

First in a series

Buying old, unwanted records can be fun



By **ESMONDE M. INNES**

If you'd as soon spend ninety-nine cents gambling on an interesting-looking record as spend \$4.99 on a sure thing, this checklist may improve your odds.

In many cases, it's obvious why 99-cent albums are selling for 99 cents. But some of the cheap vinyl spheroids (god, it's hard to keep thinking of synonyms for "records") have been unfairly relegated to the delete pile. And while this may be bad news for the artist concerned, it's a lucky break for the impoverished bargain-hunter.

Due to a peculiar quirk on the part of this writer, these records will be rated with stars.

- * — Not worth the trouble.
- ** — Some good spots. Worth a listen if you can get it cheap enough.
- *** — Well worth picking up.
- **** — Superb.

Rock Festival (WS-1878) by the Youngbloods ()**

With a couple of exceptions, this is a fair collection, if not an exciting one. It has a nice cover version of Tim Hardin's *Misty Roses*, mellow numbers with titles to match (*It's a Lovely Day, Josiane*), and a couple of songs that would sound good issuing from the stage of a beerhall.

The only trouble is that *Faster All the Time*, sung by what must be a crow wearing jockey shorts a shade too tight, and three small numbers which sound like a porcelain cup falling down a flight of stairs, are inserted between the otherwise innocuous numbers.

They amount to eight minutes out of forty; if you don't mind either sitting through them or expending the effort to lift the needle over those tracks, you might give the album a try.

Andy Pratt (KC 31722) by Andy Pratt ()**

Pratt's recent album *Resolution* was a beautiful piece of work, but fans who gamble on his earlier albums will be disappointed. Although the production is excellent, Pratt's voice is strained (he makes too much use of his falsetto) and the songs are forgettable.

Despite a few good moments — *Avenging Annie's* rocking chorus, for instance — the album is a non-starter.

Gluggo (VEL-1015) by The Spencer Davis Group ()**

If you can listen to Spencer Davis's voice without wincing, there are some nice moments on this one. *Catch You on the Rebob* has a chorus that will stick in your

head for days, and *Don't You Let it Bring You Down* has some nice vocal harmonies. Side two is a disaster. If it means anything to you, the liner notes are amusing.

Cheap Shots



Unfortunately, Ed Fox's pic of the Dutch National Ballet didn't get to me until after we went to press, and it was so nice . . . Cabaret is scheduling its second performance, called "Is Nothing Sacred?", for tonight and tomorrow night for two shows each night in McLaughlin Hall. It's licenced

IN TOWN . . . The Toronto Symphony Orchestra Continues its series introductions this week, with the first of six Friday night concerts beginning tomorrow night. This one features Jean Bernard Pommier on piano, and among others, Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* will be presented . . . Wednesday, Chen Dah Shing will give a lecture on Chinese painting. The multi-media show will take place in Curtis A at 4:00 pm . . . Free films at Ryerson this weekend; *Touch of Evil* and *Psycho* . . . Next week, Vera Frenkel will present and exhibition of 30 of her collages at the IDA Galley, Fine Arts building . . . At the New Yorker, *Five Easy Pieces*, Saturday, and the *Seduction of Mimi*, Tuesday . . . An all-Beethoven programme will be presented by the Guarneri Quartet at the St. Lawrence Centre, tonight at 8:30 . . . Caravan, an exhibit-sale of foreign handicrafts, will be in the Vanier Senior Common Room next week . . . If you like the kind of dancing that brings you close enough to the other person to see them, your chance comes Saturday when Winters holds its big band dance . . . Wednesday, the International Students Centre will show *The Harder They Come*, starring Jimmy Cliff, at 7:30, in S201 of the Ross building . . . Jean S. Boggs, Professor of Fine Arts at Harvard, will give a lecture on Visual Arts Monday, 8:30, in Burton . . . At the Ed Johnson Building, U of T, a Canadian premiere of "Under the Umbrella" by Jo Kondo, at a New Music concert Monday at 8:30 . . . The Mendelssohn Choir opens its seasons Wednesday with the "Elijah", accompanied by the Hamilton Philharmonic, at Massey Hall . . . To your right, one of the electric photographs by Michel Prulx, on exhibit at the Mirvish Gallery, 596 Markham Street.

E.L.



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