



D'Amico, Witkowski, Macre, Palumbo, and Griffiths of Crack the Sky.

CRACK THE SKY (POLYDOR) EMMYLOU HARRIS / ELITE HOTEL (WEA)

This group fills most of the requirements of a superb group in each of its members: Jim Griffiths, the sex symbol; Rick D'Amico, who just sits and drums; Joe Macre, one of the better bassists around; Rick Witkowski, the showman, and John Palumbo, the vocalist and brains of the group. His writing is familiar but original and his lyrics are off-beat, such as in *She's A Dancer*: "She's a dancer/and all the boys have fun... When I look into her eyes / I can see through his disguise / He's a dancer." The music is straight hard rock, leaning a little more on Macre's bass than most, but has a tendency to change tempo suddenly and often even within a single cut. The musicianship is superb, and the vocals range from the Beach Boys to Bowie. The sudden changes make their music a pain to dance to, but it's been one of the most original and stylish records to be released in a long time.

Harris' situation is like many other dwellers of this really strange industry: Around for a while, unknown to most until fate shoves them in the limelight almost violently (remember Springsteen?). After staying fairly obscure in the realms of hard core country and western, most "progressives" wouldn't touch her stuff. Now she's accompanied Dylan on *Desire*, and has her own new album justifiably getting promotion, for once. She still stays mostly within the realm of C & W, a little rock thrown in. Her voice is like Ronstadt's, but a bit grainier. The material's diverse enough, from Buck Owens to Lennon/McCartney and some stuff of her own, as well. The music is more than competent, and with help from people like Bernie Leadon (Eagles), Bill Payne (Doobies), and Ronstadt, it should do pretty well in a strange pop market.

TOOTS AND THE MAYTELS / FUNKY KINGSTON (ISLAND)

Well, reggae is reggae, if you know what I mean, and either you like it or you don't. Popularized (if you could call it that) by Jimmy Cliff and first heard on AM in a cut called *Wonderful World Beautiful People*, reggae developed its style into the bass dominant, rhythm oriented stuff it is today. Island has pretty well cornered the market on big-time reggae, and to many the two are synonymous.

Their feature artists are Toots, and Bob Marley and the Wailers, whose main claim to fame is the original "I Shot the Sheriff". Between them it's a coin flip who you prefer, but on the strength of this album I like the Maytels, because theirs is a little tighter and smoother than the Wailers. Either way, you know what to expect, and if you like this rather underground form of music, these groups provide more than adequate introductions.

Evan Leibovitch

York students on a Queen Street shuffle

By MALCOLM CRAWFORD and ROY MANDEVILLE

HORSESHOE TAVERN

This was our first stop on a recent Queen St. pub crawl. It is situated on the northeast corner of Queen St. and Spadina and can safely be classed as the country & western fan's mecca in Toronto.

Yes folks, this place is notorious for having given Stompin' Tom his first big break in the big city. A quick glance upon entry told us, however, that we were to be treated to an evening of the velvet tonal qualities of this week's headliner, none other than Nat Stuckey (Nat Stuckey?). Also noted by this reviewer were two other things, one being a sign saying **ADMISSION \$2.00**, and the other, a large bouncer.

Inside the place has a fully equipped bar, complete with trap door and silver saddle. The room itself is quite large but also half empty this particular night which isn't too good for a Friday. (Probable cause: the cover, and prices; - 95¢ for a bottled beer, or maybe Nat Stuckey.)

THE CLIFTON HOUSE

Also on Queen between Spadina and University, this is one of the few remaining, traditional beer parlours (some would say "dives") in the city. The clientele is mainly working class, over forty and male. The large men's room is panelled and furniture (vintage Salvation Army) looks to be about thirty years old. It even has one of those old Clark Kent style telephone booths, not to mention washrooms that are mediaeval at best. But the draught is only a quarter, and the food prices seem reasonable (meatpie: 35¢). So if you ever want to take a trip into the past and see what beer parlours were like before K.C. and the Sunshine Band were around, then go to the Clifton.

THE BEVERLY TAVERN

This has to rank as a genuinely peculiar bar. It is another of the many located on Queen between University and Spadina and to look at, it's nothing special at all. But the place is deceptive since, once inside, it seems twice as big as it looks from outside.

Also, it is on two levels: downstairs is like a series of long connected men's rooms (draft: 30¢); upstairs, which is called *The Attic*, looks to be much the same except that a band plays at one end (also draft: 35¢). I know that this all sounds very run-of-the-mill, but the peculiar aspect of the place has to do with the people it seems to attract. Honestly, it is a rare occasion indeed when one sits in a bar surrounded by people discussing existentialism and other assorted theories of life, on a Friday night! Even the high volume of the rock band couldn't deter this unusual bar conversation. Personally, I liked the place. Where else can one find washroom wall graffiti to the order of:

A man without a God,
Is like a fish without a bicycle.

REX HOTEL

Believe it or not, Toronto actually has a Rex Hotel. It is also located on Queen, close to University. Suffice it to say that the draft is a quarter, the shuffleboard table is O.K., and if you get there at any time, on any day of the week, you won't have any trouble getting a seat, I guarantee it.

DOC'S PLACE

This bar is favorite haunt of the Ryerson crowd. The room is decorated in standard English pub style. However, it also has a large round bar with a round mirror on the ceiling above it (kinky, eh, and a couple of big round tables). The best part of all is the seven foot square TV screen they have on one of the walls. The place is always crowded but never full and usually loud enough to drown out any sound coming from the television. The beer is moderately priced at 75¢ a bottle and the people are basically under 30, but the big TV screen is what really makes the place distinctive.

Doc's Place is located as part of the Town and Country, at Mutual and Gould (near Yonge-Dundas); it's a pretty neat place.

Excalibur

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Room 111 Central Square

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Tuesday, March 16, 1976 AND Thursday, March 18, 1976
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DOUG KIRK,
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