

Area Arts & Amusements

By Russell Tarby

PRETTY VACANT—Rush Tattered claims he's the only bloke in town with a copy of Warner Bros. new LP release of Johnny Rotten and the Sex Pistols.

"And it's only a pinprick on the vast, pimply face of punk rock," Tattered predicted cockily.

Blaring chording and steady, if unoriginal, drumming force the Pistols' sound out the stereo speakers like storm-tossed waves soaking a sandy shore. Such tunes as "Pretty Vacant," "Sub-Mission" and "Bodies" revel in a nihilism usually reserved for playwrights and poets. "But the Pistols are political and philosophical in their own vomit-laden way," Tattered asserts.

Songs like "Anarchy in the U.K." and "God Save the Queen" make the strongest musical social comment since Dylan, many critics agree.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS galore may be found in many downtown shops, all fully stocked and awaiting your holiday business, but one of particular note is the new 1850 House on East Bridge St. Selling only the highest quality antiques, the store is operated by Joseph H. and Mary Crissfull.

If you get a chance, drop in and check out the goldleaf-encrusted bust of Enrico Caruso, or the Old-fashioned Sears & Roebuck stove.

MEL'S PARKWAY INN goes country starting with the ever-popular Moss Back Band tonight. The six-piece country swing group will finish a two-night stand playing the blues, jazz, and country tunes that had endeared them to Central New York music fans. Mel hopes to book other area country acts in the near future, so keep your eye on the Mitchell St. tavern if you're a follower of the sounds of the south.

NEW YORK PAINTER Marla Hoff lectured at SUNY Oswego yesterday. The artist discussed her work with monochromatic painting using oil, watercolor, and egg tempera. The lady has been widely exhibited, including one-woman shows at NYC's Sonnabend Gallery and at California's LaJolla Museum of Contemporary Art.

TEN YEARS AFTER: Rolling Stone magazine recently celebrated its Tenth Anniversary. Columnist Bob Greene, who used to write for the Stone, reflects on its effect on American culture in an insightful column on today's editorial page 8.

NEW OFFICERS reign at the Oswego Art Guild including president Grace Bentley-Scheek, vice-president Lorraine Huang, secretary Gene Garzone, and treasurer Arlene Issett.

DON'T FORGET: "Mary Poppins," starring Debbie Miller and directed by Rosemary Nesbitt will open at SUNY Oswego's Waterman Theatre on Friday, Dec. 16 at 8:15 p.m. This will be a children's theatre presentation no one will want to miss. For ticket info. call the box office at 341-2141.

Figaro To be Wed In January Opera

Christmas is only a few weeks away, and if you're still not sure what to give your friends, the Opera Theater of Syracuse has a suggestion.

Tickets for Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," O.T.S.' next production on Jan. 27 and 28, 1978, are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 471-8823.

For those who enjoyed last year's "The Barber of Seville," this opera, which will be sung in English, is the continuation of the adventures of Count Almaviva, Rosina, Susanna, and Figaro. With lively music and beautiful arias, confusion and comedy reign as Figaro's plans to marry Susanna are complicated by Count Almaviva's unfaithfulness to his wife Rosina.

Characters hide in closets, jump out of windows, and disguise themselves as each other for a secret rendezvous in the garden in order to resolve matters into a happy ending.

"The Marriage of Figaro" will be presented on the Civic Center stage in Syracuse, 411 Montgomery St. in January.

ABOVE MILSTREAM WALDRON, Ind. (AP)—Ruth Jester's home has water running through the basement.

Mrs. Jester isn't complaining. She lives in a house converted from an old mill alongside Flat Rock River.

"We bought it back in 1954," said Mrs. Jester, widow of Major Jester, a department store chain owner and realtor. "My husband wanted to be on the water."

Inside, the mill's original 16 hand-hewn wooden pillars remain intact. Each has been covered to blend into the décor of the home. The millrace flows under the drive at the front door and beneath the house. Historical records indicate the mill was built in 1866.

Carey People Switch

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The administration of Gov. Hugh Carey, which fought a long and losing battle to keep the Concorde out of New York, is now in a position to be accused of following the slogan, "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em."

The Commerce Department announced Tuesday that it is sending a "trade mission" to London on a free flight aboard the supersonic plane.

Carey told a news conference that the Concorde has so far met noise requirements at John F. Kennedy International Airport, and that he wants the Commerce Department's team to get to its work "as fast as possible."

Commerce Commissioner John Dyson said the 16 members of the trade mission, who will be guests of the British government, will leave JFK shortly after noon on Wednesday aboard the British Airways Concorde.

The stated purpose of the group, which consists of Dyson, other state officials and representatives of business and industry, is to "expand trade opportunities between New York and Great Britain."

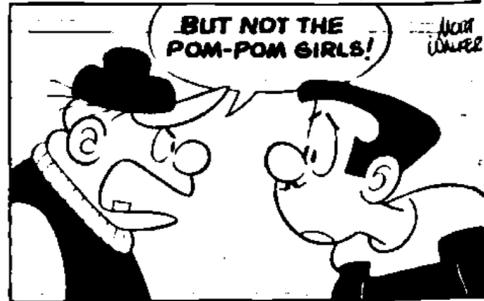
"Many British companies already have branch plants in New York State and we hope to convince others that our state is an ideal location for their U.S. operations," Dyson said in a prepared statement.

At his news conference, which was called to announce that he has given Dyson new responsibilities as chairman of the Urban Development Corp., Carey brushed aside questions about whether the trip means his administration has shifted its views on the Concorde.

For months Carey had been pressing the Port Authority, which runs the airport, to keep the Concorde out, on the grounds that it had not proved it could meet noise standards. The U.S. Supreme Court finally ordered the authority to allow landings for a period to test the plane's noisiness.



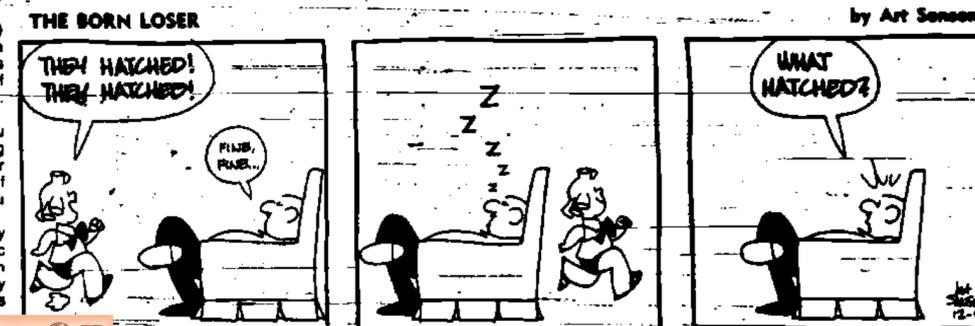
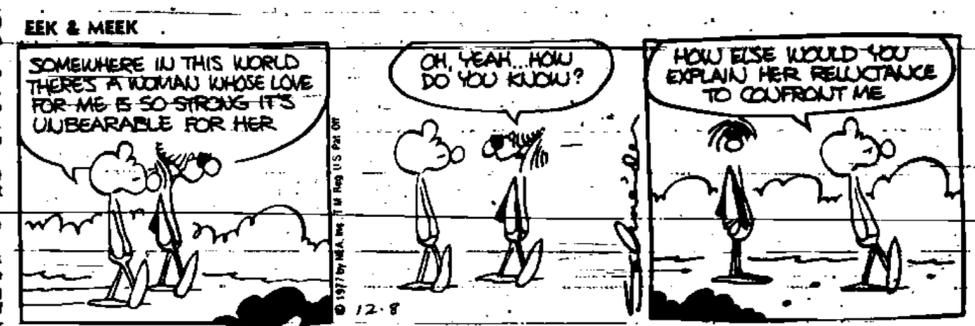
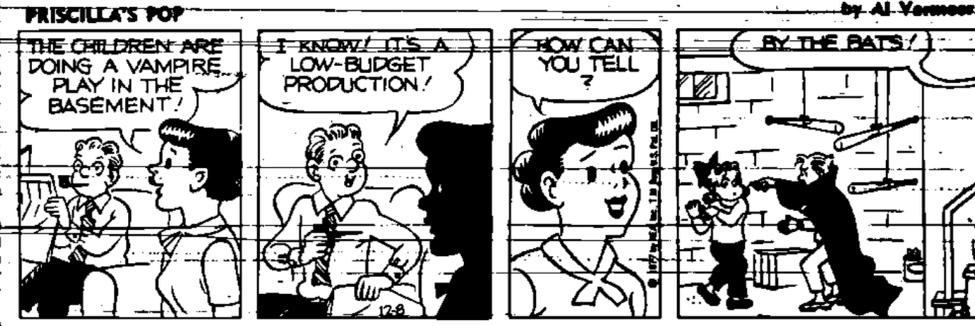
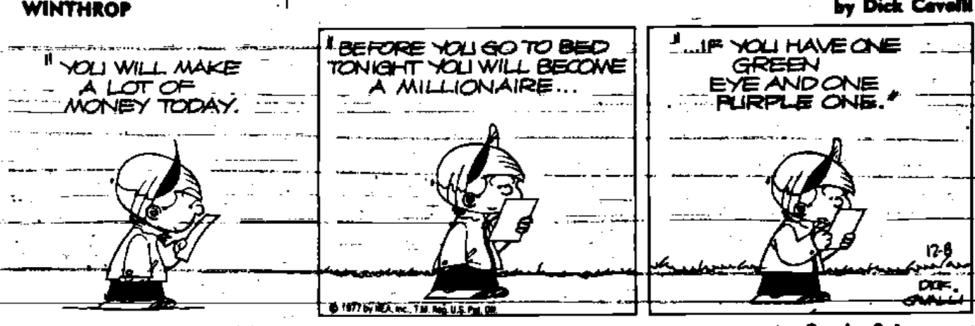
FRANK AND ERNEST



by Bob Thaves



by Dick Cavalli



This Weekend Progressive Country Music Topic of New Movie Slated To Premiere at Oswego

A new generation of country music is emerging which has its roots deeply in the same hills of southern Appalachia as its forebears—Progressive Country.

"New Country" is a film maker's personal discovery of this movement of rebel musicians who resisted the pop, super slick production sounds of the contemporary music industry in an effort to live and play music which is personal.

"New Country" will make a special premiere in Oswego Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights with midnight showings at the downtown Oswego Theatre.

Ironically, the public is exposed to new music first by old stars in a derivative format. Progressive Country means Bob Dylan, The Flying Burrito Brothers and the Eagles to most people. The first American reggae hit, "I Shot The Sheriff" was made popular by Eric Clapton, not its author, Bob Marley.

This film's beginning was when Jim Szalapski, a film maker from Minneapolis, met up with "Skinny Dennis", an irrepressible pot-bag player in a guitar factory in L.A. Skinny Dennis was an unusual man—8 feet, seven inches tall and 137 lbs. heavy. He had a peculiar heart ailment which caused him to grow tall and narrow (the same condition as Abe Lincoln's).

Doctors told him he'd never live past 18, but he made it to 30. He said it was his passion—hillbilly music—that kept him alive. He played and traveled as a poet-musician associating with a whole community of such singer-songwriters who made their lives of music and yet were barely known to anyone outside Austin, Texas and a few college campuses around the country.

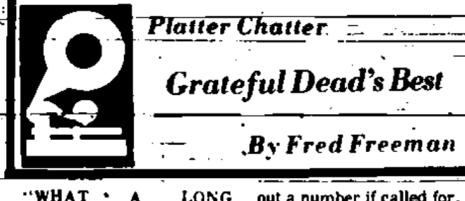
Before Skinny Dennis died, he introduced Jim Szalapski to this world of musicians who played something called progressive country. As Szalapski came to know their unique music and life-style, he became inspired to photograph and record these modern day troubadours as if through the eyes of Skinny Dennis.

"New Country" reveals Guy Clark as a quiet storyteller, Larry Jon Wilson lyrics and deep mellow voice reflecting a warm and intensely personal philosophy. The crazed Townes Van Zandt, the original Mysterious Rhinestone Cowboy, David Allen Coe, and Charlie Daniels' brand of good-time Southern rock.

Also featured are Steve Young, Gamble Rogers, Rodney Crowell, and Barefoot Jerry, the group it seems that everyone has heard about but relatively few have actually seen.



Townes Van Zandt, considered by many to be the most important poet of the progressive country music scene, appears in the film "New Country" opening a weekend run Friday at midnight at the Oswego Theatre. Van Zandt will perform his tune "Waltin' Around to Die." Also pictured is Uncle Seymour Washington, the sage of the Austin music scene.



Platter Chatter

Grateful Dead's Best

By Fred Freeman

"WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN"—GRATEFUL DEAD. WARNER BROS. This two-record set is also called "The Best of The Grateful Dead." It showcases the legendary band at its very best. Most of the songs such as "Ripple," "New Speedway Boogie," "Brown Eyed Woman," "Playing in the Band," and "Cosmic Charlie," are classic, country-rock blues pieces featuring Jerry Garcia, Robert Hunter, and Phil Lesh on guitars. The albums' four sides also contain rare single versions of "Dark Star" and "Born Cross-Eyed." The attractively packaged set should attract a lot of grateful listeners.

"THUNDER IN MY HEART"—LEO SAYER. WARNER BROS. Richard Perry produced this delectable collection of ten tunes that range from upbeat bouncers to emotional ballads, all performed in Sayer's inimitable vocal style. Sayer can really belt

out a number if called for, or he can apply his delicate falsetto voice on ballads. The singer has had a string of hits for Warner Bros., and just about any of the numbers included here such as "Everything I've Got," "Poo! For Your Love," "It's Over," and "Easy To Love," could qualify for his next hit single. "LITTLE CRIMINALS"—RANDY NEWMAN. WARNER BROS. This is Randy Newman's first album in three years. His songwriting has taken on an even more sarcastic tone, as his cutting, wry and sardonic humor fiercely hits below the belt on such songs as "Short People," "Sigmund Freud's Impersonation Of Albert Einstein In America," and "Texas Girl At The Funeral Of Her Father." On other tunes he is an emotionally sensitive writer able to convey vivid lyrical passages. Newman's mellow piano playing and distinctive vocals are backed by an array of special guest musicians.

ASTRO-GRAPH Bernice Bede Osol



Dec. 8, 1977
The year ahead could be a very adventuresome one for you. You'll gain knowledge through new experiences and contacts. Some of this may be a result of long-distance travel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Unless you make a game of your serious goals today, you may find them dull and pedestrian. If you can make light of them, you'll overcome. Like to find out more of what lies ahead for you? Send for your copy of Astro-Graph Letter by mailing 50 cents for each sign and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, P.O. Box 488, Radio City Station, N.Y. 10019. Be sure to specify your birth sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Put aside your anxieties that one who is indebted to you won't come through. It's better than even money that your fears are groundless.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Social forums should not be used for attempting to transact business today. Chances are good that those you're clinking teacups with aren't interested.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You'll need more than charm and good looks to cut the mustard today. It's going to take the three big E's—Energy, Effort and Enthusiasm.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Sometimes you have an unfortunate tendency to do the right things for the wrong people. This could be one of those days.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Normally you're a plodder and will hang in there at all costs. Today you get discouraged when all it takes is a little extra push to get over the hump.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Keep your priorities in order today. Your first responsibilities are to your family, then to outsiders. You may be tempted to reverse the order.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're not too willing to put yourself out for others today. You'll want to make sure there's something in it for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Put a lock on your purse today and hide the key. Rather than finding ways to spend money, think of ways that you can add to your resources.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Loved ones may lean on you a little heavily today and this might pique you a bit. Think of what they've done for you. You'll soon change your tune.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You may be guilty of something today very foreign to your nature—prejudging others. If you are aware of this, you certainly won't do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) By all means, try to avoid parasitic types today. They'll really turn you off. They're diametrically opposed to your generous nature.

