

Cosby performance concludes Segments of Black Culture

"Oh Happy Day" which was released in 1969.

Because the song was so popular among all people, the Gospel Singers won a Grammy award for it in 1969. The song itself is probably their most famous tune and one that has contributed to their popularity.

In 1970, the Gospel singers received their second Grammy award for "Every Man Wants to be Free" which appeared on their "Oh Happy Day" Album.

The group was formed by 24-year-old Edwin Hawkins. Hawkins and an associate of his, Betty Watson, decided to form a Gospel group for the sole purpose of performing at a Youth Congress in Washington D.C. The group then started called themselves The Northern California State Youth Choir.

Once they arrived in Washington, D.C., the choir was received so warmly and was so much of a success that Hawkins decided to make the group a permanent thing.

As the years passed Hawkins decided to drop the group's long name and change it to the Edwin Hawkins Singers.

The Singers have come into the world of popular music, bridging the traditional with the refreshing present. Whatever the reason, the Edwin Hawkins Singers have become the most vibrant contemporary voice of Soul.

Tickets for this event will be at the Sun Shop, Chrystalship and EMU Main Desk for \$3 general public and \$2 for University students.

Thursday will be Blues-day. Johnny Shines, often known as shoe-shine Johnny will be making an appearance in support of Segments of Black Culture.

Shines is a 58-year-old man born April 25 in Memphis, Tennessee. While still in his teens, Shines ran with the legendary blues singer Robert Johnson. It was Johnson that taught Shines his present Blues style.

Shines comes from a background with little musical talent. It wasn't until 1932 that Shines taught himself how to play the guitar.

Shines' main influences in the rhythm and blues area were blind Lemon Jefferson, Lonnie Johnson, Scrapper Blackwell and Charlie Patton.

The Delta-Blues singer made his singing debut during an intermission of a Howlin' Wolf concert. The Man was so much of a success that he took to the road singing and playing in any city he happened to drive in. That was 1934.

It was also during this year that he started traveling with Robert Johnson, often singing with him and sometimes against him.

Together the two men traveled to Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri working the country suppers and dances. Shines broke up with Johnson shortly before Johnson's death in 1941. During that year he took the train to Chicago, trying to make a living in the recording arena.

Although many consider Shines one of the best bottle-neck guitarists, he has encountered a number of difficulties getting recorded. When he arrived in Chicago, Shines formed his own blues band, playing in and outside of Chicago.

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auditioned for Chess recording company as Shoe Shine Johnny, but it wasn't until two years later with a session for J.O.B. that any of his records appeared under his real name. Even though many consider Shines' recordings "superb" the records did little to promote his career.

Disgusted with the recording business Shines dropped out of the recording business during the late 50's. Today Shines is employed as a construction worker.

Relatively undercover for eight years, it was not until 1965 that Shines was rediscovered. Presently he is finding success in the recording business and is appearing in a number of concerts across the Country.

Shines is the last inheritor of the Robert Johnson tradition and is participating in "Segments of Black Culture." Tickets for this event will be sold at the door for \$1.00. The event starts at 8 p.m. Thursday and will be held in the EMU ballroom.

The highlight of "Segments of Black Culture" will be the appearance of Bill Cosby. Cosby will be performing with his nationally known friends, Fat Albert, Dumb Donald and Old Weird Harold, April 27 at 8 p.m. in Mac Court.

Tickets for this event will run \$4.00 general public, \$3.00 U of O students and \$2 children under 12.

In addition to Cosby's performance, song-writer John Hurley will be singing a few of his songs. Hurley has been writing songs for a number of years and is the writer of "Son of a Preacher Man" a number recorded by Dusty Springfield a few years ago. Currently, he is embarking upon a singing-recording career of his own.

Cosby has come a long ways from performing in cubbie-hole nightclubs in Philadelphia, where he netted only \$5 a night to become an actor in "I Spy" and "The Bill Cosby Show."

In addition to his television career, Cosby has also made two movies, one of which took place in the civil war and which co-starred Robert Culp, Cosby's partner in the "I Spy" series.

Along with night-club, television and movies, Cosby has also cut a number of comedy records.

Cosby attended Wister Elementary school along with his famous pals Fat Albert, et. al. in Philadelphia where he grew up.

He completed his high school education via correspondence courses while still in the service. After his discharge, the entertainer enrolled at Temple University as a result of being awarded an athletic scholarship. His goal in education was to become a physical education teacher.

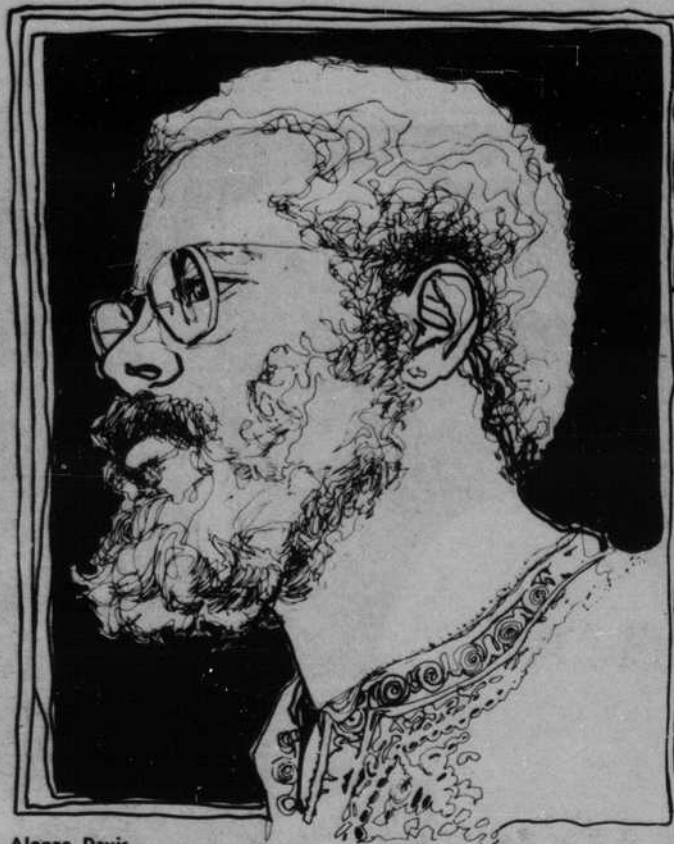
In his attempt to achieve that goal, Cosby worked during the nights as a bartender and went to school during the day. It was discovered that he possessed an incredible sense of humor. Customers convinced him that he might have a chance as a comedian, so he decided to take a crack at show business.

During one of his performances, Carl Reiner caught his act in Pittsburgh and introduced Cosby to producer Sheldon Leonard, who later signed him to star with Culp in the "I Spy" series.

The rest is history.

Cosby's concert is the conclusion of the Black Festival of Art. His appearance is sponsored by the Black Student Union and the ASUO Cultural Forum.

Gloria Wroten



Alonzo Davis



Edwin Hawkins Singers



Don L. Lee



Johnny Shines