

# ARTS and CULTURE

## Grass News

By Bob Buckingham

Welcome to Virginia The Bluegrass Cardinals, Rounder 0097

Here it is at last, the Cardinal's second lp. This is their first since relocating to the east and changes are apparent.

There is a cohesiveness to this lp which exceeds their first and this could be due to a better quality recording and two new members; John Davis, bass and Warren Blair, fiddle.

The picking and singing is consistently high in quality. Dave's high tenor shines on the gospel quartets. Blair's fiddling though more than adequate is sometimes too busy. The best cut is a fine rendition of *The Blue-Eyed Boston Boy*, a low key anti-war song from the War Between the States.

This young group utilizes progressive harmonies and traditional instrumentation to deliver a balanced program of

old and new material. There are no instrumentals so the

One of the greats in bluegrass will play the Radio Club's kegger this Friday. Don Stover, singer and banjo picker extraordinaire, along with the White Oak Mountain Boys will have the student center jumping to the sounds of driving banjo and fiddle.

Stover has recorded with Bill Monroe, the Lily Brothers and Doc Watson. Anyone who has caught one of their local picking never gets the show-case it deserves. As a result there is an understated power creating a controlled tension between vocals and instruments. The instruments do have their moments as a close listening will yield. David Parmley does an outstanding job on guitar, not only on solos, but in support of the others he propels them along on a smooth rhythmic line. This is a good second effort by a promising young band.

appearances will know what is in store.

Stover is probably a spiritual descendant of Uncle Dave Macon. His mixture of humor and his command of diverse banjo styles is as down home as it is spellbinding. It is not only his verbal quips but his musical sense of humor that sets him apart from his contemporaries. There is a story about Stover when he was appearing with the Lily Brothers at the Hillbilly Ranch in Boston. Apparently they hit an exceptionally maudlin tone with the old ballad *Barbara Allen* when Stover played a bit of Chuck Berr's *Memphis Tennessee* as his banjo break.

Friday night should prove to be a similar experience as Stover has been known to excite even the most catatonic of crowds under the most dismal conditions.

For more on Don Stover see CCR vol. 7 #13, Feb. 16, 78 Grass News



## CULTURAL EVENTS

- April 14-15 Boys of The lough in concert - Main Point, Bryn Mawr, Pa. 8 & 10 p.m.
- April 11-12 Renaissance in concert, 8 p.m. Tower Theatre, Phila., Pa.
- April 6-9 Rufus/Heatwave in concert. Valley Forge Music Fair, Devon, Pa.
- April 28 David Bromberg/Maria Muldair in concert - Hershey Community Theatre, 7 & 10 p.m.
- April 19 Film "Emmanuelle" - Capitol Campus, 2 p.m. Student Center, 7 p.m. - Auditorium FREE

### "Spiritwood" To Perform

Middletown-Lee and Larry Lawson, better known as "Spiritwood," will perform in Vendorville at Penn State-Capitol Campus on Thursday, April 6 from noon until 2:00 p.m.

A performance by "Spiritwood" includes strong original material, as well as traditional and contemporary folk songs, a bit of country, and

an occasional parody of the blues or rock and roll. Lee and Larry accompany themselves with acoustic guitars, piano, harmonica and banjo.

The couple is from Lewisburg, and has performed in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

The performance is free and the public is cordially invited.

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## High Anxiety

By Bill Roseberry

A film about a psychologist's attempt to discover the dark and terrible secret of the Psycho-Analytic Institute for the Very, Very Nervous. I for one am still not sure about what that secret is. Nevertheless Mel Brooks has come out with a new and (unjustifiably) anxiously awaited release. Incidentally, it is a tribute to Alfred Hitchcock, the king of the suspense film.

Despite several humorous scenes the movie doesn't have the overwhelming humor of previous triumphs, like *Blazing Saddles*, *Young Frankenstein* and *Silent Movie*. Perhaps this is a result of the material limitations one has when choosing to spoof a single artist, no matter who, instead of an entire film genre. This sounds bad but really the film isn't that bad. Such vintage

Hitchcock devices and scenes as the shower sequence from *Psycho*, the bird attacks from *The Birds*, the camera techniques used in both these and other films and the use of music for dramatic effect are used to good effect. For the most part, however, Brooks is on his own and just can't seem to find enough really funny material to relieve the "suspenseful atmosphere" the film takes on.

In *Blazing Saddles* one never lost sight of the gags and visual puns no matter how serious the scene became. Even though an effort seems to have been made this can't be said of *High Anxiety*.

In the end the film is only entertaining, lacking the vitality of earlier efforts and seems to incorporate Hitchcock's techniques more than spoof them. A good film for \$1 but save your \$3.50.

## Contributions

### Welcome

The scope of the arts is unlimited in potential. You can help us realize this potential. Have you been to a movie, play, art exhibit, or concert that was so good (or bad) that you'd be inspired to write about it? Well, then write about it, and submit it to the Arts and Culture page of the Reader.

Be a Dandy



and Write.

## IAA & the Social Committee

Present

The Film  
*Emmanuelle*

The Joys of a Woman

on April 19

2 p.m. in the Student Center

8 p.m. in the Auditorium

FREE