

Fogelberg's latest is marvellous

Dan Fogelberg - Windows and Walls

By WILFRED LANGMAID
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Dan Fogelberg's latest LP *Windows and Walls* is, in short, marvellous. Great arrangements, good instrumentation, and super lyrics make this a truly memorable effort.

All of Fogelberg's

Dear enemy: another good band from Down Under

Aussies Do It Again
by WILFRED LANGMAID;
Brunswickan Staff

Dear Enemy - Ransom Note

The story is getting to be a familiar one. An Australian group releases a well thought-out debut album fitting into a definite pop formula, and yet

another new group from down under has a heyday with the North American pop charts. Add Dear Enemy, who have just unveiled their first LP *Ransom Note*, to the ever-growing list.

One of the group's real assets is the fact that all six band members are, in fact, songwriters and four of them are involved in the writing of the material for *Ransom Note*. As one would expect with such a wide base of songwriting, the album does not fall into the chasm of tedious repetitiveness which is often the fate of pop albums trying to fit into a formula.

material can more or less be placed into the mellow or easy listening category. However, it is neither boring nor repetitive. Fogelberg's oft-melancholy lyrics within this instrumental base make a winning combination.

The album opener "The Language of Love" is the first single to be released from the LP. It is actually

As well, the band members are all good solid musicians, and their sound

it tight and crisp from the outset when the album begins with "Computer One". A successful single for the group in Australia, it is a pop song for the 1980's both lyrically and instrumentally. It is also the first single to be culled from the album here in North America; look for it to go places.

While the album is pretty well solid all around, some particularly worthy highlights do emerge. Langford wrote four of *Ransom Note's* finest cuts - "Restless", "Bit of Your Heart", "All Through the Night", and "Kids on the Street".

Produced and engineered by Peter McIan, who produced *Business As Usual* and *Cargo for Men At Work*, the group which launched the current Australian pop invasion, *Ransom Note* by Dear Enemy is a solid, professional effort which certainly warrants attention.

quite uncharacteristic with its bouncy, poppish gait but avoids offending the purist.

There are but two other relatively upbeat numbers on the entire album. "Let Her Go" is a dandy from side one while the album closer "Gone Too Far" has a horrifyingly Foreigner-reminiscent Fogelberg guitar intro. The worst fears are soon dispelled, as the song soon develops into the LP's most driving rocker with thought-provoking lyrics which address the problems of our twentieth century, and pose the question "Have we gone too far/Are we just living on a dying star?", ever reminiscent of the cold hard fact "if we should lose there's only us to blame."

The rest of the album, comprising five wonderful songs, is made up of ballads. The closest to a middle-of-the-roader is "The Loving Cup", about the constant striving of people for the tenuous blessing of love. "Believe In Me", aided by a string arrangement, is a charming love song written to try to convince one partner to trust the other's love which is sincere even though he does not express it.

That leaves three ballads, and each are very special musical moments. Their instrumental backbone is provided by Mike Hanna, Fogelberg's excellent pianist and keyboardist and Fogelberg on acoustic and electric guitar, filled out by Mike Hanna's string arrangements. The title track

"Windows and Walls" is a poignant look at a lonely, elderly woman who "...most days... sits and just stares/at the windows and walls". Fogelberg, as well he should, portrays these people as precious resources though they are often cast aside and ignored as not worth our "bother".

"Tuscon, Arizona (Gazette)" is a story-song. The main character is Tony, brought up in a single parent home; his father died an alcoholic, followed a few years later by the death of his brother in the horrid carnage of VietNam. Depressed that his life is going nowhere "With high school well behind him/he lives at home and works this shitty job/and he thinks his '60 Chevy/Is the only true amigo that he's got/His heart is filled with sadness/And his soul is like some ugly vacant lot". He

meets up with a tough-luck would be actress who has a night job selling cocktails, and asks her for a date complete with cocaine. She says "...I might as well/I haven't had no fun in so damn long". What results is a tragic murder/suicide. The tale is weaved in an engaging, tasteful, and non-predictable fashion, and a special flavour is provided by Fogelberg's use of classical guitar.

My own favourite, however, is the simply beautiful "Sweet Magnolia (And the Travelling Salesman)", where Fogelberg surrenders his guitars and instead plays piano. What a love song!

Windows and Walls is a superb album. The quality of the material means that it will have the lasting power to be a favourite and a solid seller for years to come.

BEYOND THE ARMS RACE: BUILDING SECURITY AND PEACE

A major conference in Halifax March 22 to the 24th at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Speakers include:

Admiral Eugene Carroll, Centre for Defense Information Washington.

John Lamb, Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, Ottawa.

Ursula Franklin, University of Toronto.

The conference is sponsored by Dal, Mt. St. Vincent, SMU, Halifax City Regional Library, and Canadian Learning Materials Centre...

With financial assistance from Disarmament Division, Dept. of External Affairs and St. Mary's University's Speakers Committee.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

UNB students, faculty and alumni from both the Fredericton and Saint John campuses are urged to make nominations for the annual excellence in teaching awards which will be presented at Graduation exercises in May.

The awards are named the Dr. Allan P. Stuart Memorial Awards in honour of the late chemistry professor who was a 1973 recipient of the award.

Nominations must bear the names and addresses of at least two nominators and include some supporting statement. Deadline for nominations is MONDAY, 2 APRIL 1984.

Teachers of first term courses as well as second term or full year courses are eligible. Nominations should be based on the following criteria:

- ☆ comprehensive knowledge of subject
- ☆ preparation for class
- ☆ enthusiasm for subject and ability to arouse interest
- ☆ encouraging student participation
- ☆ setting high standards and motivating student to attain them
- ☆ communicating effectively at appropriate levels
- ☆ evaluating students on their understanding of the subject rather than on ability to memorize
- ☆ being accessible to students outside of class

Nominations should be sent c/o the University Secretary, Room 110, Old Arts Building, UNB Fredericton

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