

Very few people realize that this is a collaboration of authors. First, there is what I write. Second, there is what somebody thought I wrote, and which you eventually read. This is not so much a comment on the character and integrity of the nameless saboteur, but on my handwriting. Therefore if something looks like nonsense, try re-arranging the letters, until you come up with something that does make sense. Thus this column becomes one involving audience participation, and would warrant a pass in any Education course.

Various films I was shown in high school have come back to haunt me. They were the documentaries on modern life in Russia, history or geography teachers would show when they were even more bored than the class. To inject a little drama, the films would usually show little Ivan turning his father over to the KGB in return for a stick of Wriggles. One common factor for all the films was the feature "Mama Bobyinski goes shopping". They would show patient Mama stand in endless lines to buy the simplest commodities. Often, they would cut to a shot of her American counterpart being waited on hand and foot by a clutch of solicitious sales staff. Somehow these movies come to mind every time I go to get money from the bank, or maybe standing in front of a tavern 9:00 at night. My editor didn't get the point of this last paragraph, but I thought I'd leave it in for the more perceptive.

In an effort to keep this column current, I must report that I can't remember any current even worth remembering. However, my glasses just fell off. For all of you that have slightly loose glasses that fall off at the slightest excuse and most often when you are upside down, I know. You have a friend. Drop a note off at the Bruns and we'll talk about it. No matter what those other nasties say, sweaty ears are not a sign of sexual excess. Avoid needless surgery.

April 1st. 1953. A mischievous railroad employee decided to play a prank on the students from UNB. He arranged for three trains to remain motionless on the tracks, where the path cuts over just below Head Hall. The memo finds its way to his bewildered supervisor. It places three trains for no apparant reason on an arbitrarily specified section of track at 8:30 in the morning, to be left until needed. Not to appear ignorant, he duly signs it and sends it to his immediate supervisor. Within weeks the name was

Dr. Gonzo



purged, signed, sealed, ratified, amended and implemented as standard operating procedure. Which is why, even today, hundreds of students have been playing choo-choo hopscotch and coming to class with dirt under their fingernails. Now, since the reason has now become self-evident to all railroad employees why the trains have to be there, suggesting a change would be tantamount to giving the Queen a brown Marvin. So, an alternate solution must be had, and as you guessed, Dr. Gonzo has it. Set a precedent by putting the Civil Engineers to use, designing and constructing a footbridge over the tracks. Then after the first bridge has been run over, get the C.E. dept to build a bridge to go over the tracks and the trains. Now I know that there are those of you who scoff at the immensity of this task, but remember I've heard the civil engineers compared favourably with the Education faculty in terms of technical expertise.

Handy Household Hint No. 5-Your Weirdo roommate just came into your room when you were halfway through Bible Study. He brought some of his weirdo friends, and they're smoking that dreaded scourge of Canadian youth, the killer weed. To expand his drug profiteering, your roommate tries to biguile you into taking that first toke, all that's needed to turn you into a slave of the drug for the rest of your life. To strengthen your own resolve, and perhaps save a drowning soul if the others or not too far gone, remember these words.

"Prolonged use of marihuana frequently develops a delirious rage which sometimes leads to high crimes, such as assault and murder . . . The habitual use of this narcotic poison always causes a very marked mental deterioration and sometimes produces insanity . . . While the marihuana habit leads to physical wreckage and mental decay, it's effect on character and morality are even more devastating. The victim frequently undergoes such moral degeneracy that he will lie and steal with scruple; he becomes utterly untrustworthy and often drifts into the underworld where, with his degenerate companions, he commits high crimes and misdemeanors."

Marihuana or Indian Hemp and its preparations, pamphlet issued by the International Narcotic Education Association and the World Narcotic Defense Association (1936).

Record Breaker

RUSH - "2112" Mercury Records

A great album by the newly crowned Kings of Canadian heavy metal-punk rock. A relatively fresh, young band which I hope will steal Canada's music spotlight from the flaccid "Bachman-Turner Overweight". This shearing LP is the fourth by the "Cream" like trio whose trademark is music with a stratospheric energy level.

The album's masterpiece is the title track, a mini rock opera filling the LP's first side. It is a story about a young man living in the year 2112 in a "perfect" but highly unimaginative society. He discovers an ancient wonder, a guitar, and his life is changed. An unlikely plot line, but it works. The powerful music, suits it perfectly and the result should delight dedicated sci-fi fans.

The overture to "2112" is a tremendously intricate, fast paced example of heavy metal at its best. Its amazing that only the three members of Rush can produce such diverse sounds. Neil Peart, the group's lyric writer, is a phenomenal drummer, at times seeming to play lead on them. Alex Lifeson on guitar may not be a Hendrix, a Page or a Beck, but

comes up with multiple rifts guaranteed to shiver your timbers. Teddy Lee on bass gives the group the necessary solid sound and provides earsplitting vocals, screamed through clenched teeth, most notably on the movement "Temples of Syrinx". Rush also display their great versatility in the movement "Discovery" of "2112", in which quiet guitar and earnest vocals give a surrealistic quality to the discovery of the strange device from the past. The "2112" concept is neatly capped by a finale of earth shaking proportions.

Side two of the LP is an anthology of recent Rush tunes, in the punk-rock idiom the most notable of these is "The Train to Bankok", a ballad of the trials of young doper's on continent hopping drug sampling lark (a song for Gene; you too Ed). A superb album by a great band. "2112" rates an A plus.

Gino Vannelli - *The Gist of the Gemini* A & M Records
Currently Gino Vannelli et al is one of Canada's hot selling talents both at home and abroad having scored substantial success in

Europe, the U.S. and Japan. The

Gino writes the music and lyrics himself (which may not be in his favour) and sings impressively. Brother Joe Vannelli and Richard Baker do an impressive job on various keyboards (organ, clavier sythesizer, electric and acoustic piano) and the rhythm section is more than complete with drums, Timpani, Congas, Cuica and Timbales. Unfortunately, despite this warehouse of ability, the group just can't seem to get it together.

The opening cut, "Love of My Life" is the only possible number on the album. It's a very lyrical, melodic love song to which Vannelli's voice and the synthesizer sound is well suited.

The songs "Ugly Man," "Omens of Love" and "Fly into the night" are a definite come down. The music plays a background role to Gino's egotistic vocals. The songs are a stab at philosophy, but just come across as Vannelli trying to play "star".

The entirety of side two is a concept collection, "The War

Suite". The style is reminiscent of a poor man's Moody Blues, starting off with very interesting instrumental flair, but which all too soon gives way to a monotonous background music smeared with Vannelli's uninspiring lyrics.

It's sad that such a talented group seems to have fallen into the typical Canadian trap of changing one's natural style to make the big time. The result is an album that self-conscious pretentious and lack-lustre albeit a bore.

Nashville 'An instant classic'

Karen Black ... Connie White
Ranee Blakeley ... Barbra Jean
Keith Carradine ... Tom
Lily Tomlin ... Linnea

Produced and directed by Robert Altman

Robert Altman, the director of MASH, has come up with another instant classic. This movie is one of those rare box office successes that receives unanimous praise from critics as well as recognition in the academy award department. Nashville deals with the lives of 24 major characters over a period of 5 days. The movie takes many directions, but one is a satirization of country music performers and their fans. More important than this however, is the way the contradictions of

contemporary American society are examined.

In the film, the presidential campaign of Hal Phillip Walker, is used as a common thread to tie together the 24 major characters of the story. One of the most promising talents to emerge from these two dozen stars is Keith Carradine, brother of David, of Kung Fu fame. The academy award winning composition "I'm Easy" was written and performed by Keith himself. He, like most of the other actors, wrote and sang all the songs themselves.

An entertaining combination of music, comedy and social introspection make Nashville one of the most important films of the decade.