

Fargher leaves College for music world

By Shelley Ball
Of The Print



says in reminiscence.

Autumn's chilled fingers have Clackamas Community College in its grasp, and once again students find themselves wading ankle-deep through patches of wind-blown, curled leaves.

Rick Fargher, the College's head grounds-keeper for the past 10 years, would normally have his hands full gathering up all those leaves—that is, if he wasn't resigning.

But he is on Nov. 4, and on Nov. 7, Fargher and his family are moving to Oceanside, California, where he will begin his new career as a music management consultant for country western and rock n' roll bands.

Just what is a music management consultant? "I 'professionalize' groups, because they have the tendency to take the music business not very seriously. Through my experience they learn to enhance their careers, to better themselves," Fargher said.

Fargher explained that his title is a combination of two separate jobs, which is a new concept in the music business.

The management part consists of taking a percentage (between 15 and 25) from a group's performance as payment for advice, while as a consultant Fargher would be paid by the hour for advice given to a group.

In either case, Fargher said it would be up to the band to decide which route to take. The consultant part is especially helpful for smaller bands, as Fargher said they may not be able to afford a 15 to 25 percent cut from a performance.

The transition from mowing 175 acres of grass and emptying garbage cans to polishing band acts may sound strange, until one realizes that Fargher has grown up in the music business, beginning when he was in high school.

"I came straight from a garage band, behind a Shell station in Maupin, Oregon," he

Although he had a humble beginning, Fargher learned much in 15 years that followed, becoming a sort of Jack-of-all-trades in the world of music. Playing mainly the base guitar, Fargher and his bands performed rock music from the late '60s to the early '70s, and eventually some country rock and southern rock n' roll.

"I've had my own groups and was placed more or less in a leadership role," Fargher said. It was this leadership role that Fargher said helped to broaden his experience in music.

Besides working for the College, Fargher has also been a student. After uprooting himself from Maupin, Fargher attended the College from 1971-73, during which he took classes and was a work study student.

Fargher also attributes the College with helping him in his future career, as he said "it's supported my hobby," by way of business, recording techniques and guitar lesson classes. With the help of College Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Craig Haskell, formed a band, thus transplanting his musical roots in the Portland area.

Eventually, Fargher said he became more involved in the technical aspects of music. "I got a lot of calls from bands asking for advice on things like equipment and sound, so after awhile I decided 'why not go into business myself?'" he said.

Although it has been nearly three years since Fargher has appeared on stage, he has been consulting for the past two years. In California he plans to advertise his service in the San Diego and Los Angeles areas, as well as in the cities around Oceanside.

Until he becomes more well known, however, Fargher will start out by assisting in the booking of groups for eight different clubs located at Camp Pendleton. He even plans to give guitar lessons for awhile.

During his 15 year involvement in music, Fargher has had the opportunity to be both a performer as well as a leader. Why, then, has he chosen the behind-the-scenes job of giving advice over the glamor of the stage?

"It's an instructional type of thing for me. I think I can make a good living out of it by professionalizing a few groups, but I would rather help as many groups as I can. I do miss the stage, but when I evaluate myself I'm a better manager. My expertise slides into managing," Fargher said.

As much as Fargher and his family are excited about moving to Oceanside, Fargher realizes that he is "taking a big chance." However, he has received a lot of encouragement from both friends and family, especially his wife Cindy.

In spirit of a true rock n' roller, one of Fargher's main goals for his new career is "To expand rock n' roll more in the San Diego area," which is currently under the spell of country western music.

However, once Fargher puts his musical roots down in nearby Oceanside, things may be different for San Diego after all.

Clack as John, Julia
Veronica, J. Dana
as the Inspector and
Penny.

and the scenes, the
is: Joe Schenk,
rager; Loren Wilson,
stage manager; Lynn
costumer; Charisse
and Dianna Hardy,
assistants; Donald
properties; Roberta
Lisa Ensworth and
Tallman, properties
John Kevin Brad-
and make-up;
Kalmbach, make-up
Roger Nuffer,
and Linda Kuntz,

on what he viewed
the auditions, Shields
his optimism, "I
is going to be a very
," he said.

play opens on Dec. 1,
by performances on
9 and 10 at 8 p.m.,
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