

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle

# Batt Record Review Allmans, Si—Top, No

By TED BORISKIE  
The Allman Brothers Band just keeps on going.

Without a doubt, they have had their share of bad breaks. Just when they were getting national attention mainly through the session efforts of lead guitarist Duane Allman, Duane was killed in a motorcycle accident.

For a while it seemed they would be unable to bounce back. Dickey Betts, their other lead guitarist, was all but technically perfect but could not generate the excitement as could Duane. They seemed doomed to present unimaginative, uninspired concerts and would become just another "boogie" band.

To top it off, just when things seemed worst, bassist Berry Oakley was also killed in a motorcycle wreck, not far from the site of Duane's accident. There were rumors of disharmony within the group and for many, the Allman Brothers Band was considered finished.

With "Brothers and Sisters," the Allman Brothers dispel any rumors that they might be in any way suffering or on the way out. In fact, "B&S" is such a powerful work it may elevate them to heights they never achieved even with Duane.

Betts has developed into a whale of a songwriter, contributing four of the album's seven cuts. His guitar is not as predictable or derivative as in the past; in fact, Betts can now be considered one of the premier guitarists in the world. His work on "Ramblin' Man" is a joy to behold and on "Southbound," he plays his first blues licks on which he sounds confident. He has matured so much from last fall when he was seen on "In Concert" that it staggers the imagination.

Although Betts does dominate this album, Gregg Allman still maintains his status of top-rate vocalist. His vocals on "Southbound" and "Wasted Words" are the best from him in quite some time.

Chuck Leavell, pianist, and Lamar Williams, bass, are the two new members to the group. Williams slips in unnoticed while Leavell is quick to make his presence known, weaving his piano

with Betts' guitar and Allman's organ.

The addition of Leavell and Betts' improved playing has given the Allman Brothers Band a completely different sound, although it is definitely a change for the better.

With a couple more albums like this, the Allman Brothers Band could become the greatest rock 'n' roll band in the world, barring not even the Rolling Stones.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for Z.Z. Top.

With "Tres Hombres" they have released an album that is everything I was afraid the new Allman Brothers would be.

This third album is not as good as their second which was not as good as their first, where they came out with one of the strongest premier albums ever.

Unlike the Allman Brothers, Z.Z. Top refuses to progress, in

fact, they seem to take delight in their own regression.

They almost had something going on side one with the first three songs, "Waiting for the Bus," "Jesus Just Left Chicago" and "Beer Drinkers and Hell Raisers", almost making it. However, the next two on the side and the whole of side two seem to dissolve together in some sort of must that is guaranteed to make the listener wonder what's on television.

Z.Z. Top has accepted the projected fate of the Allman Brothers Band; they are just another "boogie" band.

On the basis of their first album, I would say that we might still see Z.Z. Top develop into a fine group but for now, forget it.

What is a slap in the face is that Z.Z. Top is not satisfied just to put out a lackluster album, they have to label it "In The Fine Texas Tradition."

Janis, where are you now that we need you?

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## Batt Editorial It's Over!!

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The most unpopular war in the history of the U. S. is now just a part of the history.

It was a war that had no beginning and may have no definable end. It produced a period that saw patriotism wane and faith in the executive office shattered.

Now that we have our "peace" with honor, with dishonor, with indifference or whatever, we should do our best to forget about that nasty little business and get down to the problems we face now which are overwhelming indeed.

It no longer matters if we were morally, legally or ethically right or wrong, as far as we're concerned the war is over.

It's really over.

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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

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The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$5.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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The A&M organization intends to form a "Big Thicket Information Center" with biological, environmental, economic and legislative information about the Big Thicket.

For further information, call A&M Big Thicket Association chairperson S. Shariq Yosufzai at 845-3051 or 845-3052.

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