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Variety Show: For the Under 30 Crowd

By WALTER LAZENBY

CHARLESTON — It's time again for the annual Phi Mu Alpha-Sigma Alpha Iota variety show at Eastern. The show, put together and performed entirely by student members of the two professional musical organizations and emphasizing recent popular music, opened Friday night and will continue this weekend, with three more performances.

Taking its title from the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes," it features show tunes, hits by popular entertainers

and Rock groups, and skits. The only classical piece on the program, "Kiss Me" from the little known composer Ardit's "Romeo and Juliet," provides Ann Timblin with material for an able travesty of a fastidious diva's performance interrupted by a janitor who gets into the act.

Some of the skits have little or nothing to do with music, among them a black-out about a geologist-rockhound. The skit recalling the old Mouseketeers program features an accomplished imitation of Donald Duck by Greg Mitchell. The highlight of Robert Elmore's

performance is not the curious sounds he coaxes out of something resembling an orange but the cascading puns he torments the audience with as he adopts the stance of

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stand-up comic attired as an orange. If the entire program represents a banquet, then he provides the fruit for it.

Chris Alderton of Phi Mu Alpha and Peggy Burke of

Sigma Alpha Iota as emcees indulge in some fairly good-natured joshing of each other on behalf of a supposed rivalry between the organizations, but some of the more personal gibes seem tasteless in their lack of humor. Alderton's transition to the Cashman West song "A Friend Is Dying" is noticeably awkward; but his singing of the song at the piano comes off well.

Though the lighting might be appropriate for this one number, it is too dark for the mood of most of the music in the rest of the show. True, it is perfect for the sophisticated

opening number, where it spotlights Dale Furry singing "Magic to Do" from the musical "Pippin," while black lights catch the moving white-gloved hands of other performers.

Despite a nearly lugubrious effect of some of the lighting and despite some obvious "flubs" in one number Saturday night, there are bright spots among the other routines.

Marianne Challis gives a strong though none too warm rendition of the title song, while the ensemble goes through a

well-choreographed interpretation of it. Karen Moran and Russ Lipari team up to do "Honey Bun" from "South Pacific" — with a difference: she's the sailor, he the grass-skirted girl.

A medley of the Beach Boys' songs gives another opportunity for a production number by the ensemble.

The orchestra sounds especially good in backing up "You Gotta Have a Gimmick," interpreted energetically by Debbie Gaule along with Timblin and Challis.

IN A FEW WORDS: Mainly for the under-thirty generation.