

RECORDS from ROLLING STONE

by DAVE MARSH

ELVIS COSTELLO AND THE ATTRACTIONS: Get Happy (Columbia, 4 Stars).

Costello does some of his best singing on these 20 songs and (more frequently) song fragments, but the sound can't compare with the richness and complexity of either This Year's Model or Armed Forces. Chances are, this is semi-deliberate — this is a random sketchbook of ideas, not a fully conceived album. But the sketchbook concept isn't really satisfying. Those songs which are well developed, such as The Imposter, Secondary Modern, I Stand Accused and I Can't Stand Up for Falling Down, present an equally fragmented personality, as chock full of desperation and as twisted by puns as any of Costello's earlier work. The rest are merely querulous, like echoes of bad dreams, spooky, restless, not necessarily without meaning but not necessarily as profound as his hints of terror would initially make you think. The sound is suitably, and obviously deliberately, murky, which is great, unless you think that it was the precision of Costello's last album, Armed Forces, which made it his best. I do but then, I'd settle for the vitality and intelligence of Get Happy, a title on which the artist, thankfully, has no intention of delivering.

SUSSMAN LAWRENCE: Hail to the Modern Hero (Bigger Than Life), 3 Stars.

A Minnesota band whose vocalist bears a more than canny resemblance to the New Elvis, Susman Lawrence tries a bit too hard to be weird (sample song titles: Another Song About Erections, Ode to Another Egg, So Hard and Shiny), but rocks nicely, if never overpoweringly. Better than the bulk of what the majors are promoting. Available from Bigger Than Life Records, 250 E. 5th St., Suite 105, St. Paul, Minn. 55101.

THE BEACH BOYS: Keepin' the Summer Alive (Caribou), 1 Star.

Nothing new to report, they're stumbling along pitifully doing passable covers of Chuck Berry songs (School Day) and occasional nice takes on their old ideas (Oh Darlin', Some of Your Love). The best news, I guess, is that Brian Wilson's paranoia is sufficiently cured for the band to play a benefit for ex-CIA chief George Bush's presidential campaign. Bush is tapped out by now, too, of course.

MOTELS: Motels (Capitol), 3 Stars.

The best, or at least the most competent, of the L.A. punkers, mostly because vocalist-guitarist Martha Davis has a real personality to project, and because the rest of the band is not recycling leftover Buffalo Springfield riffs. There's nothing outstanding in the way of material here, but there's enough real energy to keep me interested in what they'll come up with next time.

DIRK HAMILTON: Thug of Love (Elektra), 1 Star.

Once this guy seemed like a promisingly eccentric singer-songwriter. Today, he looks like one more guy who's got a thesaurus with more hooks than his songs. Dull and inoffensive.

(Records are rated from one star to five in ascending order of quality.)
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TILDEN

BROADWAY SMASH

Grease skids to halt

NEW YORK (AP) — The Burger Palace Boys have hung up their leather jackets. The Pink Ladies' all-night pyjama party is over. Goodbye, Danny Zuko and Sandra Dee, Rizzo and Kenickie, Frenchy and the Teen Angel.

Grease, Broadway's longest running musical, has closed.

Sunday's performance was the 3,388th and last for the rock'n'roll celebration of high school life in the 1950s.

But the nostalgia craze it helped begin lives on in such television hits as Happy Days and Laverne and Shirley, and rock groups like Sha Na Na.

And some of the young actors that it brought to the spotlight are stars today: John Travolta went from greaser to disco king in Saturday Night Fever; Richard Gere, from teen heartthrob to American Giggolo and the acclaimed

Broadway drama Bent; and Adrienne Barbeau from bobby socks to liberated woman in television's Maude series.

The closing of the musical, which opened Feb. 14, 1972, had been expected since it surpassed Fiddler on the Roof in musical longevity on Dec. 8 — performance No. 3,243.

The closing was blamed on New York's 11-day transit strike, which prevented the musical's primarily young audience from reaching the theatre.

The show cost \$150,000 to produce and grossed more than \$8 million from ticket sales.

WOMEN JOIN ARMY

SOHAM, England (CP) — Two Cambridgeshire schoolgirls undergoing rigid military training are hoping to prove women can serve just as well as men in the army. Lisa Cook and Louis Massuard are among 18 women who joined the army cadet force recently, when the all-male ranks decided to accept women.

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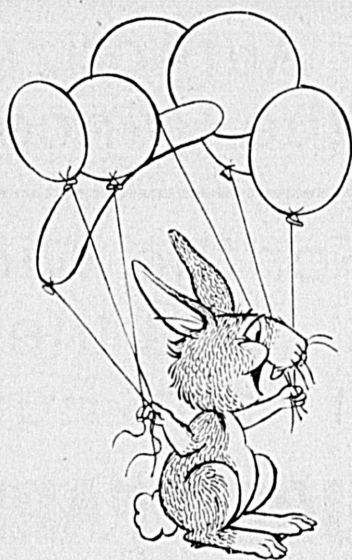
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Woodward's

CORRECTION

Great Spring Sale Flyer ran in Citizen Friday, April 11.

Page 6, Item H should read Cork Suede, not Navy. Woodward's apologizes to its customers for any inconvenience caused by this error.



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