

# Turn of the Cards—better Yardbird product

When the once-revered Yardbirds broke up, guitarists Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page went off to become "British Blues" guitarists, (hah-hah). The result is *461 Ocean Boulevard* and Led Zeppelin: dismal failures both. However, other Yardbirds went on to bigger and better things; the formation of Renaissance.

*Turn of the Cards* is the group's fourth album, and although none of the ex-Yardbirds remains, the lineup for Renaissance is one of the most balanced and talented that I can think of. It might seem strange that Renaissance's music is the exact opposite of the Yardbirds, but to me, that can only mean they are better.

*Prologue*, their second album introduced pianist John Tout and vocalist Annie Haslam. Tout is incredibly talented, and was a welcome relief for piano lovers after suffering through the plugged in, and trendy sounds of Rick Wakeman and the cutesy-pie antics of my pet hate, Elton John. *Prologue* opened with Tout's brilliant piano and closed with the voice of Annie Haslam, who is undoubtedly THE BEST rock vocalist, dead or alive.

Rolling Stone reviewer, Gord Fletcher, put it best, when he said, "Annie Haslam is an amazing vocalist, with an unusually high range and a comprehension of emotive manipulation which is awesome." No number of compliments can do justice to Ann, for her singing is one of the few reasons that some rock music will probably be listened to in a hundred years.

However, vocals to not the rock group make, and since *Prologue* Renaissance has proven itself to be a group with rare musical appreciation and understanding. Succeeding *Prologue* was the album *Ashes are Burning*, which heralded the return of guitarist Michael Dunford. Although Dunford plays only acoustic rhythm guitar, he is the one who composes almost all of the music the band plays. The lyrics, however, are written by British recluse poet Betty Thatcher, who communicated with Dunford only through the marvels of the British postal system. A strange way to write songs, but obviously highly successful.

Anyway, *Ashes Are Burning* is my choice for best album of 1973. Never had I heard such complex arrangements on a rock album before. The album was complete with the traditional Renaissance touches of genius - sudden changes in timing, haunting harmonies, well-developed and logically progressive instrumentals, and clear, precise production by Dick Plant. It was obvious that Renaissance was becoming what is sometimes called a "classical rock" band, which is suiting for their talents.

Now, I must digress once more. To many people, classical-rock consists of orchestral arrangements behind a guitar or piano or organ or something; therefore the abysmally pretentious efforts of groups like Procol Harum and the Moody Blahs are considered classical-rock. Renaissance is more suiting to my idea of what

classical rock is -- music that possesses classical patterns and characteristics. Those of you who are interested in classical-rock are strongly urged to listen to Renaissance, and notice the difference between quality and corruption in style.

The group's most recent album, and the one I am supposed to be discussing, is only different from *Ashes are Burning* in that it improves on the techniques used. *Turn of the Cards* fully incorporates a symphony orchestra, and, unlike other so-called classical-rock groups, Renaissance doesn't just dub in a few violins as background filler.

The album opens with *Running Hard*, a patent

Renaissance style of song, and like previous album-openers, begins with a prolonged and excellent piano solo by Tout. The vocals are absolutely incomparable, and add a depth to the song that separates Renaissance from the mundane rock they are forced to compete with in the market.

The first side closes with *Things I Don't Understand* and, when one compares the vocals in this song with those in *Running Hard* one can see the incredibly wide range that Annie Haslam possesses.

The second side of this album is different in mood from the first; the lyrics are haunting and macabre, and the arrangements of the music are

tight and balanced, creating a sinister and dark atmosphere for the listener. *Mother Russia* which I consider Renaissance's *magnum opus*, ends the album on a strong note and firmly establishes my belief that Annie Haslam is without rival.

My only complaint with the album is Terry Camp's bass guitar. Through no apparent fault of Camp, his bass guitar sounds like it's coming out of a Woolco Special amplifier; which ruins the subtlety that bass-playing should achieve.

All told though, Renaissance is a treat to weary ears, and every time I play *Turn of the Cards* I feel like standing up and applauding.

Gordon Turtle

## Study Hard



EXAM WEEK  
October 21-25

## Paying for College

Middletown, Conn. (I.P.)-Findings of the major study on "Paying for College", released by nine of the U.S.'s leading private colleges and universities, emphasize the growing and necessary reliance on loans if students and their families are to be able to finance the rising costs of private higher education.

The nine institutions which cooperated in the study: Wellesley, Mount Holyoke, Dartmouth, Amherst, Brown, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton, and Wellesley.

The product of two years of study sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the report of the study group highlights a new idea in loan programs -- supplemental loans to graduates who incur difficulty making their basic Guaranteed Student Loan Program payments under the federal government.

The purpose of such a program, the report, released by Richard W. Greene, Vice President of Wesleyan and Chairman of the Policy Committee, states "is not intended to accommodate borrowers who, because of their life style or because they have assigned repayment to low priority, find it difficult to meet

their student loan obligations."

As proposed, supplemental loans, which would be unsecured notes of the institution, would enable graduates to stretch out GSLP repayments during such difficult periods without going into default.

## A better mouse trap

Wixom, Michigan (ENS) - Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that if you could build a better mouse trap the world would beat a path to your door. Well, a couple of brothers in Wixom, near Detroit, say they've done just that, and now they're waiting for the stampede.

Dennis and Robert Kaiser, both in their mid-twenties, have invented what they call the "House-a-Mouse" mouse trap. It looks like a little doghouse, about the size of a stick of butter, with a door at one end and a string at the other. To set the trap, you simply pull the string, which activates a spring device inside the trap. For bait, they say they've experimented with all kinds of goodies and found that the best mouse bait

of all is essence of vanilla.

Once the mouse has been lured in and killed, they say, "you don't have to touch the mouse, you don't have to see the mouse, you just pull the string again and the mouse is released into your trash can."

The brothers Kaiser say that over 30-million mouse traps are sold in the U.S. every year, and that the mouse population is on the rise. They note that over 5000 mouse trap patents have been applied for over the years, but they firmly believe that they've developed the "better" one. Now they're looking for the right manufacturer, marketer, salesman, distributor and retailers. Then they'll be ready for the world to come beating down their door.

S.U. RECORDS AND STUDENTS' UNION THEATRE PRESENT:

Self, Sun and Time by Bruce Cockburn

## Bruce Cockburn IN CONCERT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6  
9:00 P.M.

STUDENTS' UNION THEATRE, U.O.F.A.

TICKETS-\$3.00 STUDENTS, \$3.50 NON-STUDENTS  
S.U. RECORDS AND S.U.B. INFORMATION DESK

## STUDENT'S UNION IS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee is the responsibility of the Vice-President Services and advises him on such matters of concern as University socials, registration of University clubs, etc.

Applications can be obtained at 2nd floor SUB, room 256 and should be submitted to Jack Redekop, Vice-President Finance & Administration.

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