

## Audio Insight

### "Oops!" Wrong Planet" Utopia's Masterpiece

By Doc

Todd Rundgren's Utopia has always been known for their cosmic doodlings, impersonal rambling and general synthesized mindlessness. A few of Utopia's songs have meandered for as long as thirty minutes without any real strong melody. Todd's newest Utopia band along with their latest album "Oops! Wrong Planet" has changed all of this. "Oops!" is comprised of mostly three and four minute songs with some of the strongest pop rock numbers he has ever recorded.

Side one begins with the rapidly paced "Trapped." Rundgren yells through most of the vocals, plays some driving guitar, and adds bizarre lyrics such as "The crowd shouted, 'Off with his head'; the priest said, 'Have mercy, let's burn him instead!'" Trapped is followed by "Windows." This is not a bad song and it is over before it gets a chance to get boring. The next number "Love in Action" is one of the best songs on the album. The strength of the song lies in its pop vocals and harmonies, with just enough of a sharp edge to compete with some of the heaviest rock 'n roll. "Crazy Lady Blue" doesn't really add up to much of anything and just gets in the way. The last two songs, "Back on the Street" and "Marriage of Heaven

and Hell" bring side one to a strong ending.

Bassist Kasim Sulton, more up front than any other Utopian besides Rundgren, does an excellent job of vocalizing the futile anger expressed by the lyrics.

The last tune "Marriage" is the best song on the album. As the song goes through four tempo changes, it sounds almost schizophrenic. Every song on the first side seems to lead up strongly and the rest of the album serves as an anti-climax. Great music.

Side two is shallow in comparison to its flip side, although it does have its moments. "Rape of the Young" is Rundgren's protest song to war, abortion, and other violence. It is sung with the passion that seems to come natural to Rundgren and his feelings just flow into the listener's ears. "Love is the Answer" is the best slow pop song on the album. It is classic Rundgren. He could not have written a better song to finish an album.

The strengths in "Oops! Wrong Planet" lie in Rundgren's song writing and sensibility as a producer. It would be satisfying to see the present Utopia continue in this style of performing and release some of the excellent albums of which they are capable.

## Foreigner Appears in Scranton

By Jim Lyman  
Collegian Staff Writer

Out of all the new bands that have appeared on the rock scene in 1977, "Foreigner" seems to be one of the most powerful, as demonstrated by the strength of their recent appearance in Scranton. Often times with many first year bands, that which was created in the studio cannot be duplicated on stage. This, however, was not the case with "Foreigner." Their performance consisted of every song from their debut album, save one, and each piece not only stood on its own, but was improved upon.

The singing of the band's four vocalists, especially lead vocalist Lou Gramm, showed no signs of strain, with all of the harmony parts being sung just as on the record. The band's playing was impeccable. The trio of bassist Gagliardi, percussionist Dennis Elliott, and Al Greenwood on keyboards, formed as

strong and as tight a rhythm section I have seen in a long time. Mick Jones' lead guitar was also impressive, far surpassing all of his work on their album.

However, the biggest surprise of the night for me was the power of Dan McDonald's stage presence. In the course of the evening he played keyboards, saxophone, flute, and guitar; showing a proficiency on each instrument which is not readily perceptible on their recorded work. McDonald, who, along with Jones formed the band and served as an anchor to the group's sound. Jones acted as the catalyst which drove "Foreigner" through their set. This certainly seems to be a winning combination.

As long as "Foreigner" maintains this high level of entertainment they will continue to be as electrifying as they were that night.

## Movie Review

### Something For Everyone

By Craig Oswald and James Ferry  
Collegian Staff Writers

**Kentucky Fried Movie:** Hilarious! This is the perfect movie for those individuals with fried brains. It is a side-splitting piece of sarcasm at its best. The movie is generally a spoof about television and commercials but consists of many more interesting and funny sections such as: Karate movies of the Bruce Lee Era, the Hari Krishna on their "Willer Time" break, and other selected zany moments. If you like to laugh and you're a bit silly, go see "Kentucky Fried Movie."

**The Last Remake of Beau Geste:** Marty Feldman, the prince of madcap humor, has finally made his own movie. Co-starring with Feldman is Michael York and Ann Margret. Michael York is at his best, humor wise, in years. Beau Geste is a desert classic of past decades. Feldman and his humorous, warped mind take a serious plot that is great to begin with and transform it into a brilliant piece of 1978

satire. The story follows the adventures of Michael York (Beau) and his not so heroic twin brother Marty Feldman (Digbey) through the adventures of the French Foreign Legion. The characters involved, and the slapstick comedy in a Monty Python style keeps you laughing hours after. If you liked Feldman in Young Frankenstein, you will love him in "The Last Remake of Beau Geste."

#### OTHER CURRENT RELEASES

**The Lincoln Conspiracy:** This movie consists of a detailed documentary about events during the presidency of Lincoln and the events that followed. There are excellent special effects as the nineteenth-century is beautifully recreated. The flaw with this film is that you know how it will end, and what will happen after the first five minutes. The film is from Sun International, famous for documentaries, but they cannot compare with those productions of Universal, Columbia, or United Artists with the development of the plot, acting or direction.

**Star Wars:** What can one say about Star Wars that hasn't already been said? For those of you who have been locked in a closet for the past year, "Star Wars" is the sleeper of the year! It is a box office smash despite the often used plot. The film evolves around a twenty-first century hero, Luke Skywalker, and his quest to free the princess of the 'federation.' Along these lines he runs into the strangest looking beasts you could imagine. The plot is an old one that could have been out of an old western movie but the special effects and the filmation is fantastic! They make the film what it is. After all we are all kids at heart. May the force be with you!

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