

# DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

by Alex Ksanznak

It may seem strange to read a review of two albums from 1971 and 1972, but JOHN PRINE and DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH are so good, that it would be a shame not to hear them. They are the first two albums of John Prine, a singer and possibly the best folk songwriter since Bob Dylan.

Prine's songs are simple in structure and have a country flavor. His second album, DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH, uses the talents of David Bromberg on electric guitar and mandolin. It has a raw, down home sound that goes well with the times. But his first album is truly a masterpiece of great songs that are well polished. I have been disappointed before by recordings

that have been overproduced, but JOHN PRINE is one of the few that approaches perfection in its production. The haunting pedal steel riffs of Leo Le Blanc float through the album like a summer breeze and all the back up men are just as tasteful on their instruments.

But John Prine's lyrics really are what put him above most songwriters. He's an intellectual with the gift of putting his thoughts in the language of the common man; a poet for the masses. If you see him in concert, your first reaction of him might be that of a country boy taken in and overwhelmed by the cities' vice, but by the time he's through you'll realize that John Prine knows just what's going on around him.

On his first album he talks about strip mining in PARADISE, and flag-waving in YOUR FLAG DECAL WON'T GET YOU INTO HEAVEN ANYMORE.

On DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH, there is a song called, THE GREAT COMPROMISE, which is actually an extended metaphor that any poetry buff would drool over. Prine portrays America as a girl who left him at the drive-in for a guy in a foreign sports car.

These examples are not just jewels in a desert. Every song on these two albums is great (that's hard to say for most albums.) Kris Kristofferson said, after he heard John Prine, "Twenty-four years old an writes like he's two hundred and twenty. I don't know where he's from, but I've got a good idea where he's going. We went away believers, reminded how goddamned good it feels to be turned on by a real creative imagination."

All things of earth are good and bad. According to the will of the Creator.

M.P.

## FALLING-OUT

On Sunday, October 7, 1973, at 6:00, there's going to be A Falling-Out on the sophomore parking lot. The Falling-Out will be a picnic-dance inviting all Highacres students and faculty members.

The picnic part includes hot dogs, potato chips, soda, and all sorts of delectable munchies. The rock group "Haji" will play for the dance.

There's no admission, but there will be a slight charge to defray food costs. Also, in case of rain, the falling-out will fall-into the S.U.B. So come on out! It's sure to be a lot of fun!

## MINISTRIES TO MEET

Father Mark Bochinski, the campus chaplain will be calling a meeting for students interested in Campus Ministries. The date of the meeting will be posted on the SUB bulletin board. Any interested clergy are also invited.

Campus Ministries is an inter-denominational organization that is set up to offer Christian fellowship and Bible study; to set an example of normal Christian life; and to spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Any interested students should call Alex Ksanznak at 455-0983.

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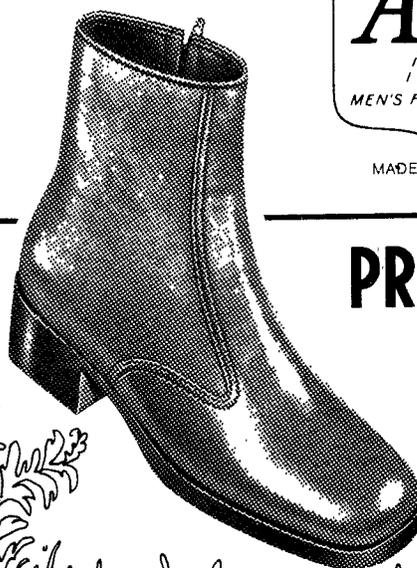
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