

# ARTS

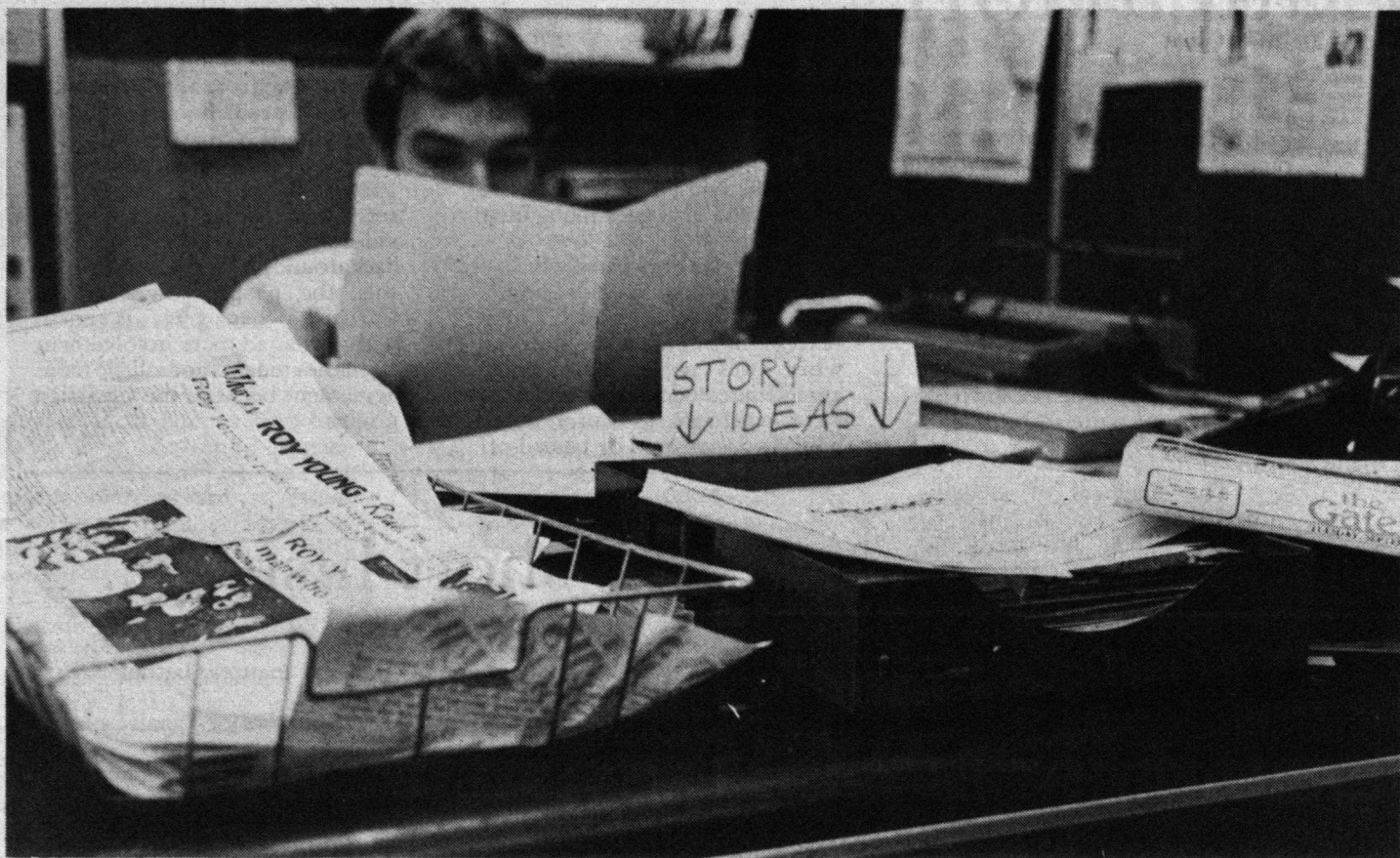


Photo Ray Giguere

See the Arts Editor. He is waiting, waiting, waiting. What is he waiting for? He is waiting for someone to come along who can write a review as good as "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses." Unfortunately, Mark Twain is dead. Where, oh where is his replacement? The Arts Editor doesn't know, but he has together a critic's guide for you if you want to try to fill Twain's size sixteen shoes. The Arts Editor also has a basket full of thrilling press releases from avant-garde organizations like the Alberta Toothpick Sculpture

Society. Or if that is too deep for you, there is the Edmonton Symphony. The Arts Editor heard the symphony play Beethoven's Eroica last weekend. He was Disappointed. Why was he Disappointed? Because none of the geriatrics in the audience suffered a heart attack during the first movement. If no one suffers a heart attack the movement hasn't been performed correctly. The Arts Editor hopes that if you become a reviewer you will judge a work by criteria as exacting as this one.

## Kinks still alive

Give the People What They Want  
The Kinks  
Arista AL 9567

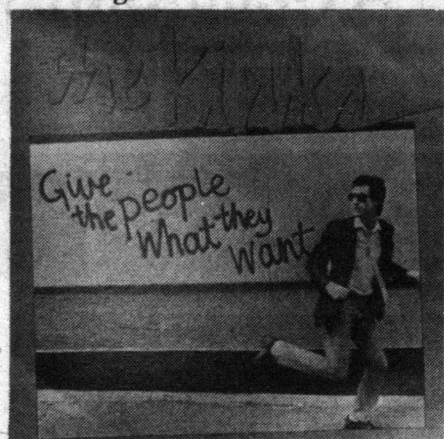
review by Richard Watts

To begin with, Ray Davies and the Kinks are long-standing Rock'n Roll heroes of mine. Their concert here in Edmonton in my opinion rated 99.5 on a scale of 100. So objectivity in this case is difficult, perhaps impossible.

Besides being long-enduring, prime-movers of Rock they have always managed to retain an irreverent sense of humour. In a business where there is always the tendency for people to take themselves too seriously the Kinks have a refreshing, healthy disrespect for all authority. For me, this makes them worth lionizing.

Lyricaly, "Give the People What They Want" almost seems to contradict this; cynicism seems to have claimed another victim. In the title song Davies screams "give 'em lotsa sex, perversion and rape, lotsa violence and something to hate." Davies then goes on to sing other songs about murder, our lack of spontaneity, modern paranoia, even wife beating.

However Davies' unique personality is always there; if the songs make you uncomfortable you can be sure Davies is agonizing too. In the last song the listener is treated to a pleasant short, where with typical, wry, Davies wit and good humour; Javies sings "Here's wishing you the best skies, since I know tomorrow you'll find better things."



Musically the album is fast-paced and hard-hitting. Also, the Kinks have gone more electric than before, with some flamboyant guitar work by Dave Davies, Ray's younger brother. But the harder sound has not replaced the old-style, almost Vaudevillian vocal delivery. The two have been blended with excellent results.

It all just goes to prove that even now; Ray Davies and the Kinks are still turning out good tunes, still kicking up a storm, and still crazy after all these years.

## Novel uses unusual plot structure

Falling In Place  
Ann Beattie  
Popular Library 1981

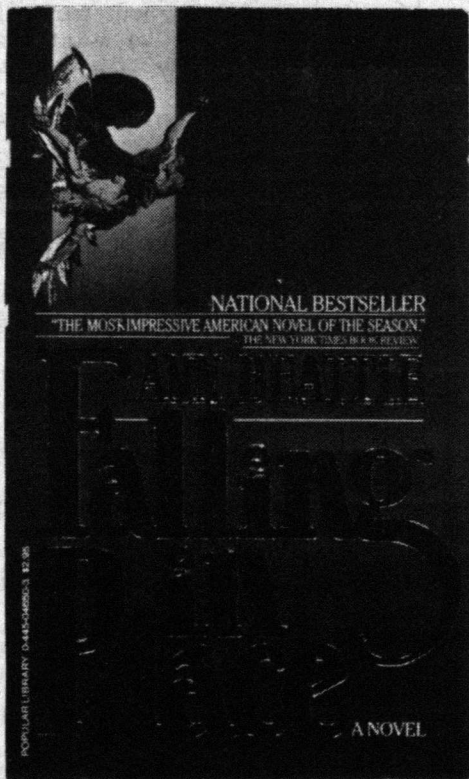
Review by Geoffrey Jackson

Some of the best books one can buy are bought for the oddest reasons. In the case of this book I was in dire need of something to read while taking the bus from Port Hardy to Victoria. It was sitting on the paperback rack in the midst of gothic romances and lurid shockers. The cover blurbs were from the New York Times Book Review and the back cover photo revealed Ann Beattie to be a cross between Joni Mitchell and Sissy Spacek. So I bought it.

Miss Beattie has undoubtedly a fine, realistic style. Right away I was drawn into a nicely detailed description of life today in New York State. The dialogue is witty but not real, and the characters are vividly familiar. I had the constant feeling of having met people like these, or of being in situations similar to those portrayed.

The plot gets involved but its essence is simple: A group of people are involved with each other, they are filled with doubts and anxieties, they adapt and change, then things are different. Needless to say, this is not a "War and Peace" epic. It is a subtle work, graceful in effect.

The characters reflect this. In a time when so much literature seems to favour the outlandish and bizarre it seems a relief



to find a book full of people of normal temperament and character. This isn't to say that they are flat and dull, these people have their oddities and quirks, it's just that

these qualities are never pushed to the point of absurdity.

The most interesting aspect of the book is Ann Beattie's approach to plot. I'll admit that upon just finishing the book I felt very unsatisfied and puzzled. As I have suggested already, the plot does not move strongly in any particular direction. Things happen and situations change. In most books this would be a fault but Miss Beattie is attempting something interesting here, and the clue to its nature lies in the title *Falling in Place*.

Most fiction sees life as being dramatically structured into development, climax, denouement, etc. These forms permeate our entire way of viewing things. Miss Beattie has written a book that deliberately tries to show the randomness and chance inherent in reality. As one character in the book puts it, nothing really develops or works out by plan, things just fall into place.

I found this disquieting, of course, because I am as caught up in all the conventional ways of seeing life and fate, as if I were a character in a book myself. Miss Beattie disturbed that perspective within me and I am sure that someone has said, at least once, that any book that disturbs you is a good book. On that basis alone, I recommend this work to you.

## ARTS QUIZ



Match the saying with the author:

1. All hell broke loose.
2. Live and let live.
3. Never look a gift horse in the mouth.
4. To err is human.
5. You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows.
6. It was Greek to me.
7. Labor of love.

- a. Shakespeare
- b. Bob Dylan
- c. St. Paul
- d. St. Jerome
- e. Milton
- f. Schiller
- g. Seneca

answers on p. 13

Your review could have gone here