

RECORDS from ROLLING STONES

by Dave Marsh

THE INMATES: Shot in the Dark (Polydor) 1 Star.
Their debut was such a direct cop of the very earliest Rolling Stones' albums — down to the murky cover shot — that it grabbed a slice of the Stones Brian Jones-era charm. Left on their own second time around, unfortunately, the stiffness of the rhythm section and the group's lack of anything resembling a soulful voice drag the proceedings to oblivion.

CLIFTON CHENIER: Classic Clifton (Arhoolie) 5 Stars.

A brilliant sampling of the previous eight albums by the King of Zydeco (Zodico, Fais-Do-Do), the Cerole blues. These 12 tracks reveal Chenier as a master of contemporary blues, period, although almost always in its most danceable, light-hearted aspect. For lovers and groovers of all persuasions. (Arhoolie can be reached at 10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, Ca 04530).

LEW KIRTON: Just Arrive (Alston) 3 stars.

OK, even at his best, Kirton is only a lightweight Teddy Pendergrass. But Teddy's been taking his loveboy act so seriously lately, it could stand some lightening. And Clarence Reid's writing and productions skills are at their height here.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN: The River (Columbia) 5 Stars.

Study in contrasts that it is, the sheer surface energy of The River tends to obscure the fact that Bruce Springsteen's best album is also one of the most cohesive two record sets ever released. These songs fit together as a complete expression of his musical roots and abilities, as the fulfillment of the stories begun on Born to Run and Darkness on the Edge of Town, as a commentary on present day rock and roll and on the lives of the people who love it and live for it.

At first glance, The River is mired in paradox. The songs waver between pure fantasy (Out in the Street, I Wanna Marry You, Ramrod, Cadillac Ranch) and bitter reality (Jackson Cage, Independence Day, The River, Stolen Car, Point Blank). But even these seemingly disparate groups of songs hang together: There is an undercurrent of ironic awareness in the best of the fantasy rockers which sets up the refusal of the boldest characters in the bleak ballads to give up on their idealism. So, in Cadillac Ranch, the singer pleads for a last chance, while the protagonist of The River holds onto the shell of his dream even as he devastatingly describes the ways in which it has soured. As insignificant as any given song here might seem (or as overblown as some might strike you), they are all purposeful — Bruce Springsteen doesn't know what filler means.

The structure of the album reinforces this sense of purposefulness. Side One is frenzied energy flying about, loose ends warring with one another, while the next two sides build an increasing density musically and a dizzying sense of contrast and contradiction lyrically. But it is Side Four that is the crowning achievement of Springsteen's recording career, because it has the fullest expression of his musical range, from the penny-ante rock and roll of Ramrod through the anthemic The Price You Pay and the erotic Drive All Night and the final lost souls hymn, Wreck and the Highway. One might find some of the imagery repetitive, but the way in which those images are used is not. For in each of the songs on this side of The River, Springsteen pays equal attention to the claims of nightmares and dreams, refusing to opt for the extremist choices of his youthful work, letting his characters settle into lives that are bounded both by possibility and oppression. And the result in some of the most beautiful music he's ever made: Ramrod with its twanging guitar and rinky-dink organ, Drive All Night with its pure soulfulness and the haunting country strains of Wreck on the Highway. Wreck is The River's perfect conclusion, the first Springsteen song where neither a bold look at the greatest tragedy nor the solace of a lover's embrace are sufficient unto themselves, but the two together offer the only hope that there can be.

There's no question that this is Springsteen's first mature work, which is a little frightening: He's the first rock and roll artist to enter his 30s without a hint of slackening. Like the river itself, this guy may roll on forever.

(Records are rated from one star to five in ascending order of quality).
Copyright 1980 by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Stratford double dealing is confirmed in documents

by JAMIE PORTMAN
Southam News

STRATFORD, Ont. — The Stratford Festival was endorsing its artistic directorate before the Canada Council at the same time it was planning to replace it with Englishman John Dexter, according to documents obtained by Southam News.

The four-member directorate was fired two weeks ago on grounds that its proposed 1981 season would mean a \$1.3-million deficit.

But documents obtained by Southam show that, at the same time the festival was preparing to dump the directorate and hire Englishman John Dexter, it was endorsing the directorate's plans in a submission to the Canada Council.

In its formal application for council funding for 1981, the festival not only spelled out the contents of the season in unusual detail, but also projected a balanced budget.

The submission was signed by three key Stratford officials — board president R.V. Hicks, newly appointed executive director Peter Stevens and general manager Gary Thomas.

Performing arts organizations receiving Canada Council funding must make annual applications outlining their plans and supplying a draft budget.

The short-lived festival directorate, appointed in August to succeed artistic director Robin Phillips, included four Canadians — actress Martha Henry, festival literary manager Urjo Kareada and directors Peter Moss and Pam Brighton. The board has defended their dismissal on grounds that the season they proposed would yield less than 70 per cent revenue at the box office, leaving the festival with a \$1.3-million shortfall.

However, its Canada Council submission — made before they were fired — projects 80 per cent box office for a five-play season at the 2,200-seat Festival Theatre and 75 per cent box office for five other productions at the 1,100-seat Avon Theatre.

Members of the directorate were not permitted to see the Canada Council brief before it was submitted and have been denied access to it since. Now, however, they feel vindicated. "This simply increased my feeling that the board acted improperly," Kareada said Wednesday.

Theatres applying for council funding often don't submit a detailed list of productions. But the Stratford brief fully outlines the fired directorate's plans.

Scheduled for the Festival Theatre were Hamlet, directed by Brighton and starring newcomer Stephen Ouimette; The Merchant of Venice, directed by Britain's award-winning Michael Bogdanov; Sheridan's The Rivals, directed by Peter James and starring Douglas Campbell and Pat Galloway; The Tem-

pest, directed by Colin Graham and starring Alan Scarfe and Nicholas Pennell, and Sardou's Madame Sans-Gene, directed by John Hirsch and starring Maggie Smith.

The Avon Theatre schedule included Anouilh's Ring Around the Moon, Ibsen's The Wild Duck, Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf and two Canadian works — John Murrell's Waiting for the Parade and the Christopher Covert-Barbara Spence musical Colette.

Among the leading Canadian performers proposed were Fiona Reid, Douglas Rain, Donald Davis, Kate Reid, Jennifer Phipps and R.H. Thompson. The directorate was also about to announce that Jason Robards would play Shylock in The Merchant of Venice.

The 24-week summer season was budgeted to spend \$8.6 million — up from 1980 spending of \$7.9 million to cover inflation. Projected revenues included \$6.7 million in earned income — up from \$6.3 million this year — and \$1.9 million from grants and fund-raising, making a balanced budget. The council was asked to give \$600,000.

In a section of the council

application form providing for alternative plans, the festival says, "We shall be unable to change our plans."

The official board spokesman, John Lawson of Stratford, was unavailable for comment Wednesday on the apparent discrepancy between the balanced budget sent to the council and subsequent board statements that the season would lose \$1.3 million.

Members of the dismissed directorate, although pleased that the brief apparently endorses the viability of their season, say they remain puzzled and angry over the board's failure to support them.

"The board and management approved a totally reasonable budget," Moss said. "It's significant that they were prepared to detail our season to such an extent and to balance it. On that basis, why then did they fire us?"

Said Kareada: "We were proud of our season. We knew it made sense, and now here is the documented evidence."

Commented Henry: "We've known all along we hadn't done anything wrong. We feel vindicated. We just hope the public vindicates us as well."



PRINCE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

... invites you to attend an

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS SEMINAR

Tuesday, December 2, 1980

7:30 p.m.

INN OF THE NORTH

Presented by: Fern Cuthbert, Information Officer, Chamber of Commerce

Topics to be presented:

1. Use of locals vs. imports for P.G. business.
2. Need for skilled tradesmen (should there be more northern training?)
3. Need for more job orientation-career exploration in schools (possibly through the Chamber)
4. Manpower - programs

A panel of representatives from School Board, College, Canada Manpower, Business Sector and Labour will answer questions and partake in an open discussion period.

Plan on Attending!

RSVP to 562-2454

NORTH NECHAKO LIONS & C.I. RADIO

Present A

GIANT BINGO

with over

\$6,000⁰⁰ In Prizes

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30th
in the CIVIC CENTRE

DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 P.M.
AND PLAY BEGINS 2:30 P.M.

15 Big Games for \$30.00 With Cards Available At The Door

DON'T MISS IT!

Fresh Air FIREPLACE INSERT

- Made & designed by Canadians for Canadians
- No noisy fans inside
- No recirculating of old stale air
- Does not take up half your hearth space
- Flush mounted (1" Face)
- Fits most fireplaces
- Pumps 240 cu ft of fresh air per minute at temperatures of 250°-350°
- Creates positive pressure inside your home which keeps cold air from leaking in.
- Fresh hot air for healthy kids.

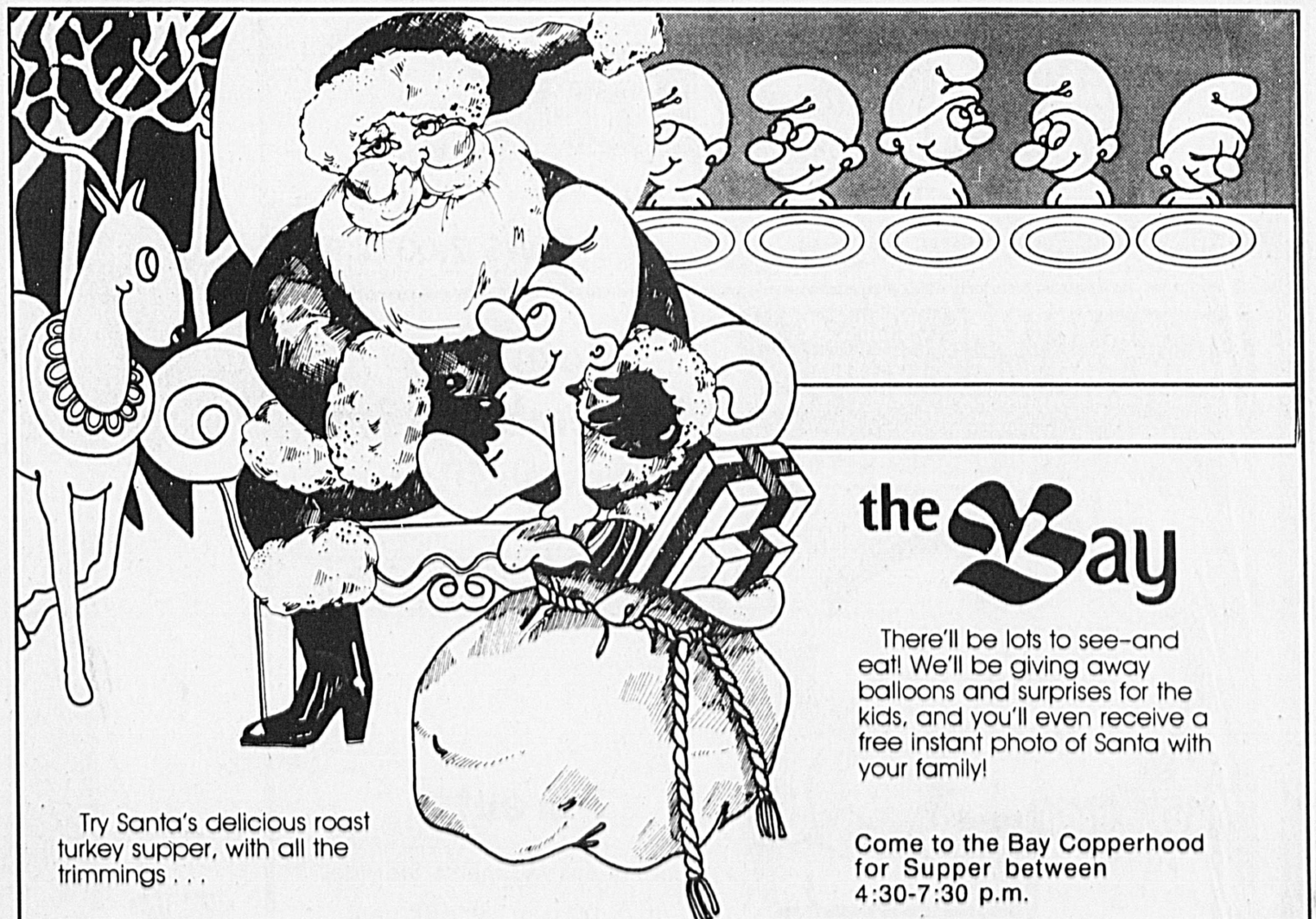
Only \$549

Includes Fan & Switch

FUNCTIONAL FRESH AIR FIREPLACES

No. 12-1989-1st 562-6921

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat.



Try Santa's delicious roast turkey supper, with all the trimmings...

ADULTS 3.49
CHILDREN 2.49

or choose from our usual menu.

the Bay

There'll be lots to see—and eat! We'll be giving away balloons and surprises for the kids, and you'll even receive a free instant photo of Santa with your family!

Come to the Bay Copperhood for Supper between 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Prince George
December 2, 3 and 4

COME HAVE SUPPER WITH SANTA AT THE BAY

Hudson's Bay Company

PAYLESS WORKERS WORLD

- Discount is the Difference
- We're the Saving Place

OPEN SUNDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
1191-1st AVE.

WITH MANY ADVERTISED AND UNADVERTISED SPECIALS

Shop Payless for your complete workwear, outerwear, jeans, fishing, camping, houseware needs.



1191-1st Ave.

562-1286