Exchange student wins 1992 Miss Mimosa title

Dyana Blythe
City News Editor

The Miss Mimosa pageant at Leone Cole Auditorium Tuesday night produced a small but enthusiastic crowd as Banu Washburn, a junior computer information systems major, was crowned Miss Mimosa.

Joe Langston, general manager of WJSU and faculty member, hosted the pageant, while Loni Foegs of Stringfellow Hospital and Connie Hancock and Jamie Tucker, both of WJSU TV-40, judged the pageant.

Ten women competed for the title based on poise, charm and ability to speak well at an impromptu interview. Langston was quick to announce at the start of the competition that “this is not a beauty pageant. It is based on talent and poise.”

All contestants were sponsored by an organization to which they belong.

The 10 contestants were Sherri Bodine, Diana Chandler, Wendy Franceschi, Mariana Braga de Lima, Patsy Long Mandi Miller, Washburn, Heather Whitestone, Lisa Williams and Amy Vycilt. Competition began Tuesday afternoon at the judges’ Tea, where the women were interviewed, and concluded with the pageant at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

The crowd was smaller this year than it was in previous years, according to TJ Hemlinger, Mimosa adviser. “A lot more organizations sponsored people last year than this year,” he says. “That may be why the turnout was lower.”

Washburn, sponsored by Delta Zeta sorority, is an exchange student from Turkey. She is philanthropy chairman of Delta Zeta, vice president of the French Club and a member of the Computer Science Club. Washburn likes to travel and speaks English, Turkish and French fluently.

Washburn was pleased at the outcome of the competition. “I really consider this an honor,” she says. “It was a great experience, and I got to meet a lot of people.”

Whitestone was the first runner-up, sponsored by the Student Organization for the Deaf Awareness. The second runner-up was de Lima, sponsored by the International House Program. All three winners received flowers and gifts from Martin’s Department Store. Washburn will also be featured in a full-page layout in the 1992 Mimosa.

“I really consider this an honor.”

---Banu Washburn
1992 Miss Mimosa,
sponsored by Delta Zeta sorority.

10th annual commemoration
Jewish Holocaust victims remembered

Jamie Cole
Features Writer

Half a century ago, over six million innocent victims were murdered in one of the most astonishing and horrific war crimes in history.

Now, years later, JSU is honoring the dead and remembering the tragedy to help remind those the Holocaust left behind that life is indeed precious. The program will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Stone Center Theater.

“Eight or nine years ago, we decided to plan a program to commemorate the Holocaust and its victims,” says Steve Whitten, English professor and organizer of the event. He, in association with Rod Morgan (then campus minister and head of the Wesley Foundation program) began the project with about 30 students.

“Since then the program has grown considerably,” says Whitten, “from that 30 or 40 people to a crowd large enough that we need a place like Stone Center for the event.”

Over the years, Whitten and colleagues have involved several university groups in the event, such as SGA, Center for Southern Studies and the Wesley Foundation. This year, both the SGA and Center for Southern Studies are presenting the program. JSU’s program is also sanctioned by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

“Our program is affiliated with the Days of Remembrance ceremonies, sponsored by the Memorial Council,” says Whitten. “Our program is a few weeks earlier than Days of Remembrance due to our schedule at JSU.”

This year’s program involves several special guests as well as JSU students and faculty.

Comments will be presented by Dr. Daniel Specter of Temple Beth-El in Anniston. Special music will be performed by Samuel Brown, Mary Catherine Brown and Carl Anderson, all of the JSU Music Department. Rabbi Fred Raskind of Temple Beth-El will recite the Kaddish before the audience.

The program will close with the Kaddish, a traditional Jewish hymn recited by mourners. Hyman Gordon and Rudy Kemp of Temple Beth-El will recite the hymn in memory of those exterminated.

Linda Cane, a JSU librarian, is in charge of this year’s program. She says she hopes the event will stir interest among students.

“In the past, the event has stirred interest at the library. Students have decided to do term papers on the subject, requesting books,” she says.

“I think a lot of students don’t know about the Holocaust. We hope to put it before them and inform them.”

Thorton Wilder's play 'Our Town' comes to our town

Kyle Shelton
Features Writer

Thorton Wilder’s “Our Town” is a timeless play about love, life and dying and how we all deal with those aspects of our lives. The setting of the play could, in fact, be Anytown, USA. However, tonight JSU student Jeff Bennett brings it right here to JSU—our town.

The play is set in the town Grover’s Corners in 1920. Spanning 14 years, “Our Town” revolves around the lives of Emily Webb and George Gibbs, as sold by the Stage Manager character, which guides the audience through the scenes of the play. In Bennett’s production, Michael Roberts plays the Stage Manager. Jennifer Whiteley plays Emily Webb and Russell House plays George Gibbs.

Roberts returned to JSU this fall to complete work on his degree in drama. While he was away, Roberts worked in professional theater and acted in several productions including “HMS Pinafore,” “The Price” and recently the JSU drama department’s production of “Stagedoor.” According to Bennett, this will be Roberts’ first dramatic role after doing mostly comedies.

Whitley has acted in several productions at JSU including “Oklahoma,” “Brigadoon” and “The Remarkable Mr. Pennybacker.”

Bennett, who was awarded the director role of the play through a national drama competition sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega, says his version of “Our Town” gives characters more life than they may have had in previous productions of the play.

“I have actually given the Stage Manager more identity,” says Bennett. “In fact, I think I am giving the character (and the play) a fresh new look.”

Part of that new look is in the change of time in the play. In Thorton Wilder’s original version, the play takes place in 1901. The time period was changed for costuming reasons, according to Bennett.

Some aspects of the play—lighting and setting—remain the same, however. Lighting is especially important in setting the mood, but the props are going to be basic. Bennett says the props are kept to a minimum so the audience can interact by “visualizing the scenery” and other props.

The play opens at 7 p.m. today at Stone Center Theater, with other performances at 8 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday at the University Amphitheater and 2 p.m. Sunday at Stone Center Theater.

Our Town
by Thorton Wilder

Student Director Jeff Bennett

Stone Center Theater
7 p.m. today, 8 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday

Starring Michael Roberts as the Stage Manager, Jennifer Whiteley as Emily Webb and Russell House as George Gibbs.