

# BOOKS

## Choosing books for children

United Press International

A list of criteria to help people select books for children has been compiled by the Child Study Children's Book Committee.

The committee at Bank Street College of Education uses the same standards in selecting about 600 books a year for its annual catalog, which is considered an authority in its field.

They are:

—Integrity and honesty: does the author take the young reader seriously, whether in fiction, humor, poetry or informational books, neither talking down to children nor over their heads?

—Emotional impact and mental health: if happenings or characters represent situations close to the child's own life, whether in fiction or fantasy, might this be valuable — or perhaps destructive — at certain ages? Are the author's resolutions of emotional or ethical problems positive or negative as they present values for a child growing up into the adult world? Are there also reassuring aspects looking toward positive solutions?

—Authenticity: is time and place correctly represented, whether as background in fiction or in historical stories and biography? Presenting unsavory truths about people or events must depend on the age to which the book is addressed, and the objectivity of the author's approach.

—Credibility: are plot and characterization believable, whether in fiction, science fiction or fantasy?

—Reader interest and appeal: however beautiful the book may look to adults, will the subject matter and style catch and hold the interest of readers of the age for which the book is suitable?

—Presentation of minority groups: does the presentation of minority people, problems or lifestyle avoid stereotypes and contribute to the reader's broader understanding and empathy?

—Presentation of sexuality: where sexual problems appear in fiction, is the level of presentation geared to the young reader's maturity and understanding? Or is it likely to stimulate feelings with which they are not ready to cope? The question of readiness applies also to non-fiction informational books about sex and behavior.

—Informational non-fiction: are facts and scientific problems and solutions presented accurately and clearly, geared to the comprehension and interest of the reader? Are scientific facts clearly differentiated from conjecture and projection?

—How-to books: are instructions, illustrations, and diagrams clear and easily followed at the age for which the book would be useful? Where processes require adult help, is that specified? If any of the processes or materials are hazardous for children, are there warnings and safety suggestions? If the title says "For Beginners," is it really?

## REVIEW

**Rites & Passage**, by Minor White. (Aperture, \$25)

Until his death two years ago Minor White was one of the ranking gurus of photography, ranking with Ansel Adams in the post Edward Steichen and Alfred Stieglitz era. This book is a tribute from his friends and students.

The book's photographs testify to the quality of the man's photography. The fullsome text, including a biographical essay by James Baker Hall, sketch the man almost as well as the dust jacket picture.

Said Ansel Adams: "Minor White is one of the greatest of photographers. I do not make this statement lightly. The sheer beauty of the medium of photography is tuned to the exact meaning and feeling of the visualized image." Indeed they are.

The picture may tend toward the artsy but also, and very well done, the crafty. White was a master. Finicky about it all, as good teachers must be, these photographers offer a target in near perfection of the technical side of the camera.

The text plunges into a psychological but circumspect study of White. A troubled man, White matched his photography to his lifestyle. The text is not really necessary to appreciate the photography but, unlike most photo book texts, it does some explaining, painful as it is.

This book, for the photography alone, deserves a place on the shelves among the tomes of the great American image makers.

—Richard H. Growald (UPI)

## Bestsellers

### FICTION

1. *War and Remembrance* — Herman Wouk
2. *Chesapeake* — James A. Michener
3. *Overload* — Arthur Hailey
4. *The Stories of John Cheever* — John Cheever
5. *Second Generation* — Howard Fast
6. *Evergreen* — Belva Plain
7. *Fools Die* — Mario Puzo
8. *The Coup* — John Updike
9. *Dress Gray* — Lucian K. Truscott IV
10. *The Sixth Commandment* — Lawrence Sanders

### NONFICTION

1. *Lauren Bacall: By Myself* — Lauren Bacall
2. *Mommie Dearest* — Christina Crawford
3. *A Distant Mirror* — Barbara Tuchman
4. *American Caesar* — William Manchester
5. *The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet* — Herman R. Tarnower and Samm Sinclair Baker
6. *If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits* — Erma Bombeck
7. *In Search of History* — Theodore White
8. *Linda Goodman's Love Signs* — Linda Goodman
9. *The Complete Book of Running* — James Fixx
10. *Jackie Oh!* — Kitty Kelley

# MUSIC

## Dr. Hook back on charts after long dry spell in the U.S.

By Bruce Meyer

United Press International

It wasn't so very long ago that the band Dr. Hook, as someone put it once, had been down so long it looked like up.

A serio-comic rock band whose biggest hits tended to be tongue-in-cheek ballads, Dr. Hook (then called Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show) made a reasonably large splash when they first appeared on the national scene nearly a decade ago. They even made the cover of Rolling Stone magazine, although that

came with the help of a bit of musical coercion in the form of their second hit single, a very funny tune called "The Cover Of The Rolling Stone."

Just about then — a half dozen years ago — the bottom dropped out. The band was caught in a musical industry paradox, unable to pay their high on-the-road expenses at home during a musical dry spell with no U.S. hits but scoring hit after hit on foreign singles charts. They went bankrupt in America while they were virtual superstars in Scandinavia, Australia and other distant lands.

"It was a very weird situation," says Dennis Locorriere, a New Jersey native whose soft, gravelly voice is heard on most of Hook's singles and who — on stage and off — is one of the world's funniest people. "There we were, doing great in all these other countries and dying here. But you know, this band is a real family. We stuck together right through the whole bankruptcy thing and then just started all over again."

Locorriere and Hook's col-leader, a one-eyed Southerner named Ray Sawyer whose black eye patch and crumpled straw hat establish the band's screwball visual image, are proud of the fact that there have been so few personnel changes in the seven-man group over the years.

"The line-up is pretty much the same today as it was when we started," says Sawyer. "We've really stuck together and it's pretty much worked out. At least we've got enough money to keep playing."

Better than that, Dr. Hook have a hit single, "Sharing The Night Together," high on the charts — the U.S. charts — and their latest album, "Pleasure and Pain" is coming along nicely.

As with previous Hook LP's, "Pleasure and Pain" is a mixture of gentle and often melancholy ballads and rock 'n' roll done with a light touch that belies the band's hard-rocking approach on stage. Any Hook fan who has never seen Locorriere and Sawyer in person is in for a mild surprise; their recent albums have provided few clues to the madcap nature of their show.

Writer-humorist-cartoonist Shel Silverstein, as always, provides Hook with some of the new album's best material, particularly a beautiful love ballad called "Sweetest of All" that could become the LP's next hit single.

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

1. Blues Brothers — **Briefcase Full of Blues**
2. Rod Stewart — **Blondes Have More Fun**
3. Billy Joel — **52nd Street**
4. Neil Diamond — **You Don't Bring Me Flowers**
5. Barbra Streisand — **Greatest Hits, Vol. II**
6. Chic — **C'est Chic**
7. Earth, Wind & Fire — **The Best of Earth, Wind & Fire**
8. Barry Manilow — **Greatest Hits**
9. Foreigner — **Double Vision**
10. Village People — **Cruisin'**

## Buffett coming to Austin

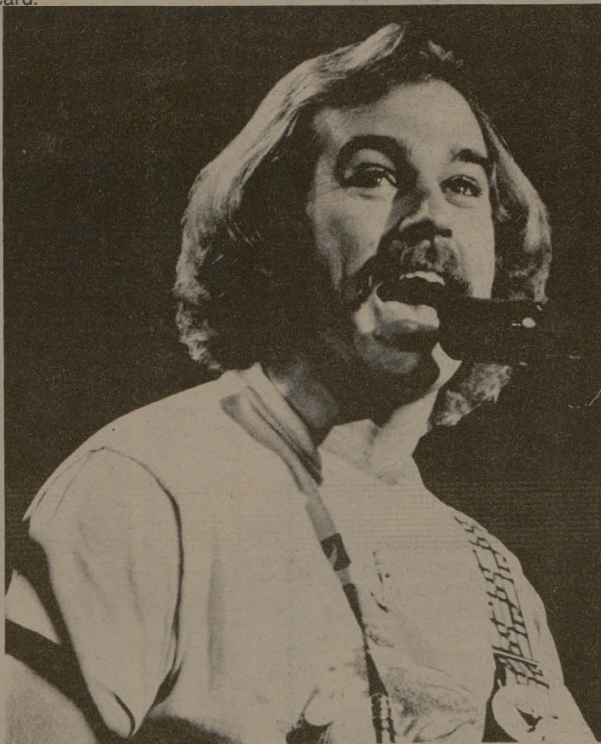
Jimmy Buffett and his special guests, the Amazing Rhythm Aces, are coming to the UT Special Events Center February 27 at 8 p.m.

Buffett is one of pop music's most amiable performers, and at 32 years old is the captain of his own ship, both literally and figuratively. He sails his 48-foot clipper through the Florida Keys and the Caribbean, and this carefree, sunshine-filled existence provides inspiration for most of his music. From the soothing lyrics of "Havana Daydreamin'" to the comical realities of "Margaritaville," Buffett's view of life shines through.


On stage he is his own performer. His "good time" attitude and wit strike the listener fully. He combines music with life, and has a good time doing it. After 10 albums his audience has grown enough to make his last two, "Change in Latitudes — Changes in Attitudes" and "Son of a Son of a Sailor," platinum records.

His guests, the Amazing Rhythm Aces, are six musicians based in Memphis who can perform country, pop and rock 'n' roll with equal skill.

Tickets are \$7.50, \$6.50 and \$5.50, and may be obtained by calling 512-447-6060 and charging them to a VISA or Mastercharge card.



Jimmy Buffett



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