

# Review Board

## The Pointer Sisters, "Hot Together" (RCA)

The Pointer sisters have been a mainstay in American mainstream soul music for more than a decade. Through the years, they've put out some very good dance-pop music and some very mundane junk. No, they don't write their own music, and it's far too easy to confuse them with Sister Sledge, LaBelle and the host of other black female trios. But their 1978 rendition of Bruce's "Fire" has earned a special place in my 45 collection.

The Pointer Sister's new LP, "Hot Together," firmly places Anita, June and Ruth in an '80s pop quagmire. I do believe, unlike many of my fellow Daily Nebraskan critics, that there is such a thing as good pop music. There sure ain't much of it, but it does exist. For a second, The Pointers had me fooled with the opening track, "My Life,"

which kicks off the LP with some heavy funk and beautiful African rhythms. No, the words aren't too intelligent. But when you like some occasional silly pop like I do, you have to listen to some mindless lyrics. But as long as you can dance to it, what the heck.

"My Life" is a great tune with heavy horns and an intense beat. The rest of the LP degenerates into more of the Patti LaBelle, Sister Sledge, and whoever-had-the-big-pop-hit-last-year drive.

As I listened to the LP, I could just hear the potential hits. They're easy to pick out, since they sound exactly like the Pointer Sisters' hits from the last LP, "Goldmine" and "Sexual Power" will undoubtedly be on KFRX soon.

The Pointers are best when one of the sisters steps forward to sing solo as in "Fire." June goes solo on "All I Know is the Way I Feel" to create one of the better slow songs.

Overall, the Pointers just didn't take chances and come up with something as unconventional as "Fire." Conservatism doesn't make great music, but it sure makes hits and money.

—Stew Magnuson

## Lonnie Mack, "Second Sight" (Alligator)

When George Thoroughgood was asked recently why so much of his music was covers of other people's music instead of original compositions, he replied, "Because Chuck Berry already wrote all the great rock 'n' roll songs."

I think Thoroughgood's comment is more telling of the creative vacuum he is so obviously working in than it is a tribute to the great Chuck Berry. To Thoroughgood, I have only one reply.

Listen to Lonnie Mack's brilliant "Strike Like Lightning" LP from last

year, then go out and buy his latest, "Second Sight." Yes, fresh and exciting rock 'n' roll is still being recorded, despite what Thoroughgood says.

Anyone who saw Mack's two Zoo Bar performances last month probably would agree. Mack first hit the radio-waves in 1963 with "The Wham! of That Memphis Man," a scorching LP. He's had three comebacks since then, and this time I hope he's here to stay.

He had some help, though. The Memphis Horns, recently heard on Peter Gabriel's "Sledgehammer," added

—Stew Magnuson

their soul-shaking blasts on several songs, including "Me and My Car." The Memphis Horns and Mack's distinct guitar weave in and out, trading licks throughout the LP. Virtually every song on "Second Sight" is worth mentioning. But I only have room to mention some highlights: "Rock People," a new anthem for rickers in the '80s; "Camp Washington Chili," a breakneck-speed instrumental in the vein of his early works, and "A Song I Haven't Sung," a beautiful Christian spiritual the best since the recent "Violent Femmes."

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