

# Arts & Entertainment



## Aftermath

Harvey T.  
Rockwood



Joni Mitchell, COURT AND SPARK  
Asylum Records 7E-1001

It must be extremely difficult to be a public introvert. Yet the outward manifestations of such can be strikingly beautiful. This is exactly the case with Joni Mitchell. Her music is a unique combination of introversion and stardom.

Her new album, *Court and Spark*, is possibly one of the best of the decade. At a time when there are dozens of fine recordings available, this one stands out as a true work of art both instrumentally and lyrically.

The album is one of the most personal, intimate pieces I've ever heard. Mitchell writes with a subtle apprehension that seems to convey an impression of fragile introspection and delicate inner conflict. Yet her music has a quiet elegance and strength that is unmatched in any current release.

She seems to have a painful fear of failure, of rejection by others and ultimately by herself. From "The Same Situation": "You want me to be truthful-Sometimes you turn it on me like a weapon though-and I need your approval." And from "Car on a Hill": "I watch for judgement anxiously."

She's not really a storyteller, rather she recreates scenes and emotions. She captures slight details, usually unrecognized by most songwriters, and creates vivid impressions. She uses both tangible and intangible pieces of her own life and the lives of those around her to create a powerful empathy.

In several songs, she writes with a warm sensuality that verges on eroticism. Yet she is able to do this without being blatant or contrived, as others are. Unlike Carly Simon, for example, Mitchell is a genuinely sensitive woman.

The music itself is solid throughout. With help from the likes of Robbie Robertson, Jose Feliciano, Graham Nash and David Crosby, there is not one weak point on the entire album. Her own piano playing, as well, is extremely well done, and the strings and horns, when used, blend beautifully rather than dominate.

With *Court and Spark*, Mitchell establishes herself as the best female songwriter and performer in popular music today. It is a role that she may not enjoy but there it is, and we mortals have but to listen with amazement and pleasure.



## Free concert

THE MAJESTICS, a four member band based in Minneapolis, will perform at a free concert today at noon in the CSU Conference Auditorium. Band members are Anthony Scott, base and lead vocals, Stephen P. Bradley (Brother Brad), drums and background vocals, Sonny

Williams, electric piano and organ and lead vocals and Dick Lowe, rhythm and electric guitar and background vocals. The campus performance is sponsored by CUSA.

## Prairie writer offers native cultural views

He writes about native culture, heritage and the pioneer spirit. He writes about this land-southern Minnesota, northern Iowa and South Dakota. One of Frederick Manfred's novels, *Scarlet Plume*, deals with the story about one of the 38 Indians hanged in Mankato in 1862.

Manfred's *Scarlet Plume* novel, along with four other novels in his "Buckskin Man" series, will be discussed in a seminar class on prairie writers during Manfred's visit here on campus Monday and Tuesday, April 1 and 2. His visit, sponsored by the MSC English department, will also include residency stops at classes in creative writing and literature in the American West.

Besides *Scarlet Plume*, the seminar class will focus on *Conquering Horse*, about Indian pre-white times in 1800; *Lord Grizzly*, about mountain men in 1823; *King of Spades*, about Black Hills justice in 1876; and *Riders of Judgement*, about cattle men in 1892.

His stories and tales are interpretations of our heritage," said Robert Wright, chairperson of the English department. "He writes of our area but he is not just a novelist of Minnesota. He is a novelist of America."

Over the past 30 years Manfred has written 18 books including an autobiographical trilogy titled *Wanderlust*, in three sections: *The Primitive*, *The Brother and The Giant*; *The Chokecherry Tree*, *Morning Red* and *The Man Who Looked Like the Prince of Wales*. He has also written poetry and a collection of short stories.

He presently lives in Luverne, Minnesota. He attended Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan and graduated in 1934. For the next three years he worked as a bus person, filling station attendant, harvest hand, factory hand, warehouse roustabout and weekly newspaper reporter.

In 1937 he became a reporter for the *Minneapolis Journal*. He has received grants and writing fellowships from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Huntington Hartford Foundation. Until 1951, he wrote under the pen name of Freike Freikman, an old Frisic family name of which Frederick Manfred is a translation.

According to Wright, the department's purpose for bringing in a writer like Manfred is "to expose students to practicing novelists and to have the novelists serve as consultants in creative writing, the western novel and the American novel."

There will be an open meeting Monday evening, from 6-8:50 p.m. in which Manfred will respond to questions and discuss his work. The meeting will be held in the CSU auditorium. It is open to the public.

"His attitude toward Indians and culture is refreshing," said Wright in response to Manfred, the prairie writer.

Wright added, "And he's a refreshing, challenging personality."



photo by Colin Brown

## And the band played on

THE GLENVILLE High School band, directed by Tom Gibson, performed at a free concert at noon yesterday in the CSU Ballroom. The band's visit to campus, sponsored by Music Project

'74, also included morning tours of MSC facilities and an afternoon learning session with the music department staff.

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