

The Arts

DISCUSSIONS

by Michael Argento

CASINO-Al DiMeola

Critics of jazz/rock have had a lot to say lately. However, what they have been saying has not been too good. They complain about cliches, ineptitude and the failure of musicians to have respect for their audience. But two recent releases have the critics eating their words; Al DiMeola's *Casino* and U.K.'s first release.

Al DiMeola's *Casino* (his third album) has everything a progressive jazz/rock album should have. DiMeola covers a spectrum of guitar sounds ranging from crystalline acoustic to blazing electric. This recording shows that Al DiMeola has matured greatly as a composer and a performer. He is often criticised for sacrificing beauty for speed. *Casino* proves that false. Where DiMeola used speed for flash before, he now uses his speed to project images into his complex compositions. His band also handles the arrangements very well. The group consists of: Anthony Jackson, bass; Barry Miles, keyboards; Steve Gadd, drums; and Mingo Lewis, percussion.

Gadd and Lewis are the driving force behind the band. They perform the offbeat Latin rhythms that are DiMeola's trademark. But there is no doubt that this is DiMeola's album.

On "Egyptian Danza", DiMeola's guitar soars with unbelievable intensity as the percussion section whips out the beat with painful precision. The music never drops from that energy level.

U.K. is a British "super-group" comprised of John Wetton (King Crimson), Bill Bruford (King Crimson, Yes), Eddie Jobson (Frank Zappa, Roxy

Music), and Allen Holdsworth (Soft Machine, Jean-Luc Ponty). The group's King Crimson influences show through clearly. Wetton's vocals are very reminiscent of his former band. The only thing missing from the King Crimson mold is the inaccessibility of their music.

Robert Fripp, guitarist and leader of King Crimson, made it very hard for people to understand his songs. U.K. are concentrating on making good music.

"In the Dead of the Night" displays the awesome talent in this group. Bruford's drums keep perfect time for the group's difficult arrangements. Wetton's bass anchors the music to earth while Holdsworth whips off some amazing guitar opposite Jobson's synthesizer and violin.

The group's soulfulness is expressed in "Thirty Years". Lush, thick strings guide the song through the phrase and into the hypnotic vocals. In my book, U.K. gets five stars.

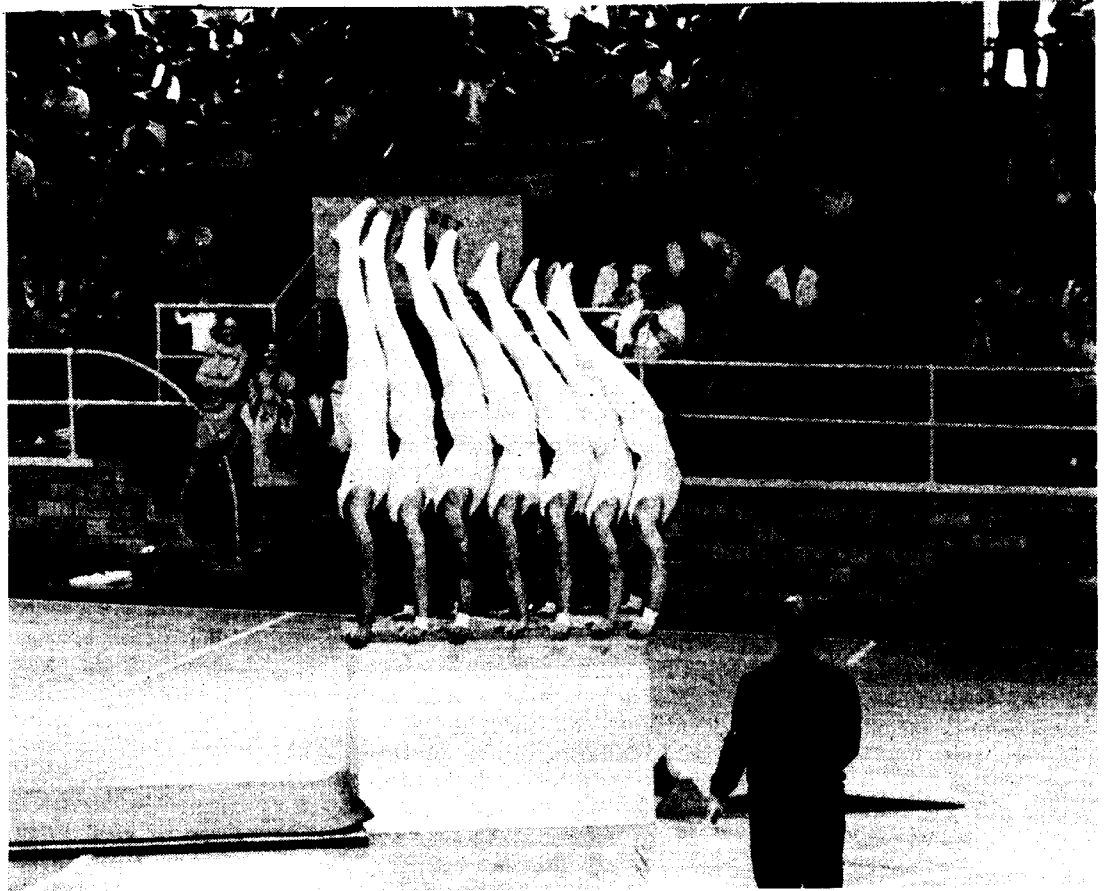
Short Takes

DON'T LOOK BACK - Boston

If you liked Boston's first album, you'll like this one. But if you are looking for some fresh, new music, this album is not for you. Boston's second release comes as a great disappointment. The music remains the same, only the words are changed to protect the innocent.

WHO ARE YOU - The Who

Well, even the best get old. The Who was never better instrumentally, but Daltry's powerful vocals are missing. The death of Keith Moon leaves the band very shaky about the future.



Danish Gymnasts Perform At Capitol

MIDDLETOWN-A Danish gymnastics team, sponsored by the Danish Organization for gymnastics and Youth in Denmark, will perform at Penn State-Capitol Campus on Saturday, September 30 at 3 pm in the gymnasium of the Multi-Purpose Building.

The Danish tour consists of 12 women and 12 men performing modern Danish rhythmic gymnastics as well as folk

dance.

The gymnastic portion of the program is entirely different from the competitive meet American audiences are accustomed to attending. The women's routines include the use of balls, ropes, and hoops; while the men present their skill using mats, mini trampolines and an international horse. The folk dance repertoire includes dignified court dancing as well as peasant-

style dances. The gymnasts will be wearing traditional outfits from their own villages.

Members of the Danish tour are from all walks of life and earn their living as teachers, nurses, farmers, dentists and homemakers.

There will be a \$1 admission charge for adults and a \$.50 charge for children under 12.

For further information contact the Athletic Office at 717-787-7751.

Cultural Events

MUSIC

Sept. 30 Concert by "Sonship" - Messiah College, Grantham, 8:30 pm
Oct. 3 & 4 Jethro Tull - Uriah Heep - Spectrum, Phila., tickets \$7 & \$8

DANCE

Sept. 29 Oktoberfest Dance - Gettysburg College, College Union

THEATRE

Sept 12-Oct. 1 "Auntie Mame" (Musical) Allenberry Playhouse, Boiling Springs. Tues. thru Sat. 8:30 pm, Wed. and Sat. mat. 2 pm, Sun. mat. 3 pm
Information: (717) 258-6120.

Sept. 29-30 & Oct. 6-7 "The Devil's D disciple" Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Fri. 8 pm, Sat. 6 pm. Information: 867-4411, ext. 311

Sept. 28-30 "The Sound of Music" Hershey Community Theatre, Fri and Sat 8:15 pm, \$12, \$11, \$10.50, \$9.50; Sat. mat. 2 pm, \$11, \$10, \$9.50, \$8.50.
Information: 534-3405

Films

Sept. 29 "The Last Picture Show" HACC, Rose Lehman Arts Center



The
Other Side
Of
MARABELLA'S
Highspire Plaza, Middletown

LATEST SOUNDS:
Mon. Thru Sat. 10 P.M.-2 A.M.

Thurs. Sept. 28 Frankie Dee Country Show
Fri. Sept. 29 Frankie Dee Country Show
Sat. Sept. 30 Disco with JJ
Sun. Oct. 1 Disco with JJ
Mon. Oct. 2 Open
Tues. Oct. 3 New Breed Oldies Top 40 Sounds
Wed. Oct. 4 Blue Grass with Wet Stone Run