

# Record Revue Board

## Readers Guide No. 2

By CHRIS WINTERS

Because of the wonderful response to my first reader's guide, I have compiled a second one, covering all areas of rock.

Again, here's my simple grading system: A - a must for any self-respecting rock collector; B - well worth getting into; C - average rock but entertaining; D - one listen and put it on the shelf; F - don't bother. Well, let's get down to it!

### "Captured Live at the Forum" Three Dog Night - B+

If you have never experienced Three Dog Night "live" in concert, then this is the LP for you. Recorded just two months ago, every song including the hits "One," "Easy To Be Hard," "Try A Little Tenderness" and "Eli's Comin'," puts forth the same excitement as one of their concerts. Outside of the lack of normal studio quality, the LP features consistently good musicianship and superb vocals. Just great!

### "Arthur" - The Kinks - B

The greatness of Kin Ray Davies has virtually gone unnoticed for quite sometime. This latest excursion is about a guy named Arthur, whose story covers his life in the British Empire. It also shows the Kinks happily at home with some good rock and roll. It's a pity that their talents have been overlooked for so long. Songs like "Victoria," "Shangri-La" and "Australia" simply give away to their talents. Thoroughly enjoyable!

### "Hot Rats" - Frank Zappa - C+

For those of you who dig the Mothers of Invention (now defunct) and especially the genius of Frank Zappa, here is something special for you. Zappa has put together a beautiful LP with the help of horn man Ian Underwood and Captain Beefheart. The music is basically a light jazz-rock LP with one vocal by Captain Beefheart on "Willie The Pimp." Makes a great Christmas present!

### "Monster" - Steppenwolf - B+

I knew that Johnny Kay and his group were too good to keep down. Their last LP was a real bummer, but this one has the same freshness their first had. Once again, Johnny Kay has written some powerful political and social commentaries. "America" and "Monster" say some very essential things about today's world. This a very together album and should prove itself to be a large seller.

### "Running Down the Road" Arlo Guthrie - B

I dig Arlo's music, even his new fusion of country and folk styles. I heard Guthrie when I was in D.C. at the War Moratorium and he still possesses a very cherished wit. As on his two previous LP's, there is at least one number with pointed humor. This album has the song "Comin In to L.A." and it is really funny. His more countrified "Every Hand in the Land" and the title song are great in their own ways. Another good folk song is "Wheel of Fortune." As it is, Arlo Guthrie's talents never cease to amaze me.

### "Second Winter" - Johnny Winter - C+

Johnny Winter's first LP was a big hype, a put-on, and so is his second one. But this time it's for a different reason. This is the first three-sided LP to be released in R n' R history. Details are in the album liner notes. The music is quite good, sometimes on the verge of greatness. It features two outstanding Winters originals "Hustled In Texas" and "Fast Life Rider." He also gets down to Little Richard's "Slippin' & Slidin." Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" and Dylan's "Highway 61." This time Winters lets loose with his guitar and it feels real good.

### "Rock and Roll Is Here To Stay" Sha Na Na - C+

What do you say when nine Columbia students grease their hair back and form a rock n' roll band. Far out? No, beautiful! The pets of the N.Y. underground do fantastic renditions of old R n' R standards like "Book of Love," "Teen Angel," "Chantilly Lace," "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Teen-Age in Love." A group that attempts this stuff like it was 1959, not 1969, can't be all bad. Neato, keen and half mellow.

### "Tadpoles" - Bonzo Dog Band - B

Can a British satirical group find happiness in the hearts of the American rock listener? Why not? We've welcomed all their blues groups, so how about Britain's answer to the Mothers. Bonzo's music is more self-restrained than the Mothers and much, much funnier. Dig the titles, "Tubas in the Moonlight," "Tiger Hunting out in India," and "Ali-Baba's Camel." And would you believe a version of "Monster Mash." This group is great fun, as their LP's prove, and on stage they are a riot!

### "In the Court of the Crimson King - An Observation by" King Crimson - A

King Crimson is new from England and their LP is remotely reminiscent of the Moody Blues concept albums. Exquisitely produced and arranged, King Crimson has created a musical portrait of the court and its surroundings of a king in the middle ages. Side two is

the best and it consists of "Moonchild Dreams and Illusions," and "Court of the Crimson King: Fire Witch and the Dance of the Puppet People." It's a beautiful story and it's so well done. I would really love to see this group perform it live. I'll bet it would be a fantastic experience. Until then, I'll be satisfied with a wonderful debut album.

"Volunteers" - Jefferson Airplane - A  
Without a doubt in my mind, this is

the most creative and most consistent American rock group in existence today. And "Volunteers" lends to that credence. As usual Grace Slick's voice is simply soaring and all the songs are very together. "We Can Be Together" is a plea to the youth of the world to get together in a life of brotherhood. "Wooden Ships" is done with even more vitality than the original version by Crosby, Stills & Nash. The title song, "Volunteers," calls out "got a revolution, got to revolution." Grace has two gems, the first is "Hey Frederick" and the other is "Eskimo Blue Day," which is easily her finest, most profound, statement to date. It far surpasses "White Rabbit." In short, this is the Airplane's greatest achievement since their conception. They remain the finest exponent of S.F. music

and rest on the highest plateaus of American musicmakers.

## Thoughts in A flat

By M. H. MAJESTIS

### BAD APPLES

Wanna waste \$20? Buy two copies of John and Yoko's new Apple record "The Wedding Album." It's a beautiful packaging job - a copy of their marriage certificate, booklets, cartoons, pictures, and all in a half-inch thick box - but the record itself will please only hard-core J&Y fans. One entire side features more than 20 minutes of the gruesome twosome

calling each other's names in various moods, inflections, and shade of feelings. The other side is equally as uninspired, including discussions on world peace and slices of a Lennon-Ono press conference in a disjointed and too-lengthy montage. Don't buy it, wait for the follow-up.

### TJB

It was a noisy, enthusiastic, sellout crowd of adults which filled the Civic Arena last week to see Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. Just back from a very successful European tour, Herb & Co. kept his Pittsburgh audience entertained throughout the one-hour-plus of well-staged, well-arranged numbers. For what they play, TJB has always been the best since their inception seven years ago. Much as

Herb cannot sing, the crowd certainly wanted to hear him try.

One observation of interest was the number of TJB fans - mostly young women in their 20s and 30s - who kept running to the front to take pictures. To see five or six people at once, standing before the stage making money for Kodak and Polaroid, was not uncommon. The stark contrast with the recent rock concerts was that neither policemen nor Arena attendants were rushing to shoo the photogs away. The short-hairs, one must conclude, look out for their own.

All in all, though, the non-rock evening - including even the minimally received O. C. Smith portion - was quite enjoyable. Herbie, the kids may not buy your 45s anymore - but Middle America loves you.



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