

Records

by Susan Titzler

The high priestess of Woodstock, the resident honey of the California folkie scene, is searching for new directions. With *The Hissing of Summer Lawns*, Joni Mitchell goes beyond her usual immensely successful format of personal confession songs. She follows the musical direction suggested by "Jericho" and "Love or Money" off her live album, *Miles of Aisles* — more jazz-oriented than folk, striving for complexity rather than simplicity. Ms. Mitchell is to be admired for her experimenting with innovations in her music — unfortunately, they rarely work on this album.

Lyrical, the album offers some fine pop poetry. "Don't Interrupt the Sorrow," is engulfed with mystery, weaving Christian and pagan symbols together to make a statement about male-female relationships. The last verse works especially well:

"Seventeen glasses
Rhine wine
Milk of the Madonna
Clandestine
He don't let up the sorrow
He lies and he cheats
It takes a heart like Mary these days
When your man gets weak"

"The Jungle Line" has a seething lyric concerning sexual and racial enslavement. The song blasts out evil images of dope dealing, slaving boats, big city squalor, and exotic jungle settings. And with a brilliant irony, Ms. Mitchell uses Henri Rousseau's starkly innocent jungle paintings to unite the themes.

The title song offers a familiar story of a barren life in suburbia, harking back to a much earlier song from *Ladies of the Canyon* — "The Arrangement." The suburban husband and wife are materially tied to one another in an existence that offers little spiritual or emotional satisfaction — "He gave her a room full of Chippendale/that nobody sits in."

Musically, the album is almost a total failure compared to her previous work. Actual tunes are non-existent. Without Tom Scott's direction, the four members of the L.A. Express offer very little in the way of inspired accompaniment. Whereas Ms. Mitchell's music used to soar to amazing heights with the unmatched combination of her lyrics, melodies, and voice, she has now sunk to a new low.

"The Jungle Line" pales in the face of its thematic counterpart from *For The Roses* — "Cold Blue Steel and Sweet Fire." The cutesy gimmick of using real jungle drums and synthesizer shows an unusual lack of taste. "Shadow and Light", the album's pseudo-gospel song, suffers from too many vocal overdubs, overdubs, overdubs — not to mention a synthesizer that squirts into the song occasionally.

"In France They Kiss on Main Street" reads like an excursion into 50's nostalgia and sounds annoyingly insincere — particularly its refrain — "rolling, rolling, rock n'rolling..."

Production, musicians, and a lack of melodies are the main problems of *Hissing of Summer Lawns*. If Joni Mitchell continues her excursions into jazz, hopefully, she will improve on these weaknesses or she will be in danger of losing her status as one of the finest talents on the music scene today.

Jazz Lovers: 'Good News'

by Darlene Nowak

Cool, round tones spiral out of Jack Ledwon's electric piano; Neil Hamlin answers on the bass. Soon Alan Creech, Rich Bisesi, and Rachel Stahlka are throbbing smooth harmony to the beat of Jim Palsys behind the clear, strong voice of Tonly Galla. The Good News Singers are really good news to fans of modified rock, rockabilly, and jazz, but their virtues go beyond good music. "We play music with a message, eternal music," says group leader Fr. Jack Ledwon.

The warm sounds of Good News can be appreciated both for quality and message. Much of their repertoire is originally based on biblical texts or personal experience; "I want to testify/What Jesus has done for me," sings Tony Galla in his composition "Time is Slipping Away," title song of the group's second album (*Maranatha* was the first). Innovating modern interpretations of the Gospel is a primary objective, but as Tony reminds, "We're not here to force it on the audience."

Good News never goes more than halfway; the infectious excitement of the singers establishes a fully sharing community spirit. The audience is encouraged to join in the chorus of songs such as "Oh Happy Day," the Jamaican "Hosannana," and the rousing "Love Me Like a Rock." Others are free to appreciate their masterful use of

harmony and dynamics for what they are: great music.

Based at Buffalo Blessed Sacrament parish for three years, the group performs at local churches and organizations. Their most recent free concert for the young, enterprising Timon Association for the Arts exhibited a rising acclaim for their talents by a retinue of all ages. The Good News concert experience will be presented Sunday, Feb. 1 at 4:00 PM at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Church on Geo. Urban Blvd. in Depew. The Jesuit parish of St. Anne's on Emslie at

ROTC Plans Winter Ball

The Canisius College Corps of Cadets will sponsor their 24th Annual Winter Formal Ball on February 13, 1976 at the Holiday Inn, Grand Island, New York.

The evening will begin with an Open Bar Cocktail Hour from 7 o'clock until 8 o'clock in Flannigan's Night Club. Dinner will be served from 8:30 until 10 o'clock in the Grand Ball Room. Wine will also be served with the meal. After dinner, dancing will last until 2:00 AM with music provided by Jay Maran and his Orchestra.

The entire student body is cordially invited to this affair. Tickets are available from Pat Zasadil in the Student Center. The price per couple is \$16.00 and after 9 February, \$20.00.

Milt Jackson, Vibraphone King, Still Turning Out 'Good Vibes'

by Mike Martin

You have all heard the expression, "good vibes." It's a colorless worn-out phrase. But in at least one instance, it may still apply. Milt Jackson, master of the vibraphone, who is appearing at the Statler Hilton "Downtown Room" now until February 10, still turns out those "good vibes."

The crowd arrived later than usual, perhaps because of the Sabres' hockey game, perhaps because of the weather. With Carol Brito on piano, Frank Tate on bass, and George Reid on drums, Jackson started right out with some old standards like Duke Ellington's "Don't Leave Until I Call You," "Bye Bye Blackbird," and "Wave." His program was a splendid mixture of fast with slow, old with new, and well-known with not-so-well-known.

However, not everyone seemed



Milt Jackson

to appreciate the music. During one of his solos, Milt was interrupted by chatter in the audience. Somewhat annoyed, he quickly finished and went to the microphone and asked the offenders to be still. "You people are supposed to be here listening," he said. "I don't want to offend nobody, but right is right," he said.

For the rest of the evening, people listened. In fact, the same faces present at 9:30 PM were still there for the last set at 12:30 PM. Even if you don't particularly like "the vibes," go see Milt Jackson. He'll make you a fan.

The GRIFFIN

printed by

Partners' Press, Inc.

ABGOTT & SMITH PRINTING

1881 KENMORE AVE. (at Military)

Phone 876-2284

Col. Smith To Take Bicentennial Post

Due to the illness of Dr. David J. Gorman, Professor of History, who has been acting as Bicentennial Coordinator of Canisius College, Col. John J. Smith, Professor of Military Science, has assumed this position for the remainder of the Bicentennial Year, said Father James M. Demske, President of Canisius College.

Father Demske noted that he has been pleased to see the excellent displays prepared by the History Club and would like to encourage other campus groups to be aware of the Bicentennial theme in their campus events this year.

He recommends that if anyone has any ideas, suggestions or questions about the Bicentennial, they address them to Col. Smith.

Cafe Jazz Show Plays to Sellout

by Robert Dombrowski

On a recent radio interview, Bob Lawson, a co-owner of the Tralfamadore Cafe, promised that he would book more big name jazz if the group Stone Alliance proved to be a success. From an owner's standpoint, a successful booking is one that draws a large audience. Stone Alliance played to a packed house for the midnight show on Saturday. We hope that all those people paying the \$3.00 cover charge was sufficient to make the date a financial success for the Lawson's.

The Tralfamadore Cafe, generally a very good place to listen to music, was a bit crowded and at times too noisy. The mood may have been influenced by a few distractions early in the first of two sets. A minor incident involved a ruptured g string on Gene Perla's electric bass. The trio weathered the annoyance till another guitar could be found. Then in an apparent fit of frustration, Perla yelled vociferously across the stage at Steve Grossman, the tenor-player who had suddenly stopped playing,

appearing as if he simply was giving the stage to Perla and the drummer, Don Alias. After Perla and Grossman exchanged steely-eyed glances, Grossman picked up his sax and started playing while still leaving the club with a pervasive atmosphere of apprehension.

Before the 2-hour concert had finished, the thought of the riff between the players was out of my mind leaving me free to enjoy the many original tunes written by either Perla or Grossman. Except for a solitary up-tempo blues, the tunes driven by Alias were fast and heavily rhythmic due to Alias's power drumming. Alias, formerly with B.S. and T., complemented Perla extremely well for Grossman to show his virtuosity on a tenor saxophone which by coincidence or not sounds very much like the great Dewey Redman.

While the Stone Alliance Trio may not be an innovative group, it does offer first-rate quality jazz for the limited jazz audience in Buffalo.

Broadway offers the concert Feb. 8 at 4:00 PM. On the local music scene, there may be no happier experience than Good News.

Wick To Speak

The Administrative Management Society of Canisius College would like to extend an invitation to the College Community to attend its annual "Education Night," Monday, February 9, in the Student Center Cafeteria.

Cocktails will be served at 5:45 PM, and dinner will follow at 6:45 PM. Many people prominent in diverse businesses throughout the area will be in attendance, including Mr. John G. Wick, president and chief executive officer of Merchants Mutual Insurance Co. and its three subsidiary companies.

Mr. Wick will speak on "Management in Perspective." Duly able to give valuable insight into such matters of management, Mr. Wick is a 1949 graduate of Canisius and is a director of the Liberty Bank and Trust Company, *The Buffalo Evening News*, the Buffalo Braves, Bernal Foam Products Company, Inc., the SMA Education and Research Foundation, the New York State Automobile Association, United Bank Corporation, and the Insurance Information Institute. He is also a trustee of St. Mary's School for the Deaf, Kenmore Mercy Hospital, and Canisius High School.

Don't miss the Phi Gamma Nu TGIF in the SCC this afternoon.
Starts at 3:00 P.M.

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