

# The Name of the Game

By Fred and Finley

This week a smattering of information on a complicated bit of business — the turntable, tone arm, and cartridge.

The first thing to remember when dealing with this problem is that turntable tone arm, and cartridge form a system. The job of this system is to reproduce as faithfully as possible the information pressed on the record. It is also important that the system does not add a signal of its own and does not destroy the disc.

Most turntable systems on the market today feature an integrated tone-arm-turntable assembly. This means (ideally) that the manufacturer has spent a lot of time matching his tonearm to the turntable.

We favor this arrangement (with one exception) for obvious reasons; you'd need a mechanical engineer and an electrical engineer to decide if A's arm will match B's turntable.

Turntables themselves come in three basically different forms; manuals automatics, and changers.

Changers are the most common. These are the "record player" type; you can play one record to six by stacking them on a spindle. These range in price from \$12.95 to \$229.95; (and thus in quality) all have integrated tone arms not a few come with a cartridge as well.

Automatic turntables only handle one record at a time, and the tonearm — cartridge combination is placed on the record (and removed) automatically. This has the advantage of keeping your clumsy and sometimes misguided hands away from the tone arm, removing the problems of inadvertent scratches and ruined cartridges.

The other advantage is that you're not dropping one record (which isn't rotating) on top of another. (which is) The benefits here are obvious. Also, since you don't have a mechanism to drop records, the manufacturer can spend the money he would of spent on it on a better turntable — tone arm combination. (again, ideally) This section of industry is no less prone to rip offs than the rest, and in a lot of cases may be more so due to consumer ignorance and the manufacturer's tendency to play on it.)

Finally, we come to manual turntables, which basically are a rotating platter with a tone arm on one side. You yourself put the tone arm-cartridge on the record, and you yourself take it off. Disadvantages are obvious. Advantages are that we have no mechanics necessary except those that make the record go around, therefore we should have a better turntable for our money. (again assuming our manufacturer's have a

conscience.) A lot of these can be brought sans tonearm, (we talked about this before) and most are expensive.

Which one to buy?? Your first priority will probably be budget. In this case, it is good to remember that your records can be the most expensive part of your system. (At \$6.00 to \$11.90 a piece it's no surprise!!)

Therefore, if you want to consider them an investment, it behooves you to treat them well by playing them on a system which will damage them as little possible; while still ensuring you the full quality the company put there. (Which after all, is al-

most the name of the game!)

We feel that you should not scrimp (although admittedly there's little point in a \$450 turntable with an integral arm and a \$100 cartridge feeding a \$19.95 preamp-amp and a pair of modified soup cans!) Having left that for you to think about, we'll leave the rest for next week. The Nitty Gritty of Gramophones!! What to look for; what the gobbelygook means, who to believe, and our opinions. (Personal subjective ones that is.)

In the meantime, if you're really having problems in this area, drop us a line c/o Gazette and we'll try to help.



## Neptune Theatre

invites students to  
subscribe to

**5 plays for  
as little as  
8.75**

nov. 11-30  
GODSPELL

dec. 16-31  
the adventures of  
PINOCCHIO

feb. 3-22  
HAMLET

mar. 3-22  
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

mar. 24-april 12  
MUSIC

(Jacques Brel is Alive  
and Well and Living in  
Paris

or  
A New Musical)

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Nov.-April 5 play subscription(s).  
(Prices: Monday-Thursday, \$8.75 Friday & Saturday, \$10.00)

I wish to attend \_\_\_\_\_ (night of the week) and sit in the

balcony  orchestra

cheque enclosed  Master Charge

charge my Eaton account \_\_\_\_\_ acct. no. \_\_\_\_\_ expiry date

\_\_\_\_\_ acct. no.  Chargex \_\_\_\_\_ acct. no. \_\_\_\_\_ expiry date

\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_