

Neil Young
"Under Review-76-06"
Sexy Intellectual
by Jonathan Mariante

This 30 year chunk of the legendary rocker's career is profiled in the (unauthorized) documentary. A number of well known rock writers/journalists and other "insiders" offer their commentary on his music and his career. Every album from this period, beginning with "American Stars And Bars", is discussed in detail. The featured people comment on not only the music and what they think of it, but also its impact and significance to music and the world in general, and how what was happening in the world and in Young's personal life, influenced how he wrote his music. Everyone talks about the ups and downs of each album, and of Neil's life and career. Neil was always afraid to repeat himself, so he always tried to make each of albums radically different from the last one. Each album was kind of a "departure" for him. This sometimes confused his fans, sometimes even left them out and out disappointed. Neil lost his footing and regained it again several times during his career. Just when it looked like things were over for him, he would make an album that would rescue and re-establish his career. How he earned the title "Godfather Of Grunge" is also discussed, but one reporter vehemently disagrees with this. Also mentioned is how Kurt Cobain quoted a Neil Young lyric in his suicide note. It's ironic how the so-called "Godfather Of Grunge" was also (indirectly) involved with its demise. Then we move on to some of Neil's more recent work, which could sometimes be self-indulgent. Some believe that Neil has "lost it", no longer has a part to play in music, and that he's just resting on his laurels now. That's an arguable point, but there's no denying Neil's talent, impact, and influence on music. The man is a living legacy and has a musical style that's all his own. This is an interesting insight into this part of his career. A Neil Young quiz is also included as a bonus item. Look out, this one's a tuffie!