

turntable drugs

by Andrew Gillis

Buddy Buddy and the Boys / Solar

Leon Dubinsky and four of his best friends got together an album this year which they dedicated to Buddy. Buddy is a mythical roving Cape Bretoner, and is the subject of ten songs written for the record. Among these is the "Workin' At The Woolco (Manager Trainee Blues)" which Matt Minglewood, a close friend of Leon's and a collaborator on this album, absolutely dug holes in when his band and Sam Moon's jammed at the Dirty O in August.

Mickey Oja is a former St. F.X. hockey team top scorer (1969-70, 1970-71) and now a medical student at Dalhousie. He somehow knows some of Leon and the Boys who cut the album on Dartmouth's Solar Records. Figuring they're a good band he decided the friendly thing to do would be to zap me with one so I could write about it. A very grass-roots promotion campaign,

what with friends of the band taking albums around door to door.

That's an approach far more appealing than getting something through the mail, with a promo notice attached, addressing you by your first name, as if the guy or girl who wrote it (women are capable of such complete crap, I have found) is good friends with you. The copy of **Buddy** which Mickey Oja brought to me did have a note attached. It did address me by my first name, and then really only concern itself with giving me the management's address. But it was from Mickey's wife Jean, who is friends with me, because I used to go to school with her little brother, and she used to give me rides home with him every three years or so.

Buddy has real weak points, like some of Max McDonald's flat vocals on side one. Other weak points are often in the lyrics, even David Harley's lyric on "Workin' At The Woolco" ("Eatin' at the Red Grill almost every single day / Food is

all greasy / and the coffee's kinda grey"). Lyrics which are forced, like all those "quites" and "verys" in "You're So Vain" by Carly Simon, look even worse when they are printed out on the jacket, and you read them, without them playing on the stereo at the time. This is true of **Buddy**.

The music to which the lyrics are set, however, has variety of style and type, flashy solos, useful guest parts by Matt Minglewood on organ, and his harpist, Enver Sampson, fiddlers Marcel Doucet and Ron MacEachern, and Kenzie MacNeill on 12 string guitar. The production touches added by Harold Tsistinas make the album's strong points very strong. "Woolco's" lyric sounds great in MacDonald's slurred delivery, and when Harold adds a grating mix to the phrase "attention Woolco shoppers", you really have to smile. The tune which Harley, (a well-known Cape Breton disc-jockey) used for "Woolco" is roughly the stop-blues form of "Riot In Cell Block Number Nine", a song most recently covered by Johnny Winter and Commander Cody.

Side two of the album, on which "Woolco" appears, is really brilliant, because MacDonald gets some songs which are in his range, and he can't miss. He has a sense of the meanings in lyrics, a sense of how the simple little ordinary words are the ones a singer can use to hurt you. It's like a good poet who can really read his stuff. MacDonald has got that all over side two.

MacDonald is the best rock singer I have ever heard around here. He has class and poise, and like Matt Minglewood or Frank McKay, is a relief because he always has the wind left to finish a line strong.

When your friends bring you new records by locals, you aren't objective. But I fooled some people at my place into thinking Buddy and the Boys was a new New Jersey bar band with a reformed Joe Cocker singing, switching off with Southside Johnny. I fooled them easily, and maybe they were objective: they didn't know the album was by a bunch of the boys from Cape Breton.

A Holiday Wish

The Collection of Musical perfection expects a shot in the arm this holiday season when **Tower of Power**, **Bruce Springsteen** and several other spirited and likeable artists hit Halifax record shops with new albums. Those two will bless even the most bland parties this New Year's Eve.

Also on the holidays, pay the money to see the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, perched with cellist Yo Yo Ma this Monday and Tuesday. The ASO conductor, you see, is **Victor Yampolsky**, a weird funky dancer in concert and an efficient, careful and entertaining worker in rehearsals. He has the thin ASO line-up of fifty musicians sounding like a single voice—somebody big and intelligent talking.

Books



Echoes from Labor's War: Industrial Cape Breton in the 1920s

Dawn Fraser

Edited and with an introduction by David Frank and Donald Macgillivray

*His name was Eddie Crimmins
And he came from Port Aux Basques,
Besides a chance to live and work
He had nothing much to ask. . .
And yet he starved, he starved, I tell you,
Back in 1924,
and before he died he suffered
As many have before.
When the mines closed down that winter
He had nothing left to eat,
And he starved, he starved, I tell you,
On your dirty, damned street.*

"Hard and bitter words", which provide an accurate picture of life in industrial Cape Breton in the 1920's. These words, written by working class poet Dawn Fraser, introduce his thin volume of narrative verse **Echoes from Labor's War**. The conflict which Fraser

describes so dramatically and poignantly has not disappeared from Cape Breton and therefore this book serves as not only an impressive historical work but also as very topical material which can help one to understand industrial

working conditions today. Class conflict has not disappeared.

Re-released recently by new hogtown press with an admirable introduction by Cape Bretoners David Frank and Don Macgillivray, this book should be found under every Nova Scotian's tree at Christmas. Highly recommended for any age group.

Only \$2 and available from Red Herring Books, 1652 Barrington Street, Second Floor, Pair of Trindles, Historic Properties and a few other bookstores around the city.

Health professions

When there are no definite prescribed texts for a given course and there are several alternatives on the market, sometimes it is difficult to choose one that is suitable. Medical, Dental and other health profession texts are particularly profuse so here are a few descriptions of alternatives to the ones in common use.

NEUROANATOMY Sidman, Sidman
Little, Brown and Co.
645 pages, \$16.50

There are few subjects more complex than neuroanatomy so the usual descriptive narrative of anatomy texts can be confusing, frustrating and sometimes intimidating. This book, however, can be an excellent aid to learning. Unlike a simple narrative, it is a carefully structured teaching program, a "programmed text". Each new piece of information is immediately reinforced with various types of questions, with answers given on the following page as feedback. There are about thirteen hundred items with well over a thousand illustrations, an essential aid for learning to think in three dimensions. Most importantly, it is simple in presentation without excluding important detail. When used properly, it is close to idiot proof; you cannot help but learn the subject completely with relatively little mental effort.

It should be noted that the book is not intended as a definitive reference but simply as an adjunct to the normal course. Given the nature and difficulty of the subject, however, most students should find it extremely helpful.

REVIEW OF MEDICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Meyers, Jawetz, Goldfien
Lange Medical Publications
740 pages

REVIEW OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY, Jawetz, Melnick, Adelberg
Lange Medical Publications

542 pages

These two books follow a common format. Material is presented in a highly structured, regimented manner with items A, B, C given point by point in a logical and consistent order. Though it makes for turgid reading, this form is not only intrinsic to the nature of the subject but is desirable for quick and easy reference.

"Pharmacology" has several indications in its favour. First, it is a rather complete drug reference of practical use while still containing the basic pharmacologic science, and it also delves into the more clinical aspects of the subject. In other words, while pharmacology texts have a short half life and become obsolete fairly quickly, this one should retain at least some of its usefulness in later years.

The book also contains an excellent, though rather too American oriented, section on the technics of drug regulation and administration and includes material on drug abuse and clinical trials.

In general "Pharmacology" is recommended for those who wish to cover more than the bare minimum or make an investment in a fairly comprehensive but not definitive text. For those who have difficulty culling important material from a mass of information, the book is contra-indicated.

"Microbiology" has similar selling points. It is a comprehensive text designed for quick reference. It covers the basic biology, i.e. cell structure, genetics, metabolism, lab techniques etc., and also includes good sections on immunology, antibiotics, and an appendix on parasitology.

The publishers claim this book has been translated into multiple and obscure foreign languages, which may say something about its quality. If nothing else it is unassailably adequate, relatively inexpensive and currently available in the Dal bookstore.