Jesse Colin Young is together

Together – Jesse Colin Young (Raccoon)

Jesse Colin Young has put out a solo album, and, somewhat surprisingly, it isn’t just a Youngbloods album under a different name on the lines of a Graham Nash album or a David Crosby disc. In fact, the closest to the Youngbloods he comes, is having ex-member Jerry Corbitt singing harmonies and recent addition (actually, not an official member) Richard “Earthquake” Anderson on harmonica. Together is the first solo venture for Jesse Colin Young since an effort on Capitol, where he was just getting started back in Cambridge, hanging around with people like Tom Rush. It’s a safely beautiful record, ensconced with a kind of warmth and joy, something that has marked the bulk of his work ever since his start back in the early sixties, and right through his Youngbloods’ work to the present. Together is just so very typical, in that it makes the listener feel good, something that very few records do nowadays.

The songs on Together are mostly covers of other’s work, but they come off new, fresh, and different at the hands of Mr. Youngblood. He probably does the best non-rock version of “Sweet Little Sixteen” with some really nice new sections worked in. On the whole, though, the idea they present are so very real that you can’t help laugh – less at the record than at the things they are parodying. Whether Cheech and Chong’s approach will prove too limited to produce more good albums will remain to be seen; this album is somewhat provincial but is undeniably more popular in Los Angeles than it is here; but such diverse cuts as “Blind Man’s Bluff” and “Peace” would be just as funny anywhere and show a lot of promise.

The trend in comedy is encouraging. One-liner geniuses like Bob Hope and Jack Carter are definitely from the musical and movie world – a new generation of humorists is coming to take their place, without using one-liners in the true sense.