Talking Rock

By Don Davis

This is the last in a series of three articles on the history of rock ‘n’ roll.

As important as the Beatles appear to have been on the rock ‘n’ roll scene in recent years, other British groups, such as the Rolling Stones (still the band with best-seller ‘N’ roll), the Who, the Kinks, the Yardbirds, the Animals, have also been influential. Their music has included rock ‘n’ roll, blues, folk music, and the beginning of rock ‘n’ roll, jazz, and soul music. These groups have been loosely classified as folk-rock because of the prototypical rock ‘n’ roll hit. Folk-rock hit the peak in September-October 1965, when almost all hits could be classified as folk-rock in that they employed folk-type chord changes.

Spark

It seems that folk-rock may have been just a spark which ignited an even bigger movement to more musically sophisticated, somewhat slower but still danceable music—still utilizing the amplified guitar, of course, as exemplified by the Beatles’ change from rock to songs such as ‘We Can Work It Out’ and ‘Norwegian Wood.’

Plans are almost complete for The Urban Challenge conference at MIT April 13-15. Three new speakers have been added within the past week: F. Bradford Morse, member of the US House of Representatives, will deliver the keynote address Friday, April 15; Wolf von Eckardt, Architecture Editor of The Washington Post, will speak on the Future Metropolis; Joseph Leiper, Chief Transportation Planner of the New York Department of City Planning, will replace Lytle Fitch on the panel on Transportation. Final arrangements are also being made for the bus tours of urban renewal areas in Boston.

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Dead Letter?

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