

# Atlanta Rhythm Section drags on

By ERIC MOBEY

As the Pine Knob season draws to a close so does the excitement of outdoor music. The atmosphere at the Atlanta Rhythm Section concert Friday was lackluster at best.

In the beginning of the evening, it was difficult to get a finger on the reason for such a small crowd. Was it because of the lack of popularity of ARS in the north, or the cold weather? For that matter, what brings a reviewer out to write about a group with such a middling status? Perhaps those who stayed home knew something I didn't.

On recordings, the Atlanta Rhythm Section sound tight and talented. Songs like "Imaginary Lover," "So into You" and "I'm Not Gonna Let It Bother Me Tonight" were enough to get the reviewer out to see the boys from Georgia.

UNFORTUNATELY, ARS is best left on the turntable. The concert was

## Review

spotty with only the more popular tunes drawing any real interest.

From the beginning things were not in order. Warm-up act Paul Davis failed to show and was replaced by local folk artist Andrea O'Day. O'Day's inexperience was obvious and her folk repertoire was incongruous with ARS' format.

Perhaps it is a tradition for southern rock bands to make their audience wait a ridiculously long time before they take the stage. I've seen several southern bands use this time delay to let their audience consume more alcohol and get properly rowdy.

In any event, ARS took way too long to take the stage and there was no purpose in the long intermission. Their equipment was set up well in advance

of their arrival onstage and they should have been ready to play.

When ARS finally took the stage, they tuned their instruments while a recorded soundtrack blared through the speakers. The music was obviously meant to set a mood but it was ostentatious and more fitting to a Roone Arledge production than a rock concert.

FINALLY THE STAGE lights came on to reveal a group that looked more

suited to studio work than a stage show.

After the opening number, lead singer Ronnie Hammond mumbled something about the cold weather affecting the equipment but it was more of a statement than an apology. Hammond appeared to be pretty well lit. He took several long chugs off a After all, I'm sure ARS will not make the first family wait as long as they did at Pine Knob. Besides, there's no future in waiting for Jimmy and Roslyn to get drunk and rowdy, is there?

## 'Lord of the Flies' tops next program

William Golding's "The Lord of the Flies" and Bette Davis in "Stranded" will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday at the Brumley Conservatory of Music in Royal Oak.

Man for All Seasons" in color with Paul Scofield and Orson Welles at 8:45 p.m.

The conservatory is at 316-14 S. Main, Royal Oak, phone 398-5714 or 546-6557.



## Puckish posies

Erick Devine as Oberon and John Morgan Lund as Puck (right) appear in the Hilberry Theatre production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which opens the 1978-79 repertory season at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6. A revival of last spring's production, the Shakespeare comedy also plays Saturday, Oct. 7, and will continue in the repertory through December. Tickets and complete schedule information are available at the box office in the Hilberry Lobby, Cass and Hancock, Detroit, telephone, 577-2972.

## Opera 'Salome' shown on screen

"Salome" (1956), an opera by Richard Strauss, will be shown at 6:50 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Oak Public Library's 1978 Fall Film Series. Elaine Mablin and the NBC Opera Theater are featured.

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