

MAUD'S COLUMN

Maud's friend reviews way-out record

by Maud

When I said I wanted to review the Mothers of Invention's album, **ABSOLUTELY FREE**, Maud said why don't you come over and play it and we'll hear what it's like. Maud is a beautiful girl, with mauve hair and a lissome figure, even-tempered, and doesn't cross her legs when she sits down.

MAUD: I think if you don't begin, already, people will think you're crazy.

Be quiet, I'm clearing my throat. (Maud is a good kid, but she loves me.) The Mothers of Invention, a wild and satiric rock group from New York, are sophisticated Monkees.

MAUD: Oh, now you're silly.

Be quiet. I'll explain. Some of the songs are successful satire. Call Any Vegetable tells us that advocates for the betterment of race relations can sound ridiculous. The Mothers' version of



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the old chestnut, "Take a Negro out to dinner tonight" is "Call a Vegetable by Name and it will Respond to You", or, "Make Friends with your Green and Yellow Buddies." Interjected quickly, this humour is typical of the Mothers.

But it fails in the heavy-handed Duke of Prunes.

MAUD: Oh, no.

Yes, they somehow connect love with prunes. Listen to this:

A moonbeam through the prune in June,
Reveals your chest
I see your lovely beans,
And in that magic go-cart,
I bite your neck,
The cheese I have for you,
my dear,
Is real and very new.

Then,

The next song...is about vegetables,
They keep you regular,
They are good for you.

Followed by,

Some people don't go for prunes,
I don't know why, I've always found...

The humour here depends on allusions to this, I must say it, that prunes cause bowell move-

ments.

MAUD: I feel faint...

Sorry beautiful but have courage. The song fails from silly thought, irrelevant parodies (moon in June), and crude humour of two sorts.

MAUD: Can't you do something more...more seemly?

(Maud's too delicate for RAW criticism.)

All right I'll tell you about the flip side, an underground oratorio called the M.O.I. American Pageant, starting from America Drinks, Status-Back Baby, to Son of Suzy Creamcheese, and finally Brown Shoes Don't Make It, the story of a middle-aged queen, who's "only thirteen but she knows how to nasty"

Off with her clothes and into bed,

Where she tickles his fancy
All night long

(This is the climactic song.)
MAUD: Oh, what is the point of all this?

The point is that the lyrics at their best are clever and entertaining, but occasionally suffer irrelevancy, such as in the short parody of the Beach Boys in this song.

MAUD: But, I think that's very funny, don't you? The connec-

tion is between the innocent concept of love, etc. Maybe we should discuss the music itself, which I actually enjoyed.

Maud, stop bouncing and sit still.

Maud just pointed out that the Mothers are actually accomplished musicians. The music is bad only when they over-use noise, jerky rhythms, and disjointed melodies to underscore satiric verses. The best cut on the album is a six-minute wordless jazz number, Invocation and Ritual Dance of the Young Pumpkin, which contains a fast-paced guitar and saxophone, with a beat continuously accented by cymbals, and held together by a bass guitar.

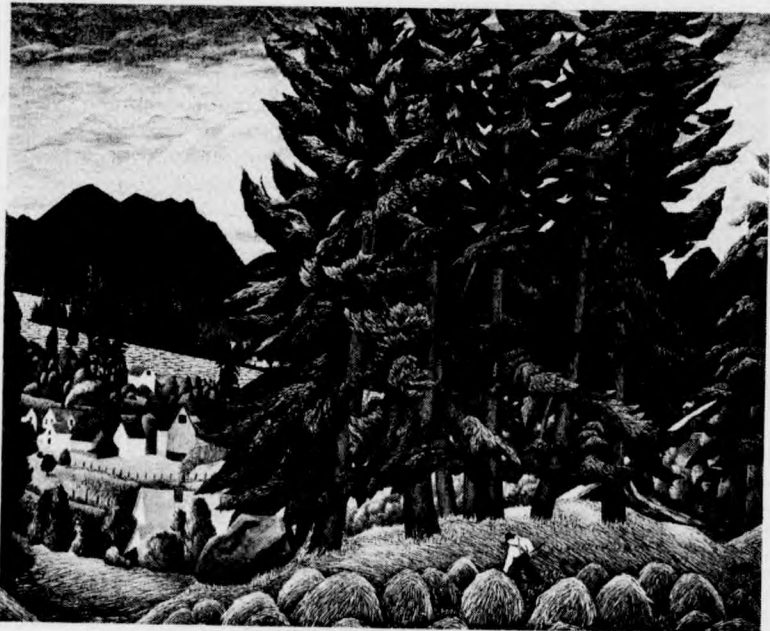
Indeed, even those songs where the lyrics fail contain good jazz-like hit-parade sounds with interesting, interwoven melody lines.

And, they have good voices. The last song, America Drinks and Goes Home, is a pleasant parody of a night-club entertainer who urges his customers to drink and have a good time (the cash-register tinkles in the background.)

MAUD: Make a statement.

With or without ribbons?

MAUD: See you next week...



Pretty Landscape

E.J. Hughes hung in Intermedia Founders art show is success

By Rex Lingwood

In Founders Intermedia room and the Glendon Gallery at the present time there is an exhibition of the paintings of the Contemporary Canadian artist E. J. Hughes. Hughes' painting is far removed from trends in contemporary art, for he, with a few exceptions paints either landscapes or seascapes.

He has subjected his motif to vigorous organization, showing great control of colour, form and line, and their intrinsic suggestive qualities. He has created sharp contrast between complex interrelation of the forms of the natural elements whose arrangement create a forbidding tension, or barely controlled power, and the relatively simple ordered relation of the forms of the environment which man controls. This tension is enhanced by the use of cold and dark colours to describe the natural elements, contrasted by the brighter and warmer colours used to describe man and his immediate familiar

environment. This colouristic device is used to such a high degree in the painting "Qualicum Beach" that the forms of the people and boats seem to float apart from their background.

The over all effect of the canvases, although there are exceptions, is to create a dramatic, forbidding tension, which possibly suggests the artist's vision of man's relationship to his immediate environment and his relationship to nature.

Although Hughes remains untouched by the influences of trends of contemporary painting, his own unique vision of nature, and man's relation to it, gives his paintings of his particular region a high degree of universality. Which is one way of saying that Hughes' exhibition is well worth seeing.

The YORK YEARBOOK still lacks a name and an editor for this year. Applicants for both should apply in writing to Excalibur Office.

Leftovers

by Bill Novak

One of the most exciting and original performing groups anywhere, the Toronto Workshop players are currently presenting the Captain of Kopenick

The play was reviewed recently in this paper, but I still won't hesitate to tell you, even if you already know, that this social satire, this comic-tragedy on the system, the government, the military, indeed the whole life of the country in question is superbly executed and very creatively produced.

The setting is Germany, early in the century. Except that the implications are much more frightening. The play, although written over thirty years ago, bears an uncanny resemblance to present day American life. Which is, to say the most, fascist.

The theatre is a temporary one, located at 47 Fraser Ave., near King and Dufferin, but well worth the trip. In short, it's one more success for this company, which just may be the best-kept secret in town.

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Film-makers
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Cinecity
YONGE AT CHARLES 922-9055

Also at Cinecity: Downey's **CHAFED ELBOWS**, and Anger's **SCORPIO RISING**.

The second in the series of Symphony and Jazz concerts takes place January 6, with the Phil Nimmons Group as guests of the Toronto Symphony...The year's best news is now official: The Beatle's latest album, "Magical Mystery Tour" will be available in Toronto early next month. Sgt. Pepper reached new heights in creativity, excitement, fun. What's next, you ask. Wait another week or two, then you can tell me.

Yes, the music scene sure has changed. Why, someone told me, if Rudy Valentino were alive today he'd probably roll over in his grave. O.K., says I, you think you're so smart. Just 'cause you studied abroad last year. No, he says, I gave up on that--she didn't teach me anything.

If you're still sober by Christmas, and wouldn't mind a little intellectual stimulation (which would provide a good contrast from school) you might want to consider the American Historical Association which meets in Toronto this year, and brings together literally thousands of some of the best thinkers around. Just wander around one of the big downtown hotels between the 25th and 27th of December, look important, and drop in for a few of the sessions.

Remember, "it's not how long you make it, but how you make it long." Happy smoking.

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