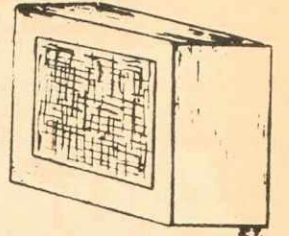


# DÉJÀ



# ENTENDU



Good news! Today we preview both Paul Simon's new solo LP and Neil Young's "Harvest" album!

**PAUL SIMON (COLUMBIA)**

Well, the split with Arthur Garfunkel has finally come. Too bad — as a pair of folk-rock singers, they were unmatched. It's especially bad after their final triumph, the "Bridge Over Troubled Water" set. But, I guess to end a career with a masterpiece is not the worst way to go. Like many other artists, Simon realized that he could go it alone and not have to divvy up the paycheck. Garfunkel, of course, provided at the very most only song harmony — Simon wrote all the songs, both lyrics and music, and did the lead singing on them. This LP will tell if he made the right decision — to go it alone.

We have an LP at Radio, "The Paul Simon Song Book" that had Paul singing Simon and Garfunkel songs alone. It sounded strange. This LP has all new songs, so they can't be compared to old familiar songs. They, like Paul, must stand on their own merit.

Well, the poetry is still there — double beginnings and all, it's not a disappointing album. It was recorded in New York, San Francisco, L.A., Paris, and Kingston, Jamaica — travelling so much is the price of fame. I don't think he enjoyed the trips; Simon sounds tired on the LP. This is emphasized by "Run that Body Down" and the beautiful "Duncan". Check the poetry:

Just later on the very same night

When I crept to her tent with a flashlight

And my long years of innocence ended

Well, she took me to the woods

Saying here comes something, and it feels so good

And just like a dog I was befriended, I was befriended.

Nice, eh? He never would have tried those type of lyrics

two years ago.

On acoustics guitar, Paul shines — no complaints about that. He uses it in a lot of songs, and covers many topics. I think you've heard his last single "Mother and Child Reunion" — it's a good selection. On Side 1, he also covers the drug scene in "Everything Put Together Falls Apart" and the government in "Armistice Day."

Side 2 is much like Side 1 — a great top 40 song starts it, and the rest of the side deals with themes again — peace, trust, and Detroit.

Yes, Detroit (another big city put-down like his New York City hatred).

Two songs are notable — the first "Hobo's Blues" is a joyous instrumental duet for violin and acoustic guitar. The second "Paranoia Blues" is an unusual number from Simon — it sounds like an old blues number, especially when the bottle-neck guitar comes in after each line. The drumming reminds me of that used by Lennon in his "Plastic — Ono Band" LP — heavy, basic bass drum only.

The final cut — "Congratulation" expresses a well-used thematic wish:

"I'm hungry for learning  
Don't you answer me please  
Can a man, a woman  
Live together in peace  
Good question."

It's about the most unsurprising thing on a different album for Simon. Nothing outlandish though — just a bit freer than before. It'll probably sell a million, but I'll sure miss old Artie — there was more variety and less pain with him along.

P.S. The Rolling Stone Review of this LP is very well done — I suggest you read it for a more expanded view of the album.

**NEIL YOUNG — "HARVEST" (REPRISE)**

Probably the most hotly awaited album of the year. Fact is, I love Neil Young's music — and this review is biased in that

way — so take it with a grain of salt.

Fact: There are ten cuts on this album.

Opinion: There are six exceptional cuts, three mediocre, and one is a crucifixion.

Fact: Neil plays with (on various cuts) The Stray Gators (5-man back-up group), the London Symphony Orchestra, James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt, David Crosby, Graham Nash and Stephen Stills.

Opinion: It looks as if Neil is diversifying and that can be both good and bad, especially when you consider the greatness of Crosby, Stills and Nash.

Well, enough of the fact/-opinion stuff. It's a good LP, but only two cuts are great.

There's no real continuity to this LP as there was in others. There's more poetry and themes to this one, though, and for those people who want that, it's good. I miss the rock, though. All the adjectives, "drifting, hypnotic, repetitious" are still applicable, but not as evident as in earlier LP's.

Side 1 starts off with two country-rock numbers that are better than the Byrds have ever done. I still don't like country though.

"Dream up, dream up, let me fill your cup, With the promise of man."

"A Man Needs A Maid" is one of those two great cuts done with the London Symphony Orchestra. It has both raw power and the delicacy to lift you off your seat and plant you on the floor.

You've heard "Heart of Gold" (the hit single), a good song. Check the Dylan-like harmonica.

"Are You Ready For The Country" asks a double-edged question I don't like. I hope he doesn't plan to go that route! The song doesn't strike me either.

"There's a World" is the crucifixion. Also with the orchestra, this cut has everything bad that made the other good. It's too thematic (Neil giving advice), and the orchestral strings are too perfect for Neil's voice so it comes out raucous.

You'll scream "No!" when you hear it.

"Alabama" sounds like classic Young. "Needle" explores the drug thing with a beautiful acoustic (voice is excellent) and "Words (Between the Lines of Age)" is the best cut on the album — an incredible masterpiece. It's also the longest cut on the LP at 6:42 — maybe Neil needs a long

time to show his genius.

Well, it's not his best yet (as RPM says) but it's worth buying if only for the two masterpieces. He's an unusual guy. He's happy singing songs so sad they'll make you cry, but you'll be happy listening through your tears.

Next week: Lightfoot's "Don Quixote" and "Bangla Desh" if nothing else new comes in.

## Gesundheit!

by Uncle Walt

Insanity may just be the reflection of an insane society.

— Dr. R. D. Laing

\* \* \*

Many years ago persons with emotional problems or unusual behaviour were considered to be possessed by demons. Exorcism was the cure.

Today a new myth has developed: the myth of mental illness.

Individuals who find it difficult or impossible to cope with this society on its own terms are labelled "sick". Along with this fictional illness go special medical doctors known as psychiatrists, special institutions called mental "hospitals", and special medication including tranquilizers and anti-depressants.

It is true that physiological changes accompany emotional stress and that pills can temporarily mask the problem, but — except in such cases as brain injury and tertiary syphilis — generally the problem is basically social and psychological rather than medical.

In most cases the so-called normal relatives living with the "patient" are every bit as messed up as the person being treated, although perhaps in different ways. These family members may exert intolerable pressures on that individual, sometimes of a sadistic or masochistic nature. Dr. R. D. Laing, a British existential psychiatrist, has written some excellent books on such topics as "Politics of the Family".

Dr. Laing objects to numbing the sufferer with sedatives, and prefers to let the person act through his or her "psychosis" in a warm, loving, understanding atmosphere. Accordingly, Dr. Laing has set up a residence where he lives with the people he is treating. This is indeed a far more humane and effective approach than locking people up in huge institutions.

Not only families put undue pressures on people. A great deal of the information each of us receives in our society is deceptive: half-truths and outright lies. Examples include advertising to sell, political rhetoric to convince us that we want to be governed (and taxed), and much of what passes as education.

The everyday lies which bombard us in the media, the classroom, the church, and even at home often become too much for some people. But this sensitivity is not an illness. Individuals with psychological problems are often very critical of deception, and get angry or upset at even the slightest politeness or sham. All of us should cultivate this insistence on truth. Perhaps then there would be fewer social problems and fewer psychological casualties.



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