record reviews

It's Only Rock and Roll

By RICK BASTON

Dear Ma,

I'm stuck here in the house, snow up to the rafters, polar bears outside the door, and the T.V. is running travel travel ads for the Bahamas. But I don't care, I've got some good friends here with me. I'll tell you about them.

The first one is the new Rolling Stones Album, **"It's Only Roll and Rock...But I Like It."** It's a good album from the Rolling Stones, the best album they have released in a number of years. It's better than "Goats' Head Soup" or "Exile On Main Street". It seems to pick up on the rock and roll streams they used to do before Brian died. It's a fine album.

This album has the able backing up of Billy Preston, Nicky Hophins, Ian Stewart. The whole album is basically, as the title implies, rock and roll. "If you can't rock me", has all the arrogance that the Stones have come to be known for all these years. It's an excellent slam at groupies. The most outstanding cut on side one is "It's only rock and roll." It has a thick sound to it, the sound that one knows as prime Stones.

The next friend who dropped in is the new Elvin Bishop Album **"Let It Flow"**. Elvin's been around for years now, having a varying degree of success, but never going anywhere. This album won't change things that much. It was recorded in Macon, Georgia. There are names galore on this album.

There's Dickie Betts, Charlie Daniels, Johnny Sandler, who also produced the album, Sly Stone, Steve Miller, Vassar Clements.

These names alone should sell a few copies, yet the album isn't as great as the names imply. The musicianship is excellent, the vocals aren't that great, nor are the lyrics which regretably you can hear only half the time. The best song on the album is "Travelin Shoes" which sounds like the Allman Brothers. The result of the album isn't as good. It's not a bad album to listen to, but it could be much better.

The third friend that visited me this week is somewhat other than the others. It's byTeegarden& Van Winkle, **"Experimental Groundwork"**. What's so unique about it is that the album was recorded under hypnosis in Toronto in early 1973. The music is basically rock and roll. However, the music is very fluid and flowing. The music chosen is quite average in itself. However, it is played with a fluidness not ordinarily found on an album. The last friend to drop by was the new Who album **"Odds & Ladds"**. It isn't an album of new material, but rather a collection of tracks which were never released before. They are excellent tracks, chosen, as you can tell, with great care by John Entwistle.

The sound of most of the tracks is that of "Who's Next" and "Quadrophonia". "Put The Money Down" has a fantastic brillance to the sound. "Postcard" is totally unlike the Who with its use of horns and virtually no guitar riffs by Peter Townsend. "Glow Girl", recorded in early '68 would really fry your brain with its guitar feedback.

"Pure and Early" is off Townsend's solo album. It's a group version of the song, yet it is fairly decent in comparison to the solo album. My own favorite cut is "I'm The Face". It goes back to 1964 and has a blues sound reminiscent of the Yardbirds. "Long Live Rock" is a great finish for a fine album.

Got to go now, Ma. Hope you and Dad like the first snow.

Love Son

P.S. I'd like to thank my friends from Little Records, in the SUB for visiting me. I'll come to visit them.

"California Split"

movie review

By DANIELLE THIBEAULT

If you can figure this movie out, you're one up on me. All in all, it seems like a poor movie even though it stars Elliot Gould and George Segal, two actors that deserve better. The script reads like a book with pages missing. It's confusing and misleading and it's also about gambling. And whichever side you may take with regards to this erratic and often costly passtime, this movie is bound to make a nervous wreck out of you. And that's not what I would call good entertainment.

George Segal is William, an L.A. magazine writer with more than his share of debts. Charlie (Elliot Gould) is an opportunist with no visible means of support except a hunch that sometime pays off. In other words, he is a gambling addict, who will bet on anything if he can get someone else to take the bet with him. He's cool, confident and gutsy, some would say that he's just lucky.

William and Charlie meet one day at a poker table where the first is dealing and the second is aggravating the players with his nerve-racking mannerisms. A sloppy deal by William causes a commotion between Charlie and irate player. A fight ensues but the two gamblers manage to escape without a scratch only to be beaten up and robbed by the loserandsome buddies of his, on that same night.

Bill and Charlie strike up a friendship while jailed overnight for "drunken and disorderly conduct." And so begins the liaison between the two desperados. Gould becomes increasingly insistent that Segal join in a little "betting at the race track" and the latter only but rarely gives in to an afternoon of daring money-shuffling.

Finally, as Segal's indebtedness threatens to cause him ill-health, he decides to hock all his negotiable possessions and head for Reno for what he feels could be the big kill.

Itching to collect on the "lucky streak" his buddy claims to be on, Gould teams up with Segal on a 50 - 50 split and they board the bus to the "city of opportunity".

Segal's "lucky streak" seems to hold out as he moves from the poker table to the black jack stand and finally to the crap table where the money increases steadily. Unfortunately, Segal can't stand the pressure and leaves the crap table with enough chips to collect $82,000. The bet-on-anything guys have finally discovered what is normally called a "winning streak".

If movies about gutsy betting and high-stake gambling make you nervous you had better take some sedatives with you cause that's what it's all about. And the fact that the main characters are set up as a couple of losers doesn't help things either.

It's not a bad movie really, cause Segal and Gould are good actors though this commercial-type movie doesn't do them any justice at all. There are some pretty funny scenes in it, and for this, let me just say that Elliot Gould's impersonation of the One-Handed-Picolo-Player will probably stay with me for a long, long time. But it still doesn't save the show frombeing short of entertaining. So it's up to you.

California Split will still be playing until at least until Saturday night at the Gaiety for those of you who've begun to think I only review outdated movies.

A goodie, also featured this weekend should be "The Longest Yard" with gorgeous Burt Reynolds. It's been billed as a funny movie and it's up at the Cinema.

Let's all see it and compare post-departure result, next week, in the last Thibeault Review of '74. See you there!

TELEPHOTO

By STEVE PATRIQUEN

Recently there seems to be a glut of people who want to be taught about photography. The only problem is that most of these people don't want to learn, that, they appear to believe that they can gain knowledge instantaneously by some divine process.

This is fine for geniuses and saints, but for the average Joe or Jill, something a little more involved is required. This could be a photography course, [though heaven knows where you'll find one], or it could be some in-depth reading on the subject. This latter suggestion costs little or nothing, and allows you to proceed at your own rate.

Anyone following the second method has my wholehearted support. If you can't understand something come and ask me, and I'll do my best to explain it. But if you come to me and say "teach me about photography", I'll tell you to go pound sand.

For those who are willing to learn, there is a very good magazine, called Invitation to Photography, published semi-annually by the editors of Popular Photography. I have several copies of previous issues that I can lend out to those interested.

These magazines start with the camera, lens, and film, and then move on to film development and printing. They discuss many aspects of photography and usually have a few articles advising how to buy a camera, use a flash, etc.

If you have any questions or problems in regard to photography drop me a line here at the Bruns, and I'll try to answer them in the next week's column. If I can't answer them I'll find someone who can. And if you're afraid your question might seem a trifle naive, just sign it with your initials. Also, any critical comments on the column itself would be appreciated.

For those of you interested in obtaining first hand, "saw it with mine own eyes" experience, I am at the Bruns every Wednesday night that the paper is "layed out", I mean "put to bed"...Oh forget it!

Anyway, every Wednesday I'm in there agitating...film, that is. So if you want to observe, or maybe even help, just drop by and ask for Stainless.

So, if you have any nagging questions pertaining to photography, that you can't answer, please write and ask me. If there is enough interest a regular question and answer period will be started. So don't be shy.

CLICK

Would you believe that this is a turkey?

MARCH 14 IS NOT AS FAR AWAY AS IT MAY SEEM!