

ENTERTAINMENT ON REVIEW

By Monte Zepeda

Rod McKuen is a poet, singer and songwriter. His popularity in both Europe and the United States is growing at a tremendous rate. Two albums by McKuen have been released on the RCA label and are receiving enthusiastic receptions everywhere.

Born 33 years ago in Oakland, Calif., Rod McKuen has made enough money as a performer that he can now "Buy candy bars when I want and take a plane ride when I like." His book of poems, STANYAN STREET & OTHER SORROWS, sold 30,000 copies in slightly over six months making it the largest-selling book of poems in more than 20 years. The publishing firm, Random House, bought the manuscript of his latest book sight unseen.

McKuen came to Hollywood after serving in the Army. Acting didn't prove to be satisfactory to McKuen went to New York and joined a rock and roll group that had him screaming over the band to be heard. That game him the husky voice that's now his trademark.

Rock and roll didn't prove to be satisfactory either so McKuen took up writing songs and poetry. This has proved to be very satisfactory to say the least.

Rod McKuen now works 18 hours a day but he enjoys every minute -- it is what he likes to do. However, sometimes the pressure gets too great and he takes off for Europe.

In Europe, Rod McKuen is so popular that he could easily live the year around there and make a handsome living. As it is, McKuen usually spends about six months of each year traveling through Europe. There he writes songs, performs in cabarets, makes appearances in concert halls, and records in four languages.

In this country his popularity is great. He turns down more nightclub engagements and college concerts than many top performers are offered.

Rod McKuen has a style all his own. He has singlehandedly managed to turn the pop song into an art form. The usual listener would keep a record of recited poetry playing for about a minute. Almost anybody will enjoy the readings made against the lush instrumental backgrounds by McKuen. That style has started a new trend in recording.

McKuen's songs and poems are completely different than anything by any other contemporary artist. They are completely modern and appealing to young adults as well as older liberals. The selections on his albums include ballads, songs with a beat, songs that are happy and sad, poetic and humorous. Most are written and produced by McKuen himself. All are unforgettable.

McKuen has a remarkable insight and feeling for life and the complicated process of living. His songs touch every aspect of life from beer drinking to love making; from a cat named Sloopy to the singing of the wind.

It is almost impossible to describe the works of Rod McKuen. They are poetic and beautiful yet they are in conversational terms everybody uses.

The only way to find out how they sound is to hear them and if you do, you won't be sorry. His albums are "Through European Windows" and "Listen to the Warm". Both are unusual relief in the record markets of today.

Green Garter Not Complete Success

By SONIA MIZELL

The Green Garter Coffee House has made its debut at UNC-C. While it was not a disaster, it can hardly be called a complete success. This is through no fault of the people who made the coffee house possible, and certainly not Gamble Rogers who offered excellent entertainment. The problems came from the students who wouldn't find the time to visit the Green Garter.

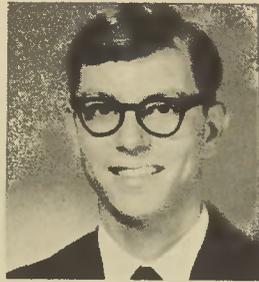
Students here at school have worked since early last year in order to make it possible for UNC-C students to enjoy the Green Garter and all that is coming with the Coffee House Circuit. UNC-C is one of several colleges and universities on a circuit that covers the southeastern area. The other schools on this circuit also have coffee houses, etc. just like the one here. By being on the circuit, it is possible for each school to present New York talent to its students at a minimal price. Apparently, the students at UNC-C are not interested in New York talent.

In preparation for the opening of the Green Garter, several students put in seventy to eighty man-hours to decorate the gym. Like most students here, these people were also very busy and had homework to do, but they managed to stay out at the school until 2:00 in the morning decorating. Besides personal satisfaction in doing an excellent job of transforming the gym into a coffee house, the only other thing these hardworking people got was a feeling of dismay. It is one thing to put in hours of work that are appreciated and rewarded by large attendance, but it is pitiful when this work is met with minimal attendance. Yes, there was a large and satisfying attendance on Friday and Saturday nights, but what happened to all the other days when the Green Garter was open?

The complaint of most students is that it cost too much. What these students don't realize is that the budget for this was very limited and it takes a lot of money (Continued on page 8)



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