

# N O R T H E A S T todaytodaytoday

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HAPPENINGS ACROSS CAMPUS

JULY 14, 1986

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

YEARBOOKS WILL BE distributed 2 to 4 p.m., Monday and Tuesday on the first floor of Ophelia Parrish. There is no charge to full-time students (fall and spring semesters). A student ID is required.

**BLOODMOBILE:** The annual NMSU Summer Bloodmobile will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, in the SUB Activities Room.

INTRAMURAL SUMMER SOFTBALL continues. This week's game schedule:

Tuesday:

5:30 p.m. VICE vs. Top Gunns

6:45 p.m. Bombers vs. Phi Lambs

Thursday:

5:30 p.m. Lambda Chi vs. Dirt Bags

6:45 p.m. Delta Chi vs. Top Gunns

NMSU'S SUMMERPLAY SERIES continues with "The Little Foxes," by Lillian Hellman. Presenting the clash between good and evil during the industrial age in the Deep South, Hellman mixes comedy and drama to expose the greed of an aristocratic family. The play will be performed Thursday through Saturday. All performances begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$1 for students; \$3 and \$4 for the public, depending upon seating.

NORTHEAST TODAY is published weekly by the Public Relations Office. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to Monday's issue. Special deadlines apply before and after vacations. Entries should be submitted on the NORTHEAST TODAY forms available in the PR Office, 202 Administration/Humanities Building.

"FALCON AND THE SNOWMAN," the SAB movie, will be shown at 7 p.m., Wednesday in Baldwin Hall Auditorium. Cost is \$1.

## NORTHEAST NOTABLES

JIM BARNES, LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, has been invited to make a special appearance and give a reading at the Poetry Society of America's regional meeting in St. Louis on Oct. 4. His new book, "A Season of Loss," was reviewed in the June 26 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

DALE JORGENSEN, FINE ARTS, had his book "Moritz Hauptmann of Leipzig" accepted for publication. The book examines the thought, activity and teachings of Moritz Hauptmann, a leading musical theorist of mid-19th century Germany.

## THIS WEEK

Monday, July 14

LAST DAY to enroll and/or add classes.

Tuesday, July 15

\$5 change-of-schedule fee begins.

COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP), 8 a.m., 103 A/H, also July 16.

Wednesday, July 16

SAB presents, "Falcon and the Snowman," 7 p.m., Baldwin Hall Auditorium, \$1.

Thursday, July 17

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT test (GED), 8 a.m., A/H 103.

Friday, July 18

LAST DAY to receive refund or withdrawal from school.

Friday, cont.

LAST DAY to drop courses without a code.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST DEGREE TEST BATTERY, 12:30 p.m., location to be announced.

Saturday, July 19

REAL ESTATE LICENSING EXAM (RELE), 8 a.m., location to be announced.

## LAUGHLIN HALL:

80 YEARS

OF TRADITION

COMES TO

A CLOSE

At one time, it was used more than any building on campus. Nearly 500 students walked its halls each day on their way to classrooms. It housed the Division of Social Science offices, classrooms and even the bookstore. Busy days are over for Laughlin Hall, however; destruction of the oldest building on campus will be completed by the end of the summer.

Built in 1906, Laughlin Hall then Science Hall, was used for science, mathematics and home economics courses. On the first floor was the women's athletics department, complete with a large gymnasium, showers and locker rooms. In 1918, a fire destroyed most of the building, including the gymnasium and the roof. The origin of that fire is still a mystery.

A flat roof was put on and the building restored. When the old Baldwin Hall burned in 1924, steel fire doors on the catwalks connecting the two buildings prevented Laughlin from burning down, although some damage did occur. In 1955, Laughlin was renovated. The women's gymnasium was converted to a large lecture room\* and the



running track on an overlooking balcony removed. Basketball goals were taken down, and 269 seats faced the new lecture stage. In 1956, the building was christened Laughlin Hall, in honor of former faculty member Harry H. Laughlin (1908-1911),

and the Division of Social Science moved in.

One of the first social science faculty members to take residence was David March, professor emeritus of history. March moved into his office on the south-

*later  
In the sixties - women's gym yet 60-64  
as per '64 alumna*



Aug. 14, 1905

*At far left, a view of Laughlin, then the Science Building, prior to 1918. Above, President Kirk, left of the cornerstone, at the cornerstone-laying ceremony. Left, Laughlin Hall was still in use this spring to house the campus media.*



of fire. The building is almost all wood, March explained, and once a fire was started, it would be almost impossible to put out. March went to Presidents Walter Ryle's office and voiced support for the installment of safe fire escapes. With so many students, March said, the two iron ladders the building had were impractical. Two fire escapes, one on the south side and one on the west were added in 1963.

Walter Ryle IV, the second faculty member to move in, had his office in the same area as March for 23 years. Ryle said he liked teaching in Laughlin. The classrooms were light and airy and had excellent visibility, as most of the rooms

had risers on the floors. At night, the building expanded and contracted, Ryle said, and it was easy to imagine the ghost of Laughlin Hall roaming the empty, dark hallways.

The ghost's origins began with Albert Kline, who taught chemistry and physics, Ryle said. Kline reported strange happenings at night while he caught up on classwork.

Helen Reiger, former curator of the Violette Museum in Kirk Memorial, said she heard the ghost herself, according to a 1978 Index story.

Pauline Knobbs, professor emeritus of Social Science, recounts the story told her by Reiger. Reiger was waiting on the third floor for her husband to finish teaching a class when she heard footsteps and said, "Wray, aren't you a little bit late tonight?" The footsteps stopped. Reiger walked toward the stairwell and asked again, "Wray, are you there? Who's there?" She received no reply.

Few of the social science instructors believe in the ghost of Laughlin Hall. Robert Schnucker, professor of history and religion, is one such skeptic. Schnucker said jokingly, the ghost is "garbage created by Index people." Schnucker does believe in other unwelcome guests in Laughlin, however. He refers to the large cockroaches who lived in the heating ducts beneath the building at "little beasties."

east corner of the third floor in the early 1960s and did not leave until his retirement this year. He recalls his move from Pickler Memorial Library with nostalgia when he and history professor Walter Ryle IV came to their offices with cleaning rags in hand.

One of March's main concerns about Laughlin was the threat

Schnucker said he often warned female students they might be literally carried away by the roaches. Schnucker used the northwest corner on the first floor as his office for 23 years. As the last active faculty member to move from Laughlin to the Administration/ Humanities Building in 1984, Schnucker recounted some of his most memorable experiences in Laughlin Hall.

At one time, Schnucker shared an office with Henry Smits, associate professor of philosophy, and Arnold Zuckerman, professor of history. One day, Schnucker and Smits visited a Zuckerman lecture. Using a sign made by Schnucker which read "Down with History," Smits walked from the back of the room, across the class and out the door on the south side of the room without distracting Zuckerman's lecture.

A well-known custodian to the social science faculty was Raphael Darr, Alias "The Midnight Requisitioner." Darr earned the reputation of being able to get anything quickly, Schnucker said. No questions were asked as to how the needed supplies appeared and no answers were offered by Darr.

Ryle said a new faculty member who particularly impressed Darr told Darr he needed a desk for a typewriter. The "Midnight Requisitioner" began his search and ended up at Ryle's office. The speedy requisition was made and the next day, Ryle found a table gone. The table was soon recovered, Ryle said.

Laughlin fell on hard times. The south wall was cracking and moving out from the building, Howard Morris, former physical plant head, said. The building was scheduled to be demolished.



*Laughlin Hall Room 106, once the largest classroom on campus, was a women's gymnasium until renovations made in the 1950s.*

The flat roof put on after the 1918 fire proved unsound and leaks were a constant nuisance. Schnucker described going to his office and finding a large puddle of water awaiting him. He followed the leak to the first-floor ceiling and then walked to the second and third floors to discover the leak had come through the roof and finished on the ground floor.

Another problem plagued the building. Pipes burst, and heating problems continued to disrupt Laughlin inhabitants. A nest of honeybees made its home in the walls between the second and third stories.

In the summer of 1978, the campus media were moved to the third floor of Laughlin. The move was a welcome one, said Les Duseith, instructor of mass communication and once editor-in-chief of the Index. The Echo, the Index and KNEU had more space in which to operate and a centralized location on campus.

For the Index staff, communication between the

darkroom and the main office was a problem. Separated by two flights of stairs, Duseith said, the staff learned to talk and drop things down the stairwell from the third floor to the first. With the decision to destroy Laughlin made, maintenance of the building ended.

"The building just got to be too old. It was falling apart," Duseith said.

Laughlin Hall had a personality all its own. Ivy on the east wall was said to have been brought from Harvard by NMSU students.

The last building on the original campus, Laughlin was a part of the Normal School in the early 1900s and of the present state-wide liberal arts and sciences university. When the last wall of Laughlin Hall is torn down, another era of Northeast Missouri State University will come to a close.