

Gabriel Great, Stone's Stink -record review

B.H.B.S. byline

A student with limited financial resources like myself usually is in great distress when faced with the prospect of purchasing additions to ones record collection. Gone forever are the days of the \$2.99 special, and the guaranteed great album. With the average sale price of a record at \$5.99 and the regular price set around \$8.99, you have to be pretty sure of the quality of the l.p before buying it. Some releases of the last few months have caught my ear as very sound purchases (no pun intended). The first is Peter Gabriel's newest.

Since his departure from Genesis a few years back, Peter Gabriel has released some uneven, yet interesting albums. His latest effort, again simply entitled "Peter Gabriel", is without any doubt personally his strongest album to date, and musically one of the best albums of the year. Standout tracks include: "I Don't Remember" and "Not One of Us". These songs give us a strong indication that Gabriel is experiencing an ever

increasing alienation with today's world. However, political songs such as "Biko" indicate to the listener that Gabriel is not a casual observer.

Contributing on the album are a virtual battery of distinguished musicians. Larry Fast of "Synergy" fame weilds his synthesisers beautifully, and deserves much credit for the overall shape of the record. Along with Fast, Phil Collins of the new and improved Genesis, lays down some drum tracks. Robert Fripp of the Talking Heads and Kate Bush also appear on the work. The standout track of the album and my personal choice for the song of the year, "Games Without Frontiers", is Gabriel's most melodic work since "Salsbury Hill". Outstanding lyrics and melodies mark this album as a very strong work. This reviewer gives the album very high recommendations and encourages any old Genesis fans to rush out and buy it.

Pete Townshend once again proves on his record "Empty Glass", that the genius behind most of the

brilliant music that came out of the WHO can still rock with the best of them.

The album starts with the fine track, "Rough Boys" and once again Townshend gives us a song in near anthem qualities. People generally overlook Townshend's guitar playing to his compositional skills but this song proves once again that he is a great musician. "Let My Love Open The Door" shows us some synthesizer work reminiscent of his work on "Who's Next", and its still as effective as ever. "Keep on Working" is another fine song on the l.p. However, the outstanding track is "I am An Animal". We catch the composer in a contemplative mood, yet he is still the angry, not-so-young man lashing out at the world.

"Empty Glass" is not an album for everyone; indeed it takes a few listenings to truly appreciate all its subtleties. If you are a WHO fan, or you are willing to spend time listening to this record, it should be a highly enjoyable experience.

Perhaps the most disappointing album to hit my turntable in recent

weeks is the Rolling Stone's "Emotional Rescue". Mick Jagger and Paul McCartney are two outstanding reasons for manditory retirement of rock stars at 35. Jagger has stated that he is bored with Rock and Roll. Indeed, he should be bored with his output in the last couple of years. It is not that the record is all that horrible. Again Jagger has a knack for penning some dancable ditties, but for what once was the best in rock, it is a terribly excessive conglomerate of the worst of modern music.

In comparison to the pathetic product produced by the Stones, and album produced by the Monks brings fresh air to a rather repetitive set of musical offerings. The Monks' form of high energy pop/rock is what we all need once in a while. One cannot help but grin and enjoy such songs as "Drugs in MY Pocket", "Nice Legs, Shame About Her Face" and the orange blossom special's favorite "Johnny Be Rotten". It isn't old or new wave, but rather is great party music. This record should be made mandatory for residence life, and also for life in the outside world.

A Political View

by Jim Revell

Politics has a wide reaching effect on all of society. It then baffles most observers that a large majority of the public have disdain for the subject. I, for one, feel that an education, because it is an on going process, should have at least part of it dedicated to current affairs, an area which affects us all. With this in mind, over the next few weeks this column will be both ridiculing and praising those who originate and implement public policy.

Since late May of this year, the Canadian public has been held captive by the Constitutional Debate. Some say it has been only an exercise in futility, as a prime minister attempts one last time to ensure his name is enshrined in Canadian history forever. This, in my opinion, however, is not the case. What Trudeau is now attempting to do is rid Canada of its colonial handicap, and draw up a constitution which will ensure that the basic rights of all are respected. The only snag in the process is that, in

the past, provincial agreement has always been sought before moving to amend the British North America Act. As witnessed by all who watched the recent First Ministers Meeting on the Constitution in mid-September, it is quite apparent that this agreement would not be forthcoming in the near future. It is here that I take exception to a lot of the frivolous arguments put forward from both sides. One sensed, following the Quebec Referendum, there was a wish by all Canadians for a new type of Federalism. This now seems impossible, as Premiers refused to make any attempt to withdraw or concede any of their demands.

The exercise reached ridiculous lengths when Premier Angus MacLean of PEI said "I'm an Islander first, a Maritimer second, and a Canadian third". This comment was picked up and appeared in all the major Canadian newspapers and magazines, forcing one to judge MacLean as a disgrace to his nation, his region and his province. When a provincial leader, from a province where over 60¢

out of every dollar is estimated to be derived from Federal Transfer payments, takes a rigid stance such as this, there is little wonder the Federal Government takes action to unilaterally repatriate the Constitution. One can only hope that the provinces can now sit down with the federal authorities and draw up legislation which will ensure basic human, economic, and language rights of all, no matter what region or province they live in.

Quite often when the public thinks of politicians, they view them as corrupt individuals. The passing of the late Dan MacDonald, Minister of Veterans Affairs, was an individual who proved the opposite to be more than true. Few have served our nation as well as "Dandy Dan". Both as Minister of Veterans Affairs and as lone member from PEI in the Cabinet Mr. MacDonald represented his country, province and constituency well. It is hoped that today's society can continue to develop individuals with Dan MacDonald's characteristics.



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