

Records in review

FOR THE Firesign Theater, it seems the crazier the times, the zanier their material. Now, in the wake of Nixon's resignation and in the face of a depression, they return to the current scene to inform us that, contrary to popular belief, **Everything You Know is Wrong**. (Columbia KC-33141).

Basing that assumption on the fact that most Americans believe such statements as "dogs flew spaceships" or "our forefathers took drugs" are fallacies, they take us on an excursion to prove the impossible — incorporating such recent phenomena as UFO sightings, the Evil Knievel debacle, Don Juan's spiritual experiences and the true outcome of Comet Kohoutek into their funny business.

It's their tightest presentation since **I Think We're All Bozos on This Bus** and features some of their most comical characters (such as Nino the Mindboggler and Dr. "Happy" Harvey Cox) since **Porgie and Mudhead** or **Nick Danger**.

—Kurt John Harju

Though some may disapprove of the way she's moving from folk to a more popular and jazzy style, the change suits Joni Mitchell as well as an evening gown — and that fits perfectly.

The proof is in her new two record live set **Miles of Aisles** (Asylum AB 202) of the tour she made this summer with Tom Scott and the L. A. Express.



Joni Mitchell

The difference is most clearly seen in her older material such as "Both Sides Now" or "Big Yellow Taxi" that the brilliant back-up band transforms into fresh and exciting soft rock. But as great as the music is, it isn't half as good as Joni's captivating vocals that more fully express the sophisticated but still sensitive woman she has become in the success this release acknowledges.

While this is very nearly a greatest hits collection, it unfortunately neglects her most recent work that best realizes the musical stance she's now taking. In compensation, she ends the set with two new songs "Jericho" and "Love or Money" that lyrically and otherwise show why she's the reigning queen of the pop scene.

—Kurt John Harju

BESIDES THE Beatles, no contemporary musician has done as much or as well with the conventional love song as Jimmy Webb. Throughout his career as a composer-arranger-producer and, in the last five years, as a singer and performer also, he's brought a high degree of sophistication and sensibility to a form so easily susceptible to simplistic sentimentality.

His latest work, **Land's End** (Asylum SD-5070), clearly continues the romantic concerns he began with in such pop classics as "Up, Up and Away," "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" and "Mac Arthur Park" and developed in a trilogy of his own solo albums (**Words and Music, And So: On, Letters**). This time round, he infuses these love songs (using nature as a metaphor) with his most complex imagery, complete sound settings and competent vocals to date.

The result is his most commercially accessible music so far, with "Ocean in His Eyes," "Feet in the Sunshine," "Cloudman" and "Asleep on the Wind" as the best examples.

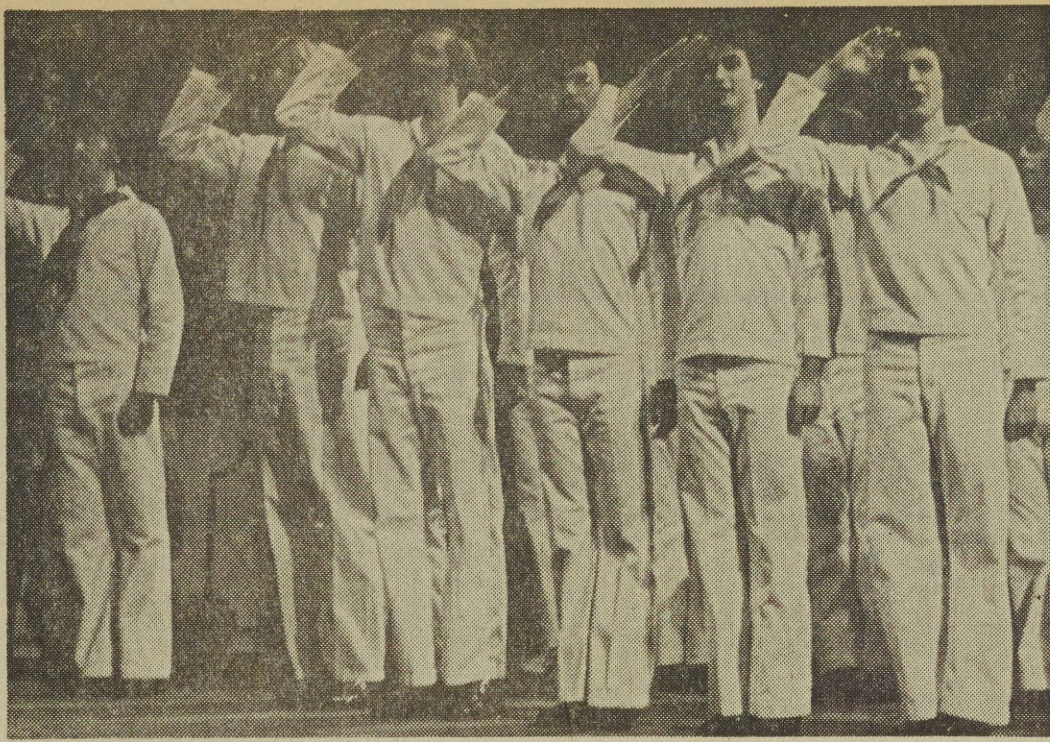
—Kurt John Harju

Since the **Bonzo Dog Band** broke up in 1970 there have been several attempts to capitalize on what popularity they had, and possibly make some new converts. **The History of the Bonzos** (United Artists UA-LA371-H2) is the most recent collection, and by far the best and most complete.

The Bonzos were magicians who could take styles ranging from dixieland, to vaudeville, to rock 'n' roll, to soul, and infuse them with a new life, with an amazing sense of parody and wit. They were also musicians who could play all these styles with skill and flair, changing moods with purposefully slipshod playing to express and underline the humor of their music.

Bonzo music was an eclectic mixture, shot through with controlled lunacy. The Bonzos won't be back, but this album is a fitting memorial to them.

—Harry Hammit



Daily Photo by KAREN KASMAUSKI

We sail the ocean blue

The men of H.M.S. Pinafore, both sober and true invite you to the Gilbert and Sullivan Society's fall term production of **Gilbert and Sullivan's most famous operetta in the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater**. "Pinafore" opens tonight at 8 p.m. and runs through Saturday night with an additional 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday.



lobster

BOSTON (UPI) — Frozen lobster tails confiscated by U.S. Customs in 1972 were sold at the bargain price of \$1.37 per pound.

"New Englanders prefer fresh lobster," one of the buyers said. "We'll probably unload this stuff in New York, the Midwest or the West Coast, where they don't know any better."

The lobster, 333,045 pounds of it, was seized when the government claimed it was improperly labeled. One distributor said the meat can be resold for at least \$3 a pound.

"meat" made partly of soya beans for the past three months without knowing the difference, a scientist said recently. Dr. Dezerega Salgado, secretary of the state-run Institute for Technological Investigations, revealed in an interview with the newspaper **Mercurio** that the institute had been producing 1.5 tons of the soya-meat mixture each week and delivering it to sausage and salami factories.

"These products have been sold to the public for at least the last three months and it seems that nobody has noticed," Dr. Salgado said.

soya

SANTIAGO, Chile (Reuter)—Chileans have been eating

gus that gastronomes consider "the diamonds of the kitchen."

Henry Trione and financier Ralph Stone head a consortium, which has acquired rights to 15,000 acres north of Santa Rosa, Calif. in rolling hills like those in Italy and France where truffles abound.

The going price for truffles varies, depending on where they are purchased. In New York, for example, they cost between \$6 and \$7 an ounce and can cost as much as \$200 a pound.

Uncovering the aromatic delicacy, which flavors dishes with a woody taste somewhat like chestnuts or mushrooms, is no small challenge.

The consortium, encouraged by reports that an Oregon botanist has discovered a handful of edible truffles, has ordered two sharpnosed truffle hounds from Alba, Italy for \$300 each.

Stone says the dogs, "which look like a fox terrier with a few other breeds thrown in, can catch the scent of a truffle from a 100 yards away."

If the truffles can be found, Trione says American cooks will find that "a trifle of truffle goes a long way."

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