

MUSIC PLAYING IN MY HAIR

"I'm a space cowboy, bet you weren't ready for that" - Steve Miller Band

A new Byrds album is always reason for excitement among hard-core rock freaks. There is a sense of expectancy and joy that one feels, like sitting down once again with old friends. Just looking at the cover starts the adrenalin running, brings back tons of memories, and makes you eager and anxious, because this is the new Byrds album. It's like seeing snow for the first time. Or being a virgin again.

The Byrds were the first American group of the rock/pop renaissance (vintage '65). Their music was the sounding call for a whole new generation to emerge in this country, a generation that made the Byrds' version of *Mr. Tambourine Man* their national anthem (proven once again this past summer at the Atlantic City Pop Festival when 60,000 greeted the song's opening notes with a long standing ovation). The group has changed since then, having shifted their style and personnel (the latest change has bassist John York moving on, replaced by Skip Battyn, once a member of Skip & Flip, of *It Was I and Cherry Pie* short-lived fame).

Only founder Roger McGuinn has remained a Byrd. But the group's identity, while always in growth, has kept highly formalized and unique, as they have pioneered rock

Note: Since I first saw Elvis on TV about fourteen years ago, I've been on a power rock trip. Yet, I recognize the importance of more "serious" music. However, I haven't the historical knowledge or the technical background to deal with this music in a critical sense. But I would like to see these other musical idioms covered in the Essay, as the range of interest and taste at NCSA is indeed diverse. Thus, if you are interested in reviewing recordings or live performances on a full or part-time basis, we'd be most appreciative. Come by and talk with us.

Mike Ferguson

from their own particular context. As always, the current Byrds are an authentic American rock band, possessed with a respectful sense of the past, a hyper-awareness of NOW, and a hawk's eye on the future. They are a band conscious of their own destiny.

The new album, *Ballad of Easy Rider*, like the Hopper/Fonda film, is a trip through America today. The music has the same kinetic flow of all Byrds' music, stretching far down the highway. Country air drifts sweetly by, mixing with the exhaust fumes of Apollo 11 and the smog of New York and Los Angeles. And you can see through it for miles and miles and miles.

The songs are panoramas of American landscapes. They open up before you like an Andrew Wyth painting. The Byrds take us back to another America, curiously similar to its current brother: *Deportee* (written by Woody Guthrie) and *It's All Over Now, Baby Blue*, a pre-rock Dylan poem. America today is inspected: a new anthem which may become an epitaph, the visionary *Ballad of Easy Rider* and *Gunga Din* about a New York rock and roll cowboy. And the future, with a backward glance: *Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins*. Other stops are made along the way. Down from desperate Tulsa county to hopeful Mexican border; from West Texas bars to black leather New York City; and from the ghosts of old sea harbors to Waycross, Georgia revival tents.

The Byrds' *Easy Rider* is an on the road hike through America; at the end of a complex decade. Contained are the dreams and the failures of the new frontier which was visualized at the beginning of the Sixties - and a cautious, but hopeful eye to the future. And the dream, intrinsic from the start, may just be flowering.

Like a precious handful of rock and roll men, such as the Band from Big Pink, Dylan, Stephen Stills and Neil Young, John Fogarty, Sir Douglas Sham, John Sebastian, and Gram Parsons, Roger McGuinn and his Byrds are creating realistic and honest portraits of contemporary America. "The highway is for gamblers so you'd better use your sense"* - accordingly, the Byrds have followed their native instincts, lifting the quality of American rock music and their own insights about the country they know so well. We can ask little more of them, except that there be another new Byrds' Album.

**It's All Over Now, Baby Blue* - Dylan/Byrds

STUD.-ADMIN. FORUM

The first student-administration forum was held Wednesday, 19 November. Ground rules were laid, these being the following: one must be recognized before speaking; a three-minute period will be the maximum for one speaker; questions which cannot be fully and/or accurately answered by anyone at any given meeting will be postponed until such qualified is in attendance; questions which cannot be answered due to time shortage will have priority on the next meeting's agenda.

Question: What is the administrative director?

Reply: He is the school's business manager, responsible for such things as educational programs in terms of finances.

Question: Why at the recent dance performances was the public given priority over students?

Reply: The purpose of admission charges at the dance performances is to balance the financial situation of the dance department. Due to various circumstances, no preview performance was given. There was a large student turn-out for these performances and some students attended more than once. Mr. Lindgren assured us that this will not happen again. Several suggestions for remedying the situation were the following: performances given especially for a student audience; a policy that students may have any seat available after 8:00; and that each student be given a ticket

which assures him a seat at at least one performance.

What are the possibilities of an off-campus retreat for the purpose of bringing students and faculty together on an informal basis?

One of our Foundation Board members has a cabin in the mountains which she has made available to us. The Ward home is also open for such activities. Neither of these facilities has been used previously due to lack of organization of any activity.

What problems does the administration have? The students would like to and should know.

Within what boundaries should the S.G.A. constitution work? What are the legal aspects of the situation regarding the president, trustees, and state?

Every aspect of the school is in some way President Ward's responsibility, therefore he can be a source for any such information. He suggested that these answers can also be found in the faculty manual, which is being issued now.

Mr. Ward feels that the S.G.A. is important to the school because it makes a distinction between generalized and localized problems. Problems which are first brought to the S.G.A. can be better understood by the administration because the relationship of any given situation to all students will be clearer.

Can the S.G.A. be relatively assured of a definite meeting time,

which is presently 1:00 on Wednesdays?

Rehearsals are not to be scheduled at this time because it has been set aside for convocations.

Can S.G.A. members be excused from convocations?

This will be discussed.

(Cont. on page 4)