

ROCK AND ROLL SUICIDE

B.H.B.S. byline

Two things are quite evident when one is walking through the hallowed halls of Blanchard, the first being that recorded music is very important to all those future engineers, teachers, and other unemployable products of this university.

Usually a trip down the corridors results in the ears being assaulted by such a high decibel level that you wonder whether your ears, let alone the foundations, will suffer structural damage. The second and far more crucial observation is that over all, and by and large, the general taste in music for this intellectual elite, is below what is called enlightening. In fact, in terms of comparison with the culinary arts, if Beef Bourignon is equivalent to live music than I'm afraid that their taste runs all the way to Kraft Dinner. Quite acceptable in terms of nutritional requirements, quite easy to digest and manufacture, but still not even close to the best in terms of quality, substance, and beauty.

Now I'm sure that right away most readers (I am assuming you all do read) will fall back and say "What I like is good enough for me". Pure Garbage! Likes and dislikes are inherent in every piece of music; indeed they exist in anything we experience. However, likes and dislikes do not and cannot change a selection of "bad" music into one

which is "good".

Your taste, when it comes right down to it, is your own. It is a priceless gift, however it is one to be nurtured and cared for. Letting it fall to the lowest level is great for your morale (you mean you like those guys too?) and the pocket book (Electric Flag albums rarely go on sale) yet it leaves a huge gap in your psyche I can't truthfully say my tastes are superior to any others, but perhaps my ability to recognize the differences between mediocre and great music is more refined. I can't force anyone to agree with my standards nor can I compel anyone to listen to my music. All I can, or any critic can do, is at best tell you what I find exceptional, what you may enjoy, what I disdain, and what you may dislike.

Rock music is perhaps the most misunderstood and abused musical idiom. When it is performed well it possesses all the qualities of great music, but when it is played poorly it creates all the subtleties of fingernails running over a blackboard.

Good rock should be excitable, that is to say it should be able to move you on an emotional plane. If it gets your foot tapping or it brings a lump to your throat, the music has succeeded. The music should be intellectually fulfilling; 13 million songs have been written about boy meets girl, boy

loves girl. Good rock transcends this, it evokes a feeling of time and place, of mood, depth, and feeling.

Repetition is perhaps the easiest criteria to recognize. The licks, the improvisational solos, must always sound fresh (even if they are all in the key of E). A three minute ditty about my "Best friends girl friend" may be quite pleasant the first ten playings, but after that, scratch the vinyl. However, a "Day in the Life" is timeless, and everytime we hear this selection it sounds fresh.

Two of the most difficult components of the music to which we refer are Perfection and Performance. Rock music is surely one of the few idioms that can boast of a perfect product. Primarily this is due to the conceptual procedure of the singer/songwriter. In no other musical form can the composer perform the music without interpretation. Because of the high levels of technology of sound recording, the composer could play all the instruments, all the vocals, and still be true to the original form. The simplicity, also of the music, allows one to perform well, without fear of mistakes.

A very fine line separates a good performance from a poor one; we all understand deep down what causes this. A great performer like the Beatles,

the Who, Springsteen... all have the ability to unify all the underlying components, and bring about a sense of accomplishment, a sense of artistic gratification to both the listener and performer. The music wants to be heard. Rock music is an idiom of performers and of characters. Nine out of ten songs that are covered fail, because the artists lose that sense of urgency of expression. Perhaps because generally we are so inarticulate, the performer alone can express what is underlying behind the music. This is what I look for in music. This is what separates great from good to poor.

Thank you for listening to this pile of rubbish, and if you think you don't agree, perhaps your right because you have to be, at all times, your own critic.

NEXT WEEK: The new and not so new record reviews. The essential albums, and, as an added bonus incriminating photographs of the regular Thursday night Pass-out Game.

See Ya

P.S.

Congratulations go to the men's soccer team who played well last weekend splitting a pair of games. Good luck this weekend as they play Dal and SMU. Although the woman's field hockey lost two tough matches, overall they were more enjoyable to watch. (I know that's chauvanistic).

EDUCATION ELECTION

Can we channel the apparent enthusiasm of the many education students into successful academic and social gatherings?

Yes!! How? Through the education elections Wednesday, October 1, 1980.

However, immediate action following this key event is essential if results are to be productive.

The executive nominees will be the catalyst in generating involvement amongst their fellow students. Talent and energies need to be utilized for the promotion of enthusiastic activities for 1980-81.

I would like to use the position of executive president to make it happen!

Through your support we can both become involved.

STEVE MACFADYEN: Presidential Candidate

Commerce Final Year Students

Today, the chartered accountant is not only an auditor but a valued business adviser. Challenge, opportunity and responsibility are all part of the career path of those who choose to enter this demanding and exciting profession. Discuss career opportunities with Clarkson, Gordon representatives, on campus

Nov. 6

Arrangements should be made through the Student Placement Office.

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