

1982 ends with some good and bad notes





It is man's nature to make lists. We all live by them in one form or another. Although I cannot even consider to hit everything that has happened in music in the past year, I am concentrating my efforts on what I define as "mainstream," what you would usually hear on a rock or pop radio station and what would also have the potential to hit "the charts."

By RON YEANY **Collegian Staff Writer**

t has been a good year for many new artists and a bad year for some established acts. We saw some new figures come, and some other figures pass away. But whatever 1982 could be called, it certainly won't be "boring."

This past, year saw new and big acts such as Asia. Men At Work. Stray Cats and Aldo Nova hit it big. while such older acts as Queen, Heart, and REO Speedwagon found the going unusually tougher.

The industry saw the loss of some of it's important members. such as John Belushi, who had taken his Saturday Night Live act with Dan Akroyd, The Blues Brothers, to a Number 1 album with platinum status. 1982 also saw the passing of Neil Bogart, one of the industry's most influential members and the president and founder of Boardwalk Records. Also, James Honeyman Scott, a great guitarist from the The Pretenders, met an untimely death.

Many awards were also handed down, the most prestigious of which were the Grammys, swept this year by Quincy Jones who walked away with five awards, including the producer of the year. The Grammys also awarded (posthumously) the Album of the Year award to the late ex-Beatle John Lennon. I've dissected the year, week by

week, and have come up with my own list of what can be considered the best and worst output of the year by artists in the recording industry. Some of us absolutely hate a song when we hear it, others may love a song. And this year saw many of both pass. Remember, though, the criteria for a good song is its musical and lyrical excellence, not necessarilv its popularity. Without further ado, here are my ten worst songs of the year:

1. "Body Language" - Queen Insignificant twiddle! I've said it before and I'll say it again. This is cash in on Olivia Newton-John's 'Physical'' craze, but if I ever hear this one again . . .

2. "Pac-Man' Fever" — Buckner and Garcia This is enough to drive a person to Donkey Kong. And the trouble is, it was actually a million-seller and certified gold which resulted in an appearance on Solid Gold. Gobble, zobble, gobble.

3. "Muscles" — Diana Ross This is another rip-off on the 'Physical'' craze, a sort of "ladies' " version. This song is anti-

climatic and, well, horrid. 4. "Valley Girl"-- Frank Moon Zappa

This one is cute the first time you hear it, but gets on your nerves more and more. What else can I say, it was a nice attempt at social commentary that didn't work. Oh, gag me with a spoon. 5. "Jack and Diane" — John Cou-

This one is still a cheap imitation of a Springsteen-esque teenage love song, no matter how popular it was or how long it stayed at Number 1. 6. "On The Way To The Sky" ---

Neil Diamond How about "saccharin" to describe this lackluster and bland tune that is more likely "on the way to the garbage.'

7. "Baby Makes Her Blue Jeans Talk" - Dr. Hook Just think what a baby would do in

a pair of blue jeans and that's about as tasteful as this song gets. 8. "Always On My Mind" -- Willie

Nelson's voice is about as smooth as sandpaper, and as much as this song has haunted me, it will be never on my mind.

9. "Take Me Down" — Alabama This is another refrain that makes me cringe when I hear it. Alabama has done some good material before, but this is so outright repetitive it has become infamous.

10. "I've Never Been To Me" Charlene

But she's obviously been everywhere else. Someone should give her a ring and tell her about some good old morals and such.



music industry, Americans were still treated to a good share of wellproduced songs and albums hroughout 1982. Exceptionally fine releases by The Who (above left), Soft Cell (left) and Billy Joel (above) top the list of the year's most orthwhile music.

ut 1982 also saw many very good songs, and here they

as a single and didn't pick up much airplay until early this year. Why it didn't sell so well is anybody's guess, but Phil Collins and the rest of Genesis cre-

so fresh and unique it defies descrip- da'' ladies. tion. The best of the year. 2. "Slit Skirts" - Pete Townshend All of Townshend's output this year has been excellent with such cuts as "Athena" and "Emminence Front" from the Who's It's Hard lp.

"Slit Skirts," from his solo outing. seems to be a culmination of this past year's work, with a knowledge and perspective only Pete Townshend could shed. 3. "Goodnight Saigon"

What will undoubtedly be known only one of the songs that tried to' as the best and most striking rock over again. Rogers should stick to music epilogue to the Vietnam era, this song from The Nylon Curtain is probably Joel's best song ever. Joel captures the feeling and describes it picket fence. to those who were so fortunate not to have witnessed it.

4. "Industrial Disease" Strait commentary reigned in Social many excellent songs this year, and this fine specimen from Love Over

well as lyrically near-perfect. 5. "Tainted Love/Where Did Our Love Go" — Soft Cell This dance favorite tied Bill Haley's "Rock Around The Clock" for

major imput for the British wave in American music. 6. "Steppin' Out" — Joe Jackson

From the "night" side of Jackson's Night and Day lp, this tune is probably his best since his Look Sharp days and presents a softer side of the nightlife. One can almost see the smoky barroom and sultry waitresses running around in black skirts with white aprons. 7. "Don't You Want Me" - The

Human League Another dance favorite, this cut from Dare represents a major step forward for synthesizer pop, a fresh

and growing trend with as-yet unreached potential. 8. "Down Under" — Men At Work This tune became the anthem of Australia, and is fast-climbing the Américan charts. This follow-up to the Number 1, "Who Can It Be Now?" is the best Australia has to offer, which is nothing to scoff at. 9. "Shock The Monkey" — Peter

Gabriel Gabriel's earlier solo hit, "Games Without Frontiers" didn't receive the recognition it deserved, but this should compensate. A sparkler from his Geffen debut Security, this will seat the founder of Genesis as a fine songwriter of today.

10. "Heavy Metal" — Sammy Ha-From his Standing Hampton lp and also from the soundtrack to the movie of the same name, this song is energetic and immediate with some

of the year's best guitar playing.

Journey's "Open Arms"; Hall and written effort that's bleak and bor- ever. Expect big things in the future 'Maneater''; Adam Ant's Oates "Goody Two Shoes"; Squeeze's "Black Coffee In Bed"; Asia's "Wildest Dreams"; and Paul Mc-

Catney's "Wanderlust". The past year also saw the return of Toto to substantial sales with its big hit "Rosanna" and Foreigner also saw its biggest hit, "Waiting For A Girl Like You," spend more than two months at Number 2. Meanwhile, Olivia Newton-John's "Physical" held the top spot for 10 weeks, tying an all-time record.

lbum sales were down in 1982 because of a floundering economy and material that seemed to be suffering from an incurable disease, leaving summer album sales far below the usual mark. The worst albums of the year are

as follows: 1. HOT SPACE - Queen The long-awaited follow-up to the

smash The Game had but one saving grace, the "Under Pressure" duet with David Bowie, though it was also contained on a previous Greatest Hits package. A significant step backwards for Freddie Mercury and crew, it will take more than "a night at the opera" to save face for this

2. GOOD Speedwagon Hi Infidelity was 1981's biggest-

seller because it charmed the nation with the band's tried and true formula of good time rock that was snowballing in popularity. Good Trouble reverted to a mediocre love song so. While not so heavy, this album formula that proved to be the year's biggest disappointment 3. SILK ELECTRIC — Diana Ross

Ross has had a considerable amount of material out recently, but it has steadily gone downhill, begin- and made his first critically acning with "Endless Love" and fi- claimed album. Though his others nally (and hopefully) ending with this narched and stale effort.

4. PRIVATE AUDITION - Heart Heart has hinted at R & B before. but an entire concept album of mellow blues and so-so tunes just ated a real gem with this one, a song - doesn't cut it. Bring back "Barracu-

> 5. SUCCESS HASN'T SPOILED ME YET - Rick Springfield Oh Rick, but it has. Springfield promised a lot with Working Class Dog, but fell into a teeny-pop idiom with this blatently elementary album aimed at sixth-grade girls who buy Teen Beat magazine.

6. LOVE WLL TURN YOU AROUND - Kenny Rogers It was good for a while, ending with "Lady." Now it's just plain boring. Rogers has done nothing but mine the same old vein over and his country roots or jump into the pop mainstream because nice things don't happen to guys sitting on a

7. STILL LIFE - Rolling Stones You might get some argument if you say that the Stones are the greatest rock and roll band, but they



along the way. But it's still a welling, making a statement that should be heard, but a statement that's hard to listen to.

> 9. DIVER DOWN --- Van Halen Originality is a must, but Van Halen has gone downhill since the first two albums, and with mediocre. tunes including not-so-hot remakes, the diver here is down and almost

out of air. 10. LIONEL RITCHIE - Lionel Ritchie Ritchie has been a big part of

years, including "Sail On," "Still" and "Three Times A Lady," but this solo outing is blah where it should be beautiful and placid where it should be passionate D ut, never to fear. A few albums saved the year. Some stood out as gems and some

proved to be very strong offerings. The best albums of the year are: 1. TUG OF WAR - Paul McCart-

nifica as "Coming Up," this former Beatle surprised all by releasing this pop-rock masterpiece that, although it has no stand-out cuts, shows a musical and lyrical diversity missing all-too-often in music of today. Nothing this year has compared in the substance and form of an album to Tug of War. 2. STANDING HAMPTON - Sam-

my Hagar Heavy Metal enthusiasts jumped at this latest offering from one of today's premiere artists, and rightly flows from cut to cut with the precision of a finely tuned machine.

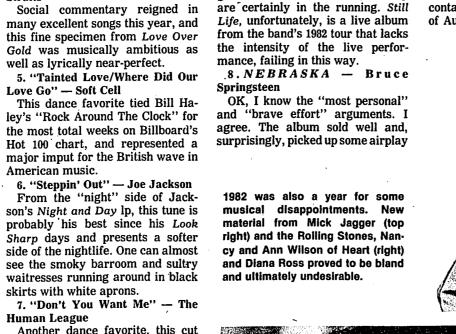
3. THE NYLON CURTAIN - Billy Joel The "tough-guy" kid has grown up have been commercially successful. this album shows a maturity and a knowledge of issues that his previous albums have lacked. Not only

did the audience stand and applaud this time, so did the critics. 4. ALL THE BEST COWBOYS HAVE CHINESE EYES - Pete Townshend The creative genius behind The Who has now done it solo. His followup to the lukewarm Empty Glass is probably one of the most well-writ-

ten albums of the year, showing the pain and experience of growing up and realizing so. 5. LOVE OVER GOLD - Dire

The art of music stands out in this ambitious effort by one of the most creative bands of today. As usual, the guitar style of Mark Knopfler stands out as distinctive, and as "Sultans of Swing" hinted at four years ago, Dire Straits can seem to

do nothing wrong. 6. BUSINESS AS USUAL - Men At Work Australia's biggest act of 1981 finally hit it big in the States, and deservedly so. Business As Usual contains the best of all the elements of Australian rock and Colin Hay's



Monday, Dec. 20

7. NIGHT AND DAY - Joe Jack-

Night and Day takes a sometimes

bright, sometimes bleak look at city

life. This turns into a concept album

in the finest sense, not outrightly so

but it makes its intended statement

while tackling some of society's bur-

With the experience behind this

The Who wrapped up its touring

career in promotion of this album,

the band's strongest in years.

Enough can't be said for the output

of Pete Townshend this year, who

may have reached his peak with The

Who and outgrown the restraints of

10. GET CLOSER - Linda Rons-

Ronstadt's vocals, obviously, have

been enhanced by her "Pirates of

Penzance" stay on Broadway, and

Get Closer is a diverse and vital

outing for her, putting her back into

Honorable mentions include: Gen-

esis' Three Sides Live, ; Elton John's

Jump Up; Stray Cats' Built For

Speed; Elvis Costello's Imperial

Bedroom; Squeeze's Sweets From A

Stranger; and The Clash's Combat

1983 promises to be a banner year

for with the advent of video and such

stations as MTV, the music business

is taking leaps and bounds. New

products from Christopher Cross

and Boston are expected during the

first part of the year to start the ball

rolling, as the industry needs an

That about wraps up 1982. Happy

Holidays, and keep on rockin'.

contention as music's First Lady.

9. IT'S HARD - The Who



from these Men.

ning questions

the band.

Rock.

8. ASIA — Asia

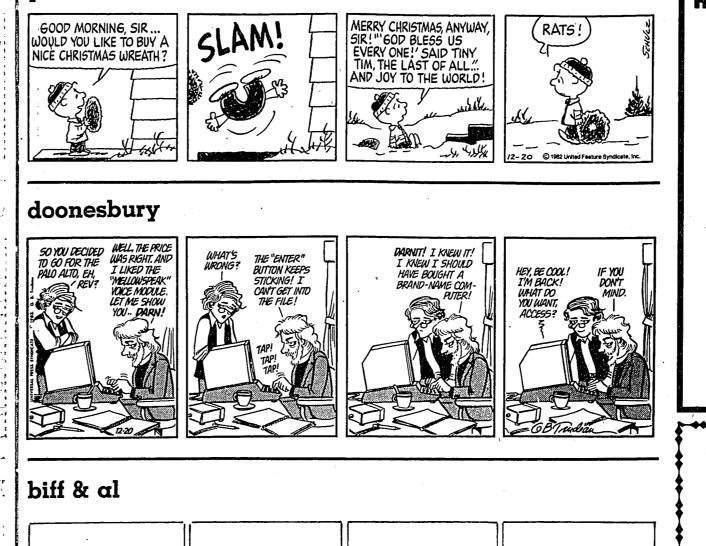
band, how could they miss? This is some of the best love songs in recent the year's biggest-seller, and Asia's debut has blasted them into the ranks of Boston, The Cars and Foreigner - immediately accessible and an instant success

What can I say? After such insig-

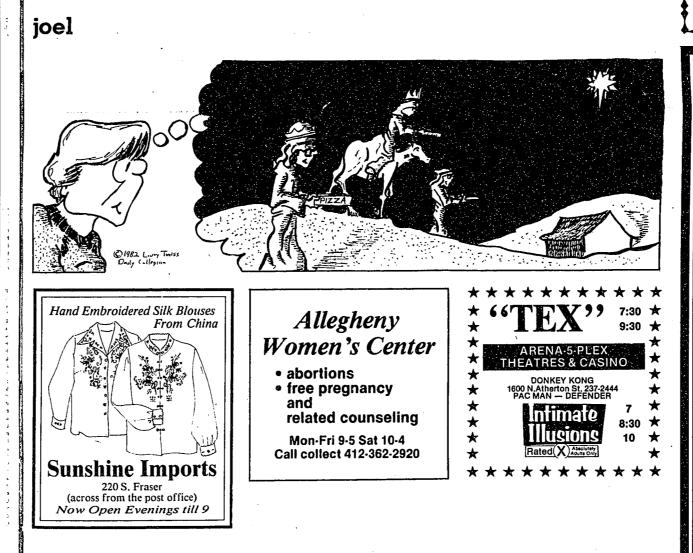


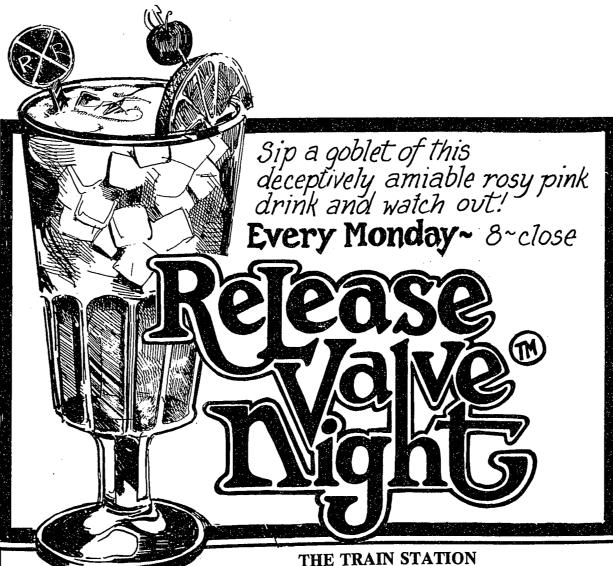
12 Comics, etc.-

peanuts









JUNCTION OF COLLEGE & GARNER

