

A Savouring of Sergeant Pepper

Since the release of the Beatles' latest record, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (Capital (S) MAS2653), there has been a steady stream of more or less perceptive opinions about it from some very unlikely sources. By the end of September even *Time Magazine* had decided that it was safe to clamber laboriously on the bandwagon.

The most obvious feature of the record is the repeat of the initial title song. William Mann, music critic of *The Times* suggests that this gives a 'slightly spurious' unity to the record (*The Globe Magazine*, June 17, 1967). I wonder whether the unity is as spurious as he supposes.

At first sight there seems to be an untropical optimism about many of the songs; for the most part, 'It's getting better all the time'. But then one notices a puzzling feature about the album: the reprise of 'Sergeant Pepper' does not come at the end of the record. It is followed by one final song, 'A Day in the Life', a song full of the pointlessness of daily routine, and of daily not so routine, even if it does end with a glimmer of hope on 'I'd Love to Turn You On'.

Now we begin to see the overall form of the album. It consists of a 'lonely hearts' section of ten songs framed by two versions of the title song, and then, standing by itself, the stark realism of 'A Day in the Life'. Regarded in this light, the work emerges as a rejection of the various sorts of comforting artificiality depicted in the first section; a rejection of 'the act you've known for all these years'.

Gene Lees is wrong, then, when he calls the title song 'redundant without making a point of its redundancy'. (High Fidelity; August 1967). He is also wrong when he complains that 'A Little Help From My Friends' is 'just indefinite'. The music flows into this song with-



out a break, so that it can be regarded as an introduction to the 'lonely hearts' section. The help is made more specific in the succeeding songs.

Time Magazine, with its unerring eye for the trivial, notices the initials of 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds'. This is an evocation of an LSD high, but in its context it is also a rejection of this cure for loneliness.

'It's Getting Better All the Time', is a song that proposes the acceptance of social rules as a solution, with the astringent aside that 'it can't get no worse'. The same theme continues in the song 'Fixing a Hole', with its suggestion that where I belong, I'm right'.

In 'She's Leaving Home' we turn to another possible cure; one which initially arouses our sympathy, until we ponder on the strangest line in the song, 'Meeting a man from the motor trade'. We realize that she is just exchanging one conventional routine for another. This brings us to the interval song at the end of the first side, 'Being for the benefit of Mr. Kit'. It's just a matter of which circus act you prefer.

George Harrison's song, 'Within You, Without You', begins the second side on a different note. It states explicitly the theme of the record: 'We were talking about the space between us all, and the people who hide themselves behind a wall of illusion.' He offers his solution, 'With our Love we could save the world; but the laughter at the end of the song rejects this with the others, and the next two songs illustrate the failure to achieve genuine personal relationships. The first, 'When I'm Sixty-four' rejects the ideal of married bliss in the line 'Give me your answer, fill in a form, Mine for evermore'. The second, 'Lovely Rita Meter Maid,' considers the alternative of sexual freedom. But it is hardly freedom; 'Took her home, I nearly made it, Sitting on the sofa with a sister or two.'

'Good morning, Good morning' brings us back to an empty reality from the various worlds of illusion of the earlier songs; 'nothin has changed', nothing has meaning. This leads straight into the reprise of the title song, the circle completed, and then on to 'A Day in the Life', with no end to our search.

'Now they know how many holes it takes to fill the Albert Hall'; and a voice, crying in the wilderness, 'I'd love to turn you on'.

Engineering Queen Picked Tomorrow



JUDY PARISH



ROBERTA REID



LIBBY THORNTON



BARB WILLIAMS

Shown here are Judy Parish, Roberta Reid, Libby Thornton and Barb Williamson, candidates for Engineering Queen. Engineers will choose their representatives tomorrow, Friday, November 24, for the upcoming Winter Carnival contest.

Crowning of Miss Engineering 1967-68 will take place at the St. Thomas Dance, beginning at 9:00 p.m.

100 Students Arrested

IOWA CITY (CUP-CPS) — More than 100 University of Iowa students and professors were arrested here Wednesday in the course of a sit-in to stop marine recruiting.

The demonstration, organized by Students for a Democratic Society and the Iowa City Draft Resistance Union, blocked the entrance to the Iowa Memorial Union Building where recruiting was being carried out for the Marine Corps.

Occasional violence broke out during the morning as students and counter-demonstrators from off-campus attacked the sit-in line. Some students

going to interviews charged the human blockade, and others crawled over it, stepping on demonstrators in the line.

Early Wednesday afternoon, dean of academic affairs Bill Hubbard and Iowa U. vice-president Willard Boyd tried to talk both demonstrators and anti-demonstrators into leaving the area. They were not successful, and so called in outside police.

A phalanx of over a hundred law officers from around eastern Iowa marched in formation against the hecklers and anti-demonstrators, scattering them. They then gave the

sit-in group two minutes to clear the area. Some took advantage of the offer, but most stayed in the line.

Police then dragged them away to waiting cars and wagons. Most went limp, but one girl lashed out with teeth and feet at police officers.

The police were helmeted and carried night-sticks, but did not carry side-arms.

Some faculty members have made complaints to the American Association of University Professors about the administration's failure to control violence among contending factions of students during the morning.

BRUNS TO INITIATE OWN SPEAKER'S PROGRAM

Allan Pressman, Editor-in-Chief of the *Brunswickan*, announced today that informal steps have been taken to bring controversial figure Eric Kierans to the UNB campus. Mr. Kierans' latest book *Challenge of Confidence: Kierans on Canada* was reviewed in the last issue of the *Brunswickan*.

The proposed visit will take place early in the second term. Further announcements concerning other speaker's programs will be made in the near future. Pressman said the initiative for the *Brunswickan* inviting guests to speak on this campus stemmed partly from the cancellation of the planned programs of the Graduate Students' Association. (See story page two).