Tuesday, October 27, 1970

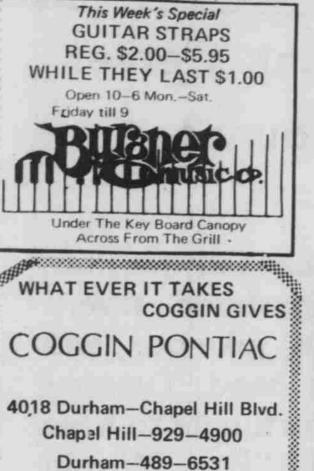
THE DAILY TAR HEEL

### Page Three

## Frank Parrish Reviews **Arlo Guthrie Goes Country**

Arlo Guthrie, having conducted a cook's tour of "Alice's Restaurant," gets out of the kitchen and into the country on his latest album, "Washington County." He explores unspoiled nature and life on the edge of the sprawling cities. He wistfully digs for American roots. But Arlo is more than another rural folkie. Besides being an original himself, he's Woody's son which is altogether evident. On side one, he celebrates nature, ol' time religion and deplores man's recurring insanities. Side two finds him less restrained, more topical but still in control of the material.

He opens the album with "Introduction" which is aptly titles. It



prefigures the cuts that follow. Arlo lays down some simple chords on a ricky-tick piano. It sounds like the ivories are being played by a roadhouse veteran.

He then proceeds to "Fence Post Blues." "I been here for an hour or so/and nothing much is going down," he sings. Arlo just watches the trucks going by and tries to figure out "where the hell I've been." The song captures inertia. despair and aimlessness perfectly. Third cut, incredibly entitled "Gabriel's Mother's Hiway Ballad No. 16 Blues," catches Arlo in a vagrant mood.

It is repetitive and tinny although amusing. Lacking decent instrumentation, the number (six minutes 25 seconds long) is brightened by Arlo's religious lyricism. "Jesus going to make you well," he opines. He may be shucking or he may be a true believer but the song is delightful. "Washington County," the title tune is

wholly instrumental and guaranteed to please the Flatt-Scruggs fan. Some fast banjo picking dominates here. It bears all the earmarks of bluegrass-distinctive. twangy and frantic.

"Valley to Pray" brings the listener back to camp meetings. Produced with the assistance of the unheralded but gifted Van Dyck Parks, the song s straightforward arrangement matches words on religiosity. This time, the seeker looks for the "good ol' way." Arlo caps side one with a song by his father. "Lay Down Little Doggies" reminds us that Woody was pungent and witty.

It's the end of a trail drive. The cowboy tells the cows, "I'll see you in tin cans and follow you around." Upton-Sinclair is dead and meatpacking practices go unchallenged nowadays.

Anyway, side two plunges directly into 1970. Arlo asserts that Spiro stepped

out on his porch and had "something to say." Which, according to Arlo was, "I don't want to hear anybody." "I Could Be Singing" loses the Middle American following Arlo might have won with side side one. "If You Would Just Drop By" features fiddles, acoustic guitar, raunchy piano and Arlo at his ease. It's all in fun. No messages. Just nostalgia.

"Percy's Song," penned by Dylan, jabs wickedly at "blind" justice. The judge talks "out of the side of his mouth." "I Want To Be Around" closes the LP on a gentle note.

Arlo's nasality abounds. The piano-playing sometimes sounds tortured. However, accept the flaws if you like Arlo's minstrelsy. "Washington County" is a personal product, stamped throughout by a rustic/Messianic singer-songwriter's

A debate on the topic "Does political involvement distort a liberal education?" will feature Student Body President Tom Bello and Philosophy professor E.M. Adams at the next Di-Phi meeting. The public is invited to the Di-Phi Senate, third floor New West, October 27,

Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m.

William R. Harmon, Instructor of English, will read from his poems at 4 p.m. Tuesday, October 27 in 431 Greenlaw Hall, Harmon recently was awarded the Lamont Poetry Prize for 1970 for his book Treasury Holiday. The public is invited to the reading.



### History Students Helps **Reconstruct** Cathedral

### by Jay Anthony Special to the DTH

"Winchester Cathedral, you're bringin" me down," the New Vaudeville Band used to sing. Sam Daniel could sing the same line after four summers of archeological excavating at the Cathedral. Same, a UNC art history graduate

student, was only one of almost 200 students and scholars from several nations who go to Winchester each summer. They help construct the history of the ancient city.

When the Wessex kings took control of the entire country in 927, they made Winchester the first capital of England. The city is also the legendary site of King Arthur's Camelot.

So there is much interest in reconstructing the story of this great city. That's why UNC, Duke, Cambridge, the British Museum, the Queen's Ministry of Works, and the City of Winchester support the efforts of Martin Biddle and students like Sam.

Biddle, a Cambridge graduate, is director of the operation. There are numerous excavating sites throughout the

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city but the main one is on the Cathedral. grounds. That's where Sam worked.

"The first year I was there, 1967, I was assigned to a trench," said Sam, "digging with a trowel." The digging is slow and careful, hard work. But Sam worked his way to the surveying crew before the end of the summer.

The other years Same worked as a drawer-plotting in the exact location of skeletons, wall sections, conerstones-on grid paper. "We've had an overdose of skeletons" said Sam, "We found a charnel one year with over 1000 bodies in it."

The main finds at the Cathedral site have been the foundations of two ancient buildings, the Old and New Minsters.

"The ultimate goal will be the reconstruction of the different phases of Winchester," said Sam, "from the Celtic to the Roman, the Anglo-Saxon, the Norman, through the present."

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**Campus Activities Calendar** 

"There will be a Decorations and Display Committee meeting of the International Handicrafts Bazaar, Tuesday, October 27 at 7 p.m. in the upper lobby of the "Y". This is an

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organizational meeting. All interested please attend."

The Christian Science Organization will meet at 8:15 tonight at the Wesley Foundation. All are welcome to attend.

> The Conservative Society will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge of the Student Union.

### DYNAMITE THEATRE

When I first saw a production of Dynamite Theatre, it took me apart. That's why I'm directing a production here. -Sam Allen

# gifts.





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