



Dancer Michele Ku mixes modern dance and ballet.

A dream comes true

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

For eight hours a day, seven days a week eight Kingswood and Cranbrook students and three alumni have been practicing dance routines which will be presented in Portugal during the next two weeks. The group even practiced Christmas and New Years dances. The 11, along with Kingswood dance instructor Jessie Sinclair, will leave Thursday (Jan. 9) for Lisbon and return Jan. 24. For the eight students, the trip is their January Project for school. For the past few years, Kingswood and Cranbrook students have spent the month of May doing a variety of May Projects. This year, projects were switched to January and no regular classes are held that month. The trip has been a dream of Ms. Sinclair's since 1972 when Anna Palmeirim, a dancer, was an exchange student at Kingswood from Portugal. THE TWO CORRESPONDED all last year and a trip was arranged for May but was cancelled following a revolution in Portugal in April. "We began corresponding again in August but there were many uncertainties," Ms. Sinclair said. "Finally we got a verbal yes from Anna but it wasn't official." The suspense continued until Dec. 16 when Miss Palmeirim telephoned Ms. Sinclair. "I knew when the final yes came that it would take a lot of work to get it together so I left the decision to the

kids," Ms. Sinclair said last week. "They decided this was what they wanted to do." The students were in the middle of exams and couldn't start practicing until Dec. 30. Those who are boarding students stayed with families in the area so they could be available. "THERE HAVE BEEN no complaints," Ms. Sinclair said. "They are there on time and they work like professionals. I think they are doing it because they consider it to be a valuable experience." The dancers are preparing a 45 to 60 minute program which they will present in schools in and around Lisbon. The National Conservatory in Lisbon has no modern dance. Ms. Sinclair explained, "Everything is ballet oriented but there is great interest in modern dance. The Kingswood-Cranbrook group's program is heavily modern dance but not totally. "We use many different kinds of styles to present a wide range of movement," Ms. Sinclair said. The program has some jazz and some experimental dance using a variety of music. Choreography for the program is mostly by Ms. Sinclair with some by students. DANCERS WHO WILL make the trip are Diana Lawrence, Lisa Fairley, Nancy Steele, Lisa Sinclair, Michele Ku, Tom Hahn, Tom Ford and Geoff Emery and alumni Cecile Keith, Cheryl Danley and Vincent Guinn.

Dance was added to the curriculum for Cranbrook students about three years ago, Ms. Sinclair said. Attitudes toward dancing have changed, she believes. "The dance experience is for everyone, no matter how tall or short or fat or thin," she said. "Everyone moves in daily life. Dancing takes that movement and changes it." The January dance project "shows how people can be involved in dance in a real way without making a professional commitment to it," Ms. Sinclair said. She studied dance at Wayne State University and Connecticut College for Women and "wherever possible in New York during vacations." She also studied one summer in London and Spain.

Photographed by Doug Bauman



Nancy Steele takes a breather from the rigors of dance practice, but listens to Vince Guinn and Diana Lawrence, two of the 11 dancers heading for Lisbon.

Planners review preliminary part

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—The planning commission took care of its January business in 10 minutes Monday night, and one member short of an official quorum. The only item on the commission's agenda was a preliminary plat review of a six-acre section of Evelyn Court subdivision, located on the south side of Quanton, west of Franklin. The plat, which is being purchased by Harry Carlson on a land contract, contains nine lots, all exceeding the 20,000 square feet minimum required by township ordinance. Carlson said he did not foresee any drainage problems due to a 42-inch storm drain on the west side of the plat to which the property will drain. THE HILL around the property will be graded as little as possible, Carlson said, since it forms a natural berm which guards the property from street noises. The proposed housing arrangement in this section of the subdivision calls

for a cul-de-sac. The radius of the turnaround has been checked and approved by the fire department for entrance and exit of fire trucks. The plat has yet to be formally inspected by the water and sewer department, township engineers and the police, however, so the plat was tabled until more detailed inspections could be carried out. The commission said there seemed to be no serious problems with the plat.

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