

Allen Johnson

Pop-rock trends blur color line

It has become increasingly difficult to tell who's who in the world of contemporary music. The development of the new genre of black music termed "soul rock," coupled with the simultaneous incorporation by many white artists of rhythm and blues to produce a counterpart genre—rock and blues?—has virtually shattered the traditional, cut-and-dried black and white categorization of music.

In an age when Elton John's "Bennie and the Jets," Eric Clapton's "I Shot the Sheriff," and numerous other white artists are receiving air time on black radio stations and when Sly and the Family Stone, Stevie Wonder, the Isley Brothers, and Billy Preston have gained widespread acceptance among white audiences, contemporary music is gradually becoming a non-definitive aspect of society.

Black music has become more and more electronic. Kool and the Gang's latest album, *Light of Worlds*, is heavily dependent upon an Arp synthesizer. Both Stevie

Wonder and the Isleys generously utilize the Moog, and the use of the electric guitar by black performers has expanded phenomenally. This can, of course, be evidenced in the music of Graham Central Station ("Can You Handle It?"), Mandrill ("Fencewalk"), Stevie Wonder ("Superstition"), the Isleys ("That Lady"), the Temptations ("Papa Was a Rollin' Stone") and Rufus ("You Got the Love").

Black music has become tremendously diversified, ranging from the tender acoustic guitar renditions of Richie Havens to the inimitable "rhythm and jam" of James Brown to the anachronistic, yet dynamic "shooby-doo" of the Pointer Sisters and LaBelle.

A most unfortunate victim of the categorizing of music into black and white divisions was one of the greatest and most influential writers and performers in the history of the industry, Jimi Hendrix. His music unveiled a genius that was years ahead of his time and, although he experienced little trouble in being accepted by a predominantly white audience, the predominantly black one largely ignored him.

Interestingly, the mainstays of traditional rhythm and blues are also going strong, some even stronger than in the supposed 'heyday' of rhythm and blues. Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Spinners, Blue Magic and the Stylistics are doing quite well, not to mention Smokey Robinson and Marvin Gaye.

On the other hand, a growing number of white groups have discovered astonishing acceptance of their music by predominantly black listeners. Strangely enough, however, this acceptance does not hinge solely upon whether or not a white artist can successfully imitate black music. *Frankenstein*, for example by the Edgar Winter Group is very definitely pure, hard rock. Yet it received play time on stations which normally program all-black music.

Neither can Elton John's "Bennie and the Jets" be classified as imitative soul. Yet it also invaded the soul charts.

Eric Clapton's "I Shot the Sheriff" obviously obtains its appeal from the distinct reggae influence evident in the song. And Dennis Coffey's "Scorpio," "Taurus," and "Ride Sally Ride" contain a beat and rhythms characteristically found in black instrumentals.

Perhaps the earliest crossover into the soul charts were the Rascals, a white group which enjoyed its peak success in the mid to late sixties. "I've Been Lonely Too Long," "It's A Beautiful Morning" and numerous other Rascal hits were appropriately labeled "blue-eyed soul," simply because that is exactly what they were. The primary difference between the Rascals and black artists was the color of their skins.

Nowadays, it's hard enough to tell who is black and who is white, much less classify the music an artist performs as this, that or the other. Moreover, an artist may very likely be playing this, that AND the other.



Elton John

Photo by Tommy Miller

On stage last weekend in the Greensboro Coliseum, the Crocodile Rock King provided one of his usually frenzied performances. From the opening 'Funeral for a Friend' through to 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road,' Elton John beamed in a show that was wild as well as professional. Described as the last vestige of Hollywood-like glamour, John epitomizes the lifestyle of the top rock artist.

'Diamond Studs' heads to B-way

Diamond Studs, the original musical which had its world premiere at the Ranch House in Chapel Hill, is now officially set for a Broadway debut in early January at New York Chelsea Theatre Center.

The original cast—including the Red Clay Ramblers and the Southern States Fidelity Choir—have been signed to star in the New York version. Based on the life of the outlaw Jesse James, *Studs* is a bluegrass opera that combines original songs by Bland Simpson and Jim Wann with traditional tunes and ballads. Chapel Hill's Continental Travel Agency is organizing a package train trip the weekend of Dec. 27-29.

Diamond Studs opened in Chapel Hill on Oct. 10 for a five-day, six-performance

run. Packed houses inspired three holdover shows, with ticket lines that at one point caused a Franklin Street traffic jam.

Studs' new home, the Chelsea Theatre, played host last season to two of New York's most acclaimed hits, David Storey's *The Contractor* and the musical version of *Candide*. The owners have been seeking a show for their refurbished main floor theatre in the Westside house.

The unique production is a kind of combination nightclub and bluegrass concert, with the musicians playing a variety of roles and telling a story without striving for the realistic rendition of the professional actor. The company arrives in New York Dec. 3, with previews set for Dec. 21.

Bond, Bergman and bands highlight Union week

Georgia state legislator Julian Bond will speak at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13 in Memorial Hall. Admission is free. Bond is sponsored by the Carolina Forum in conjunction with the Colloquium on Individual Rights and Liberties.

An articulate spokesman for and organizer of the New Left, Bond also has ties with the civil rights, youth and peace movements. After winning a seat in the Georgia House, he was subsequently barred from taking office because of his "radical" views on Vietnam and sympathy with draft card burners until the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in his favor.

In conjunction with the Colloquium on Individual Rights and Liberties, the Union Current Affairs Committee is presenting the following programs at 7:30 p.m. in Room

213-215 of the Union: The Right of Individual Choice: Carolina Gay Association, Monday, Nov. 18; Affirmative Action: What's Happening?, Tuesday, Nov. 19; and Individual Rights and University Housing, Wednesday, Nov. 20.

The Southern States Fidelity Choir and the Red Clay Ramblers will present a joint concert at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19 in the Great Hall. This will be one of their last performances in the area before leaving for New York and rehearsals for the N.Y. production of "Diamond Studs."

Harmonica player Arthur Jackson, known as "Peg Leg Sam," will appear in concert at 2 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14 in the Great Hall. He has traveled all over the U.S. both as a hobo and medicine show performer.

The Green Valley Ramblers, a professional bluegrass band, will be featured for a square dance from 9-12 p.m. in the Tin Can on Saturday night after the UNC-Army game. The Toronto Exchange will be guests at this program.

The Bluegrass Experience, an exceptional string band which has played all over the eastern U.S. with such stars as Doc Watson and Lester Flatt, will appear in concert from 2 to 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18 in the Great Hall.

The Star Spangled Washboard Band will be featured this week as the Special Projects Committee continues their videotape series. Showings are at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. in the Union second floor lounge.

Tickets will go on sale tomorrow for the Earl Scruggs-Linda Ronstadt concert,

which will be held 9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5 in Carmichael. General admission tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 the day of the performance.

Due to time requirements for sound and light set-up before the Loggins and Messina concert, doors will not open until 8:30 p.m.

The Ingmar Bergman trilogy films will be shown this week at 8 p.m. in the Great Hall. These include *Through a Glass Darkly*, on Tuesday; *Winter Light*, on Wednesday; and *The Silence*, on Thursday. Throughout the trilogy, Bergman poses the question: Why is God silent to man? Admission is fifty cents.

Larry Kutt, Transcendental Meditation expert, will discuss T.M. at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 12 in Gerrard Hall.

Schedules for the remaining Quiz Bowl matches are available at the Union Desk today. Competition will resume Tuesday night.

Schedules for the All-Campus Billiards Tournament will be posted in the Union Billiards Room. A 15-minute time limit for defaults will be strictly enforced.

Slides and a film, *Of Time and Eternity*, about Jockey's Ridge will be shown at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14 in 111 Murphey. The film was made by UNC RTVMP students and the program is initiated by the People to Preserve Jockey's Ridge.

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A different feature every Tuesday &
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Reg. \$3.19 **\$2.59** only

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DTH CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Panasonic Technics cassette tape deck. Dolby B. Hardly used, \$250 new, will sell for \$200. Call 942-7014.

For Sale: KLM Model 26 Stereo. This consists of 2 speakers, amp, turntable, and dust cover. Excellent condition. \$165. 933-7922.

Main loudspeakers L700: ten months old; walnut cabinets, vinyl covers. \$230. Call 929-9357 after 6 p.m.

FOR RENT

1971 12 x 60 mobile home, furnished, new AC, washer, carpeted, underpinned, many extras, equity and take over payments of \$81.64. 929-9060 or 987-2062.

1969 Mercury Cyclone CJ428. Automatic, AC, Power Steering, Power, Disc Brakes. Call Jerry at 933-1074 or 929-3768.

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FOR RENT

Must sell Greenville Towers spring lease. Please call Leslee 933-1922. If no answer call 929-8582 and leave name and phone number.

FOR RENT: Two bedroom mobile home, furnished, underpinned, large cedar porch, wooded area, big lot with lawn, available after final exams, \$145/month, call 929-3163.

Roommate wanted to share 2-br. Kingswood Apts. Call 987-5178.

Wanted: Roommate to share apt. 1/2 rent plus utilities. Call 929-8749 after six. Keep trying.

HELP WANTED

Telephone Directories: Men and women with cars to deliver telephone directories in Chapel Hill, per book deals. Job starts November 18. If interested drop us a line at P.O. Box 505, Carboro, N.C. 27516.

MISCELLANEOUS

Found: Ladies watch at bicycle between Molver and Kennan call 933-1451.

Cats, FREE to a good home: affectionate Siamese and black & white shorthair, 1 1/2 yrs. Call Carolyn between 5-7:30 p.m., 929-6444.

Need ride to Orlando Fla. or vicinity at Thanksgiving. Will share expenses. Call soon. 833-3325.

Wanted: Seven beads for the Cobb Sisters; cheer up, gals, love is coming to us all!

Typing: experienced in term papers, theses, and dissertations. Call 929-5321 after 3:00.

REWARD: Lost, gold ring with small turquoise setting. Saturday, November 2, about 6 p.m., tennis courts beside Boshamer Baseball Field. High sentimental value—engagement ring. PLEASE HELP. 967-4297 after 5 p.m. or 942-7630.

Abortion, Birth Control Info & Referral. No Fee. Up to 24 weeks. General anesthesia. Vasectomy, tubal ligation also available. Free pregnancy test. Call PCS, Non-profit, 202-298-7995.

PRO-LIFE PREGNANCY COUNSELING. Call BIRTHCHOICE 7 p.m.-10 p.m. MONDAY THRU FRIDAY. 942-3030.

WANTED: 2 or 3 bedroom apartment to rent or sublease next semester. Call Mike Whitley 933-1163. After 5 call 942-5706.

SEE CIRCLE TOURS for all Travel Needs: Business, Pleasure, and Specializing in Student Travel. 123 West Franklin Street, University Square, 942-4196.