'Beauty' created by Mahavishnu

By DOUG MCMINN for the Collegian Clouds of incense and a minute of reverent silence marked the beginning of the Mahavishnu Orchestra's performance Saturday at Rec Hall. The music which followed ran the gamut from, an almost holy beauty to a" technically superb musical self-indulgence Guitarist Jon McLaughlin

Impressions

dressed in brilliant white, asked the crowd for a moment of peace so the musicians could concentrate on their music. . The Orchestra began with

Lockets

and prices.

ONCE AGAIN,

Are In

the opening cut from their latest album, "Eternity's Breath," a bizarre synthesis of heavy metal and church music. The song set the tone for the rest of the show-very loud, electronic music played at breakneck speed, with breathtaking technical facility.

McLaughlin led, standing center stage with his doublenecked guitar. A string section, with Steve Kindler on slip-up. first violin, Carol Shive on second violin and vocals, and Phil Hirschi on cello,

were hard to hear.

beat and embellished it.

provided symphonic rushes of sound, with counterpoint from Stu Goldberg on a variety of electronic keyboards. Most of the solo-space was

taken up by the two-piece sax section, with synthesizer providing tonal coloration. variety of material, both old and new. Pieces played included drummer Walden's "Cosmic Strut," "Lila's Due to the usual Rec Hall noise, horn players Norma Dance," and even a few new arrangements of com-positions from "The Inner Jean Green and Russel Tubbs Mounting Flame." Bass player Ralph Arm-

strong and drummer Mike The first hour consisted mostly of tightly arranged compositions which showed Walden were both tremendous. Armstrong is a virtuoso of the bass guitar, and Walden's polyrhythmic percussion efforts kept the off the Orchestra as a whole. As the concert progressed, the musicians had more opportunities to perform individually.

Steve Kindler performed well, especially in some The frenetic tenor, alto and lightning-fast duets with soprano sax stylings of Green and Tubbs followed McLaugh-McLaughlin. Violinist Jean-Luc Ponty was absent; he lin through interludes between was billed by a promotional improvised solo guitar stretches and the sudden un-The group moved through a expected entrances of the full

Orchestra.

McLaughlin played a solo with a variety of electronic devices modifying his sound. Armstrong performed a remarkable synthesized bass solo, and Walden was impressive in the obligatory drum solo.

This part of the show dragged slightly, as virreplaced the tuosity disciplined ensemble playing of the previous performance. McLaughlin grew repetitive in his devotion to speed above all else, and Armstrong's solo ended with an unnecessary

falsetto. The show was opened by Orleans, who started out well but lapsed into cliche after

the first few songs.

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. (AP) - An order denying Holy Communion to members of the National Organization of Women (NOW) and other pro-abortion groups has been criticized by a national Catholic lay organization.

In a letter to Bishop Leo Maher of San Diego, who ordered the ban on NOW members last week, Dr. Joseph Skehan, president of the National Association of Laity (NAL) said yesterday, "The decree will only con-tinue to divide the people of God."

Skehan asked Bishop Maher to rescind the order.

In a telephone interview from his home here, Skehan said it appeared Bishop Maher was battling an evil he thinks exists in the church.

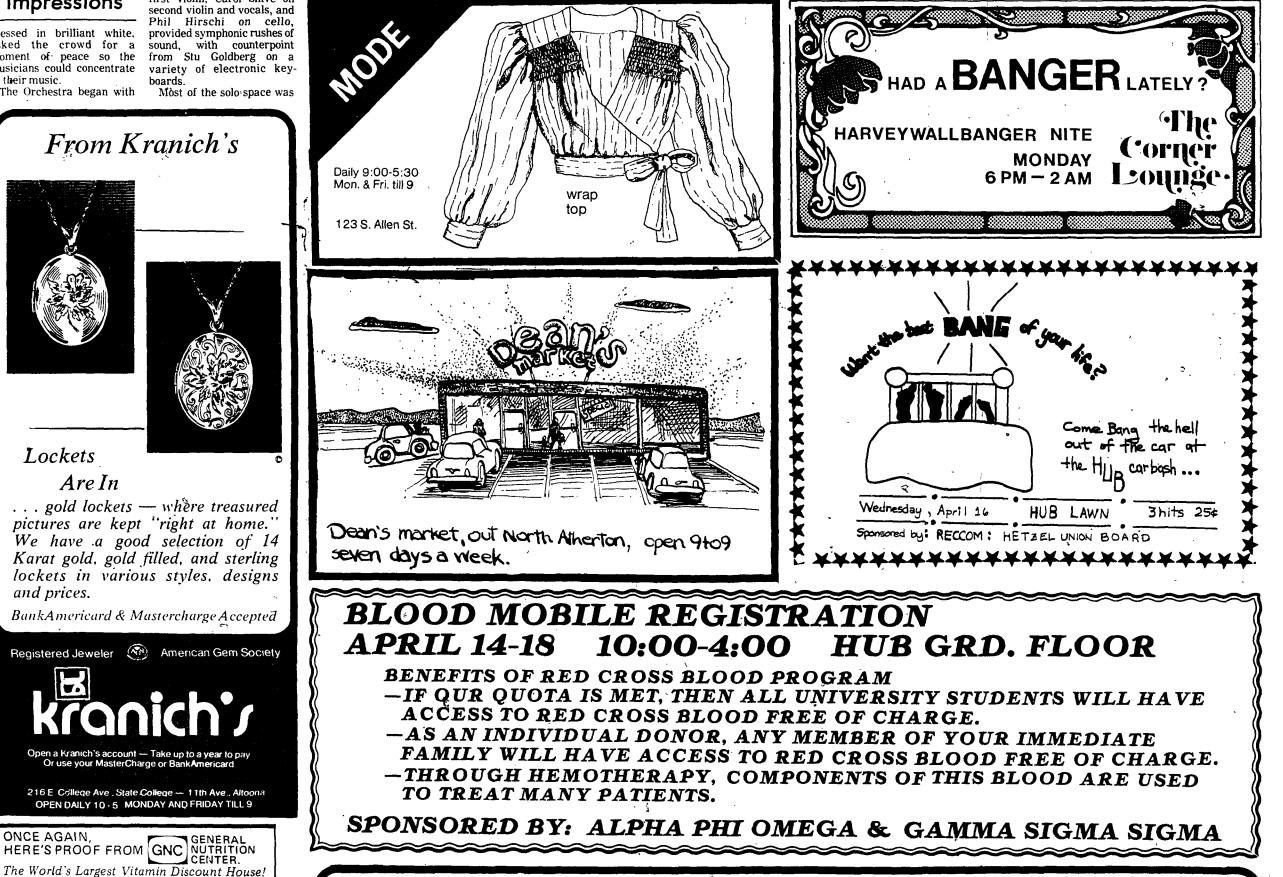
'The incredible thing is that he is hitting

our fight against sexism. He will drive more Catholics away from the church.

"There was a pastoral letter being read this morning in all churches in the San Diego diocese. I don't know if his order is permitted under canon law," Skehan said. "He is intervening in the will of people who do not want controls on abortion other than those issued by the Supreme Court."

In the letter Skehan told the bishop his decree "singled out for attack Catholics who are pro-abortion.'

He said the "layity has not yet reached a consensus about the conflicting right concerning abortion and neither have theologians. The decree therefore will appear to be arbitrary and an attempt to prejudge full, moral investigation of the abortion issue.



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