MACHINE HEAD—Deep Purple—Warner Bros. BS 2607

When speaking of hard rock, one must speak of Deep Purple in the same breath. For they are forerunners in that category. After three albums with a now defunct label, and two with their current Warner Bros. affiliates, Deep Purple broke through with "Fireball," their first effort to achieve national acclaim. Now, we are introduced to "Machine Head," an album title that fully describes the power of the music contained within. The seven tracks on the album are all structured to display each member's individual talents as a writer and as musicians. "Machine Head" will be the album to throw the spotlight on a group that has long deserved its share of stardom.

THE KINK KRONIKLES—The Kinks—Reprise 2XS 6545

Kinks kultists—those who believe implicitly in Ray Davies & Friends—have kept the faith over the years and have been rewarded by seeing this hearty band of merrymakers resurface as a top selling act. "The Kink Kronikles" includes many of the superb songs which nurtured that faith, along with a sprinkling of enormous hit singles such as "Lola." A good deal of this two record set was previously unavailable in the States. Other tracks hold unique appeal—"Death Of A Clown" and "Susannah's Still Alive" were released under the name of Dave Davies. It all makes for a fabulous package. God save the Kinks.

BRASS ON IVORY—Henry Mancini & Doc Severinsen—RCA LSP-4625

Just the thing for a lazy Spring afternoon is this tasteful collaboration between two of today's top musicians. "Brass On Ivory," a tune written by Mancini for his new sidekick, starts the proceedings off in splendid fashion and then the two dig in for a set of lovely standards ("Willow Weep For Me," "Poor Butterfly") and newer fare ("Brass's Song," "We've Only Just Begun"). An absolutely delightful idea has resulted in one of the new year's finest MOR records.

JUST ANOTHER BAND FROM L.A. — The Mothers—Bizarre/Reprise 2075

This live Mothers set was recorded last summer at U.C.L.A. The bulk of it is new material, including a twenty five minute mini-opera entitled "Billy The Mountain" which comprises one side. The accent on this piece as well as on most of the others seems to be on comedy rather than instrumentation. In a more familiar vein, "Call Any Vegetable" is included. Frank Zappa and his cohorts have a dedicated following which should soon catapult this offering onto the best seller chart.

SOLO FLIGHT—THE GENIUS OF CHARLIE CHRISTIAN—Columbia 30778

The Magic Christian might be a film in 1970, but in 1940, the title would have been appropriate for the guitar wizardry of our boy Charlie. This double LP set on Columbia's John Hammond Collection is a comprehensively assembled survey of Charlie Christian's most significant solos, some of them never released before. It is truly amazing to listen to one of the first musicians who played a guitar that was electrically amplified and realize that his style and tonal concept are still standing strongly today in many 1970s jazz and rock groups. This is only one indication of Christian's foresight and sensitivity; there are still areas of his playing that have yet to be explored 30 years later!

PEACEMAN'S FARM—Noah—ABC/Dunhill DSX 50117

of Sandy Bachman, late of the Guess Who, and most recently the focal point of Brave Belt, produced this set of songs by an inventive young trio. Just about every track herein has something to offer, whether it be some intricate vocal harmonizing; some straight-out lead singing by Buzz Vandersel, or some interesting instrumentation—some of it provided by Randy himself who is in on lead guitar. Try the title cut, "Sussex," "For Us All" and most especially "April Roads," an absolute smash.

HISTORY OF ERIC CLAPTON—Atco SD 2-803

Eric Clapton's contributions to rock music—both as a group member and a soloist—have been truly outstanding. This double album is a comprehensive history of his astonishing career—beginning with his work with the Blues Breakers and Yardbirds and going on through his associations with Cream, Blind Faith, Delaney & Bonnie and Derek & The Dominos. Sixteen tracks here, among them "Layla," "Sunshine Of Your Love," "Crossroads," "Badge" and "I Don't Want To Discuss It." An absolute must for fans of this remarkable musician.

A TRIBUTE TO WOODY GUTHRIE (Parts One & Two) Columbia KC 31171 and Warner Bros 2586

Two record companies have gotten together to present both parts of a tribute to America's greatest folk artist. These are highlights from concerts at Carnegie Hall in 1968 and the Hollywood Bowl two years later, and among the artists paying their respects to Woody are Bob Dylan, Judy Collins, Arlo Guthrie, Richie Havens, Odetta, Tom Paxton, Pete Seeger, Country Joe McDonald and Joan Baez. Nairita is provided by actors Will Geer, Robert Ryan and Peter Fonda. But Nightfé effectively capture the warmth and sincerity of the principals involved. All proceeds go to The Woody Guthrie Foundation for further medical research into Huntington's Disease.

MORNING GLORY — Mary Travers— Warner Bros. 2609

Once Mary and producer Milt Okun had gotten together the material on this album, it would have been even better carried away with it all. Fortunately, that important characteristic of artistic reserve which prevents us from honestly coming to cheap sentiment and enthusiasm, a more public display of emptiness prevails throughout. In other words, the album got class. It's commercial because it is tastefully and meticulously assembled from peer to peer, each and every one a gem. The single is "It Will Come To You Again," just one representative of the talents of Brian Butkin. Paul Williams, Alan Taylor, Jean Sibelius and Edna St. Vincent Millay are also here. We cannot explain the wonderful co-existence except by urging you to listen. Loving comes easy after that.

BITTERSWEET—Chairman Of The Board—Invictus ST-89803

Time for another session with the Chairman Of The Board. This live album has twenty nine tunes, the majority of which have been composed by the team of Johnson & Perry, which he's so often in the past. An exception is "Working On A Building Of Love," from the catalog of Holland-Dozier-Holland and this is one of the high points. Group also reports in with their recent singles, "Men Are Getting Scarce" and "Bittersweet.

SECOND WIND—Brian Auger's Oblivion Express—RCA 4703

It's a fair breeze that blows through "Second Wind." All signs point to the second RCA album Brian Auger has put out with the Oblivion Express. A jazz, rock and funk, revolving around and directed by a sizeable keyboard man, this album is at times with Jools Driscoll, Brian Auger has been a heavy-weight organist in search of a singer. He has found Alex Ligertwood, and this can be a decisive factor in rounding out the group's profusion of jazz rock sound. Listen to "Truth" and the title tune.

HOPE—A&M SP 4329

If every example of Jesus rock were as well conceived and perfectly executed as the double album of this five man group, then that type of music would stand a chance of succeeding in a big way. The seven tracks on the album of the music, which is uncompromising rock and roll, with an occasional splash of country, "One Of These," "Where Do You Want To Go" and "Walking Over Hills And Valleys" are three cuts with extra appeal.

Pop Best Bets

Cash Box — April 8, 1972