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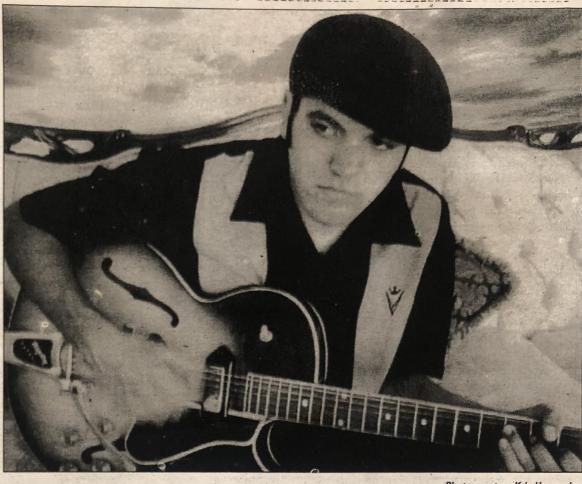


Photo courtesy Kyle Hernandez

LOCAL GUITARIST KYLE HERNANDEZ is only 17 but is making his mark in a combo band at California State University, Sacramento.

## ORHS senior jams with Sac State band

By Karen Billing Staff writer

hen Kyle Hernandez picked up a guitar in the sixth grade, you could say it shaped the way the rest of his life would play out. The talented 17-year-old Oak Ridge High School senior is already playing guitar in a Sacramento State combo sextet, made a TV appearance on UPN's Good Morning Sacramento last Friday and will take the stage in March as part of Sacramento's local music fest the Jammies. And he's having a grand old time.

Whenever and wherever he can, Hernandez prefers to be playing music. He walks around his house playing his acoustic guitar, he's got a piano in his bedroom right next to his bed and he and his friends jam in a practice room in his El Dorado Hills home.

group at the age of eight that had him singing and dancing. In the fourth grade, he took up the trumpet and played the instrument in school bands until he reached high school.

"I did all of the music scene at Oak Ridge," said Hernandez. He was in the baritone choir, marching band and jazz band for three years. "It gave me the inspiration to go further."

He started bringing his skills on the guitar to local groups and began playing in gigs around Sacramento. He was part of a group called Audiotribe, a group that played mostly music that Hernandez had written himself. With the group he recorded an album at a studio off J Street with members of the Sacramento rock band Tesla.

"People said that I had potential, it inspired me to keep playing," said Hernandez.

college's combo sextet with five other Sac State musicians, ages 17-28. He also plays with a big band group.

Hernandez is out of Oak Ridge by 12:30 p.m. every day, making the trip down to Sac State. He takes music theory and improv classes there, getting credit for what he takes.

"The more I learn the better," said Hernandez.

Not only does he learn from his classes - he learns from his fellow musicians. Hernandez said the diverse group at Sac State has influenced the way he plays.

Hernandez said he will most likely attend Sac State next year to get his "feet in the water." After his feet are sufficiently wet, he said he's looking toward going to music school in San Francisco or maybe on the East Coast.

After graduating from music school he wants to "see the world