



The Music Beet



By Paul Bradley
 Comment: I didn't bother to watch the recent American Music Awards (where the musical establishment's old farts get together to try and justify their existence.) When I heard the "winners" I was glad that I had found something more entertaining to do - I happened to be cleaning up my room.

Air Supply, Pat Benatar, and Kenny Rogers for acts of the year? These awards make Canada's Juno Awards glitter in comparison, and that takes some doing. If America considers these as the cream of the musical crop then they deserve a B-movie actor for president.

You Could Have Been With Me - Sheena Easton
 Speaking of awards

and glitter, Sheena Easton's metamorphosis from drama teacher to "hot property" (three singles in nine months) is proof that free enterprise is alive and well in Scotland. This kind of instant fame is something which music purists hate. As a result, Ms. Easton and co. have had to put up with their share of criticism. Admittedly, criticizing her is not unlike taking a hammer to a bowl of jello. After all, on the one hand there is her material - "safe" songs which reinforce stereotypes; while on the other, she is no doubt finely schooled in the fine art of how to dress, gesture, sneer, etc.

None of this detracts from the fact that the lady has a talent, through it is

not terribly awesome. The arrangements along with Easton's vocal delivery make many of the songs better than they have any right to be. In fact, if you're not careful, tunes like "Letter From Joey" and "When He Shines" actually get under your skin.

The album's major failing, and the reason Easton will never be considered as a serious artist, is the very obvious sameness of her material. This could be excused if there was even one song that went beyond formulaic standard. It's not that she isn't capable of handling stronger material (she is), rather it's the fact that mediocre pablum seems to be what sells (witness her prissy posturing on the American Music Awards).

In the profound words of the Kinks - Give the People What They Want.

No Refugee - Eddie Schwartz

Aside from a previous solo album, Eddie Schwartz's chief claim to fame is that he penned Pat Benatar's "Hit Me With Your Best Shot". The latter is as good a reason as any for not wanting to know anything more about Mr. Schwartz.

Here and there, No Refugee is tuneful and pleasant enough to listen to. However, when you listen closely you realize how boring the record actually is (i.e. long on cliché and short on inspiration). Among the songs, "Tonight" and "Over The Line" stand above the rest. Comparatively speaking, that isn't necessarily very high.

MAPUS Update

The mature and part-time student association would like to announce the appointment of Judy Kohlsmith as chairperson of the standing advisory council. Judy would be happy to hear from anyone who has any questions or advice and can be contacted at 892-3795.

The executive has been looking at a few major concerns that were brought to light at the initial meeting.

A brief is being prepared on the lack of cyclic programming available to part-time students and we hope to have it ready for presentation very soon. Plans are being made to develop other areas of concern in the near future. Please feel free to contact us with any questions about the organization by calling the executive or by writing to us at our post office box #39.

Murray McLauchlan at the Centre

From: Public Relations Department
"Kid From the City Returns to Main Stage"

Murray McLauchlan, singer, songwriter, guitarist, pianist, and harmonica player, labelled as the "Kid from the City" returns to the Main Stage, Confederation Centre of the Arts, Friday, February 12, at 8 p.m.

Murray McLauchlan has changed his style more times than any other leading Canadian artist of his time. Considered a major folk

artist in 1971, fans wondered whether he had sold out when he had decided to try rock'n' roll. His music is described as having a great deal of "edge". His lyrics and music are sharp, pointed, and direct. McLauchlan's latest hit single, "I Wouldn't Take a Chance on Love" underlines this change.

Tickets for Murray McLauchlan's performance are \$6, \$7, and \$8 and are available at the Centre Box Office.

LIFE WITH STANLEY...

