

ARTS and CULTURE

DISCUSSIONS

Ratings: ****excellent; ***better than average; **average; *don't bother.

Decade - Neil Young (Reprise Records) rating ****

This three record set is a comprehensive anthology marking ten years of recorded music from Neil Young. Included are songs which represent every phase of his career, incorporating five songs never before released on album.

Young's career can best be defined as one of action and reaction. Since his early work in the trendsetting Buffalo Springfield, he has founded his own band, Crazy Horse, as well as made short-lived yet important contributions to Crosby, Stills and Nash and recently the Stills-Young Band. Young's always distinct and personal style has progressed through electric rock, countrified rock, commercial acceptance and later rejection, acute depression strongly felt in his

By Gregory Hall

music as the result of two friends' deaths, and a return to country and electric rock complete with new insights and fresh strength.

These phases, all of them essential in defining ten years of Young's contributions to music, reveal him as an abstract, ever-changing vital force - among the most important artists in what used to be called a cultural movement. Young represents the few that have refused to be sacrificed, and **Decade** is a superb document, and a tribute to one man's accomplishments, failures, and unique visions.

Rough Mix - Pete Townshend and Ronnie Lane (MCA Records)

rating: ****

Pete Townshend is one of rock's handful of geniuses. Ronnie Lane is an intelligent, gifted artist with a penchant for soft acoustic ballads and some rock n' roll. Townshend is usually

thought of first as the Who's writer and guitarist, not a vocalist; yet here his voice is strong and commanding, as is Lane's. Together they cast a pure and essential Spirit which makes this album a likely choice, though not commercially, for my best of the year list. The songs, especially Townshend's are cinematic, intimate and psychologically complex, yet joyous and accessible. As a sidelight, Eric Clapton contributes some fine acoustic and dobro guitar to most of the cuts.

Out at press time: new releases like Electric Light Orchestra's two-record **Out of the Blue**, **Greatest Hits**, etc. from Paul Simon, Rick Wakeman's **Criminal Record**, **All n' All** from Earth Wind & Fire, and **Still Falling For You** from Boz Skaggs.

Coming after term break: to start off the new year, **Discussions** reviews the best and the worst albums of 1977, and looks at the State of the Rock. Until then, have a good holiday...

"The Maltese Tarnhelm"

Sam Spade looked around the living room for an ashtray. As he stood blowing smoke through his nostrils, the woman brought one from the kitchen and handed it to him.

"Now mahm, tell me, when was the last time you saw your son?"

"Well it was about two weeks ago. He was acting very strangely."

"Like what?"

"He kept mumbling something about a Tarnhelm."

"How do you spell that?"

"Like it sounds."

"Oh."

Sam wrote Tarnhelm down and then asked some routine questions about the young man's description, activities, and interests. He found out he was a student at Capitol Campus and figured that would be a good place to start. He asked the boy's mother for a picture of him.

Spade showed the picture to some people on campus, but no one seemed to know where the young man was. He was about to give up when he saw a suspicious looking character slouching away from the water fountain. He looked at the figure as it turned, and then at the picture, and realized it was the missing young man.

Sam ran after him and followed him into an office.

"Hey, kid."

The young man looked up.

"What do you want?"

"My name's Spade."

"You a Shamus?"

"Yeah. You know your mother's been worried for

you?"

"I figured she would. But I've got work to do."

"Look, kid, I've been looking for you for a couple days and I want some answers. Now what's this Tarnhelm jazz all about?"

"Tarnhelm? Well it's a magic helmet-type of hat. It was made by a dwarf, a

Nibelung, named MIME, from a stolen treasure called the Rhinegold."

"God!" Sam thought "the kid's in on a jewel heist!"

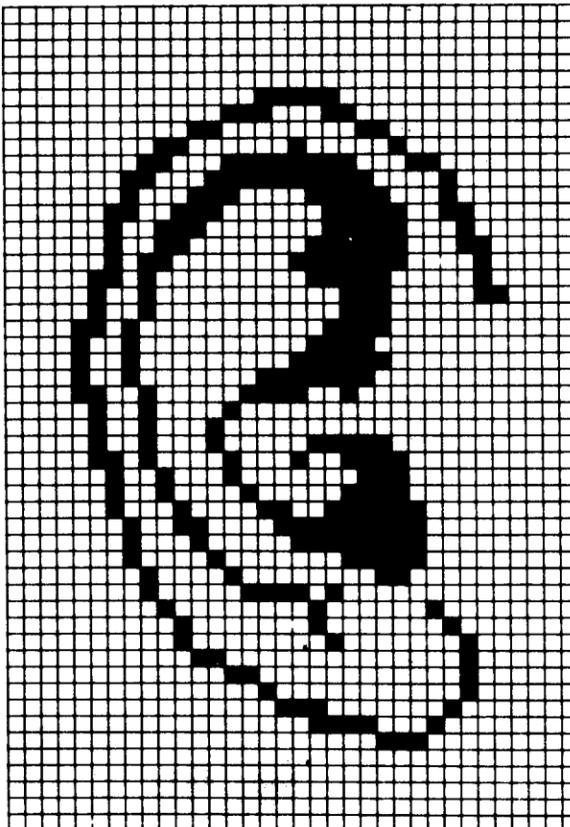
"Anyway, when you wear it you can transform yourself at will and travel anywhere in the world on a wish."

"So how much is it worth?"

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The immortal helmet
that lifts the mind
to the wings of the wind.

Get Published! Be ye an artist, photographer, or writer of poetry or prose - Tarnhelm wants ye. Submit works to Humanities Office, W-161, by January 31, 1978.



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