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Maurice Gibb

TO ALAN SMITH

—No. 4 ‘I’m a bit of a raver’ admits

Maurice Gibb

MEET A BEE GEE

FF I were a film casting director
I’ve a feeling I could visualize
Maurice as the house-cleaner
brown-haired, 30, him, son of an
Indian chief, what with those
high cheekbones that dip inward
and give him the lean, hungry
proud look of a brave out to kill
weeping-eyed Indians who speak
in languages he doesn’t understand.
Maurice sets himself in another
light. He would have tried to
have been Clyde in ‘Bonnie And
Clyde’, having the Western feature
with deference because it struck
him as a real, human theme.
His deep-set eyes light up as he
views the picture intently about
himself, his small hands restless
while he rests them on the
success and the lifetime stretching
in front of him.

‘It’s a nice idea,’ he told me,
talking about things like this once
in a while. ‘If the picture knows
me just a fact in a photo graph.

The first time I met Maurice he
was carrying an old single by
Lorraine Ellison, “Buy Me My
Lines,” which he threw on to the
record player with urgency and
delight.

He raved, even the man there
also doing his own impressions of
Brian and his greatest dream
including death.

Apart from death, the
most mature and sensible
thing Maurice has ever
admits is the bit of a raver.

Maurice looks back with a
slight sense of awe on the way he
was a nice idea,’ he told me,
“Stay With Me Baby,” which he thrust on to the
audition they did for Robert Stig-

Gibb, Sam and Don and gave him my word I
wouldn’t treat her no worse than my

He’s quick-witted
and
impulsive, romantic, nostalgic
and

To the Editor

Maurice Gibb

1. He’s quick-witted

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YOU HAVE TO BE TOUGH TO SURVIVE SAYS GENE PITNEY

TOUGH, hard-bitten Gene Pitney, the star with a dollar sign in each eye, the Sir John Wilder of pop. That is how many people inside and outside of the business see the 28-year-old American singer with seven hit-making years at the top of his profession. But all that is far from the truth, as those who have worked with and know Pitney will tell you.

Benjamin, shrewd and efficient Gene is never known for lengthly prominence at the top is evident of that. He is not the unapproachable, back-stabbing, ruthless type of people see him as.

Instead, under that veneer of toughness he is a sometimes soft and often generous and kind character.

The truth is that Gene is purely and simply a hardened professional in a ruthless profession who allows incompetence and amateurism in all forms. And in the knifedge world of pop, as Gene learnt early in life, you either learn the game or you are plaything for people just you do not survive.

Gene's early background and his struggle to succeed in what he had always wanted to do taught him this. All the heartbreaks and disappointments of Gene's early background and his struggles he had carved what was a tense wound-up person.

Anyway, Gene's twin aims were set higher than his small hometown. He wanted to be a singer, to write songs, and for that he knew he would have to get to far-off New York.

So, with a strong will to succeed, he went to work in the English tobacco fields, haying under canvas covers in temperatures of up to 100 degrees to raise his fare.

Many, many times Gene made the trip to New York, with a bundle of demos under his arm, grinding his way round the doors of the various song publishers, only to be turned away time after time.

Each time he would go home to Hertford a disappointment but he has his soft spots!

He came from a not very well to-do family in Hartford, Connecticut, where his father worked in a local aviation factory and the young Gene, taught by an old country trapper, used to be an expert at trapping and trapping made him and his relatives feel at home in the forests of New England.

But though the ruthless image is false one, it is Gene himself who is pretty responsible for building a false front for his own self-protection.

But no character is flawless. The one thing that Gene has is his human fault, his capacity lack of ability to delegate authority to anybody else. This stems from his burning desire to do it all for himself, to have full control at all times.

Kindness

He is also a kind and generous person—One of the kinder people I have ever met says his friend and publicist Robin Bloom.

In the world of pop, Gene took over EMI's publicity three years ago. He was just beginning in the business and the young inexperienced pop singer with no personal staff, no publicists, no money to pay off.

But though the ruthless image is a false one, it is Gene himself who is responsible for building a false one, it is Gene who is building a false front for his own self-protection.

The image is false too. GENE PITNEY discussing his current hit "Something's Got A Hold Of My Heart" with his writers DAVID and JONATHAN.

It went like a bomb and Gene was just a young inexperienced pop singer with a pitcher for chart-topping him and at the mercy of any shrewd operator who happened to be around.

Of his image as a tough operator he grew up about three years ago when Gene paid out of all his existing contracts. Since then he has managed himself and negotiated all his own contracts.

And groups that have toured with him know that the unapproachable image is false too.

Gene makes it his business to get himself seen to be paying off. Every act he books he becomes immediately responsible for and on opening nights he will go round all the dressing rooms to meet all the stars and lay on drinks for them.

"If I am handling a tour I sometimes seem to become a sort of father figure to the acts," says Gene. "I seem to be becoming 'Grandaddy' of the tour businessmen."

But Gene is also a kind and generous person. One of the kinder people I have ever met says his friend and publicist Robin Bloom.

But though the ruthless image is a false one, it is Gene himself who is pretty responsible for building a false front for his own self-protection.
OUT of the blue beyond, the strains of a thousand harps sigh softly on the wind and through a crack in the clouds they figure descends to the watching, waiting millions.

The traveller on the seas of dissent and hate, voyager through the skies of love, is home again on mother earth. Donovan, will-o'-the-wisp wing-footed prophet and poet of pop, has returned from beyond with his latest offering.

The watching millions sway in gentle apprehension. The singer strums his guitar and begins: "First there is a mountain then there is no mountain then there is a mountain."

When it is all over he holds court and begins to talk.

"There's no mountain then there is a mountain."

About the sound of his records: "It should be the strain of the sea in your mouth and in your head.

"There's no mountain then there is a mountain."

Flower power: "Love Power" and "Flower Power" are very inadequately pleases to try to say how big this movement is because it began a long, long time ago. The only thing is that it gets halted with wars and people tend to think that it's a new thing.

"There's no mountain then there is a mountain."

"First there is a mountain then there is no mountain then there is a mountain."

When it is all over he holds court and begins to talk.

"There's no mountain then there is a mountain."

About his "magic" as a performer: "I don't think it's just a reincarnation thing, but it's in the blood of my own. It's Celtic, Scottish and the minions. The magic that you hear in the songs and things was all based around the Celtic mythology of England.

"There's no mountain then there is a mountain."

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About the Maharishi: "He's a great guy, and there's a lot of speculation about whether he's just another one but the thing is I wouldn't even speak with him if he wasn't simple. I met the man and I knew that he was what I instinctively knew was a holy man. He's straightening everybody out.

Source

"I just draw from that source. So the magic is here. Some people would call it madness; I like to call it magic."

About Gypsy Dave: "He's of a travelling kind. Maybe it's in his blood. His bond structure body builds, and it's a nickname for him. He's been in the whole travelling scene.

"There's no mountain then there is a mountain."

"It's going to be a fantastic tour. He's got fanatics and it's going to be a fantastic thing, which is going to change them from how they feel anyway. He's just going to brighten their intensity.

About songwriting: "When I'm working a lot I don't write like quiet times, when I'm by myself, but sometimes they just come squeezing out. They come from a source so vast—so many songs are underneath in my head—that I just pull them down and when I feel that they are there I try to put them into something and make them into songs. But I can't write anywhere.

The poet thus spake, and hav spoken returned whereas he had come into the clouds to pull down more goodies from the skies.

DONOVAN

talking to NICK LOGAN

Christmas Special
NEXT WEEK'S NME
on sale THURSDAY

Sorry folk.

an apology on behalf of the
BONZO DOG DOG/DOLPH BAND
for any delay in obtaining or receiving
GORILLA...LP
EQUESTRIAN STATUE,
& THE INTRO & THE OUTRO
LBL 15040
NOW READILY AVAILABLE

On sale Friday, week ending December 16, 1967

My sincere and grateful thanks to you all.

Luv,

DUSTY

Issued on behalf of the Afro/ Eskimo Hunchback One-Eyed Flash Gordon Brain Surgeon Trust for greater restrictive garments & their pals.
**JOHN SAYS:**

**I NEED THE MONEY**

I HAD a few words with John and Scott Walker to find out how they viewed the Walker Brothers construction.

"The reason is Pm broke," laughed John, "and the situation is such that we need the money. We had promised them to return and we are keeping the promise. They're giving us so much money we will have to do it again!"

"I don't think there'll be any friction. Our last tour was really quite smoothly except for one incident where there was a mistake to break up the tour."

"We could have come out of millions but it's like having a good horse, once you begin breaking it, you break it in that way. But in Japan we are allowed to speak properly to the fans."

"The last time we have to go again-"

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"The last time we have to go again-"
**FINDERS KEEPERS**

"Friday Night On Monday" (Fontana)

A comprehensive performance by Finders Keepers. It's one of those discs that make you feel good to be alive. The well-mannered man, the ol' school leader, still in possession of some incredible soul numbers, is here to stay. These boys have music in their bones. From this Greaseman suburban manner, which isn't used to the lightly andromantic, they take us straight to the 'Flame'.

**LIVE FOR LIFE**

The English version of the theme song of the film, "Live For Life". The melody is set to music by the remarkable Mr. M. and his Mule of the Muses, with a commendable lyric by a young American, Mr. Howard. The lyrics are by Mr. John and Mr. Bob and the music by Mr. M. The song was recorded at the Mule of the Muses, with assistance from Mr. Bob and Mr. John. The disc was released to the world and it was received with great joy and enthusiasm. The album was supported by a national tour, radio, press and television advertising.

**FLIP**

A fantastic disc, this one, especially during the time with a Thompson, and Jackie giving out a great performance. Again, Jim's that Shorin influence.


**LINDA ROOKES (Southsea): Chris Farlowe's "The Handbags And Gladgards" is one of his most beautiful and sensitive records. Written, arranged and produced by Mike d'Abo, it shows where Mike's talent really lies.**

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SANDIE SHAW,
THE KINKS, DONOVAN,
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THE SEARCHERS,
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LONNIE DONEGAN,
MAX BYGRAVES,
EDMUND HOCKRIDGE,
MAX MILLER,
CHRIS BARBER,
ACKER BILK
AND MANY OTHER STAR ARTISTES

Britain's Top 15 LPs

1. **SOUND OF MUSIC**
   Soundtrack (RCA)  
   2. **SET. PEPPERS LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND**
   Beatles (Parlophone)  
   3. **KIL BOOCHEN ROCKS, BUT GENTLY**
   Hans Conried (TENOR)  
   4. **BRITISH CHARTBUSTERS**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   5. **BREAKTHROUGH**
   Various Artists (RCA)  
   6. **LAST WALTZ**
   Elton John (TENOR)  
   7. **BOLD AS LOVE**
   Jimi Hendrix (RCA)  
   8. **THE CROWD**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   9. **BE MY GIRL**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   10. **BETTE MIDLER**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   11. **GREASE**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   12. **BEST OF THE BANDS**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   13. **ONE MAN'S JOURNEY**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   14. **ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  
   15. **UNLIKELY**
   Various Artists (TENOR)  

The new LP from the ALAN PRICE SET on DECCA
DUSTY SPRING TOUR, WEST END RETURN, BIG TV SPEC.

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD is to undertake a British concert tour in April. Negotiations are nearing completion for her to play a return cabaret engagement at London's Talk Of The Town. Gigs appearances at two major continental festivals have been fixed. Dusty is also set for two weeks in cabaret at provincial venues, as well as a headlining appearance in an ATV spectacular. A new single and LP will be released immediately after Christmas.

Vikki Carr March dates

Vikki Carr will see in her fourth season in London, commencing with a major British tour. The tour is being arranged by Johnny Burn, who also serves as her manager in the States. Like the previous tours, Dusty's cabaret engagements will be at the Talk Of The Town, London. Dates have been confirmed for the tour, but the other venues will be announced later.

Lulu, Scott 'Town' cabaret?

LULU, currently on tour in Britain with the top 50 singer, is expected to stage her first cabaret in the New York. Although dates have yet to be confirmed, the shows will probably be staged at the Talk Of The Town, London, and the Empire, Liverpool. Details will be announced later.

Hectic New Year for Spence

A hectic schedule of British and overseas dates has been lined up for Sandie Shaw in the New Year. Dates have already been confirmed for the tours, and will be announced later.

BEACH BOYS WITH RAVI IN PARIS SHOW THIS WEEK

The Beach Boys are about to embark on a Paris tour this week, which will feature on their album. They are expected to stage their concerts in Paris, as well as the TV transmission.

FAME CONCERTS IN MAYFAIR

The Mayfair Club, in London, is to stage a series of concert performances, featuring Michael Ball and Richard Kiel. Details will be announced later.

THE CALIFORNIONS

Sunday will be the same for Dusty.

GODFREY WINN

The Gentle Touch Among the list of stars to appear is Godfrey Winn, who will be appearing at the Talk Of The Town.

HARRY H. CORBETT

with the Underwater Flowers

Flower Power Opry 1967

TWO & A HALF

I don't want you to phone,

JACKIE WILSON

Since you showed me how to be happy

DOUBLE FEATURE

Handbags and good naps

BOOTS RANDOLPH

Big Daddy won't

BRENDA & THE TABULATIONS

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA

SYD GREENDies

in Festival Hall

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

On sale Friday, week ending December 16, 1966

On sale Friday, week ending December 16, 1966

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

MATTHEW MARY III

NEW SERIES

ATV: Tom, Topol, Clark, Shads

ABC: DODDY MUSIC BOX RETURNS

Tom, Traffic, Frankie, Tremeloes — and more — in your Radio 1 Xmas

POOL IN OPERA HOUSES

YARDBIRDS STAY AGAIN

POP TV CHRISTMAS, BIG STAR NEW YEAR

The two special editions of BBC's "Top Of The Pops" surveying the major hits of 1966 will be screened on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. As well as the chart-toppers, the Yardbirds have filmed a sequence for the shows. Exact transmission times of the Beatty TV programmes are to be announced. The Yardbirds are due to make an appearance at the Talk Of The Town, London, Christmas Day, with the Jimi Hendrix Experience and解散的斯内普乐队. The band is immediately after Christmas.

THE ROLLING STONES

Marianne signed

Dee men crash in blizzard

Two men died in a crash in the blizzard. Brian Jones, the guitarist of the Rolling Stones, and his driver, were killed in the accident. Brian's body was found in the car, which had crashed into a tree. The other man, who was not identified, was also killed. The accident occurred on a rural road.

PARAMOR GOES INDEPENDENT

Paramore, the British pop group, is to release a new single, "The Girl I Used To Love," on its own independent label, Paramore Records. The band has been working on the single, and hopes it will be a hit. The group is due to make an appearance at the Talk Of The Town, London, Christmas Day.

THE PROCOL HARUM

Procol Harum are due to make an appearance at the Talk Of The Town, London, Christmas Day.

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DECCA group records

THE CALIFORNIONS

Godfrey Winn

Harry H. Corbett

Jolly Good Fellow

double feature

Handbags and good naps

Boots Randolph

the Underwater Flowers

Flower Power Opry

1967

2 & 1/2

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA

Syd Green Dies

FLOYD SPRING AWAY

From a movie

PARAMOR GOES INDEPENDENT

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**DUSTY SPRING TOUR, WEST END RETURN, BIG TV SPEC.**

**JUSTY SPRINGFIELD** is to undertake a British concert tour in April. Negotiations are nearing completion for her to play a return concert engagement at London's Talk Of The Town. Gigs appearances at two major continental festivals have been final. Dusty is also set for two weeks in cabaret at provincial venues, as well as a headlining appearance in an ATV spectacle. A new single and LP will be released immediately after Christmas.

**Vikki Carr March dates**

**Vikki Carr** will one of Britain's most recent to trend, continuing with a major British tour. The tour will begin in early April, and she is scheduled to appear in the provinces, London, and provincial cabaret. She will be accompanied by her regular band, the Dusty Strings. Dates will be announced shortly.

**Lulu, Scott 'Town' cabaret?**

**Lulu** — who starred in Britain's top girl group — is reported to have signed a cabaret deal with the Town Topic Club in the West End. Details are still to be announced, but it is expected that she will be performing in the cabaret on a regular basis.

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**BRITAIN'S MUSICAL TRIDENTS AT PETERSHAM THEATRE, BATH.**

**Traffic** are to appear at this week's Peterhams Theatre, Bath. The trio is expected to perform several of their recent hits, as well as some of their older material.

**BRAZIL, ARGENTINE, HAWAII, FRISCO, L.A. FOR THE TREMS**

**Massey tour plans for the Trems** — covering the major cities of North and South America — have been confirmed this week by their manager, Peter Walsh. U.S. bookings include concerts in Dallas, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. In South America the group will play concerts in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Santiago de Chile. The Trems' next single — which returns to the "happy" style of "Here Comes My Baby" — is due out in the next week. Other details will be announced shortly.

---

**New Year For Spence**

**Shad Hank solo, new Beach Boys single, rush Baldry LP, Fury**

**New Year** for **Spence** — who starred in Britain's top girl group — is expected to be an exciting one. She is scheduled to appear in several concerts this year, as well as a headlining appearance in an ATV spectacle. A new single and LP will be released immediately after Christmas.

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**BEACH BOYS WITH RAVI IN PARIS SHOW THIS WEEK**

The **Beach Boys** are set to play in Paris this week. They will perform in the cabaret on a regular basis. Dates will be announced shortly.

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**FAME CONCERTS IN MAYFAIR**

**Gary Brooker,** frontman of the Procol Harum band, is expected to perform in several concerts this year. Dates will be announced shortly.

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**YABEON START AGAIN**

**The Yabeon** are set to start again in the New Year. Dates will be announced shortly.

---

**THE CALIFORNIANS**

**Sunday will be the same**

**Godfrey Winn**

**Harley & the Tabulations**

**The Gentle Touch**

**Two & A Half**

**I don't want to tell you**

**Double Feature**

**Handbags and Glad Rags**

**Bobots Randolph**

**Boots Randolph**

**Brenda & the Tabulations**

**The Gentle Touch**

**For your information**

**Viki Carr**

**JACKIE WILSON**

**Since you showed me how to be happy**

**Count Basie & His Orchestra**

**Greenwich Village**

---

**PARAMOR GOES INDEPENDENT**

**The Nippon** are set to go independent in the New Year. Dates will be announced shortly.
LAST week the NME readers voted Engelbert Humperdinck the top New Singer of 1967 by a huge margin of nearly 3,000 votes, and thus summed up for me what I am setting out to say in this NME salute to him—THAT ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGING FIND OF THE YEAR AND POSSIBLY OF THE DECADE. Yet only in January he was almost unknown. I knew of him as Gerry Dorsey and wondered, when he changed his name in mid-1966 to Engelbert Humperdinck, how anyone could make a cumbersome name like that famous.

He went to the 1966 Knokke Song Contest with that name and although he gained a measure of success on the Continent and performed with "Dommage Dommage" it didn't do anything for him here. But now, in December, 1967, it is a household word (or couple of words). He has proved that if you have the voice, the song, the personality and the will to win, you can make any name famous.

He has proved that you can improve out of all recognition in less than a year, too. He's shown us, too, that one No. 1 can be followed by another within a year, at a time when No. 1's are hard to come by.

If anyone has gained confidence and ease from success it is in the tall, elegant, wide-smiling, deep-toned Engelbert Humperdinck. I saw him as "Special Guest Star" in the Walker Brothers package show at the end of March. I wasn't very impressed. He sang well enough his one hit at that time, "Release Me," but his backing group and presentation seemed unworthy and he himself looked ill at ease in a show that was primarily beat.

Eight months passed and late in October I went to see Engelbert Humperdinck again this time starring in his own show, a production skilfully built round him and befitting a ballad singer. I had heard glowing reports of Engelbert's performances during the summer when he packed theatres at top seaside resorts, so I expected a lot.

I got it! Engelbert was easily the star of the night. And his drawing power was most evident in front of the Adelphi Theatre, Slough. There were about six queues on the broad forecourt, all four and six abreast and stretching for what looked like miles. They were waiting on a cold and rather windy night to see Engelbert. The first show had overrun a bit partly due to the fact that he likes to give his adoring audiences as much of himself as he possibly can. After a thoroughly entertaining supporting bill, I marvelled at Engelbert's art and his improvement in the months since I'd seen him before.

He added to the controlled, relaxed and so vibrant singing some sly comedy and a remarkably good impression of Frankie Vaughan, plus an easy style of communicating with his audience.

I came away from the theatre that night convinced that in Engelbert Humperdinck we have a new star of great magnitude ready to take his place in the world's sparsely-populated hall of entertainment fame.
"I'm the luckiest guy on earth"

"I'm definitely one of the luckiest men on earth. More things have happened for me in the last year than I could ever possibly have dreamed," so says one of the most phenomenally successful names in show business, Engelbert Humperdinck.

"Sometimes when I wake up in the mornings I just can't realise all that's happening. It may sound corny but believe me there's no time when I just can't believe it's real."

Certainly, few artists have achieved as much in less than a year as Engelbert. "The song contest in Knokke Le Zoute last year was a major turning point for me," Engel told me. "I began getting lots of work on the Continent thanks to the TV exposure I got at Knokke. By the end of last year he was dividing his time between playing clubs in the North of England and doing cabaret abroad. The only difference was that when he played in Holland or Belgium he was a major star."

His record "Dommage Dommage," went to No. 1 in both countries and although it was frequently played here it failed to make the charts. "I just wish the British public would accept me the way the Belgians have," I remember he said. "I knew it was something every-where and although it only took long enough for everyone to buy "Release Me" to boost it to No. 1, and put the millions sales mark."

A few years playing working men's clubs gaining experience I couldn't have done it." The public recognised this. They knew that here was someone who was more than just a singer. This was an artist who had that indefinable quality — stardom.

It's the same old story about that's happening. And it only took long enough for everyone to buy "Release Me" to boost it to No. 1 — and put the millions sales mark."

"When 'Release Me' reached No. 1, my life-long ambition had been achieved. If I hadn't had another hit after that I wouldn't have worried because I had done what I set out to do. But naturally there's always something else to strive for."

"I had to wait a long time and almost as soon as I got back to my dressing-room room people were phoning up to congratulate me."

"I remember how great I felt when I was told the news. I had got myself a hit record at last. I began to feel that at last I was getting recognised."

Donning his great stage in the world. And I got through it and "Till Down At The London Palladium" was suddenly taken ill. He was stilled at the last moment to take Dickie's place.

The major turning point for ENGELBERT — the 1966 Knokke Song Contest in Belgium, with him in the Deca team were (l. to r.) EDEN KANE, JIMMY WILSON, CHLOE WALTERS, TRULY SMITH. The MD at the piano is ARTHUR GREENBLADE. 

DECCA give me the chance. It was a dream come true."

The ultimate — his own TV show — and it happened in just over a year."

The Burlington-Palace Music Group is proud to have published these Great Hit Songs recorded by ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK.

And this is how it all began

The problem of following up an enormous hit like "Release Me" worried Engelbert a great deal. "It was such a difficult record to follow. We had to find a song with a strong melody line but also very different."

But they did find what they were looking for in "There Goes My Everything" which just failed to make No. 1. After that of course came "The Last Waltz."

The last Waltz, the NME Chart at No. 14. September 8: Engelbert is at No. 1. "Release Me" goes to No. 1. "The Last Waltz" also enters the NME Chart at No. 15. Engelbert's second gold record. Engelbert begins his tour with Aneil Harte. It is a sell-out. November 3: Engelbert's own version of "Release Me" is issued. December 1: Engelbert is voted Top New Singer in the NME Poll. December 19: Engelbert begins his tour in the top role of "The Last Waltz" at the London Palladium.

... and albums


Engelbert being directed in a "release" scene with TOTALLY MONEY during rehearsals of his Palladium pantomime, next Tuesday (December 10).

Engelbert Humperdinck released a record called "Stay." He followed this with "Dommage, Dommage." Engelbert released a record called "Stay." He followed this with "Dommage, Dommage." When 'Release Me' reached No. 1, my life-long ambition had been achieved. If I hadn't had another hit after that I wouldn't have worried because I had done what I set out to do. But naturally there's always something else to strive for.

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Dear Engelbert,

Les Read, Barry Mason, Bert Corri and all the staff at DONNA MUSIC wish to thank you for making 'THE LAST WALTZ' the HIT STANDARD OF THE YEAR

PS. Many thanks also for your great recording of 'EVERYBODY KNOWS'

THE BURLINGTON-PALACE MUSIC GROUP

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK

"RELEASE ME"

"There Goes My Everything"

which once again climbed to the top of the chart giving Engelbert his second Gold Disc. Engelbert feels a tremendous feeling when you realise that a million copies of your record have been sold. You sit down and try to imagine a million records or a million people. You think about the people who went out, paid your money and bought your record and you realise how much you owe them."

"The past 12 months have been some of the happiest in my life. I set out to make a name for myself in this business and I made it. What more can any one ask apart from to achieve a life-long ambition?"

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IS HOW IT ALL BEGAN

"ENGELBERT" containing 7 PICTURES and 6 HIT SONGS recorded by ENGELBERT

"ENGELBERT" 6/- from your local dealer or 6/6, lease, p. from SOUTHERN MUSIC LTD., 8 BERKSMITH ST., LONDON, W.C.2.

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... and albums

Happiest when he's with his fans

**Norrie Drummond on Engelbert the artist**

"Why should I see as many fans as possible? I've seen them all, anyway. It's the least I can do to repay them. It's a very professional relationship. They come to the theatre and sit, and I just try to do as much as I can to please them. I've always admired true professionals, and if the last year I've had the pleasure of working with the Palladium—every one of them is important. Everyone dreams of playing at the Palladium—at least in their hearts, and I've got three and a half months there."
EVERY MOTHER'S SON

"Pony With The Golden Mane" (Prune). A bit U.S. from this British group. Their previous output has been in the soft sphere, but this new one is more assertive, with a catchy tune and a strident rhythm. It's a fine piece of work, with some tight vocal harmonies and a driving back-up. Enjoy!

LEAPY LEE

"Boldest Beef and Carrots" (CBS). This soft rock sweetie is generally brought out in the form of a single, but this album version is much stronger. The title is a fine piece of work, with a catchy melody and a driving back-up. Enjoy!

SALENA JONES

Their latest single is reviewed on this page.

UNCLE TOM COBLEY'S ENSEMBLE

"Strawberry Soup" (Columbia). The title is a fine piece of work, with a catchy melody and a driving back-up. Enjoy!

JIMMY STEWART

"I'll Be Home For Christmas" (CBS). A fine piece of work, with a catchy melody and a driving back-up. Enjoy!

THEIR OUTSTANDING POP POLL ACHIEVEMENTS

ALAN FREEMAN

JUDITH DURHAM

SPENCER DAVIS GROUP

TONY BLACKBURN

DAVE CLARK FIVE

GARY BROOKER

BEATLES

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OTIS STOPS HEART OF SOUL

- Tributes from Eddie Floyd and Geno W.

"The heart of soul music stopped this week. Headlines that spoiled "Otis Redding Blackout" brought a somber note to the days of Otis. At 52, tall, chunky men they affectionately called "Big Otis" was gone for ever.

The first picture that came to any mind when I heard the news was of Otis doing his famous "I'll Never Love This Way Again." I'll never do the thing "walk the audience at Harmonie Park West went wild for the high-spots of his act, the 'Soul".

When I heard that they were building and tried to interview the family, I was filled with rage so that I could not even express the amount. "I was at the time."Otis seemed to have worked himself up to this point of care that I found it almost impossible to concentrate on my questions.

During the time that this film was made which should—must—be called by anybody to the memory of Otis Redding he's a certain kind of music.

By way of coincidence I have encoun-tered "One Love" the other day. The song was written in 1963 and a week before Otis was killed. It was made available this month imported LP, "The History of soul a great Otis. That's how I'll always remember it."

CRAIG EVANS

14.

OTIS shows up on his latest and gives a vocal performance that marks him as the future of a to a powerhouse personality who needed to add soul music to his place in the British chart. "This may well have been the first hit this week: "The man was real. Soul music..."

By Nick Logan

**** PEACOCK HARUM (Regal Emporer, LBL 1993.)

I had thought Project Marion a promising but somewhat forgettable overview since they seemed to have been "hit"—until I heard this album. What a gift, what fun, what a way of life and in an accent just tingled with Manchester, where I've been slightly like the McPheeters of look. And looks do nothing of Reid's music towards "Can't Take No and make it ends!"

I've got a tape recording on my desk and everything we've ever recorded, we've actually done so. We don't do a lot of studio work—it's just to say the boys. Let's try one more check on the things. Can't Turn You Loose "and make it ends!"

Soulful Gary Brooker - a man with emotion, but he asked me to come back here, where her crystal-clear voice comes out that sort of chick. He laughed: "I've just sung any old words, but the thing is that you write something from deep within yourself."

OTIS did his Will Smith's time—five minutes before the final track on the album, the "Diner". Clark didn't make a record under any name and "aina name make that. Unfortunately, it's near impossible to check up on it this way. We're a '60s band, and good wishes to the others in other towns. They're a waste of time."

John has made his name by bringing together the very best of his own material. The first picture that came to any mind when I heard the news was of Otis doing his famous "I'll Never Love This Way Again." I'll never do the thing "walk the audience at Harmonie Park West went wild for the high-spots of his act, the 'Soul"."

"The Beatles. But why couldn't we have one of those very beautiful smash hit sound."

Mayall's Bluesbreakers song a night!

JOHN MAYALL (b) has had his considerable album success recently although a single hit has eluded him. But he hasn't given up trying. Almost every night he says his Bluesbreakers write a new number.

"This is the way we do things..."He said. "I have a tape recording on my desk and everything we've ever recorded, we've actually done so. We don't do a lot of studio work—it's just to say the boys. Let's try one more check on the things. Can't Turn You Loose "and make it ends!"

The Beatle fans in London will be familiar with the group, the "Beatles. But why couldn't we have one of those very beautiful smash hit sound."

"If you want to play music like Bob Dylan, Frank and Albert King, Sunny Boy, Little Walter, Booker T. Jack McDuff, I'm glad..."I'm glad."

JOHN MAYALL $40 a week. I draw $60 a week but I have some expense to pay which means I'm left with about $50. I have about $120 saving in the bank," he recalled frankly. "I can't do much here and I don't have much. And I can't do much here..."

Coryn: "I'm going to try and do some more work, but it won't be much."

"I'm going to try and do some more work, but it won't be much."

ANDY GRAY

On sale Friday, week ending December 16, 1967

MAYALL'S BLUESBREAKERS SING A NIGHT!

JOHN MAYALL

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ANDY GRAY

To

LULU

Many Congratulations and good wishes on your Poll success.

DUSTY

If you want your records to sound new next Christmas there is a simple way of making sure they do. You merely...
SCAFFOLD ARE CHEERFULLY BATTY!

THE Earl of Arran believes it's something to do with him. There's a point in Hawaii, Cheshire, who thinks it's all part of the message. I have a letter from a Lancashire MP regarding Gordon Jackson, who says he heard Radio 1 call it a tribute to Brian Epstein.

In a moment of rampant ego I even thought it might be about me--I did go to Aintree once, and if you smile that small flowers hard it could well be a reference to the Racing Ahh! But no such luck. The Scaffold's mysterious "Am I Able to Tell You" gets mysterious, folks, and no amount of listening close to "Thank You Very Much" on the record player is going to reveal its dark secrets.

Ruling by the Maryport is still the place to call home, and because I found the Scaffold such fenceless dupes to get on with--I had hoped that with a noon--that the Scaffold really is it. It would have been a treat to start this article to tell me just what an Aintree is all about.

But my ears have one eye on attractive young ladies and thus saying thank you for one's early desires.

I was just trying to work this one out when Roger McGough (who say little, but makes up for it with brilliant writing) said it was a diabolical shame that the other two were confusing the issue.

The plain truth was that what people were taking for the "Aintree Iron" in "Thank You Very Much" was really the Aintree Iron, which was a symbol of great religious significance.

By this time I was beginning to feel a bit like Napoleon XIV, and suggesters that the line in the song that has everybody talking most: "Aintree Iron, from the days of the slave trade, or that it was a reference to ship mooring facilities at Aintree docks (in Beethers' Brook on the Grand National course)!" didn't do anything to ease my throbbing head.

All I can suggest is the Scaffold probably made the whole thing up, and that they're having a tremendous time making us wonder what the heck it's all about!

It might adequately sum up John, Mike and Roger to simply say that they're cheerfully batty, and leave it at that.

Comedy

But they're more than this. Between the three of them there's an incredible, electric atmosphere of comedy inventions that bounce from one to the other almost quicker than pens can touch paper. Just wait till they get their own TV show--that'll show you.

Don't expect to see the Scaffolds are cheerfully batty, and they're having a ball with Aintree Iron mystery!

SCAFFOLD (from l to r) JOHN GORMAN, MIKE McGEAR and ROGER McGOUGHER

and fold at your local dance hall in the near future. The group has already had plenty of offers in this direction, but it has, sensibly, turned them down. They're all lovers of the pop scene--particularly Mike, who's a cool fiendish, grovelling cheerleader and who goes for people like the Beatles, Hendrix, and the Hollies--but it hardly makes sense that a group who specialise in Joss N'Hanum should simply be danced to. So I can't say I blame them.

John is tacitly sorry about it--"It would be marvellous to have about 30 people squealing at the front, looking up at me singing: 'Isn't John great?' while there were big fights and beer being at the back.

Away from the show business world, John has a good little thing going for him: he owns a small dress factory which he's built up from nothing (no John, not brick by brick), and also a shop called "Through the Looking Glass" in Haskins Hey, a Liverpool suburb.

None of the Scaffold is sure about having to live in London: as John says it, everyone in London spends their time looking for where it's all happening. "I've done it ourselves," he says, "It's all happening at Tooting," people say, so we bell over there looking for where we get to Tooting everybody says they've got too late the audience moved to Blackheath. It's a rave. Can't get much better than that, I suppose: it's all happening.

As John and Roger had been making with the pegs to much on this occasion, I thought I might try the usually charm-and-ether Mike on a serious note.

According to Mike, one of the best things about his own success is that it has made his dad so much happier, now that his boys have been successful.

Contract

"All we need now," says Mike, "is to get a record contract for our talking Scottie dog. Hamish. He invents poems. We're also training him to dance. He can touch paper."

In a moment of genuine emotion he says, "I suppose my greatest fear would be to lose his eyesight--which got set at nine months in a laboratory experiment--and I'd be too much to see to him to see the colours of autumn any longer.

We also chatted about sleeping ("I used to get to see it if it was nice out")."

"I have this dream," said Mike, "but I don't want to go on about it, as it's just too much to say."

"I thought it was time to go to the staff to give the troops..."
A PAGE ABOUT DISC JOCKEYS

Life-lines of TONY 'BIRD BRAIN' BRANDON


Decca, London. TLX 195. IDD 322. PWA 6659.

Washed dishes


DECCA LDN

NEW YORK 19/16 7 1554 VIA COMMERCIAL

TOP TEN

JIMMY SAVILE by Neil Smith

Tony Brandon

Johnny Moran

Top Ten

1. "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" by Ike and Tina Turner
2. "My Girl" by The Temptations
3. "Help Me, I'm Falling" by the Righteous Brothers
4. "I'll Be There" by The Marvelettes
5. "Bye Bye Love" by The Everly Brothers
6. "Let's Twist Again" by Buddy Holly and the Crickets
7. "What A Difference A Day Made" by Dinah Washington
8. "Corints and Guatamala" by The Beatles
9. "My Girl" by The Temptations
10. "My Girl" by The Temptations

TOP TEN OF JOHNNY MORAN

1. "My Girl" by The Temptations
2. "My Girl" by The Temptations
3. "My Girl" by The Temptations
4. "My Girl" by The Temptations
5. "My Girl" by The Temptations
6. "My Girl" by The Temptations
7. "My Girl" by The Temptations
8. "My Girl" by The Temptations
9. "My Girl" by The Temptations
10. "My Girl" by The Temptations

EMPEROR AND PRESIDENT ROSKO!

NME received this note from disc-jockey Rosko, who seems to call himself Emperor as well as President Rosko.

The world of top disc jockey Jimmy Savile is so full of action and incident that a cartoonist might wonder where to start on him, but Neil Smith is always one for getting as much detail about his "victims" as possible, so we take Jimmy in his stride.

He depicts him in "Jim's Gym" (there's a pun for our Scandinavian readers!) with the accent on one hand in his punch and wrestling activities, and on the other, his disc-boasting work, with that huge safe behind him with all his lolly locked away (except for a few pounds in his pockets).

A big bug of fan mail and a charity box are in evidence, for Jimmy does a great deal for charity and gets a lot of post. Cigars and two-tone hair are not forgotten, and at his feet is a collection of dolls and goods. His rig-out is starting, as Jimmy's usually in. And under it all is a big heart and a mind which is always positive and kind, never negative and nasty. That's Jimmy Savile, folks!
Orbison's back with a bang!

ROY ORBISON returned home from his Canadian tour, and there's been an increase of like wow in his fan mail.

Orbit, who just had a new album released titled "Cry Softly," was in addition to the recent tour, winning over the enthusiastic response of the European press and the American media. He has recently been wrapping up yet another LP for release early in the New Year.

He then heads out on his unquenchable European tour in January which will include dates in England, Italy and France.

And Ray Charles

RAY CHARLES just wrapped up an existing season as an opening act for the Beach Boys and played the sold-out show at the Motor Room last week.

For Charles, who has scored to be栽培 the recent success of his comeback LP and the show at the Fillmore East, this was his first appearance on the East Coast. The show went off without a hitch.

And the show was one of the most exciting shows in recent memory, and the audience was thrilled.

Two folk successes

On the folk scene, Judy Collins did a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall last weekend, including all stage seating. She'll appear on "The Smothers Brothers' New Year's Eve Show." The theme of her performance was "Tennessee Waltz," which is a theme song for the talk show "The Smothers Brothers' New Year's Eve Show." The show will be recorded for a future release.

The Young Rascals may start to work on their first movie early in the New Year, which would temporarily stave off plans for their world tour. In the meantime, they've been asked to contribute a theme song for the forthcoming film "The Russians," which will be released early next year.

Pian into an interesting bunch of people from the West Coast this week called The Sonics. The group was composed of four young musicians who are building a name for themselves.

The Sonics are not considered to be a garage band, but rather a rock-and-roll group with a new sound. The best way to describe them is that they are doing what they do best: playing rock and roll.

The Sonics are the latest addition to the growing list of bands who are making a name for themselves on the West Coast. They have been gaining popularity with their energetic live performances.

The Sonics have been signed by the New York label to "Let's Go Double A For AIRENA "CHAIN OF FOOLS" A-AND "SATISFACTION" A-AVAILABLE NOW

Edited by TONY BROMLEY

C. SMITHE (Manchester): How surprised was I to hear of the recent decision by the BBC to ban "The Beatles'" song "Yesterday"? I am glad that Simon Dee stuck to his guns concerning freedom of expression on pop music. It is a lot harder to have his say differently especially when the voice is as audacious as that of Scott Walker. The record should not have been banned.

LINDA WALKER (Bridgwater): I really don't think too much on earth Elvis Presley keeps his lip up. I don't sing. I much prefer when he is on film. I think he is a great actor.

C. MURE (Belfast): Brian Jones' ad-lib comments on the set of "The Rolling Stones" movie were quite surprising. When people like myself have to work from day to day, I don't have to go through the lot and feel the way I do.

B. V. (Ealing): It's a matter of whether or not we should try something different but come up with better chances, but it has not been said yet.

G. NOE (London): They've also been awarded a second gramophone in the Village. They deserve more appreciation than they did.

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WITHOUT 'KITES' SIMON DUPREE WOULD HAVE QUIT!

NORRIE DRUMMOND

I'm very glad that Simon Dupree and the Big Sound eventually made it with "Kites" not just because they're good lads but simply because if "Kites" hadn't made it we wouldn't have heard any more about them! If Kites hadn't been a hit we would have given up. It was driver to continue, so I phoned Simon when I met him and his brother Philip this week.

"We set out in this game to make a hit record," Simon went on, "and we all gave up good jobs which we thought we could always go back to. We've been making very good money for the past two years but that wasn't what really mattered."

"We just had to get a hit. We could have continued for a long time making a very good living as just a band but what we wanted was the recognition."

The reason

The major reason for this decision—this need—for a hit stems largely from the fact that their father used to be a musician. He was trumpeter in various bands for forty years without ever getting anywhere," continued Philip. "He died without ever having achieved any success, but don't misunderstand me: he was always happy and he led a very contented life."

Now that the Big Sound has made it, doors which were previously locked in them have amazing wings open... when for the first time looking back in the situation but the whole pop business now seems to be a bull's eye circle. And what you need to break into that circle is a hit. But once you're in you're accepted.

"TV producers begin to take notice. Offers come in from countries all over the world."

And although "Kites" is proving a big hit, the amazing thing is that the group bided their time.

"We were in a music publisher's office listening to tapes," said Simon. "And we thought we'd heard everything. But someone spotted another pile literally en route in dust."

A joke?

"We played through them and eventually came to "Kites." We thought it was a joke but our manager John King rather liked it.

"We made an album and added the Chinese effect we still don't think it suited a chance. But he was right and from now on I think we'll leave him to pick us singles.

Simon and the band have been playing together for two years now and in that time have become one of the highest paid groups in the country."

"Almost everywhere we've played the promoters have asked us back for more money," said Philip. "I think this is because we are musicians.

"The six in the group they play 21 instruments. "It's great socially," added Simon, "and we can play on stage. We never have to get involved with session men and that means that EMI are very generous with the time they allow us to in the studio."

Simon Dupree and the Big Sound are very much a family business. Apart from Simon—real name Derek Shulman—and Philip, there's a third brother Ray, the group's lead guitarist who also plays piano and violin.

"We've always been musically inclined," added Philip, "because it's always been in our family. Their brother-in-law is also their manager and in add to all that their sister is also a songwriter."

Together

"The three of us, Philip, Ray and I have been playing together in various groups for years. Simon went on. "And from there I suppose we just gave Eric (Hine) joined us as organist. Then Tony (Ransley) our drummer and Pete (O'Flaherty) on bass came in.

"It was quite a step for us to become full-time professionals. Simon admitted, "but we progressed very nicely and our name progressed very nicely and our name..."

"We had a lot of faith in our earlier records—like 'The Light' and 'Day Time Night Time'—but they didn't happen."

"And we thought it would be a record rather than some of those that would have been a hit for us—something with string box. Instead it was a more quiet little song like 'Kites.' It shows you just how wrong you can be: and I'm pretty glad you were, Simon.
NME Popword

Complied by Alf Blacker, Crackies, Sussex.

1. Three Times A Lady
   Kevin Rowland and Skids
2. That's What I Like
   Chas & Dave
3. Bambi
   Michael and The Bluebells
4. I Know
   The Hollies
5. Daddy Don't You Know
   War
6. Poppy of Brest
   The Zombies
7. Eton Rifles
   The Animals
8. I Can't Stand It
   Christie
9. Flowers
   The Troggs
10. I Love My Friends
    The Hollies
11. Keep On Running
    The Monkees
12. Save Your Love
    The Who
13. I Don't Want To
    The Troggs
14. I'm Tired
    The Who
15. Keep On Running
    The Monkees
16. I Can't Stand It
    Christie
17. I'm Tired
    The Who
18. Save Your Love
    The Who
19. I Don't Want To
    The Troggs
20. Keep On Running
    The Monkees

Answers on page 19