

# Minor Record Labels Set Folk Music Trends

By MEL KLOHN  
Emerald Columnist

The other day a folk music fan pointed out to me that the minor record labels seem to be the trend setters and the major labels the commercializers of a trend that has become a fad.

This opinion is not without some justification, since the traditional and topical folk artists were recording on labels like Folkways, Elektra, Vanguard, Decca, and Tradition long before RCA, Columbia, and Capital discovered the gold in folk guitar strings.

It came as somewhat of a surprise, then, when Columbia start-

ed the mass popularization of topical and protest songs by signing Bob Dylan several years ago. Even more surprising to folk purists was the release a year before of an album of story songs by Pete Seeger also on the Columbia label.

This was the time when "Sloop John B" and the Kingston Trio were making big on Capital records and it seemed a gamble to many people that Columbia would deviate from the popular taste to record a virtually unknown performer on one hand, and a highly controversial performer on the other.

If it was a gamble on Colum-

bia's part, then it certainly paid off for both Seeger and Dylan have each released their fourth highly successful album on that label. However, I am inclined to think that it was less of a gamble and more of a carefully calculated risk.

Remember that the reaction to ABC-TV's Hootenany was unfavorable from the first in many circles and that the primary dissatisfaction came from that program's blacklist which excluded Seeger from appearing on the show. (Nat Hentoff, of the Village Voice, was one of the leaders of the anti-ABC-TV Hootenany movement, if you can call it

that.) Also remember that the widespread acceptance of folk music, although it was mostly non-topical and non-ethnic, indicated a significant change in record buying tastes. To Columbia's people, these indications become a commercial directive and they became the trend setters rather than the trend followers, a unique position for a major record company in folk music.

## RCA Cashes In

RCA Victor, notably short of good folk artists, has tried to cash in on the "ethnic-kick" (not my own phrase) by reissuing old performances on their Vintage series, starting with Woody Guthrie's Dust Bowl Ballads, and more recently with reissues of Leadbelly and John Jacob Niles.

The following recordings lead me to believe that the major record companies have finally taken some initiative in folk music and have come of age:

Bob Dylan, Another Side, Columbia CL-2193 (3.98); CS-8993 (4.98); Times Are A-Changin', Columbia CL-2105 (3.98); CS-8905 (4.98)

Pete Seeger, I Can See a New

Day, Columbia CL-2257 (3.98), CS-9057 (4.98); We Shall Overcome, Columbia CL-2101 (3.98), CS-8901 (4.98)

Woody Guthrie, Dust Bowl Ballads, RCA Victor LPV-502 (4.98)

Leadbelly, Midnight Special, RCA Victor LPV-505 (4.98)

John Jacob Niles, Folk Balladeer, RCA Victor LPV-513 (4.98)

Leadbelly, Ledbetter's Best, Capitol, T-1821 (4.98)

Although this is not a comprehensive listing of ethnic folk music available on the three major labels, it does list the most significant of recent releases, all within the last year.

The last four must be considered collector's items and their appeal is certainly more limited than the Seeger & Dylan recordings. Seeger's best album, incidentally, is "I Can See a New Day" and Dylan's best is one of his earlier ones, Freewheelin', Columbia CL-1986, CS-8786, August 1963.

As the better of the two Leadbelly reissues offered above, I choose the Capitol recording which contains some rare piano pieces performed by this great folk singer.

## Cheating, Part II

# What Can Be Done About College Cheating?

By MARK LONO  
Collegiate Press Service

What is to be done about cheating?

Were it not for the nature of the Air Force Academy scandal, editorial writers would probably preach the honor system. As it is, they choose to question any such system that encourages "rating" on one's fellows.

The Columbia University study on the prevalence of cheating revealed that schools with honor systems are less apt to have a high level of cheating than those with other arrangements for control. Columbia, incidentally, is now considering an honor system.

The issue is a major one at Columbia and has caused some professors and students to attack any plan which would imply that unpoliced citizens behave better than those who are supervised. Columbia professor Theodore deBary has said that he sees no connection "between the absence of proctors at an examination and the presence of honor."

The National Observer, of course, sampled collegiate attitudes and summarized that, "Most students more or less agree that it's wrong to cheat, but it's also wrong to tattle on the fellow who does."

## School Has Doubts

The University of Carolina boasts the Carolina Honor System, but the school has its doubts. A professor there reports: "For the first time in my three years of teaching at USC I did not have a 'cheating student' in any of my classes. I monitored all of my quizzes. In the past the stu-

dents were on their honor."

They are still "on their honor" at the University of Redlands, but the UR Bulldog reported several violations during the final exams, and declared that today, "Nothing is certain in life except death, taxes, and cheating."

That was probably the writing of a hardened senior. The starry-eyed freshman still has hope for the system. In a Wake Forest College survey, a "large percentage" of freshmen endorsed the honor idea, but only five percent of the seniors thought it effective.

A junior there defined it this way: "Teachers have the honor, we have the system."

## Teachers Honorable

But are teachers all that honorable? Are they blameless? One is attempted to question the intellectual integrity of a course which can be passed by the recording of insignificant details on a shirt cuff.

If success in such a class is measured only by the mastery of bits of information that no one would be expected to remember a year later, is not a "cheat sheet" in order? How current and relevant is a history course that relies on aging exams, yellowed copies of which reside in fraternity files?

Cannot university professors conceive of evaluatory procedures other than examinations?

Teachers are asking themselves this question, and one at Saint Bonaventure University agreed that mid-term exams are a "gross absurdity." A student there asserted that, "If a teacher does not know his students in a small school like ours well enough to judge them through class participation, he is not worth his salt."

## Size Requires Tests

But the punch card shuffling in a large university requires that tests be administered to a thousand students at a time, and that they be graded by—yes—a computer.

Mass education may be unfortunate, but it seems to be a necessity. Where can the student find the personal challenges that build integrity when his grade might be altered more by a faulty machine than a sympathetic professor?

Cheating usually is not a result of the "extreme pressure"

college students supposedly suffer. (Students are free of "pressure" to the extent that most can waste at least forty hours a week.)

Though a University of Wisconsin study found cheaters to share a background of maternal overprotection, it is most likely that cheating is not the result of complex psychological difficulties. Though university education is becoming a "system" that can be "beaten" by cheating, this is more a convenience than a cause.

Students cheat because they are lazy. The San Jose College Spartan Daily interviewed the students and was told by one that, "I cheat to please my parents." "Are your parents happy about your cheating?" asked the Daily. "My parents are happy with A's and B's," was the reply.

## American Way?

After all, pout college editorials, isn't cheating the American way of life? What about doctored expense accounts, inaccurate tax returns, and Senator Ted Kennedy's ghost writer at Harvard? One of this country's most important industrialists was thrown out of college when he turned in his senior paper and inadvertently included with it the bill from its real author.

College students do cheat, and some claim to do so patriotically. Consider this assertion of Wayne State Daily Collegian writer Ron Seigel:

"With more and better cheating, students will have time to join political groups, to study conditions in the slums, and to investigate agencies like the Department of Public Lighting."

The Department of Public Lighting evidently needs investigating because someone there cheats. There are two solutions to that problem: The Department of Public Water can "rat" on the Department of Public Lighting, or the city manager can conduct a survey in both departments.

And the local paper can write an editorial.

## Drakes To Meet

The Drakes have scheduled a meeting for 6:30 Wednesday in the SU. They plan to discuss a function for this term, including a dance and free kegs. All members are urged to attend.

## Letters . . .

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children love not their parents? If the least expected politeness or respect to the parents is strictly forbidden, how are we going to believe that Confucianism still exist in its genuine form?

On the other hand, we may not be satisfied with the words of an innocent child. A few extracts about 'jen' from the Four Books translated by Mr. James Legge may serve as certain criteria for determining whether Confucianism is being considered partially if not all in Communist China.

"Filial piety and fraternal submission are the roots of 'jen.'"

"Their persons being cultured, their families were regulated. Their families being regulated; then their states were rightly governed."

Their may be certain Confucian concepts that pertain to communism, but Confucianism is never part of communism, whether or not it is in mainland China. If Confucius is ever considered parallel to Mao Tse-tung, he may be actually being used, sadly enough, as a means only to achieve political and propagandist ends.

Chi K. Wai,  
Junior, Gen Sci.

"Jen"—Humanity. Main theme of Confucianism.

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1. Now that graduation's getting close, have you given any thought to the kind of work you'd like to do?

I want to work for The Good of Mankind.



2. I might have suspected.

I'll probably grow a beard.



3. Is it required?

It helps. And I'll certainly need a pair of sandals.



4. What do you expect to earn?

All I ask is the satisfaction of knowing I'm helping to Build a Better World.



5. I'll be doing much the same thing. I've also lined up a job that affects society in a positive way. And if I do good, I'll move up, and my decisions will be even more important in the scheme of things.

But where's your beard? What about sandals?



6. You don't need them in Equitable's development program. All you need is an appetite for challenge and responsibility, and the desire to do the best possible job. The pay is tops, too.

You know, I'm afraid a beard would itch—could you get me an interview with Equitable?

Make an appointment through your Placement Office to see Equitable's employment representative on (insert month, day) or write to Edward D. McDougal, Manager, Manpower Development Division for further information.

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