

College's 'Equus' to have nude scene

United Press International

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — A federal judge ruled Monday New Mexico State University can present the play "Equus," complete with a nude scene that had brought criticism from local clergy and the district attorney district attorney.

District Attorney Lalo Garza had said he might have the lead male and female characters in the play arrested. The NMSU English department, Mark Medoff, director of the play, violate the state's indecent exposure statutes and asked university police to monitor the performance.

Judge Howard Bratton, however, granted the university's request for a temporary injunction against Garza, to prevent him from arresting any of the performers. Bratton also ruled NMSU could proceed with the play which will debut Thursday at 8 p.m. at the school's Little Theater.

During the hearing on the tempo-

rary injunction request, NMSU President Gerald Thomas testified the directors of the play had not violated any university regulations.

"One of the principles involved here is the latest technique in teaching and research that is applicable to drama students," Thomas said.

Four persons, including student Siobhan O'Meara, the lead male character, had gone to court to prevent Garza from halting the play. Represented by Albuquerque attorney Paul Phillips, the plaintiffs also included Dr. Bruce Street, head of the NMSU English Department, Mark Medoff, director of the play, and Forrest Westmoreland, a city resident.

Besides Garza, the play had also been opposed by a group of Las Cruces clergymen.

Street, who also testified at the hearing, told the judge the school's main concern was "to keep students from being arrested for something we told them to do."

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Battalion photo by Susan Webb

Ford blasts Carter's dual-purpose tax bill

United Press International

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Former President Gerald R. Ford Tuesday attacked the Carter administration's plan of combining tax reform and tax reduction measures into one bill and said that unless the two are separated, neither would pass Congress in the near future.

"I believe the combination of tax reform — whatever that might be — and tax reduction, will slow down congressional enactment of a tax reform bill," Ford said in a lecture to 200 Kansas University students. "And unless they are decoupled, I don't believe Congress will act on a tax reform bill until at least August or September," he said.

In response to student questions, the former president also commented on the coal situation, wage and price controls and the Carter administration budget.

Ford said he believed the coal strike could have been avoided if the Secretary of Labor under his administration William Usury, had been in office.

"If he were Secretary of Labor," Ford said, "I think the whole problem could have been avoided. I can understand the reluctance of President Carter to use the Taft-Hartley Act to handle the problem, because of several cases where that act has been counter-productive in the mining industry."

Ford warned that if Carter moved ahead with another of his proposals to end the coal strike — having the two sides agree to a binding arbitration by Congress — that Congress would not pass the legislation in time to avoid a deteriorating of the situation.

"I believe that Congress, if it does pass it, will take several weeks to pass it, but I even have serious reservations that Congress would pass it."

Ford said the current administration's budget was both too large and its tax reduction proposal too limited to continue the economic recovery that began while he was in office.

"In my opinion," Ford said, "the present administration's fiscal policy

calls for too much federal spending on the one hand — a \$500 billion budget with a deficit of about \$60 billion, and a tax reduction that nets out at about \$25 billion. I think the increase in the rate of spending is too large and I think the tax reduction plan is too limited.

"I think that the tax reduction bill could and very likely will be inadequate to meet the challenge that

I think we need to keep the reform going. I just hope that in the contest between the president and Congress, we don't miss the chance to continue the recovery that was started back in the spring of 1975."

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