

BLACK BIKE FOUR

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THE NIGHT THEY BROUGHT OLD NOSTALGIA ON HOME

This afternoon I bought myself a record that I have been wanting for the last eight or so years, ever since I heard my first Beatle song - PLEASE PLEASE ME. It must be years since I heard most of the tracks on the record and I certainly have not heard any of them on a good stereo system before. Why I waited so long before finally getting around to buying it is even more puzzling to myself since I have listened to the record. Ignorance is not excuse enough.

A common thing with nostalgia is to discover that the thing you remembered to be fantastic turns out to be quite crummy. Well, the good old Beatles, they didn't let me down, I remembered that they were fantastic and they turned out to be even better. It might all be a mixture of the feeling of the days of Beatlemania mixed in with an appreciation of their music which I was not capable of in those long gone days but either way, PLEASE PLEASE ME turns out to be far better than I remembered it.

Now I can feel the full depth of the voices and the instruments and they amaze me, how is it possible that the Beatles were doing things in 1963 that other groups are still attempting to do and falling way short of? Some lead singers in some groups are still unable to raise themselves to the level that Ringo (the Beatle who couldn't sing if the myth be right) reaches in BOYS - the rave he works himself into is something undescrivable. I had never heard Paul playing Bass before, properly, it too amazes me.

This night of bringing old nostalgia on home was helped along even further by Bruce Gillespie lending me the Rolling Stones first LP - THE ROLLING STONES. Here, however, there is a difference; the Stones are just as I remembered them, the difference being that in the days they were playing the tracks from this record I could not appreciate the depth to which they were playing. In '64 I could have told you that the two groups were different but I couldn't have told you why. Now, looking back on the two records with a few years perspective it is easy to see the difference. The Beatles were playing the new music - Beatle music for want of a better term - and the Stones were playing the old style Rock-and-Roll, only more savagely. The Beatles, even in their first record, display many of the traits which were to make them a musical combination which will have to be reckoned with for many years to come, all the feelings that were to blossom later on are displayed as buds, and buds never sounded better. The Stones just went further along the old trail and, just as we can see now that ABBEY ROAD sums up the Beatles (maybe for all time), it would be correct to say that GET YOUR YA YA'S OUT is a very logical progression from what you hear on THE ROLLING STONES. In fact, the versions of CAROL on both records are remarkably similar even if you make allowance for the fact that the Stones had had seven or so years in which to make their Rock-and-Roll music even more offensive. Their claim that they are the greatest Rock-and-Roll Band in the World is true today and it was then when they recorded their first LP - the Beatles were then, and have been ever since, a better group; but even back in those days the Beatles were not playing Rock-and-Roll, not what I would

would term strict Rock-and-Roll.

(Don't ask me to define that term, I can feel it but I can't put it into the proper words.)

On PLEASE PLEASE ME the Beatles exhibit a sensitivity that other groups lack. Sensitivity seems like a funny word to use when you are writing about music played by rythm and bass guitars and drums creating a solid base upon which there is a sharp guitar and words which are often screamed, but that is about the best term possible.

And, since I'm trying to think of a way to get this finnished so that I can get onto the mailing comments, I would like to sum up the record PLEASE PLEASE ME by calling it a "gas, fab, gear" disc - and still something more.

Ah well, you know how old nostalgia is. Try adding a little awe to that and you have my feelings just a little.

MAILING COMMENTS or cycling around Moonee Ponds with broken spokes.

GIRL ATKINS: If it weren't for the fact that this mailing were so enjoyable and contained so many good things I would call this the most enjoyable thing in the mailing. I might do that anyhow. Yes, why not?

Apart from that there is little so be said, apart from congratulations and thanks for writing about it.

Burnett Toskey::: Bach, as you say, showed great musical intelect. He was, however, a composer of some of the most severe music that we listen to these days. While Beethoven and Mozart may not have been on the ball quite so much, intellect wise, they wrote music which is far more relevant to the human condition. True both of them had that spirituality which Bach had, but not in such large doses that there is very little else. The humanity of Mozart is something which, I suppose, never ceases to amaze me. His spirituality is the sort of thing that you find in the streets or out in the country under a tree with some good friends. Beethoven's spirituality is of a secular nature when you hold it up along side Bach, no less strong but it was he who revealed the artistic spirit of man at it's best in music.

Bach wrote for the greater glory of God, Mozart wrote for the glory of Man and Beethoven wrote for the glory of the Artist. Wagner wrote his music with an incredible understanding of the sensuality of music. I don't feel that he has much of this lauded spirituality, he simply knew what it was that could musically draw out the sensualist in a man, his musical dramas are the best examples of this sort of writing that we will ever see.

Even though my version of the Shostakovich 13th is only the Everest live recording and not of much value I would not call it "pleasant". It was his best symphonic work since the 8th and quite moving. I am very much looking forward to his 14th, one of my biggest thrills of last year was reading an interview with Britten in the GRAMAPHONE where he said that he would be conducting the premier of it at that festival (the name of which I can't remember). It was just as much a thrill to learn that Shostakovich had dedicated the symphony to Britten since I regard Britten as being atleast as good as Bartok when I consider 20th century music. I'm looking forward to hearing the 14th very much.

Yeah, I have to admit that girls look nice and if I were pressed I might even admit that they look exciting - but never as exciting

as the shape of a YF-12A. Taking it as a whole, once you've seen one girl you've seen them all. They have a more or less standard shape - two lumps up near the top, nice curves lower on down at the sides and I leave the rest to your ample imagination. HOWEVER, just take a look at a naked YF-12A and you will at once notice many interesting curves and swellings that you don't see and the standard "girl" design. Hold a picture of a YF-12A up alongside a picture of a Vigen or a Phantom and you will notice that there are a great many differences, all exciting.

I hasten to add that I do not find aeroplanes interesting in any sexual sense, far from it. Applying your hand to the cold metal of a YF-12A cannot possibly compare to applying your hand to the soft, warm... err, excuse me while I go off into a bad case of the raptures.

Steven Carlberg::: Classical music is directed at everybody, if only they care to take time out to listen properly - rock is directed at the 'new' culture and thus only has interest for those who are in it. Rock is that direct that if you can take it's rawness you cannot help but find yourself attracted to it. If you can't take the rawness then you are repulsed by the idiom.

I'm sorry that I seem to have rubbed you up the wrong way about God. Even though I don't have faith, as you do, I dig what faith is into. Normally I enjoy seeing people with faith but my good ol' subconscious (or something) must have convinced me that I could have a crack at you. Faith is something that can't be argued about, it just is.

Labowitz's::: I heard an interesting thing on a TV program recently which had to do with the approaching extinction of various species of animals. The narrator paused for a moment to ponder whether or not we had any right to save a species which was becoming extinct since it is more or less agreed that if nature decides that a species has no place in our evolving world it must die.

If we think about this we are bound to wonder if the world which man is creating is a natural world and, if it is not, then what do we say a natural world would be like if man didn't interfere. Is it possible that the current activities of mankind are within the bounds of nature? Can we say that the evolving human race is carrying out the evolution of our planet and, in this case, does any species which is becoming extinct have any right to survive if mankind has to go out of his way to see that this happens? As things stand now I see no reason for the existence of all sorts of animals and birds except to fill up "wild life" TV shows - no purpose to mankind that is. But maybe animals and birds, like men, should be entitled to do their own thing.

Larry Neilson::: True, it should be possible to set up a society where communism works but right now I don't think that it's possible. I think that it would be impossible to convince people that it is in their best self interests to live on a communist basis so that they can live better lives. The habit of looking out for yourself is so well established in people so that they could not accept the idea that not having your own money to buy your own luxuries is not a form of personal economic castration.

If a society could be arranged wherein a person can have whatever he needs (and people need funny things - each one according to his own habits and tastes, just as I need to have a piano and to go to the opera but I don't need a TV set or a car but it is the opposite to some) and not what he wants, I would like to be a part of it.

John Foyster::: Bob Smith and yourself didn't get to me at the convention, not about Bach anyhow. Lee Harding and I got to Bob about Rock-and-Roll. Ah well, that's the breaks I guess.

Milton Stevens::: I had always wondered why it was that fandom seemed so nice to me and now you have supplied the answers. You see, I am poverty stricken - struggling along on a mere \$55 a week and debts and things over my head and all that sort of stuff. My clothes are tatty and my shoes (of which I have only one pair) are wearing out. The only things of any worth that I have in the world are 300 records, a few apa mailings and a piano and a typer. Wouldn't you call that living in poverty? Wouldn't you say that I was poor because I only had slices of bread with peanut-butter to eat yesterday? I haven't run out of cigarettes because I've given up smoking, cigarettes cost too much.

And here I am in fandom, hob-nobbing it with all the affluent Americans, even those on unemployment. They don't mind me being poor and so I don't feel below them in class structure. I am happy.

F M Busby::: We dare not doubt that elephants exist. We do so at our peril.

I'd
sue Foyste on his comments about me, if I thought I could win and if I existed. Has it occurred to any of you that I just might be a hoax, not that I am, It's just that none of you have ever met me and apart from what you read here you have no reason to suspect I exist. For all I know you are all John Foyster hoaxes - if you are than, John, you are far more versatile than I had imagined. You are also pretty rich.

Howard DeVore::: Collecting books and magazines used to be a bit thing with me a few years ago and around about the time I gave it up I had a nice collection. Then I could see that I either had to have everything that there was or I didn't want anything. The first is virtually impossible so I settled for the second choice and now I've only got one paperback sf book which I accidentally missed when I sold all the rest - there are a few hard cover books but I've kept them because they look nice. The only fan zines I've got left are the ones that came in apa's. I still like getting fanzines but these days I give them away after I've read them. It take up much less room you know.

James Harris::: Dylan never played any important part in my discovery of rock-and-roll, something I am particularly grateful for. A lot of people seem to think he is the greatest but to me he is just somebody who records stuff that other people think is important. I have to admit that he plays a large part in the history of rock-and-roll, this is not because he is (or was) great but because he gave the youth of America what they wanted at the time they wanted it. Things like "Desolation Row" are interesting but only in that it is fun to see what people got from it - the claim that he is a poet is laughable and any claims for his musical ability are even more laughable if it weren't for the fact that people take him seriously. Frank lunney might even print the LoC I sent him in regard to the review of the latest Dylan record which was reviewed in BEABOHEMIA.

Some people give undue credit to Dylan and I suppose that, because of my past, I give undue credit to the Beatles. I don't see it that way however, anything that is said about the Beatles which is good is true.

Ed Cox::: I was all for the two-monthly mailings until the last mailing came. Then I noticed that there was a waiting list and also I noticed that the mailing was larger than the latest apa-45 mailing. APA 45 is supposed to be doing well these days so I guess that it means SAPS is also doing well. The reason that I was in favour of the bi-monthly mailings was because I thought it would ~~liven~~ things up some but it wouldn't destroy the nature of the apa. With that schedule I also feel that there is a chance I could keep current.

Doreen Webbert::: Talking about NASA, I saw a great film on the TV this afternoon. It was called "First Men On The Moon" or "12 To The Moon" or something like that.

It was about the first flight to the moon which was done by a group of twelve men and women from lots of different nations of the world under the control of something called the International Space Order. There is a Russian who keeps on talking about the glorious Soviet achievements in space, a German who designed and built the space ship (which is, by the way, sometimes an Atlas, sometimes a JupiterC and sometimes a pointed cylinder with fins on. There is plenty of raw human emotion because there is this guy from Israel who keeps on talking about how his family was killed off during the Second World War by a German (with a name that is repeated often but which I can't remember). It turns out that the guy who designed the ship is the son of this "Nazi murderer" going under an assumed name.

Aside from all this there are meteor clouds and meteor dust on the way out, constant bombardment of the ship and the crew once it has landed on the moon, by meteorites (which are deflected by a magnetic ray). There is quick sand and (within walking distance of the place the ship lands) there is a cave which leads directly to the underground city of the Moon people.

Well, we never got to see the moon people (just as well), but two of the crew - male and female - wander into the cave and then they discover that there is air in it so they whip off their helmets and fall into a passionate embrace. Then they walk, hand-in-hand deeper into the cave and a barrier of ice forms behind them and that's the end of that.

After that all sorts of funny things happened to the crew and they got messages from the moon people telling them to get off and not to come back, "but don't go before you leave the cats". You see, there were cats and dogs on board so that the scientists could see if it were possible for procreation to take place on the moon. They threw out the cats and shot through but on the way back they noticed funny things happening to the earth and it turned out that the moon-men were freezing it all with things which were described as "H-bombs in reverse". There is a heroic attempt to save the earth, but it fails. Then the moon men radio a message that they have decided that earth men aren't evil as they had first thought and so they make the freezing go away and they say that earth men can come and visit any time they like and then everything and everybody lives happily ever after.

The film was made in 1960 and I was amazed to see so many stupid errors in the one film, and one produced at that time when I assume people knew better. It was good for a laugh all the same.

Jim Webbert::: I don't know Arazio Benevoli but I do know Berlioz and I don't like him. Schutz and he have nothing in common. Schutz'

is really quite simple stuff and fairly ancient, similar in a lot of ways so some of the masses of Palestrina but with a very intense feeling of it's German origins.

In the end there is only going to be one way to control the population, killing people. The way that things are going now birth-control won't be enough in a few years time and it will just reach the stage where a large percentage of the world population is going to have to be got rid of. If there are sever famins then it is quite possible that there will be riots and wars on large scales and this could do the job. Otherwise it is going to be a task which is going to have to be carried out by the governments - and I wouldn't like to be in their positions when it comes to them desciding who is going to get murdered. I wouldn't like to be in my position either, I just don't trust the people in power to kill the right people.

Don Markstein::: Up until a few years in the future space-craft don't have to be particularly aerodynamic so that they don't have to be particularly straemlined. Supersonic aircraft have to be particularly streamlined so that by this very fact their design seems to be pleasing to the eye. One thing that can't help but surprise me is the lumpiness of so many modern day supersonic aircraft. The artists in sf magazines years ago seemed to draw cigar shapes for just about anything that went fast but now days it seems that this about the last shape you'll see. The 'Phantom' would have to be one of the knobbiest aircraft I've seen as would the MiG 23 (Foxbat) and the Grumman F-15 (Tomcat).

I dug the whole of this but had a lot of trouble reading some of it, particularly the tops of pages, I hope that you get the trouble sorted out.

Don Fitch::: John Foyster has a thoery that most fans wear glasses because cold hip-baths have gone out of fashion and lots of people are saying - mistakenly, naturally - that masturbation doesn't do any halm. Somebody should do a survey to see what relationship there is between glasses and masturbation. All they have to do is ask all the kids who wear glasses if they 'jerk off' - and my case will be proved. Also it is much easier to identify kids who wear glass than it is to identify kids who perform this un-natural violation of themselves.

And don't nobody ask me if I wear glasses.

Mike Raub::: You mean to say that there is such a place a Bowling Green, ever since the Everly Brothers song I've been wondering about it.

Anne Cox::: The thought of lying on the operating table and beang awake through whatever it is that they are doing to you is something that I wouldn't like. I'd rather be completely out to it so that my vivid imagination couldn't run away from itself and leave me in a state of resident terror.

It's very nice to read this and to have you in SAPS. The same applies to everybody else who has just appeared. It seems that this is my fourth contribution to SAPS and that means I must have been a member for a year. It's a terrible thought since I can remember typing up BLACK BIKE 1 asif it were only last week. I can also imagine how some of the rest of you feel - luckily, I'm not in that position just yet.

I hope this makes the mailing. I would have done it earlier except that I seem to be spending a lot of time these days trying to learn to play the piano. I t keeps me off the streets if nothing else. KAPUT.