Rock Talk
"Signals" by Rush: Masterpiece

By ROD ST. PIERRE
St. Dom's Staff Writer

From the first downbeat of 'Subdivision' to the last echoes of 'Countdown,' Rush's latest effort is a masterpiece of rock and roll. It matches a pace previously set down by 'Moving Pictures,' the album which brought them their first major publicity.

On side one it resembles those songs found on side two of 'Moving Pictures,' yet not so closely as to ruin the originality of the album. It starts off with 'Subdivision,' a song written by Neil Peart which shows his dislike of exclusive society cliques. This is especially noticeable in the lines, "Subdivisions — in the high school halls, in the shopping malls. Conform or be cast out," and "Nowhere is the dreamer of the misfit so alone."

The next track, entitled 'The Analog Kid,' is a song about summer daydreaming. It can be heard rather often on WBLM. Following it is 'Chemistry,' one of the few songs written by all of the members of Rush. It tries to explain the reasons behind human emotional bonds.

The last cut on side one is 'Digital Man,' an invigorating song which tells of the life of an individual living on a fixed schedule who has time only to dream of his goals.

Side two leads off with 'The Weapons,' a continuation of a mini-saga initiated on side two of 'Moving Pictures.' The next song is probably the most well known on the album. "New World Man' is their first hit ever to enter the American Top 40. With a beat resembling that of a Jamaican reggae band, it tells of a new breed of person who is forced to adapt to today's 'computer age' pace.

In my opinion, the next song, 'Losing It,' is the finest on the album. It deals with the feeling of one who has had fortune and fame, but, through some circumstances, has lost it and how that individual attempts a comeback but fails. This is exemplified in the quote, "Sadder still to watch it die than never to have known it. For you — the blind who once could see — The bells tolls for thee ..."

The final track on the album is 'Countdown,' a song about the launching of the space shuttle, Enterprise. Throughout the song, a backdrop is formed by actual recordings of communications from Mission Control to the shuttle. Also interdispersed are the sounds of jets rushing by and the whirling of helicopter blades.

Overall, I rate this album a high 9.

Unofficial Rush Trivia Quiz

Compiled by
ROD ST. PIERRE and LUC BERGERON
St. Dom's Staff Writers

1. During what year was Rush formed?
2. Who was the original drummer for their first album?
3. In what city is Rush based?
4. Name the three present-day members of Rush and the instruments they play?
5. What is Rush's symbol?
6. Who writes all of their lyrics?
7. What type of bird is on the cover of 'Fly By Night'?
8. How many albums has Rush released?
9. Name each album.
10. What is the one word uttered at the end of 'Didacts and Narpets'?
11. Which musical instrument was '2112' written about?
12. Which major historical event are the songs 'A Farewell To Kings' and 'Bastille Day' about?
13. On what album is the song 'Circumstances' found?
14. What is a 'Red Barchetta'?
15. Who plays electric violin on the track 'Losing It' from their latest album?

Rock Poll Results

By ROD ST. PIERRE
St. Dom's Staff Writer

Best Heavy Metal Group: Van Halen
  (HM) Judas Priest
Best Rock Group: Rush
  (HM) The Who
Best Top 40/Pop Group: Men At Work
  (HM) Chicago
Best New Wave Group: The Police
  (HM) The Clash
Best New Group of '82: Asia
  (HM) Men At Work
Worst Group of '82: The Go-Go's
  (DM) John Cougar
Best Album of '82: (Tie) Asia by Asia and Signals by Rush

Best Song of '82: Down Under by Men At Work
Best Guitarist: (Tie) Eddie Van Halen and Alex Lifeson (Rush)
Best Bassist: Geddy Lee (Rush)
  (HM) Christopher Squire of Yes
Best Drummer: Neil Peart (Rush)
  (HM) Keith Moon of The Who
Best Keyboard: Rick Wakeman of Yes
  (HM) Billy Joel
Best Male Vocalist: Robert Plant
  (HM) David Lee Roth of Van Halen
Best Female Vocalist: Pat Benatar
  (HM) Anne Wilson

(HM) Honorable Mention
(DM) DisHonorable Mention