



the Rankin Family COLLECTION

**Album:** Nice, light, and easy to absorb, the Atlantic Canadian band **booming airplanes** spin forth 12 tunes of traditional-flavoured pop/rock on their major label debut, *Yarn*. The group, all in their early 20s, have produced a work in which underlying meanings and messages aren't the focal point for this project; mellow-sounding tunes and heartening guitar chords are the true highlights to this album's progress. From the brisk upbeat single "Silver Lining" to the foreboding sounds of "Undone," the band produces music and lyrics that help them rise above the status of a mere bar band. With elements of The Skydiggers, The Grapes of Wrath and Sloan appearing throughout the album, the booming airplanes should fare well with fans of the genre.

**Album:** The Rankin Family, having totalled over 1.25 million sales in Canada over the past few years, have now reissued some of their songs most popular songs in the package, *Collection*. Presenting their award-winning classics like "Fare Thee Well Love" and "You Feel The Same Way Too," the Rankins also insert a remix of "Roving Gypsy Boy" and a live (and better) version of "Mull River Shuffle." Previously unreleased material include the Family's collaboration with The Chieftains on "Down by The Sally Gardens," and their semi-successful attempts at Gaelic verse on "Faillle-ill E." *Collection* is a good compilation point for those familiar only with their radio singles, and possibly worth picking up for die-hard Rankin fans.



**Album:** It's uncanny how much Wendy Lands sounds akin to Jane Siberry. Not only does Lands share the similarities of The Sib's voice, but the pattern of hushed whispers and soaring vocals, backed by simply patterned drum beats and a tamed guitar, sound remarkably like Siberry's *When I Was a Boy* album. Lands ultimately differs from Siberry by presenting her songs in a four minute format instead of seven minute soliloquies. And as the album progresses she manages to develop an Alanis-like sound, all the while writing from various perspectives: the imprisoned ("Polarized"), the forgiving ("Angels & Ordinary Men") and the despondent ("Graceless"). However, the album's success will depend entirely upon how many singles *Angels & Ordinary Men* can produce.



I really do feel bad for Winnipeg's *Duotang*. Why? Because of the endless comparisons to The Inbreds which they are going to face for the simple reason that they are probably the only other drum and bass duo in Canada. But anyone who has heard their wonderful debut album, *Smash The Ships And Raise The Beams* will be able to tell you that they sound nothing like that other band - *Duotang* have a sound all of their own. And a very unique sound it is too. For one thing,

'The Message' has a driving beat and an infectious chorus that make it among the finest two-and-a-half minutes of pop music I've heard so far this year. Another wonderful release from the near-perfect Mint Records stable.

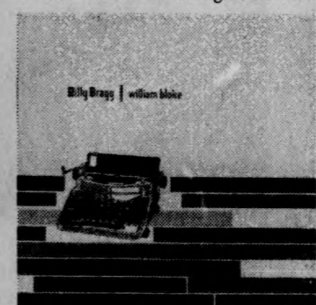
Despite what you may have read elsewhere, Peter Blegvad is probably as close to a Renaissance man as you can find these days. Not only has he been a member of such influential bands as Faust, Slapp Happy and The Golden Palominos, but he also is both an accomplished artist and writer. Multi-talented indeed. His solo career has also encompassed all manner of styles too, but the songs on *Just Woke Up* are among the more conventional he has recorded, making it a good place to discover him for the first time - easy listening in a weird kind of way. The songs are very much targeted for a vaguely intelligent audience as the lyrics are kind of challenging with their wordplay and black humour. So it doesn't really come as a surprise that he writes one song with XTC's Andy Partridge as both men have a very similar outlook on both life and music. But the real highlights come from Blegvad himself who is more than capable of standing on his own two feet.



Every now and again, there is a decent concert in this sorry little town - not often enough, but who's counting. Anyway, one of the best shows I've seen in town was put on by Big Sugar at The Exchange (when it was still open) - that night I lived the blues. Or something like that. The one thing I do know is that Gordie Johnson's guitar playing elevated me to a better place. Wonderful stuff. But somehow things never really worked out the same on record for them - the first two albums had some high spots (like 'Ride Like Hell'), but they were more than a little patchy. And now their third full length record, *Hemi-Vision*, has found its way into my lap, and it came as a bit of a shock. The blues influence is still there, but there is also a dub influence which seems to be almost as important to the band.

The more cynical readers might suggest that the band are simply jumping on the latest fashion bandwagon by getting behind dub, but the fusion of the two styles actually works rather well. So that means that *Hemi-Vision* is not what you'd expect at all, and that unpredictability makes it the band's best album to date.

The advance tracks I heard from Billy Bragg's sixth album scared me - they seemed rather boring, and I really thought that he had lost it. I feared that the muse had left the Bard Of Barking forever. Sad. The first listen to the full album, *William Blake*, did help a little bit as some songs still capture that essence of Bragg beautifully. But with repeated listens, things got a lot better - he seems to be getting more subtle as he gets older. And age has had other effects on Billy too - in the five years since the last album, he has settled down and started a family (which doesn't really seem the kind of thing that an angry young man should be doing, does it?), and that means he has mellowed. Instead of voting Labour without a second thought, he now



considers the choices that are best for his children (fortunately voting Conservative is still considered a crime against humanity...). Instead of the harsh socialism that dominated early songs, he boasts of having "a socialism of the heart" on the album's most obvious moment, 'Upfield'. Still he can still call the little folk to revolt when the need arises (though Rudyard Kipling provides the words on 'A Piet Song'), so he hasn't turned his back completely on his past - the puns and football references are still there too. Ultimately, Billy Bragg has gotten older. We've all gotten older. And I can't criticise him for that - it just means we have to listen a bit more closely, and a few more times before it clicks. But, as usual, it is worth it. It really is.

**Multimedia:** The multimedia aspect adopts a bowling alley theme to convey the band's sense of humour and youthful vigour. The main focus is the videos: "Silver Lining" can be viewed in its entirety, and footage from their indie album *The Boundless Sky* also appear. Shots of conversations and the making of the "Silver Lining" video, peppered with band members playfully revealing their history, also adorn the multimedia project. Samples of their older songs are available and you can even bowl a couple of frames yourself, accompanied by sound clips of the band.

**Multimedia:** The opening image of *Collection*'s multimedia design is a refrigerator decorated with postcards and pictures that are attached to the appliance by magnets -- a suitable image for the down-home earthiness of the Rankins. Unlike most discs, this one allows the viewer to listen to samples of every song from every album the band has ever released. The bio can't compare to some, but the candid Polaroid photo gallery should be a source of enjoyment for enthusiastic fans. The video clips are standard, but the entire design is quite elaborate and nicely done.

**Multimedia:** Ouija boards make a return on the multimedia aspect of *Angels & Ordinary Men*. By clicking and dragging across the board, users can view photos of Lands, read her extensive biography and sample videos. The best feature of the disc is Lands' quotes about her songs. While clicking on each song title, a box appears to the left in which Lands' mentions where the inspiration came from and what the song means to her. Sporting a formally decorative background, Lands' multimedia disc appears highly grown-up compared to others -- a quality that certainly complements her music material.

they don't disguise the bass in the same way that The Inbreds do by strumming it like a normal guitar - it is still very much a bass (although it does buzz in a very gratifying way). Their other listed influences are such '60s icons as The Beatles, The Who and The Beach Boys (who probably helped inspire those oh-so-sweet backing vocals), though there is a definite touch of something a bit more up to date too. But not too up to date, as Rod's vocals seem to fall midway between those of a Jam-era Paul Weller and a Stiff Records-era Elvis Costello. And that period is also a big influence on the sound of the songs too - the first single,

## 22nd Annual Coaster Derby



**When:** Saturday 9:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1996

**Where:** MacKay Drive  
(Thrill Hill)

**Why:** Stuff your face and watch the race

**Who:** Crazy people

Brought to you by the Student Society of Mechanical Engineering

Continuing, Adult, Under-graduate Students

### Mature, & Part-time

C.A.M.P.U.S. Zoomers

## ELECTIONS!



**VOTE X**

**October 8th & October 9th,  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

The Lobbies: Student Union Building & D'Avray Hall

**Evenings 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Singer Hall - Front Entrance & D'Avray Hall Lobby

Student I.D. Required

Information: 453-3596

### STUDENT NOTICE

The deadline for returning textbooks purchased for 1<sup>st</sup> term is

**TODAY, Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Sales slips and ID's are required.  
Books must be in new condition.  
No refunds will be given on textbooks purchased after October 4<sup>th</sup>.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

Hours 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Mon-Fri  
453-4664



**Come join us  
in a song**

Male singers of all ages are welcome to the River Valley Chorus Guest Night on Monday October 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashwaaksis Memorial School, Main Street. Previous experience unnecessary. Call 454-5383 for information or ride.



Ray Dolan's



**Pizza Delight/Roosters**

100 Regent Street  
458-1800

**ALL YOU CAN EAT  
PIZZA/PASTA BUFFET FOR \$6.95**

Includes:

Soup, Salad, Donairs, Pizza,  
Garlic Cheese Fingers, Pasta Dishes

Available: Sunday - All day and evening  
Monday: 11-2 & 5-9pm  
Tuesday: 11-2 & 5-9pm

**All you can eat Spaghetti  
Wednesday 5-10pm \$3.99**

Present this ad and receive a medium soft drink with buffet purchase  
Available for dine-in at this location only

