



Oakland High orchestra director Dick Lotter rehearses students for coming holiday concerts

Tribune photos by Leo Cohen



What's doing... and where...

Aum and Freedom Highway will share the bill at the Lanai Theatre in Crockett on Saturday at 9 p.m. Lead guitarist Wayne Ceballo of Aum came in for high praise during the Bay Area trio's recent East Coast tour. Lights for the show will be worked by Dr. Zarkov.

The Monkees didn't do too well at their Sunday concert. Craig Moddero, The Tribune's man on the rock beat, said the Arena parking lot was about one-fourth full. "Like maybe for an Ice Follies rehearsal or something," he said. "About 2,000 fans

showed up at 2 p.m. and they were kept waiting until 4 p.m. for the musical primates. It seemed that every local group in the Eastbay dragged equipment across the stage, filling up the time while Micky, Mike and David sat backstage rapping about cars."

The Soulful Syndicates will play for the Dynamic Silhouettes' semi-formal Christmas dance at the Helmet Club in Berkeley on Dec. 26, at 9 p.m. Admission will be \$3 per couple and \$2 for singles.

Hayward High has scheduled that school's first all-

day seminar for Jan. 14. A committee headed by student body President John Sheridan has organized the day of lectures and discussions on a variety of topics which include the draft, drug abuse, ecological factors underlying air and water pollution, legal rights of high school students, an improved awareness of the contributions of the black population, the police force in today's society, fire arms controls and making the Federal Government more responsive to its citizens. Students must attend two of the above sessions. Guest speakers and authorities in the various fields

will address groups of students on the topics. The remainder of the time will be devoted to questions, answers and discussion.

Eastbay high school newspapers have been heavily laden with editorials about the recent Northern California Governor's Youth Conference in Sacramento which, near the end, broke down because of vocal disruptions by a number of student delegates. Pam Jenkins, a senior at Skyline High in Oakland, summed up in her editorial in the "Oracle" the general feeling of the majority of the student editorials. "Many of the students were disgusted by the fact that although this was the Governor's Conference, he was not in attendance," she writes. Other points she made: It was a youth conference but adults were running it. They (adults) decided on topics to be discussed in advance. Adults picked youths to serve on the final panel and it was not an evenly representative group of attending delegates. Black and chicanos groups complained bitterly. Among their complaints was the fact that adults were not listening to the students — which, Pam writes, was true. While complaints were being aired, other students began yelling, clapping and stamping sessions. "Out of all the problems, only one stood out," Pam writes. "This was the gap between today's youth and their peers. . . . Problems will never be solved if students can't hear out their own peers. Nothing will ever get done if this continues."

Love Everybody," a Johnny Winter original, as are all songs on this side which features "I'm Not Sure." This is a fine blues, slightly reminiscent of Muddy Waters' "Two Trains Runnin'."

Similarly, "Hustled Down in Texas" is close to "Got My Mojo Working," also written by Muddy Waters. Johnny again uses a wah-wah pedal, plus some fuzz effects. "I Hate Everybody" shows the group's talent in still another field — jazz. It features great guitar work by Johnny, and a few saxes and an organ played by Edgar. It continues into a drum introduction for "Fast Life Rider," which is minus Edgar.

Shannon plays some great, fast bass, and Red Twiner pounds out powerful driving drums. Stereo speaker switching makes it appear as though two guitarists are trading riffs. The song lasts more than seven minutes, and Johnny, aided only by drums throughout much of the song, shows why Mike Bloomfield once called him the greatest white blues guitarist. Personally, I doubt if any blues guitarist — white or black — could carry his pick.

If possible, Winter has outdone his first Columbia album, and also "The Progressive Blues Experiment" on Imperial. It's too bad there isn't a fourth side, but these three sides are plenty. Besides, another side would raise the price.

GUEST ALBUM

Today's column, a review of Johnny Winter's latest album, is by Dan Forte of Hayward. Readers are invited to submit reviews of their favorite pop albums or interviews with entertainers to the column each week. Those whose columns are published will each receive a copy of a recently released stereo pop album. Address all correspondence to: Guest Album, Teen Age, Oakland Tribune, P.O. Box 509, Oakland, 94604.

"Second Winter" by Johnny Winter is literally an album and a half. As Winter explains in the liner notes, the group recorded an excess of material, planning to leave off anything that didn't satisfy them.

In the end, all 11 songs were included, but put on three sides, because squeezing them all onto one record would have lost volume.

As Winter states, "We couldn't honestly give you more, and we didn't want to give you less, so here is exactly what we did in Nashville — no more and no less."

"We" is Winter's group, which has now apparently added a new member. Johnny's older brother, Edgar, who was used to augment a few cuts on the first Columbia album, plays alto sax and keyboards. The other members are Uncle John Turner on drums and Tommy Shannon on bass — both great blues instrumentalists. Winter plays lead guitar, mandolin

and handles all vocals. All members are from Texas.

"Memory Pain," minus Edgar, is an old blues which Winter has speeded up. This cut immediately displays the togetherness of the group. "I'm Not Sure," with Edgar on harpsichord, seems confusing at the start, but after a short "hoochie koochie" type of break, the group goes back to the original tempo, and gets going a lot better.

"The Good Love" has its composer, Dennis Collins, on bass. This cut features Johnny using a wah-wah pedal, and shows influence of Jimi Hendrix.

Side two shows another side of Winter, with three old rock and roll tunes. "Slippin' and Slidin'" and "Miss Ann," both written by Little Richard, don't come across very well. The group is more than competent in this field, but Johnny's singing is an attempt to copy Little Richard. It would have been better if the group had done it in Winter's style, like the next track, "Johnny B. Goode."

On this cut the group doesn't try to sound like Chuck Berry, as the Rolling Stones and other groups have done. This is easily one of the best cuts on this album.

Another great one is Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited." This is a hard-driving blues with some of the best slide-guitar work ever. It far surpasses the original.

Musical butterflies at 7 in the morning

By Peggy King
Tribune Staff Writer

Some 1,700 Oakland high school students annually get butterflies in their stomachs around this "fa, la, la" time of year.

The holidays bring a host of talent-testing concerts and assemblies for young musicians in the six high schools' music departments. Students of band, orchestra, choir and ensemble join forces to sing and play traditional holiday music.

Stifling yawns and occasionally a little bleary-eyed, some meet as early as 7 a.m. for apres-down and pre-class rehearsals. Others give up free time after school to prepare for concerts.

"It is one of the high moments of the year for our music students," said Harold Youngberg, director of music for Oakland Public Schools. "Not only in the schools, but our young people go out and perform for service clubs and community organizations at this time of year."

It is with a note of justifiable pride that Youngberg speaks of Oakland music students. "Each school has an orchestra except for McClymonds and that school has an excellent band and drum corps," he said.

Most of the schools have stage bands (sometimes called dance bands), Youngberg said. "These students reach a surprisingly high level of performance. These are good for them because many students can later pay their way through college by playing with dance groups."

In vocal music, the schools sponsor choruses, choirs, madrigal singers and small ensembles such as Castlemont's Castlers, who are considered one of the best high school groups in the state.

"The surrounding Bay Area annually promotes a series of music competitions and festivals where the students are judged on the quality of their performances," Youngberg said. "Our (Oakland's) groups are consistently rated among the best."

"Because of this and the fine performances of our young people, the public so often gets the idea that everything is fine," Youngberg continued. "But we have all kinds of difficulties."

The major one, he said, is financial. "We have gone from an austerity budget of the past to one where we can now afford to buy music only. We have a tough time in that we can't buy instruments or anything else. The last time we bought a grand piano was 19 years ago — and that was second-hand," Youngberg said.

Individual schools are attempting to raise funds for instruments and equipment that should be paid for out of the school budget, the director said. The lack of instruments and more courses in music prevents more students being involved, he added.

Another major problem, Youngberg said, is getting musically oriented students into the music classes. "Many of these students are in very high academic categories and are bound for major colleges and universities whose entrance requirements are stringent," he said.

The Concord High Little Theatre will present two children's plays this month for youngsters in their community. "The Land of Oz" will be presented on Dec. 13, and "Maddin and His Wonderful Lamp" on Dec. 20. Each play will be performed at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. on the appointed days in the school's multi-purpose room. Tickets will be 50 cents each.

'Beauty therapy' aids mentally ill

A girl's appearance has a lot to do with her mental outlook, officials at Camarillo State Hospital say after a "beauty therapy" course turned withdrawn, emotionally ill teen-age girls into poised, self-confident models. Read the story in tomorrow's World of Women section in The Tribune.

tious efforts are showings of feature films, a contest for a Rolling Stones album and a presentation on the Gemini space program. A final film, "The Fall of the House of Usher," will be screened at the Richmond school on Dec. 18.

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'Looking out for No. 1'

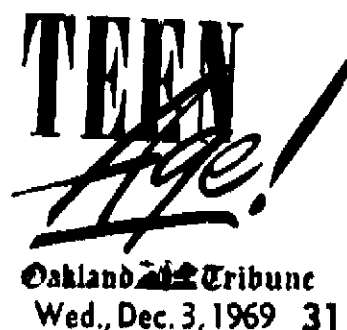
A research psychologist who studied the personality traits of nearly 1,100 Los Angeles high school students says those most likely to "run afoul of the vehicle code" show a high level of "expediency."

Dr. Edward Levonian defined expediency as "looking out for Number One, even if it means hurting someone else."

He said a student with a high expediency score would be inclined to leave high beam lights on until an oncoming driver lowered his; would force his way into a line of cars in an adjacent lane, or would speed up to beat out a driver trying to make a left turn across an intersection.

Dr. Levonian, associated with the University of California, at Los Angeles, says boys showed the tendency more than girls. He gave no specific figures.

His conclusions were based on 220 items in a questionnaire, each of which dealt with a choice of action in a specific driving situation. (AP)



"Consequently, the kids are scared to death they won't take enough 'academic subjects' to get into these colleges."

Although music is officially rated as an academic subject just as English, math or social studies, Youngberg said there are some universities and colleges which will not accept high school level music courses as academics.

"Perhaps too much emphasis is placed on performance for performance sake in high school," he said. "And not enough on the background and study of music theory (the grammar of music), its history and its literature." So without benefit of record-

ing equipment, playbacks and with some used instruments donated by interested citizens — and with their second-hand grand piano — Oakland's high school music students will execute with love and precision holiday music at the following concerts:

Skyline's "Music Night" will combine orchestra, dance and chorus in concert at 8 p.m. on Friday evening. Fremont High will present a holiday program at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oakland on Friday afternoon and another for the PTA on Dec. 9. The orchestra and chorus will stage two 40-minute holiday music assemblies at Fremont High on Dec. 19.

Oakland Tech will offer a program of song and instrumental music to the public on Dec. 18, at 8 p.m. in that school's auditorium. On the evening of Dec. 12, Oakland High's orchestra, band, chorus and madrigal group will perform at the school at 8 p.m.

McClymonds has scheduled special holiday assembly programs during school hours. Castlemont's concert will feature the Castlers, the concert choir and orchestra in performance at 8 p.m. on Dec. 17.

Chambers Bros. make joyful noise

What better way to kick off the holiday season than with the joyful noise of the Chambers Brothers. Their colorful garb — velvet, suede and brocade — is matched by a variety of colorful sounds — gospel, soul, rock and roll and blues.

The total of these combinations is rather like an old-fashioned revival meeting. Their coming run (Dec. 11-14) at Fillmore West in San Francisco is their first Bay Area engagement since last December. During the past year, the group (all brothers except for drummer Brian Keenan) has toured Europe, made several TV appearances and played major clubs and colleges throughout the U.S.

The Brothers' roots are in Mississippi where, as small children, they sang gospel in churches. They moved to Los Angeles in 1954, and continued to sing church gospel, making their first professional appearance at the Ash Grove in 1961.

Their hit single, "Time Has Come Today," established them in the "overnight success" tradition. An album with that title was pressed shortly after. It quickly became a gold record. On the Columbia label, the Chambers Brothers have released "A New Time — A New Day" and just two weeks ago, "Love, Peace and Happiness."

Oddly enough on the same bill with the Brothers is The Nice. This is the English group that sends even their own publicity writers climbing walls to find acceptable words with which to describe their live performances.

An appropriate thing to say is that they specialize in social satire and unusual inter-

pretations of classical pieces. Two of their more recent LP releases, "Ars Longa Vita Brevis" and "Nice" attest to their fine performance abilities and certainly a good knowledge of music.

In personal appearances they are notorious for one composition called "America." Here the British musicians involve themselves with the slashing of the American flag and the smashing of busts of American assassination victims. London's Albert Hall has banned future performances by the group. This will be the group's debut at Fillmore West.

King Crimson, another British group, will complete the bill. Lights will be worked by Little Princess, 109. All shows will begin at 8:30 p.m. — Peggy King

Flea market for YMCA

At Diablo YMCA's Youth and Government Club will hold a flea market on Saturday and Sunday at the "Y" from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds will be used to send young people to the YMCA Model Legislature in Sacramento and to other similar conferences. For information on renting space, buying or selling, Bill Grandy may be contacted at the Mt. Diablo "Y" at 350 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill.

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