

# POP TALK



By Jim Smith

**Editor's note:**

This week the Free Press introduces "Pop Talk" a column on the who, why, what, and where of popular music, written by Jim Smith.

Jim, a grad student at McMaster, has been keenly interested in popular music trends since his early high school years and is a former record critic. He has also worked as a disc jockey and interviewed several contemporary pop music groups.

Jim Pankow and Pete Cetera lounged on those long, hard, backless benches that characterize every gymnasium or locker room. In an adjoining room, the other five members of Chicago showered, devoured a pizza, and just generally unwound from the emotional turmoil inherent in their mercilely dynamic performance of moments earlier. Pankow and Cetera play trombone and bass guitar respectively in this brilliant new rock sensation, a septet which until recently called itself Chicago Transit Authority. The beautiful brass arrangements were Pankow's creation while Cetera possesses the best voice among the three singers in the group (listen to him on "Beginnings").

Outside another rock band was playing—too loudly. We leaned together and in raised voices discussed the Chicago phenomenon. Only four months ago, these fellows were merely another new act releasing an album. Since that time, the recording has become a sales behemoth, establishing Chicago among the select ranks of the super groups. Presently they are engaged in fulfilling commitments contracted last spring before the album hit.

Most observers see only the sudden rise to fame, the tip of the career iceberg. Chicago has been together for nine years, playing jazz, rock, and symphony gigs while five of the fellows attended universities in the Chicago city area—De Paul and Roosevelt. Somewhat more than a year ago, an old producer friend dragged them out of the mid-west to L.A. There they concentrated on pulling their music together, occasionally hitting such local clubs as the Whisky A-Go-Go on the off nights. About that time the Democratic convention riots were flashed across the world—a hometown event which deeply affected their philosophies. Their album is dedicated to that city's shame.

One feels that there is not much love lost on their old home. Discussing Canada, where they have spent the last few weeks enduring a punishing concert-public relations schedule, Pankow and Cetera both seemed impressed. The draft was cited as a major cause of the current American social cancer. Both praised our police in contrast with their southern counterparts.

But music, not politics is their business—a business both enjoy greatly. Although they did not bring it up, I expect they would return to the penniless clubs if no other place were available in which to play. Canadian university audiences received praise for their more mature attitudes towards concerts. In contrast to the Ivy League schools where the audiences attend for the social prestige involved, Canadian students demand music from their performers.

The subject of pop festivals met mixed response. The socially exciting mix of people meeting and entertaining other people gets Chicago's unqualified approval. As musicians, however, Pankow and Cetera expressed regret that the open areas absorb too many instrumental fine points. The preceding week, I had observed the same performance, which tonight succeeded admirably, die in the breezes at Varsity Stadium. "We are not a visual act" stated Cetera. "If the sound is lost, so is our act."

Jim and Pete discussed their music zealously. Before their concert, I had questioned whether conflict existed between their rock and free-form aspects. Although the performance dispelled my personal doubts, Jim assured me that their music is entirely organized. Every note, with some leeway on solo numbers, remains constant from one performance to the next. The members are all trained musicians, capable of following their written arrangements—indeed, that evening Walt Perry, their sax player, had been replaced by Dan Roberts, Perry down with pneumonia. Pete jumped in to say that they are basically a rock group, despite certain jazz overtones. Rock is their first love and future work will follow this line.

With respect to their album, the duo agreed that they would change nothing. "Beginnings" and "Introduction" were mentioned among their favorites but finally "Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is" won the nomination as best structured number. Jim pointed out that their first album required two discs to cover their many interests. The next album, which will likely be very similar to the initial release, is due around Christmas.

Among their favorite entertainers are the Don Ellis Orchestra (a decidedly exotic choice), the Mothers of Invention and, of course, the Beatles. Pankow apparently named the Mothers because their producer got his first professional breaks with that freaky group.

The fellows were obviously fatigued as I rose to leave. Cetera shook hands and drifted over to meet some new visitors while Pankow escorted me out. In the hallway the noise from the other rock group grew less tolerable. Jim paused to emphasize how much Chicago's music means to him. Every performer says he wants only to make people happy but a very few mean it. Pankow stands with that minority.

Most of the super groups reached that status because of their brashness and lack of compassion. The Beatles and the Stones were both noted for their rude tendencies, although frequently they were only returning abuse to those who had given it. The fellows from Chicago rate as a very pleasant exception—an exception which pop music can accept proudly.



HELP THE SCOUTS and Cubs, mister? Apple Day for Acton Scouts Saturday couldn't help being a success with Guy Delong, "Doc" Mitchell, Frank Van Opatel, Donald Schonnop, Martin Van Opatel,

Tim Crisp and Ronald Grant aiding the drive for funds. Cubs and Scouts canvassed the town with the crisp MacIntosh apples and winning smiles.—(Staff Photo)



NANCY ROGNVALDSON  
**B.A. degree**

At convocation at the University of Guelph Friday afternoon, Nancy Rognavaldson received her B.A. degree in fine arts. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Rognavaldson, Main St. N., and attended the Robert Little and Acton District High Schools. She flew home from Calgary for convocation; she is presently studying at the University of Calgary for her Bachelor of Education degree.

## Others want use schools

Approving continuation of co-operation on the use of schools between Burlington and the Halton Board, members of the County Board of Education indicated the need for discussion in other areas of the county.

"It takes discussion to determine within the community and with the council, the use of schools for desired programs", Director J. Singleton suggested.

The board approved appointments to the board to continue the present co-operation in Burlington. Superintendent Bruce Lindley explained the program there is operated by the Recreation Committee and the servicing in the school by the caretaking staff is handled by the board. Costs are accumulated and at the end of the year balanced off by payments.

Chairman Fred Armitage urged the board to look at the entire county, suggesting a need now to re-assess the whole program. "We can't carry on in one area without expanding to other areas", he suggested.

An earlier request from Georgetown for the board to maintain a natural ice outdoor rink in school grounds was noted. Superintendent Lindley suggested the board policy permits the use of the grounds, the water for flooding and electricity for lighting, but leaves the maintenance to the recreation committee. He noted experience with outdoor rinks is not good.

## Scout and Guide Mothers

By Marion Patterson

The above-mentioned group would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who made the booth at the fall fair such a success. It was really wonderful the way everyone helped out, and the people who donated delicious baking, even those without children currently in these organizations who contributed their time and talents to make the day a success are to be especially thanked. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

At the second fall meeting, Mrs. Schonnop, our president, was not able to attend, as she was a patient in Guelph General Hospital. We hope for a very speedy recovery as her efficient handling of the meeting was greatly missed.

The Scouts and Guides were on camp-outs recently and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Now the other groups are becoming active and the following is a "rough" resume of their programs:

Rangers - Wed. nights at M. Z. Bennett School.

Cubs - Mon. nights at 7 p.m. at the Scout Hall.

Brownie third pack Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Robert Little School.

Brownie second pack Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m. at the Scout Hall.

Brownie two other packs to meet at a time not set at this writing at M. Z. Bennett School.

It is a very full program, and the groups are happy to have the use of the schools for the overflow of groups.

The mothers are planning a Tupperware Party at the Scout Hall on Friday, October 10 at 8.30 p.m. to which the general public is invited. If you can't make this date and would like some tupperware, you are advised to call one of the mothers or someone who will be going and get them to place your order for you, as any item sold at this party builds up a credit for this organization, which they intend to use as funds for future youth activities within the group.

On October 22 at the High School there will be shown a film on Cancer and everyone in the group is advised not to miss this informative evening. Plan to attend and bring a neighbor!

The Scout and Guide mothers are catering to this week's Rotary Club dinner on an experimental basis, not to see if the men survive the dinner, but to see if we can get the needed help to do this job effectively, and at the same time raise much-needed funds for the groups.

We decided to donate curtains for the scout hall and are seeing to this job at present.

The next meeting of the Scout and Guide mothers is Oct. 21 at which time all plans will be



By Mary Ann Freuler  
Students, having purchased tickets, left the school at 9:45 on two occasions to see plays at the Stratford Shakespearean Festival. The first, Measure for Measure, on September 30, caught the interest of 40 students including chaperone, Mr. Lambourn. The showing of Hamlet held the attention of as many students on October 6. Both plays are being taught in English Classes.

A parent, teacher, student discussion was held September 30. Fifty guests arrived for the occasion, first listening to Mr. Bray's talk concerning the ungraded school system. The second half of the evening resulted in a heated discussion dealing with "The Social Pressures Affecting Students, Teachers and Parents". A student panel consisting of Chris

## Area resident earns diploma

Henry W. Kuiperij of Acton, recently completed a program to earn a diploma from DeVry Institute of Technology, one of the Bell & Howell Schools, Chicago, Illinois, one of the nation's leading institutes of technology. His electronics program covered TV-Radio Servicing.

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# ACTON HIGH Sports Review

By Mary Ann Freuler  
For the first time cheerleaders have been divided into two groups, juniors and seniors. Wednesday Oct. 1, Miss Quinn, Mrs. Ott and Mrs. Sale, after careful study, selected eight girls from each class. Senior Cheerleaders are Nancy Abrant, Debi Booth, Barb Browne, Janet Clendinning, Dianne Frank, Sharon Froelich, Marie Holmes and Margaret Slaven. Junior Cheerleaders are Karen Atkinson, Bonnie Bristow, Debbie Drinkwater, Dolores Jordan, Cindy Lee, Margot Matheson, Mary Fran Marcoux and Cathy Papillon.

In order to raise funds to enable the cheerleaders to sport new uniforms, a record hop was held Friday, Oct. 3. Over 200 people attended including Senior public school, and high school students. Mrs. M. Tamblin and Mr. B. Andrews acted as chaperones.

Two soccer games have been held in the interscholastic program. They first played Erin on Sept. 25, Acton losing 3-2. Goals were scored by Sam Hubbe, and Steve Porty. Acton hosted Orangeville Thursday Oct. 2 and although they played the game well, Orangeville defeated its host 3-0.

The miniature golf tournament began after school on Oct. 1. Over 35 students are competing. As of Oct. 6, Steve Van Fleet was in the lead. Plans for a repetition of last year's Las Vegas Night are also scheduled for the future. Forty-eight students will be leaving the high school Wednesday night to view the football game between the Toronto Argonauts and the Calgary Stampeders.

Once again the Physical Education Department is sponsoring an obstacle run after school for both boys and girls. Fifteen students will be competing in the CWOSSA Cross Country Championships on Oct. 16.

## More Ontario scholars but exams not easier

An increasing number of Ontario scholars was indicated in the province as well as in Halton, in a report presented to the County Board of Education's last meeting.

Trustee W. Priestner noted the increase from 4.5 per cent in 1966 in Ontario to 9.5 per cent in 1969 in Ontario and suggested "if standards mean nothing let's throw them out."

Superintendent O. Gilmore explained that during that period the required number of credits had been reduced, permitting students to concentrate their efforts over a smaller area.

"I'm not prepared to grant that examinations are easier. When external exams are dropped it doesn't mean standards are lowered", the Superintendent maintained.

Director J. Singleton pointed out too, the reduced number of students writing in the 1967 and 1968 years reflected the opening of community colleges.

Reporting on a meeting with the minister of education, the provincial treasurer and the premier, County Board of Education chairman F. Armitage told members the boards could destroy the image of education by stupid errors in judgment.

The chairman also reported the Minister urged officials to be more vocal in presenting the case for boards by presenting the true facts of situations. When statements are untrue members should refute them, he suggested.

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## Plan model plane contest

Still flushed with the success of their model airplane combat exposition on the Labor Day weekend, Acton Hi-Flyers are planning a club contest on Sunday, October 19 at the M. Z. Bennett school.

The club is making plans for the event, selling tickets on a draw and hope to capture much of the interest which made the other event a success. They are also planning a refreshment booth on the grounds.

Starting time is 10 a.m.

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ACTONIAN Gary Price, a 17 year old in the unified forces makes a presentation to retiring commander of the Canadian Forces Base at Portage, Manitoba, on behalf of the base personnel. Gary was picked to make the presentation as the youngest member of the armed forces on the base.