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XGI Reporter

XGI REPORTER by Alfred Krebs

I suppose everyone is finally settled down and adjusted to their schedules. The CHI GAMMA IOTA Fraternity is accepting applications for membership by both veterans and social members. We're interested in having people who like to have fun, work, and interact with people. Our second meeting will be held October 4, 9 p.m. at the Middletown American Legion. The meetings are organized for the purpose of bringing the membership together for discussion and formulating programs for the future. The current administration is: President Mark McGlynn, Vice President Bob Abbott, Treasurer Bill Stockler, Secretary Reggie Utt.

There are a number of activities coming up. The first kegger is October 15, 9 p.m. at the Middletown Anglers and Hunters. Maps will be available at the round table or XGI Lounge. Look forward to plenty of people and lots of good fun. See you there. Intramural football and bowling begins this week with everyone hoping for fine seasons.

LuAnn Mihalick thrilled the fraternity this week by returning what was thought to be a lost piece of fraternity memorabilia. The CHI GAMMA IOTA scrapebook is now on display in the lounge. It was presented to the fraternity on June 6, 1970 by Jose Hourtas-Jounda and contains pictures and articles about the XGI's since it was granted a charter in 1968.

DISCUSSIONS

By Gregory Hall

Let's return to summer past...

Summer '77 in retrospect produced some excellent music and some significant events, as well as a fair share of items not worthy of acclaim or recognition.

Record buyers, both classical and popular, this summer saw prices on mostly all albums by their favorite artists rise by a dollar. The price hike was attributed by the record industry to rising production costs, artists royalties, and just about any other excuse. What is most unfortunate is that for the extra charge to the consumer, the quality of most domestic records is still inferior. I would not mind paying more, if I was in turn getting a better product.

This summer will be remembered by many for the death of a man some called "The King." Elvis Presley's entire catalogue of fifty-odd available titles were cleared by record retailers in the hours following his death. Some stores until the last few weeks had not been able to restock his records due to the phenomenal demand for his music. I had always pictured Elvis would be the Frank Sinatra of our generation, still trying to belt out a song at age 60...

STAR WARS became the biggest box office hit of all time, and John William's score became popular subject for many disco, jazz, and electronic interpreters. Along with the London Symphony soundtrack, at last count there were six alternative versions of the music available.

Fleetwood Mac's album RUMOURS held the number one position on the chart through the summer months, and into this month is still going strong. RUMOURS now ranks in the top four chart-topping albums of all time, along with Elvis' BLUE HAWAII and THE SOUND OF MUSIC.

Outstanding albums like J.T. from James Taylor, and GOING FOR THE ONE, Yes's first new album in two years, highlighted the summer release. Steve Miller's BOOK OF DREAMS and the overdue success of the Sanford-Townsend Band's 1976 debut album helped make top-forty radio a little more bearable. On the other hand, new noise by Kiss, more variations on two chords by Ted Nugent, and another dose of saccharin-rock from Peter Frampton produced bestsellers among those not old enough to know better.

Thankfully, the urban punk-rock scene, despite many promotional dollars and much publicity, got no worse in this country as its popularity increased in Great Britain.

SIMPLE DREAMS - Linda Ronstadt (Asylum records)

Giving Ronstadt's talent every benefit of the doubt, the weakness of SIMPLE DREAMS can be blamed on selection of bland, unemotional material. With few exceptions, these songs are not suited for Ronstadt; whose deliveries here sound strained, uncertain, and uninspired. Although there are moments when Ronstadt's golden-throated chops manage to transcend the material, nothing on SIMPLE DREAMS matches the power of HASTEN DOWN THE WIND, one of last year's most outstanding albums.

AT THE END OF A PERFECT DAY - Chris DeBurgh (A&M records)

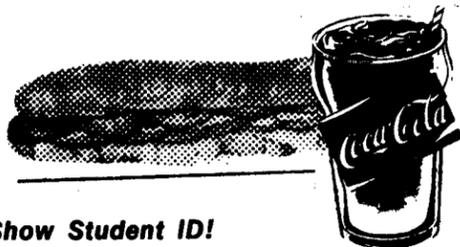
DeBurgh perfectly blends narrative drama with the best elements of traditional folk. Produced by Paul Samwell-Smith, noted for his sensitive work on classic Cat Stevens albums, the collection of DeBurgh-penned love ballads is rich in lyrical imagery and romantic poetic insight. Lavishly-textured production complements DeBurgh's simple and relaxing melodies.

Next Week: Live Stones, Billy Joel's Stranger, new Steely Dan...

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