

Moody Mitchell makes it again

Joni Mitchell *The Hissing of Summer Lawns*

Along with John Lennon, Joni Mitchell is one of the musicians accurately reflecting the changes in mood and feelings that have occurred in the Seventies. Her career peaked

in 1970 with the album *Blue*, which ranks in this reviewer's books as one of the all-time greats of North American folk. The album captured the essence of the time-period:

culminating with the brilliant *The Last Time I Saw Richard*, the second side especially is a musical time-capsule and though dated in many respects has a meaning that is timeless.

Things got definitely worse for Joni, however. Switching to the Asylum label, Joni did the comparatively mediocre *For the Roses*, followed, of course, by the successful *Court and Spark*.

The changes in music on *Court and Spark* are so obvious and numerous that they needn't be discussed here, but it is important to note that the album established Joni Mitchell as a major artist, major artist of the Seventies, rather than a mere leftover from the Sixties. The album was considered rather a sellout by some (myself included)

and a brilliant achievement by others. Despite any opinion, it was a disappointment that the same person who wrote such classics as *Both Sides Now*, *Chelsea Morning*, *The Circle*

Game, and *A Case of You*, could write something as mundane and unoriginal as *People's Parties*. Mitchell fans were left hanging in the air, waiting for the next album.

The next studio album is the current release, *The Hissing of Summer Lawns*, which became

available during the Christmas holidays.

On this album, Joni has written in a style of social awareness, almost cosmic in scope. Rather than personal lyrics, the words on *Summer Lawns* are strangely detached, with a slight suggestion of the occult. The title track especially, when one stops to think about it, is sublimely bizarre: "She could see the blue pools in the squinting sun, and hear the hissing of summer lawns..." Or, in *Edith and the Kingpin*, "The passed-over girls are conferring. The Man with the diamond ring is purring. All claws for now withdrawn. One by one they bring His renegade stories to her. His crimes and glories to her...He tilts their tired faces gently to the spoon."

Musically, the album is more laid-back than *Court and Spark*, with the odd exception. There is excessive instrumentation on several songs though,

such as *Edith* which has electric piano and guitar, acoustic guitar, bass, drums, trumpet, sax and flute, all in one song.

Elements of the old Joni remain. Brilliantly, she still talk/sings quickly, punching the right words, and rushing her vocals for perfect effect. Unlike *Court and Spark*, (thankfully) we can't hear almost every breath that Joni takes, in 360 stereophonic reproduction.

The low point of the album is *The Jungle Line*, where a moog synthesizer and the warrior drums of Burundi (!!!), are used to create a terrible jungle effect. Miserable.

Joni's inherent musicianship is lessened by excessive and overbearing instruments and her lyrics no longer hit home. Only her singing remains as a link to the past.

After all, have you ever heard the hissing of summer lawns?

Gordon Turtle

Squirmies are edible?

LOS ANGELES (ENS-CUP) - Here's your big chance to win \$500 for doing nothing more than submitting your favorite recipe ver de terre - or, as Americans are prone to call it, earthworms.

A California company that raises worms for bait is offering the prize in a worldwide search

for recipes that require earthworms. Ronald Gaddie, of the North American Bait Farms, says the contest is meant to stimulate interest and appreciation in the agriculture contributions of earthworms, as well as to focus attention on them as sources of food for humans.

Student Loan Appeals

Did you receive enough money from the Student Finance Board to continue your education this year?

If you feel that you face hardship or may be forced to discontinue your education, appeals can be made. All students have a right of appeal to the appeals committee. The Student Finance Board is located in the Devonian Building, 11160 Jasper Ave. (Phone 427-2740).

For further information contact Brian Mason, Executive Vice-president in the Students' Union offices, 2nd floor SUB (phone 432-4236).

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Understanding volunteers. Volunteers who are open-minded, who are prepared to put their time to work in a different, but not so different, environment.

We're looking for volunteers for the Alberta Hospital, Edmonton. A 'mental hospital': one wholly concerned with work in the field of mental health.

We need volunteers to work in a variety of hospital programs, with a variety of people. As a volunteer, you could become part of an essential effort to help people who need a special kind of help. You may have had similar experience in the past - or you may be a student of the social or helping sciences now. But experience is not necessary, as you will be given a full orientation.

Please call Dianne Moir, volunteer co-ordinator at Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, for more information. Her number is 973-3361, ext. 257.

Transportation is arranged for volunteers at the hospital, which is just outside Edmonton's northeastern city limit.

Alberta
SOCIAL SERVICES
AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

ATTENTION

All Jewish Students

B'nai B'rith Hillel

will sponsor

a cabaret

at the

Hillcrest Country

Club

156 St. & 72 Ave.

on

January 17, 8:30 p.m.

Admission

\$2.00