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No Use To Argue The Point

Either You Like Rock 'N' Roll Or You Don't; 'The Studs' Do

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Something always happens when a person becomes complacent enough to think nothing can surprise him anymore.

He sits slouched back in his chair, prepared as best he can go to hear, what he's heard before in many cases.

Then, whamo, somebody has the audacity to step out of line, thus giving that complacent person the "come-uppance" he so richly deserved.

It was this way about interviewing any more rock and roll groups. After all, when you've heard one group have its say, haven't you heard them all? Apparently not, or not if you're talking to a group named "The Studs," made up of five students from Catawba College.

Maybe "The Studs" sound different because they're college boys, their first interest being, they say, to do a good job in college right now—not get-rich-quick guys out to make the Big Time and fast. Or maybe it's because their first interest in music is the satisfaction it gives them, not the money it can make for them.

Anyhow, after things got going real good with the interview the other day, the guys started throwing in some fifty-cent words and some "high faluting" theories about rock and roll and music that not only sounded good but seemed to make sense, too. All of this at one time was about enough to make anyone sit up in his chair and take notice.

John Hostsetter, a bearded, personable boy from Hanover, Pa., is leader of the group. Other members are Ken Kambis of Richmond, Virginia, rhythm guitar; Jeff Manz of New Jersey, bass guitar; Leon Burlison of Albemarle, the drums; and Skip Henry of Mt. Airy, lead guitar.

The guys obviously hadn't come up for the interview expecting to defend a cause, pick a fight, or prove that rock and roll has its fine points. All they wanted was to announce they were going to be playing at a big dance at the Salisbury Armory on November 20 and that everyone is invited.

"It doesn't do any good to try to tell somebody what's good or bad about rock and roll," John says. "Either they like it or they don't. I know my mother says it all sounds alike to her and nothing can change her mind."

"Yes," Skip Henry adds, "my being in this group has con-



READY TO ROCK—The members of "The Studs," a rock and roll group of Catawba College students, are, standing left to right, Leon Burlison and Ken Kambis, and, sitting left to right, John Hostsetter, Jeff Manz and Skip Henry.—(Staff Photo by Barringer)

vinced my dad that I have a lot of growing up to do. Actually, I'm laughing about his attitude and he's laughing about mine. He doesn't really mind my being in the group as long as I keep my grades up though."

Another thing that can make a person think you talk to one group and you've talked to them all is that they've all seemed to sprout long hair and come out dressed in the shaggy clothes they can dig up (You

can't buy them). And they sing songs similar to, if not the same as, their London counterparts.

"The Studs" don't begin to tell you they're original in costume or songs. They frankly admit that they spend long hours over a record player listening and trying to copy as closely as possible the songs they're hearing.

John says they copy because "this gives us a repertoire to work on and is a good way of

getting precision." The group's repertoire now is big enough so that they could sing different songs for five straight hours if they had to.

"Mainly," John says, "we're doing songs sung by English groups. Skip and I have been writing some original songs, but we realize it's going to take a while before we come up with something good."

"It's impossible for one group to sound exactly like another anyhow. We try to sound like

others but we always end up sounding like 'The Studs,'" Skip says.

And the guys apparently aren't dissatisfied with this. "Actually," John says, "we're just getting started as a group although we've been practicing since last school year. We're beginning now to develop that 'togetherness' all groups need before they can feel they're doing a good job."

What with getting through school and all being mandatory for the fellows, the future of the group is uncertain. "I can't really say anything for sure now," John says, "But our ultimate goal in the very distant future is to make our own record. Meanwhile, we'll paddle on as before."

It was at this point the fellows began coming out with their ideas on rock and roll, its origin, their feelings about parental attitudes toward the music, and the realm of rock and roll in the scheme of things. The fellows first wanted to make it clear that they appreciate classical music as much as the next man.

The following condensed version of the jam session with these rock and rollers might signal "what's with" all the young people around this country and others who like this relatively new sound in music.

"You have to be the part of a rock and roller to sing the music. And being the part is being young. That's why Andy Williams is not a good rock and roll singer—young people can't identify with him.

"Adults are possibly the most bigoted when it comes to rock and roll because they won't take the time to understand it. They think it's frivolous and offers nothing to teen-agers. I think you will find that rock and roll artists who know anything about music, unlike many other people, don't confine themselves to listening to just one form of music. I don't think parents should be so violently against rock and roll. I can see a disagreement in musical tastes, most assuredly, but I think to try to forbid or destroy it because they don't like to listen to it is being very selfish.

"Some groups make rock and roll a form of rebelling, but I don't think this is the common case. I don't think most groups worry too much about what they're expressing, but just the enjoyment they're inducing in their audience."