

BB. King in Halifax

# Number one gentleman of the blues

B.B. King will be appearing on March 30, 31 and April 1 at the Q.E. Auditorium in Halifax. Showtimes are 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets for reserved seats are available at Kelly's Stereo Mart -- Discount \$7.50, Regular \$8.50.

By BILL PROVICK

In the blues field, the synonym for class is spelled K-i-n-g — as in B.B. King.

There may be room for divided opinion on who is the greatest blues artist alive but there is no doubt that King is — and has been for years — the number one gentleman of the blues.

King is America's premier blues guitarist — the one all the white rockers imitate but never quite match.

He can make Lucille — his electric guitar — crackle and snap like raw energy springing to

exuberant life. He can also make Lucille whisper and moan like a faint but poignant cry in the night. He often builds from one to the other and back again.

But whichever he does, he does with a smooth grace and a fluid stream of notes so clear, so clean yet so pronounced they almost take the listener's breath away.

Vocally, he fuses a deep, polished resonance with basic blues earthiness. He sings of standard themes — mainly women trouble — but in a style that makes King's blues a joy to hear.

His seven-piece back-up band —

guitar, bass, drums, organ, piano, tenor saxophone, alto saxophone and trombone — is always right there when he wants it but never intrudes too far upon his presence.

King is forever the focal point and enjoys outstanding rapport with his audience — to the point that his occasional chats with the audience become high points of his show.

His amazing talent impresses the listener but it is his warm and generous personality that draws rabid affection from an audience. He is a true gentleman (on and off stage) and this natural fusion of talent and class makes him an extremely special artist.



# Master of the outrageous - Randy Newman

He's the teller of tales, the advocate of the absurd, the master of the outrageous. He's Randy Newman, singer - songwriter - pop star phenomenon. With his controversial hit "Short People" currently at the top of the charts, Newman is basking in the bright light of super stardom. March 11 at 12:05 (12:35 p.m. nst) on CBC Stereo and on March 14 at 8:30 p.m. (9:00 p.m. nst) on CBC Radio, Newman will be featured in an exclusive interview on CBC's folk music series Touch the Earth. The uproar over Newman's

latest album "Little Criminals" and in particular the cut "Short People" which includes the lyrics "Short people got no reason to live", is representative of the composer's talent for outraging and delighting listeners at the same time. Despite Newman's assurances that the song is intended as a send-up of bigotry and not of short people, the song has infuriated many and has even prompted retaliation songs about tall people.

Newman's self-deprecating manner ("I never really wanted to do anything . . .") belies a success

story that began when Newman started selling his songs commercially in Los Angeles at age 15. Soon after graduating from University in the mid-sixties with a degree in musical theory, Newman found that his works were in demand by singers of the stature of Peggy Lee, Joni Mitchell and Judy Collins. By 1969, Newman was in the spotlight himself with two top-ten hits - "Love Story" as sung by Peggy Lee, and "Mamma Tol' Me Not to Come," which was number one in the U.S. for rock group Three Dog

Night. Since then, Newman has made frequent concert and television appearances in the States and has released three highly successful albums including "Political Science" and "The Good Old Boys." Now, with "Little

Criminals," Newman's niche in pop music history is secured.

On Touch the Earth, Newman will talk about his career and the incredible success of "Short Old Boys." Now, with "Little

### CHSR TOP 30

- 1) Desiree - Neil Diamond - Columbia (4)
  - 2) We will Rock You, We are the Champions - Queen - Elektra (3)
  - 3) You make loving fun - Fleetwood Mac - Warner Brthrs (2)
  - 4) Easy to love - Leo Sayer - Warner Brthrs (6)
  - 5) She's not there - Santana - Columbia (7)
  - 6) Turn to Stone - ELO - United Artists (1)
  - 7) Just the way you are - Billy Joel - Columbia (11)
  - 8) Moondance - Van Morrison - Warner Brthrs (8)
  - 9) Short People - Randy Newman - Warner Brthrs (5)
  - 10) Baby what a big surprise - Chicago - Columbia (10)
  - 11) Wrap your arms around me - KC & Sunshine Band - TK (31)
  - 12) The Circle is small - Gordon Lightfoot - Warner Brthrs (5)
  - 13) Sweet sweet smile - Carpenters - A & M (20)
  - 14) Closer to the heart - Rush - Anthem (17)
  - 15) Slip sliddin' away - Paul Simon - Columbia (9)
  - 16) Pretty vacant - Sex Pistols - Warner Brthrs (-)
  - 17) You really got me needing you - Peter Pringle - Warner Brthrs
  - 18) Tried to love - Peter Frampton - A & M (22) (14)
  - 19) Goodbye Girl - David Gates - Elektra (25)
  - 20) Peg - Steeley Dan - ABC (33)
  - 21) I don't want to lose your love - Shirley Eikhard - Attic (26)
  - 22) Simple man, simple dream - Linda Ronstadt - Asylum (-)
  - 23) Were off you know - Klaatu - Daffodil (27)
  - 24) Blue street - Blood Sweat & Tears - ABC (19)
  - 25) Your backyard - Burton Cummings - Portrait (18)
  - 26) Rock n Roll is a vicious game - April Wine - Aquarius (-)
  - 27) A clue - Boz Scaggs - Columbia (13)
  - 28) To love somebody - Jacke Del Shannon - Amherst (-)
  - 29) Draw the line - Aerosmith - Columbia (29)
  - 30) Money money money - Abba - Atlantic (34)
- Compiled by Marc Pepin

# Taming of the Stones

The antithesis of non-conformist pop in the 60's, now the establishment of contemporary rock, the Kings of the charts, the Rolling Stones are featured on a special edition of CBC's music series Goldrush, Monday, Feb. 27 at 8:30 p.m. (9:00 p.m. nst) on CBC Radio, and on Saturday, March 4 at 11:05 p.m. (11:35 p.m. nst) on CBC Stereo.

The parent group of all that goes down as "bad" in modern music traces its origins back to the early sixties when they were just another pub act trying to do their "own thing" under heavy national and international domination by the Beatles.

It took a raunchy beat and blatantly sexual lyrics to break into the charts with such hits as: It's All Over Now, Time Is On My Side, Heart of Stone, Can't Get No Satisfaction and Little Red Rooster.

The fact that Little Red Rooster was not released in the U.S. because of its obvious sexual connotations was indicative of the no-holds-barred approach of the group who flouted convention and rejected the stryry-eyed sweetness of the Lennon-McCartney ballads.

The snarling, viper-like delivery of the lead singer, Mick Jagger and the angry guitar licks of Keith Richard prompted such accolades

from the press of the day as: perverted, outrageous, violent, repulsive, ugly, tasteless - a travesty.

By today's standards, the bad boys of yesteryear are tame and yet the punk rock phenomenon of today can be attributed almost totally to the Stones.

On Goldrush, music critic Juan Rodriguez talks with The Stones about punk rock and the present evolution of music. He also gets into a discussion with the group's lead guitarist Keith Richard, about drug charges he has faced in Canada. And Mick Jagger talks candidly about his headline making acquaintance with Margaret Trudeau.

# Intellectual orgy

From July 31 to August 11, unpublished novelists, poets, playwrights and journalists from all over North America will bring their manuscripts to be discussed and criticized at the Summer Writers' Workshop at New College, University of Toronto.

"For anyone interested in writing," says Gerald Lampert, director and founder of the workshop 11 years ago, "it's a stimulating bombardment of ideas approaches to techniques of characterization, plot structure, handling of time sequence,

individual style and subject matter. It's exciting for developing writers to meet and talk about their own writing with other writer both published and non-published. And to learn about markets if they're ready to submit for publication."

The teacher-writer staff is an impressive one. Governor General Award winners P.K. Page and Joe Rosenblatt, as well as Steve McCaffery, internationally acclaimed sound-poet, will be teaching poetry, leading drama seminars will be playwrights

Martin Kinch (Artistic Director of Toronto Free Theatre) and Ken Gass (Artistic Director of Factory Theatre Lab). Rachel Wyatt, novelist, TV writer and journalist, and Eleanor Wright Pelrine, author of *Morgantaler* etc. will teach non-fiction. Novelists are: Austin Clarke, Alice Denham, Reshard Gool, Gerald Lampert and British mystery writer Elizabeth Salter.

For further information contact: WRITERS' WORKSHOP, 165 Spadina Avenue, Suite 8, Toronto, Ontario. MST 2C4. or call 364-3818.

# Rock 'n Roll Trivia

Rick Lee hopes that everyone is giving the questions a try and are learning something from them. Have a productive break and remember Rick will be back with more Trivia. **Answer on pg. 19**

1. What year and under what name did Chicago form?
2. What is T. Rex's real name?
3. Where do the Bee Gees hail from?
4. What is the name of Rod Argent's first band?
5. Who is Ellis Mac Danile?
6. Who is Suite: Judy Blue Eyes for?
7. What is B.B. King's real name, and what does the B.B. stand for?
8. What religion is Bette Midler?
9. What is Franki Valli's problem?
10. Who gave Led Zepplin its name?