

'Who' album -- what is it anyway?

By JOHN VANORE

The latest release by the Who, "The Who by Numbers," is being billed as a collection of ten unrelated songs. It's not supposed to be a rock opera or a concept album. But then what is it?

In actuality, "By Numbers" is structured around one theme — the aging process. It's emotionally related to classics like Neil Young's "Tonight's the Night." A stout thread of desperation runs through the whole album.

Remember that the Who's lead guitarist Pete Townsend wrote the lyrics "Hope I die before I get old" as the main thrust of "My Generation." From there he progressed to the "Teenage wasteland" of "Baba O'Riley." Townsend just recently turned thirty, and his state of mind and dread of fear of aging is reflected in the mood of the songs on "By Numbers."

For instance, "Slip Kid," the opener, is a cross-generational dialogue between a 13-year-old and a 63-year-old. Across a fifty-year generation gap, they both agree "There's no easy way to be free."

Even bassist John Entwistle's lone contribution "Success Story," tells the tale of an aging rock star in flashbacks. The song relates the disillusionment of days gone by "Take 276, you know this used to be fun."

Musically, this album will be looked upon as one of the finest Who albums. Townsend has discarded the ARP synthesizer, which was so prominent on the "Tommy" soundtrack and especially on "Who's Next." He still stands out as one of rock's best guitarists, but his playing is much more subdued now — gone are the old electrifying guitar licks and windmill chords. Townsend fills the gap with performances on acoustic guitar, banjo, and ukele.

Only on "Success Story" and "In a Hand or a Face" does the band approach the frenetic level of the old days. On the latter song, a hypnotic chorus pulls the listener in like a whirlpool, and Keith Moon even gets a chance for a brief drum rampage.

The most important factor, however, is the way in which the song points up the group's restraint. It ends, not in a wild instrumental burst, as might be expected, but in a fizzle of feedback.

Raw anger and bitterness come through in "How Many Friends." This song is lead singer Roger Daltrey's finest moment on the LP, as he sings "How many friends have I really got? You can count 'em on one hand," with the cutting line "We talk so much shit behind each other's backs."

Despite being in the more restrained style of "Behind Blue Eyes," from the "Who's Next" LP, it has to stand

out as the most vicious thing they've ever done.

I choose to take Townsend's feelings with a grain of salt. Time marches on, as they say, and we can not stave off the aging process. A good many rock stars have proved this — Leon Russell and Elvis Pres-

ley are both in their 40's, and Grace Slick recently boasted that she is the second oldest rock performer around. If Townsend can pull his proverbial head out, he'll realize this and keep on making good music of the calibre of "By Numbers" for at least another ten years.

Bill Mauldin



Students arrested, charged with possession of drugs

Eight Texas A&M students were among 14 persons who were arrested and charged Thursday with the sale of various controlled substances and dangerous drugs.

The persons were charged following a three-month undercover investigation by Department of Public Safety (DPS) Narcotics Service agents in the Bryan-College Station area. The felony charges were the result of 31 sealed indictments that were returned against 20 persons by the Brazos County Grand Jury last year.

The students charged were: Robert Lynn Bade, 23, of 204 Fairview in Bryan, three counts for sale of marijuana; Matt William Crain, 20, of 1601 Holleman in College Station, two counts for sale of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and one

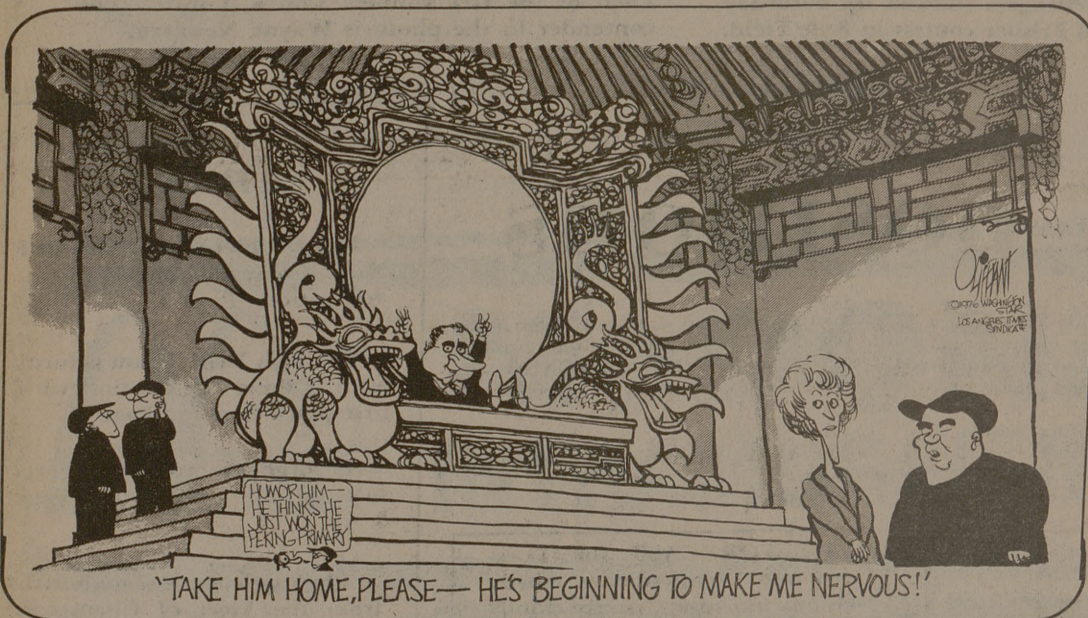
count for sale of cocaine; Albert Frank Dellora, 25, of 501 Ennis in Bryan, sale of lidocaine, a sedative; and Rodney Mark Kennemer, 20, of 1501 Hwy. 30 in College Station, sale of marijuana.

Other students charged were: Ricke James Krenzke, 21, of 303 Park Place in College Station, sale of phentermine, a stimulant; Sherman Brumlow Law, 19, of 311 Redmond Dr. in College Station, sale of THC; Robert Thomas Mills, 19, of 314 Redmond Dr. in College Station, sale of lidocaine; and Jack Douglas Petty, 20, of 303 Park Place in College Station, one count each for sale of cocaine, lidocaine, phentermine and phendimetrazine, a stimulant.

Bradley Smith, assistant district attorney, said some of the students had been released on \$10,000 bond as of Monday afternoon.

Others charged in the raid were: James Babbett, 21, of 2001 Beck in Bryan, sale of phenylcyclidine, a hallucinogen; Robert Gordon Beard, 19, of 419 Gilbert in Bryan, sale of cocaine; Henry Wilfredo Matos, 24, of 1505 Park Place in College Station, sale of lidocaine; George Ray Orum, 20, address unknown, one count each for sale of lidocaine and methamphetamine, a stimulant; Donald Raynold Pitre, 35, of 210 Greenbriar in Bryan, two counts for sale of marijuana; and Kim Proctor Pruitt, 18, address unknown, sale of methamphetamine.

Ron Blatchley, associate director for student affairs, Monday night said he was not sure yet whether the University will take disciplinary action against the students who were charged.



The Battalion

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