

Rock rules at Orchard Ridge

Monday, October 22, 1979

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By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

of the bands at Oakland Community College's Farmington Hills campus. For the five bands who battled their way through the overcast fall afternoon, the event was a chance to come up from the basement and before the public. And a goodly proportion of the young musicians who appeared at OCC were looking forward to keeping music as a full-time or part-time career. Turner, 19, is convinced he wants to

take a crack at managing and performing. He wants to open T&T Productions and begin booking local bands as well as promoting "The Jam Band." "This is going to be my life," he said, waving his hand to reveal a a chunky gold chain bracelet from under the cuff of his white shirt. He's been singing since he was in the fourth grade with a variety of bands and varying amounts of seriousness.

IN ADDITION to a lead singer, the group is also looking for a manager to ease them into jobs over and beyond the talent shows, parties and battles of the bands they've been working. While Dumas sounds serious about music, he prefers to think of it as a part-time endeavor. He's contemplating a career in some form of music or art which provides a steady income. Scott Bango, of West Bloomfield, has the same attitude toward music as a job. "To make money — that's the bottom line," he said. He wants to be able to earn a living with his guitar and is taking a look at studying toward a degree at Wayne State University to help him accomplish his goal. He'd like to keep music and his band "H-Band" as a sideline. Yet in the battle of communications of Atlanta, (Continued on page 7A)



OCC campus police kept an eye on the audience.



Tony Turner howls out a vintage rock 'n' roll song during OCC's battle of the bands. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

HIS FIRST BAND was a "shim bam, ting, ting type of thing," he admitted. It was a group of kids having a good time. But by the ninth grade he became a little more ambitious and his musical aspirations turned earnest.

Back in his hometown of Toledo, O., his classmates didn't always appreciate the type of music his hands produced. During one performance — remarkable only for the lack of interest on the part of the audience — Turner tried out some of his own material. "I wrote a song called 'I Love You, Girl' and the girls jumped up and down and screamed. The only thing they liked was something that I had done."

Out of such a reception, a career aspiration is born. It was Turner's idea to stage a battle of the bands at the college. He worked with student body president Jamie Sugar to gather the bands. Three days before the event he gathered together a band of his own and the five members had a grand total of three days to rehearse.

Turner pranced, skipped and danced on stage while the band worked hard behind him. While the performance wouldn't have won any awards, it was marked by a grand show of confidence on the part of the musicians.

ALTHOUGH Joe Dumas and "Crossfire" have been together for less than a year, they've put in more time together than Turner's company of musicians.

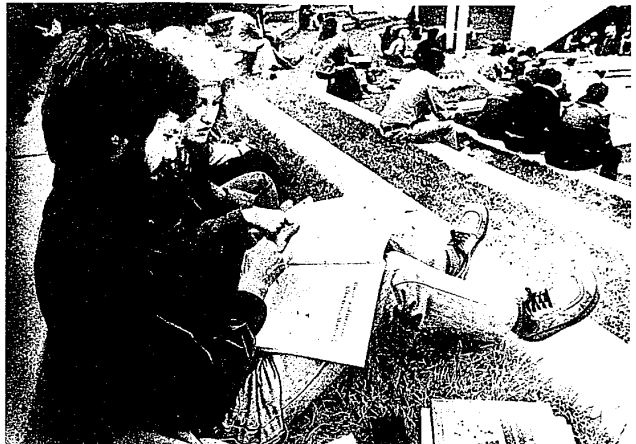
Dumas, 17, of Farmington, hopes to move east with the band. By Christmas, when all of the band members have turned 18 years of age, they hope to audition at Bookie's, Detroit's punk rock mecca.

Ironically, the band that bills itself as proponents of punk rock privately enjoys easy listening music and jazz. The decision to go punk was made with an eye to standing out in the competition for jobs.

Thus, they can turn to punk rock emporiums such as Bookie's for jobs. But their first attempt at gaining an audition there failed.

"I told the guy we weren't 18 yet. I guess I shouldn't have said that," Dumas said.

On stage Dumas, decked out in a denim blazer, white T-shirt and red scarf,



Boning up on their chemistry while listening to some music are students (from left) Mare Soller and Barbara Hills.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

POLITICS IS IN the air again and at least two candidates nights are scheduled this week. Section 35 Homeowners' Association will conduct a candidates night at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 23 in St. Alexander's Roman Catholic Church Social Hall, 27825 Shawassee in Farmington Hills. Candidates for the Farmington Hills City Council will be present.

League of Women Voters of West Bloomfield-Farmington area and the Farmington Jaycees will co-sponsor two candidates nights for elections in Farmington and Farmington Hills. Farmington City Council incumbents and hopefuls will be on hand at 8 p.m., Oct. 23 in the Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty in Farmington.

Candidates night for the Farmington Hills City Council race will meet at 8 p.m., Oct. 30 in the council chambers in the Hills city offices at 31555 Eleven Mile near Orchard Lake Road. Candidates for county commission have been invited to participate. This meeting is jointly sponsored by the LWV and the Commission to Increase Voter Participation. The public is invited to attend. (IA adds, vote knowledgeably — check out the candidates before you pull that lever on Nov. 6.)

SENIORS can have their pictures taken for their Oakland County Senior Citizen Discount Program identification cards next month. The program's camera will be at Twelve Oaks Mall outside the J.C. Penny court area from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Nov. 20.

Between 1 - 4 p.m. on Nov. 26, the pictures will be taken at Lakes Area Multi-Purpose Center in Old Novi Elementary School, 26350 Novi Road. The ID cards will enable seniors in Oakland County to take advantage of discounts ranging from four to 25 per cent offered by local merchants. Discounts are available for a variety of items. To participate, a person must be 60 years old or older and an Oakland County resident. For further information call Helen Baas at 1-858-5171.

OOPS Triple A road condition ace Bill Banks probably could have used one of those AAA tripitiks, recently. Coming in from the east side to OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, Banks lost his way. He followed a local police officer back to the station and asked directions but was a little late to give his talk on maintaining Michigan's mobility and how the average motorist can cut fuel consumption and save gas for recreation and vacations.

ANOTHER OOPS goes out to Morning Friendly columnist Bob Talbert. While Talbert printed some warm words about Boysville and its Nov. 3 class reunion, he unwittingly added to the clergy by calling its director Brother James McLaughlin. When last heard from McLaughlin was pretty sure he hadn't joined a religious order.

By the way, any alumni of the boys' residence should call Chuck Brominski at 538-2640.

BOYSVILLE'S EXECUTIVE director Gordon K. Boring was given the Farmington Area Rotary's vocational service award, recently. The Rotary cited Boring for his service to the boys and to Farmington. Boring has filled positions at Boysville for 32 years. He began there as a counselor in June, 1947. He became clinic director in 1948 and assistant executive director in 1952. He has been executive director since 1959. Boring is also involved with the Michigan Association of Children's Agencies and the Michigan Federation of Private Children's Agencies which works for quality services for children in residences such as Boysville. The plaque, presented by Rotary president Dr. Paul Gillis of Farmington was the organization's way of thanking Boring. It was given in conjunction with the Rotary International's Vocational Service week. (Angles wants to add its own accolade: ♡♡♡)

ANGLES IS wondering about the new piped in music that floats around the Downtown Farmington Center. While it beats listening to the cars, nearly missing each other on Farmington Road, Angles thought that Muzak only lived in elevators.

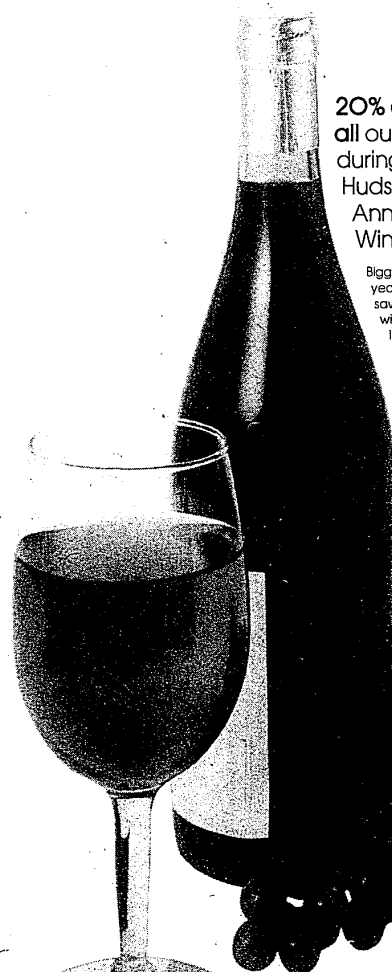
A 1967 Farmington High School graduate was in the news lately astride an ostrich. That's right. Phil McCullough was the talk of Midland astride his sperty ostrich.

There's no record on how many miles he gets to a bucket of feed, but Angles suspects the steed was temporary. McCullough, 30, is the station manager for radio station WMPX in Midland. The ostrich riding was part of the ostrich races (what else?) at the Midland County Fair way back in August. And McCullough won. Not bad for a jockey who had to prod his bird along with a broom. The winning bird jockey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon McCullough of Farmington. (Way to go, Phil.)

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