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ARTS AND LEISURE



A Record Season...

Graphic by Tony Garzio

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The Yachts

The Yachts (Polydor)

By KEVIN MACKINNON

Due to the unprecedented success of such power pop-cum-new wave bands like the Cars and the

Knack, it's lately been hard to keep up wth the number of new bands sprouting up in their wake.

This confusion exists not only because so many of the new bands tend to sound alike in that they draw their styles from similiar sources (i.e., rock radio of the 60's), but so many of them have names like the Beat, the Shoes, the Sports, the Pop, and locally the Pranks, the Tan, the Wave, etc. Get the idea? Now add one more band to that monasyllabic list: the Yachts.

For any band to rise above the rest of the pack, it's got to have something extra going for it, something that will make it unique. Unfortunately, the Yachts don't. Their sound is strictly that of

any number of other bands. other words, if there were such thing as middle-of-the-road ne wave, the Yachts would be sitti squarely on the white line.

The Yachts seem to be strivi for, above all else, an ove commerciality, giving their son a quality that makes them as stantly likeable as they are stantly forgettable. Part of th trouble comes from the contriv posturing the group feels co pelled to assume on nearly eve cut. They simply ache to tell how assured they are of ther selves and how cynical they a about the world around them, a especially about love. In "Lo You, Love You," they sing,

I wouldn't climb any mountai for you,

Ford every stream, that's a de thing to do.

Yes I'm cynical, cynical, cynic

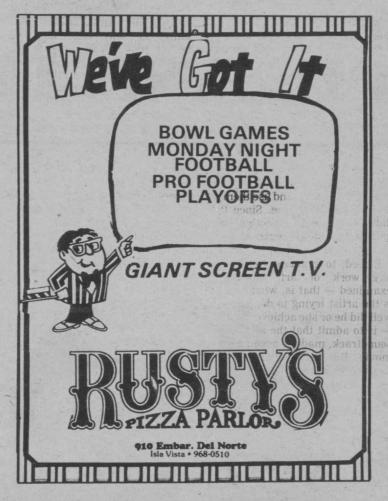
through and through. By wearing their hearts on the

sleeves like this, the Yachts r their songs of any trace of si cerity. Lyrics like, "Suffice to sa you love me, I can't say that blame you" may sound funny a fe times, but they very quick become grating.

The music itself is pleasa enough, but there are no surprise simply because it's all been don before on other people's record Keyboardist Henry Priestman ha obviously listened to more than or Blondie album; his organ fill though effective, soun suspiciously like Jimmy Destri's.

In songwriting, the Yachts mo clearly resemble the Motels, with every song dominated by the sam forced "up" feeling. One son "Mantovani's Hits," even tries do to the BBC what Elvis Costello "Radio Radio" did to America radio, but with hardly the sam

It's hard to see the Yachts goin the way of, say, the Knack, thoug they very clearly would like to. Bu with a group 'so shameless commercial and with the publi buying anything that look remotely like rock 'n roll, anythin is possible.





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vie Wonder irney Through the eret Life of Plants imla)

By RANDY CAMPBELL ealing with my expectations is biggest problem I have in iewing Stevie Wonder's rney Through the Secret Life

yperbole is so common in the sonality journalism of our time. we shortened the word to e, and the word and the action used liberally. Genius is an het which blows through the air stantly, and is usually the hemism for competent. But if eone kidnapped my cats, tnapped?) and demanded, upon n of torture that I say yes or no, ould have to say, "Yes, Stevie nder is a genius." Without too ch coaxing, I would probably that he may be the most potent consistent recording artist of decade, and easily, one of the jor figures in popular music.

Which brings us to my ex-

Surely, I said, his new album would be staggering, important, and contain some terrific music. It's been three years since the last album Songs In The Key Of Life, and this wunderkind keeps getting better, by quantum leaps, Songs was an incredibly bulky and ambitious work, and about 98 percent successful. Wonder sought to create music which would communicate his feelings on the nature and meaning of that vast subject, life. His message is love, and in the nature of music, I say that his message in Songs is well expressed and received. What about the new work?

Well...yes, no, and maybe. Yes, there are some of the best songs Wonder has ever written on this album. No, this Stevie Wonder collection is not his best ever. And maybe this work should not be compared to his other works, instead representing an altogether different tack from the rest of his

After listening to the album for the first time, I wanted to take sides one and four, and asethem as an impromptu frisbee. Since this didn't seem to be objective journalism, I decided to recant.

Indeed, to evaluate Journey as any work of art should be examined — that is, what exactly is the artist trying to do, and how well did he or she achieve this goal — is to admit that the album is a soundtrack, made to accompany a movie. But the goddamn movie hasn't even been released.

So we are left with a collection which contains bits of dialogue and confusing sound effects which do not add to the music. We have a structured album; the use of leit motif, symmetry of design, and a progression of musical ideas which bow to the form. We also have ponderous and boring music perfectly executed - mixed with a few brillant songs. Listen to the sweet melodies of "Send Someone Your Love," the sensitive vocal, harmonica and lyrics of "Power_ Flower," the numinous song "Black Orchid," and the beautiful "The Earth's instrumental, Creation.'

And once again, Wonder astounds with his recording precision, musicality, writing ability, and musicianship. Virtually the only instrument he doesn't play on the disc is the guitar, and he plays everything masterfully. He writes, produces, records, sings, programs, plays and probably makes coffee with his spare hand. By the way, the sound quality is pristine, on this digital recording.

So, you're asking, what's the verdict, big shot? I'd like to hide behind something snappy, like the jury is out, but what would be the point of trundling through this article? Since I believe a primary function of music is to entertain, I say buy the album, and play the disc with sides two and three (which, on the whole, is entertaining). Then, save the disc with sides one and four to be used as mood music when either no one is paying attention to the stereo, or you're in one helluva strange mood.



Petty and Heartbreakers Damn the Torpedoes (MCA)

By CRAIG ZEROUNI

In 1978, just after the release of "You're Gonna Get It," Tom Petty's contract with ABC Records was sold to MCA, the music industry giant. Petty, upset at the prospect of recording for a label that he felt would reduce him to a mere statistic, refused to comply. The result was another round of Hollywood's favorite game, "Lets Go to Court.'

And so, when Petty and his Heartbreakers emerged early this year with a compromise deal, in which they would record for Backstreet Records, a small label owned by MCA, the pressure was on. Aside from ego, nothing is quite as destructive to a rising artist as the delay of contract negotiations.

Damn the Torpedoes is Petty's answer to that pressure, and it triumphs in many ways. The album is an emotional, electric testament to the power of determination in this society. The undercurrent of optimism is both surprising and welcome.

Which is not to say that this is a light, pleasant work. Petty's better for it.

The Second Annual Christmas

greatest ability has always been the musical creation of dark, moody scenes, in which pain is physical reality, an object which can be seen and held. "Refugee," the album's lead-off track, is like that: dark, painful, powerful stuff. Lyrically, it seems a metaphor for Petty's bruising passage through the Hollywood contract/lawsuit system. But the song is not entirely pessimistic — indeed, it is a stark condemnation of the idea that quitting is ever a viable alternative to any problem.

'Century City' closes side one with this same sort of theme. It is an all-balls rocker that seems more amused than upset at the idea of spending your life in your lawyer's Century City office.

Even "Don't Do Me Like That," the standard hurt-in-love song, comes across as a matter-of-fact statement rather that the usual threat of revenge for hearts broken. The idea once again is the ultimate belief in the self, which should not be confused with conceit. Conceit is destructive; selfconfidence, as this album shows, can be extremely productive.

But more than individual songs, it is the album as a whole that succeeds as so few others do. Because for an album to be truly great, it must not lay itself out on one listening. The albums that have endured have always been the ones that required repeated listenings to truly appreciate, and Damn the Torpedoes is no exception. The power of the album is that indescribable something that compels you to play it again and again, and to uncover new layers of meaning each time you do. Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers have done that, and the 80s will be the

recordings.



he Fine Art of Surfacing he Boomtown Rats Columbia)

By TONY GUZMAN

England has been producing any innovative and creative usicians for quite a few years. e Boomtown Rats are a conuation of the flow, non-stop, of ritish groups that you are atacted to instantly. Their new bum. The Fine Art of Surfacing tests to the strength of British lent. Theirs is a style that inigues you with its unique sound nd catchy, yet profound lyrics.

At first listen, you could easily ke the Boomtown Rats as a alking Heads "clone." This could e a mistake. Although the basic und is similar at times, the focus nd mentality of the music are ndamentally different. The Rats ng of urban situations; they are ore immediately attached to a cus on reality. Talking Heads ke an artsier approach. The pint is, they are different.

The album has brilliantlyrafted arrangements. The drums, ass and rhythm guitar drive traight ahead while the eyboards, lead guitar, voice, and rings bring out the subtleties of ach composition.

The first side starts out with a ane about the life and times of a olitical paranoiac. "Someone's ooking at You" starts out inocent enough with the line, "On a ight like this I deserve to get ssed at least once or twice" but on drives the point home with the

chorus.

There's always someone looking

They're always looking at you.

By dealing with political espionage cliches, Bob Geldof, who wrote this song, as well as seven others on the album, create in your mind what goes on in the mind of the modern paranoid politician.

Another strong cut on side one is Wind Chill Factor (Minus Zero), which makes use of the bionic vocals familiar to all fans of new wave. This song explores the plight of how the working man sees himself. It is a pessimistic view for sure, but further more it shows how willing people are to accept things they don't think they can change when they really can. The following lines attest to this,

Side two begins with the pianooriented "I Don't Like Mondays. Although the song uses a fairly standard formula, compared to other cuts, the vocals still bring the point across. Here the lyrics present an unusual situation to explain a bizarre occurrence. In "I Don't Like Mondays," Geldof tells the story of the shooting at a San Diego school early this year:

And school's out early and soon we'll be learning

And the lesson today is how to die The pessimism within the songs put across a certain amount of

tension that entices you. It's one of those days when 1 don't like myself

But I get along with me O.K. (O.K.?)

The quality of the voice in this song appropriately gives a mechanized feel to a situation in which a man sees himself as a machine.

It is really difficult to find a weakness in this album. The producing and engineering were flawless. The musicians have an excellent command of their instruments. It is a pleasure to find six musicians with such energy and innovation. This, their third album, is the best new wave collection of this year. The

Boomtown Rats have much to offer to those who want to listen to a new angle on life; all they have to do is practice "The Fine Art of Sur-



*Freedom at Point Zero Jefferson Starship (Grunt)

By KEN HENRY

The Jefferson Starship has undergone many changes in its long history, but none perhaps as significant as on their new album, Freedom at Point Zero. The departure of both Marty Balin and Grace Slick obviously has had an effect on the Starship's new sound, as Freedom at Point Zero has none of the commercial pop appeal that Balin and Slick gave to the band. Yet their replacement, Mickey Thomas, sings in a similar style to both Slick and Balin, but in a manner all his own. Freedom at Point Zero may not satisfy all the long-time Starship fans because of its more rock 'n roll approach, but it will certainly attract new listeners who did not enjoy their previous works.

One is struck immediately by the much harder rock 'n roll stance that the Starship has taken on this album. The guitar chords pound out riffs that were hardly ever heard in earlier Starship efforts, and lead guitarist Craig Chaquico musician on Freedom. Chaquico's leads squeal with newfound passive, controlled leads like on Techniques that become redious

last year's single "Runaway."

Record Shopping Guide

Also, rhythm guitarist Paul Kantner's playing is his best in five years. His chords echo back to the song "Ride the Tiger" from the Starship's Dragon Fly LP, where Kantner's rhythms's churned out a dynamic, energetic sound. This echo can especially be heard on the title track, where Kantner pumps out rhythm lines in the same manner as "Ride the Tiger," and he manages to go one better on Freedom at Point Zero because his singing is also used to a better effect on his new song.

But perhaps it is the two newcomers to the band that have had the greatest effect on the Starship's new sound. As stated, vocalist Mickey Thomas (formerly with Elvin Bishop) has graced Freedom at Point Zero with many excellent performers both in lead harmony roles. Thomas' versatility is evident in the ease in which he can handle both the hardcharging vocals needed for songs like "Jane" and "Rock Music, and in the graceful way in which he handled the powerful, blues-tinged "Awakening" which required a great deal of vocal control.

The other new member of the Starship is the former Journey drummer, Aynsley Dunbar. Reknowned throughout the rock world as one of the premier drummers in all of rock, his bluesbased technique has definitely changed the direction of the Starship. Dunbar's effect on the band is best seen on "Awakening" where he relentlessly thrusts the Starship into new musical areas. Awakening" could never have been performed prior to Dunbar's joining, because none of the other members of the band had ever played any music based heavily on the blues like Dunbar had. Thus, 'Awakening' reflects Dunbar's past, as the song is very similar to seems to be a totally different the type of sound he had with Journey in its early works.

Freedom at Point Zero does aggressiveness, as opposed to the succumb to timeworn Starship

after a while. Four of the songs donot have a lead vocal; rather, there are three or four part harmony vocal parts that at times scream out at the listener in an annoying fashion. These choral vocals also appear on all of the other songs, causing them to be somewhat redundant at times. The Starship stoops to a bit of musical "borrowing," as evidenced by the piano part in "Jane," which is blatantly reminiscent of Jay Ferguson's "Shakedown Cruise. Such an obvious influence tends to mar the Starship's credibility.

For a band that has gone through as many changes as this one has during the past year, it is surprising that the Starship was able to produce so strong an album. While diehard Starship fans should perhaps be wary of this album, it is good enough to attract many fans to its new rock 'n roll sounds



Heath Bros. In Motion Columbia

By ISIDRO YANEZ

Now they've got this hypnotic disco thing. If people sit down and listen to that music for listening pleasure, there's something wrong with them, something lacking in their understanding of what music is and what it's for...Bebop music is American, it's the life and times of people of America. It has to be taught in order to have an audience as broad as the manufactured audience of today.

These are the words of Jiminy and Percy Heath, staunch sup-



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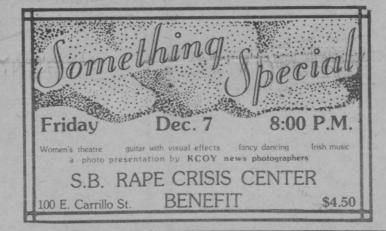


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Heath Bro

and Percy later left with the I Dizzy's rhythm section to form Modern Jazz Quartet. Ji continued to play, compose teach while working occasion with his brother until 1975, the Modern Jazz Quartet bro and the Heath Bros. united to their own group. In Motion, third album together, is propriately named because it a stagnant tribute to bebop running of the changes over standards, but a strong state supporting the inclusion of most vital aspects of custom stylistic trends of the temporary.

Much of the credit must of Jimmy Heath's skillful positions and his inventive sector the brass choir include most of the tracks. "A Time a Place" provides the best exa of this and proves a tune cafunky without having to rescelectrical crutches. The result chromatic crystals of section delicate yet at the same providing an impermeable

(Please turn to p.B5, col.1



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(Continued from p.B4)

orters of the jazz tradition in eneral and bebop in particular. ith over 70 years between them ent refining and perfecting the ost harmonically complex music at jazz can offer, their biases can ell be understood. The Heath ros. first gained recognition with izzy Gillespie in the early, 50s r the soloists explorations of the ructure. His choice of timbre in creation of mood is imeccable. "Passion Flower" is a rkly enchanting ballad that egins wth Percy's almost elancholy bow leadline, which is fset by Jimmy's lighter than air ite fill-ins. The mystical atosphere is further enhanced by selection of the tenor xophone's rich sonority as the provising device. It offers some trospective poetry that is at once egant and sorrowful.

Jimmy's spontaneous comositions are not far removed from s more complete works. His prano sax solo on "Feelin" ealin" is concise and an obvious flection of his bebop upbringing. ore than one Charlie Parker lick heard but it is to remind the stener where all the music came om rather than some inherent eakness of creativity. He pays omage to another saxophone ant of the past in his excerpt om his extended piece "Afromerican Suite of Evolution."

"The Voice of the Saxophone" is dedicated to Coleman Hawkins and Jimmy's passionate ballad does justice to Hawkin's tradition of sincere romanticism.

Walking the bass underneath all this music is Percy Heath, who has played with just about every jazz great from Bird to Miles. There seems to be some kind of intrinsic unfairness to a jazz bass player as far as being the main voice of the melody, but Percy has a couple of opportunities including the album's opening number "Move to the Groove." This straight-ahead blues displays his clear articulation and punctuation of each musical sentence, proving that he is a highly disciplined musician that above all never forgets to

The other members of the Heath Bros.' group also have deep jazz roots. Tony Purrone's guitar solos owe a great deal to Wes Montgomery, and Keith Copeland's thorough background manifests itself as early 60s Art Blakey. Stanley Cowell has played with Jimmy Heath for over 10 years and now finds his piano very much at home with Percy in the rhythm section.

Though their attitudes smack of musical facism, the fact is that the Heath Bros. have incorporated the vitality and drive of bebop into an attainable commodity for the many unoriented listeners of today. They have achieved a vinyang balance that will please both their old fans as well as the many new ones that they deserve.



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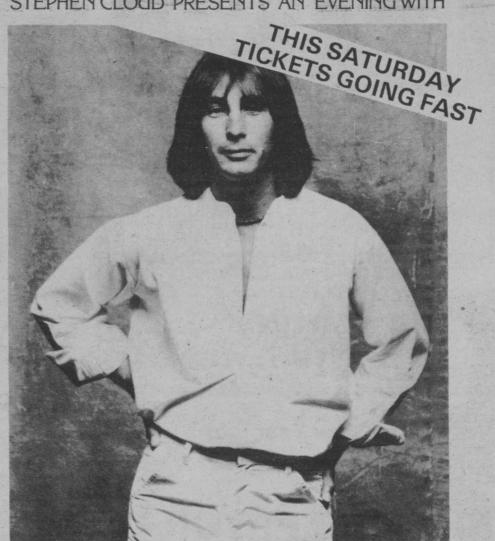
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By NORM COURY

People were still singing after Bob Marley and the Wailers left the stage Sunday night. All the smoke had drifted out of the County Bowl, but the upside-down rhythms were still bouncing around the hills.

Not coincidentally, Marley's music had much the same effect as the skybound cannabis. The beat lingered and soothed the psyche. Long after any drum was actually struck, conga cadences kept the crowd in step and spirit as they descended the garden path.

The ill effects, too, were like those of ganja. Tempo was mired in repetition and there was little cumulative progression. After the hundred-minute set came the realization that the audience had been dancing in place to the sedative strains of one long song,

Wood is a very capable singer, as infectious and energetic as a jacked-up Nicolette Larson.

It's too bad, at this stage anyway, that neither her band nor her material lived up to her potential. The band seemed too pre-occupied with how they looked rather than with how they sounded. and her songs were strictly freezedried, mundane Michael Mc-Donald fare. Given a sturdier band and more adventurous material, Lauren Wood may have a great deal of success ahead of her.

Rick Danko took the stage wearing a cocky grin that seemed to say, "We're gonna have some fun tonight." He was right. Danko and his crack band (Blondie Chaplin and Rick Beilke or guitars, Tommy Stephenson or piano and Ron McClorry or drums) opened with "Stage Fright" from Danko's old days

with The Band. However, The Band never played it as hard and fast, with as much freedom and openness, as

(Please turn to p.B10, col.4)

..Rick Dank

By KEVIN MACKINNON

Thanks to Rick Danko, Lauren Wood and the fast work of Co-Pi-Let Productions, what could have been a total disaster at the Arlington last Monday instead turned into one of the area's brightest rock and roll concerts in a long, long time, at least for those fortunate enough to have seen it.

Upon arriving at the Arlington,

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people with tickets for saxophonist Tom Scott and Lauren Wood were surprised to find Scott gone and Rick Danko, former bassist with The Band, in Scott's place. What happened was that Scott

had cancelled out of the concert at 11 a.m. the day of the show, apparently due to illness. Rather than cancel the whole concert altogether, Co-Pi-Let was lucky enough to have Danko fill in for Scott at the last minute.

Those who stayed for the concert (most people, being either greedy or misinformed, unfortunately took advantage of the refund offer) were treated to a slick, new singersongwriter in Lauren Wood and a loose, spontaneous, inspired set by Danko, who obviously enjoyed being there as much as the audience.

Lauren Wood opened the concert with a pleasant, though unchallenging, set of upbeat tunes.



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han being treated by a series of e stimuli.

lack of diversified pacing ed from the performance in an just melodic terms, for the onary nature of Marley's lyrics for accentuation. An angrier, correlative accompaniment would have reinforced the verses with the punch that they to produce change among the ed crowd.

were moments, however, when isicianship was intensified to the lyric values. As Marley d himself of guitar to focus tely on the pronouncement of the trumpet and saxophone ed with shelling syncopations

ore unheard. Violent outbursts ed through "I Shot the Sheriff." amous by Eric Clapton, this tune de special on Sunday due to the nizations of the otherwise I rhythm section.

rally, the Wailers were better ed for the low volume, finesse han for any of the raucous rdment necessary to fulfill the an hero's calls for the overof class structures. This my was epitomized at the end of proper; Marley left the stage oleading in song, "Give us the ngs of his majesty, we don't want vil philosophy." Minutes later, 's guitarist, seemingly oblivious metaphysics, introduced the with his own plea, "Just bear

and party. s here in the seven song encore, lease turn to p.B10, col.4)





.Karla Bonoff

By TOM BOLTON

Combining songwriting talent with the dynamics necessary for a successful performance is a difficult task in foday's music world; the odds are heavily against the artist, especially the solo per-

But the odds are not in-surmountable, as Karla Bonoff clearly proved in her two Campbell Hall shows Monday night. Her 15song set, which included only one cover, was varied in tempo and showed that she is capable of establishing herself as a headline performer

Until her latest album, Restless Nights, Bonoff was known mainly as a songwriter for such artists as Linda Ronstadt and Bonnie Raitt. Bonoff's own recordings of these songs are of top caliber, but they suffer the fate of having been someone else's hits.

To some degree this reticence was evident Monday. She seemed somewhat nervous on the older cuts, as though she wasn't quite sure how she was standing up to the likes of Ronstadt. But her composure increased as the show progressed and her new songs were performed with spirit and

Bonoff was equally at ease on

MASTERCHARGE

both the rockers and the slower ballads. On "The Letter," touching heartbreak song which came midway through the show, she kept her balance on the fine line between emotion and sentimentality, while keyboard player Chris Montan provided sensitive accompaniment.

With the rest of the band - Ed Black on guitar, Stanley Kipper on drums, Werner Friching on guitar and base player Brad Palmer the result was just as good. "Isn't It Always Love," from Bonoff's first album, was a good example of how she is growing as a performer. Her band worked great in combination and her stage presence was reminiscent of Ronstadt when (Please turn to p.B8, col.4)

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LA CAGE AUX FOLLES



...Karla Bonoff

(Continued from p.B7) she first began to hit the mainstream; fresh, spirited and sin-

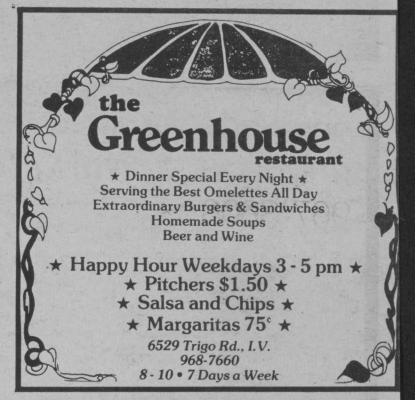
In terms of crowd reaction, "Baby, Don't Go" was the biggest hit of the evening. Another crowd pleaser, also from the Restless Nights album, was "Loving You," which featured some crisp guitar leads by Friching.

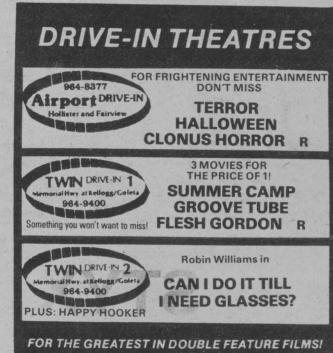
For those who attended, the view was generally the same: Bonoff was a hit, and the music was well rendered. If there was any complaint, it was that her band sounded too much like the albums, even to the point of identical leads. But that is something that a performer learns to deal with though

months on the road. With Bonoff talent, it should be a fairly eas lesson.

Jack Tempchin opened the show for Bonoff, with a witty and fast paced set that nonetheless had plenty of room for his serious ballads. His most notable and bes received offering was an anti-Aral tune called "95-Octane Dream."

He also did some old favorites such as "Killing Me Softly With Kung Fu" and "I am My Owr Grandpa." His most serious selection was "Peaceful Easy Feeling," which was made famous by the Eagles on their debut album. As always, Tempchin was musical and fun.







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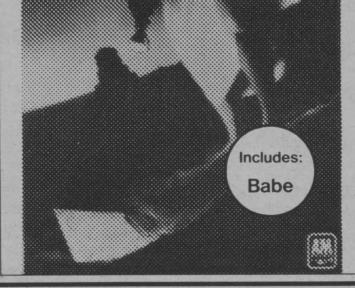
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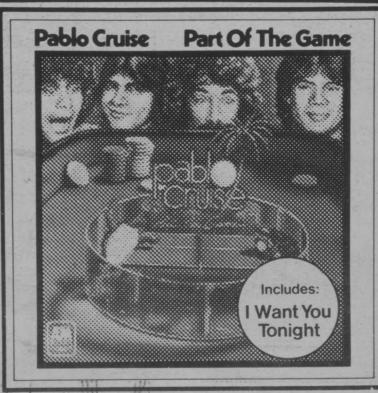
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...Rick Danko

(Continued from p.B6)
Danko and company did. Perhaps due to the unusual circumstances of their appearance, the band appeared to be under no pressure, but instead played with a living-room intimacy, more like old friends than as performers. As a result, their playing achieved that magical quality — loose, yet still incredibly tight. Danko summed it

up best when he confessed, "It's

kinda informal, ya know?"
Informal or not, this band knew how to play rock and roll. "Brainwash," "Java Blues," and "Crazy Mama" were all kicked into high gear largely due to the incredible twin guitar work of Chaplin and Beilke, whose interplay could only have come through mind-reading. Chaplin also sang lead on a rousing version of "Sail On Sailor," bringing the house down.

Danko in addition performed several solo numbers, accompanying himself with acoustic guitar on "What a Town" and a heartrending "It Makes No Difference." When not clowning around, Danko is still a beautiful singer.

The concert ended with an absolutely wild rendition of "Whatcha Gonna Do?" It's hard to remember when I last heard music this raw and powerful. Before the song was over, the audience was on its feet, the band playing with sheer abandon. And after the band left the stage, the people stayed on their feet for a good five minutes more. All told, Danko was on the stage for about 80 minutes. I would have sworn 18.

Hopefully, Danko and friends will soon return to Santa Barbara under more normal circumstances.

...Bob Marley

(Continued from p.B8)

however, that the pace livened. One dozen Wailers finally conspired for something that transcended mere Reggae Muzak. Pieces such as "Jammin" and "Stir It Up" were not only more suitable for the euphoric renditions applied throughout, but they were elevated by the looser interplay and uncut emotion not utilized earlier.

When Marley closed with the anthem, "Get Up, Stand Up," everybody did. Previously

resembling those dashboard doggies whose heads slowly bob with every bump in the road, the crowd was now thoroughly moved.

For its last concert of the year, the Bowl reverted to the decible level of seasons past, and the show suffered only minimally from a few dissonant blurbs. Warming up the speakers and the audience was Betty Wright. Her disco, much like the fading scene it is a part of, was stylistically embellished, but lacking in content.





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