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Mothers present band

The A&M Mother's Club was host to the Texas Aggie Concert Band Friday night. The concert, presented in the Rudder Auditorium, was directed by Maj. Joe T. Haney.

(Photo by Balzak)



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Music review

Traffic's 'Eagle' OK

By JOHN VANORE

What can I say? I've been a sucker for good Traffic music for years, and "When the Eagle Flies" fits the bill perfectly. I'll have to admit that, for a while, I'd gotten rather chapped at them. "John Barleycorn Must Die" was released when I was in high school, which would put it somewhere around the summer of 1970. Which means we Traffic fans had to wait for over four years, and wade through two studio and two live albums, before we could listen to something of the calibre of "Eagle." Then there was "Winwood," which UA released without Stevie's OK, and he made a big stink over that one.

Really, "John Barleycorn" was the last genuine Traffic released up to now. "Welcome to the Canteen," with some nice live versions of songs going back as far as Steve Winwood's days in Spencer Davis Group, listed all seven musicians on the jacket separately. Not once was the word Traffic mentioned on the album, even though Dave Mason actually stayed with them long enough to see the venture through. The next three albums also featured various extraneous musicians who ultimately did more harm than good. I mean, this is Traffic, not Chicago or some other big band — Winwood & Co. play their best as a lean, tight band, like in their earlier days. The band that has masqueraded as Traffic for these past years was more than fifty percent add-ons.

So now they're back to basics. Roger Hood, Barry Beckett and Reebop are gone; here we have Chris Wood on reeds, Jim Capaldi on percussion and, as can be expected, Stevie Winwood, the musical prodigy, playing anything he can get his hands on. They've also added Rosko Gee on bass, and they're back together as a tight band, the way they always should have been.

Traffic has returned to the basics of the John Barleycorn style, which proved so popular and long-lasting.

In the instrumental sense, it was one of the most satisfying albums ever released — smooth, perfectly structured harmonics. Listen to "Dream Gerrard" and its horns — everything just fits into place. Or the closely knit instrumentals of "Walking in the Wind." Gee's bass really makes that song come across.

The verdict? Well, shocking and innovative it ain't. But it is clean, refreshing and satisfying — just the kind of album Traffic has owed their listeners for quite some time now. I liked it. . . I'm sure you will, too. But they still need Dave Mason.

Thanks to Mike at Budget Records and Tapes for the album I used here.

Coming soon . . . some good scoop on the first of the "Hendrix Warehouse Tapes" in an album called "Crash Landing," followed by heavy metal music.

THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

will be accepting applications by new members Tues. Mar. 11 through Fri. Mar. 14 at the Town Hall Cubicle in the Student Programs Office on the second floor of the MSC. Remember to sign up for an interview.

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