

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF  
OSU ARCHITECTURE  
A GUIDE

4. BROWNING AMPHITHEATRE

BUILT APPROX. 1880

GREEK STYLE

THIS REPIKA OF AN OPEN AIR  
GREEK AMPHITHEATRE WAS ORIGINALLY  
USED FOR ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE PRESEN-  
TATIONS. A UTILIZATION OF THE  
SLOPED BANK NEXT TO MIRROR LAKE  
REPRESENTS AN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN  
THAT IS IN TOTAL HARMONY WITH  
NATURE.

11-19-'27

Spring Quarters to the Autumn and Winter Quarters for the year 1927-1928.

That the teaching schedule of A. P. Weiss, Professor of Psychology, be changed from the 1st term Summer Quarter, Autumn and Spring to the Summer, Autumn and Spring Quarters for the year 1927-1928.

That the teaching schedule of Eunice Ryan, Instructor in Home Economics, be changed from the Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring Quarters to the 1st term Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring Quarters for the year 1927-1928.

I report the death of Dr. Joseph W. Leist, College of Medicine, which occurred on July 24, 1927, and recommend that in accordance with the usual custom the salary installments for the months of August and September be paid to the estate of the late Dr. Leist.

That One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) be appropriated for the third Veterinary Conference to be held at the University under the auspices of the College of Veterinary Medicine in March, 1928.

That upon the recommendation of E. B. Bryan, President, Professor Edwin W. Chubb be designated as the representative of Ohio University for a term of three years upon the Graduate Council of the Ohio State University.

That upon the recommendation of Edgar Ewing Brandon, Acting President, Professor Charles H. Handschin be designated as the representative of Miami University for a term of three years upon the Graduate Council of the Ohio State University.

That the University become a subscriber to the Educational Research Service at Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per year.

That the University take membership in the American Association of College News Bureaus, the annual fee being Five Dollars (\$5.00).

That the University take membership in the Department of Elementary School Principals, the annual fee being Three dollars (\$3.00).

That the University take membership in the National Society for study of Education, the annual fee being \$2.50.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary read the report from the Advisory Architect, Mr. H. J. Williams, under date of November 15, 1927. This report covered an examination of the Twelfth Avenue Roadway, area for Botanical Gardens, Campus walks, Browning Amphitheatre, the new Chemistry Building, the Power House, and the 1927 class memorial. Upon motion, this report was ordered filed.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Architect presented the completed plans, specifications, estimates and bill of materials for the south portion of the Chemistry Building and for the addition to the Power House. After consideration of the plans, it was ordered that a written report be sent to the Board on each of these plans by the Advisory Architect, the University Architect and the heads of departments which will occupy the buildings. The Secretary was instructed to inform all parties interested that it is the desire of the Board that these reports shall be complete and cover any deficiencies in the plans, as well as the approval of the plans.

Upon motion, it was ordered that this same rule be applied hereafter to all future plans for new buildings.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Paterson  
meetings of the Association  
and Allied Institutions

Thereupon, the Board met  
at 9:30 a. m., at the  
Attest:

(Signed) Carl

The Board of Trustees  
pursuant to adjournment  
Present: Julia  
Egbert H. Mark  
Kaiser, and Harry

The minutes of the

Upon recommendation  
tions were accepted and  
the general rule

Name

Agricultural Extension  
Earline Shively

College of Liberal Arts  
English  
George Finch

College of Engineering  
Civil Engineering  
Milton Hegler

College of Medicine  
University Hospital

Homer V. Bradburn  
Grace Gleckler  
Olive Mitchell  
Lucille Fenton  
Dorothy Pfalters  
Nina Bardall  
Sarah Bell  
Ethel May Bunker  
Lewis Carter  
Elsie Mae Payne

Library  
Kathryn Holt

Administrative Extension  
Student Councilors  
Jessie M. Jaynes

# Amphitheatre Idle Enthusiasm Built It,

"It adds a precious seeing to the eye." — William Shakespeare. "Love's Labor Lost," Act. IV

10-18-67  
By STUART MECK  
Campus Life Editor

About the only show appearing at the Browning Amphitheatre in Mirror Lake Hollow now is the spooning couples who congregate there on warm nights.

Since July 30, 1964, when a group of high school students gave a production of the classic Greek tragedy, "Antigone," the theatre has been in dramatic disuse, save for high school commencements and University honorary initiations.

There are less sentimental, but better-equipped places to produce plays and musicals, places like Mershon Auditorium, Derby Hall and the crumbling University Hall

Chapel where rain is not a factor determining if "the show goes on."

Once, however, you could count on a Shakespearean comedy in the open air theatre every spring, given by the Browning Dramatic Society, the group responsible for its construction in the mid-1920's.

The Society's history went back to 1882 when it was originally founded as a literary society for women. But in 1905 the Browning Literary Society, always to be an all-women organization, became a dramatic society and began producing William Shakespeare's plays.

"The one play a year was given the Friday or Saturday night before commencement or the week of commencement," said Mrs. Elsie Coates Kittle, a Columbus resident and OSU graduate, who coached the Society as "a labor of love" from 1921 to its demise.

"The all-women cast dressed in Pomerene Hall and carrying torches, paraded down Neil Avenue and into

the Hollow around the Spring Path on the north side of Mirror Lake," she said.

"For a number of years, the play was produced in the same place the Amphitheatre is now, only circus seats were used."

But, the Browning members decided, circus seats were not enough. They wanted a Greek amphitheatre.

In February 1923, fervor for the open air theatre reached a high point, a Browning rally was held and definite plans for a campaign were laid.

With an enthusiasm incomprehensible to a student on today's campus, student,

alumni and alumnae groups pushed for the theatre's construction.

"This is primarily the girls' addition to the campus — a real sylvan theatre," wrote Laura Thomas Walradt, M.A. '08, in the July 1923 issue of the Ohio State University Monthly. "Can you see it? — a grass stage surrounded by evergreens and flowering shrubs, flooded with light from unseen sources . . . it will be perfect. It will be a gem. It will be one of the places that you will want to show the University's visitors.

"It will be charming as the Stadium is magnificent. Think of the Stadium built primarily for the boys. It seats its thousands and thousands. Well, here is a little theatre that the girls want. It will seat hundreds. Who will help them build this beautiful thing for the University?"

The proceedings of the Ohio State University Board of Trustees for February 5, 1924 read:

"The Secretary presented sketches of a proposed theatre for the Browning Society to be located in the Hollow east of the Spring and the re-

quest of the Society that such a theatre be approved, and the Browning Society be authorized to solicit funds for its construction."

Permission was granted.

By March 1924, the fund drive for the Amphitheatre was going strong. The \$25,000 needed for its construction was eventually collected from play profits, alumni and alumnae contributions and gifts from various campus organizations.

The theatre, designed by Professor Herbert Baumer, of the University Architect's office, is divided into three parts: the stage, the parterre or orchestra circle and the the bowl-like amphitheatre or seating section.

The stage is raised a few feet from the ground and across the front is a wide concrete wall which ends at each side in a stairway leading from the stage to the parterre, which is flanked by two great urns.

The upper portion of the parterre provides the main entrance to the seating section. Branching off it are two aisles which pierce the rising rows of stone seats and travel up toward the balustrade which rims the theatre.

The Amphitheatre was dedicated on June 11, 1926. A steel box, containing the original architect's plans, pictures of Browning members, the campaign material and newspaper accounts of the progress of the theatre, was buried in a marble column at the west end of the stage

Donors of more than \$100 to the building fund had their names cut into the stone seats in the first few rows, according to Mrs. Kittle.

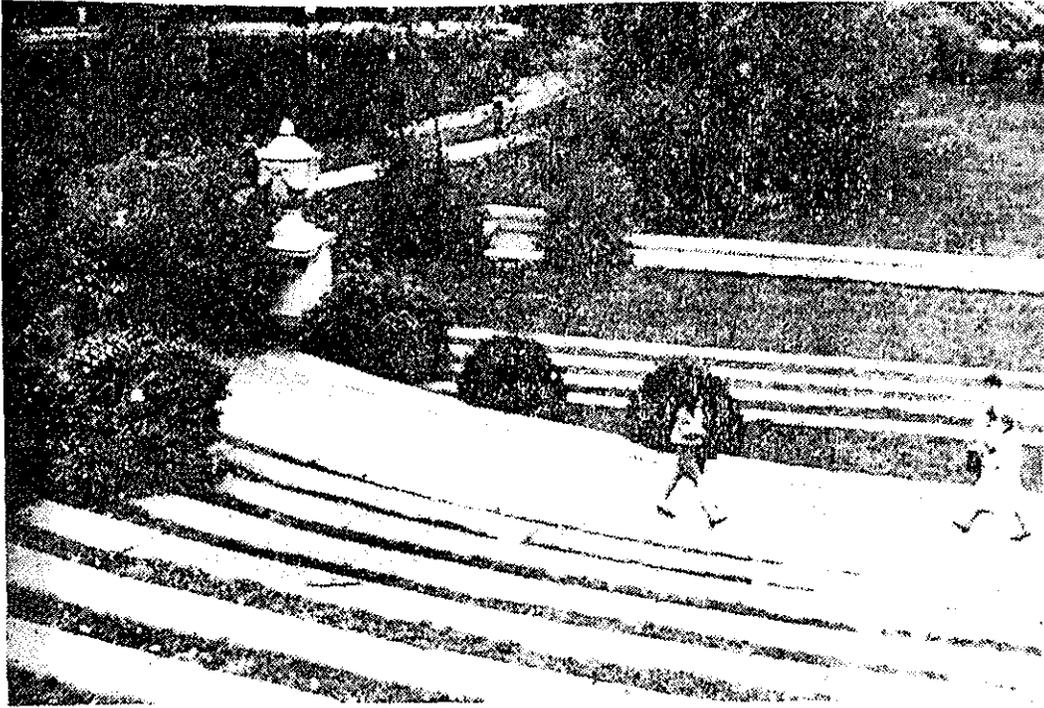
That night the members of the Browning Dramatic Society, undergraduate and alumnae, performed "Midsummer Night's Dream."

The Browning Society continued until 1956 when its president announced that it would become a Shakespeare study group, and the annual

play was abandoned. Shortly after it faded away due to lack of interest.

But the Amphitheatre it built is lying fallow in Mirror Lake Hollow, waiting for a play.

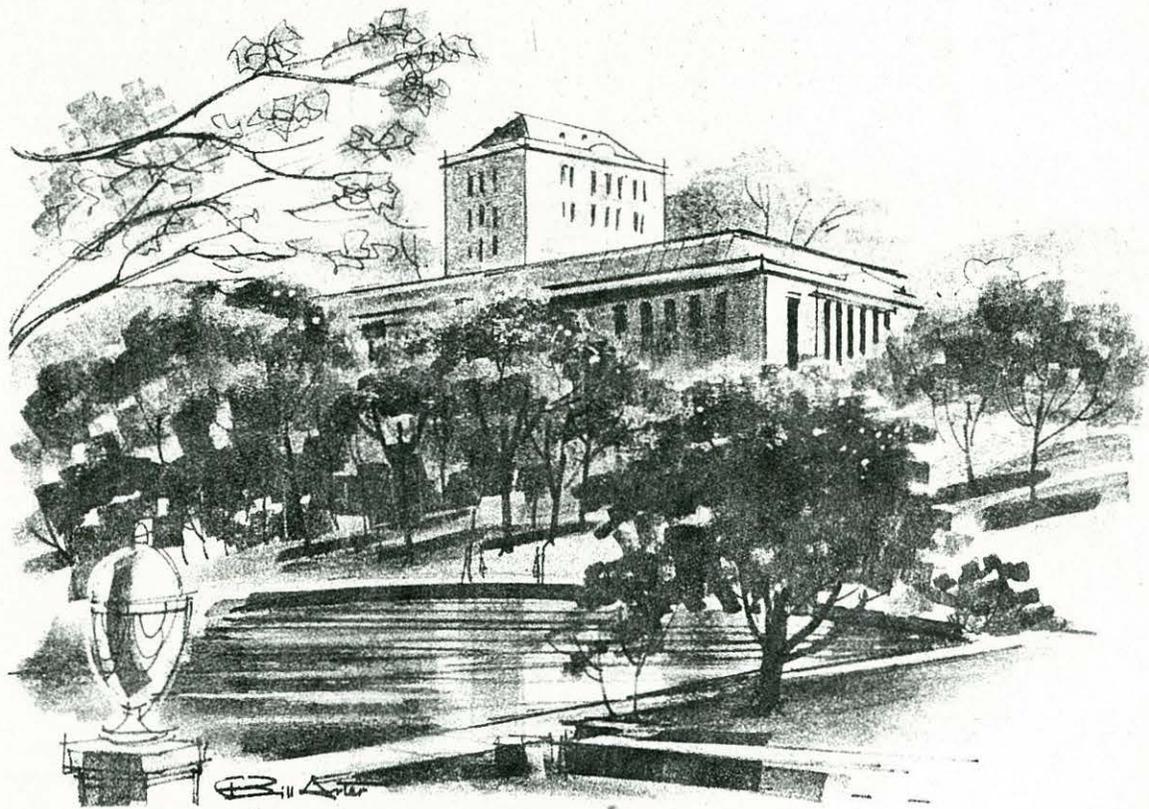
*The Ohio State Lantern*



LOVE'S LABOUR — Browning Amphitheatre, built by funds collected by

the now-defunct Browning Dramatic Society, stands in dramatic disuse.

(Lantern Photo by Phillis Goodman)



## Lake and Library

ONE OF the reasons OSU's site was favored by the founders of nearly a century ago was the presence of a great, natural spring once located at about the center of this sketch. Welling from a limestone grotto, the water was cold and pure. People came from long distances to fill jugs from its depths; some, it's said, even bottled and sold it for its health-giving properties.

When old U Hall was being built, a dam was raised to impound the water and thus **Mirror Lake** was created. The dammed water provided power used to cut stone for the new building—the first university structure. When its work was done Mirror Lake remained as the scenic feature of the big empty campus-in-a-cornfield. Once much larger than now, it contained a couple of tiny islets reached from the shore via rustic bridges. From earliest days it was a favorite haunt for lovers—and miscreants. The latter indulged in the sport of dunking miscellaneous debris, as well as each other, in its murky depths.

During the 1920s the faithful spring quit flowing. As a substitute a well was drilled. It supplied abundant water that smelled strongly of sulphur—to the dismay of campus romantics. In 1935 WPA workers drained the lake, lined

its shores with stone and its bottom with brick to simplify annual cleaning.

High above the lake is the Main Library, focal point of the campus. The original library, a most meager collection of books, was housed in U Hall and open for business only one hour a week. In 1893 its 2000 books were moved to Orton Hall and placed in the charge of Olive Branch Jones, first full-time librarian. In 1914 it was moved to its own building. Two large wings and the central tower were completed in 1951 at a cost of \$2½ million—more than seven times the cost of the original building. Today the library contains more than 1,800,000 books, making it one of the largest at any U.S. university. Its staff numbers nearly 500 librarians, clerks and student assistants.

My point of view was the **open-air theater** of the now defunct **Browning Dramatic Society**. Built in 1926 and patterned after a Greek amphitheater, it utilizes one of the steep banks above the lake. Its rows of stone seats overlook a grassy "stage" where the society once presented an annual dramatic production. Immediately above, in the loges so to speak, is the university president's home.

# Theatre history recalled

By Randy McEndree

8-9-76

Robert Lazarus, Laura Connell, Wilber Siebert, Cyrus W. Sears, The College Womans Club and the OSU Alumnae Club are but a few people and organizations whose names are inscribed on the stone seats of the Browning Amphitheatre.

University records show the Mirror Lake site was chosen because of its natural beauty by the women of the Browning Dramatic Society, originally called the Young Ladies Society when founded in 1883.

**THE RECORDS** further state that the idea of an open air amphitheatre for the

Browning Ladies to perform Shakespearean plays was developed in 1915. The ladies sponsored dances, flower sales and several other activities to raise money for the amphitheatre.

The estimated cost initially was \$15,000 but later rose to the final sum of \$25,000.

**MANY LEADERS** in business, religion, education and science donated money to fund the amphitheatre. The Browning Society made provisions for persons donating \$100 or more to be known as founders and have their names inscribed on the thea-

ter seats.

Ground was broken in 1923 and the amphitheatre was completed June 11, 1926. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was performed.

**THE PERFORMANCE** was in honor of the founders and all who made the Browning Dramatic Society's dream of an open air amphitheatre come true.

As years passed open air Shakespearean plays, like the Browning Dramatic Society itself, faded from campus life. The Browning Amphitheatre still stands, however, in memory of a dream fulfilled.

*The Ohio State Lantern*

# Theater's past viewed

By Nancy Joos

9-17-79

What was once an active student society is now confined to the silent pages of old Makios and the memories of older alumni. The landmark of its efforts, however, is still present today.

The Browning Literary Society was the principle organizer of the construction of Browning Amphitheater which is located in Mirror Lake Hollow.

The open-air theater was first proposed June 12, 1922 at a Board of Trustees

meeting, but it was not until four years later that the \$25,000 amphitheater was finished and ready for use.

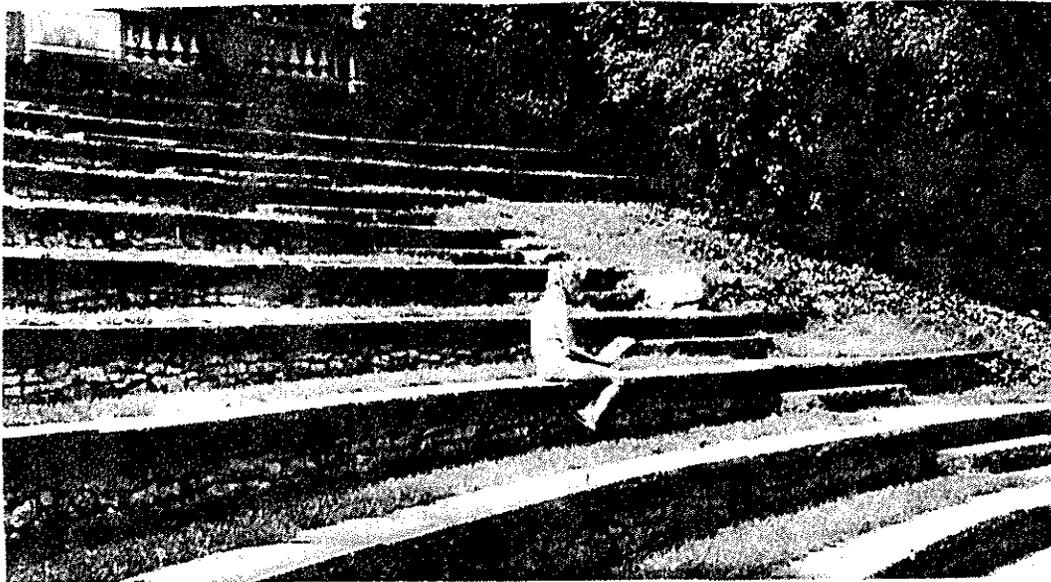
Construction of the Greek-fashioned amphitheater was made possible by the work of the all female Browning Literary Society, named in honor of poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The names which are engraved in the first three rows of the amphitheater are those of benefactors who donated at least \$100

towards construction costs.

When Browning Amphitheater was completed on June 11, 1926 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was performed to honor the society's efforts.

At the dedication of the Browning Amphitheater a time capsule was buried in the marble column at the west end of the stage. The steel box contained the original architects plans, pictures of Browning society members, campaign material and newspaper accounts of the progression of construction.



A student studies in the solitude of Browning Amphitheater in the Mirror Lake Hollow. The Outdoor theater was completed in 1926 due to the efforts of the Browning Literary Society.

*The Ohio State Lantern*

# Amphitheater used again; renovations to begin soon

By Mark Pappas  
Lantern staff writer

4-12-84

Everyone walks past it, few people notice it and hardly anyone knows its name.

Ohio Staters, Inc. is planning to change all that by commemorating its 50th year with a \$100,000 drive to help renovate the Browning Amphitheatre on the south side of Mirror Lake.

The theater has great potential, said Jean Hansford, campus planner. "When we get done with our project we'll have a usable facility that will be quite handsome."

Hansford is a member of Ohio Staters, a community service organization. This is the organization's biggest project so far, he said.

Hansford said the theater has not been used for a theatrical production since 1956 because everything needed to stage a performance — lighting, amplification, dressing rooms and a curtain — is not available.

The renovation should begin by the end of this quarter and is expected to be finished

sometime Fall quarter, he said.

The \$100,000 donation will pay for cleaning up the area, enlarging the stage, landscaping, wiring for sound, lighting and possibly a communications system.

Other additions, such as a projection system, may be future projects for Ohio Staters and other organizations.

"The existing seating is what we're dealing with," Hansford said. The amphitheater, built in 1926, holds about 300 people. He said "it will be designed so that you can either direct performances towards the permanent seating or across the lake; then you've got unlimited seating."

Ohio Staters is not the only group excited about the project. Hansford said the theatre department is "completely sold on the idea and plans to use the theatre."

A spokesman from the theatre department said the only problem with the theater is low flying planes, but it will be used.

Fund raising for the project began in October and is about half way towards its goal. Most funds have come from alumni.

*The Ohio State Lantern*



# NEWS

The Ohio State University

Communications Services  
4th Floor Fawcett Center  
2400 Olentangy River Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1027  
Phone: 614-422-2711

For release on receipt

6-7-84

(LO,WS)

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Theater under the stars and other outdoor events at Ohio State University should get a new lease on life with the proposed renovation of Browning Amphitheater in Mirror Lake Hollow.

The university's Board of Trustees Thursday (6/7) approved plans and specifications and authorized a request for bids to improve the early campus landmark.

The project will be funded through gifts from alumni, friends and current members of Ohio Staters, Inc., a service organization of university students, faculty and staff. It will commemorate the group's 50th anniversary. Gifts and pledges representing nearly 85 percent of the \$100,000 project cost have been received.

The project will include functional and aesthetic improvements that will create an "Outdoor Performance Center" at Browning Amphitheater for theater, music, dance and other activities.

Jean D. Hansford, campus planner in the Office of Campus Planning and Space Utilization and a member of Ohio Staters, said the renovation will include the addition of paired columns at

either side of the stage area near the steps leading to the stage.

The amphitheater's original design had called for the columns but they were never included in the completed facility, said Hansford. He said the stage area will be paved and provided with electric power to increase its flexibility for all kinds of performances.

Dedicated in 1926, the amphitheater was constructed for the Browning Literary Society. Shakespearean plays were performed there until about 1956.

Since then, it has been little used except for a dozen or so weddings a year and various other events such as the Renaissance Festival and a recent jazz concert.

The performance center project was one of three which received board approval for plans and specifications. The two others were:

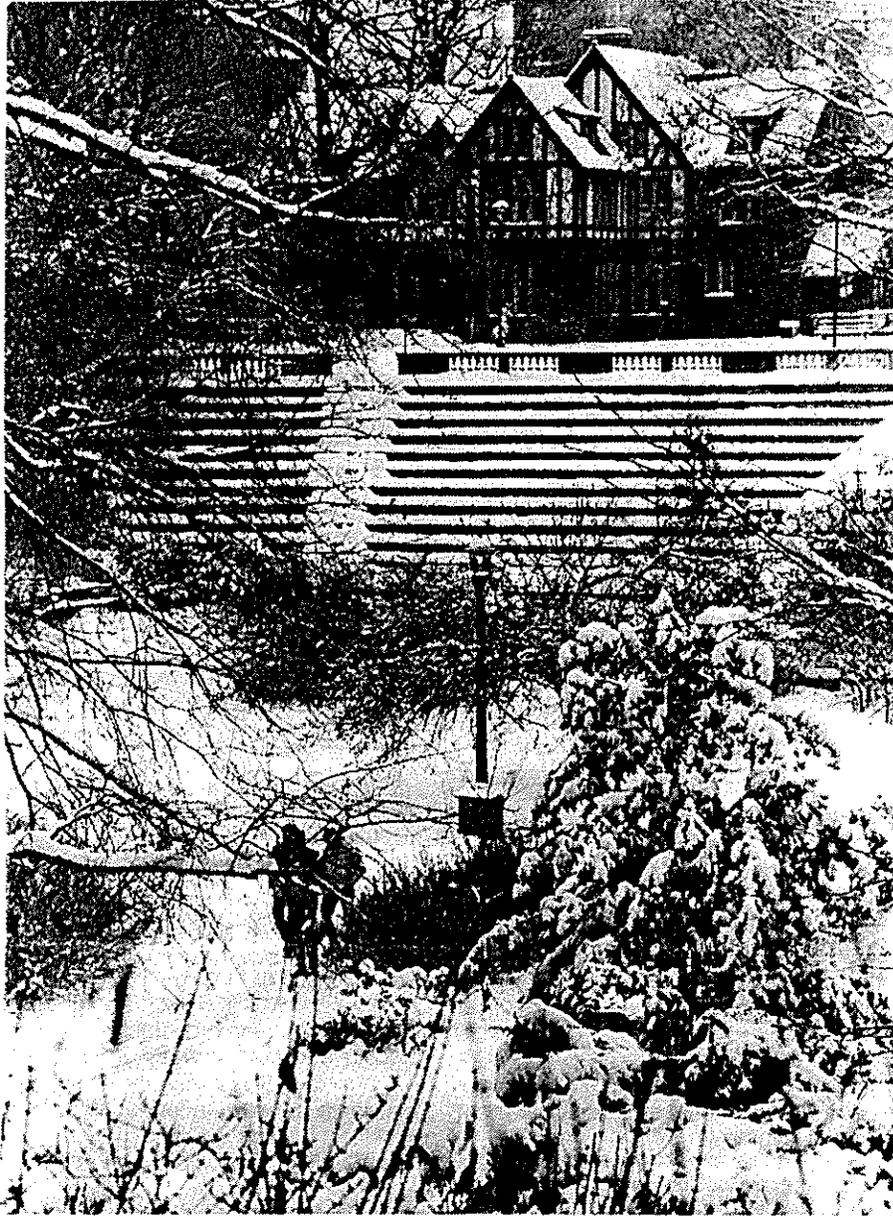
-- Roof replacements at the three Jesse Owens Recreation Centers on Lane Avenue, West 11th Avenue and Kenny Road. The estimated project cost is \$363,200.

-- Construction of a protective enclosure over the existing skylight in the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library to protect against leaks. Estimated project cost is \$130,000.

In other action, the board approved the awarding of two contracts for work scheduled to be completed by Sept. 1.

One contract was for paving and reconstruction of limestone entrance wall panels with the university logo at 12th Avenue and High Street and at Woodruff Avenue and High Street. The total project cost is estimated at \$121,000.

The second contract was for resurfacing 12th Avenue from Neil Avenue to High Street at an estimate total project cost of \$75,000.



**Happy holidays!** "ON CAMPUS"  
13 Dec. 1984

Photo by Kevin Fitzsimons

ALTHOUGH THE SNOW didn't stick around for too long, it did blanket the Columbus campus with a six-inch covering of the holiday spirit last week. Over the next two weeks, University offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. Winter quarter begins Jan. 7.



The Ohio State University

# NEWS

News Services  
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For release on receipt

12-19-84

(LO)

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- An outdoor performance center in Mirror Lake Hollow on the Ohio State University's Columbus campus will be built with help from a new endowment fund.

The university's Board of Trustees established the Ohio Staters Inc. Outdoor Performance Center Endowment Fund at its Dec. 14 meeting. Members, alumni and friends of Ohio Staters Inc. contributed \$25,000 to start the fund for planning, construction and maintenance of the center. The center will be dedicated in autumn 1985 on the 50th anniversary of Ohio Staters' incorporation.

The new facility will expand Browning Amphitheater, a 300-seat, open-air theater with a grass stage, into a multi-purpose stage for musical concerts, theatrical and dance performances, lectures and festivals.

Already, Ohio Staters alumni have pledged in excess of the project's expected cost of \$100,000 including \$10,000 from current Ohio Staters members. Soil core samples have been studied, and a site plan drawn up by Columbus architect Richard Trott, an Ohio Staters alumnus. The plans call for completion by spring 1985 of a raised stage and lighting suitable for dance performances, with landscape plantings as a backdrop by fall 1985.

-more-

Ohio Staters Fund -- 2

Ohio Staters chose to fund this project because it conforms to the group's purpose of providing services and facilities that benefit the entire campus community. The organization has previously funded wheelchair olympics, Braille campus maps, the Renaissance Festival and the establishment of Buckeye Grove. Members raise funds by selling seat cushions and Ohio State Marching Band records and tapes. The non-profit corporation consists of students, faculty and staff and promotes the university's welfare and prestige.

Spearheading the performance center project are co-chairmen W. Arthur Cullman and Walker B. Lowman, both Ohio Staters alumni who have contributed generously of their time and resources to the fund.

Cullman, of 1776 Upper Chelsea Road, Columbus, is professor emeritus of marketing. He has an international reputation as a specialist in marketing strategy and policy, and advertising. Lowman, of 2026 Wickford Road, Columbus, is an attorney. He has a background in architecture, and industrial controls and management.

#

Contact: Anne Kochman (614) 422 2711

## Why a performance center?

- "The Mirror Lake Hollow project being considered by Ohio Staters is truly an exciting proposal. It has our support, and we encourage you to continue."

David L. Meeker, Director  
School of Music

- "An outdoor performance area of the size and character encompassed in this project is something every great university should have — it would be an enormous asset for Ohio State."

Dan L. Heinlen, Director  
The Ohio State University  
Alumni Association

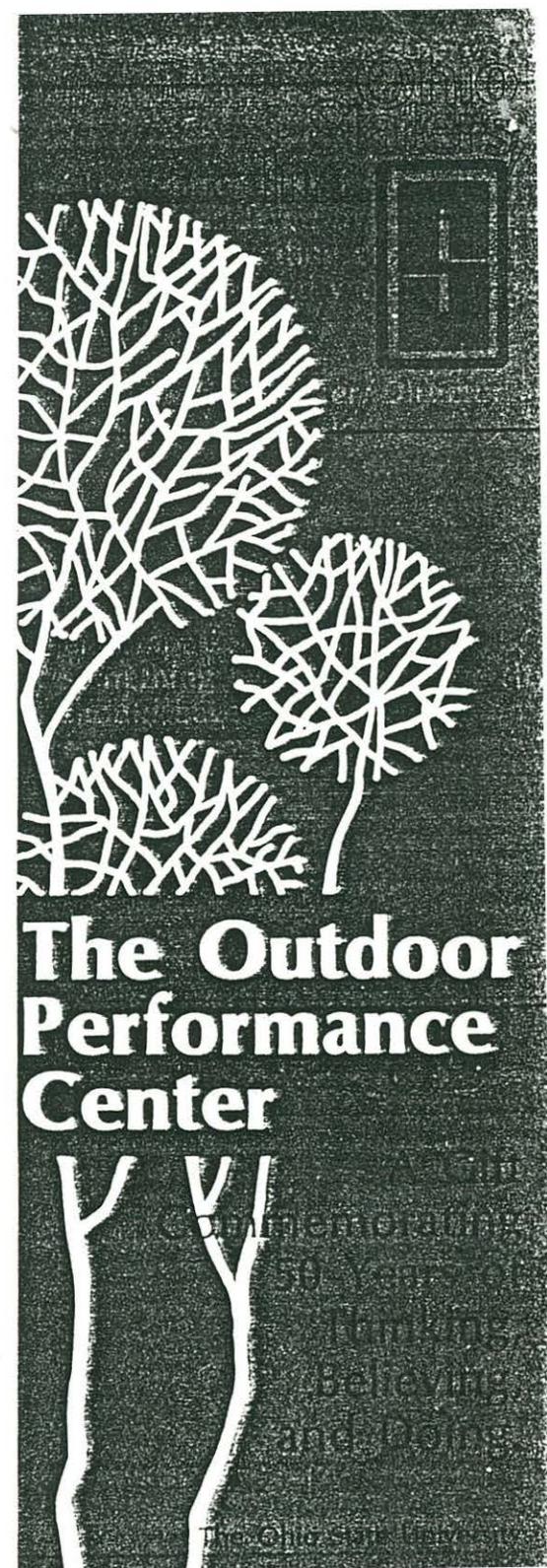
- "Such a center would vastly expand our agenda of arts presentations — the director of the School of Music and chairpersons of the Departments of Dance and Theatre have enthusiastically endorsed the project."

Robert J. Stull, Associate Dean  
College of the Arts

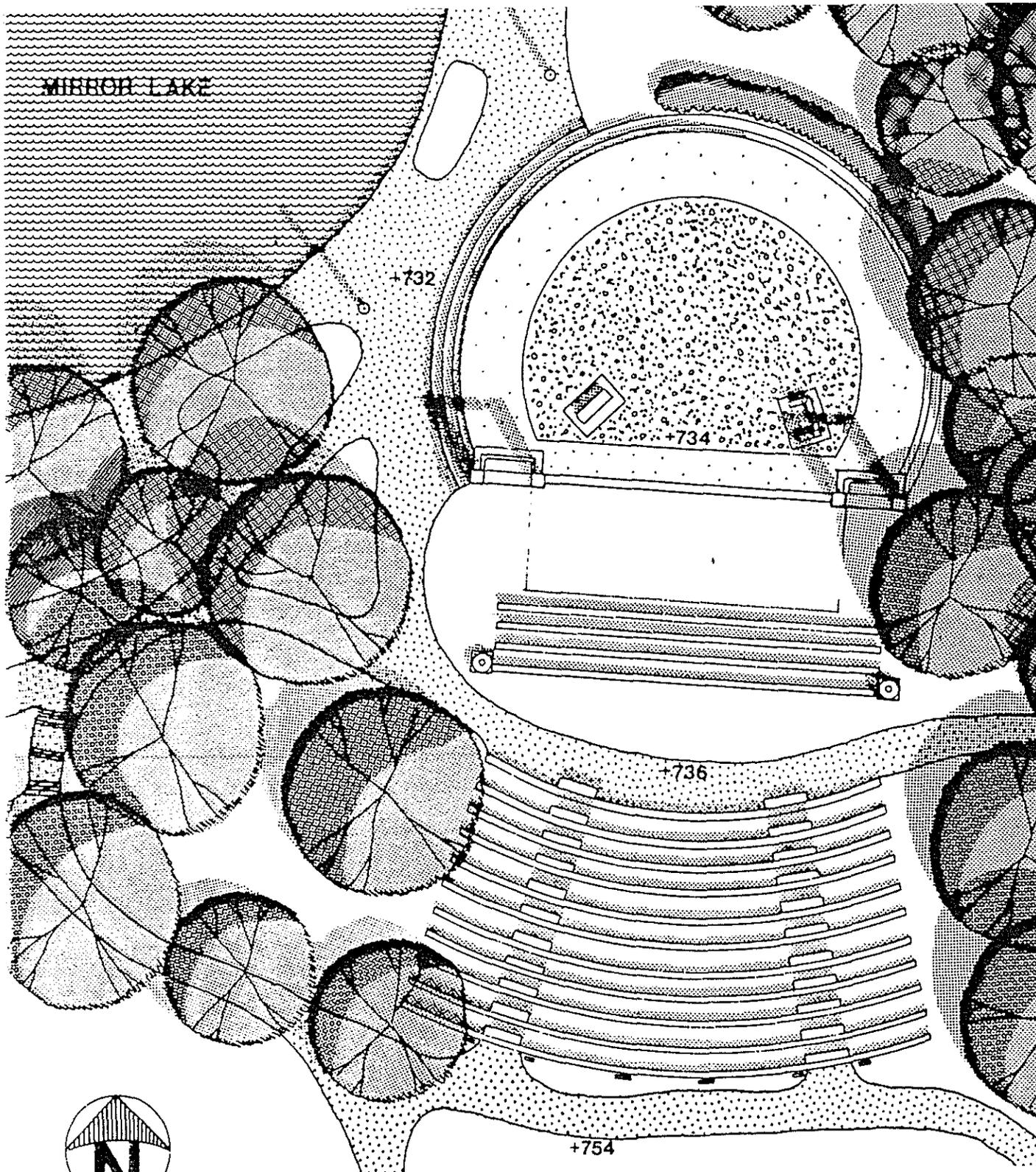


The Ohio State University

Ohio Staters, Inc.  
Fiftieth Anniversary  
Alumni House  
2400 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43210



MIRROR LAKE



Half a century ago, a group of Ohio State students, staff, and alumni founded a unique campus organization to serve their University.

Since the birth of Ohio Staters, Incorporated, hundreds of "thinkers, believers, and doers, in and about The Ohio State University," have shared the Stater experience. Today, they are leaders in their communities, making contributions in all walks of life.

In 1985, Ohio Staters will mark the 50th anniversary of its incorporation. To commemorate the event and to continue the organization's rich history of service, a committee of Staters past and present has combined forces to provide a landmark gift for the university.

That gift—which has the enthusiastic support of the University—will be an outdoor performing arts center for theatre, music, and dance located in the Browning Amphitheatre area.

The project will include construction of a hard-surface stage, stone columns to define the proscenium, and an electrical system to accommodate light and sound equipment.

The beautiful and functional stage will allow performers to play to the entire Mirror Lake Hollow, as well as to the Browning Amphitheatre. A solo ballet recital, a jazz festival, even an Ohio State Marching Band concert could be held in the open-air center.

And, in keeping with the Stater concern for continuity, project plans also call for an endowment for perpetual maintenance of the performing arts center.

To make yet another lasting contribution to our great university—to celebrate 50 years of thinking, believing, and doing—Ohio Staters needs your support.



+754

# OSU stage to be improved

By Tom Sheehan

*Dispatch OSU Reporter*

12-27-84

The Ohio Staters have received pledges of \$100,000 to improve an outdoor performance center in the Mirror Lake hollow on OSU's main campus.

Improvements will include a raised stage and suitable lighting for musical concerts, theatrical and dance performances, lectures and festivals.

A 300-seat, open-air theater with a grass stage on the south end of the hollow just west of Mirror Lake will be upgraded. The permanent stone seats now at the amphitheater will remain.

OHIO STATERS, a non-profit corporation of students, faculty and staff members who promote the university's welfare and prestige, is collecting money for the

project through an endowment fund established earlier this month by OSU trustees. So far, about \$25,000 has been received.

Each year Ohio Staters select a campus project that will benefit the OSU community.

Work is scheduled to begin this spring and be completed in time for Ohio Staters to dedicate it in the fall in conjunction with the organization's 50th anniversary.

Firman H. Brown Jr., chairman of OSU's theater department, said the project will greatly enhance the use of the amphitheater. His department, the dance department and the School of Music are interested in giving regular performances there.

"It really hasn't been used much in recent years . . . there have only been some dance performances and various

things done during the Renaissance Fair," he said.

"WE REALLY do plan to utilize the place, but just exactly what kind of performances are done depends on what time of year it is."

Brown said the amphitheater is a very exciting place for performances, especially at night, because of its picturesque setting.

Brown, who was involved in planning for the project, said a problem in having performances at the amphitheater is that it is in the flight path of Port Columbus.

He said he believes that is one of the reasons the amphitheater has not been used much in recent years.

A study is being conducted by OSU to determine when the most flights occur each day and whether it might be possible to change flight patterns, Brown said.

*The Columbus Dispatch*

# Mirror Lake ampitheater to receive renovation

By Patty Wise 1-16-85  
Lantern staff writer

Browning Amphitheater in Mirror Lake Hollow will soon undergo a \$100,000 face-lift as a gift to the university from the campus organization Ohio Stater's, Inc.

The 58-year-old, little-used theater will be transformed by next fall into a multi-functional, double-staged outdoor performance theater, Columbus architect Richard Trott said.

University architect Richard McGlinchey said bidding for construction will begin Jan. 17.

The grass stage of Browning Amphitheater will be replaced with a multi-purpose surface and it will be moved closer to the stone seats, Trott said.

A second stage will be raised and directed towards Mirror Lake so students can watch from the surrounding hills, Trott said.

The new theater will increase the potential audience size from 300 to thousands, said Jean Hansford, a planner from the office of Campus

The theater is being donated by members, alumni and friends of the Ohio Stater's, Inc. to commemorate the group's 50th anniversary, said alumni member W. Arthur Cullman, co-chairman of the performance center project committee.

The organization's members contributed \$10,000 through fund raising. Alumni and other people donated and raised \$90,000, Cullman said.

Construction should start by spring and is scheduled to be completed for dedication on Oct. 2,

Cullman said.

Cullman said the theater will benefit the entire campus by providing a place for music, dance, band and individual performances.

"I am very excited about the possibility of having an outdoor performance center," said Firman H. Brown Jr., chairman of the Department of Theater.

But the new face of Browning Amphitheater is not blemish free.

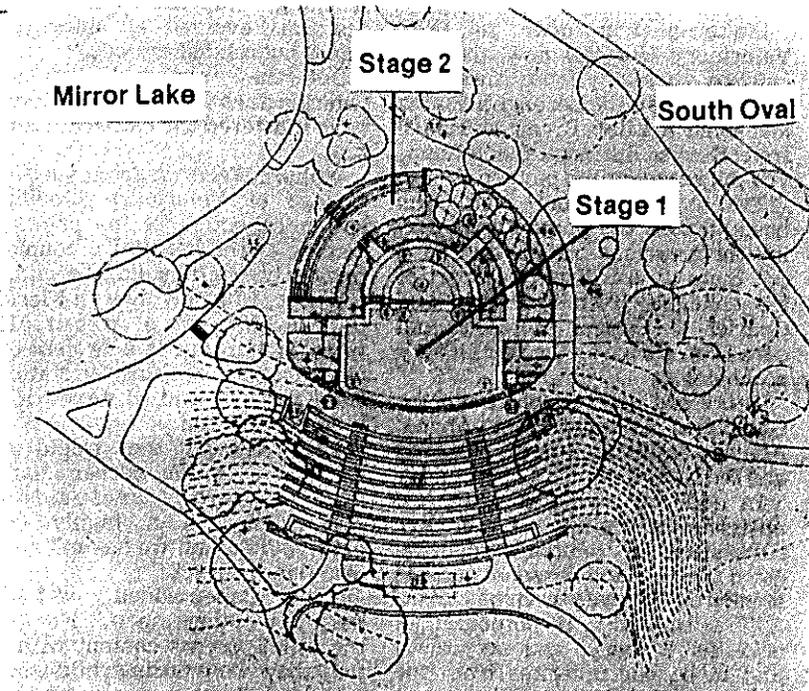
Noise from airplanes flying overhead to Port Columbus presents a serious problem to performances, Brown said.

Airplanes fly directly over Ohio Stadium and Lincoln and Morrill Towers, he said.

Hansford said the noise is a serious problem, but the theater is still an important project to the College of the Arts.

Another problem is sidewalk breakage and other damage caused by transporting heavy trucks and equipment to the difficult-to-reach construction site, Hansford said.

However, the contract binds the construction company to repair all damage that occurs during construction, he said.



This is the design for the proposed stages of renovations of the Browning Amphitheater.



The Ohio State University

# NEWS

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Phone 614-422-2711

For release on receipt

3-16-85

(LO)

## NEWS ADVISORY

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Tuesday (3/19)<sup>1985</sup> for an outdoor performance center in Mirror Lake hollow on Ohio State University's Columbus campus.

The ceremony will be at 11:45 a.m. at the site in Mirror Lake hollow east of Neil Avenue. Participating in the groundbreaking will be university officials, alumni and members of Ohio Staters Inc., a campus service organization.

The new facility will expand Browning Amphitheater, a 300-seat, open-air theater with a grass stage, into a multi-purpose stage with suitable lighting for musical concerts, theatrical and dance performances, lectures and festivals.

Members, alumni and friends of Ohio Staters Inc. contributed \$25,000 to start the fund for planning, construction and maintenance of the center. The center will be dedicated next autumn on the 50th anniversary of Ohio Staters' incorporation.

Already, Ohio Staters alumni have pledged in excess of the project's expected cost of \$100,000, including \$10,000 from current Ohio Staters members. A site plan has been drawn up by Columbus architect Richard Trott, an Ohio Staters alumnus.

Ohio Staters chose to fund this project because it conforms to the group's purpose of providing services and facilities that benefit the entire campus community. The organization previously funded such projects as wheelchair olympics and Braille campus maps. The non-profit corporation consists of students, faculty and staff and promotes the university's welfare and prestige.

Spearheading the performance center project are co-chairmen W. Arthur Cullman and Walker B. Lowman, both Ohio Staters alumni who have contributed generously of their time and resources to the fund. Cullman is a professor emeritus of marketing, and Lowman is an attorney. Both are from Columbus.

#



The Ohio State University

# NEWS

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3-16-85

(LO)

NEWS ADVISORY  
EVENT CANCELLATION

The groundbreaking ceremony for an outdoor performance center near Mirror Lake on Ohio State University's Columbus campus has been cancelled.

The ceremony had been scheduled for Tuesday (3/19) at 11:45 a.m. It is likely to be rescheduled for later this spring.

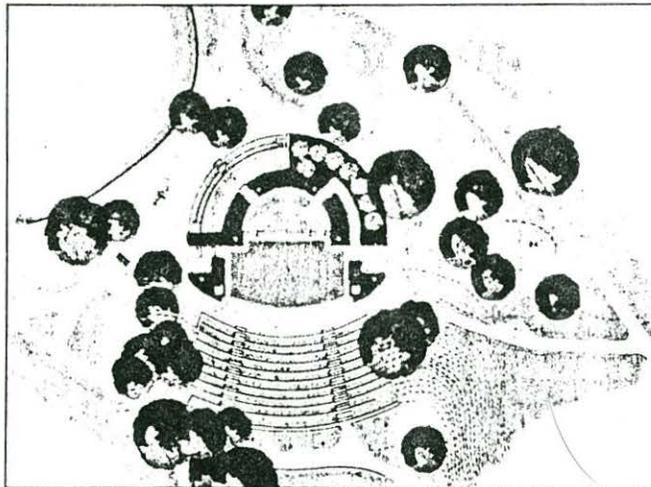
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

# A new life for OSU's Browning Amphitheatre

About 60 years ago, the women of Ohio State's Browning Literary Society had a brand-new performing center near Mirror Lake on campus, in the form of Browning Amphitheatre. The group, named after Elizabeth Barrett Browning and formed in the late 1800s, performed Shakespearean plays and such on its new grass stage edged with stone, with up to 300 people seated on rows of short, wide stone walls set into the side of the hill just east of the lake.

In later years, the society was disbanded and the amphitheatre was used less and less often, for a performance by a campus group here, a wedding there. Recently the site has been largely ignored, its massive stone seating dotted with moss.

No more. Current and



The renovated amphitheatre will have two stages, a new one being added on the west side of the existing one, near Mirror Lake.

former members of Ohio Staters Inc.—a service group made up of students, faculty and alumni—have combined to raise more than \$100,000 for the

renovation and redesign of the **Browning Amphitheatre** area. Construction is set to begin this April.

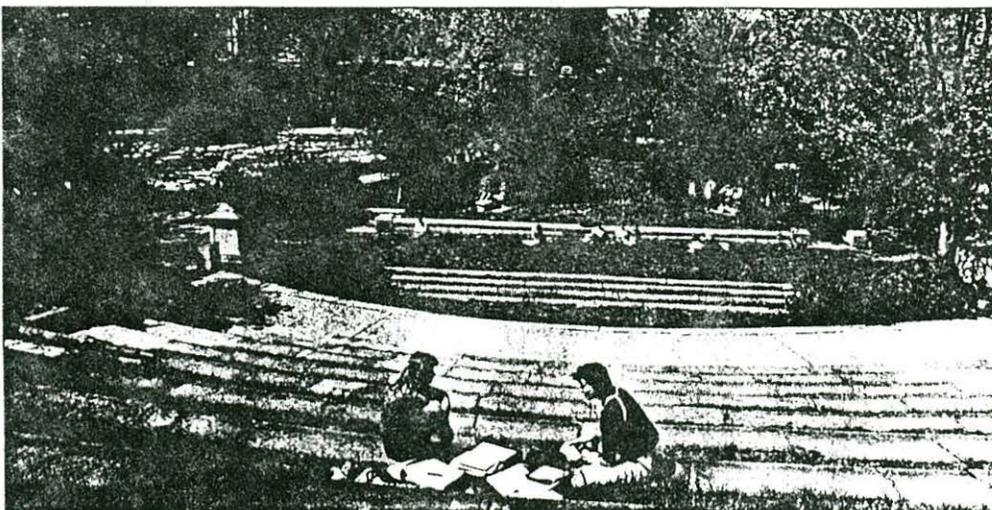
"Ohio Staters is celebrating the 50th

Courtesy Trott & Bean

anniversary of its official founding this year," explains W. Arthur Cullman, an alumni member of Ohio Staters as well as an emeritus member of the university faculty and co-chairman of Ohio Stater's performance center project committee. "About two years ago, we asked the university for a list of important things that they couldn't do under a current budget, and we settled on this."

Richard Trott, an Ohio Stater alumnus who is now an architect with Trott & Bean, says the group selected this project because, "We had the most potential for reactivating this space. Ohio Staters is an action-oriented group. If we did something passive, such as donating some benches, that just wouldn't be appropriate."

Since Trott is an architect, he studied the site, visited other amphitheatres at other colleges and universities around the country, then developed the plans for the renovation, all as a volunteer. Under his plan, the area now will have two stages, a new one that is raised and near Mirror Lake, and the original one, redesigned with a new floor and a second tier added for use by an orchestra accompanying any productions. Lighting and some dressing areas also will be added. With the stone seating already in place and room for more people to sit on the grass on nearby hills, it's thought



Ohio State students study on the rows of seating and the grassy stage of Browning Amphitheatre.

Kevin Fitzsimmons/courtesy Ohio State University

# AROUND

## C · O · L · U · M · B · U · S

thousands could attend any particular Browning Amphitheatre event.

"We're terribly, terribly excited about this," says Jean Hansford, campus planner for the university. "Ohio State is probably the largest institution in the country without a good outdoor performing area. This is intended to fill that void."

Cullman expects a formal dedication of the area to be held in mid October, with a celebration featuring performances by university students. Beginning next spring, regular performances of theatre, / music and dance should be able to be scheduled there. "We do have to approach it with caution until we know how it works," says Dr.

Firman Brown Jr., chairman of the department of theatre, since the amphitheatre is frequently passed by planes from Port Columbus, and the noise may affect performances. "But it's the kind of place that lends itself to things that are grand and elegant. It's going to be an exciting space."

—Julia Osborne

# Theater to receive 'face-lift'

By Todd Hill  
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State alumni, faculty and students are once again doing something about having a suitable outdoor performance center on campus.

Ground was broken Thursday for the **Browning Amphitheater** renovation on Mirror Lake. The renovation is in observance of Ohio State's 50th anniversary.

Projected cost for the project is \$123,000, said Steve Volkmann, project architect for the renovation.

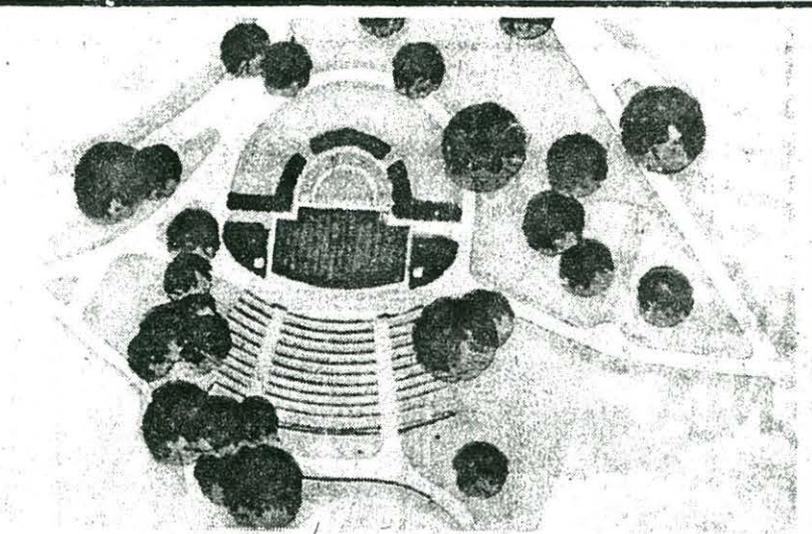
Ohio State contributed \$25,000 toward the project, while a group of Ohio State alumni have pledged more than \$100,000.

The amphitheater has not been used much in recent decades, so Ohio Staters Inc., a group of students, faculty and alumni, have raised \$100,000 to refurbish it.

Fred Miller, president of Ohio Staters, said the improvements will enable Ohio State to once again use the amphitheater for outdoor plays, concerts and dance performances, as was originally intended when it was built in 1926.

In the early 1900's, the Browning Dramatic Society, a women's performance group, used the area where the amphitheater now stands to hold Shakespearean plays during spring commencement. The area was then a sledding hill.

OSU alumni raised \$15,000 to build the amphitheater to give the audience a place to sit, and



The Browning Amphitheater, near Mirror Lake, will be expanded to a multi-purpose stage that will include dance and musical performances.

plays were performed there until about 1956, when the society disbanded.

Since then, some jazz concerts have been held at the amphitheater and the Renaissance Festival has had functions there, but it has been used for little else, said Miller.

"At this point in time it's not really as useful as it could potentially be," he said.

The main reason for the avoidance has been the grass stage, which makes the place unsuitable for dance, such as ballet, and many staged plays, said Steve Volkmann, project architect for the renovation.

The new design will include a raised stage near Mirror Lake, while the existing stage will be redesigned with a hard surface. A second tier will be added to hold an orchestra, Volkmann said.

There will also be lighting, so the amphitheater can be used at night.

The original stone seating, which has a capacity of 300, and the two large urns on either side,

will remain, he said.

There is a problem with airplane noise, since the OSU campus lies in the flight pattern of Columbus International Airport, but Miller thinks that difficulty can be circumvented.

"We do get jets over here pretty often, however. . . temporary amplification can be brought in which will kind of compensate for that problem," he said.

Miller said he hopes to eventually have permanent amplification installed.

Construction is scheduled to begin Monday and the completion is set for Aug. 15, Volkmann said.

The renovated amphitheater will be dedicated in October, said Walker Lowman, co-chairman of the Ohio Staters performance center project committee, at the groundbreaking ceremony Thursday.

This is probably Ohio Staters biggest project, in terms of money, since the group organized Rose Bowl train trips in the 1950's and certainly the biggest in recent years, said Miller.



The Ohio State University

# NEWS

News Services  
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Phone 614-422-2711

For release

on receipt

5-11-85

(LO)

## NEWS ADVISORY

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Thursday (5/16) for an outdoor performance center in Mirror Lake hollow on Ohio State University's Columbus campus.

The ceremony will be at 1:30 p.m. at the site in Mirror Lake hollow east of Neil Avenue. Participating in the groundbreaking will be university officials, alumni and members of Ohio Staters Inc., a campus service organization.

The new facility will expand Browning Amphitheater, a 300-seat, open-air theater with a grass stage, into a multi-purpose stage with suitable lighting for musical concerts, theatrical and dance performances, lectures and festivals.

Members, alumni and friends of Ohio Staters Inc. contributed \$25,000 to start the fund for planning, construction and maintenance of the center. The center will be dedicated next autumn on the 50th anniversary of Ohio Staters' incorporation.

Already, Ohio Staters alumni have pledged in excess of the project's expected cost of \$100,000, including \$10,000 from current Ohio Staters members. Richard Trott, an Ohio Staters alumnus and a member of the Columbus architectural firm of Trott & Bean, drew up the site plan. The construction contract has gone to Sherman R. Smoot Co.

Ohio Staters chose to fund this project because it conforms to the group's purpose of providing services and facilities that benefit the entire campus community. The organization previously funded such projects as wheelchair olympics and Braille campus maps. The non-profit corporation consists of students, faculty and staff and promotes the university's welfare and prestige.

Spearheading the performance center project are co-chairmen W. Arthur Cullman and Walker B. Lowman, both Ohio Staters alumni who have contributed generously of their time and resources to the fund. Cullman is a professor emeritus of marketing, and Lowman is an attorney. Both are from Columbus.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

## Amphitheatre will provide outdoor site

Dedication ceremonies for a \$125,000 outdoor performance center at Browning Amphitheatre, located in Mirror Lake Hollow, will take place Oct. 11-12.

The ceremonies will celebrate 50 years of service by Ohio Staters Inc., a 50-member student and faculty service group whose mission is to improve the campus and community area.

The outdoor performance center is Ohio Staters' largest service project. It included construction of a bi-level stage and an electrical system for light and sound equipment. Stone columns separate the upper and lower stages. Landscaping behind the stage provides a back drop for the performance area. Sidewalks also were added in the area.

In addition, limited restoration work has been done on the 300-seat amphitheatre.

Spearheading the project are lifetime Ohio Staters W. Arthur Cullman and Walker B. Lowman, both of Columbus. Cullman is a professor emeritus of marketing and Lowman is an attorney.

Richard Trott, of Trott and Bean Architects Inc. of Columbus, designed the project. Trott is a former Staters' officer. He earned his bachelor's degree in architecture in 1961.

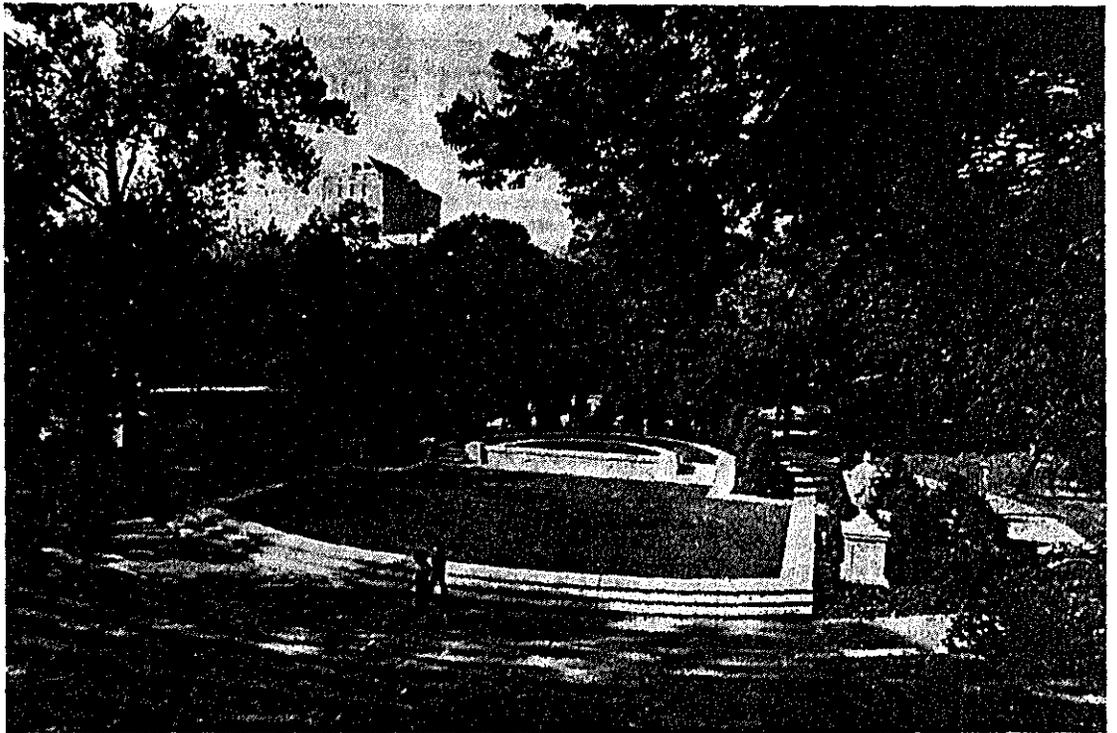
Dedication ceremonies for the outdoor performance center will be spread over two days, beginning Oct. 11, at 6 p.m. in the amphitheatre. The College of the Arts will present a one-hour twilight performance featuring music, dance and theater.

"Scarlet and Gray," the student show choir, representing the School of Music, will present several numbers.

The University Dance Company will present "Semaphore for Six," a piece choreographed by Richard Burrows, an assistant professor of dance. The dance was created especially for outdoor performances and features multi-colored flags.

The Department of Theatre will present portions of Shakespeare's, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The play was presented in its entirety at both the dedication of the amphitheatre in

*Continued on page 9.*



## Program will open OSU center

A program of dance, music and theater beginning at 6 p.m. Friday will inaugurate Ohio State University's Mirror Lake Hollow.

The new center is an expansion of the 59-year-old Browning Amphitheatre.

OSU's theater department will present selections from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the play that was performed for dedication ceremonies of the original Browning Amphitheatre in 1926.

The dance department will perform "Semaphore for Six," choreographed by assistant professor Richard Burrows and created especially for an outdoor setting.

The music school will present the "Scarlet and Gray Show," a 20-member singing and dancing troupe.

Portions of this concert will be repeated at a dedication ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.

The new facility was designed by Richard Trott and includes a bi-level stage, an electrical system and landscaping to provide a stage backdrop. Restoration work is also being done on the seating area. The center is a gift of the Ohio Staters Inc. in honor of its 50th anniversary.



The Ohio State University

# NEWS

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For release

on receipt

10-9-85

(LO)

## NEWS ADVISORY

Cora Roberts Evans, who is 102 years of age, will return to the Ohio State University campus Saturday (10/12) for the dedication ceremony of the \$125,000 outdoor performance center in Browning Amphitheatre.

Evans, of Columbus, is the oldest living member of the Browning Dramatic Society -- the group which arranged for construction of Browning Amphitheatre in the 1920s.

The dedication ceremony will be at 11 a.m. at the amphitheater in Mirror Lake Hollow. The one-hour ceremony will be highlighted by presentations of music, dance and theatre.

As part of the weekend's activities, the College of the Arts will present a series of performances in the amphitheater Friday (10/11) beginning at 6 p.m. Performing will be Scarlet and Gray, the student show choir; the University Dance Company featuring a dance with multi-colored flags; and the Department of Theatre with excerpts from Shakespeare's "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream," the play presented at the dedication of the amphitheater in 1926.

The performances Friday night and the dedication ceremony Saturday morning are free and open to the public.

The dedication ceremony is the culmination of efforts by Ohio Staters Inc., the campus service organization which raised the funds to build the outdoor performance center in honor of its 50th anniversary.

The project included construction of a bi-level stage separated by stone columns and an electrical system for light and sound equipment. Plantings provide a back drop for the stage. Sidewalks also were added to the area. Groundbreaking for the project was conducted in May.

Spearheading the project are lifetime Ohio Staters W. Arthur Cullman and Walker B. Lowman, both of Columbus. Cullman is a professor emeritus of marketing and Lowman is an attorney. Richard Trott, of Trott and Bean Architects Inc. of Columbus, designed the project. Trott is a former Ohio Staters' officer

who earned his bachelor's degree in architecture in 1961. Ohio Staters' members, both past and present, will participate in the dedication ceremonies.

Ohio Staters is a student and faculty service group whose mission is to improve the campus and community area. Chartered in 1935, today's organization is composed of 24 students and 14 faculty and staff members who do service projects that include campus beautification, graduate school information day, twilight jazz concerts and Wheelchair Olympics.

Planning to attend the dedication ceremony are Evans, who was a student at Ohio State from 1902-1906, and Christine Conaway, Ohio State's dean of women emeritus. Evans is the widow of William L. Evans, longtime chairman of the Department of Chemistry for whom Evans Laboratory is named. Conaway House, the residence hall in the upper floors of Morrill Tower, is named in honor of the former dean. Cora Evans and Conaway are the honorary co-chairs of a committee that raised \$12,000 for restoration work on the 300-seat amphitheatre. The money was donated by former members of the dramatic society, under the fund-raising leadership of Mildred Trotter Tuttle and Tony Hightower Auch, both of Columbus.

The Browning Dramatic Society served women at Ohio State who were interested in literature and poetry from 1882 until 1956. In 1884, the group adopted the name Browning Literary Society in honor of British poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning. In 1908, the society changed its name to the Browning Dramatic Society and began presenting a Shakespearean play each spring in Mirror Lake Hollow. Declining interest ended the society in 1956.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

(P/59)

# Shakespearean comedy opens renovated theater

By Margaret Hart  
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State's theater department presented "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Browning Amphitheater dedication Saturday as airplanes and helicopters provided even more cause for laughter.

The near capacity crowd, made up largely of Ohio Staters alumni, laughed as the actors ad libbed references to the unexpected noise.

The Ohio Staters funded renovations to the amphitheater, named after poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, as a gift to the university. President Edward H. Jennings officially accepted the gift at the dedication.

The Browning Dramatic Society, with an all-female cast, presented the same play at the original dedication in 1926, said Walker

Lowman, co-chairman of the Ohio Staters 50th Anniversary Committee.

The planning for the \$166,000 renovation project began three years ago to coincide with the Ohio Staters' 50th anniversary celebration, he said. The dedication ceremony was part of the group's weekend reunion.

Ohio Staters was started because Ohio State needed an organization to serve the university, said James C. B. Handley, one of the group's founders and a 1934 graduate.

Before Saturday night's dedication performance, the amphitheater was the stage Friday evening for a year-long combined effort from the dance, theater and music departments.

The amphitheater overflowed with students watching a half-hour Scarlet and Gray show, a 6 1/2 minute dance by the OSU Dance

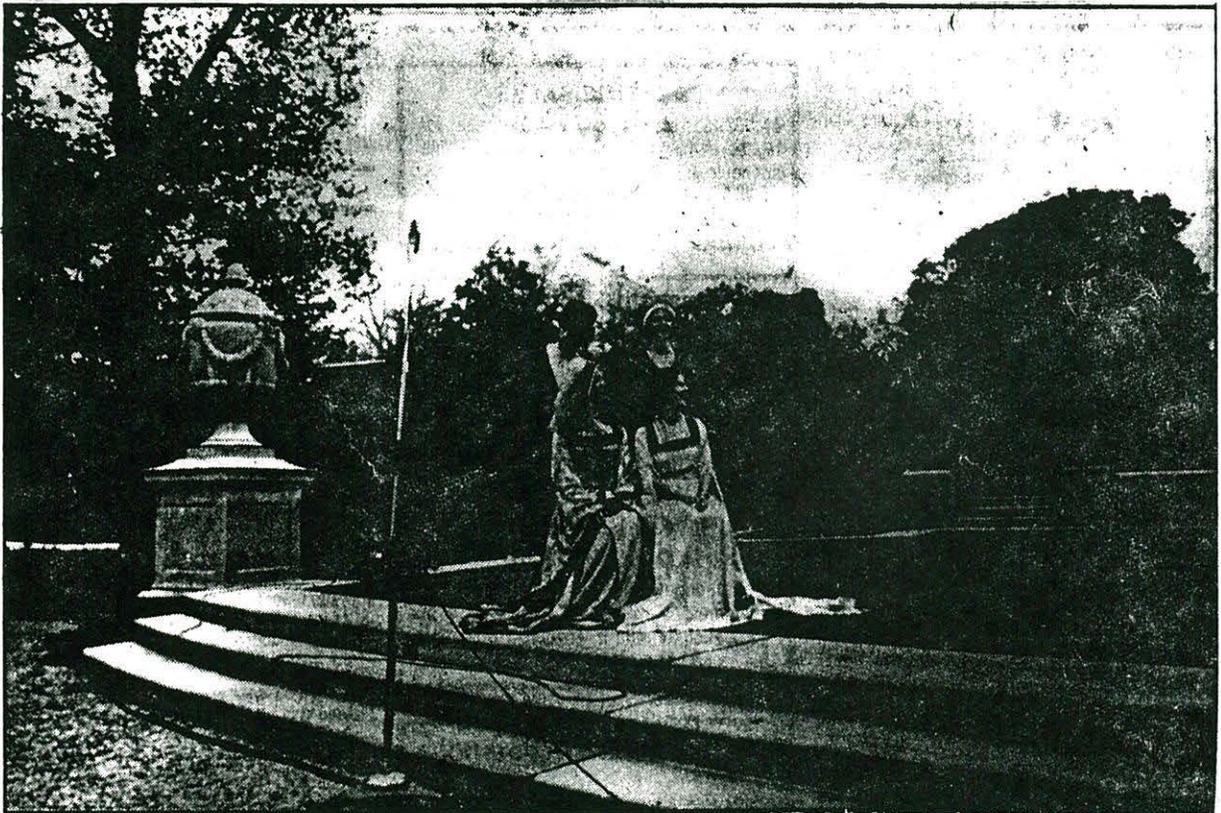
Company and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The dance, choreographed by Richard W. Burrows, assistant professor of dance, featured six performers carrying vibrant blue flags and wearing black pants, with red, long-sleeve T-shirts. The colors created a striking contrast with the mauve stage at dusk. The dancers also performed at Saturday's dedication.

The audience clapped with the music as the Scarlet and Gray Show performers entered the stage, 10 on each side. They sang songs such as "Misty," "Send in the Clowns," and "Moon Indigo."

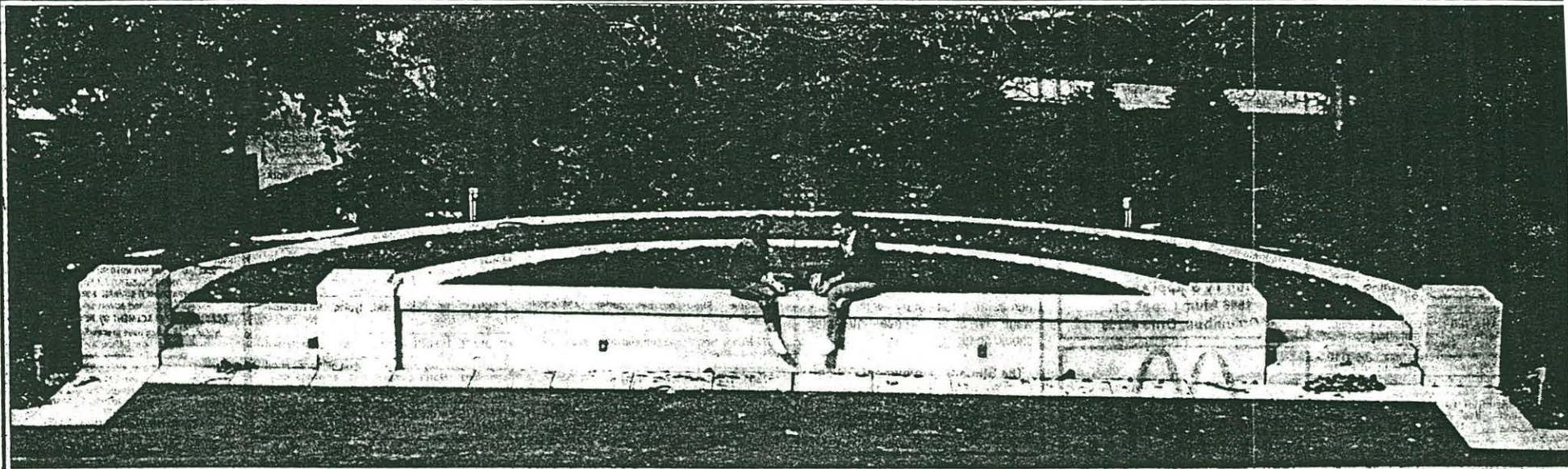
The performance received cheers and cat calls from the audience when a young boy in the front row danced along.

"I enjoyed it a lot," said Myeong Wellington, a sophomore from Korea majoring in accounting.



Deborah Moss/the Lantern

Members of the theater department perform in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to commemorate the renovation of Browning Amphitheater.



Doral Chenoweth III/the Lantern

## *Bright futures*

*"It adds precious seeing to the eye."* — William Shakespeare, *"Love's Labor Lost,"* Act IV. On the peaceful stage of the Browning Amphitheater, Susan Erwin, a senior from Columbus, and Steve Master, a senior from Toledo talk about their futures. The future of the Browning Amphitheater is brighter since its re-

cent restoration. Records show the original idea of an open air amphitheater where the Browning Dramatic Society could perform Shakespearean plays was developed in 1915. The amphitheater was completed in 1926.

# Wedding bells chime in Browning theater

By Kim Stock

Lantern staff writer

For most students Mirror Lake probably seems like a nice place to get away from the fast pace of campus and enjoy a good book or just relax, but a few people have bigger plans for the outdoor amphitheater.

Angela and Brian Westgrondin, juniors from Columbus, are among several students who chose Browning Amphitheater as a site for their wedding. The Westgrondins were married there April 21.

"We got married at Mirror Lake because neither Brian or I are affiliated with any church. We wanted to be married outside and at a place we like to be, and we really like the atmosphere there," Westgrondin said.

The recent restoration of the Browning Amphitheater added to its attractiveness as a wedding site: including a bi-level stage, an electrical system, landscaping and sidewalks around the area, according to John Kennedy, a senior from Columbus and a member of Ohio Staters Inc.

"The restoration was completed in October of 1985 and funded by Ohio Staters in honor of the group's 50th anniversary," Kennedy said.

Maggie Alfred, secretary for the University Registrar Office of Scheduling, said she currently has four weddings scheduled between now and September and has several requests to book weddings which are awaiting ap-

proval.

In order to be married at Mirror Lake, students must be sponsored by a faculty or staff member or a student organization, Alfred said.

"This (sponsorship) simply means that there is someone who is directly related to the university who will sign in good faith that the (\$25 reservation) fee will be paid, and that they will take responsibility for any damage done to the facility," she said.

Alfred cautioned that receptions are not permitted after the wedding ceremonies because of a rule prohibiting food and beverages around Mirror Lake. She suggested the Faculty Club or the Ohio Union for receptions.

"According to Campus Planning there are roughly 300 seats at Browning, based on 24 inches per person," Alfred said.

Parking should not present a problem for those considering a Mirror Lake wedding, she said.

"Since weekend parking is not prohibited, the wedding guests would be able to park on South Oval Drive or behind Campbell Hall," Alfred said.

It is still possible to book a summer wedding for Mirror Lake, but students should make reservations as soon as possible, she said.

"Summer, being a popular time for weddings, is really good for Saturday availability at Mirror Lake because we don't have nearly as many activities being scheduled as we do during spring quarter when there are more students on campus," Alfred said.

Autumn, Vol. 7, no. 1  
1984

## Browning Amphitheatre

It rained on the Browning Amphitheatre on its dedication day in 1926.

Friends and members of the Browning Dramatic Society gathered together to mop rainwater from the seats for the evening performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The weather cleared by the end of the day, and the dedication began as planned.

At dusk, in full costume, the cast carried the flaming torches down the winding path from Pomerene Hall to Mirror Lake Hollow.

The night was special for the members of the Browning Dramatic Society who had dreamed of an outdoor theatre. The organization served women of The Ohio State University from 1886 to 1956 who were interested in literature and poetry.

The society began as the Young Ladies Literary Society, the first all-women group on campus. It later was known as the Browning Dramatic Society, in honor of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and finally became the Browning Dramatic Society. From 1908 the society maintained a tradition of performing a Shakespearean play each spring in Mirror Lake Hollow, and it was in this location that the Browning Amphitheatre was eventually constructed.

Until last autumn, the Browning Amphitheatre had not been used often in recent years. The inconvenience of the grass stage and the disrepair of the seating area were the main reasons it had not been particularly functional.

In May 1985 construction began by the Ohio Staters Inc. to renovate the amphitheatre. The service organization raised funds to give the amphitheatre a \$123,000 face-lift in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation.

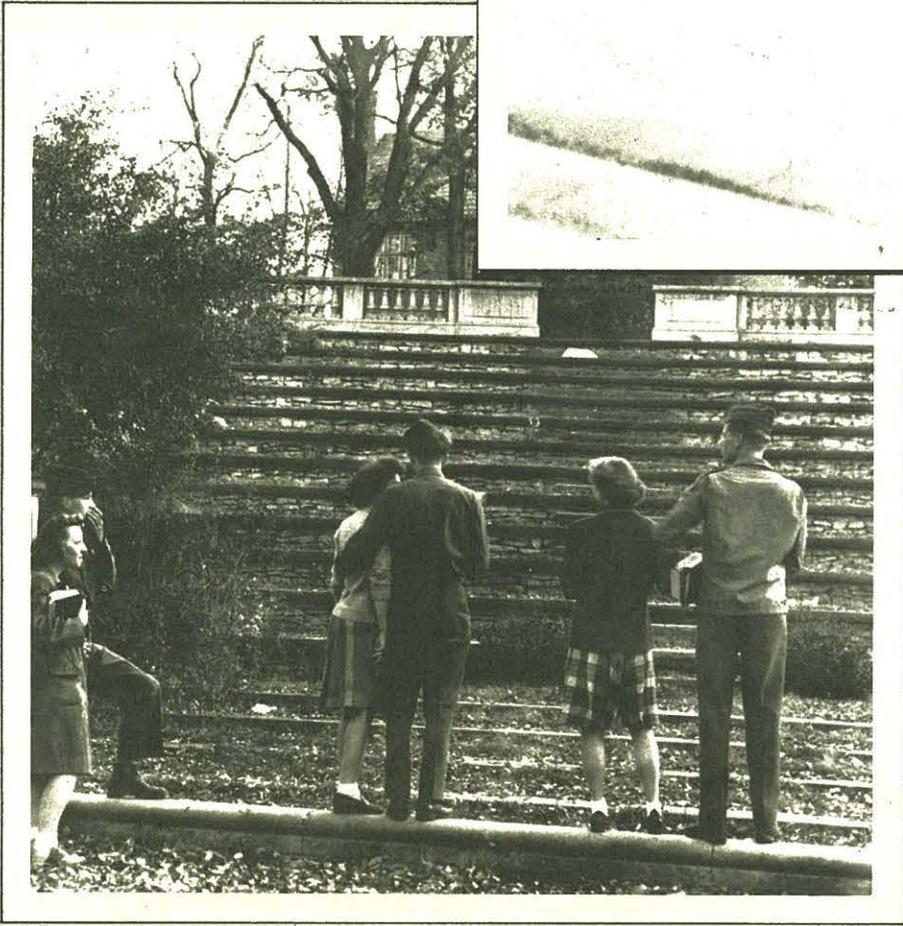
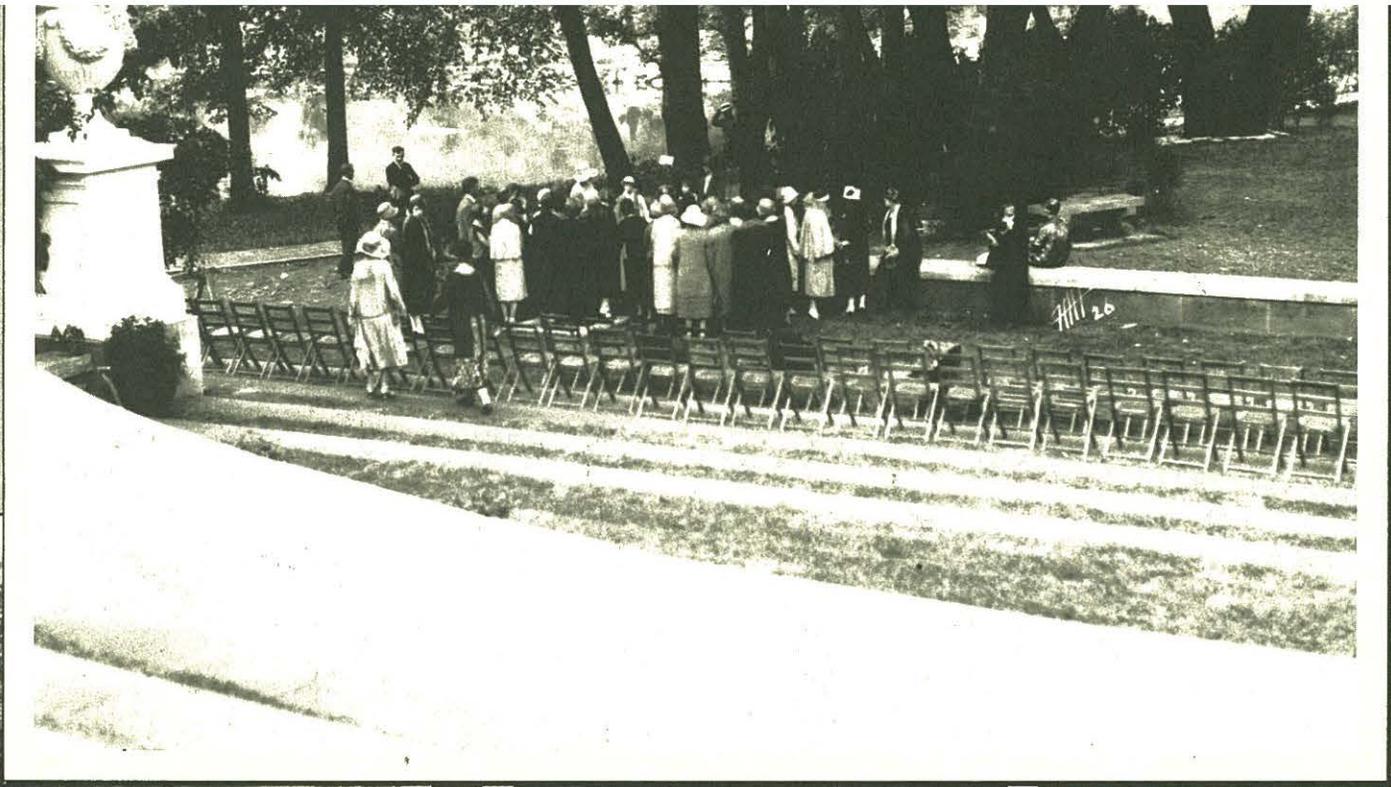
The new performance facility, designed by Richard Trott of Trott and Bean Architects, Inc., includes a bi-level stage separated by stone columns. An electrical system for sound and light equipment, landscaping behind the stage, and some renovation of the existing seats were also part of the project.

In conjunction with the dedication of the new facility, the College of the Arts sponsored a Twilight Performance on October 11, 1985. The event featured members of the University Dance Company in *Semaphore for Six*, choreographed by Professor Richard Burrows; the Scarlet and Gray Show, the School of Music's show choir; and, in keeping with the tradition of the amphitheatre, selections from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, presented by the Department of Theatre.

Numerous events have taken place in the new performance space in the past year. And Mirror Lake Hollow is once again being filled with the sights and sounds of the performing arts as the Browning Amphitheatre provides a scenic place to gather and be entertained.

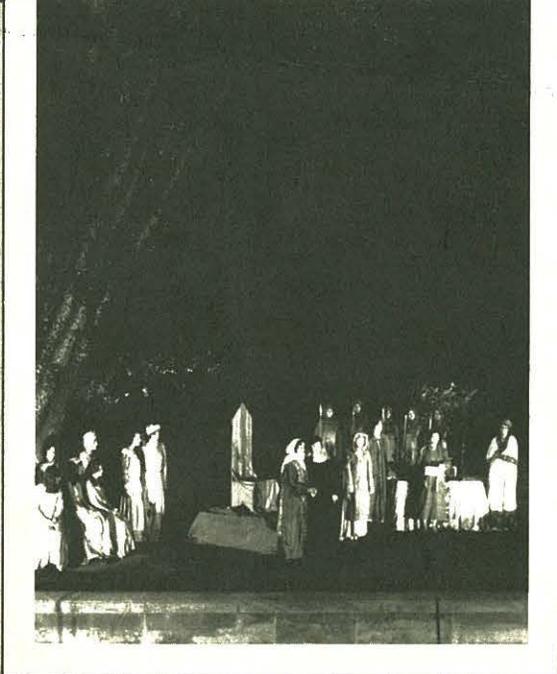
The dedication ceremonies for the amphitheatre in 1926 included the burying of treasures.





Soldiers and their girlfriends gather at the amphitheatre in this 1945 photo.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTO ARCHIVE

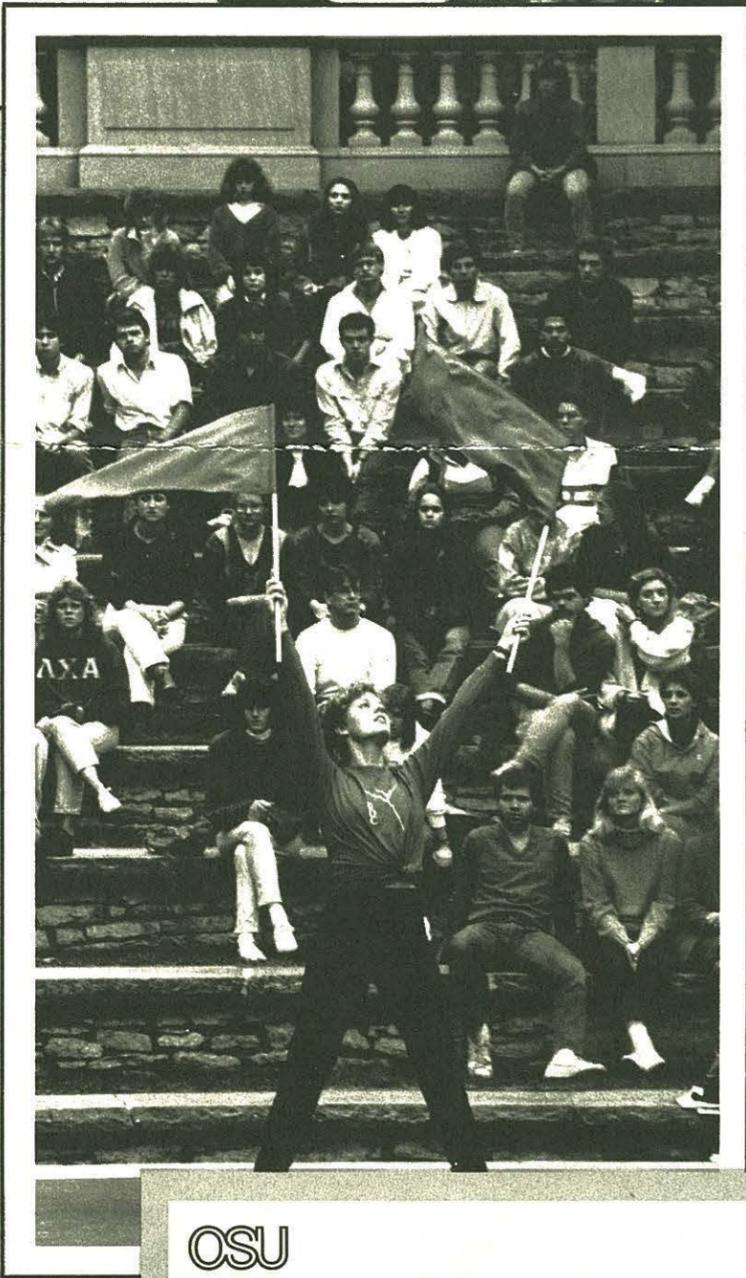
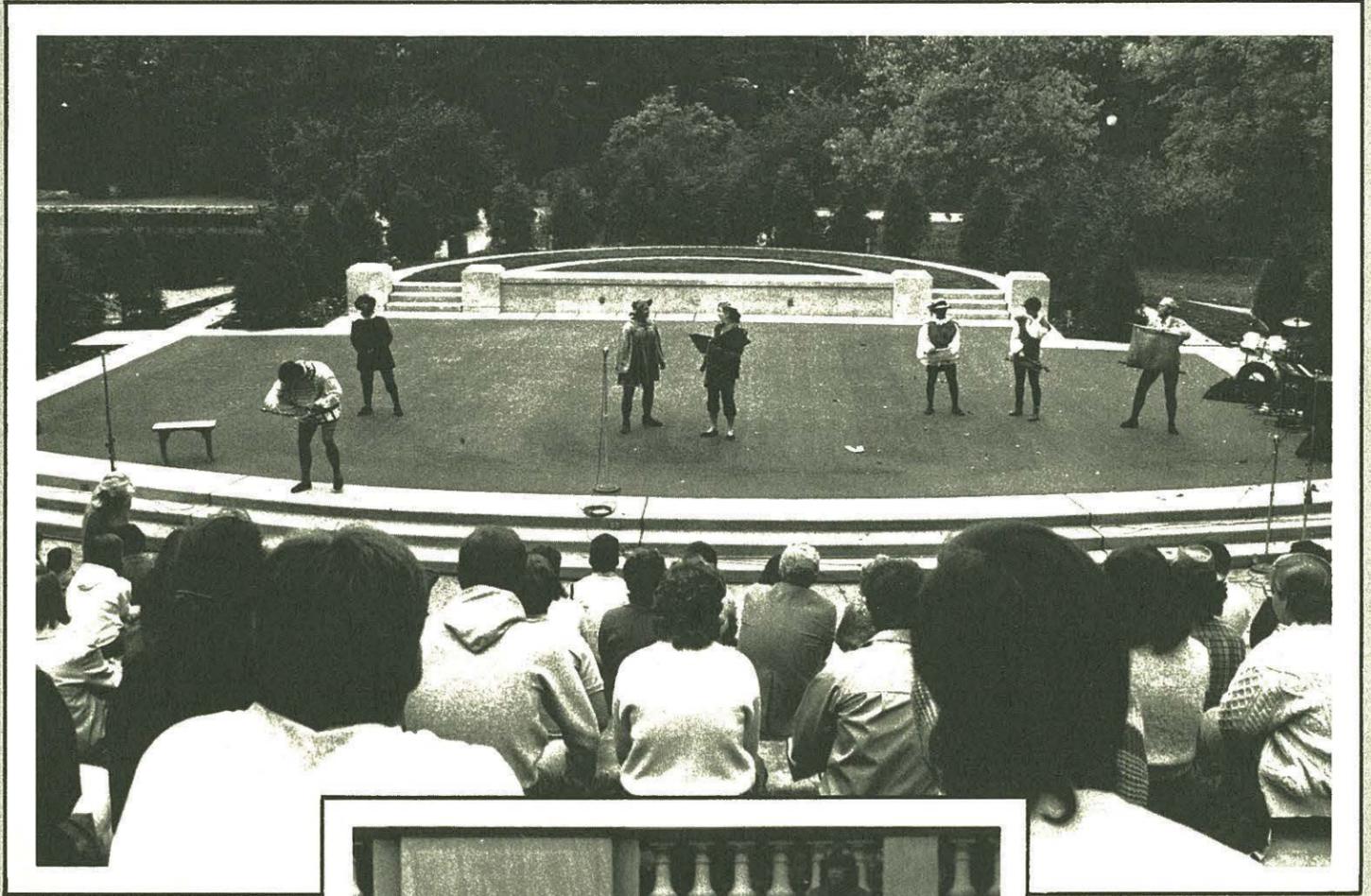


THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTO ARCHIVE

The amphitheatre has been used for numerous outdoor dramas, including this presentation in 1951.

# Browning Amphitheatre

The Department of Theatre presented scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



University Dance Company was featured in the dedication ceremonies for the renovated performance space in October 1985.

# ARTS ADVOCATE

Vol. 7, No. 1 Autumn, 1986

**Arts Advocate**  
The Ohio State University  
College of the Arts  
Office of Arts Information and  
Publications  
403 Mershon Auditorium  
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*Arts Advocate* is the alumni newsletter of The Ohio State University College of the Arts. Readers wishing to obtain more information about the programs and activities described should contact the Office of Arts Information and Publications at the above address, or call (614) 292-8050.

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Information Services  
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Columbus, OH 43210

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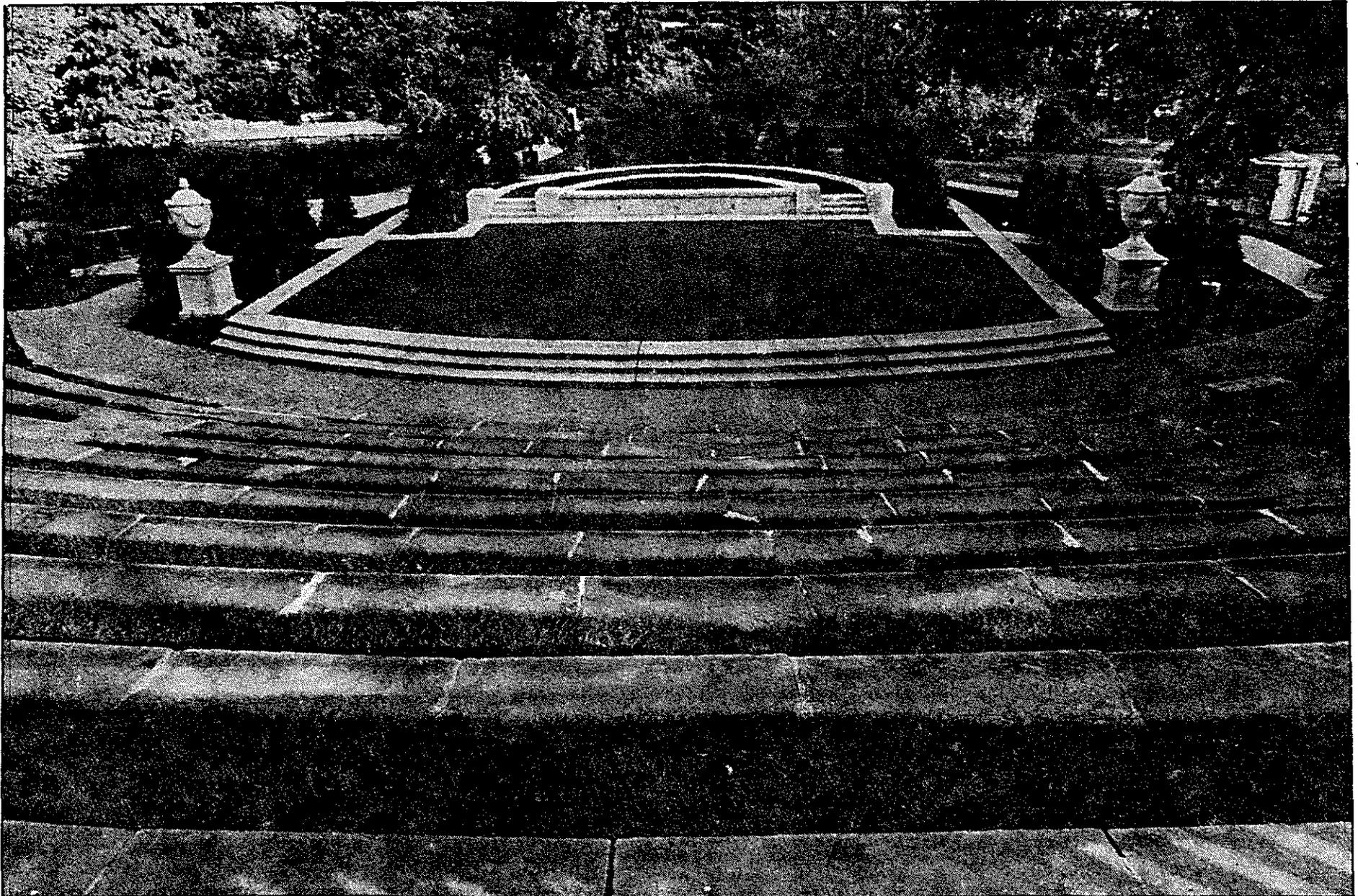
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T. Jollay/the Lantern

A shot looking down at the newly reconstructed Mirror Lake Amphitheatre located behind Pomerene Hall. The Amphitheatre hosts events such as outdoor productions and bands.



# NEWS

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For release On Receipt

12/23/88

(CM)

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Browning Amphitheater restoration project on Ohio State University's campus has received an award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

One of 33 projects honored with ASLA 1988 professional awards, the Ohio State project was cited for its new design to "blend into the surrounding landscape and preserve the historic context of the amphitheater."

Originally constructed in Mirror Lake Hollow in 1926, the restoration project was a gift to the university from Ohio Staters Inc., a student and faculty service organization, to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

The \$125,000 restoration was designed by Richard Trott & Partners Architects Inc., and was Ohio Staters' largest service project. It included construction of a bi-level stage and an electrical system for light and sound equipment. Stone columns separate the upper and lower stages, and landscaping behind the stage provides a backdrop for the performance area.

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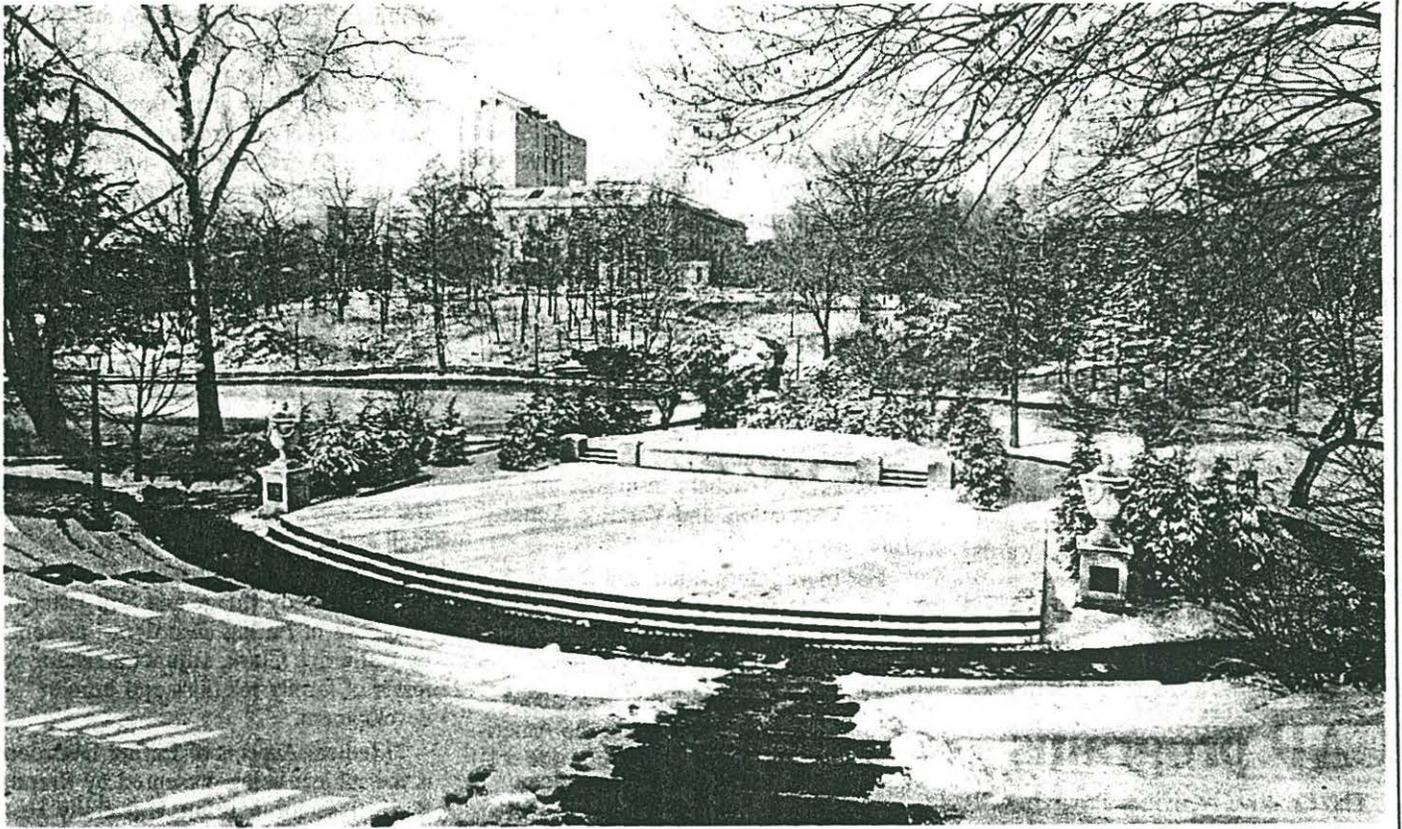


Photo by Kevin Fitzsimons

## Landscape recognition

THE BROWNING AMPHITHEATER restoration project is one of 33 projects honored with an American Society of Landscape Architects 1988 professional award. The \$125,000

project was a gift to the University from Ohio Staters to commemorate the student and faculty service organization's 50th anniversary.

# Theater will get lights

By Traci Miller  
Lantern staff writer

Theater lights being installed at the Browning Amphitheater will bring the campus another place to have nighttime and performing arts events, said a university architect.

Thomas Heretta of the University Architects office said he expects the lights to be installed by the end of April.

"The amphitheater itself is pretty well restored. The additional work is almost all lighting work," said Heretta.

He said the two contractors working on the project are Jess Howard Electric Co. for the electrical work and John James Estes & Associates for general work.

Heretta added the two contractors are doing preliminary work until the working conditions are better outside.

Mark Shanda, assistant professor and technical director for the Department of Theater said in the past, the department looked into performing at the Browning Amphitheater, but lack of lighting was a problem.

They looked into renting stage lighting, but it was too expensive, he said.

"If lights are installed, we'll probably try to use it," said Shanda.

Dan Heinlen, director of Alumni Affairs for the Ohio State Alumni Association said, "The lighting will add a whole new dimension to the amphitheater."

With stage lights, the amphitheater will become available not only to the performing arts groups, but to other events, such as one-act plays and concerts after dusk, he said.

The amphitheater restoration

project started in 1985 as a gift to the university from the Ohio Staters Inc., a student and faculty service organization. The gift was given to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Ohio Staters Inc., said Heinlen, who is also an associate member of the group.

Heinlen said some alumni of The Browning Dramatic Society, a women's group that performed Shakespearean plays at the amphitheater until the 1950's, contributed funds along with the Ohio Staters Inc. and its alumni to restore the amphitheater and its lights.

The amphitheater seating and a new stage surface was restored in 1985, but lack of funds would not permit lighting to be installed.

The Ohio Staters Inc. and the other donors gave more money so lighting can be installed, Heretta said.

He said the lighting project will cost about \$53,000.

Jean Hansford, campus planner and faculty member of the Ohio Staters Inc., said the amphitheater has been used for years for jazz concerts, weddings and the medieval-renaissance festival, held in the spring.

With the restoration and new lighting, an increase in the types of events will probably be seen.

# Poetry reading slated for Mirror Lake

By Patrick J. Geyer  
Lantern staff writer

Mirror lake is not a stranger to poetry. It can often be heard in the whispers of couples on moonlit walks and Sunday afternoon picnics. It is a place where many poets find the solitude to write their poetry.

Tonight that poetry will be less secretive with "Poetry in the Park," an open poetry forum at Browning Ampitheater. The program is being sponsored by the Smith/Steeb residence hall staff.

"Once we start, we seem to attract attention," said David Citino, professor of English and featured poet. "Individuals just walking by Mirror lake often find their way over to the ampitheater and sit there and listen."

The program will open with Citino reading a selection of his own work, and then anyone will be allowed to read their own poetry.

"We want to attract students who want to 'toot their own horn' when it comes to being creative and being an artist," said Maggie

Burkhart, Smith/Steeb hall director. "We are really looking forward to some of our more talented students taking advantage of that time."

This program comes at a time where there is increasing enrollment in poetry classes, Citino said.

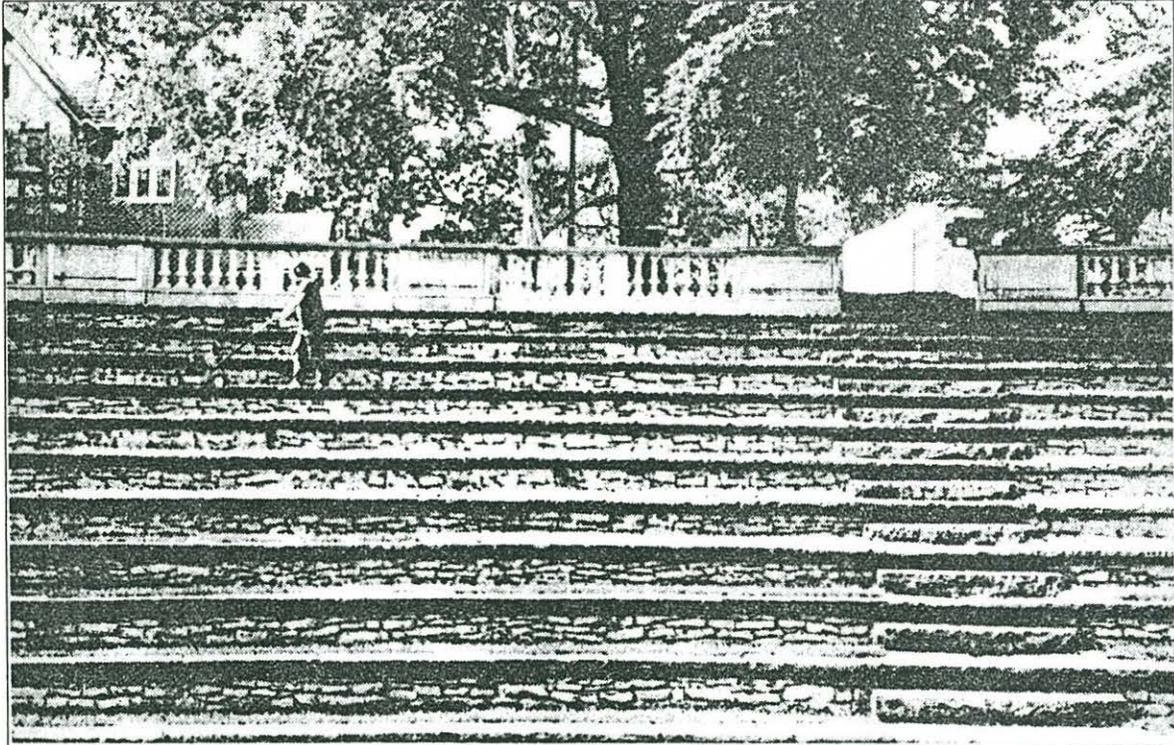
"It seems to me that this is one art that really allows you to explore yourself," Citino said. "It's a way of getting to know one's self better and keeping track of one's life."

"We wanted to do something

that hadn't been done before," said Timothy Ringo, a senior majoring in business and English from Columbus who is organizing the event. "You always see the same programs. This is something new."

"It's not necessary to be a pro, that's one of the beautiful things about poetry," Citino said. "You can enjoy it by just doing it once in a while."

"Poetry in the Park" begins at 7:00 p.m. tonight at Browning Ampitheater.



Jim German/the Lantern

## Post-HempFest

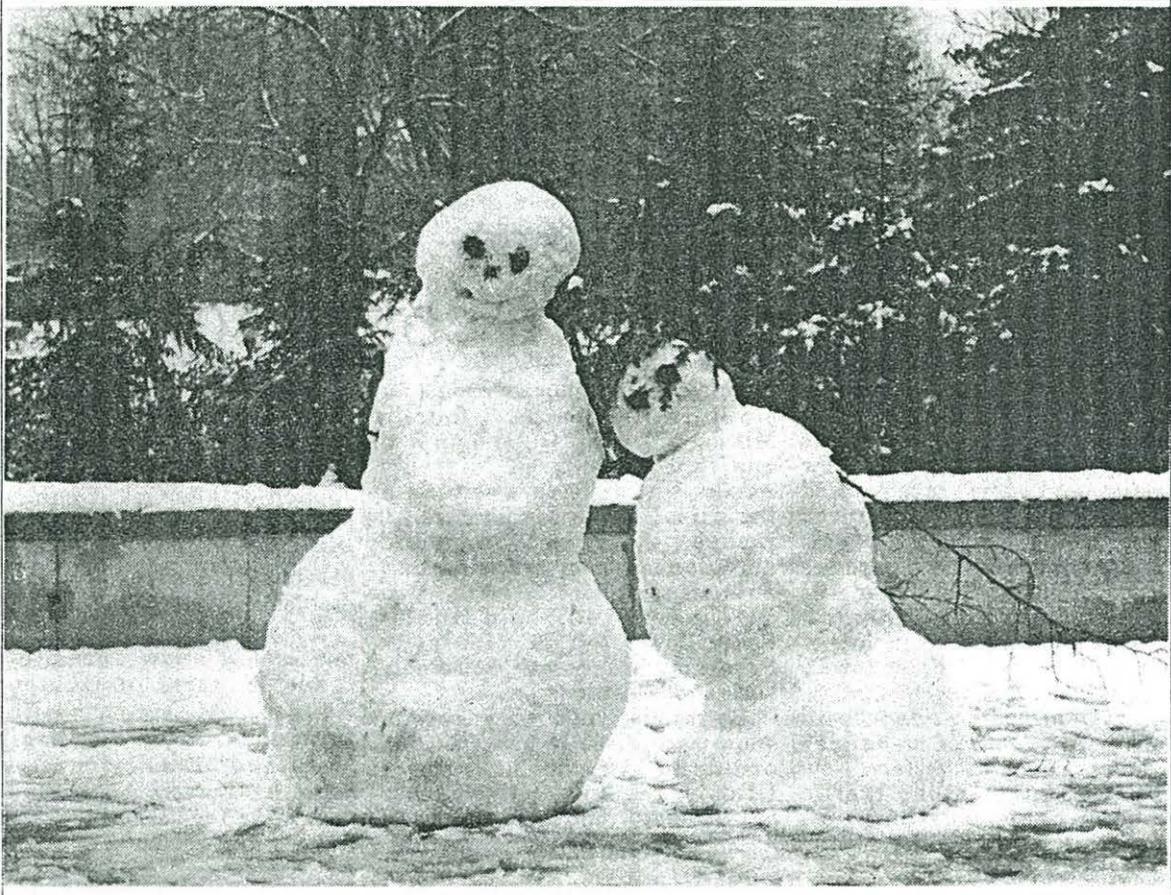
Sean McGovern, a senior from Westerville majoring in **Amphitheater**. McGovern and other landscape communications, mows the seating area at **Browning** maintenance employees were hard at work Tuesday.

## JUST IN TIME



Doral Chenoweth III/Dispatch

Mike Cordle blows away the last of fall's leaves in Browning Amphitheatre on the Ohio State University campus. The work yesterday may be just in time, too. Heavy snow could make its debut any day.

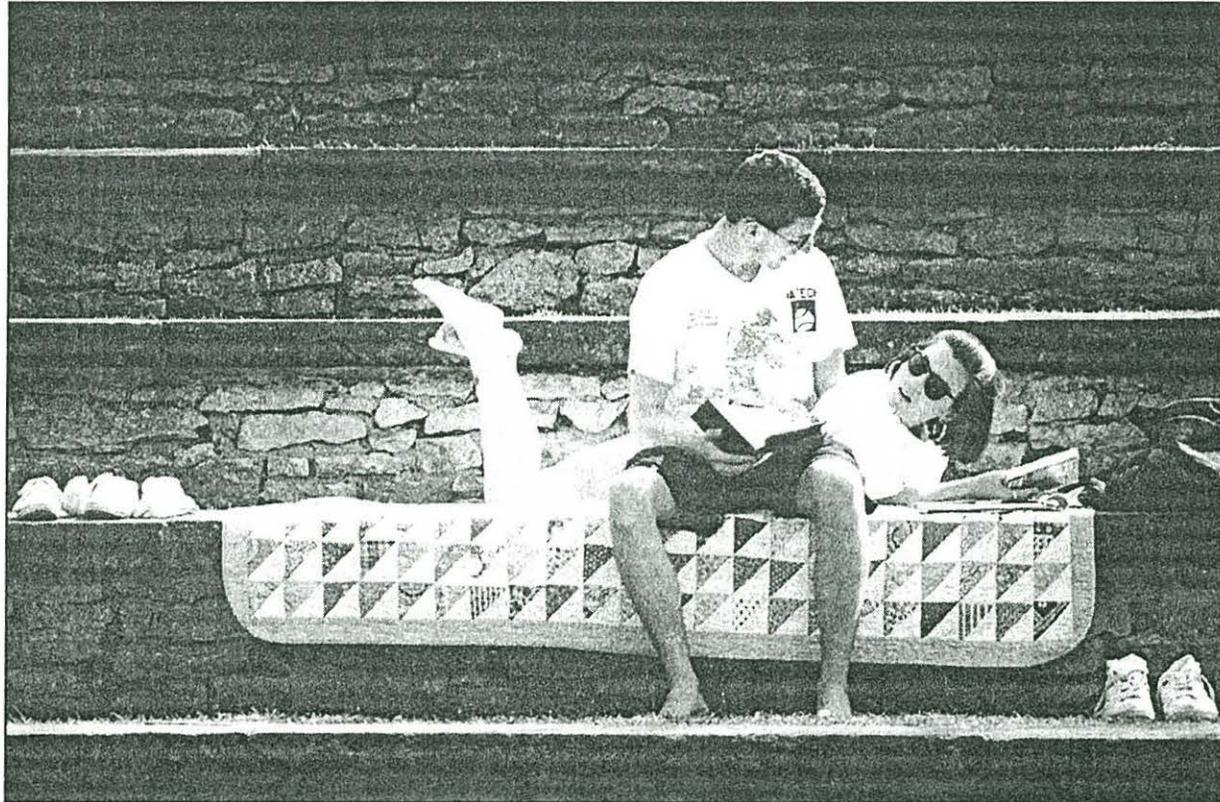


Tracey Ward/the Lantern

## Snow in love

Mr. and Mrs. Snow were the headlining act at the Browning Outdoor Ampitheatre Tuesday afternoon.

## SOAKING UP SOME SUN



Tom Dodge/Dispatch

Mike Schueren, a material-science engineering major at Ohio State University, and Kathy Allen, a graduate student, share a quilt at the Mirror Lake amphitheater near

OSU's South Oval. The lake almost always draws sun worshipers on warm days like yesterday. Today should be another winner, with temperatures rising into the 60s.



Chad D. Lerch/the Lantern

## A winter walk

Melissa Trueman and Abbi Ryckman, seniors majoring in Sports and Fitness Administration, walk Yesterday through Browning Amphitheatre.