changes in the format have been implemented into Greek Week.

"People are excited about change, so the new approach is positive," said Kris Saalfeld, Greek Week co-chairperson. "We also want to create a better awareness of the positiveness of being involved in the Greek system. This year we have gone back to some traditional activities since Greek Week is over a hundred years old, for example, the Greek Sing is similar to the Ivy Day of many years past, and the Greek Talent Show is similar to the Greek Follies which were also held many years ago."

Stress participation

Co-chairperson Gregg McCormick said the group tried a different approach with public relations.

"We wanted to encourage more inhouse participation, not competition," McCormick said. "A sponsor (Coca Cola Co.) has also been added for the first time."

This year's 14-member committee chose 12 acts from 27 that auditioned. Acts include a comedian, tap dancers, singers, duet and solo piano acts, jugglers and numerous combination acts. The committee members think the show offers more diversity than past shows.

The format of the show is new with a "host" band, Shabazz, opening the show and providing musical breaks throughout it. Shabazz features six members, who will be entertaining with music of a variety of styles: fusion jazz, Al Jarreau, Brecker Brothers, James Taylor and J.D. Souther. They will also provide music during the judges' deliberation period.

"The flow of the show with the addition of the host band is better," said Wallace, who is a band member.

Choosing the winners

Judges for this year are Larry Kubert, entertainment writer for the *Lincoln Journal and Star*; Sandy Fisher, active in the Lincoln Community Playhouse; Beth Hughes, a former Miss South Dakota and active in other pageants, and Jack Snider, director of UNL bands.

Criteria for the judges throughout the show are: audience appeal, degree of difficulty, professionalism and originality. Awards will be selected for top All-Sorority Act, top All-Fraternity Act, Best Combination Act and Best Overall Act.

Committee member Mike Barnhill said the judges may

have a difficult task because there are "lots of good combination acts this year."

"Overall it's going to be great," Barnhill said. "It's full of entertainment with no chance for the audience to be bored. There are less acts than in last year's show, but that is because there is a lot more quality in this year's event."

Tickets for the Greek Week Talent Show will be on sale in the Nebraska Union from 10 to 2 p.m. for \$2, or they can be purchased at the door for \$2.50. Seating will be limited.

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