

Wrack n Roll

by Alex Venny

- comfort. 3. ease, freedom from pain or hardship
- 5. person or thing that makes life easier or takes away hardship
- 6. comforter for a bed

[from the Thorndike English Dictionary, London, 1949]

Comfort, my friends, is what life is all about these days. The winds are already snapping at the trees and grasses, and the desolate season is poised for its first assault. Lay in wood for the fireplace, perhaps a new carpet, a box of good books, sweaters and woolen socks. Perhaps buy that sofa or the amplifier you've been looking at all summer. Say hello to old friends, make some new ones, maybe say some things that you've been holding back on for months.

Oh yes; when the apartment is comfortable, the plants all arranged, the chairs cushioned; have some friends in. Light the candles, fill your crystal with liqueurs, broach a bottle of homegrown wine, or brew some herb tea.

Everybody should be relaxed; chatty perhaps, perhaps quiet; and when you're all mellowed out and smiling, pull out the new Grateful Dead record and let it insinuate into the room.

Don't play it when you're tense or busy - you won't like it. In fact, if you're naturally hyper you might as well forget it - there's nothing here as overtly soothing as "Uncle John's Band", nor anything as aggressive as "One More Saturday Night" or even "Scarlet Begonias" here. But when you want that California laid-back ambience BLUES FOR ALLAH is superior to any of that America/ Eagles semi-schlock. The record functions much like John Martyn's SOLID AIR and Traffic's LOW SPARK - it brings its own particular mood to any room where it's played.

Perhaps all this stuff could be dismissed as sort of a cool, elegant muzak. It certainly doesn't grab you by the feet and hips, nor does it contain an overly important lyric sensibility. It's music that must be appreciated like a fine cognac - a touch of fire here, a velvet aftertaste there, and a general feel of care in the making and joy in the taking.

All this isn't to say that the latest "good old Grateful Dead" is a flawless record. The Dead aren't noted for that. [AMERICAN BEAUTY to the contrary.] Donna Godchaux's vocals on "The Music Never Stopped" are in definitely poor taste, and the title selection is just a shade overly dissonant - though it works wonderfully. But the craftsmanship of the performances and the simple clarity of the production outweigh these minor objections.

§ BLUES FOR ALLAH also reaffirms that the Dead's synchromesh live technique can be adapted to the demands of the studio. Side one flows like the Saint John - about the same number of dams but the water's clearer on the record...

Garcia's guitar ranges and bubbles like it hasn't since LIVE DEAD; Kreutzmann, Lesh, and [welcome back!] Mickey Hart keep the tempos shifting and interlocking; Weir is as usual incredibly inventive; and the Godchaux' complement the basic five with jazzy keyboards and sweet harmonies. "They're a band beyond description, like Jehovah's favorite chair."

Play side one and "Crazy Fingers" from side two for your friends. As one tune says, "Life may be sweeter for this - I don't know - see how this feels in the end." With music like this for comfort life will be sweeter.

I should warn you - this record should be broken in gently - you might not like it the first time around [I didn't] but after a few listenings its taste and elegant subtleties become enjoyable for their intrinsic worth. When I want some sunshine this winter I'll probably play this album - it's one of those rare pieces of vinyl with built in atmosphere. And it's as comfortable as my old slippers... 4:30 a.m., Tuesday night,

By PENNY or VENNY

Welcome back, everyone! Welcome here, Freshmen, for many things are about to happen. It's a good thing I'm not with you in person, else you'd lose an ear or two.

Dr. John Anderson is looking out of his office window, and his secretary stands a bit behind him.

Dr. John: 1400 extra students! (expletive deleted) to those new students!

Secretary: Is that any way to talk about those nice young people?

Dr. John: They're destructive! They smoke pot! They drink! They get sex every 15 minutes or wreck the residences!

Secretary: But they pay \$672 tuition, \$1000 for residences, and \$200-300 on food! They support us!

Dr. John: Those BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!

Seriously, Dr. John has his hands full with all these people! How? No accommodations!

It's a shocking business when 300 students come to what is probably the best university of its size in North America, only to have them staying in the Student Union Building because the locals who take in students are the sort of klutzes to pay off a mortgage on the house and then stop keeping the students in the basement.

It's not bad enough that they want to use it for something useless when the students need space, but then they also pass up \$270 or more per month for a rumpus room! It's inconsiderate, to say the least!

I have found myself living in a basement which is sheltering ants more numerous than citizens of

New York! I'm glad to have it, despite being here with 5-7 other guys as well as the ants! Worse, the ants eat RAID like it was sugar and thrive on it! Then, they walk on a Vapona No-Pest Strip to ease the pain of fallen arches! To top it off, they roll in rat poison to lessen the misery of psoriasis!!

There is a simple solution to this big problem, and that is to convert the Centennial Building into a UNB residence and let the government build a new government structure. After all, they like to spend millions on themselves. Why not do it to good purposes?

And Dr. John sits in his office, hands clasped behind his head. He is smiling.

"Those Beautiful People! Those Beautiful Dollars!" Dr. John is Happy!!

Film Society presents The Duke

The University of New Brunswick Film Society will begin its 23rd season September 20 and 21 with the showing of John Ford's highly acclaimed western, "The Searchers", starring John Wayne.

necessary to choose one particular time in advance. And each selection will be preceded by an episode of "The Perils of Pauline", the popular cliff-hanger serial of the 1930's.

Executive. Films will be shown in Room C-13 Head Hall, Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 6:30 and 9 p.m. (Exception: March 28 at the Playhouse).

As usual the Film Society is offering the widest variety of movies available in Fredericton. The 12 selections for 1975-76 represent 8 countries and five decades, offering comedy, music, suspense, adventure and important social and political commentary.

Tickets are sold only on a subscription basis, \$7 for the 12 pictures. They are available from: Al's Music Store; Capital Art Gallery; Edmond Casey Hall, STU (Faculty Secretary); D'Avray Hall, UNB (Educational Resource Centre); Tilley Hall, UNB (Secretary, Economics Dept.); SUB Information Booth, UNB.

The complete lineup is: September 20-21 - The Searchers; October 4-5 - 3 short comedies (Keaton, Fields, Chaplin); October 25-26 - Psycho; November 8-9 - Sanjuro; November 22-23 - The Passion of Joan of Arc; December 6-7 - The Band Wagon; January 10-11 - The Salamander; January 24-25 - La Grande Illusion; January 31-February 1 - The Garden of Delights; February 14-15 - Ali - Fear Eats the Soul; March 13-14 - Les Ordres; March 28 - The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie.

Two new features are being welcomed by Film Society subscribers. Tickets will be honoured at any one of three showings for each movie - it is no longer

They can also be purchased at the door on opening night and from members of the Film Society

Drama Society to be ambitious

This year the UNB Drama Society is starting off the season with an ambitious production entitled "Ring Round the Moon". Written Jean Anouilh, the play is set in the late 1920's and is a lighthearted satire of the follies of the wealthy. The scene is set at a ball given on an estate and involves a great deal of dancing and music. Amidst this elaborate setting, the viewer is presented with such

characters as the romantic heroine, the millionaire, the exotic mistress and her lover, the social climbing mother and the crumbling butler. This major production requires a large cast of twelve principles plus numerous dancers. Lots of help is also needed in such areas as costumes, set construction and lighting.

this fall production. Don't worry if you haven't had any previous theatrical experience, the Drama Society is not a professional group and any enthusiastic help is greatly appreciated and greatly needed! The first meeting of the Drama Society will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at Memorial Hall at 7:30 p.m. Other topics to be discussed include monthly Drama Society "Workshop Productions", the upcoming spring production entitled "The Life and Death of Sneaky Fitch", and a proposed Christmas party. Hope to see you there.

goodnight... but I just might play "Crazy Fingers" again before I crash...

Please allow me to introduce myself; I'm a man... Well, Wrack and Roll is going into its third year now, but for those of you who are new, this column is generally dedicated to music that's a little out of ordinary, stuff that doesn't get the full page ads in Rolling Stone and doesn't make it onto commercial radio. If anyone has any unusual recordings they'd like to see reviewed please get in touch with me through the Bruns or CHSR; complaints etc. can be lodged at the Bruns office... I hope you all intend to enjoy yourself this year, I do, certainly. For good music in River City catch Sunbury County at the Arms tonight and tomorrow, The Freightliners at the Hilltop the same days and A Joint Effort at the River Room until the 20th. They're all fine local bands who need your support. There is an awful lot of talent in this city, and I hope to keep you informed all through the school year - see you same time next week...



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