

Record Review...

Sixties Bands Alive & Kicking

by Alan Gasmer

- Sleepwalker - The Kinks Arista 4106
The Hollies Live! (import) Columbia 90401
The Yardbirds Great Hits Epic PE34491
The Beach Boys Love You Reprise/Brother MSK 2258

What do all these vintage rock and roll bands of the great bygone decade of the 60's have in common? By the looks of it, they are alive and well and living in the 70's.

The Kinks, who scored big in the sixties with the tunes, "You Really Got Me," "All Day and All Night," and early seventies with the unforgettable "Lola," have just released their first album in about two years.

Although their last couple of releases covered a central theme story revolving around the music, I'm happy to report that their current release, Sleepwalker is a departure from that mode. Those witty purveyors of rock and roll with a message have gone back to producing straight rock albums with no themes, but some good stories anyway.

To keep their old fans satisfied while attracting new Kinkniks (I am a member) to their growing cult, they are beginning to move into the mainstream of rock which has so long missed their presence.

The new tunes still contain those witty lyrics, upbeat songs, and sharp playing by the band. As a matter of fact, main Kink Ray Davies's voice has gotten higher on this album.

Such songs as, Life Goes On, Sleepwalker, (the single), Juke Box Music, are just highlights of this quality record. I sorely missed a sing-along sheet to follow some extremely interesting lyrics.

Exquisitely recorded and produced at Konk Studios, (where else?) the Kinks have always been overshadowed by other big English groups such as the Beatles, Stones, and The Who. Sleepwalker simply reaffirms my belief that the Kinks are one of the classic groups of the British rock scene and have turned out one of the best albums this year.

The Hollies are one of those groups that seem to have been around forever. They are responsible for the classic tunes as, Carry Anne, Bus Stop, He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother, Long Cool Woman, and many more. What comes to my mind while listening to this enjoyable album, is that it is modeled after "The Beach Boys 1969," released a couple of months ago.

This album contains fifteen songs on one single L.P. with such high quality, that it puts Paul McCartney's recent live set to shame.

Plans call for a state-side release in the near future as it has already gone gold in England.

The Hollies, like the Beach Boys, have that certain summer sound to their music that you can listen to all summer long and not get bored. Hurry and pick up this imported treasure for those warm summer nights on the beach. Just think, the harmonies, the sand, and the Hollies...

The Yardbirds' importance in the annals of rock music has been awesome. It is not only for the music they produced, but also for their use of avant-garde musical techniques at a point in time when other British bands were attracting fans with just simple but catchy tunes.

Try to imagine a band that contained such giants as: Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Jeff Beck, Keith Relf, and Paul Samwell-Smith at one time or another. Eric Clapton went on to John Mayall and Cream, Jimmy Page formed Led Zeppelin, Jeff Beck went on to Truth with Rod Stewart, Keith Relf formed the original group Renaissance, and Paul Samwell-Smith works with Cat Stevens.

So on this basis alone, this reviewer feels that if you are into heavy bluesy-metal rock, listen to where today's groups got their roots.

The recording is part stereo and part rechannelled stereo - for effect.

With all the hullabaloo concerning Brian Wilson's return last year, you would think he just created a new Good Vibrations.

Aside from all the repackages, Endless Summer, Spirit of America, Live in London... and last year's anniversary l.p. 15 Big Ones, this is no surfing album brother! It is a return to the short tunes of the Friends, Smiley Smile era in which most of the short songs were written by Brian as is also the case on this album.

Considering the fact that this is the first totally original Beach Boys album since 1973, it is a welcome addition. Although I

was not impressed by the L.P. at first, the record has a tendency to grow on you with repeated listenings.

Standout songs include a tribute to Johnny Carson, a rocker, Roller Skating Momma, Let's Go On This Way Again.

If you're looking for a Surfin' U.S.A. you won't find it on this album. It is strictly recommended for avid fans that can understand and put up with Brian's self-indulgence.

Because of the lack of space, I haven't done these groups and albums a real justice in describing my opinions so briefly. Maybe next year.

I would like to thank: The Spectrum, Electric Factory Concerts, Larry Rubin, Marie Langner, all the record companies for their assistance and especially Stuart Morris for his constructive inspiration. The GAS thanks you all!!!...

First Impressions

by Alan Gasmer

With much pessimism and at the same time optimism, this reviewer went to see the hottest rock group in the nation - BOSTON. In case you've been on another planet for the last six months, this debut group has sold in excess of 3 million copies of their first album. As newcomers to the rock world and yet selling so many albums without much formal stage experience and training, you can understand my beginning apprehension.

After waiting nearly 45 minutes for the boring Sammy Hagar to finish his set, (a cure for insomnia) Boston appeared on stage.

The sold-out Spectrum (19,000) held its breath. In opening with "Rock and Roll Band," and travelling through such already considered classics as "More Than a Feeling," "Long Time," "Peace of Mind," Boston displayed a very professional stage presence for such an inexperienced band. They gave the ecstatic fans what they came to hear - their hits.

The transfer from studio to stage was very accurate as lead-singer Brad Delp now doubles on guitar. Main-man Tom Scholz, acting very subdued in the corner, carried on with his weird brand of special effects which have made him famous in his own right.

In addition to playing their already proven formula, Boston also previewed five songs as-yet-unreleased on their forth-coming album.

All in all, they were tremendous. To really appreciate the full impact of Boston, you have to see them live. In such a short period of time, it's obvious that Boston can definitely rock along-side the established bands in the business.

Concert Line-Up

SPECTRUM

- O'Jays/Truth May 20-\$6, 7, 8
Elvis Presley SOLD OUT
Emerson, Lake, Palmer June 20, 21-\$7.50, 8.50, 9.50
Pink Floyd June 28-29- \$7.50, 8.50, 9.50
JFK
Peter Frampton/ Lynyrd Skynyrd/ J. Geils Band plus a surprise June 11-\$10

TOWER

- Todd Rundgren's Utopia May 15-\$4.50, 5.50, 6.50
Johnny's Dance Band/Foreigner/ Tim Moore June 3-\$4.50, 5.50, 6.50

BIJOU

- Brecker Bros./Brand X May 16-17
Grover Washington Jr. May 18-21 (recording Live album)
Valerie Carter May 23-24
Jesse Winchester May 25-28

Advertisement for Chick-fil-A featuring a large image of a sandwich and the text 'Something Different.' Includes a coupon for 2 sandwiches for \$1.98 at Granite Run Mall, valid through May 31.