

Larry Kubert

## Mason Proffit's latest shows inconsistency

What does a group do after it records three albums, releases its first single and finds itself essentially banned from the AM airwaves? Makes things a little difficult, as well as saying something about AM stations.

It didn't stop the Talbot Brothers, John and Terry, Bruce "Creep" Kurnow, Tim Ayres and Art Nash, otherwise known as Mason Proffit. They simply loaded up their equipment, moved to a new label and released another album, *Rockfish Crossing*.

The main problem with *Rockfish* is its inconsistency. Combining the whole album, there are enough good cuts to make up one side worthy of listening to. The remaining side would consist of mediocre commercial stuff.

Side one contains four of the album's better cuts, with "Were You There" leading the list. It traces man's inhumanity from the massacre of Indians at Wounded Knee to Hitler's killing of Jews to My Lai, Nixon's skeleton in the closet.

Byron Berline's fiddle and John Talbot's banjo highlight "Breakin' Down."

"Better Find Jesus" almost takes on an evangelistic tone, but it's definitely better than the two losers on side one, "Jesse" and Hank William's "You Win Again."

With the exception of a couple of medleys, side two, which was recorded live, is not that pleasing.

"Hobo," "A Thousand and Two" and "Wetback" are nice commercial efforts, and one of the three probably will get a lot of air play. But the traditional "Cripple Creek/Quit Kickin' My Dog Around" and J.J. Cale's bluesish "Call Me the Breeze",

preceded by "George's Jam", are the real winners.

Although *Rockfish* is relatively gratifying, the cuts that have been done well deserve credit. Mason Proffit is riding the trail again.

This may have a limited appeal but for those of you who might be interested, a few days ago I received a letter from Billy Jack Productions and Vivian Flesch, director of Sunshine Snake Music.

Seems as if there'll be a sequel to *Billy Jack*. The sequel will be called *The Trial of Billy Jack*, and the motion picture people are looking for "the cutest pom pon girl or majorette in America" to appear in it. (You'll notice "the cutest" bit is a direct quote and can't be blamed on me.)

Anyway, the shootin' for the movie is scheduled to begin in January. Sooo—all you little pom pon girls and majorettes out there who are aspiring to become movie kingdom starlets, just send me your name, address, age, school and how long you've been a pom pon girl or majorette, along with a picture, preferably in your uniform, and I'll forward it right on out to ole Billy Jack.

The Omaha Opera Company is presenting Metropolitan Opera soprano Felicia Weathers in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Omaha Music Hall.

The UNL University Orchestra is giving a concert Sunday at 8 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall. Guest artist is pianist Grant Johannsen, one of Nebraska's visiting artists in residence.



Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

The Lincoln Symphony Orchestra will open its 47th season Tuesday at O'Donnell Auditorium at Nebraska Wesleyan at 8 p.m. Guest artist will be renowned pianist Alicia de Larrocha. Last season Larrocha performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra.

Without a doubt, Saturday, Nov. 18, has to be considered one of the busiest days of the year. To open with, the Nebraska Union Concert Series is presenting blues guitarist Muddy Waters in the Union Ballroom at 8 p.m. in a free concert.

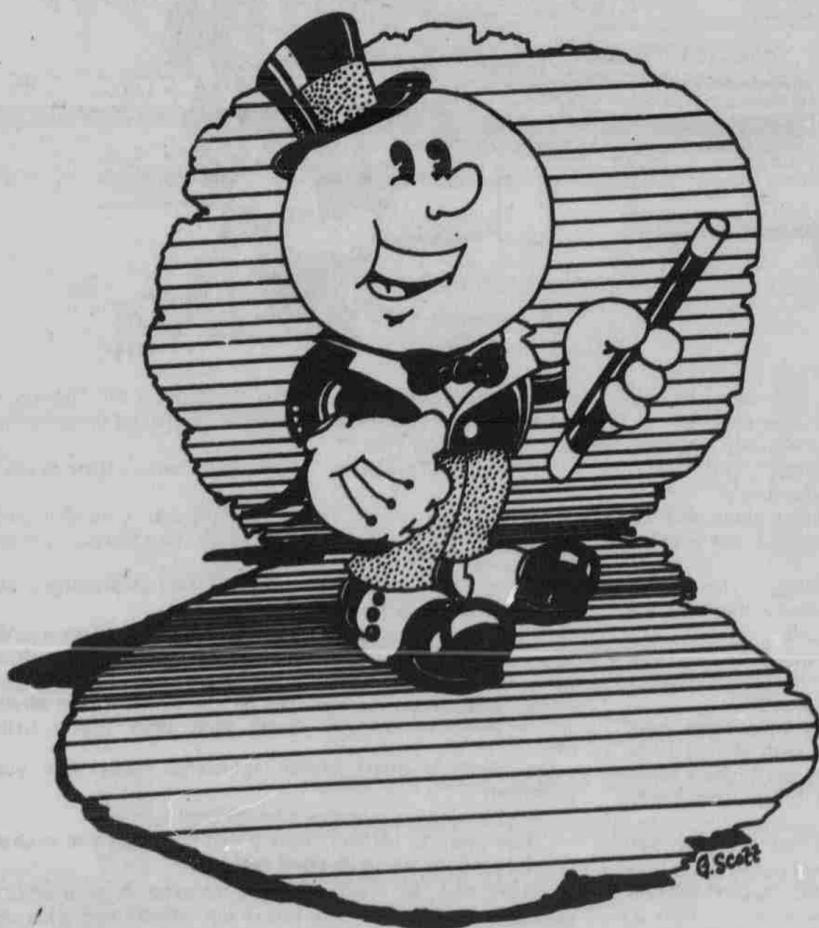
The full-length, seven hour version of the Russian classic, *War and Peace*, will be presented for one showing only at Sheldon Art Gallery beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2.75 a seat.

Theatre Arts For Youth is opening its season with an original dance production, *The Mayflower*, written

by UNL music professor Robert Beadell and choreographed by UNL dance instructor Marie Sanwick. Performances will be at Kimball Recital Hall at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Saturday and at 2:30 and 4 p.m. Sunday.

Winding up the 18th's events will be *Tzigane*, a Gypsy Folk spectacle at Pershing Auditorium. The performance includes a company of 40 dancers and singers.

Sunday, Nov. 19, finds Ten Years After, with Alvin Lee, at Pershing Auditorium. And December at Pershing isn't looking too bad, either. Sunday, Dec. 3, the Auditorium has insanely brilliant Frank Zappa booked, and on Dec. 9, West, Bruce and Laing are paying Lincoln a return visit.



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