

NEW YORK: WAKEMAN (Cont'd from p. 34)

we arrive at the studio, we all experiment" says Wakeman, "if Jon comes up with a good riff, Steve will try it on guitar, and Chris on bass and then I'll try it on moog or organ just to see what it really sounds like. If one person in the band isn't happy with it, we discard it for the time being and go on to something else. After a while, we have all of these little pieces of songs with no real song in mind. After playing with the pieces we try and fit them together—not force them. We never intend a song to be two minutes long or five minutes or twenty minutes. We just keep experimenting until the song fits together."

Sometime last week, the new Yes album was released to the public. It was a three record 'live' set of Yes, and the advanced orders are already greater than on any previous album. According to Rick, the new album is alot more energetic than the studio tracks, and he kinda likes that. As far as their next studio album is concerned, Wakeman confessed that the group is again trying to outdo themselves with still another concept. This time, they're working on creating a theme whose parts can be interchanged at will thus creating a lengthy suite of moods. By doing this, Yes will be able to work more closely with audience reaction and perform the up-tempo portions of the suite back to back and skip the slower segments until a later time in the piece. The problem with that idea, however, is that it'll only work live and not in the studio. But leave it to Yes to discover a way.

Critics have praised Rick Wakeman for his keyboard work and only now—by virtue of his solo album is his audience able to see his true worth. Wakeman is a dedicated writer/arranger/musician who will develop and become even more elaborate, inventive and totally creative as the years pass. Fortunately for Rick and the entire music industry—he is with a band whose members are all on an equal basis. And the level of combined talents possessed by Rick Wakeman, Jon Anderson, Chris Squire, Steve Howe and Alan White—far surpasses mortal man!

kenny kerner

HOLLYWOOD: YES (Cont'd from p. 34)

crimes about town and play junior Miss Marples, possibly providing the pros with clues. The show's theme is a Pink Panther type melody the Yes specially rerecorded in their own inimitable way, complete with moog to serve as background music to their Junior Police segment. Unfortunately no bicycles were awarded to any junior sleuths. Someone responded to a 500-pound reward being offered, and all the equipment was recovered. The only problem was that in the interim Yes went out and bought everything all over again. They had to do this because of the scheduled tour.

The group will have a three disk live package released this month. They are currently working on another studio album. Also Rick is a solo artist on A & M Records with a climbing chart album, "The Six Wives of Henry VIII." Rick is working on a new solo LP called "Journey to the Center of the Earth," inspired by the Jules Verne book. Wakeman disclosed that each layer to the center of the earth will be expressed musically. He says he has enough material to make it a double LP, but as a humanitarian gesture he said he might divide it into two packages because, he said, many of today's young people can't afford the double-package album. Jon Anderson manages to sum up the Yes puzzle, least for him, with his lyric, "... And one peculiar point I see as one of many ones of me, as truth is gathered I rearrange inside out, outside in, inside out, outside in; perpetual change." ron baron

SHORT TAKES—Rick Springfield, Edwin Hawkins, Stevie Wonder and Cracker will be recording during the next three weeks at Record Plant West in L.A. . . . Canned Heat's First Annual Invitational Bowling Tournament to be held in L.A. on May 14 has drawn the groups of Chicago, Three Dog Night, Fanny and Flo & Eddie as contestants . . . Albert Hammond is producing Johnny Cash's next Columbia single . . . Rod McKuen's classical work, "Ballad of Distances" was premiered by Canada's Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, March 16 and 17.

Guy Chandler is recording a new LP on the Oweman label with a release date of June 1 . . . Lee Armstrong of MCA Records has signed Gene Weed to produce a song featurette starring Dobie Gray who will do his Decca label tune, "Drift Away" . . . Chrysalis is releasing Jethro Tull's first single off their new "Passion Play" album called "A Passion Play" scheduled for a mid-May release . . .

Indie disk producer Rand Ellerman is putting together the first comedy album for Kay Ballard to be taped in May in . . . A. . . Neil Merryweather, former member of Mama Lion, is winding chores as producer of the second "Heavy Crusier" LP on the Family label and working on production of his own album, "Toronto".

Coming Next Week:

The Broadcast Organization

Thinking Big & Starting Just That Way . . .



cash box / album reviews

POP PICKS



NEVER, NEVER, NEVER—Shirley Bassey—United Artists UA-LA055-F

Shirley's returned to the singles chart with the title tune (originally, "Grande, Grande, Grande"—and sounding every bit the international smash it is). But she doesn't stop there. A strong version of "Killing Me Softly With His Song" and familiar hits of recent vintage like "Baby I'm A Want You" add to the package's appeal. Her version of Tom Rush's classic, "No Regrets," should draw a lot of attention—it's the kind of tune she can really dramatize with all her capabilities. Always, always, always—as she begins her extensive '73 American tour.



RENAISSANCE—The Miracles—Tamla T 325L

Smokey Robinson is still keeping his hand in the success story of the Miracles, but now he only touches them as producer. The group has a new lead singer in his mold named William Griffin, and the group's new sound takes on a very contemporary flair a la The Stylistics thanks to his very beautiful falsetto. Group needs only one hit to firmly re-establish themselves with their new look, and they have lots to choose from here. "Don't Let It End" and "I Didn't Realize The Show Was Over" are two standouts.



DRIPPIN' WET — Wet Willie — Capricorn CP 0113

The group that can always be counted on for a rather hair-raising' cover (and some music to match) comes across with their first live disk. Highlight is the closing "Shout Bamalama," the Otis Redding tune that is getting some reaction from its recent release as a single. Other outside material includes Leon Russell's "I'd Rather Be Blind" and blues from Arthur Crudup and Taj Mahal. More than just being simple blues interpreters, Wet Willie transforms the genre into their own high energy level for total excitement. Jimmy Hall's lead vocals are a wail and a half.



A PARCEL OF ROGUES—Steeleye Span—Chrysalis CHR 1046

The tradition of adapting British folksong in harmony for mass public consumption began in the late sixties with groups like The Water-sons and the Young Tradition. Steeleye Span is probably the best known of these today, and they have impressed America far beyond the traditional folk music havens. This is an electric album which still manages to stay authentic and therefore honest. Frontwoman Maddy Prior is at her best on "The Weaver And The Factory Maid." Those prone to heavier (in the rock sense) fare will get it on with "Allison Gross." Get ye this parcel post haste.

NEWCOMER PICKS



TV OR NOT TV—Proctor & Bergman—Columbia KC 32199

Friends, we got some good news and we got some bad news. First the bad news: The Fire-sign Theatre have split up! (Boo! Hiss! Draw and quarter that bringer of bad tidings!) But two members have joined forces to carry on the stoned humor that made FT famous! (Yea! Hurrah! Knight this man at once!) Having already tackled regular ole TV in their FT days, Proctor & Bergman now become the master-minds behind cable (or very UHF) channel 85. Hey, that tickles!

BARRABAS—RCA APL1-0219

Latin rock has not been "The Direction" everyone has been looking for, but a few very talented groups have made a success of it. Barrabas is the first group to debut here in the last year to have that something special which will enable them to succeed outside of the specific category. Members of the band come from Spain (where they are already established), Cuba, Portugal and the Philippines. "Woman" and "Wild Safari" are already big disco items. Group has a very insistent rhythm concept wedded to raw but pleasing harmonies—and that adds up to a unique sound.