

Constant force makes music

By TONY GALLUCCI
Bachman Turner Overdrive stormed into the states not long ago with the notion that they were going to take over America. Their most recent album, "Not Fragile," is the heaviest rockin' piece of wax I've heard since "Machine Head."

But their type of music will have little impact on the current scene. Their music is characteristic of early heavy rock and the way they sound would have made them the best. Had the Bachman brothers (of Guess Who) teamed with C. F. Turner and Blair Thornton in 1969 instead of the Canadian question-marks, they would be swimming in gold. They could've rocked the freak world like the Osmond Brothers and David Cassidy did to pre-pubescent America to the turn of the decade.

Most remarkable about the album is the constant driving force. In all but one of the cuts ("Free Wheelin'") the beat never lets up. It drives you to a frenzy. The songs are not drowned and lost by meaningless interludes, long winded solos and abrupt theme changes so very common to 'rock' music of the last few years.

In fact, the entire album is hard rock, characterized by inaudible, unintelligible and meaningless repetitive lyrics.

"Just givin' it all away it happens every day no matter what we say we're givin' it all away workin' all day just givin' it all away"

are the only intelligible lyrics heard on, what else but, "Givin' it all away" and they are repeated countless times. But isn't that what rock is, or was?

The only apparent influence from the Guess Who is Randy Bachman's "Rock is my Life" which closely resembles "Talisman" vocally. The

truth becomes obvious when Bachman gives his soft spoken lines in the middle of the song.

But aside from that there is no other influence from the progenitors, especially lyrically.

While I could imagine the frenzy this group would produce live, on stage, a number like the last one on side one is just the type to bring every twitching soul crashing down.

There are no lyrics to prevent copyright violations, leaving the hollow lead harmony as the only spark in a mass of opacity. The beat changes at least three times (I quit counting) as did the theme (too bungled to count). "Free Wheelin'" is a terrible musical piece.

But if that song brings you down, side two will raise you up again and here there is no let down.

The entire side is a mass of solid rock and contains without question the three best pieces on the album. Choose any three of the four. My favorite is "Blue Moanin'."

The savage drum intro is all I needed to like "Blue Moaning." Frank Trowbridge, the only guest on the album, does a helluva backup job on slide guitar. The short non-vocal interlude strengthens the song and tends to make it drive harder to the end. The intense primitive rhythm would set my pelvis gyrating if I were to recall it even in church. That's how tough this song is.

"Second Hand" is a very satisfying attempt to sound like Jimi and

the Experience. But Thornton and Bachman's guitar work make "Second Hand" exclusively BTO.

The title cut starts the album with a deep bass and drum introduction which doesn't cease until the last cut on side one. The tune has a slight theme change, lost somewhere in the middle, but you'll never notice it unless you're looking for it. It ends in my favorite way: dead. No fancy endings, no fadeouts and no orchestral Uriah Heep monstrosities. It just ends.

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2nd Hit—West Screen at 9:30 pm
Steve McQueen in "The Reivers"

Inflation cripples housing industry

The crippling effects of inflation have hit the housing industry the hardest, Sen. John Tower said last week.

Sen. Tower attributed the housing industry loss in capital to the restricted monetary policy enacted by the Federal Reserve to halt the inflationary spiral.

"Business and industry demands for capital funds — combined with continued deficit spending by the government — have created a scarcity of money and pushed interest rates to peak levels. With so much competition for the available dollars, far too many homebuyers find themselves either unable or unwilling to pay such high rates," Tower said.

"There is general agreement that federal spending must be reduced if we are to cool the inflationary problems."

By reducing federal spending, more financial resources could be used for housing and other important priorities, he said.

"Structural changes in our financial system could greatly assist the housing industry, since inflation has

been, and will be, with us for some time," Tower continued.

Tower advocated two changes. One is a tax deduction for interest earned on savings accounts, which would attract more money to be deposited in banks. This would then give the banks greater resources for home financing.

The second is allowing an 8% per cent FHA mortgage to be made available through federal funding programs. This would assure builders of available funds in the future for homes they might build right now, he said.

Tower concluded by saying that, "As a ranking member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, I intend to see that we do what we can to ease the current housing crisis. Currently, the committee is working on the Financial Institutions Act. I believe that there are some steps the government can take to help both the immediate and long-range problems. Hopefully, some concrete solutions will come out of the Economic Summit Conference called by the President."

Local hotel was robbed

A man asking for overnight accommodations pulled a gun and robbed the Rodeway Inn, 1601 South Texas at 12:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Pat McBride, a desk clerk, told police he was forced to take the money out of the register and then lie face down on the floor.

Police described the man as a medium built, 6-foot Negro male. One man sitting in the Inn's pancake house saw a Negro male leaving the lobby fleeing in a dark Volkswagen before the police arrived.

The amount of money taken has not yet been determined.

Campus life presented

Great Issues will present "The Quality of Life at Texas A&M" Thursday at 8 p.m. in Rooms 225-226 of the MSC.

Dr. John J. Koldus III, vice-president of student services, will speak on "The State of the University," offering his analysis of TAMU.

Roger Miller, staff assistant to President Williams, will speak on "The Campus by the Centennial," explaining some of the physical changes planned for the campus in the next two years. Miller is coordinator of centennial activities for TAMU.

Admission is free.

AN ALL TIME CLASSIC:

On the Waterfront

WITH MARLON BRANDO, KARL MALDEN, LEE J. COBB, EVA MARIE SAINT, ROD STEIGER.

Director: Eliza Kazan (East of Eden, Splendor in the Grass), Producer: Sam Spiegel, Story and Screenplay: Budd Schulberg, Photography: Boris Kaufman, Music: Leonard Bernstein

Best Actor - Brando, Best Director - Kazan, Best Picture - 1954
Best Supporting Actress - Saint, Best Writing - Schulberg,
Best Cinematography (B&W) - Kaufman, Best Art Direction - Richard Day

A drama of corruption on New York's docks; On The Waterfront is one of the most successful attempts to bring the Actors Studio Method to the screen. With documentary explicitness we see the corrupt union boss at work - withholding work from those balking at the kickback and ruthlessly ordering the murder of any longshoreman speaking out against his tyranny. Marlon Brando plays Terry Malloy the confused, illiterate ex-fighter, an errand boy for union bosses, who finally testifies against them. Brando is urged on and supported in his slow and reluctant transition from self emulation to the willingness to risk his life for what is right by Karl Malden as a fighting priest who makes his religion a dynamic, constructive force through his fearless defiance of the mob. Eva Marie Saint plays Brando's sensitive girlfriend.

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