

hot licks

Editor's note: This is the first record review column written by Deb Gray, a double major in music and journalism. Her column will appear weekly.—Editor

Manhattan Transfer/Atlantic. Those who have watched Manhattan Transfer's summer show on CBS will have heard all songs on this album. But it's a good one to have around anyway—a great tonic for depression. Four singers, each soloists in their own right, blend perfectly through the hazards of scat singing and tight harmonies.

The Transfer revives music of the '50s and the big band era. They are at their best singing the '40s hits.

The back-up band features some of the most talented studio musicians around. Zoot Sims plays a tenor sax solo on "You Can Depend on Me," and the Brecker brothers, Michael on sax and Randy on trumpet, are in the orchestra. High point on the album is The Transfers rejuvenation of the gospel standard "Operator." There's a witty introduction in the Blackwood Brothers tradition and an exciting sax solo by Michael Brecker. But the song's best point—and the Manhattan Transfer's—is Janis Siegel's nonpareil vocals. Her singing is not the most inspired, but she is a superb technician who knows how to arouse a crowd.

Blood, Sweat & Tears/*New City/Columbia*. Clayton-Thomas has rejoined BS&T. And



as a friend who is a professed jazz-rock freak says, "Thank God."

Actually Blood, Sweat & Tears continued to produce good jazz-rock ("No Sweat," "Mirror Image") after Clayton-Thomas left the band. Yet neither their albums nor Clayton-Thomas's were selling. So he rejoined the group. Only one member, drummer Bobby Colomby remains from the original band.

This time around, Thomas's vocals have mellowed. He traded in raw emotion for refinement.

Standouts on the album are "Ride Captain Ride" and "Yesterday's Music," a laid-back tune fitting Thomas's voice better than anything else on the album.

Their version of Janis Ian's "Applause" blends a range of musical styles. There is a break with piccolo trumpets straight from the 17th century, and trumpet solo played through a modulator by Joe Giardianni.

Coffeehouse is Back!



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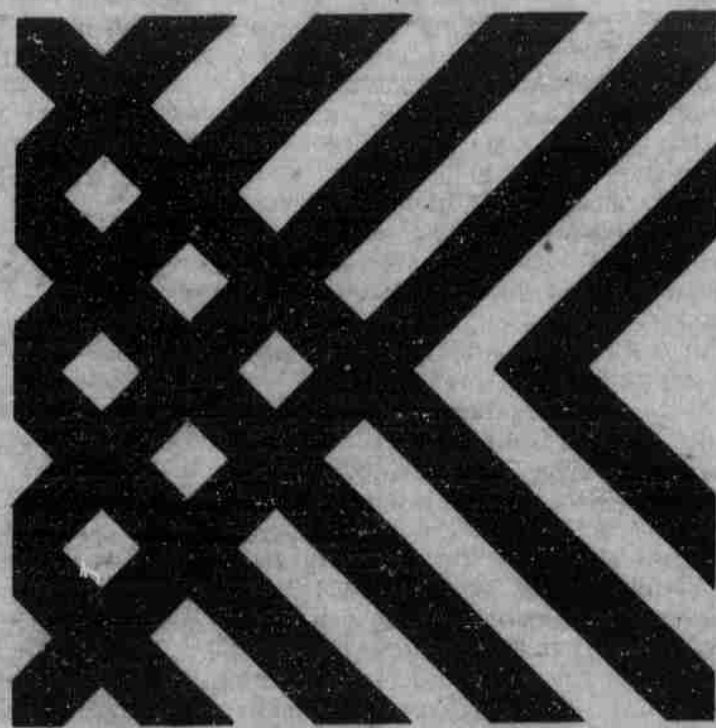
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