Wednesday, November 7, 1990 Daily Nebraskan ican cultures merge at Lied

By Julie Naughton Senior Reporter

"Africa Ove!" (Long Live Africa). a melange of brightly colored sights and rhythmic sounds, brought together the cultures of Guinea, Zaire, Mali, Senegal and Niger for an African experience that was unique for Lincoln audiences.

African dancers, acrobats and singers in colorful native costumes brought a powerful magic and energy to the Lied Center for Performing Arts on Tuesday night.

The evening consisted of 12 short performances, divided evenly between two acts.

The scene stealers of the evening clearly were the Peul Acrobats in the first act and singer Kandia Kouyate in the second act.

The Peul Acrobats from Guinea,

combined flute, percussion and balafons with acrobatics. The acrobats seemed to take a special joy in their performance. With big smiles on their faces, they flipped, cartwheeled and at times breakdanced through the performance. The white balloon-type long shorts they wore, presumably native costumes, could have passed for the bubble skirts that were popular several years ago.

Kandia Kouyate, a singer from Mali, has gained widespread popularity in West Africa. Her performance Tuesday evening proved this popularity is well-deserved. Kouyate, clad in flowing robes and a headdress, belted native songs in her strong, harmonious voice.

Kouyate's authoritative voice echoed throughout the Lied auditorium as she performed "Koulan Djan" and "The Manding Epic." As she danced to her own singing, her white,

body. Through eye contact, she easily created a rapport with the audience.

Kouyate's music is the music of the griot, conveyers of historical knowledge. Griots have the responsibility of orally reciting the history of many West African people, and often



are considered celebrities in their native lands. Kouyate is one of them.

When she spoke the only line of English in the show — "Thank you, I love you" - the audience went wild,

saluting her with loud applause. Also appearing in "Africa Oye!" were the Percussionists of Guinea. filling the halls with the thumping sounds of percussion.

The Pende tribe, dancers and musicians from Zaire, performed a

The rest of Ivory Star hails from

Sioux Falls, S.D., including keyboar-

dist Darrin Drew, bassist Jeff O'Con-

nell and guitarist Gary Snow. In their

10 years of playing various Midwest

sites, they too had carved out a niche

nal songs."

for themselves.

program similar to the Percussionists of Guinea, while Batwa-Ekonda, musicians from Zaire, performed celebration dances and music, known as the "joust of the tribes.'

Mbulie-Hemba, also from Zaire, did the dance of initiation, while Kanouri, griots from Niger, portrayed the Theme of the Chief, the Warrior March and the Theme of the Ancient Empire of Bornou.

Babunda, Zaire musicians, shared African prayers for fertility with the audience

"Africa Oye!" is the brainchild of Michel Boudon and Mel Howard, two men who were interested in bringing the culture of Africa to the United States. The show took more than four years for the men to put together, and as Howard said, it is a synthesis of the culture that still is being created in Africa — rather than what already has happened.

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Wing-Ding

Vednesday

By John Payne Senior Reporter

Folks who remember the prominent Lincoln bar band Street Legal may want to check out Ivory Star at the Pla-Mor Ballroom, 6600 West O St., Thursday night.

The 9 p.m. show will be its Lincoln debut, but two of the band's members are anything but strangers to the area.

Siblings Donette and Dave Smith worked the college circuit for about nine years with the cover outfit Street Legal, finding a particularly good following in northeast Nebraska. Since breaking from their old band, the Smiths have booked up with three members of a South Dakota group called Star. The result: Ivory Star.

Much of Street Legal's radio cover style has remained intact, which ought to please the college crowds who packed many of their previous shows at places like the Pla-Mor or The Precinct.

There are some similarities still there," said lead vocalist Donnete Smith. "I guess our style is a little bit heavier, which is something that (drummer) Dave and I wanted to do."

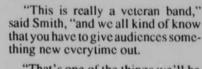
Another thing Smith said he hopes to do with Ivory Star is break away from the standard cover band format.

"Right now, we're doing covers, but our ultimate goal is to write origi-

ducer Alan ("Angel Heart") Marshall had a hand in this one as well. But unlike that supernatural thriller, this one relies more on lighting tricks and quick edits than any discernible plot.

All of the confusion is poorly explained away with a quickie ending. It's a cop out, and it solidifies the pointlessness of "Jacob's Ladder."

"Jacob's Ladder" is playing at the Plaza 4 Theatres, 201 N. 12th St., and



"That's one of the things we'll be concentrating on - updating our live show in order to satisfy people the second time around."

Tickets for the show are S5 at the door.

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Jacob

Continued from Page 14

blue, and it's just one of the things that make "Jacob's Ladder" a little hard to swallow. There are dream sequences that are never fully explained. There are dream sequences within dream sequences, just to add

to the confusion. The line between the real and the unreal gets fuzzier throughout the story. Not surprising considering that pro-

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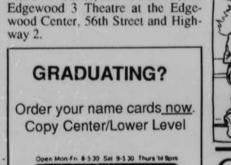
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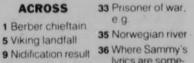
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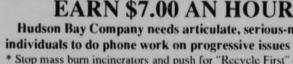


By GARY LARSON





35 Norwegian river



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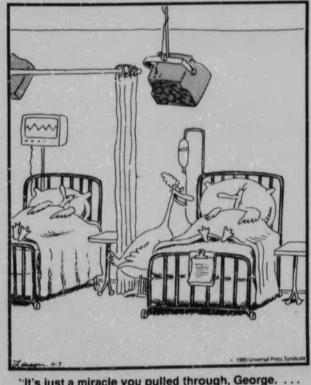
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Page 15



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