

Musician's big break came without the aid of diploma

By Bill Graf

Six years ago Bobby Marlette gave up his quest at Lincoln Southeast High for a high school diploma it didn't seem like a valuable prerequisite to becoming a rock star.

Many thought it was a foolish move. However, Marlette will have the last laugh in a couple months.

Marlette's piano will be heard on Al Stewart's latest album scheduled for release this summer.

In the rock 'n' roll world, he explained, "It isn't important if you graduated from high school. What is important is how well you play."

Marlette, 24, said the time spend waiting for the big break was "scary."

Getting ready and searching for a way to break into the big money rock scene "takes up everything. But if you're good, pack your bags and go for it."

"You have to know deep down that you're good enough to compete," he stressed.

Much of his goal was a dream, he said.

"But part of the dream has to be reality to give you the drive to make it," he asserted.

"Many people will tell you that you're great. But you have to ask yourself what qualifies that person."

"I'm not the best by any means. But I'm good and I've got the guts to take the tools and create," he said in a telephone interview from his Beverly Hills, Calif. apartment.

Some of Marlette's comments may sound slightly egotistical.

But he explained that in order to succeed in his chosen field one must have "a certain amount of ego."

Chances to play for a nationally known band don't happen every day, he said.

"You have to have the ability to make it happen and also have enough faith in yourself to pull it off."

"If you don't have faith in yourself the band leader is going to ask himself: Why should I listen to him if he doesn't want to listen to himself?"

Marlette explained that there is a lot of politics involved in getting the big break. But once a musician gets a major audition only talent will see him through.

Marlette said that his audition with Stewart's band came about as a result of knowing several people at Village Recorders in Los Angeles.

Village Recorders is the studio where Stewart's new album was recorded. Other bands that record albums at Village Recorders are Poco, Steely Dan, Supertramp and Fleetwood Mac, he said.

Also Marlette's girl friend, Andrea Dial, a real estate salesperson, sold Al Stewart his Belair, Calif. home, which he said, certainly didn't hurt.

Marlette said he isn't sure what his role with the Stewart band will be after the album is released.

The album which is now being mixed "is going to be wonderful," according to Marlette. But rather than join the band full-time, Marlette is working on a solo career.

"I don't know how involved I'll become with the Stewart band. It's a good project but I really like the freedom to do what I want."

He added that sticking with the band involved a "heavy contract."

Currently Marlette is working on a solo demonstration recording, which he hopes will lead to a nationally circulated solo album.

Helping him with the solo demo is Steve Chapman of Poco and John Helliwell of Supertramp.

Some of his solo works so far include an intro theme for NBC radio as well as other radio jingles played in the Los Angeles area, he said.

"I'll be asked to write a 30-second intro without knowing where it ends up. Later I'll be listening to the radio and hear the theme and think: Oh that's where it went."

About his own compositions, he said, "It's going toward a more pop-rock sound that's commercially accessible. It's not patronizing stuff."

"I'm taking what I see as the best points of commercial music, putting art back into it but still making it financially successful

for myself and the record company," he explained.

"It's formula music applied to decent music."

Marlette described formula music as tunes that are "so catchy that they grab you by the throat."

Besides working on his keyboard skills, Marlette said he is working on his voice for the first time in his music career because "the one that sings is the one that gets all the women," he said jokingly.

Marlette declined to say how much money a rock star makes.

He added, "You'd be surprised how much money some bands don't make."

On the other hand, as far as salaries are concerned, he said, "The sky's the limit."

"The music business is a multi-million dollar industry. Some of the

money has to go to the musicians," he added.

During his less financially successful days in Lincoln, Marlette played organ and electric piano for Oedipus Rock Band and on the Boys' first single as well as working as a "salesman and fixer upper" for Dietz Music House.

Other bands he has worked with include Detective, Shatter Star and Matthew.

Of the albums released by established bands Marlette said he enjoys Kenny Loggins latest release as well as any album featuring Steely Dan or Michael McDonald of the Doobie Brothers.

However, he added that he listens to everything he "can get his little hands on" because it's important to know what is being done in the music industry.



Is there life after graduation? Seaton Hall knows

By Patti Gallagher

Floyd is an undeclared senior. He's taken a barrage of varied classes from one end of the campus to the other. He's got seven minors, but still cannot decide what he wants to devote his life to. Floyd is beginning to wonder, "Is there life after graduation?"

Some may suggest Floyd had better hurry and get his act together. Two campus agencies and a Lincoln career counselor may be able to help him narrow his field and choose an appropriate career.

Daydreams play a very important part in career planning. They are a key to where a person's interests lie

The UNL Counseling Center in Seaton Hall offers career information with over 200 different listings, according to counselor Katharine Brzezinski-Stein. From anthropology to social work to mechanical engineering, the center holds an updated file of job specifics.

Brzezinski-Stein, who holds a master's in psychology and has been at UNL since 1975, said the specifics include what a field involves, essential training, geographical information, hiring trends, salary estimates, competition, working conditions and advancement opportunities.

Along with the library of files, the counseling center offers one-on-one counseling and also issues interest tests.

"The interest inventories are designed to match up a person's individual interest with the interest of various professionals

in the field," she said. The results are not to be taken as gospel, she said, but are used to identify a general field.

Also available at the center is the Occupational Outlook Handbook, compiled by the Federal Bureau of Labor of Statistics. The information available is similar to the library files, but Brzezinski-Stein agreed that some file material attempts to "sell a career," and that the federal government information is completely objective, because the "government doesn't care whether you're a photographer or a stone mason."

Brzezinski-Stein said that in the past five years there has been a definite trend away from the liberal arts.

"People are a lot more pragmatic in their selection of a career," she said. Students are tending to make practical choices and decisions rather than to nurture the "ideal career image."

"Daydreams, however, play a very important part in career planning. They are a key to where a person's interests lie," according to Brzezinski-Stein.

She said the counseling center asks people "if you can't do your daydream career, how could aspects (of it) be satisfied?"

The Seaton Hall counseling center published a booklet in the fall of 1978 entitled "Is There Life After Graduation?" which Brzezinski-Stein said lists entry-level occupations corresponding to degrees available at UNL. She said the listings were compiled by actual jobs attained by UNL graduates.

She said the center also tries to connect professionals and persons with an interest in their field to provide a personal aspect of a career.

Brzezinski-Stein said that the center offers personal as well as career counseling,

the clientele being about split down the middle.

Karen Sachtleben, who teaches a career-planning course at Southeast Community College, agrees that the role of a career counselor is to make information available to interested persons.

Sachtleben said that there is a misconception about the purpose of career planning.

"Many people come in expecting someone or some test to tell them their career," she said. "Career planning is gathering information so that they can make the decisions."

A person must first evaluate his wants, needs, values and abilities, Sachtleben said, which are usually reflected in their interests. Her class, offered to the general public through the college's continuing education division, works with a series of readings, exercises, and discussions to

narrow career decisions.

She said her students tend to be motivated and organized persons who want to make educated decisions about their careers. Very few are the 'at-their-wits-end' variety, she said.

If a student were to enter the career planning class with rose-colored glasses, "the class forces them to challenge the superficial" to determine exactly what a specific career entails," Sachtleben said.

Her advice to college students uncertain about a career route is to get experience, perhaps through volunteer or part-time work, and to get relevant information about what the career involves.

She said Southeast Community College also offers a career information library open to the general public.

When an area of interest is narrowed to name a career the UNL Career Planning and Placement Center in the Nebraska Union can take over.

According to director Frank Hallgren, the center can aid students on how to make their skills marketable, with resume and interview preparations, as well as library with complete files on between 600 to 700 companies.

The library, 225 Nebraska Union, contains all information on employees, careers, programs of graduate study, and is open to all students.

The center also holds many on-campus interviews in their 18-room office, with major companies' representatives coming to UNL for job recruitment, Hallgren said.

He recommends that students put their names and resumes on file in the placement center adding that interview dates are posted around campus and at the center.

Applicants then sign up for a specific job interview at least two days prior to the company representatives' visit.



Katharine Brzezinski-Stein