

Rainier Pop Festival:

A crate of Crackerjacks

A really educational exercise in contrast was performed Friday night on the Mac Court stage, as the Rainier Pop Festival—a program as full of surprises as a crate of Crackerjacks—unravelling with varying degrees of success before approximately 6,000 rowdy, restive students.

The concert (which is what it was, Mad Ave euphemisms aside) combined some moments of real delight with some distinct disappointments. For instance:

Comedian Murray Roman, a former gag man for the now-defunct Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour, presented a stale, stumbling monologue which embarrassed both performer and audience. But the many technical difficulties which punctuated the evening—primarily during the performance of the Three Dog Night—provided a Theatre of the Absurd type of comedy on some occasions.

Hout Axton, a remarkable folk singer best known for his rendition of "The Pusher" in the film "Easy Rider," earned a relatively cool reception, augmented by heckling, during his brief stage appearance. Later on, the audience positively flipped over Three Dog Night, a decidedly second-rate rock group.

The factor which appeared chiefly responsible for the program's shortcomings was that of timing. Roman was the first to come out, and his topical hour was reasonably successful to begin with. But an audience which was anxious to see the Ike and Tina Turner revue cooled noticeably after the first few minutes, so that even the competent, easy-going artistry of Axton, high-lighted by the chilling "Pusher," to which his buzz-saw voice is perfectly suited, seemed largely wasted.

A delay in the appearance of the Turners forced Roman back to the stage, where he rapidly ran through the remainder of his material, resorting to weak improvisation during a painful closing five minutes.

Fortunately, the arrival of the Turners turned out to be the evening's highlight. Backed by the rich, sophisticated syncopation of brass and the tight supplemental harmonies of the curvaceous Ikettes, Tina Turner's hoarse, plaintive treatment of "Respect," "River Deep, Mountain High" and similar hits earned the audience's undivided attention for the whole of her performance.

The subtle emotional shading of this great lady vocalist were beautifully complemented by the eloquent, sinuous guitar playing of husband Ike, and by much exuberant, exacting choreography by Tina and the Ikettes. Small wonder that the remarkable sexual honesty and heart-felt expressiveness of Tina's rich-timbred vocals and the consummate musicianship of the Turner troupe combine to form a monument in contemporary Black culture.

The Three Dog Night, as has been previously indicated, are another trip entirely. It appears that the six members of this successful rock group are selling little more than the fact that they can harmonize. This is not, to my mind, anything to brag about, particularly when the group's all too obvious vocal and instrumental limitations (their fine drummer excluded) produce no more variation than was evidenced Friday.

Were it not for a good choice of selections and the strong theatrical element provided by the group's three exuberant vocalists, the Three Dog Night's brand of music would have been pretty wearing. And these are certainly the wrong reasons for enjoying an act which is little more than a moderately entertaining sham. It may be that the lack of discrimination which has shot the Three Dog Night to the top of the nation's record charts may ultimately contribute to the much-forecast demise of rock.

McCall postpones cuts in construction projects

Gov. Tom McCall has decided to postpone cutbacks of Oregon construction projects to see what President Nixon does to federal construction projects.

McCall addressed the State Emergency Board Thursday and released state agencies from a two week agreement to hold up letting of bids for projects approved by the 1969 legislature. He told the board Oregon is willing to cooperate once federal officials "get their facts in line."

However, he speculated that the proposed Nixon cutbacks, which would effect 75 per cent of federally financed construction projects, may not materialize.

McCall said that if President Nixon later follows through with

the cuts, he will be forced to follow suit with state projects. If McCall then chose not to cut state projects, he told the board Nixon could take away federal funds and devastate state highway construction projects.

Also released from the temporary freeze of construction projects is almost \$1.4 million in higher education projects.

McCall's announcement stems from President Nixon's statement of Sept. 4 to hold back 75 per cent of federally financed construction projects. After a governor's White House conference McCall decided Oregon would follow Nixon's plan by cutting state projects by over 20 per cent.

Later his legal authority to postpone legislature approved projects was questioned by state Senator Edward Fadeley (D-Eugene). Shortly before McCall's statement to the Emergency Board, state Attorney General Lee Johnson upheld McCall's authority to make such cutbacks or postponements.

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Professor receives award for dissertation

James Levine, assistant professor of political science, has been named the recipient of one of the top awards of the American Political Science Association.

Levine was cited for writing the best doctoral dissertation of 1968. The award is given only during those years when the association feels that an outstanding dissertation has been written.

His topic, researched while he was a doctoral student at Northwestern University, was "The Book Seller and the Law of Obscenity."

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