

Blood on the Tracks

By Olga Cyhanenko
from the Ryersonian

People listen to Bob Dylan's records for the same reason they go to hear a poet read his own poetry - they hope to hear him spill his guts.

Dylan's latest release, *Blood On The Tracks*, is made for the connoisseur of gore.

Half singing, half talking Dylan starts the album with *Tangled Up In Blue*, a fast-paced song devoted to recalling the bitterness of being kicked in the teeth by love. The monotonous beat of the song never changes and it ends with what has become Dylan's trademark - a madly writhing harmonica soliloquy.

The beat slows down for *Simple Twist of Fate*. Buddy Cages's steel guitar work becomes a little more noticeable while Dylan drops all pretense of singing and just talks out this sad song of a man who loses the woman he loves by 'a simple twist of fate'.

Bitterness turns to pain in *You're a Big Girl Now*. As he forces his voice up into an offkey wail you can almost feel the pain this man is singing about when he comes to the words:

"The pain of being apart,
is like a corkscrew through
my heart."

Out of context those words may sound trivial, but there is no mistaking the deep emotion they represent in this song.

Cage does some interesting guitar picking in this song. However, he realizes his playing is secondhand to the words and keeps a low profile while Dylan is singing.

The first sign of some fine organ playing by Paul Griffin

Famed guest

Zoltan Szekely, renowned Hungarian violinist, and cellist Cheryl Melott will join the University of Alberta String Quartet to play for Edmonton Chamber Music Society members.

Mr. Szekely, former first violinist with the Hungarian String Quartet, has played here a number of times and returned



to Edmonton last spring to play for CBC with the Edmonton Symphony.

The University String Quartet will open the concert Wednesday night with a performance of Beethoven's Quartet No. 15, which will be followed by Brahms's Sextet in G, Op. 36.

The concert will occur March 26 in Convocation Hall at 8:30.

appears in *Idiot Wind*, the most vehement protest song on this album.

But again, the music is secondary to the words of the song. Having Dylan sing, as his hit single *Lay Lady Lay* proved he could, or augmenting the musical line with a big back-up would only cloud the message.

In this song, Dylan above all, would like us to realize that our modern technological society is packaging the soul out of the fragile human spirit.

"Idiot wind blowing every time you move your teeth,

It's a wonder you still know how to breathe."

Idiot wind blowing through the dust upon our shelves,

It's a wonder we can even feed ourselves."

If You See Her Say Hello, is a slow and deeply moving ballad. It's also the closest Dylan ever gets to singing on this album.

Cage leads into the song with a melodic steel string introduction. Then Dylan takes over and Cage drifts into the background. It's a simple love song about a man who fell in love, the woman who left him and lingering love.

"If you see her,
Say hello.
She might be in Tangiers,
If you're makin' love to her,
Kiss her for the kid.
Who always respected her,
for doin' what she did..."

How much more simple it is to get the message across when the words are half-spoken and the music is kept simple!

This may also be the reasoning behind keeping the beat simple and regular to the point of being monotonous. The only variation between one song on this album and another is the speed. Some are slow and others are fast, but there are no inner variations in tempo.

Dylan keeps his experiments to words. His songs are exercises in imagery and symbolism - "She took my crown of thorns and gave me shelter from the storm." The line, taken from *Shelter From The Storm*, is poetry.

But Dylan has found that poetry sells better when it is put to music.

Buckets of Rain appears to be a suitable ending for this collection of sad, cynical and bitter songs. It is his last word on love, friends and life:

"Life is sad.
Life is a bust.
All you can do
is do what you must.
You do what you must
and you do it well.
I do it for you
honey, baby can't you tell?"

We'll have to wait until these songs are recorded by other artists to hear how they sound as music. Until then we'll listen to the words - straight from the poet's mouth.

rock notes

...Ringo turns down \$3 million

Ringo Starr reportedly has turned down a \$3-million guarantee to become the second ex-Beatle to do a cross-country concert tour of the U.S. "The reason is that Ringo didn't want a lengthy tour to interfere with his efforts to build his film career."

Ringo, who is studying acting at the Actor's Theatre in New York, is very serious about his movie career. He's making plans to set up his own independent movie production companies in Hollywood and London, and he's reportedly buying several movie scripts, which he would produce and star in himself. Ringo's latest film, "That'll Be The Day", brought him rave reviews. Ringo also has starred in such films as "The Magic Christian," "Candy", and "200 Motels" - in addition to the Beatles' movies.

David Bowie

RCA is rushing releasing David Bowie's ninth album, "Young Americans," this week. The rhythm 'n blues flavored album wasn't due out for several more weeks, but advance requests from radio stations and record dealers easily convinced the label to release it pronto. The album features a longer version of the "Young Americans" single as well as a couple of tunes with John Lennon.

Muddy Waters blues

At 59, ex-cotton chopper and blues great Muddy Waters is finally beginning to reap the monetary benefits of his lifelong love affair with music. Reports *People* magazine,

"After growing up on a plantation in Mississippi and toughing out three decades in Chicago's South Side ghetto, Waters and his extended family of four children, one daughter-in-law, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild have moved to a house in suburban Westmount. It is complete with aluminum siding, three-car garage, and swimming pool. Waters celebrates every day by gargling back two or three \$11.95 bottles of Piper-Heidsieck brut champagne."

Bette Midler

Bette Midler's upcoming "Clams on the Half Shell Revue" has broken the all-time Broadway box-office record for one-day ticket sales. The Minskoff Theatre on New York's Broadway took in \$200,000 the first day seats went on sale for Midler's four-week engagement. The revue opens April 14. Interestingly, Bette broke her own record which she set at the Palace Theatre in December, 1973. That time, she sold \$160,000 worth of tickets in a day, beating the previous record held by "Fiddler on the Roof."

Paul Simon

Paul Simon was paid \$50,000 for his contribution to the music for Warren Beatty's new flick, "Shampoo." And, according to the upcoming edition of *Rolling Stone*, Paul's sole contribution was humming an approximately two-minute tune. That figures out to a salary of \$416.66 per second.

Burchill at the Hovel

"Hurray for the farmer
The aching backbone of the country.

He's got more things to fix
And less to fix it with than anybody."

The songs of Bob Burchill



are familiar to all who have heard Perth County Conspiracy on record or live. His song "Black Creek", Perth County's newest single, has had more airplay than most well-known

The Broken Globe

Reader's Theatre presents *The Broken Globe* Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22. *The Broken Globe* was originally a short story written by university academic Vice-President Henry Kreisel, which has been adapted by Fine Arts student Frank Moher.

Henry Kreisel has published two novels, *The Rich Man* and *The Beytrayal*. *The Broken Globe* has been published in numerous short story anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories 1966*.

Frank Moher is a playwriting student in the

Canadian artists.

Having lived in the country around Stratford, Ontario for most of his life, he is well-suited to sing about the ups and downs of the Canadian farmer. His music is sweet and restrained. No heavy decibels; the melodies flow together and hang in the air. The group is essentially vocal, words are important and only complemented by acoustic guitars and base.

This is Bob's first time out west without the conspiracy. He will be playing March 21-23, 9:00 p.m. at the Hovel.

Indian art

Carnibal bird mask ... eagle woman mask ... killer-whale headdress ... these intriguing items are part of an exhibition in Edmonton of carvings, jewelry, totem poles, baskets and masks from the West Coast.

"The Legacy: Contemporary British Columbia Indian Art" just opened at the Provincial Museum of Alberta, and features works by native artists. Early craftsmen in tribes of the North Pacific coast left a legacy of skills and symbols which the modern Indian artists has used to produce works of innovative, vibrant and exceptional quality.

The exhibition is open daily from March 15 - April 30.

Drama Department. His play *Pause* was recently produced by the Walterdale Theatre Associates.

The production will be performed at 8:15 in room 3-121 Fine Arts. There will be a matinee Saturday at 2:15. Admission to all performances is free.

Art exhibits

An exhibition of recent prairie painting by Bruce O'Neil, a young Canadian artist, is being shown at the Art Gallery March 23 - April 18. O'Neil's works are characterized by loose brush work, subdued and disturbing color relationships and simplified imagery, all of which evoke the prairies in unsettling ways.

Also at the Art Gallery is a series of informal concerts featuring both jazz and classical music. A recorder quartet will play March 20 and a jazz recital will take place March 22. All concerts are provided free of charge.

position where you have to keep topping yourself. How is Keity Emerson going to top his spinning piano act?"

Margaret Trudeau Karsh

Margret Trudeau, spouse to Canada's prime minister, Pierre, will shoot the cover photo for Canadian hit-maker Andy Kim's next album.

Pink Floyd

Pink Floyd will begin a West Coast tour on April 8 in Vancouver. They will follow it up with a cross-country American tour in June about the time their first album for Columbia is released.

Caribou Ranch

The asking price for the now-famous Caribou ranch and recording studios is \$3.5 million. The price reportedly has doubled since Jim Guercio first took over the 3,000-acre ranch and renovated it into one of the world's most popular and scenic recording spots. Guercio reportedly has pumped some \$1-million in improvements into the ranch to lure such artists as Elton John, Chicago, and the Beach Boys into recording there. Now, Guercio wants to sell the ranch, and all you need to buy it is three-and-a-half million smackers.

Ian Anderson

In an interview with *Cash Box* magazine, Ian Anderson, leader of Jethro Tull, says, "I'd be flattered if any of my songs were still being played 100 years from now. That would be ultimate success." Tull will have a greatest hits album released within the next two months on Chrysalis Records.

Bob Welch

Bob Welch, vocalist and guitar man for Fleetwood Mac, thinks that all the gimmickry used on concert stages lately is getting out of hand. Comments the Mac member: "We'd rather be in a position where the people come to hear the music rather than the visual thing. We don't want to get in that circus