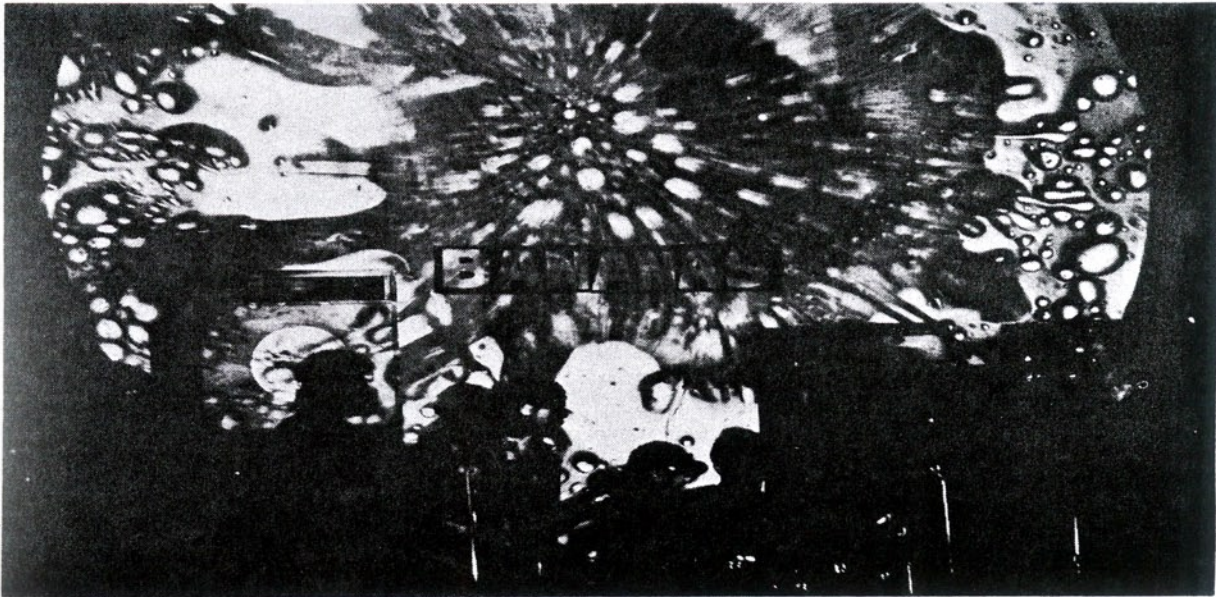


Photo by Smolan



Claude Jones and the Babylonian Pigpen Light Obligato

Claude Jones, Light Obligato Present Grand Rock Concert

by MIKE SNYDER

For the first time in its history, Dickinson College played host to a real, live, professional, progressive rock band, and a real, live professional kinetic light show. This past Saturday night, March 14, from Washington, D.C., came both the band, *Claude Jones*, one of the better groups originating in that city, and the Babylonian Pigpen Light Obligato, specializing in mind-expanding lighting, and having as one of its member, Dickinsonian Doug McCullough. The combination of the two was devastatingly great, to say the least.

The whole evening was such a total visual and aural experience that it is difficult to fragment the concert into individual songs and accompanying lighting effects. Some facts were pretty clear. *Claude Jones* was merely tremendous, on a higher plane, but somewhat reminiscent of our own, now-departed *Charlotte's Web*.

If anyone came to the concert expecting a glorified "quad band," they were sure to be surprised. The group was together, yet loose. The members of the band had a sense of being almost a family. They each managed to maintain some degree of individuality in their performances, but they all came across as one *Claude Jones*.

Considering individual talent, the lead singer, the lead guitarist, the back-up vocals by the rhythm guitarist, and the percussion by all involved stand out in my mind.

Their essential style is too soaring and diverse to directly classify, but the band's music housed elements of country, blues, jazz and mostly just good ol' rock n' roll. I personally got the biggest kick out of *Claude Jones'* own songs and, of all the others, their rendition of Fred Neil's "Other Side of This Life." The only spot where the band might have lost some of their dynamic thrust of sound was with some of the slow-tempo songs, but even these came off well.

The members of the group exhorted people to dance if they felt the urge, keeping things pretty relaxed. They reacted well with and to the audience, and the pervading air was one of happiness. The Social Hall, where the concert was played, is sort of large for this kind of presentation. Hence, the sound could have been better, excepting if one was near the stage and directly assaulted by those high decibals.

One thing appears pretty positive. This band is going places. They give off waves of good-time music, good vibes, and plenty of good promise of future success.

The Babylonian Pigpen Light Obligato has to be one of the finest light shows that I have ever seen. That's no small compliment, since I have experienced the Fillmore's famed Joshua Light Show. Visuals were stunning all night. They were always diverse and colorful, integrating well with the band's performance. Particularly impressive was the "space" vista that was presented, and the projected messages to the audience were a clever touch.

The lights could be appreciated throughout the Social Hall, but it was nice if one was up front and in the middle of things. There, the audio-visual attack on the senses was fully realized—a veritable trip for the eyes and ears (almost like being at your neighborhood "psychedelic dungeon," be it Philly's Electric Factory or N.Y.C.'s Electric Circus).

The reactions of the good-sized, zonked-out crowd at the end of the concert showed that there is a place for this kind of thing here at D'son. There should surely be more productions like this one.

Yes, my friends, Saturday night, a true cultural void or vacuum that exists in Carlisle had been temporarily filled, and it was, as both the light show and audience put it, *Outasite!*