

## Solid trip on Dreamboat Annie

by Doug Wavrock

One of the highlights of the Canadian music scene in 1976 has to be the Vancouver-based group, Heart. In their debut album **Dreamboat Annie** (released on the Vancouver label, Mushroom records) they at last have the opportunity to feature the talent that has made them one of B.C.'s most popular concert groups in 1975. Unlike most new groups, or for that matter established groups, which are made up completely of male musicians and vocalists, Heart features the collective talents of both Nancy and Ann Wilson. In a departure from the traditional role to which female members of a music group have been relegated, the Wilson sisters **Dreamboat Annie** is their latest triumph, to prepare at last a Canada-wide listening audience for the driving power, and at times too, the dreamlike music of the group. Nancy Wilson is featured on electric guitars as well as acoustic guitars (she is featured on electric guitars in their first two single releases: "Magic Man", released in mid-1975 with little reaction forthcoming from the music industry; and "Crazy On You", which is enjoying considerable success on commercial radio) while her sister, Ann, is featured on all vocals and with flute in some of the acoustic based numbers. In addition to their vocal and musical contributions to the album, Nancy and Ann co-wrote all of the album's material, it being further enhanced by the other musicians: Steve Fossen (bass), Roger Fisher (Electric and acoustic guitars), and Kat Hendrikse and Mike Derosier (Drums).

Overall, the album is a fine mixture of acoustic-based music and also some excellent rock material, featuring some fine guitar work on the part of Nancy Wilson and Roger Fisher that would put many so-called successful pros to shame. Although radio listeners have been exposed to "Crazy On You" and may perceive Heart as a medium-hard rock'n'roll group with two semi-talented females on vocals, in reality the group is led by the women members. They do equally fine ballad, e.g. "How Deep It Goes" and "Dreamboat Annie". These also showcase the attributes of the two highly talented sisters. Heart is a name to keep in mind for 1976 and also in the years to come for they are bound to become one of the more renowned Canadian groups.

### Lenny White-Venusian Summer [Atlantic-NE435]

Drummer Lenny White, well known for his work with Chick Corea over the years, has released a solo album to reveal to a critical world his talents as an individual and not as a small part of a groups' overall talent. **Venusian Summer**, an album conceived, written and arranged by Lenny White is a futuristic look at space travel wherein, the Venusian maidens lure starships to their ultimate doom, much the same as underwater Sirens used to do (and maybe still do) on earth by driving shiploads of men to eventual destruction on the rocks of hidden reefs as they try to catch their apparitions. The "Venusian Summer Suite" is, for the interest of all those people who call themselves Trekkies, dedicated to the crew of the starship Enterprise, formerly featured on the T.V. program Star Trek. **Venusian Summer** features Lenny White on not only the familiar drums but also experimenting in places with various keyboards and new percussion devices as well. The album places a heavy emphasis on the use of multiple keyboards featuring among others Onaje Allan Gumbs,

David Sancious (formerly with Bruce Springstein), Patrick Gleeson and Peter Robinson with Doug Rauch (former Santana bassist) and special guest appearances from Larry Coryell, Khalid Yasin (Larry Young) and Hubert Laws. In addition to White's futuristic concept of the nature of the Venusian maidens, the album is rounded out by the addition of two space-funk numbers; "Chicken-Fried Steak" (released as a single in the United States) and "Away Go Troubles Down the Drain". The remainder of the album places a great deal of emphasis on the multiple keyboards (i.e. organs, pianos, synthesizers, and clavinet) that create the effect of being in outer space while still sitting in your living room. At times, the drumming techniques of Lenny White is all but drowned out by the multi-layered music structure created by the keyboards and guitars, but in spite of this, the arranging abilities of Lenny White are the chief feature of this album and it

gives us a new perspective of Lenny White.

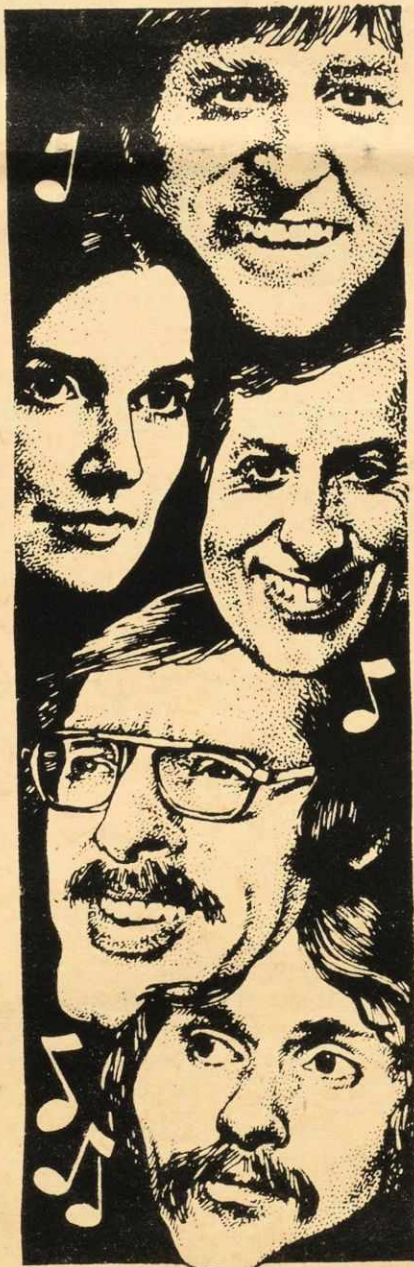
### Chilliwack-Rockerbox [Casino-CA1006]

**Rockerbox**, Chilliwack's musical sequel to their highly successful **Rising High** album, is as the title implies, a thin cardboard box (or record jacket if you wish) filled to capacity with rock'n'roll. After the departure of Claire Lawrence several albums (and years) ago, many Canadian music critics saw Chilliwack as the most likely Canadian group with no future ahead of them. Yet Chilliwack have not only survived but have further developed their now recognizable musical style, making them one of Canada's more successful groups. Chilliwack, who record on Terry Jack's Vancouver-based label, feature in **Rockerbox** some fine new guitar techniques as well as some guitar work that has not been heard to such a high degree of technical perfection for several years. For those in the past who have dismissed Chilliwack as a semi-talented fringe band, they must now alter their opinions for the Chilliwack style is much more complex and for that matter, more

musical than BTO or any of the other BTO imitators so much in vogue today. The voice of Bill Henderson and the distinctive Chilliwack attentiveness to high quality production standards appear to be the main features that set the group apart from most others. In particular instances on the album, Henderson's voice approaches the style of Guess Who's Burton Cummings, yet the forever changing pattern of Chilliwack's music in the selection make such a close similarity a mere transitory phase. In addition, the talents of Edgar Froese, Ross Turney (who with Bill Henderson wrote the bulk of the album's material) and Glenn Miller complement Henderson quite well. Like **Rising High**, **Rockerbox** is full of potential singles releases that should do very well for them although some of them will need editing to reduce their overall playing time to a four minute span. Such selections as "If You Want My Love", "I Know, You Know" and "Mirianne" will keep alive Chilliwack's popularity among T-40 freaks. Keep your eyes on the record store shelves for Chilliwack's latest, it's guaranteed good.



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