carb quartet

The Alban Berg Quartet of Vienna gave a concert last Saturday, November 6, in Konecny Auditorium, performing music of Chausson, Stravinsky, and Beethoven. We must thank the MIT Guest Artist Series for bringing on a group of the highest order to the Berg Quartet, who enjoy a reputation not only in the finest young quartet in the world — their concert last Sunday was more than born out that reputation.

An impeccable played Mozart Quartet in D Major, K. 499, was the final item on the program. A gentle opening movement (allegretto) led into a Minuet that, while seemingly momentary, had a rustic, bucolic quality reminiscent of Haydn. The Adagio was both beautiful and bewitching. The Berg Quartet has a marvelous way of making slow movement breathless, for playing not only with the highest degree of exterior polish, but also capturing the inner movement, making each new phrase grow organically out of the last. The final allegro was a high-spirited little piece whose sparkle was exquisitely captured by the ensemble. Their performance of this Mozart quartet embodied all the qualities of the classic manuscript style: drive, grace, and beauty.

Strawinsky's Three Pieces and Concertino for String Quartet both date from 1922. Written in Strawinsky's extravagant, neo-classic style, they were a complete contrast to the Mozart. The Berg Quartet's performance captured all the biting, ironic humor of the music. The rhythmic savagery was brought out, too, at times the attack and precision of the playing was incredible.

The final piece on the program was Beethoven's Quartet in C sharp minor, Op. 131. Its seven movements are played without a break. Of all Beethovens late quartets, I have always found Op. 131 the most difficult to understand, though I've heard a number of different recordings by the Budapest, Hungarian, and Busch Quartets. From the opening Again the Alban Berg Quartet's performance commanded attention. Compared to the Busch Quartet, their manner throughout was relatively restrained. But in these three the entire piece had a logical flow, such that by the final B minor I felt I understood something of what Beethoven was trying to say. Through their interpretation with the mysticism of Beethoven's last style, the quartet conjured an intense concentration throughout, and so held together superbly the entire piece.

In all three pieces, classic, neo-classic, and romantic, respectively, the Alban Berg Quartet played atmospherically and convincingly, with superb technical discipline. It was the finest chamber concert I've heard at MIT or anywhere else, for a long time.

Randy Grace

b. e. taylor

Innovation. B. E. Taylor on MCA Records.

I must confess that Innovation was the first I heard of the B. E. Taylor Group. Instead of being unexpressed as expected, I was pleasantly shocked by the quality of this album.

The B. E. Taylor Group is a four-man band (you named it) B. E., with excellent vocals and driving vocals. The bass and guitars were charged in the album, and it seemed like a cross of Nat Kerr. In addition, Jerry D'Amico and Rick Wieskurtz were particularly impressive on drums and percussion/percussion. All the did vocals at one point or another. Particularly good were the vocals added by Donnie Iris, whose song "Tough Woman" is currently riding the charts in its second week.

Getting into the record itself, I'd have to say that side one was simply tremendous. The lineup of "Never Hold Back. "Stand Up for Love," "I Like the Way I Feel," "Be My Baby," and "Not Enough Love" was of consistently good quality.

Undoubtedly, the best song would have to be "I Like the Way I Feel," definitely of top 40 caliber though it has remained unreleased. The sound and lyrics were reminiscent of vintage ELO and REO if you currently rising the charts in its second week.

However, I was very disappointed at B. E. Taylor for including a rerecorded copy of "He Baby." The original version was written by the team of Spencer, Greenwich, and Barry. Other than that, the first side was filled with incredibly solid music.

Unfortunately, as is the case with most albums (low exceptions being The Cars, Hi, J. D.illa, and "Backbeat" albums, the flip side was abysmal. The songs were merely a collection of poor dissonant garage, serving no purpose other than as filler material. The first side makes the record quite worthwhile, even if you never intend to turn it over.

Mike Haller

bogus beans

Items from Our Catalog by Alfred Gin-
gold: our B-52s, paper back. $4.95.

A down yarmulke, available in fiv-er colors and five sizes, is GIVEY, is said to be "suitable for bar mitzvah, bat mitzvah, wedding, etc." Traditional brimless shape, recommended for regular or Greek Prayer Shawls. Mante is for sale ("multiple orders") for $16,000,000 plus $3.70 for postage. The state is described as "handsome, rural area in the Northeast United States. Ocean view. Weather is seasonal with us-ually harsh winters. Small cities and towns break up wilderness, permit access to pizza, beer, bison, conversation.

Also available are baby's. At about six pounds, these are "fully functional infants. Cries when hungry, sleepy or just because. Hunt wash with warm water and mild soap, then put dry with soft cloth or towel. Internal mechanisms, woman cleaning. Baby is guaranteed cute, soft and cuddly. Wind up in 20 min. out a break. Of all Beethovens late quadrants, I've heard..." The listings go on: Dog's Poo Scoop/ Home Permanent Carrier kit. "No more ink smudges on clothes!...for our GoyTex Prayer Shawl.' Our Sunday Paper Carrier ("No more ink smudges on cloth-
20".)..." Our Own Marijuana, Nour-ished Beef (cane color), cement. Traffic Cone.

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The catalog has been released just in time for the 1982 holiday season. Our Christmas gift ideas are sure to win over for someone you would have given an L.L. Bean product instead. Unlike

Stuart Gllow