



GUITARITIS

by Tony Seo

The guitar today enjoys a popularity unequalled by any other instrument at any other period in history. A conservative estimate has it that there are between 1.5 and 2 million guitarists in the United States alone, from your basic three-chord wonders to your Duane Allman and Johnny Winters. And one of the biggest hassles facing an up-and-coming guitarist is the many different brands of guitars on the market today. Many people walk into a music store not knowing what they want and wind up knowing even less when they leave. I hope with this article I can clear up some of the haze surrounding the fine art of purchasing a guitar.

There are two main types of guitars on the market today, acoustical and electric. The acoustical derives its name from the fact that it is un-amplified. The electric uses some form of amplification to provide its sound. The main distinction between these two is one of purpose. If you plan only to play around the house, or if you get into the coffee house gig, then get an acoustic. Some of the major names are Martin, Ovation, and Gibson. These are your top of the line instruments ranging from \$250 to \$900 in price. Other less expensive brands are Espana, Harmony, Sigma M (which is made by Martin), and Yamaha. These run usually in the \$75-\$150 range. The best way to buy an acoustic is to pick a price range and get the salesman to show you two or three different guitars in that range. Try them all looking for things like ease of playing, construction, and tuning. It really hurts to

buy a \$150 guitar and then take it home and find out that it doesn't stay tuned for more than five minutes.

If electric music is your thing, then your choices are pretty much laid out for you. Either go cheap (\$75-\$175) and get a good copy (Univox or Ampeg are about the best) or go expensive (\$225-?) and get one of the better lines: Gibson, Fender, or Gretsch. Of course, you could get lucky like one of my friends who picked up a 1955 Fender Stratocaster for \$125. But don't count on it. Some of the more popular models are the Les Paul, SG, ES335, and Stereo models by Gibson, Stratocaster and Telecaster by Fender, and the Country Gentleman and the Tennessean by Gretsch. Here your main criteria for selection should be your style of playing. Rock stars should go for the Les Paul, SG, or the Stratocaster; blues freaks, the ES or the Stereo are the best; and country freaks will dig the Telecaster or any of the Gretsch models. Buying an amplifier is another article, but follow two simple rules and you should be all right. One: stick with a name brand: Fender, Marshall, Acoustic, Peavy, Kustom, or Sunn are about your best. Two: it is better to have too big an amplifier than too small an amplifier, because the louder you get, nine times out of ten, the more distortion and noise you get. So follow these simple guidelines and "Happy picking!"

**NEW NATIONAL
BEST SELLER!**
**THE
WALDEN
BOOKSTORE**

LAUREL MALL HAZLETON
459-0695

CLASSICAL GUITARIST

by Tony Seo

On Saturday, May 4, a classical guitarist named Rick Jackman gave a performance in the Residence Hall Lobby. If you did not happen to be one of the few attending, then you missed an excellent performance. Rick was born in Australia, lived in England for ten years, and now makes his home at University Park. He has studied under a number of teachers and plans to go to Spain this summer to study under the great master, Andrés Segovia.

Rick is an exceptional guitarist and any attempt at describing his performance would be a gross understatement. Every note and run was played with a feeling of confidence and beauty. He played a variety of pieces, both standard and original and each song was very well received. If you ever get the chance to hear Rick perform, then by all means do so. You won't regret it.

**THANKS TO
HARNER
JEWELERS
AND
INTER-
NATIONAL
PRINTING**

DOWNTOWN HAZLETON

*******BOB'S*******

Sporting Goods

133 N. Wyoming St.

HEADQUARTERS for

Hunting Fishing Archery

GENERAL SPORTS

Converse All-Star &
Adidas Basketball Shoes

Tennis Raquet Restringing

OPEN WED. & FRI. Till 9

455-1421