

# ARTS

## Forum Theatre overview

By Alana Jones

UNCA's Forum Theatre wrapped up its fall season with Monday's performance of **A Need For Brussel Sprouts**.

Forum productions are held each semester during the fall and spring. The one-act plays are directed by senior drama students as part of the directing class taught by Arnold Wengrow, professor of drama and director of the university theatre.

This semester, the plays chosen for presentation were **Opening Night**, **Minnesota Moon**, and **A Need For Brussel Sprouts**.

**Opening Night**, a play about an aging actress' attempt at a comeback, was presented on Nov. 19 by director Bernice Lazar.

Sherry Cathcart portrayed the once-famous Fanny Ellis, and Ellen Wharton played Hecky, her long-time dresser and closest confidante.

Both Cathcart and Wharton's acting were realistic and convincing. Cathcart captured the essence of the neurotic actress in her speech and mannerisms; and although she spoke a bit too rapidly at times, I felt that this was the character and not the actress.

Wharton's Hecky was both funny and touching. A little stilted at first, Wharton nevertheless gave a performance worthy of notice.

The relationship between

the two women was obviously one of deep affection and devotion. Of course, for the characters to have a good rapport, the actresses had to establish one also, and I think they achieved this.

The second Forum Theatre production was **Minnesota Moon**, directed by Scott Mebane.

This touching play about two friends "celebrating" on their last night together starred Colin White as Larry, the gas station attendant unsure of what he wants to do in life; and Don Hardin as Alan, the ambitious college-bound student.

One of the most impressive aspects of the play was the realistic setting. Mebane's creativity and ingenuity helped him transform the stage into a deserted junkyard, complete with empty beer cans, old tires strewn about, and even a worn-out clothesline.

The play depicts two high school graduates immediately following their graduation in 1968 before going their separate ways.

The rapport between White and Hardin was extremely believable. The dialogue was natural and I honestly thought that I was eavesdropping on their conversation. Their attempt to deal with a close friend's death as well as their aspirations was moving and one to which any young adult could relate.

**A Need For Brussel Sprouts**, directed by Gordon Hurst, was the last of this semester's Forum Theatre productions. Performed on Monday, the show starred Jason Sanford and Melanie Johnson.

Sanford portrayed Leon Rose, a struggling young actor, and Johnson played Margaret Heinz, the tough-minded policewoman who summons Rose to court with a complaint that his music is too loud.

Sanford displayed an excellent stage presence; and everything about his performance, from his flawless delivery of lines to his movement on stage, was totally believable. He seemed a little nervous at first, but this soon ceased to be a problem for him.

Johnson was quite amusing as the supposedly man-hating, practical policewoman. I knew right from the beginning that her coldness was merely a facade to cover her insecurities and that underneath her harshness was a woman who had been deeply hurt in the past.

The New York apartment setting was appropriate, and the actors related to their environment quite well.

The next scheduled production for Theatre UNCA is John Pielmeier's **Agnes of God**, slated for February.



ONE OF THE VOCALISTS for The Maxx sings with emotion at the Christmas dance Friday night.

Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

## Maxx music

By Alana Jones

What gets you most in the mood for Christmas?

Is it hearing carolers in the street on Christmas Eve? Or is it seeing tinsel-wrapped presents under the tree. Or perhaps it is watching the snowfall on Christmas Day?

Well, if dancing to the sounds of Top 40 rock-n-roll music in a Christmasy atmosphere reminds you of mistletoe and holly, then the annual Christmas dance sponsored by the University Program Board Friday night was for you.

THE MAXX, a popular band from Atlanta, performed a wide variety of hit tunes by such groups as Journey, Prince, and Hall and Oates in the second big dance at UNCA.

In spite of an hour's delay in opening, The Maxx put on a smashing show in the Highsmith University Center Cafeteria.

The band opened with the disco hit **No Parking On The Dance Floor**, and every song they performed, from **Adult Education** to **When Doves Cry** was, in my

opinion, almost as good as the original artists' versions.

Charismatic and entertaining, The Maxx related to their audience well. During a few numbers, it seemed like the whole crowd was dancing and clapping.

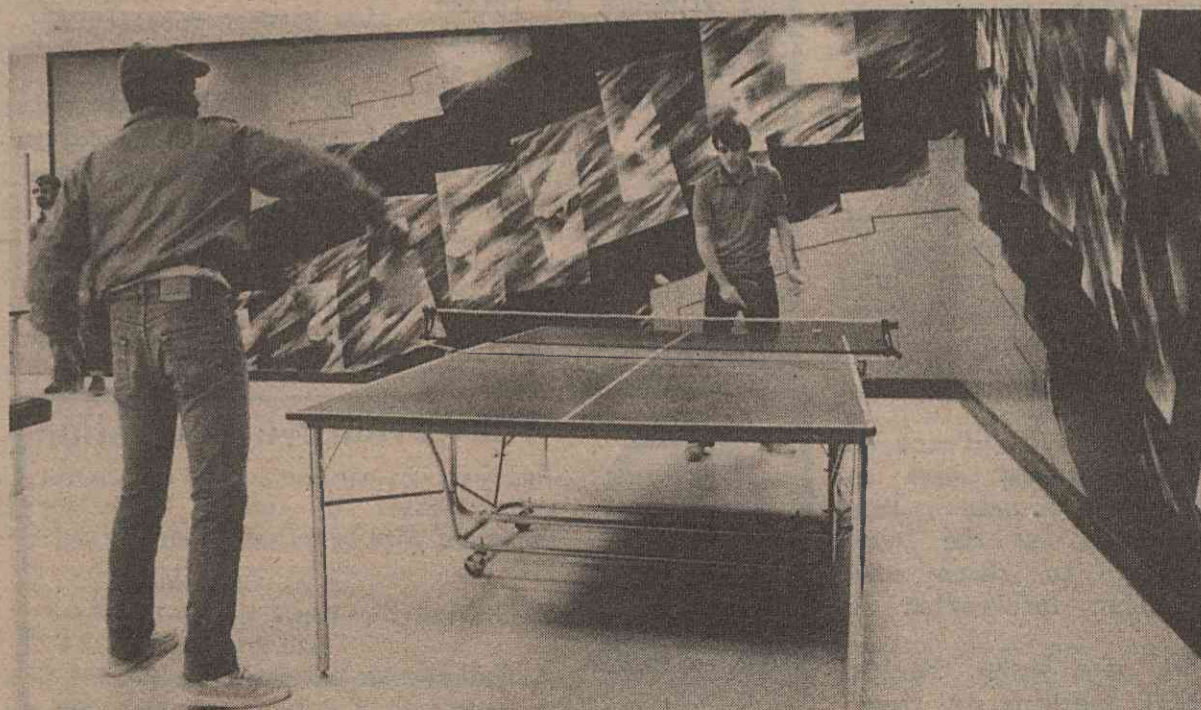
With Prince's recent rise to stardom, it certainly didn't hurt The Maxx to have a drummer who bore a haunting resemblance to this sexy superstar.

The cafeteria took on a romantic image with candles and red tablecloths adorning every table.

Ron Greenfield, assistant director of food service, was impressed with the evening.

"Besides the fact that they were late, they were very good, and the atmosphere was very festive," he said. "They compensated for their lateness."

Speaking for the people who attended the Christmas dance, I would have to say that this special evening was one to be remembered.



UNCA STUDENTS Vince Linney and Joe Kuhn play ping-pong in front of Scott Lowrey's mural in the Highsmith University Center game room. (See mural story on page 5.)

Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins