

# ROLLING PAPER

WJRH

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NEWS AND REVIEWS FROM  
WJRH 90.5 FM LAFAYETTE COLLEGE  
EASTON, PA. FRANK L. URBANIAK

WJRH is a voluntarily operated and programmed radio station at Lafayette College. Everything starts happening about 7:00am mon.-fri. and 9:00am on weekends and often goes much later than the scheduled 3:00am if the "wireless programmer" of the wee hours feels up to it (and they always do). The music is progressive Rock and progressive Jazz and progressive Folk and some progressive classical, but we like to keep it all progressive. News summaries are given every hour with our regular sports show at 5:00pm and our ambitious news spots at 7:00 and midnite.

Right now we're getting underway to convert to Stereo (yep, two channels), so here's hoping.

We put in many hours down here in the basement of Hoqq Hall and we can only ask that you listen. We hope that our friends will continue being so faithful. If you'd like to call for a question, request, or comment call 258-5437 or write P.O. Box 505, Laf. Col. Easton 18042. The following reviews are of some of the L.P.'s we receive here. We'll be getting to more soon. See you then.



Note: The rating scale of 1-5 stars on these reviews is somewhat arbitrary but serves the purpose of judging the albums in relation to each other (5 stars is nearly impossible; how many albums today are perfect?).

#### AUDIENCE, THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

EKS-74100 \*\*\*\*

First there's the cover of this English band's album: wax figures of a man and a woman looking to the left in their antiquated living room. You turn the cover over, and it's all there: the butler in the doorway, dragging a quite non-perceiving (stoned? dead? drunk?) gentleman up the stairs. And the "house" on the inside is really something.

So is the music. With but four members playing acoustic guitar, bass, drums, and sax/flute. Audience manages to produce an amazingly full and exciting sound. They're funky and tight, a fine offering in a somewhat bland year. The horns are tastefully double and triple-tracked (though sometimes overpowering), blending nicely with the guitar work. Gus Dundgeon (Elton John) has produced a string of clean and well-mixed albums and Audience is another step along the way. The vocals, sounding like a cross of Robert Plant, Eric Clapton, and the Kinks, give Dundgeon some interesting effects to work with. All in all, a fine four-star album from Audience, with commercial appeal, but you shouldn't let that stop you from buying it. Oh, Audience will be appearing with Faces this fall somewhere around here. Good show.....

#### NIGEL OLLSON - NIGEL OLLSQN'S DRUM ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS

UNI-73113 \*<sub>2</sub>

Billboard's advertisement a few weeks back read, "Nigel Ollson is the world's most tremendous drummer", or some such crap. And the idea was that you'd buy the album cause the guy is just so good. Well he's not. He plays something like 14 drums and twenty some symbols, all heavily amplified, and sounds good. At least for the first 30 seconds of his solo (live, Wildwood N.J.: August 28). But the dude can't even roll, and I'm sure he's never listened to jazz.

After seeing him I wasn't so excited about hearing the album and I'm still not. The songs are all well-played, nicely arranged, and "Hummingbird" and "Weirdhouse" are even good (though Nigel sings neither of them). But all in all the album, drums, chorus, and mediocrity go nowhere. You might not turn him off, but then again you probably wouldn't have put him on.

#### FREEDOM: THROUGH THE YEARS

COTILLION SD-9048 \*\*

I saw this cover and hoped for another McDonald and Giles or ELP. The back liner notes said that besides having a drummer and guitarist/pianist, the bass player could play Moog synthesizer. The hopes went higher. But no such luck. Freedom is a loud, usually raw, rock band with much fuzz and crashing symbols and noise/music. The exceptions are the two quieter songs, "Thanks" and "Through the Years" which are decent. The band needs something..... better material...more original thought...Keith Emerson? Have to hand it to Cotillion, though..they sure know how to package an album.



HERBIE MANN: PUSH PUSH

EMBRYO SD-532 \*\*\*

Being more into rock than jazz, my opinion of this album is less than expert, but I do know what I like and Push Push I like. Nice to work to, Nice to listen to, nice to make love to, whatever. Duane Allman plays all guitars and we all know how good he is (though he's fairly subdued here.) Mann does one original and six arrangements, including Marvin Gaye's "Never Can Say Goodbye" and all are nice. Mann adds a PS to the album: Marvin Gaye's album, "Whats Going ON" is the best album of the year. My PS is that the inside cover is an incredible felt picture of a couple balling. Like used to say last year, "Far Out," or "Push-Push".

HOOKFOOT: HOOKFOOT

A & M SP-4316 \*\*\*\*\* $\frac{1}{2}$

This album is a gas to say the least. Caleb Quaye, Dave Glover, Ian Duck and Roger Pope: Elton John's backup band on most of Tumbleweed Connection, and the boys get it on a lot more without ol' Elton. Ian Duck plays guitar as good as Dave Mason, Caleb Quaye is good at everything, and Pope and Glover are fine on drums and bass respectively. It's one helluva band. E. John calls Hookfoot "potentially the best new English band". No shit, and their first album. They've got many, many people's third or fourth album beat easily. It's exciting music they make, quite like a refined Buffalo Springfield with Steve Miller as lead singer. Clean, fresh, inventive, I don't know the word; I guess "welcome". It's easy to see why Elton John's albums have been so good, and in fact, wonder why they aren't better. One of the top fifteen of the year thus far.

JOHN ENTWISTLE: SMASH YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE WALL

DECCA DL-79183 \*\*\*\*

It's funny how this batch of records turned out three good ones, yet other batches are downright insulting. John Entwistle is famous more for his immobilized stance while performing with the Who than anything else, but he's one of the best on bass. He can really arrange nicely, too. (horns) and is obviously more of the power behind the Who than people realize. On this album he wrote everything and played all bass and keyboards. The drummer is tight and though no Townsend, "Cyrano" is a tasty guitarist though heavy. Entwistle's voice is strange and unique (My Wife) and the lyrics a little weak, but if you don't watch yourself, you could really get into his delivery.

The album is a must for the Who freak, and one to pick up on even if you're but an average, run-of-the-mill typical music freak. Go ahead, buy it. If you don't like it, you can always "Smash your head....."

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All reviews by F L U  
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