

ARTS and CULTURE

DISCUSSIONS

By Gregory Hall

1977 Discussions Awards

THE BEST OF THE BUNCH
 -In no particular order, the following eight albums are my choices for best of the year. Hopefully I've included something for everyone. **Aja** by Steely Dan was unquestionably the all-time best fusion of jazz with rock and pop strains. Hopefully this album will be a trendsetter, and as for Becker-Fagen duo, their intellectually warped, sardonic, and rich poetic imagery of the '70s America is a welcome step outside the rather bland mainstream.

J.T. by James Taylor marked a new highpoint in this singer / songwriter's long, uneven career. Special credit must go to producer Peter Asher for the state-of-the-art recording which works to make James and his songs sound as they haven't in years.

Rumours by Fleetwood Mac is the most logical, if not necessary, choice for the album of the year. Not much more can be said for an album that as of the first week of the new year has returned to the number one position on the charts after previously holding a near monopoly on that position for 28 weeks out of the year past. This album is justified not only by massive, record-breaking sales figures but by the enormous talent of the group itself.

Simple Dreams by Linda Ronstadt, although on a whole not her best effort, is nevertheless a finely crafted record, again thanks to the talent of Peter Asher.

Little Criminals by Randy Newman is a brave, poetic, weird, sometimes somewhat

elusive, inspired work of a genius at large on New Orleans and an undeserving America.

Rough Mix-Pete Townshend and Ronnie Lane. The Who's Godsend Prophet and Guitarist meets the British roots and ballads of Ronnie Lane. The end product is sixties British, insightful, and a great collaboration which produces some of the best Townshend writing since **Tommy** /Who's Next era.

Don Juan's Reckless Daughter is a rather late arrival from Joni Mitchell, having been released in Mid-December. This two-record set carries the progressive jazz and folk mixture begun on her last album to an extravagant conclusion with brilliant use of her personal style of poetic metaphor and stark self-confessional impressionism, both verbal and musical.

Running On Empty by Jackson Browne may be the definitive statement of the American mindset in the seventies. Also released in December, the album consists of ten new songs recorded live on stage, in Holiday Inns, and on a bus. So far Browne has been the only performer with the balls (and the talent) to state what he feels, exactly how he feels and sees it.

RUNNER'S UP AWARDS:

- Moonflower** - Santana
- Book of Dreams** - Steve Miller Band
- Year of the Cat** - Al Stewart
- The Stranger** - Billy Joel
- Down Two Then Left** - Boz Scaggs
- Going For The One** - Yes
- ECCENTRIC FAVORITES**-not for everyone
- Foreign Affairs** - Tom Waits

Peter Gabriel
My Aim is True - Elvis Costello

MOST PROMISING NEW TALENT OF '77- the best debuts

- Karla Bonoff**
- Sea Level**
- Kenny Loggins**
- Dickie Betts & Graet Southern**
- Southern**

HOLDING PATTERN AWARD, for no career advancement

Graham Parker for his third album **Stick To Me**.

DISAPPOINTMENTS OF THE YEAR

Heart
Crosby Stills and Nash
COMPETENCY AWARD

Foreigner
DOROTHY AND TOTTO AWARD

Kansas, also winners of the first annual **"That Oughta be Hung by Their Fingernails"** Award for pretentious lyric writing.

OUTSTANDING JAZZ AWARD to Pablo Records for their outstanding output of great records.

SECOND ANNUAL FOREVER WAITING STILL AWARD

Again, to Bruce Springsteen
GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR '78 AWARD
 Bruce Springsteen
 Boston "2"

FIRST ANNUAL BLIND - LEADING - THE BLIND CONSUMER AWARD

The "New Wave" music
 The Punks themselves
 Their promoters, producers, investors, and exploiters
 Next Week: Guest columnist Joe Taylor talks about the State of the Rock....



- January 12
 6:00 P.M. - Women's Basketball.
- 8:00 P.M. - Varsity Basketball - Lancaster Bible College vs. Capitol - Capitol Campus.
- January 13
 9:00 P.M. - Keggar - ITE - Student Center.
- January 14
 1:00 P.M. - Bowling - Capitol Campus vs. PSU - University Park, Pa.
 1:00 P.M. - Women's Basketball - Capitol vs. Delaware College Campus- Media, Pa.
- January 15
 1:00 P.M. - Bowling - Shippensburg State College vs. Capitol - Capitol.
 7:00 P.M. - Mass - Student Center.
- January 16
 8:00 A.M. - Making the "I'm OK - You're OK" Ideas work for you workshop- Continuing Education - Capitol Campus.
 7:30 P.M. - Varsity Basketball - California State vs. Capitol - Capitol.
 7:30 p.m. - President's Council Meeting - Gallery Lounge.
- January 17
 9:00 P.M. - Keggar - Beta Chi - Student Center.
- January 18
 8:00 P.M. - Varsity Basketball - Capitol vs. Delaware College - Capitol.

For All You Feces Flailers

By Bob Buckingham

Bluegrass started with Bill Monroe, but where did Monroe start? The basis for Monroe's music can be found in the country music tradition. Ancient fiddle tunes and ballads, a smattering of blues and some popular songs make up this tradition which survives today mostly in the form of bluegrass. There are however those who find that these traditional elements make for good music on its own. The Red Clay Ramblers are one such group.

The Ramblers see their music as a means for growth which is apparent from the variety of music they play. Blues such as Bo Carter's "I've Got The Whiskey" or Bessie Smith's "I've Got What It Takes (But it Breaks My Heart

to Give it Away), are side by side with fiddle tunes, "Give the Fiddler a Dram", and a sentimental piece, "Keep the Home Fires Burning."

The Ramblers have a bit more sophistication than some other groups and this may be due to their role in Diamond Studs, an off Broadway production based on the life of Jessie James. With each of their three albums they have evolved more articulate arrangements and have even written material incorporating old forms with new lyrics to produce old sounding contemporary songs. They make little effort to sound slick or censored preferring rough edges to glossy smooth production. Their new lp, "Merchants Lunch" has been released and it will be interesting to see where they will go next.

Good news for all you feces

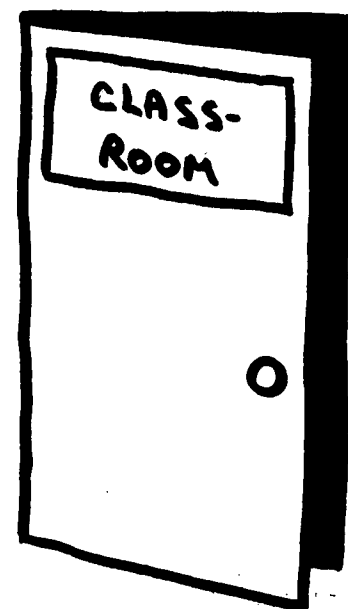
flailers, bluegrass is getting a foothold. The Open Hearth is finally getting some really outstanding bands. Namely The West Orrtanna Stringband (January 14) and the outrageously fine Bluegrass Cardinals (January 20). This will be the Cardinals first job in the Harrisburg area and one of the few by The West Orrtanna Stringband.

Thursday night is bluegrass night at Dante's and they too are featuring some top notch bands such as Whet Stone Run and Still on the Hill on consecutive Thursdays.

Mackley's Mill continues to have fine music every weekend featuring Ted Lundy and The Southern Mountain Boys and other bands mentioned in this column. So now if the money holds out, well then perhaps I'll see you there. Until then flail those feces.



"I KNOW YOU BELIEVE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU



THINK I SAID BUT I AM NOT SURE YOU REALIZE THAT WHAT YOU HEARD IS NOT WHAT I MEANT!"