

daily nebraskan entertainment

Sunfighter slowly sinks in the west

Review by Tim Sindelar

Sunfighter is the latest release of the Paul Kantner/Grace Slick faction of the Jefferson Airplane, which was also mostly responsible for *Blows Against the Empire*.

Much of the personnel from the Airplane is present, along with guest appearances by the Airplane's granddaddy, Jerry Garcia, and those good friends, David Crosby and Graham Nash. Seemingly enough outstanding talent to sink an album, which, unfortunately does happen.

Most of the blame for the failure of the album, which comes off as almost any Airplane album crossed with the Starship album, lies in the excesses of Kantner and Slick. While Kantner produced a worthwhile record with *Blows*, he has become stuck with the same format that he discovered on the *Volunteers*.

The same strident, repeated chords,

with semi-shouted lyrics related to revolution, togetherness and a new society, all of which were interesting and inspiring on *Volunteers*, dominate *Sunfighter*. But today they are hollow, almost mocking.

"Silver Spoon," "Diana" and "Sunfighter," which open the album, and "Million," "Diana 2" and "Holding Together" on the second side, share the same sound.

"Sunfighter has those great lines—"subcarbon oscillation sunshine blurring fascination." "Titanic" is merely an average piece of pseudo-psychedelic sound effects.

While "Look at the Woods" is interesting and "When I Was A Boy..." has some nice musical work on it, Side One is nearly beyond redemption.

Side Two isn't much better. "Million" is nice and all, but strictly old hat.

"China" is little more than baby pictures with its unreal Hollywood orchestra ending.

"Earth Mother" is one of those ecology songs that couldn't stand up to the Airplane's other venture in that field—"Eskimo Blue Day" on *Volunteers*. And "Universal Copernican Mumbles" would be put to shame by any similar work by Pink Floyd.

"Holding Together" is more of the same old dream. Fantasizing about the revolution and an Atlantean future is all very fine and fun, but it really gets boring, especially to those who have had their share of politics and all.

The dream seems to have grown cold, and it's becoming tiring to mumble about "leaving the earth to the wind and go into the nova." While the music is high powered and intense, the dream has been lost.

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