Excalibur



**Green Bush Inn** Atkinson Dining Hall Thursdays & Fridays 4 pm to Midnight

Dancing and Entertainment on both nights

THURSDAY: The Four Studs FRIDAY: BARABAS

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## Armageddon Hair copy

### **By JOHN OUGHTON** Armageddon is presented by the

New Blue Orchid, which describes it as a "Gospel Rock Musical Revue". Tobi Lark, who appeared in the Toronto Hair, wrote and is starred in the revue. The other seven members of the cast are all former members of Toronto Hair. When the original version opened, Hair had a lot of pretensions toward being a "Tribal Love-Rock Musical," the vanguard for "The Age of Aquarius,", and groovy nude heads or whatever the Broadway stereotype of a 1967 was. As a dramatic production, it had a weak story line and not much in the way of acting. However, Hair had some catchy songs and the music became immensely popular. And it made a good profit for its backers.

As a recent descendant, Armageddon carries on many of the irritating traits of its parent. Miss Lark an honest right to "gospel rock," as she has sung in a Gospel Group since age eight, with Cannonball Adderly and B.B. King.

Gospel roots are evident in much of the music of Armageddon. The fact that words are not as important in gospel is unfortunately



The cast of Armageddon tries hard.

reflected in the script of "armageddon", which is, in a word, disastrous.

Armageddon attempts to portray the creation of man, the Fall of (you guessed it) Adam and Eve, the straying of the people from God, accompanied by a genuine graven image, Christ's crucifixion and all that. Part II has a "modern orgy", a dig at Women's Lib, a few musical raps with Jesus, and then Armageddon. The show badly needs a little more directing than Tom O'Hanley gives it; in most of the scenes, including the Roman Orgy, the cast just stands around. All in all, the show tries to suggest too much and ends up by saying virtually nothing.

Musically, only the last quarter of the show really moves. "How Will You Know," written by Tobi Lark, is a powerful bit of rock and New Morning soul, and "Keeper to the Key of My Heart" keeps up the tempo. The band, which includes Gene Martynec (from Kensington Market) does very well with what it has to work with.

Dorian Clark contributes some flashy dancing, although he overextended himself in one movement during opening night and nearly fell over. Harriet Cohen steals what's left of the show with a couple of great comic bits as the Sugar Plum Fairy and a dollars for Jesus gospel saleswoman. Linda provides Squires seductive

Jezebel, and Lee has a good voice for "Two Thousand from Now." Tobi Lark's voice is great, when she lets it go. Despite its selling points, "Armageddon" isn't worth the \$3.85 cover price set by the Blue Orchid. Like Hair, it is over-priced and pretentious. The Blue Orchid, in any event, is not the place for a revue, as noise from the overhead bar is sometimes irritatingly audible, and the waiters make determined attempts to sell you drinks and meals and check your tickets three or four times. The program notes state that Tobi Lark "has turned to writing plays and the legitimate theatre." Hopefully, she will learn something about restriction of dramatic scope and script-writing form the excesses of Armageddon.

# a far cry

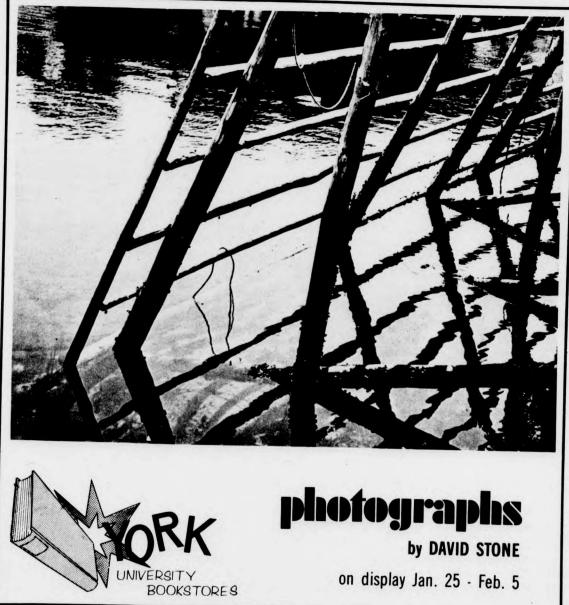
### By STEVE DAVEY

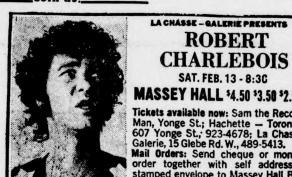
New Morning, Bob Dylan (Columbia) Sorry Ivan, Mr. Dylan-Jones is in as much trouble as everyone else. True, New Morning is a step above Self Portrait, but he's still a far cry from the "pretentions of Miss Lonely". I'll take Freewheelin' " any day.

Runt, Todd Rundgren (Ampex) Todd Rundgren used to write-sing-

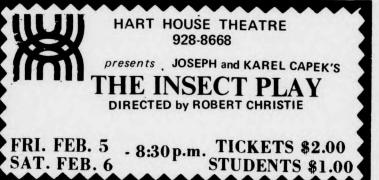
produce-arrange and play guitar for the greatest east coast rock band of the sixties, the Nazz, but for some reason after an excellent second L.P. (Nazz Nazzz, Atlantic) they broke up. The pride of Philadelphia, they only had one national hit with the schmaltzy "Hello It's Me" (remember that one, Kids?). Todd went on to produce and engineer many fine albums (including the Band's questionable Stage Fright) and began to organize a back-up band for Zappa's GTO's (Girls Together Outrageous), but this fell through. So, along with Tony and Hunt Sales (yes, Soupy's Kids!) he cut an L.P. entitled **Runt**. By now, you've all heard "We've Got To Get You A Woman" but that's not really what Todd Rundgren is all about. At times he is overly influenced by Laura Nyro ("Baby Let's Swing"), but he, as nearly everybody else, is at his best playing rock, such as "Devil's Rite". It almost sounds like the old Nazz, and perhaps that is the greatest flaw in this remarkable recording. The Nazz, with Todd's new material could have made this L.P. into a classic, but instead it's just a sounds like Laura Nyro, . . . Captain Beefheart. . . Nazz. . . the Band. . .

**Renaissance** '71 is opening on Feb. 5, not Feb 14 as in the Jan. 28 EXCALIBUR





## ROBERT **CHARLEBOIS** SAT. FEB. 13 - 8:30 MASSEY HALL \$4.50 \$3.50 \$2.50 Tickets available now: Sam the Record Man, Yonge St.; Hachette — Toronto, 607 Yonge St.; 923-4678; La Chasse Galerie, 15 Glebe Rd. W., 489-5413. Mail Orders: Send cheque or money order together with self addressed stamped envelope to Massey Hall Box Office, 178 Victoria St., Toronto.



McLaughlin and Stong College Councils in co-operation with CYSF present

