Now blues for Dave Van Ronk

By Jack Druthree

"Van Ronk, why did you go electric? It's cheaper than that!"

Dave Van Ronk, the blues singer with the incredible bolting voice, has got a brand new bag. His new guns now echo to the beating of a genial electric blues band, the Hudson's, Durham's, Bellott's.

The Hudson's Durham's Bellott's

"Just another folk singer cropping out on the idiot!" One immediately thinks of the legions of folkies who've abandoned accounts for electric, often with disastrous results. We hope that too, now, hasn't gone the way of imploded mediocrity. He hasn't.

The crutch which gave its first kick, "Keep Off the Grass" is a straight song! is an electric shock. The lead shaman rhythms overridles the vocals, which shares its power with lead guitarist, Dick Woods, and the organist, known simply as Pei. Remembering Van Ronk at Newport, you may at first be skeptical, but once you get into the swing of that sound is not just electric folk blues. Van Ronk is doing something different.

Modern blues

At the risk of being branded a pickaninnie, even if one is 'Twentieth Century Blues. But what is Blues? Blues is a hang-up. Blues is the noise you get when you hate a woman who's got a five dollar man. Muddy Waters sings of the eternal hang-up, a low-down woman, "no coast" man. Van Ronk, who got his start in the Negro blues tradition, takes blues to subcultures. In songs like "Mr. Mudder" he tells the hang-ups of the modern man. His electric, unlike Bitterfield and his rock, mirrors an electric society.

The lead guitar sets the frenetic pace, symptomatic of the human race. This is not to say that he has abandoned the old blues altogether. Those who saw him during his two week stint at the Boston can verify that this is not at all the case. His material is varied, ranging from blues standards like "Statesboro Blues," and "Alley Oop" is novelty hit of the Evergreens several years ago.

Robert's Diners, he is ably supported by the Chorus, who alone was a blues band. Ed Gregory, the recent, performance leave solos. Put performs an inspired organ. Dick Woods is no Blooz, but then who is? And Dick makes up for what he lacks in imagination with enthusiasm.

I can't give an unqualified blessing. Though he revitalizes the Unlucky "Swingin' on a Star" with his raucous roar, one feels that song by Jourdy Mitchell who wrote "This Time for Go- ing" (could best be done by music- ans. He nonetheless fascinated us with the sound of his voice, if not his meaning.

I'm sure that these are just growing pains, and that his up- coming albums on Venus Foon- will be a musical experience not to be missed.

Get high with a little help from your friends.

"Bam- bandy" "The Electric Circus"

7:45, 8:00 a.m. at 136 Massachusetts Ave.

This Year, over 800 people will be visiting several locations in the Boston area, serving tea and refreshments on the upper deck and advertising the opening of the Community's production of Harold Pinter's "The Drowsy Chaperone." The drive this year was the most successful yet, setting a new record for number of pints of blood donated by members of the Institute.

One member of the Blood Drive staff was absent, however, Thursday. The second day of the drive, the doctor who was to have been on duty called in sick, and some delay was experienced until a substitute could be found.

The blood collected at the drive will be processed by the Red Cross and credited to the account of the New England Hemophilia Association. The Red Cross will separate the whole blood, in this AFP (the clotting factor required by hemophiliacs), plasma, and others needed donors.

Any hemophiliac who needs blood in this area will be able to receive it free by drawing on the American Red Cross's blood bank.

The IFC Blood Drive collects record 334 pints for use in hemophilia treatment

The IFC Hemophilia Blood Drive this year was the most successful yet, setting a new record for number of pints of blood donated by members of the Institute. The drive this year collected 334 pints, almost 40 more than the 295 pints collected two years ago and 10 more than last year's total.

Blood Drive Chairman Boi Marsh '87 felt that this year's drive had suffered no much from absenteeism as in the past. After 50 original pints, about 425 were cleared by the Red Cross for use, of which 30 were not collected.

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There will be a Streetedge Charles's living room every night from 8:30-10:30. For further information, contact me this Saturday at 6:15.

This year, the performances will consist of a number of small groups and soloists. If you have an idea for a performance, please call me, 664-8961.

Outside, at 6:30 on the roof, Dickie Canfield will present a slide show on "The Electric Circus." He will give a guided tour of the ceiling.

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