

Busy all the time

Krisofferson — next Messiah?

By LARRY LeBLANC

His voice is low and raspy. His guitar playing is sparse and a bit desolate. But, there is a feeling now, among pop spectators, that if Kris Krisofferson, the Nashville songwriter, isn't the next Messiah, he will at least give the profits a run for their money.

Why? The explanation is simple. Right now, his name is big in the recording business because it's been appearing on the back of scores of important albums. His second album *The Silver Tongue Devil*, released two months ago, has pulled in rave reviews and outstanding sale figures. Even *Look* magazine popped a vertebra over the Krisofferson Story as it bowed low for a cover story.

"You don't have time you can call your own," he said bleakly, in a warm Texas rasp, and then swallowed another gin and tonic. It was mid-afternoon and his face was rough and puffy. Hair fell disarranged across his leathery brow. There was a fringe of beard around his face. "It's just exhausting," he continued. "You get irritable. Mainly, when I get like that I find myself resenting things I shouldn't."

Success, so far, Krisofferson claimed, has carried with it the usual tensions and flare-ups brought on by everyone hustling a piece of his time.

"I'm really bitter about that," he said. "It's hard to explain. Sub-

consciously, you resent everybody taking your time. It's not a rational thing; it's a subconscious thing. That's what it's all about: their taking your time. That's what you're up there for."

"The thing is most of the time you're fighting to keep from being alone," he exclaimed. "The trouble that interferes with your writing is you take every other escape there is. There's so many offered to you. There's always a time to be had and people wanting to be with you all the time. But it kills the things that really give me satisfaction."

"I don't know of anything that gives me as good a feeling as doing something. Writing a good song or a good story. If I'm not writing I'm unhappy. I don't know if I'll be writing songs in another year."

The theme of self-destruction and alienation run like a thread through Krisofferson's repertoire, in such songs as *To Beat The Devil*, *Me & Bobby McGee*, *Help Me Make It Through The Night*, *Casey's Last Ride* and *The Pilgrim*. It tells concisely, poetically, and philosophically the hopes and fears, griefs and struggles, dreams and delusions, of a great many contemporary artists.

Krisofferson related how the song *The Pilgrim* evolved. "I started writing the thing about Chris Gantry. He's a very brilliant, mixed-up cat, a lot like Tim Hardin or Freddy Neil. Goes through a lot of changes."

"And I was writing about Dennis Hopper," he continued. "I was thinking of Dennis going through the same thing: up one day, down the next. He's trying to find something. He's doing a lot of wrong things, a lot of right things. He's looking for something that has some meaning."

"Gantry is trying to do his work which is writing. A lot of people don't understand him, don't dig him. He's done a lot of silly things. Shit. He'll be in jail one day or knocking them out in a club in the Village the next."

"There are so many people in this business who are like that. Everytime I meet Joni Mitchell she's going through changes. We're all going through the same thing."

"I would hate to think we have to be fucked up to be creative," he laughed. "You can point to all kinds of maniacs that have been creative; but, there's got to be, I hope, a thing of being reasonably happy and creative."

"Christ, I'm 35 and I don't feel I'm there. I don't know anyone who's there. There's bound to be some people who have peace of mind but they're probably in the mountains somewhere."

CULTURAL BRIEFS

Torcon II to be held in Toronto

Torcon II, the 31st World Science Fiction Convention, will be held in Toronto on September 1, 2, and 3, 1973, John Millard, committee chairman, announced at the Secun 4 conference. The convention, the first in Toronto, apart from the FanFare last year and the Secondary Universe conference, will be the first major convention held in Toronto since the sixth world convention here in 1948, will be held at the Royal York Hotel. Robert Bloch, science fiction and mainstream author, best known for *Pyscho* will be guest of honour at the convention. People attending the conference on the weekend hope that by 1973, Canadian science fiction will have developed enough to be a part of the convention, as well as fiction of other cultures that are not American.

— Rob Rowland

Al Huang stuns Burton audience

Al Huang, accompanied by his wife, Suzanne Pierce, gave an exciting, enlightening exhibition of the power of dance at Burton last Nov. 12. Huang's vitality held the audience attentive and enthused. His dancing and dialogue told the audience about his feelings and thoughts about dance — it was apparent that his prime concern is in directing energy through his body, rather than forcing or shaping it into forms. Huang explained that by letting energy flow from the centre of the body, he controls his movement and positions. Huang is a master of the Tai Chi Chuan dance technique. The dancer, as the involved philosopher sees his movement radiating out from the centre. His world of limbs express and discover, relate and define; each man is a universe unto himself. The boundary of his polar extremes if found on the circular planes surrounding his body. The opening piece was a reaction to the changing sounds of nature. He left his human form and became a bird to glide with the wind, a whale to flow with the seas, an ocean to bring the tide and the weather. He floated with the sound — completely absorbed and totally involved. The spell was complete as he captivated every free soul in his presence. He was a true animal of nature. . . yet, all the while he kept the encompassing cognisance of the man. Only after he was finished his first demonstration and proceeded to talk to his audience was it possible to analyse the movement he had used, the vast and impressive technique of which he is the master without peer.

— Nancy and Adrian Hill

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TAKE NOTICE OF LAW SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Ontario law schools are anxious to receive applications early this year because of the increase in the number of applicants. It is hoped that early receipt of applications will facilitate prompt admissions decisions. Candidates for admission to next year's classes are advised to submit applications by January or February — May 1st is the deadline date for receipt of applications at most Ontario law schools.

Law schools at Queen's University, the University of Toronto, The University of Western Ontario, University of Windsor and Osgoode Hall Law School (York University) require all applicants for the year 1972-73 to take the Law School Admission Test. The test will be given at most Ontario university campuses and in major Canadian cities on the following dates in 1971 and 1972.

December 18, 1971
February 12, 1972
April 8, 1972

Candidates are strongly urged to take the December or February tests if at all possible. They must register at least three weeks in advance of each test date. The test originates from Educational Testing Service, Princeton New Jersey and is administered throughout the United States and Canada. Five Ontario law schools have adopted the test as a result of the growing number of applicants in recent years. The purpose of the test is to provide the schools with additional information upon which admissions decisions can be made.

Further information concerning admissions procedures can be obtained from the Admissions Office of any of the above five law schools, and information regarding the Law School Admission Test can be obtained from Educational Testing Service, Box 944, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.