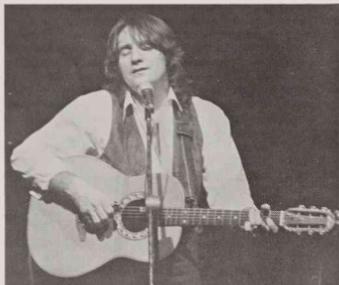


## Opera

What's classical, entertaining, culturally stimulating, and intellectually enlightening? You guessed it! The opera! To maintain its standard of cultural refinement, Gardner-Webb College is holding an opera workshop production on February 16 and 17, at 8:00 p.m. in Hammick Auditorium. The operas presented will be "The Maid As Mistress" by Pergolesi, and "The Old Maid And The Thief" by Menotti. They will be directed by Mrs. Patricia Harrelson. "The Maid As Mistress" will star Lisa Foster, David Hutchins, and Barry Green, with Debbie Searles and Mary Ruth Zanon as accompanists. "The Old Maid And The Thief" will feature Melinda German, Crystal Justice, Dwight Loomis, Camilla Loomis alternating with Donna Parris, and will be accompanied by Dr. George Cribb. These operas will also be presented in a number of public schools of Rutherford and Cleveland County for the fifth and sixth grades. There is no admission charge, so come on out and enjoy an evening of classical entertainment.



GENE COTTON

## Meet A Softer Side Of Rock And Roll

Concerts on a college campus are not that uncommon. However, a performance given recently by Gene Cotton merits not only an uncommon rating, but one of pure enjoyment. The two hour nonstop concert was a delightful blend of music and childhood anecdotes, subtly sprinkled with a certain amount of Cotton philosophy.

His studies of political science at Ohio State have contributed to the political overtones in many of Cotton's lyrics. As a matter of fact, much of his earlier work contains blatant social commentaries. The change to a more subtle approach was due, not because people weren't interested or involved in politics (Cotton's opinion, not mine), but because people aren't as fanatical about it. When asked whether it bothered him that most listeners don't understand the full meaning of a song, he replied, "You can't build an entire format as a musician according to critics. Depressing people doesn't work. So you say what you want to say between the lines and hopefully, the few people it would have mattered to anyway if you said it outright, will pick up on it and those who don't, don't."

Cotton has some pretty strong views on religion, too. "I'm tired of being ripped off by religion, ya know?" It is refreshing to be reassured that a man who has made his way into the top ten as a performer according to Bill board has maintained a clear perspective on his life. "There are some things really meaningful to me in Christianity that I can't really identify with the majority of what the Church represents today. Which is not to say that all churches are out there to get you..."

The core of Cotton's philosophy is simple. He is hesitant to label people as strong or weak importance for people to concern themselves more with being what they claim to be than trying to convince everyone else of who they are.

Among the most important criteria for a performance for Cotton is recognizing a necessity for interaction between artist and audience. For this reason he prefers small colleges, "when there are over 3500 people you get out of touch, they can't see you or your facial expressions and those things are important to me."

Although two songs recorded by Cotton became hits with other artists, he holds no bitterness. "The song and the music are important, not who does it. If you end up playing some little part that's meaningful, then it's worthwhile." It may sound a bit altruistic, but after talking with Gene Cotton for any length of time, his honest and open character somehow makes us believe him.

Describing his music as the "softer side of rock and roll," Cotton judges a performance from the viewpoint that "it's as important that somebody goes away thinking something as it is that they had a good time." His immediate goals include finishing an album and improving himself as a writer, recorder, and performer. "Hopefully in all of that some of it is constructive, some of it is a conscious raising experience for people."

## Doug James

On January 16th, Gardner-Webb students fresh from the Christmas break were privileged to hear the guitar artistry of 25 year old Doug James from Charlotte. Mr. James presented an evening of fine classical guitar in Dover Chapel which featured selections from such composers as Albeniz, Bach, Tarrega, Villalobos, and Rodrigo.

Doug's interest in music surfaced at the age of ten. He played clarinet and saxophone for several years until the age of thirteen, when he found his true love in the guitar. Off and on, Doug has played the guitar for twelve years, receiving mostly private instruction. Probably the single most important individual in Doug's instructional years is Jesus Silva, who is presently at the N.C. School of the Arts.

Doug is presently engaged in private instruction himself with about 25 students. Bruce Queen, a GWC student, is presently receiving lessons from Mr. James every two weeks.

Doug named Beethoven, Bach, Albiniz, and Crumb as his favorite composers and named Segovia, John Williams, and Leo Brouwer as direct influences on his musical career. Mr. Brouwer is a Cuban artist whom Doug was able to see recently in Canada. Doug spoke of Brouwer as the "ideal musician" and said that Brouwer is known chiefly among musicians.

When asked about his plans for the near future, Mr. James responded that such knowledge is "so unpredictable" and that he prefers to live "one day at a time." Academically, Mr. James will receive his undergraduate degree from UNC-C in May, and he mentioned plans to pursue graduate and masters degrees a little later.

## Margaret Jackson

This story is dedicated to all those poor unfortunate who have yet to complete their P.E. requirements. It's about a mother of two who decided to go back to school and in her final semester had to have a P.E. course to graduate.

Now let's keep in mind how many of us feel about those muscle straining two hours a week we spent fulfilling those requirements. I suppose Physical Education majors may not understand the torture some of the rest of us felt just trying to get around that track a minimum number of times before time was up.

Perhaps for those still facing some hours in P.E. this will serve as encouragement. Not only is Margaret Jackson taking P.E. after 16 years of marriage and raising a family, she's taking gymnastics. She comments, "I hurt."

## Music

Rod is no fool. He knows how to sell albums. Take the cover of his latest album, Blondes Have More Fun, for example. Two shapely females in skin tight outfits being clutching by a not-so-bashful Mr. Stewart. Take the lyrics for another example. We have songs about sex, loose women, sleeping around, and many similarly enlightening subjects. What about the music you say? Well, if you are looking for freshness and creativity, forget it. It is the typical Stewart offering of rock and ballad with a little disco on the side.

Before this burning-in-off gets any hotter let me say this, there are a few successful moments contained. One such track is the hit single "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy." Good Stewart vocal, nice horn section, well-recorded string synthesizer, and the disco beat make this a good, danceable track. The ballad, "Scarred and Scared," winks nicely as the album closer and the title track is another successful working of the old Chuck Berry formula.

My complaint is this: ever since Mr. Stewart placed himself in the USA he has been coasting on the success of his first few albums. Sometimes it takes a few flops to wake the sleepy artist up. Maybe the next album will be the one.

Are you a McCartney admirer who perhaps missed four of his hit singles because they never showed up on the next album? Well if you are, "Wings Greatest" will be of interest to you since it contains "Hi Hi," "Mud in the Eye," "Junior's Farm," and "Live and Let Die." Unfortunately in the process of selecting the tracks for this anthology, McCartney or Capitol Records neglected to choose anything from the Venus and Mars L.P. Despite this oversight, Wings Greatest contains several gems representing McCartney's career since the demise of the Beatles.

Interested in some differing directions? You might want to take a chance on the latest LP from Weather Report entitled Mr. Gone. It used to be easy to classify music, but no more. Musical styles are merging together quickly and this album is one example. A few of the influences would have to include contemporary, rock and electronic styles, traditional jazz, disco, African and South American drum rhythms and chants, and many other harder to pinpoint influences. Josef Zawinul's production and keyboard dominates throughout the album giving clarity and punch to each track. There are many lovely melodies and funky rhythms to enjoy on this highly listenable album.

If traditional jazz and blues are more your speed, then search for a copy of Mary Lou Williams' latest called My Mama Pinned A Rose On Me. Williams is currently the artist in residence at Duke University, but her career stretches back several decades as the informative liner notes indicate. With Butch Williams on string bass and Cynthia Tyson on vocals, Williams expands her keyboard compositions and improvisations in a tightly controlled display of control and feeling. This is Williams' first effort for the prestigious Pablo label and hopefully not her last. Words cannot do her justice; give it a listening and be prepared for a lovely experience.

## Films

If you have not been to see Superman yet, you are probably in the minority. It is a fun movie that comes very close to a parody of the superhero myth. Watch Clark Kent and Jimmie Olsen in particular for a sample of this parody. I cannot understand the overlong prelude to Krypton's explosion unless it is simply a vehicle for Marlon Brando or the spectacular effects of transporting Krypton's criminals to another dimension. Good fun and escape.

Token fans will come away with mixed feelings after viewing the current attempt to cinematically capture Frodo and the inhabitants of Middle Earth in Lord of the Rings. The film's techniques of using animation and real actors is interesting, to say the least. The plot, however, is a bit obscure sometimes and it will help if you have read the trilogy beforehand. It is NOT the entire story of the trilogy, so do not be disappointed at the film's ending. A sequel is sure to follow.

## The Pilot

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