

## Colin does it again

Colin's been around the music 'scene' for 10 years now. His reflections of that 'scenery' in his songs; his colorful musical analysis of all the people and situations he's met and been through in that time, and before, have made him pretty 'unique' in this modern Plastic age.

There are few (if any?) performing singer/songwriters in the (western)(?) world today who can lay claim to having survived for 10 years without the aid (?) of Record, Radio and regular(?) Television.

Although Colin is followed and known by thousands of people throughout Southern Africa, unlike his recording and 'box' performing counterparts, Colin can not claim 'official' IDOL status.....not that (God forbid?) he deserves it.....but what 'established' Comic, or writer/performer would, during his star-struck period, (success) want to credit an un-recorded, and commercially unheralded influence in his life? Prove it!!

It's amazing just how many gags and sketches that can on occasion come off the top of the heads of people like Shamley or Ian Lawrence, find their way, a time later onto the 'tube' and/or the stages around the country. Amazing? Prove it!!? (Like so many 'original' sketches from Bill Cosby, George Carlin, Murray Roman, Richard Pryor etc; taking notes while Lenny Bruce was falling about the spot-light corner.....it all comes out in the end. Pity though.)

Colin's ability to motivate and influence both established and unknown performers without all the latter day communication methods is certainly a 'unique' achievement

How ever contraversail Colin as an 'entertainer' may be, he is, above all a very energetic and creative energy, always ready with a laugh for those who listen..... feeding off and delivering the energies that most of us tend to miss. Sometimes because we want to. Most times because we're just not listening.

## DON McLEAN

Don McLean is an enigma. He's been making music on and off for 'bout ten years; all during high school, in college and out. He sings like a pop singer but he sounds like a folksinger and looks like a disheveled choir boy. He's crazy and gruff sometimes; but he's also shy, and he's used to being alone for long stretches. If you meet him you might think he was quiet and thoughtful — and he is, but not always. When asked about his music he says, "I see music as form and colour, not sound. Painters influence me sometimes."

On both "Tapestry" and "American Pie", the songs are programmed into a total statement.

"I don't write 'singles', I write whole stories that take a few songs to complete".

"American Pie", is the story of the last ten years. It's our story and Don's. For Don it is the death of Buddy Holly and a world without music. It's the end of a lot of things and the beginning of others. For us it's what we've been through and what the people have seen and what they hoped for. There is so much here that it might have better been spread over two albums. "American Pie", is a slice of what Don McLean has been thinking about since "Tapestry" and it is because of the variety of moods and the unique points of view that are taken, that make this record communicate. Besides "American Pie", there is "Vincennes" written for Van Gogh and "Crossroads". "Empty Chairs", is a story you might be telling. There is life and death and heaven and earth on this record.

"I did some of my best loafing this year", he says.

He's been playing concerts with Laura Nyro, Blood Sweat and Tears, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Dionne Warwick and "lots of other acts that I was never into but who have taught me things anyway".

He is now a popular and established TV and live performer, and as such is always welcome to Britain.

As someone once said, "His songs are honest and real, and if he seems to defy categorisation, it is because he is his own man. He does what he believes in and says what he feels".

Don McLean ON **United Artists Records**