

Super-group fills blues-rock niche

By GRAHAM NEWTON
Cream, one of the most significant groups on the pop music scene over the past couple of years, disbanded a few months ago leaving a gaping hole in the field of blues-rock. The abyss remained until Graham Nash, Stephen Stills and Dave Crosby, three very accomplished musicians, decided to combine their talent. The three have just finished recording an LP for Atlantic Records which could put them in the upper crust of rock, reserved only for the masters.

David Crosby, formerly of the Byrds, is a true veteran of American rock music. While he was a member of the Byrds, he played the electric 12 string guitar which became characteristic of their music. Whenever he sang, it was always harmony, which he feels restricted his musical freedom. He left the Byrds in 1967, and a few months later recorded a solo album which met with little enthusiasm from listeners. After this unsuccessful debut as a soloist, Crosby drifted for about a year, until meeting Stills and Nash. In December, 1968, the three signed with Atlantic and began work on their album. Crosby feels that Nash and Stills have enabled him to find himself.

Stephen Stills was a member

of the now defunct Buffalo Springfield. After their breakup, Stills hit the road and became a roving guitarist with a substantial reputation. He was popular as a guest guitarist for entertainers such as Judy Collins and Joan Baez. On an LP called Super Session, he combined his stylings with those of well-known blues guitarists Al Kooper and Mike Bloomfield. Stills' reputation as a composer equals his ability as a guitarist. Many of the songs made popular by the Buffalo Springfield were the work of Stills and Neil Young, lead singer of the group. Soon after recording Super Session, he became bored with the long periods of inactivity between playing sessions, and decided to form the group.

Graham Nash, an ex-member of the Hollies, joined the group to play the kind of music he enjoys. While he was with the Hollies, his enthusiasm for the group slowly diminished as their music became increasingly commercial. When they decided to record an album of Dylan songs, Nash thought it was time to quit. He moved to Los Angeles specifically to play with Stills and Crosby, whom he had met while he was still with the Hollies. Nash and Stills do most of the composing for the group. All of the



cuts on the new LP, except two composed by Crosby and Paul Kantner of the Jefferson Airplane, are their work.

The trio has been called the newest super group, and all seems to indicate that they will be received gratefully by pop music fans. They themselves prefer not to be thought of as a group, but rather as individuals, hence they go unnamed. They are sincere in their work, striving for a sound which will express their own personal taste in music. Their main concern is not only to please listeners, but to please themselves.

The \$200,000 Toronto pop festival came to an end last Sunday with the promise of more to come. More than 49,000 people were entertained by some of the most highly rated bands in rock music during two days of continuous action.

The star of the Saturday session was Johnny Winter, an albino blues guitarist who is currently rated among the best in North America. He received four standing ovations from a raving audience.

Sunday was devoted almost entirely to Canadian talent. Included in the line-up were Blood Sweat and Tears, whose leader, David Clayton-Thomas was born and raised in Toronto and Steppenwolf, an extremely popular group containing four members from Oshawa, Ont.

Also on the program were the Sugar and Spice, a Winnipeg band whose recording The Cruel War became quite popular in Canada and the northern United States.

LOCALLY
The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba opens next Monday, and one of the major attractions will be the Scene Centre '69. The bands appearing in this week-long affair will be the UFO, the Mongrels, the Sugar and Spice, the Good Fortunes, the Gettysburg Address and the Footprints. The tickets, which allow admittance to the exhibition grounds as well as the Scene Centre, are available at the Country Music Centre, Don Gardner's Clothing, Eaton's and the exhibition ticket office.

SUGAR 'N' SPICE—A Winnipeg-based group who made the top 40 charts recently with Cruel War, played at the Toronto Pop Festival last weekend. The eight-member group played with such headliners as Johnny Winter from Texas and Blood Sweat and Tears from New York. The festival, a first for Toronto, attracted almost 50,000 pop music fans during its two-day run.

Summer films at Brandon U.

During Expo 67 in Montreal 33 countries contributed a total of 800 films to a special National Research Council Centennial project.

These films, each on some aspect of science, were shown every day for six months at Expo.

The same movies have been made available to Brandon University's Science Film Theatre and a selected showing is scheduled for the Little Theatre in the Education Building commencing July 7.

Screening starts at 7:30 p.m. and will last about two hours. A small membership fee will be charged to cover shipping fees.

This program will include five films, and if interest is great enough a second series will be slated for the fall season.

David Eaton, audio-visual supervisor for Brandon University, says the film series is not restricted to students and faculty and that the general public is invited to attend.

Another selection of films, in a less technical vein will be shown each Wednesday during July and August.

The series opens with "The Captains Table," a British comedy of high jinks aboard a luxury liner.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

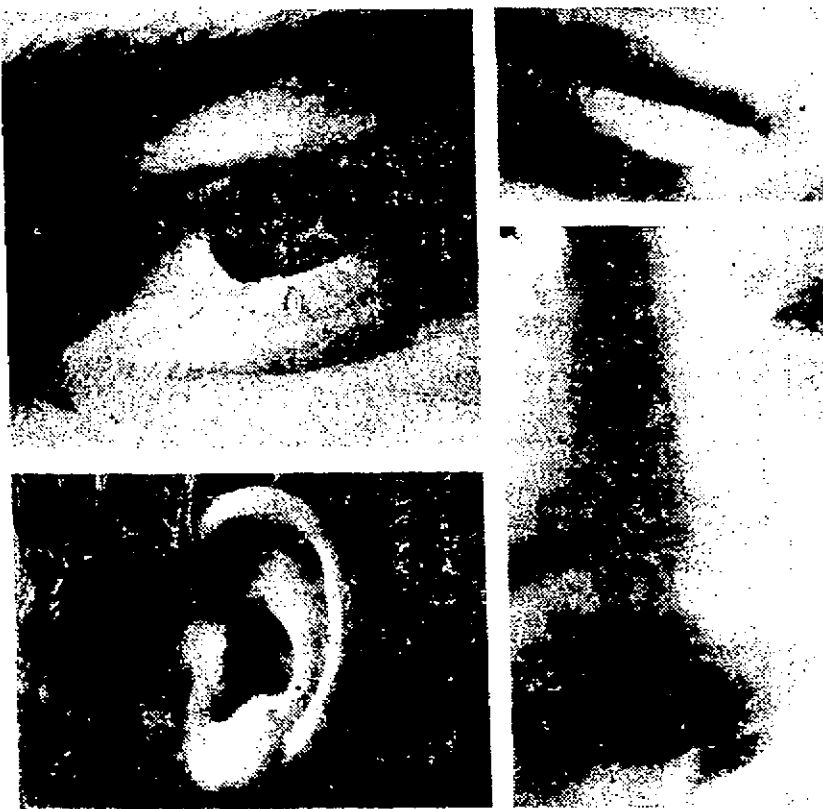
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