

Coleman warms lounge with his 'Oregon Rain'

By Marlene Clark
Of The Print

Former members of "Blackhawk County" filled the Lounge with sounds of folk and western songs, with tone from mellow to week.

Coleman and David Higginbotham were at the College for a noon concert in the Community Center.

Coleman is probably best known as a member of "Blackhawk County." Originally "Blackhawk County" was a duo with Coleman. It expanded to a five-member group during the 1960s. Splitting up was caused by a mutual feeling that the group had gone as far as it could and wasn't growing, according to Coleman.

"Blackhawk County" is probably best remembered for their song "Oregon (I can't go home)," a song many people call "Oregon

Coleman wrote the tune as a form of protest." It was written for Joanne McDaniel, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in a Turkish jail

for allegedly trying to smuggle hashish across the Turkish border.

"It is also a song for those away from Oregon who want to come home," Coleman said.

Oregon is a familiar sight to Coleman and guitar playing partner David Higginbotham.

Higginbotham was also a member of "Blackhawk County." Both Coleman and Higginbotham grew up in Woodburn and graduated from Woodburn High School.

Coleman, a singer, guitarist and lyric writer, has performed off and on for 12 years, including four years with "Blackhawk County" and one and one-half years as a solo act.

While performing at the College, Coleman played songs by Jimmy Buffet, Marshall Tucker Band, John Prine, Del Shannon, Billy Joel and Hank Williams. All the tunes incorporated Coleman and Higginbotham's own personalized touch—the voice and guitar were done with feeling and emphasis.

While Coleman sang, he seemed to project the mood of each song—mellow or loud. Feeling came through as he sang "I

Think I Love You, I Think I'll Stay."

As Coleman sang and played his folk guitar, Higginbotham accompanied him on an electric guitar.

The audience seemed to like Coleman's version of "Hey Good Looking" by the country/western great, Hank Williams. During this song, the duo did a lot of good guitar strumming and picking. It was great, although a student came out of a classroom across the hall and said she couldn't hear the instructor. Coleman suggested they come out and listen.

"I really did like Clackamas except for the lady who told me to turn it down. I still think they should have brought the class out here," Coleman said.

"I like singing for colleges better than lounges and bars. I'm able to use a wide variety because they (the students) are more open," Coleman said.

Coleman and Higginbotham will be playing at the Monitor Inn, in Monitor every Friday and Saturday throughout April. They also play at weddings, lounges and various "gigs."



Photo by Ted McKenna

David Higginbotham (left) and Bill Coleman (right) performed a wide variety of songs for the College students and staff March 1. The noon concert was presented by Associated Student Government and enjoyed by all.

Hoedown to feature Dr. Corn

By Marlene Clark
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Dr. Corn's Bluegrass Remedy is a band for everyone—even those who have a low tolerance for traditional bluegrass.

Their style is country rock or "okie finger pickin'" as it's called by some, and they will be demonstrating it as a hoedown, sponsored by Associated Student Government, at the Bar 88 Arena southeast of Molalla Saturday, March 11 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Dr. Corn plays Beatles' tunes, rock 'n' roll and even jazz, all with a bluegrass flavor.

According to Stew Dodge, manager of the group, this diversity is necessary for survival.

"It's fun too, we do a lot of crowds that aren't strictly bluegrass," he said, "so we let them hear something they're used to—only we do it our style."

The ability to appeal to a large variety of music lovers has made Dr. Corn's a well-known, successful band in the seven years it's been together. The band's own personal style has contributed to this popularity.

"We don't wear cowboy hats and talk like we're from Tennessee," Dodge said. "We leave that to the rest of the bluegrass bands. We don't even tell Grand Old Opry jokes. We tell Polish jokes—we're not proud."

The band can be heard at taverns in Portland, college concerts and bluegrass festivals throughout the state, like the Blitz Bluegrass Festival to be held in Eugene in April.

They also played at the ASG sponsored hoedown held last year at the Bar 88.

"It (the hoedown) was very much of a success last time," Dodge said. "College crowds are a little more up our alley."

He also said that he is looking forward to the diverse crowd of cowboys, loggers and students that came last year.

Last year's dance attracted between 600 and 700 people according to Jim Roberts, student activities director.

"It was the only program that made money for student government last year," Roberts said. "Many of them broke even but this one made money."

Roberts attributed this to the fact that Dr. Corn's Bluegrass Remedy is a well-known group and to the presence of the beer-garden, sponsored by the Oregon City Jaycees.

Since beer is being served again and there has been more publicity, ASG is expecting an even bigger crowd this year, Roberts said.

Dr. Corn's Bluegrass Remedy does play some traditional bluegrass music. Some of the songs that crowds request most often are the "Orange Blossom Special," "Great Balls of Fire" and "Foggy Mountain Breakdown."

"We also do some real traditional stuff like fiddle tunes and 'Alabama Jubilee,'" Dodge said.

The name, Dr. Corn's Bluegrass Remedy, is a combination of all the aspects of the music played by band members Jim Seafeldt, Jim Mills, John Hillison and David Brown and Dodge.

"We combined bluegrass, corn liquor, medicine shows and good times and humor," said Dodge. "We wanted it to have a happy, good time connotation."

Tickets for this year's hoedown will be \$1 for CCC students and \$1.50 for others and they will be available at the door. Although identification must be presented to enter the beer-garden, one need not be 21 to attend the hoedown.

In Review

Man finds reality in tree

By Marlene Clark
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The College's winter production, "Halfway Up the Tree," was a play with a lot of deep meaning and required some thought to really grasp what was being said.

The first act seemed to drag, but the second one picked up and the third was a "charm."

I didn't see the General (the main character) as a man having trouble coping with his family's problems after being on duty overseas for years, but as a man with understanding trying to step out of the military role. The part was well performed by David Wilkes. His change from the stuffy general to a "hippie" was excellent.

Lady Fitzbuttress, played by Ann Rindal, was supposed to be the ding-bat wife, but I didn't see her as a "ding-bat." "Halfway Up the Tree" was Rindal's first theatre experience and she performed well.

Donna DeLay was excellent as Judy, the daughter. She changed from the pregnant, unmarried young girl to a mother and then to a woman about to marry a man who supposedly fathered the child. She went through the stages very naturally—in a true stage very naturally—in a true-to-life way.

Robert, played by Rick Albrecht, was a difficult character. He changed from a mellow, but outspoken, hippie, to a man with short hair about to take on the responsibilities of husband and father.

David Klint had a minor role with a lot of importance. He played Basil, the young man about to marry Judy, although he knows he is not the father of her child. Klint played the part of the stuffy-straight athlete-Cub Scout Master determined to straighten Judy out to a tee.

The Vicar was superbly played by Joe Mike Woods. The crazy walk and expressions of shock and bewilderment were well done.

Tiny was a rather unusual character to have to portray, but Rick Coleman was good in the role.

I believe in saving the best for last. Diana Bauer, who played Helga, had the most difficult task in portraying a foreigner, but she maintained an accent throughout the play. Bauer played her actions with feeling, and was easily transformed into Helga, the househelper.

The acting wasn't the only good part of the play. The stage and construction crew did a terrific job in doing the setting.

Briefs

There is a Crafts fair in the CC Mall today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A concert will be presented by modern dance students and music students on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

Local women artists will be displaying their work in the Community Lounge March 8 and 17 as part of the International Women's Day.

A variety of foot-stomping and beer will be at the Community Center, March 11 at the Bar 88 Arena in Molalla. Admission for students is \$1 and for others is \$1.50.

The College's concert band and chamber choir will present their winter term concert on March 12, 3 p.m. in the Mall. The concert will be directed by Gary Coleman. Admission is free.

Community College

