

Albums compliments of Opus 69 & SU Records

Christmas record releases hit the stands

Reviews by

Garrett...

JOHN LENNON, Shaved Fish
At last, a John Lennon album that is actually worth buying! Lennon has got the musical consistency of macaroni and cheese, each album having only one or two songs (rarely more) that are memorable. *Shaved Fish* overcomes this fault by virtue of being a 'greatest hits' record. The album includes most of Lennon's singles since he began his solo career. It goes back as far as "Give Peace a Chance" (fortunately in a shortened form) and continued to his contemporary works like "#9 Dream". Featured, of course, is the all time John Lennon classic, "Imagine."
For fans of Lennon, *Shaved Fish* is an excellent album in that it provides some of his best material, and still includes a touch of his political activism without overshadowing or ruining the music.

ROY GALLAGHER, Against the Grain

One of the greats of the guitar, Rory Gallagher has produced an album most definitely worthy of his talents. Armed with a new recording label, Gallagher has overcome many of the difficulties that have haunted his previous studio works. The most notable new success of *Against the Grain* is that right from the start it captures Gallagher's abundant energy. Always one of the most exciting performers on stage, he has never been able to get it across from the studio, before. Helping in this achievement is a new understanding of production techniques Gallagher demonstrates. Here he makes full use of the potential of stereo, giving a full, all-around sound. The only weakness in this area is that the vocals and keyboards occasionally get overpowered by everything else. Gallagher's guitar playing is

superb and well-thought out. Leads are of his usual searing quality, with his rhythm guitar work standing out more than ever. Part of the reason for this is that his style of writing is moving towards developing interesting rhythm patterns and ways to play them. He does some fascinating things to standard blues and rhythm and blues frameworks.

When in Edmonton in October for his Canadian tour, Gallagher expressed hope that this album would break his band into the big time. For one hope it brings him the recognition he has long deserved.

APRIL WINE Stand Back

April Wine has for some time been one of the top Canadian recording groups. *Stand Back*, their most recent release, stands out as excellent rock and roll and as the best the group has done.

A very well recorded album, *Stand Back* has relatively few flaws. The group manages to produce several samples of high quality heavy metal rock and the ever difficult rock ballad. "Oowatanite" (shades of Slade), featuring thundering, train-crossing tempo opens the album, quickly followed by a great rocker tune about the arrogance of being eighteen. "Cum Hear the Band" and "I Wouldn't Want to Lose Your Love" represent the lighter side of the band. Both songs have the sweet, lovable quality necessary for a good ballad.

With *Stand Back*, April Wine have set a standard of quality that many Canadian artists would do well to aim for.

...and Turtle

LINDA RONSTADT, Prisoner in Disguise

The demise of one of America's best female vocalists continues on this album, as the lovely Linda persists with her watery, wishy-washy, commercial career. Linda Ronstadt proves that country singers never get older, they just get worse. For die-hards only.

BONNIE RAITT, Home Plate

After the orchestrated and over-produced *Streetlights* album, Bonnie has returned to her former earthy and git-down style. Gone however, are the many many excellent slide guitar riffs that Bonnie plays so well. *Home Plate* is a disappointment, but nonetheless good stuff for dyed-in-the-wool Raitt fans.

BRUCE COCKBURN, Joy Will Find a Way

Returning to the style of simply acoustic folk that made him famous, Cockburn has turned out a fine album, and one that strengthens his grip on the title of Canada's most genuine contemporary folk artist.

RENAISSANCE, Scherazade

Renaissance's sixth album, *Scherazade and other Stories*, is a diluted rendering of Rimsky-Korsakoff's *Scherazade*, the great Russian symphony based on the Arabian Nights story. Renaissance's version of the work is disappointing, as it never seems to develop past a prologue. Side One of the album, however, is classic Renaissance, highlighted as usual by the awesome vocal power of Annie Haslam.

MAE MCKENNA, Mae McKenna

Ms. McKenna, whose magnetic voice and captivating charm on the *Contraband* album (*Contraband* is the name of the now-defunct folk group of

which Mae McKenna was a founding member) has turned out a very disappointing solo album. Performing songs by such bad songwriters as Edgar Winter, Neil Sedaka, and Elton John, only Mae's voice saves this album from being ranked with Olivia Newton-John.

HEART, Dreamboat Annie

A so-so album by the new Vancouver-based rock group, led by Ann and Nancy Wilson. Simplistic music and terrible lyrics match up with occasionally nice vocals by Ann, and periodic spells of reasonable acoustic guitar work to provide an adequate but forgettable pop-rock album.

CAPTAIN BEEFHEART AND FRANK ZAPPA, Bongos of Fury

A live album by the U.S.A.'s most over-rated idiot. Containing the usual amount of pseudo-satirical drivel, this album ranks with *Over-nite Sensation* as pointless commerciality by Zappa. It's only merit is the occasional good line from Beefheart. Once again, die-hards only.

At the Hovel this week:

Fri., Dec. 5 - Sun., Dec. 7 - from Toronto, singer songwriter Bob Carpenter, folk music with just a flavour of reggae. Bob is undoubtedly one of the best

writers in Canada, his lyrics a sensitive blend of his hopes, pains and humour. And they are conveyed by his deep, rough voice, never lacking in feeling. Admission \$2 members, \$3 non-members. Doors 8:30.

Mon. Dec. 8 and Tues., Dec. 9 - a high-energy performer from Toronto, D'Arcy Wickham.

Wed., Dec. 10 - Open Stage, free for performers who want to entertain, 50¢ for the rest. Doors 8:30.

Thurs., Dec. 11 - Membership Social with Moonshine, fine boogie band that always packs the house. Beer and dancing. Members please bring only one guest. \$2 members, \$3 guests. Doors 8:30.

1976 memberships on sale for \$5.00. Good from now till Dec. 31/76.

ratt*
food service
9 AM till 8 PM
"refreshments"
3 PM till 11 PM

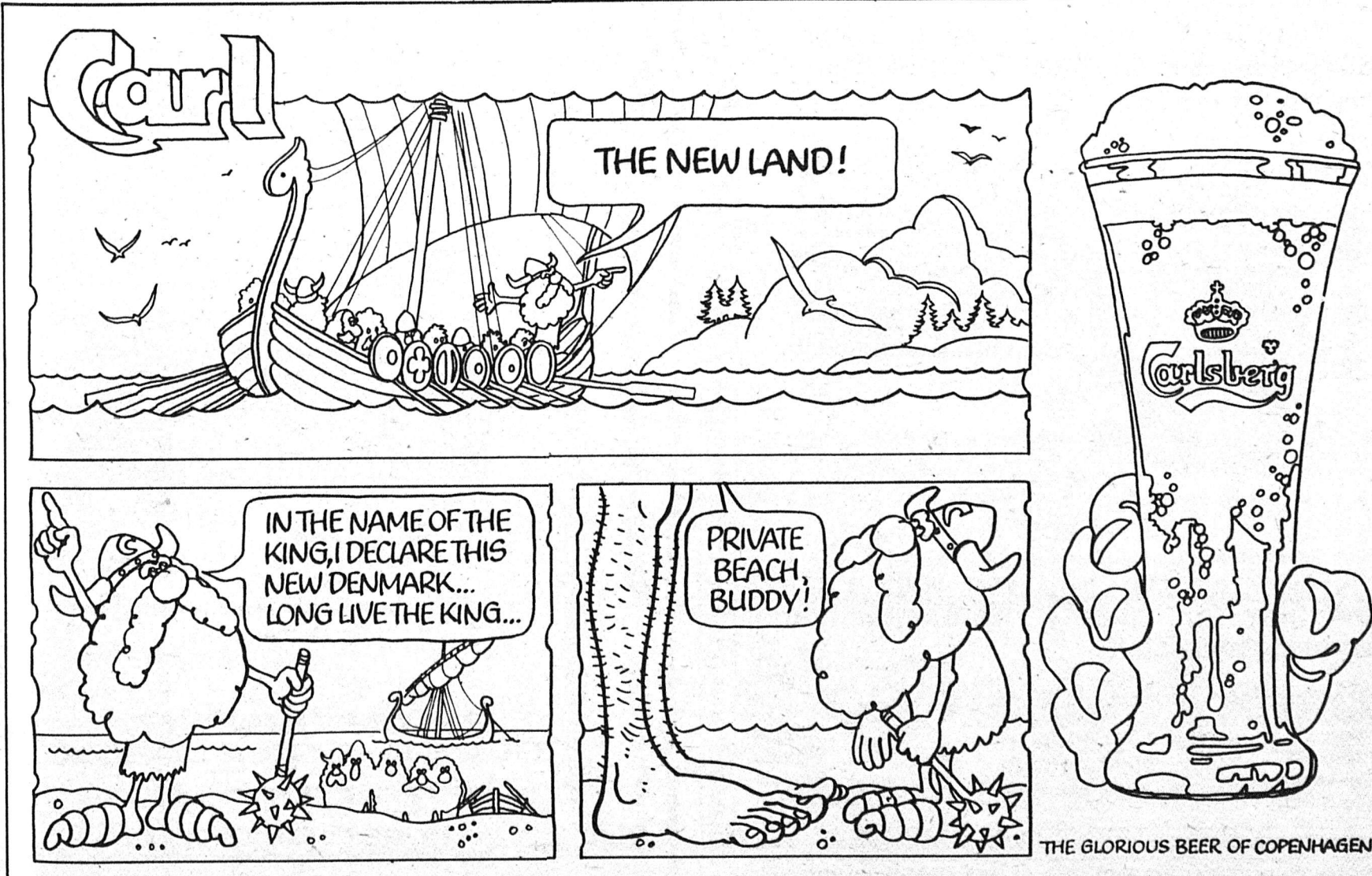
* 7th floor SUB There's Room at the Top



The Plant Cupboard

Fine Plants & Accessories
HUB Mall
8911 112 Street
Phone 433-4342

Open Thursday and Friday Evenings
Delivery Service Available



Carl

THE NEW LAND!

IN THE NAME OF THE KING, I DECLARE THIS NEW DENMARK... LONG LIVE THE KING...

PRIVATE BEACH, BUDDY!

THE GLORIOUS BEER OF COPENHAGEN