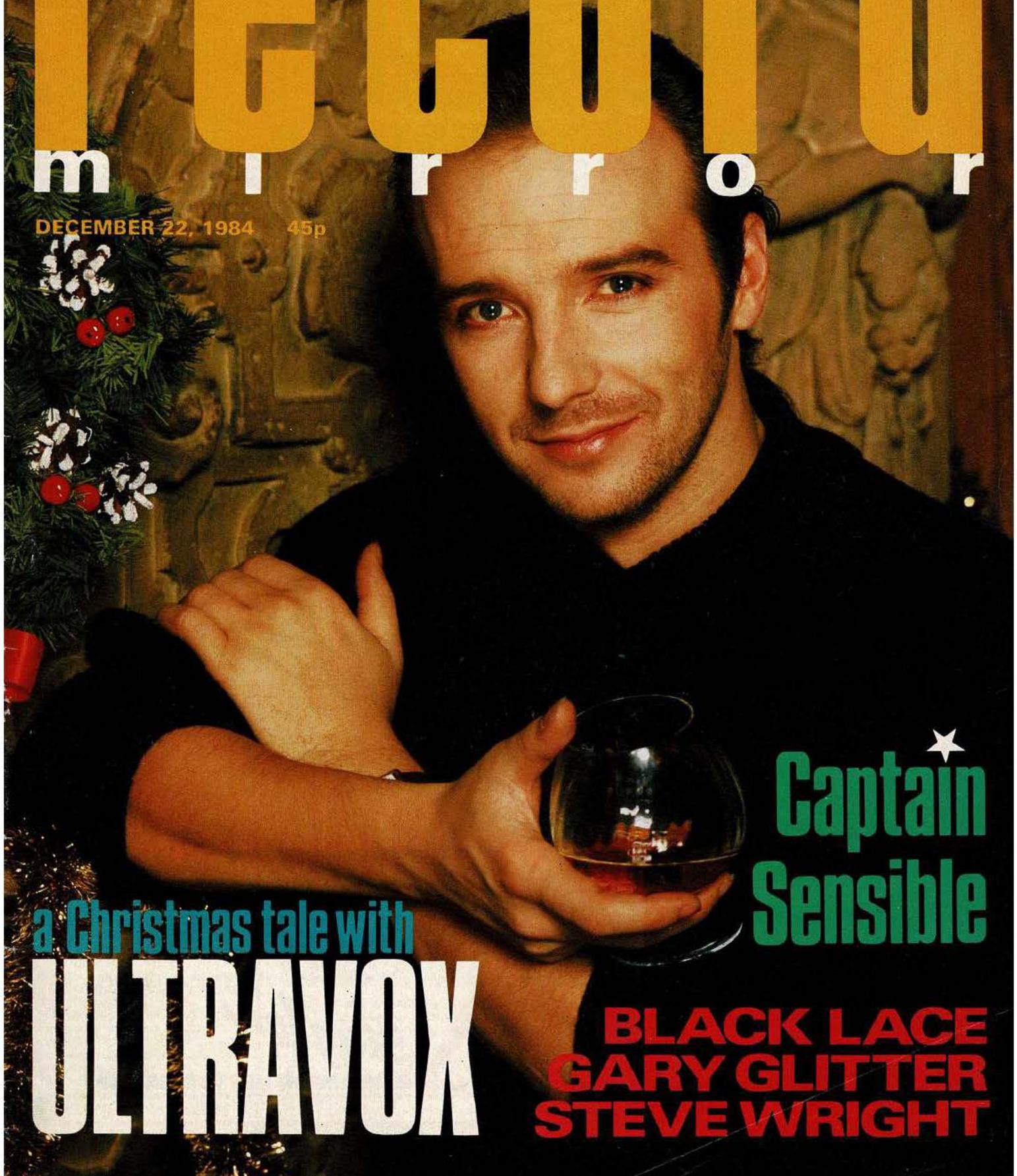


WHAM! : HOW TO WRITE HIT SONGS

record

m i r r o r

DECEMBER 22, 1984 45p



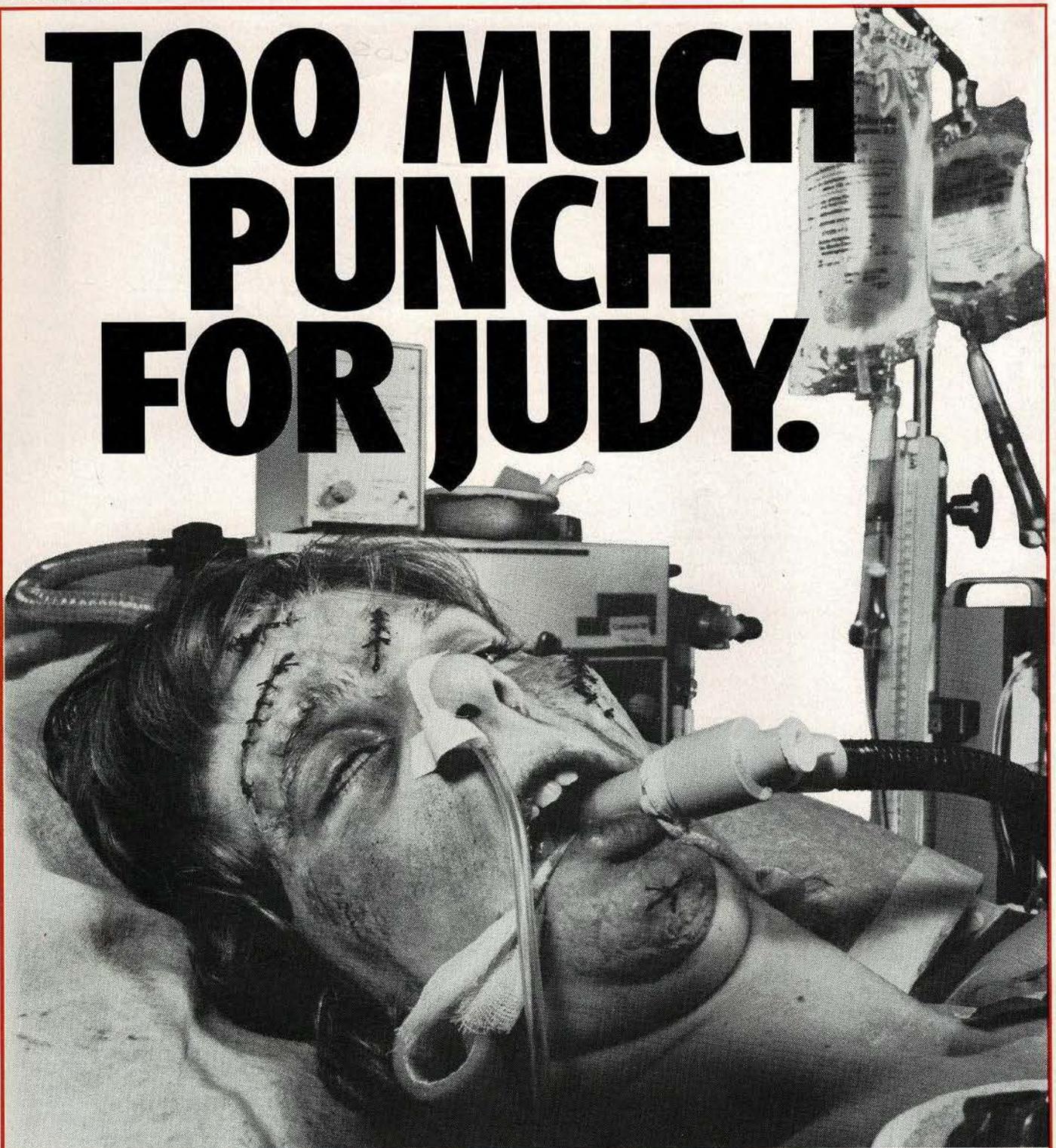
Captain
Sensible

a Christmas tale with

ULTRAVOX

BLACK LACE
GARY GLITTER
STEVE WRIGHT

TOO MUCH PUNCH FOR JUDY.



She only passed her driving test a couple of months before.

At seventeen she was smart, was the light of her parents life; had a great smile and just wanted to have fun.

Now she depends for survival on a machine made in Blackburn. Her body crippled beyond repair.

For most of us, drinking too much and driving as well could mean a hefty fine and losing a licence. It certainly means a lot of aggro.

For Judy and many more like her, it means a young life wasted. An existence of despair.

She's part of the tragedy that happens when people drink and drive.

And of course it won't happen to you. But think on. If you're driving tonight, watch what you're drinking - or you might just live to regret it.

Think of Judy. Remember her. For all our sakes, stay low.



Stay Low

OR YOU MIGHT LIVE TO REGRET IT.

XMAS PRESENT time. We've got 50 copies of the luxurious gatefold sleeve 12 inch of Frankie's 'The Power Of Love', plus pictures of the handsome lads, up for grabs. They'll go to the first half a hundred geniuses to answer these questions correctly:

- 1) Frankie's first single was called a) 'Relapse', b) 'Relax', c) 'Ex-lax'?
- 2) The lead singer is a) Holly Johnson, b) Buddy Holly, 6) Holly Ivy?
- 3) The group are signed to a) M15, b) ZTT, c) DHSS?

Send your answers plus name and address on a postcard to RECORD MIRROR FRANKIE COMPETITION, 40 Long Acre, London WC2. All entries must be received by Monday, January 7.

CRUEL YULE deadlines mean it's impossible to take this week's Gallup UK singles and albums charts. These listings plus features on the Police, Nick Rhodes and Brookside appear in the January 29 issue.

STEVIE WONDER is joining the campaign against drinking and driving. He's rush releasing 'Don't Drive Drunk' this week, which looks like being adopted as part of the 'Stay Low' campaign. Listen for his anti-booze Xmas message on Radio One.



pudding stuffin', cracker pullin' Christmas

INDEX

Compiled by our religious editor R Men



Pic by Phil Loftus

WHAT'S LARGE, makes £250,000 in less than four hours and feeds starving Ethiopians? Would you believe the capacity-filled Royal Albert Hall and a stage full of stars? There were: Thomas Dolby, Alvin Stardust, Flying Pickets, Matt Bianco, Aswad, Mari Wilson, Feargal Sharkey, Dennis Brown, John Cooper Clarke, the burying of hatchets between Nick Heyward and Haircut 100, Rick Wakeman, Ralph McTell, comedians Robbie Coltrane and Graham Chapman, Genesis's Mike Rutherford, Julian Lennon, and Midge and Bob Geldof to lead a final chorus of 'Feed The World'. A video of the event is forthcoming and all proceeds fill empty stomachs.



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● COVER PIC by IAN HOOTON



STRIKE'S XMAS ON THE CHEAP

- 1 Split up with your boy/girlfriend before you buy their present. You can always reunite in the New Year
- 2 Get the decorators in so you can't possibly have a party at your house
- 3 Follow the Blue Peter guide to re-using last year's Xmas cards. They look dreadful, but it's the thought that counts
- 4 Wear a gorilla suit to the pub fancy dress party. No pockets means you can't get a round in
- 5 Become a Jehovah's Witness
- 6 Install a mantrap in your driveway to deter carol singers
- 7 Put a parking meter on the roof. Santa's worth a bob or two
- 8 Pluck next door's cat and stuff it with Paxo. No-one will notice the difference
- 9 Give chocolates to any fatties you know, then eat them all yourself. They'll be grateful and you won't need to buy any food until the New Year
- 10 Get so legless on Xmas Eve that you have to spend the next week in hospital. Xmas on the NHS — great!

XMAS LEISURE MANUAL

● **SANTA COMES** but once a year, poor guy, and to celebrate this year's climactic event, the entertainment world is feeding us the usual mix of old faves, old cringers and just plain old, to keep us amused between lengthy bouts of eating and drinking, visiting the bog and the relations and generally grossing out. I, of course, will be sending my TV back to the rental firm and indulging in long lonely walks along deserted beaches while you square-eyed crowd watch and listen to this little lot.

ANDY STRIKE ●

THURSDAY DEC 20

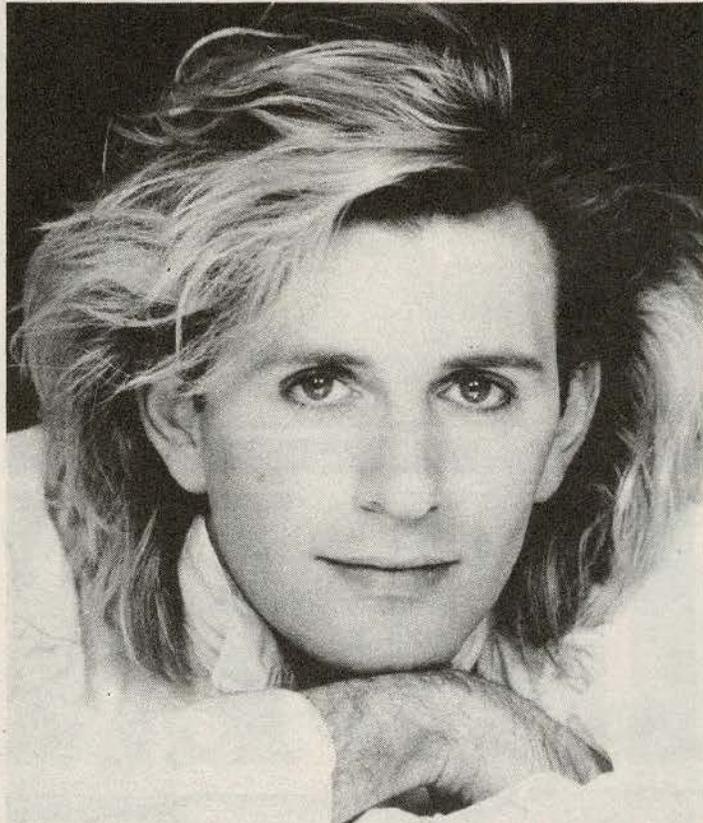
A few mega gigs to get things warmed up for you. Chances are, you'll need to have bought tickets already for gigs by **MEAT LOAF** (Aberdeen's Capitol Theatre); **CULTURE CLUB** (Wembley Arena); **WHAM!** (Birmingham NEC); **IMAGINATION** (Hammersmith Odeon). Personally, I'll be oiling the old throat in preparation for the coming two weeks.

FRIDAY 21

More gigs by **GARY GLITTER** (Brighton Top Rank); **MEAT LOAF** (Edinburgh Playhouse); **CULTURE CLUB** (Wembley Arena); **IMAGINATION** (Hammersmith Odeon). **THE TUBE** (Channel 4, 5.30pm) is a winter wonderland special from Greenland with **PAUL WELLER**, **THE WATERBOYS** (hooray!) and **RORY BREMNER. LIVE MATCH OF THE DAY** (BBC1) sees downtrodden **QPR** v **L'POOL** pick up a few easy points. Richard Skinner spins the week's newies in **ROUNDTABLE** (Radio One, 5.45pm) including the new one from **BALDAID** where the cream of British pop join together to sing 'Let It Grow, It's Xmas' — all proceeds going to the friends of the bald.

SATURDAY 22

Gigs by hippy **NEIL** (Hammersmith Odeon); **SPANDAU BALLET** (Brighton Centre).



GREEN: this stupendous hunk of manhood is on BBC1 on Xmas Eve

Sporting highlight comes in the form of a top of the table battle between **PORTSMOUTH** v **OXFORD UNITED**, when the south coast giants will finally topple lucky old Oxford.

SATURDAY SUPERSTORE (BBC1, 9.30am) is graced by the presence of the **THOMPSON TWINS**, the magnificent **SLADE** and **CANTABLE**(?) Will Mike Read resist the temptation to play his bloody guitar? Will Sarah Green be truly wonderful as

usual? Will anyone be up in time to watch it?

BROOKSIDE (Channel 4, 5.05pm): things are hotting up in the close as Harry Cross realises that Ralph is getting more Xmas cards than he is. The best villain on TV bar none. **'THIS IS ELVIS'** (Channel 4, 7.00pm) is a thoroughly entertaining look at Elvis' life with some great shots of early TV appearances by the boy wonder. Don't be fooled by the stage scenes using Elvis lookalikes.

BORN IN THE USA — A WHISTLE TEST SPECIAL WITH BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN (BBC2, 11.30pm): someone must like him I suppose. Get on down with Broooooce as he discusses this and that including him playing the title role in 'Gremlins'. (He's the little guy with the pointy ears.)

SUNDAY 23

Working off some pre-Xmas turkey are **SPANDAU BALLET** (Bournemouth International Centre); **WHAM!** (Wembley Arena).

MICHAEL JACKSON, ROCKS THRILLER (Radio One, 2.15pm) has the beanpole revealing all about his weird private life as a zoo keeper and Jehovah's witness (I didn't even know there'd been an accident).

XMAS EVE

Still slogging their not inconsiderable guts around the nation's stages are **SPANDAU BALLET** (Bournemouth); **WHAM!** (Wembley Arena).

POP QUIZ (BBC1, 7.30pm) includes the mighty brains of **TOYAH**, **NODDY HOLDER**, **MEAT LOAF**, **ROGER TAYLOR**, **NASHER** and **GREEN**. Will Mike Read still be wearing shades? **SOUNDS OF '84, PART ONE** (11.05am, BBC1) has action from this year's Montreux bash with **ADAM ANT**, **THE ALARM**, **QUEEN**, **NENA** (hold me back) **SPANDAU BALLET**, **ULTRAVOX** and more. Use it to drive the parents out of the room while you sneak a look at your pressies — socks again?

BROOKSIDE (Channel 4, 8.00pm) sees Marie and Michelle in a deep depression as they look back over the year and Sheila Grant's waters break as she's stuffing the turkey which results in a dash to the hospital.

'CRUEL SEA' (BBC1) and Charlie Chaplin's **'GOLD RUSH'** plus **'RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER'** and **'FUN WITH DICK AND JANE'** (ITV) are the big films for the day. **BRUNO BROOKES** introduces a **DURAN DURAN** special (Radio One, 5.00pm) with Simon and the boys revealing what Xmas means to them. What a lot of nonsense — the same as it means to the rest of us, presumably.

continues over

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&
PRIDE
FOR
'85
KING

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blearily from previous page

XMAS LEISURE MANUAL

XMAS DAY

TOP OF THE POPS (BBC1, 2.00pm) has the usual festive fun with ageing DJs ogling young girls along to the sounds of **CULTURE CLUB, DURAN DURAN, FRANKIE, HOWARD JONES, WHAM!, NIK KERSHAW, PAUL YOUNG**, all live in the studio. Believe that, and you'll believe anything. Gran should be on the tenth port and lemon by now.

THE YOUNG VISITOR (Channel 4) sees **TRACEY ULLMAN** star in a tale of Victorian romance seen through the eyes of a child. Sounds like a Vaseline on the lens job.

BROOKSIDE (Channel 4, 8.00pm) sees Sheila back home to receive a welcome visit from ... and a phone call from big Alan Partridge. Set the video for the rest of the night's viewing and get out among your fellow men and have a party. Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE (All Channels, 5.00pm) Usual nonsense about togetherness, hard work, the Raj and how the Indian cricket team cheated our fine boys in the test match. This year's message includes footage of Princess Diana body popping in Harry's nursery.

Big films for the day include **'BLUE MURDER AT ST TRINIANS'** (BBC1) **'MARY POPPINS'** (BBC1) **'THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN'** (ITV) **'RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK'** (ITV), and **'SOME LIKE IT HOT'** (BBC2).

MIKE READ hosts the Radio One Xmas dinner (Radio One, 1.00pm) when you get the chance to hear gravy dripping off Steve Wright's chin, Simon Bates choking on lumpy Cranberry sauce and you know, Mike might just play us a carol on his guitar. Nurse, the screens!



TRACE: this stupendous hunk of Ullmanhood is on BBC1 on Xmas Day

BOXING DAY

George and Andrew exhibit their new woolies when they fight off their hangovers and put **WHAM!** back on stage (Wembley Arena).

London's soccer fans congregate in North London to witness the festive cheer of the traditional holiday derby **SPURS v WEST HAM**, at 11.30am. Rival supporters will be slapping each other on the back and handing round the mince pies and compliments of the season, (are you sure about this? — hooligan ed).

SOUNDS OF '84 PART TWO (BBC1, 11.05am) continues the action from Montreux with **BANANARAMA, STATUS QUO, THOMAS DOLBY, THE PRETENDERS, MADNESS, CYNDI LAUPER, DURAN DURAN** and others too famous to mention.

If that little lot doesn't tickle your fancy you can catch the big films of the day. **'ESCAPE TO VICTORY'** (BBC1) has Michael Caine pulling on his footy boots to do battle with the likes of Pele and Bobby Moore in a tale of daring do in the war. **'THE THIRD MAN'** (BBC2) is well worth a watch, ditto **'THE LIVES OF A BENGAL LANCER'** which deals frankly with the problems of coping with giant boils in colonial India. Gary Cooper is the man with the needle. Also look out for **'KIM'** and the wacky **'AIRPLANE'** (ITV).

POP PARTY (Radio One, 8.00am) has Janice Long and Steve Wright spinning the discs though it seems a bit early for a party to me. **ROCK BRAIN OF THE UNIVERSE** (Radio One, 1.00pm) is hosted by Gambo as competitors from all corners of the world are linked by satellite to answer the old favourite questions about the Moody Blues.

Personally I've always known that **THE** rock brain of the universe is Martin Kemp. Am I right or am I right? **YOKO ONO** (Radio One, 4.30pm) has an interview with the famous widow by oh-so-serious Andy Peebles. Those of you who've decided to have a skiing holiday should be on the piste by now.

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STOCKING FILLERS

BET YOU wouldn't mind the odd popstar as a stocking filler this Christmas? Stocking? You'd need a sleeping bag for most of 'em! But just who would they like to find, jammed into that old bedsock, as a seasonal surprise on this cold and frosty Christmas morning?



CHAKA KHAN: "I'd like to have Sean Connery in my Xmas stocking. He's so cute and I like his hairy chest."

BRIAN HIBBARD OF THE FLYING PICKETS: "Hilda Ogden because I think she needs a cuddle now that Stan's gone."

MARTYN WATSON OF POOKAH MAKES 3: "I would love to find Joanna Lumley, because she seems to be too good to be true. And anyway, stockings are her spiritual home."

JOHNNY MARR OF THE SMITHS: "Marilyn!!" (No not Marilyn Monroe, but Peter Robinson. Goodness knows why, he wouldn't say!)

MIDGE URE: "Who would I want to find? Rik Mayall — because I think he's a brilliant guy to sit and talk to for a while and actually find out what's in his head."

STEVE HARLEY: "I would like Arthur Scargill, so I could bash him over the head with the cricket bat I'm giving my son."

GILL SAWARD OF SHAKATAK: "Jack Nicholson has to be my choice. He's got those piercing come-to-bed eyes I find irresistible. I'd invite him round for Christmas dinner but I wouldn't let him loose on the turkey with the carving knife!" **BILL SHARPE:** "Victoria Principal, because I don't believe she is real."

SIMON O'BRIEN (DAMON GRANT) OF BROOKSIDE: "My girlfriend Lizzie (I had to say that or she'd hit me)." **BRIAN REGAN (TERRY SULLIVAN):** "A bevy of beauties. 'Specially that girl from the 'Dukes of Hazard'. The one who wears the shorts... I'd want her wearing JUST the shorts." **TRACY JAY (MICHELLE JONES):** "Mad Murdoch from the 'A Team'. Not the man who plays him, the character itself." **ANNE KEAVENEY (MARIE JACKSON):** "Clint Eastwood. I've liked him since I first saw him and I've never found anyone to match up to him." **PAUL USHER (BARRY GRANT):** "A fella with a million pounds in a briefcase just for me — that's what I'd like to find." **SHELAGH O'HARA (KAREN GRANT):** "I'm not into that thing where people say 'who would you like to meet' because I'd be really embarrassed. Tony Benn I think though, I just like him... and it was great when he got in at Chesterfield."



COLIN ROUTH OF BLACK LACE: "Joan Collins." **ALAN BARTON:** "Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac... 'cos I like her voice."

ZEKE MANYIKA OF ORANGE JUICE: "I would like to find Glenys Kinnock because I think she is spot on!"

LLOYD COLE: "Natassia Kinski — to eat!"

GARY CROWLEY: "Natassia Kinski: I have been in love with her ever since I saw 'Tess'. I'd get her to do all the talking while I just drooled!"

ALANNAH CURRIE OF THE THOMPSON TWINS: "I'd like to have Dustin Hoffman in my stocking 'coz I think he's a fab actor and I loved him in 'Tootsie'."



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LOVE
&
PRIDE
FOR
'85

KING

By Mark Cordery

the world according to
CAPTAIN SENSIBLE



● **Why 'Relax' is on the other side of 'One Christmas Catalogue'**

"I just did it 'cos I liked it. I thought it would be really cheeky to cover the song so soon after they'd done it. No concept behind it, except that it wasn't the best move in the world to cover a song like that so soon after it had been done."

● **The Royals**

"The Royals aren't really my cup of tea. The rest of the world laughs at us. They laugh at us for putting up with the Royals they way we do. It's more than harmless entertainment because it's another thing that bolsters up The Establishment. Britain is still locked in a class struggle, and it bolsters up the Nobs. I think it's obscene that they've got so much wealth. Not just the Royals, but people like them. There's a big struggle going on in Britain, with the miners, and they're so divorced from reality. I mean, Prince Philip. He's president of the World Wildlife Fund and he goes around shooting grouse. And fox hunting. And Princess Di shoots stags. Marvellous people, aren't they?"

● **What Xmas means to me**

"I think Xmas is a farce. I know it's a trendy view, but I'm sorry, that's what I think. I don't really like buying presents for people, and I'm not too keen on receiving them either. They always give you shit you don't want, like anti-perspirant and socks. Alright, I like socks. My family are Scottish so they're more into Hogmanay."

● **Boredom**

"I don't get bored. I read. Lots of things. Politics I'm interested in. Biographies of politicians I like. And I'm interested in trains. I used to spend hours at Clapham Junction, crossing off numbers in my Ian Allan books. And I went on the Flying Scotsman, and the Brighton Belle. Always been into trains."

● **CND**

"All you can do is demonstrate. It's better than sitting on your arse and letting them plot the destruction of civilisation. You've got to do something. I think musicians have got an obligation to say things because people listen. I mean, without stating the obvious, there are thousands of people starving in Ethiopia, and here we are building up the arms race. It's an outrage."

● **Vegetables**

"I've been a vegetarian since I met Crass. For several reasons. One of which is that they proved to me that vegetarian food isn't bland and boring. When I was doing a single I worked with them for about a week, on and off, and they were great. They grow their own food — and it was really interesting food. Everyone thinks that vegetarians eat omelettes and salads and that's it. It's not true at all. A tasty meal tipped the balance."

● **My parents**

"Yeah. Basically, because I'm very lazy, and whenever I've lived in flats and squats I live in complete squalor, and I catch diseases like scabies. Which isn't very pleasant. I can't go

down the laundrette, just physically can't do it. I'd rather wear dirty clothes than go down the laundrette. I hate queuing up and waiting for things. I have to be doing something all the time."

● **My mates in the business**

"All the most unlikely people you could imagine. I like people with a bit of get-up-and-go. I like Lemmy, and I like Lee John from Imagination. Nick Heyward. He's his own man. He's one of the funniest blokes I've ever spoken to. He doesn't give a f***. He's got the most cutting tongue of almost anyone I've ever met. Really cynical, but in a nice way. He knows how to enjoy himself. I've spent a few nights with him, banging away on a piano in a hotel foyer. Getting thrown out of places . . . he's alright. He'd've gone down great in a punk group. Great punk."

● **John Moss**

"He made me take my shoes off when I went round his house. When he was living with his mum and dad. I had to take my shoes off because they were dirty. He's alright though."

● **Rock Around The Clock**

"It was a BBC2 thing that went on for about 12 hours. It was a good show, really chaotic. Some producer or director came into the hospitality room where we all were and said, 'Can anyone do two minutes?' The whole place went quiet. Nobody would do it, because they were all sober. It was in the first hour, or half an hour. So I said 'I'll do it.' I jumped up and made an arse of meself. That's alright. I'm not afraid of making an arse of myself. It's all fun. I'm talking to you."

● **The Big Deal**

"Best programme I've seen since 'The Prisoner'. It's so real. I know people like that. I'm one of those people myself. I spend a lot of nights that end up with me going home with the milkman. Gambling's fascinating. Because I have no respect for money — my bookie'll like this! — if I get a little windfall one week I'll wack it on a horse. The pure excitement and adrenalin that you get, standing in the bookie's, all the fag butts on the floor, all these old geezers tearing their hair out, and me there with them. It's bizarre."

● **Not many people know this . . .**

"Not many people know this, but I do take what I do quite seriously. I'd never let a bad record go out. One that I didn't like. I've got hundreds of songs on cassettes at home, that I've done on my Portastudio, that I've rejected because they just ain't no good. If it's remotely crap then I sling it out. Probably the songs I've rejected most groups would use, because some of them are bland, and some of them say nothing."

● **Sensible**

"I'm an old hippy at heart, I believe in peace and love, and I'm not ashamed to say it. As far as I'm concerned punk was about that. Peace and love. With teeth. I'm just an ordinary member of the public that got lucky. Just an ordinary working class bloke. I've got my feet firmly on the ground. I'm a nice bloke. I'm humble! Pleasant! Ugly as sin, but I don't care. You won't find me having a nose job."



This wee man has been in pop groups for longer than he may care to remember.

And now, he is partly responsible for creating this year's Xmas number one.

Feeling festive, Eleanor Levy puts on an Irish accent, wheels out the red leather-bound volume and says: 'Midge Ure, this is your life!'

Seasonal shot by Ian Hooton

SCENE ONE

AN UPSTAIRS room in an exclusive London club. Dim lighting and a carpet you could lose your feet in graces the mid 19th century floorboards. The pop star enters, smiles, sits down. He wears a dark, heavy jumper and cord trousers — an air of easy style about him. In the past he has been a pursuer of all things fashionable, but seems weary with that lifestyle and no longer appears to hide behind an image. His long hair rests on his shoulders as he sips orange juice.

Our hero is a member of a successful pop group. They have just released an album and video highlighting their greatest hits. It seems to herald a time of reappraisal and transition in our hero's life. The object of the scene is to collate the points in his past that have brought him to this point.

SCENE TWO

FLASHBACK TO a room on the outskirts of Glasgow. A small thud, a slap sounds and a baby's cry. Our hero is being born.

Midge (voiceover): "I was born in a place called Cambuslang. It was a fairly working class background, I suppose. My dad drove

a van all his life. My mum had various jobs to bring in extra money. The Ures are from the Campbells — the ones that massacred the MacDonalds, I'm afraid. A bit of a naughty clan a couple of hundred years ago.

"I stayed at school till I was 15 and hated it. They wouldn't teach me music which was ridiculous. Because I hadn't been taught it at all they wouldn't teach me — which was what I thought you went to school for. I despised it.

"I went to engineering college for six months, then did what everyone in Scotland does — try and get yourself a trade. It's an age old tradition that's been drummed into you since you're small. If you've got a trade like an engineer or an electrician, you'll always work. It's not quite true now but it probably was then."

SCENE THREE

THE NATIONAL Engineering Laboratories in East Kilbride. Our hero is half way through a four year apprenticeship. As he works he is singing his favourite Small Faces songs and trying to be Steve Marriott.

SCENE FOUR

THE CLUB room again. Midge: "When I was about 12 or 13 I started getting together with other people who had guitars and liked the same type of music. We'd hang around each others' houses and learn the latest Beatles epic, strumming away and talking about how wonderful it would be being in a band. All bright and dewey eyed.

"After two and a half years of my apprenticeship I auditioned with a friend for a group called Substation. He wanted to join and I just went along. He didn't get the job but they asked me if I wanted to be the guitarist. This sort of turned my head a bit. I thought 'yeah... professional group... £25 a week. Great!' Eventually, the band lost a singer, I took over lead vocals and we changed our name to Silk."

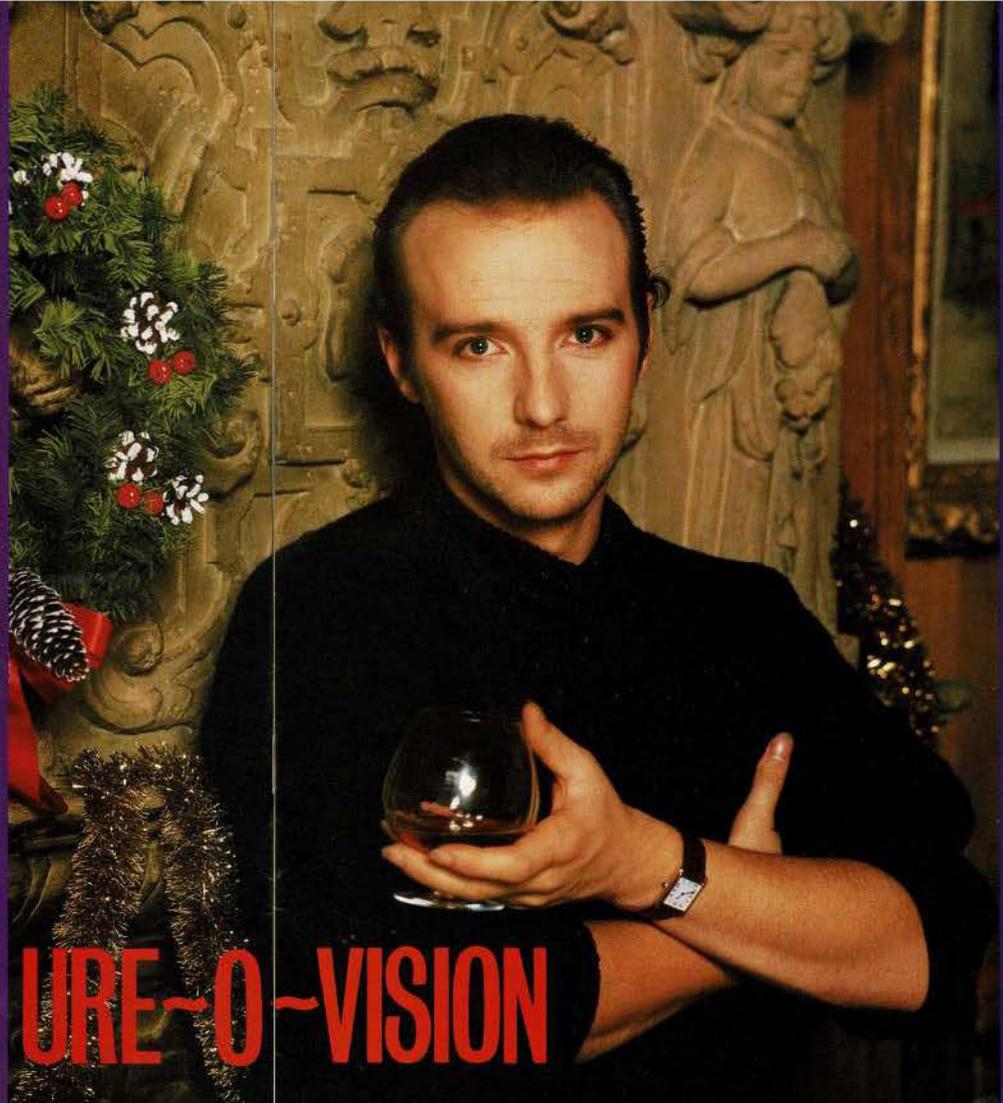
SCENE FIVE

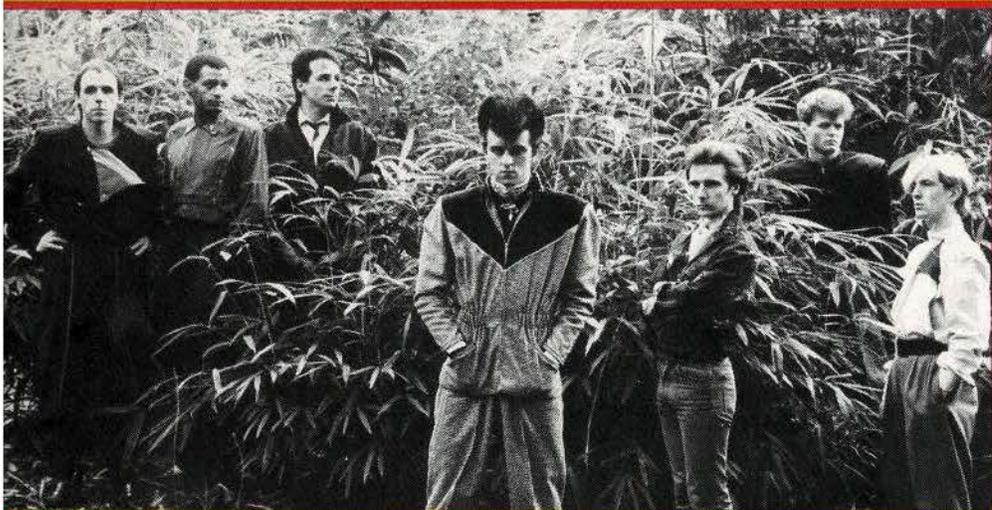
FOUR FRESH-faced Scottish lads with newly cropped hair, drain pipes and baseball shirts are approached by two producers of a famous Edinburgh teenybop band known for the wearing of tartan and short trousers. "Boys," one of them smiles, dangling the golden carrot in front of them. "We're gonna make you stars".

Midge (voiceover): "At that time, the only record deal Silk were offered was with Bill Martin and Phil Coulter who wrote and produced all the Bay City Rollers stuff. We didn't actually play on 'Forever And Ever', our main hit. We turned up in London with all our gear in a three ton truck, walked in and the backing track was playing. But we were under contract, what could we do? The management said, 'Just do it!'

"We were naive enough to think we could grow up a bit and start putting our own songs in and producing our own records. And of course, you can't. You have to do exactly what it says in the contract or fall apart. We fell apart."

Continues over





CHEEKBONES IN! Midge, Steve, Rusty, Billy and ensemble in the very first Visage



BRIGHT EYED, bushy tailed, but Rich Kids failed



SLIK: DEAD certs, but not for long

from page 11

SCENE SIX

THAMES TELEVISION studios. The programme 'Magpie' is going out. The bouncing presenter introduces a "new super group".

Tommy Boyd: "This is Rusty, this is Steve, this is Glen, who used to be in a group called the Sex Pistols, and this is Midge who used to be in a group called Slik."

The track 'Rich Kids' rears up. Bodies jump, fringes flap and everyone looks excited.

Midge: "When I listen to Rich Kids records now they are frighteningly bad. The songs weren't great; the production was terrible. It was a period of my life I didn't particularly enjoy. I was a bit lost — desperately trying to get away from the bubble-gum pop star image . . . the image everyone thought was

me. Of course, if you try something like that, you can't do it. Time changes all that. You can't change people's opinions by just saying something on paper.

"It was a fruitful time because I got interested in synthesisers, but playing with the band was just horrific. Bottles thrown at us because it was the trend . . . the thing to do. I just hated it and had to be talked on stage every night. The band were great but I didn't enjoy standing there as a target rather than a musician. We were contracted to do four albums, did one and ended up in horrific debt. A classic story. After the Rich Kids experience I made up my mind I wasn't going to join any other band, no matter what."

SCENE SEVEN

OUR HERO and red-haired drummer meet with socialite Steve and various well known musicians from other bands. Silly haircuts predominate.

Midge: "Visage was just a studio project started by me and Rusty — a producing project for me. It was never going to be a performance thing, but it was through working with Billy Currie on this that I wangled my way into Ultravox. I think Rusty had a word with Billy and said 'Midge would be good'."

SCENE EIGHT

CONCORDE. OUR hero sits with a ghettoblaster on his knees, tunes from a well known heavy rock band pulse through the headphones as he lays down some 'heavy guitar licks'. Despite having just joined Ultravox, he has been drafted in to help out on Thin Lizzy's American tours, and he's learning to play their songs. He gets another chord wrong.

Midge: "Shit."

SCENE NINE

BACK IN England. The stage of the London Lyceum. It's 1980. White Light, Forties smart chic. Our hero has Clark Gable moustache and side burns, tie undone stylishly round neck. "Miiiiidge," someone cries from the audience. The top lip quivers dashing in response as a new song 'Vienna' rings out.

Midge (voiceover): "It was so good when I joined the band — so interesting to work with these very good musicians. And we've evolved so that I can do anything I like now."

"The bands I've been in have all been well known. Slik were for six months, the Rich Kids had a lot of exposure — notoriety. They had a lot of press saying how good they were going to be, then a lot of press saying how bad they actually were. It's just all been documented. But every other musician I've known has been in two or three bands, it's just that their bands weren't particularly well known."

Pic by Sheila Rock

SCENE 10

ANOTHER STUDIO in West London. A bevy of well-fed pop stars are singing 'Feed The World'. Our hero is producing them. Blow dried hair-dos and expensive aftershave abounds.

Midge: "It's funny, because everybody who ever said anything bad about anybody was in that room — and there was no animosity at all. Everybody says things about other people in print. If I've said — as I have — 'Oh God, Wham! are prats', it's done very lightly . . . it's funny. But when you read it in cold print in looks horrific. It looks like I was sitting there bitching — and I'm not the kind of guy who actually goes out and slags other people.

"I just look stupid . . . I look the prat, not them. So, they knew that — and Duran knew that — and everyone who'd said bad things about me knew that and it was a brilliant atmosphere. It could have easily soured if the egos had shown but they didn't."

SCENE 11

DOWNSTAIRS IN the dining hall of the club previously mentioned. Our hero has his hair tied back and sits by an open fire with a 'wee dram'. A camera snaps; the flames glow.

Interviewer: "Why wouldn't you wear a kilt for this?"

Midge: "Because tartan's much too trendy at the moment. I don't mind wearing one but it's not the time to do it. I don't want to be part of any particular fashion."

Interviewer: "Do you think you've reached a peak now, and are ready to leave Ultravox behind?"

Midge: No, there's a million things I want to do. Maybe in pop music terms I've reached a peak, I don't know. I think there's a lot more in me to come out, but pop music to me is not the be-all and end-all. Rather than stand on stage at the age of 40 singing 'Vienna' for the eight millionth time, I would much rather be sitting in a recording studio producing songs for other people or putting soundtracks to movies.

"I'd find that much more stimulating. There's a lot of areas that will be interesting to move into. But I'm not leaving pop music behind yet. There's a lot more to come. 'The Collection' is not an epitaph . . . I think."

Fade to black. Music. Roll credits.

THE END

(or maybe . . . it's just the beginning?)

e y e d e a l

TOO MUCH stuffing? No invite to the League Of Gentlemen's Christmas party? Fear not reader of little fortune, we here at Xmas bashing RM have prepared a comprehensive video round-up for your deliberation and delectation. So eyes down, dictionary out, and see if you find a little something to put on your late late present list. Who knows, come New Year's Eve you might find yourself swapping the Pictish pontifications of Andy Stewart for the truly seasonal muse of Bauhaus... then again...

E I Video

A video compendium

BAUHAUS 'Archive' (Beggars Banquet Video)

WHAT BAUHAUS may have lacked in melody, they more than made up for in noise and theatre. And sex of course, for when Peter Murphy was on heat he positively dripped the stuff. Daniel Ash never did too badly either — the most recently export in the teasingly anorexic look Ziggy and Iggy perfected. Bauhaus were always at their best live, with Kevin Haskins' drums and David Jay's bass keeping their more visually anarchic colleagues under control. 'Archive' is just that — some of Bauhaus's finest moments captured in glorious muddy colour or shadowy black and white — all held together by some terribly arty shots of what looks like Albert Einstein. 'Dark Entries', 'Hair Of The Dog', 'Kick In The Eye' are all here. Turn off the lights, turn up LOUD and drink in Bauhaus at their best. ■■■■

Eleanor Levy

VARIOUS 'Now 4: 20 Chart Hoggin' Hits' (Picture Music International)

THE 'NOW!' records have been deservedly successful. Quality pop in large chunks, catering for a wide range of musical tastes. Good records do not automatically make good videos though, as this compilation proves. Choosing clips because the songs they are selling were hits, will not necessarily provide the best or most interesting visuals around. So, there are a fair number of highlights (Nick Heyward's 'Warning Sign', UB40's 'If It Happens Again', Nik Kershaw's 'Human Racing'), but a larger amount of rapid FF-ing during the boring bits. Big names abound (Culture Club, D Mode, Queen), but it's 85 minutes of big budgets... few ideas. ■■½

Eleanor Levy

VARIOUS ARTISTS 'Record Shack Presents Video' (Peppermint Video Music)

WHEN THEY make videos like this you can see why people dance to Hi-NRG music — they'd die of boredom if they stood still. It's videos like this that give the art a bad name. It's hard to believe such sparkling music can be represented so statically. Only Eartha Kitt's charisma carries 'Where Is My Man', while Break Machine do their business without sympathetic support from the cameraman. A piece-of-resistance like Miquel Brown's 'So Many Men, So Little Time' is thrown away. Awful. ■

Mike Gardner

VARIOUS ARTISTS 'The Red Tape' (Smirnoff)

VODKA, NEAT, with lime, or on the rocks, sir? The Red Tape is a Smirnoff promo containing 12 songs of unimaginable boredom. I mean, any tape that contains Blue Zoo, China Crisis, the Lotus Eaters and Kissing The Pink doesn't exactly conjure up images of fun, funk and fabulous excitement — does it?! The only standout tracks are Japan's 'Visions Of China', Imagination's 'Just An Illusion' and Nick Hey-



ward's 'Whistle Down The Wind' — sandwiched between such dogs as Fashion's 'Love Shadow', Toyah's 'Rebel Run' and the Belle Stars' 'Sign Of The Times'. The promotional blurb accompanying this cassette includes the immortal words... 'Fashion, ski-ing and wind-surfing. The Red Tape promotion reflects the style of its involvement with these leisure pursuits, echoing as it does the lifestyle of its target market'!! — yeah, daddio! ■

Dylan Jones

VARIOUS ARTISTS 'Both Sides Live Parts One & Two' (Peppermint Video)

32 BANDS of no particular merit — from concerts in Europe and the States. From Europe it's all our least successful third-generation punk no-hopers like OMD, 999 and Toyah, plus a brilliant cameo by bald clone Gary Numan in a custom-made pram driving around the stage like a prematurely crippled robot. The American tape is a little better — more inconsequential bands of no repute (like Oingo Boingo and Surf Punks), but this time interspersed with some interesting performances from Devo, Magazine, the Cramps and Pere Ubu — but even these artists are filmed in an increasingly flat method. ■

Dylan Jones

THE THOMPSON TWINS 'Into The Gap Live' (Virgin)

ALSO INCLUDES an 'Exclusive Documentary' which features the band on a bus moaning about how hard it is being pop stars. But then they are earning extraordinary amounts of money from the people who buy their records, who can hardly fail to enjoy this faithful live recording of them. With the added bonus of being able to watch the performers jump around a lot. I still say the scruffy one with the guitar does most of the musical work, though. ■■

Mark Cordery

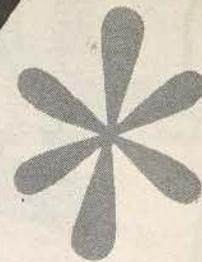
YOKO ONO 'Then And Now' (Videoform)

RECENTLY SHOWN on TV, this is a documentary which charts the highly criticised relationship of John Lennon and Yoko Ono and its tragic conclusion. On the surface it sounds as inviting as a visit to the dentist. But it is a fascinating programme which adds many new facets to the star-crossed romance and Yoko's four year period of mourning since John's assassination. Yoko speaks frankly about the Beatles and John, and it's well-illustrated with clips from John's home movies and photo albums and features many Lennon songs. ■■■■

Mike Gardner

SNOW

by
SIMON
HILLS



IF YOU were rich and famous what would you do for Christmas? The Bahamas, maybe? A bit of skiing in the Alps? Or perhaps have a rave-up in New York? Not our lot. Most of our glittering stars are going back home to mum and dad, just like the rest of us. When it comes to passing the festive season, Britain's pop stars are about as glamorous as a night out at MacDonaldis. Still, your ever-caring RM, in another sterling attempt to bring you closer to

ALANNAH CURRIE OF THE THOMPSON TWINS: "We are having a party on Christmas Day for all our walf and stray mates. Dinner will be a nut roast and chestnut stuffing, sprouts, roast potatoes, parsnips and carrots and brandy... and brandy... and brandy... On Boxing Day we'll be playing the NEC in Birmingham — be there or be square!" **TOM BAILEY:** "It's fun spending Christmas in different places, but I'm quite happy being in England this year, for a change... I wouldn't mind a Christmas in the southern hemisphere one year, though, out on the beach. Dinner will be vegetables, not a normal Christmas dinner — possibly nut roast." **JOE LEEWAY:** "I'll be in Dartford with friends. We'll have a traditional dinner but without turkey because I don't like it — baked pumpkin, I should think."

PAUL WELLER: "I will be in the Outer Hebrides composing songs for our next classic LP. I'll be having a nut roast, roast potatoes, peas, carrots, veg and gravy (the best!) There's no need to eat meat at all, actually."

LLOYD COLE: "I'll be eating, drinking and writing songs. I'll be with my family — in Glasgow with my mum and dad."

THE FARMERS BOYS: "We'll all be in Norwich. We'll be playing with noisy toys, watching crappy films on television at home, drinking too much and generally being Christmassy."

IRON MAIDEN: "We'll all be with our families with our mums and dads, having a traditional London knees-up."

EDWYN COLLINS OF ORANGE JUICE: "I'm spending Christmas in Scotland with my family. I have a generous family and I generally get about 100 Christmas presents, so on Boxing Day I place them out in rows of 10 and admire them all. I also help my mother make 'stones', which are the leftovers which we mix together and put in the oven. This year we're having pheasant for the first time. Our latest album was produced by Dennis Bovell, and I almost went to Barbados with him. If I wasn't going to Scotland, I would have been tempted." **ZEKE MANYIKA:** "I'll be spending Christmas having a quiet time in my flat meditating and relishing the peace all on my own. I'll be in London but it will have to be Scotland for the New Year."

FEARGAL SHARKEY: "I'm spending Christmas in London with my wife and child, but I am off to somewhere hot and sunny in January so I can come back and pose in all the best clubs in town with my fresh sun tan."

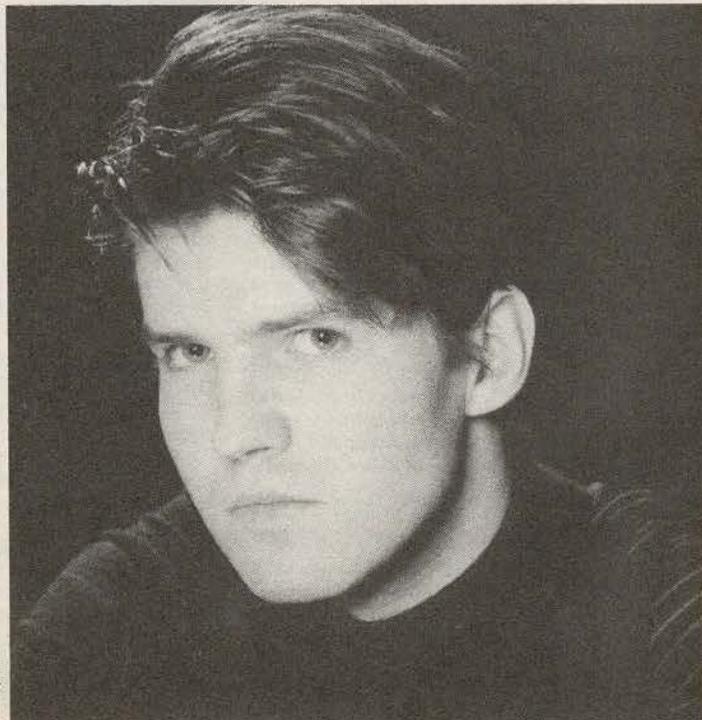
MICHAEL JACKSON: "As a Jehovah's Witness, I don't celebrate Christmas. I'm a vegetarian, and I drink a lot of carrot juice and yoghurt. Although I don't celebrate Christmas, I spend it with my family."

KATE BUSH: "I'll have a quiet Christmas at home with my family in Kent."

LIM AHL: "I'll spend Christmas with my family in Wigan. I always do. I will be going on a skiing holiday in Switzerland between Christmas and the New Year."



Pic by LFI



Pic by LFI

BUSINESS

the artists, got them on the blower to tell us about their Christmas delights. We asked the veggies what they do for Christmas lunch. We asked them how they overcome the Boxing Day blues, when all you've got to celebrate is the mess on the carpet and yesterday's empties. And we asked them if they were going anywhere exotic for a break from the humdrum Christmases of their youth. Here are their answers . . . and we can reveal, folks, they're only human after all!

GARY GLITTER: "I won't be having turkey this year. I think I'll make myself — or at least, I'll get someone else to make it — a light pastry base filled with mushroom puree, topped with quails' eggs, tarragon and a light hollandaise sauce. Lovely!"

TALK TALK: "We'll be generally resting up after touring Europe and drinking proper English beer."

ROBERT SMITH: "Through the whole period I'm going to be on the road. I'll be going overland to Peking on the Orient Express — I suppose I have wanderlust! On Boxing Day I eat fish, unless I've been a fish the night before, in which case I won't get up."

PETE BURNS OF DEAD OR ALIVE: "I'm going to bed for Christmas. And on Boxing Day I'll stay in bed... but I won't sleep."

JAZ OF KILLING JOKE: "I'm going to Helsinki for Christmas. I've just written an Icelandic symphony."

RICK PARFITT OF STATUS QUO: "I'm hoping to spend Boxing Day on the beach because I'm going to Marbella. Christmas might be lunch on the beach or it may be a house party somewhere — it depends on the weather."

MARK KING OF LEVEL 42: "I'll be spending Christmas on the Isle of Wight. Then I'll be coming back to London as my wife and I have just moved into a new house — so the post Christmas blues will be overcome by decorating." **PHIL GOULD:** "I'm a vegetarian, so I'll have a nut roast while everybody else has roast beef."

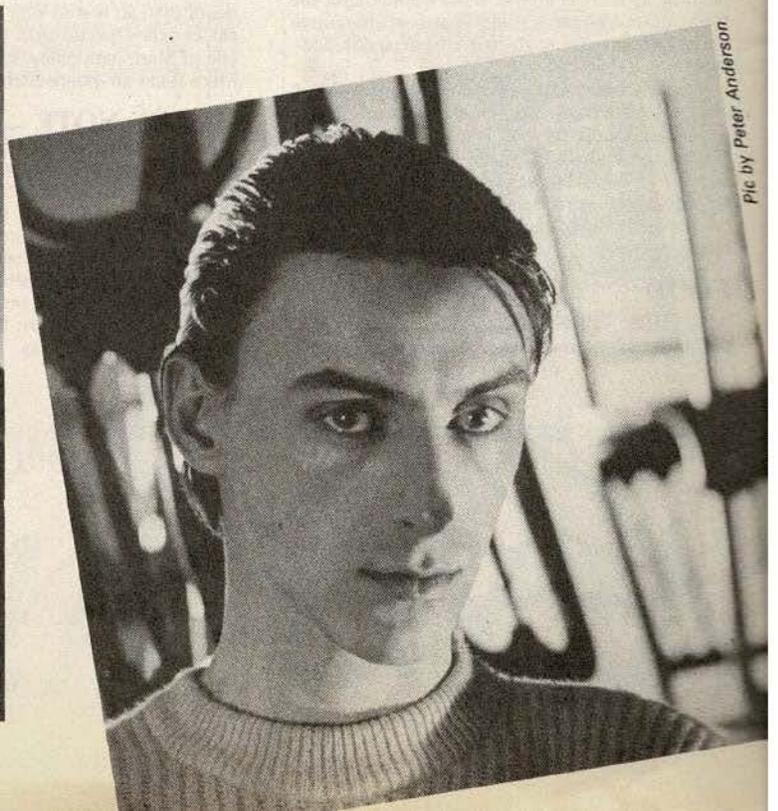
JILL SAWARD OF SHAKATAK: "We will be in the studio over the Christmas period recording demos for a new single — so it'll be a busman's holiday! I'll spend some time at home in Tooting. I am not a vegetarian, but I don't eat red meat. But I can cope with turkey."

JIMI SOMERVILLE OF BRONSKI BEAT: "I'll be spending Christmas with friends at a hideaway cottage in the country. On Boxing Day I'll play games."

BOBBY BLUEBELL: "I'll go home with my mum and dad. I'm not a veggy so I don't feel left out at lunchtime. I don't have the Boxing Day blues because it's my mum and dad's anniversary. And this year we're having a big Bluebells party for all our friends and relations."

GARETH WILLIAMS OF FLYING PICKETS: "For Christmas lunch my family have taken to eating roast beef, because it's more of a luxury than turkey. If I went away it would be somewhere hot in the sun. I was in Lanzarote last Christmas."

ANDY McCLUSKY OF OMD: "I'll be skiing in the mountains in California. On Boxing Day I'll be playing with all our toys and mending the broken ones, and watching TV." **PAUL HUMPHRIES:** "Christmas will be spent in Los Angeles with my wife and her family as they come from there. We'll be there for three weeks. Both me and Andy will have a traditional lunch with turkey and all the trimmings."



Pic by Peter Anderson

The League of Gentlemen

THE LEAGUE Of Gentlemen were very particular about the way they were. their clothes, their grooming, their posture, their manners . . . and, how can I say this, their style. Style was very important to the League Of Gentlemen . . . they'd been looking for it for years.

But of course style meant so much more than just the cut of your cloth, it was the way you crossed the Edgware Road after a trip to Barry's Take Away Bhiriani. It was how you constructed a pyramid from 15 pints, 10 packets of crisps and a tin tray. It was how you sat on the toilet after doing all these things . . . and so much more.

Could you, for instance, order a pint of lager in a tweed suit? Was abstinence from alcohol and the name Julian a suitable CV for a prospective League member? All these, all the stylistic griff of Leaguemanship, all points of social etiquette were at the final arbitration of the League's lifestyle consultant Sir Bertram Downe-Shirte.

In a dusty attic off the Golders Green Road Sir Bertram fenced with the facts and foibles of fashion. Standing in the corner of his room was a dummy upon which he heaped pile on pile of clothes until he'd got it just right.

He consulted language experts, manicurists and bookmakers, all in the hope of securing a deportment and grace commensurate with his companion's grand reputation. He took the very stuff of life — drunk deep, fell over and then announced the definitive guide for young gentlefolk.

CLOTHES

THESE ARE arranged in a unique colour scheme whereby League members must mix and match their outfits in accordance with the birthdays of 19th century politicians. Thus on the birthday of Benjamin Disraeli natty yellow and brown chequered waistcoats are the order of the day. While on Gladstone's anniversary brown overalls and wellington boots are called for. Sir Bertram plans to update his unique clothes guide until the birthdate of Margaret Hilda Thatcher whereupon outer garments are neglected for a bearskin and club.

Similarly bacchanalian bits and pieces are dealt with on a rota basis. Suitable drinks are dependent on the football results of West Ham United and Fulham FC or the running of the number 11 bus. This was no mere fiddle faddle, Bertie assured us as we searched in our style books for the significance of a West Ham victory over Coventry.

FOOD

ANOTHER THING entirely. Here there were sliding scales, no nuances of style, but one rule

only. To wit: Gourmand K Gourmand's Law: 'No member of the LOG should ever enter a drinking establishment without a score of guinea fowl sandwiches concealed about his person. Failure to comply with said direction will be punished by a hefty fine, a season ticket for Orient FC and a night at home with Mr Noddy Holder'.

Outside of this strict stipulation members are encouraged to scoff and salivate at their own rate remembering always the League pledge to extinguish the California-Hampstead axis of macrobiotic jogging from the face of the earth.

MANNERS

IT IS agreed that these are nothing but the product of the dominant ideology and should be dispensed with forthwith in the rush for last orders.

ENTERTAINMENT

THE BANNING of bear baiting and cock fighting is to be regretted, though the spectacle of bare-knuckle boxing at the Houses of Parliament is greatly anticipated. Furthermore the League wish to disassociate themselves from the MCC and Football Association and call for the immediate reinstatement of WG Grace, CB Fry and Sir Stanley Matthews. Failing that — lacrosse is a good game and 'Ice Cold In Alex' is now on video.

RELIGION

THE LEAGUE Of Gentlemen is a pagan sect registered with the Hendon Building Society. Religious totems include the lawnmower, the Ford Escort and Lynda Lee-Potter.

POLITICS

ALL MATTERS of political economy are to be left to the Maharajah Taffye's 'wobble waggle' technique: ie, if a chicken shall walk across Burnt Oak Broadway at 5-30pm on October 5 and avoid death then all is well with the world. If the chicken dies Britain shall launch an attack on the Isle of Man, nationalise Wham! and declare Sir Mike Read an independent nuclear threat.

GRACE NOTE — members shall be known as 'sir' when sober. When drunk the removal of ties is NOT permitted.

REALISING THAT Down-Shirte's strictures may be a bit stuffy for yuletide consumption, the League list below their recommended Christmas presents. All cheques to: Swindle, LOG House, West Hendon Broadway.



The Grousebeater Cheque Card: Save money and win friends

THE LOGIC is simple: every time you feel down, depressed, like Simon Le Bon — y'know, anytime you have a GROUSE — just whip out the ol' GB and, hey presto, the magic words — 'I promise to pay the bearer copious amounts of finest ale, turkey, guinea fowl and beef sandwiches and do humbly swear to provide a free taxi home and a mug of Horlicks' — works wonders! Conjure gratis alcohol and foodstuffs at the wave of flimsy plastic. Shows old JC's fish 'n' loaves trick for the cheapskate swindle it was. Prospective cardees are personally vetted by the LOG's official accountant Mark Franc-Guilders (mergers and acquisitions).



Christma

men

translated by JAMES A REID

The Sir Public House Board Game: 'Blotto In Belgravia'

IN WHICH the cunning Pubby guides his players through a maze of social intrigue and financial fiddlesticks. See the aristocracy as they really are — drunk, foolish and milking you for everything you've got. Essential for students of the English class system or anyone who wants to get through Christmas without seeing Leslie Crowther.

The Maharajah Taffye Magic Book (Sucker And Warlock)

A NO expense spared tome straight from the vaults of ancient Welsh mythology. What do you get if you cross the hairs of Harry Secombe's left nostril with a rugby ball? What is the ancient Druid significance of Bonnie Tyler's cleavage? Was there ever life on Neil Kinnock? Or is it all warlocks?

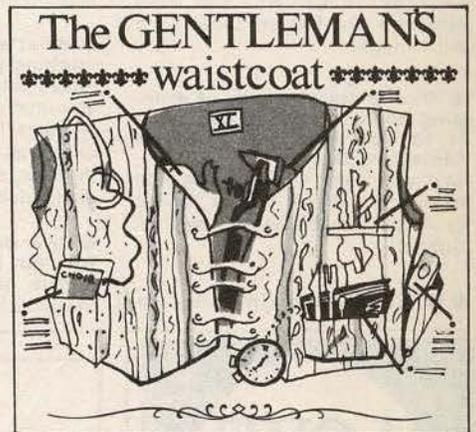


The League Of Gentlemen Hangover Video (dir: Jasper Funny- Haircutmediaperson)

DRAWING EVER so slightly on the cut-away techniques of classic Albanian cinema, 'Hangover Video' is a seminal work in the new breed of sicko films. Filmed entirely on location at the Frog and Ferret urinal, this grainy, gritty, realistic, near to the knuckle, lifelike, etc, film is a must for those dry hours on Xmas morning. Sixth form humour at its best.

The League of Gentlemen Waistcoat

A MULTI-pocketed dipso's delight in finest brocade. Special features: built in whiskey flask, built in picnic hamper, built in mini version of the Viennese Boys Choir, multi purpose Acme corkscrew/transistor radio/alarm clock-teasmade. The waistcoat comes in one size only — Gourmand extra large.



Bile wars — everything you never wanted to know about the charm, wit and elegance of ye Xmas LOG

s h a m p e r

THE WRIGHT STUFF

*An Xmas survival special
with Radio One's Steve Wright
and RM's Mike Gardner*

FOR SOME the celebrations of Jesus's birthday and the feast of St Stephen are about as much fun as a wisdom tooth extraction. Scrooge had it right! Bah! Humbug!

Do you think it's easy trying to compose a letter to Santa and then find a five-year-old so you can slip it to Santa at his grotto?

What about the deadly dangers of the office party? Where do you hang your mistletoe for best effect?

You can see the problems are sometimes insurmountable. Ever wondered why winter holidays are in vogue? Could it be the stresses and strains of the festive season? You bet your Peek Freans' Christmas pudding, it is.

Luckily Radio One disc jockey Steve Wright has decided to help the lengthy Yule period slightly more bearable in his 'Survival Special'.

● **What's the best thing to ask Santa to send you this year?**

A couple of dozen Mike Read singles might come in handy. I can always use them to scare the birds in the garden — or even stoke up the fire on those long winter nights.

● **What's the best way of dropping hints to friends and family to get what you want on Christmas Day?**

Last year I did erect a neon sign outside my house so my fiancée could get an idea what I wanted. Subtle, eh?

● **What's the main thing to**

watch out for at the office party?

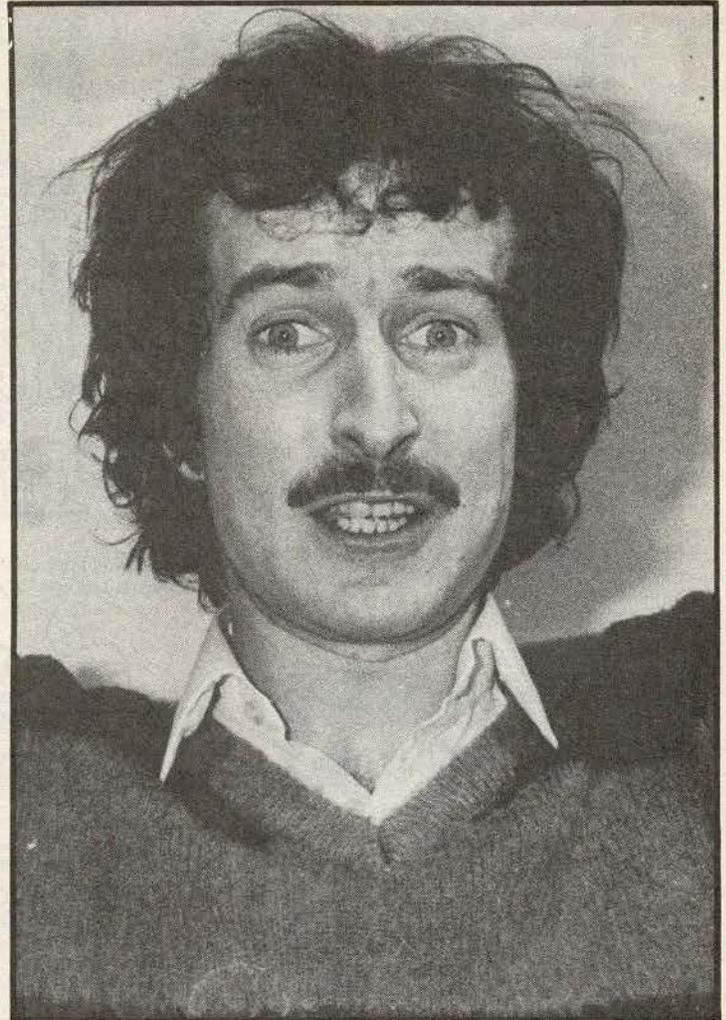
I try and make sure that all those people who lent me a fiver at last year's party don't get near enough to ask for them back.

● **What's the place to avoid sticking your mistletoe?**

I have made a point never to stick any mistletoe in the studio — every time I leap up to give someone a smacker on the lips I jog the record and they get the needle (geddit?).

● **How do you avoid having to fork out to carol singers?**

I have never bought a sewing machine in my life, I just borrow



somebody else's.

● **Do you know any alternative carols?**

I don't know any personally but I'm sure there are one or two camped outside Greenham Common.

● **How do you make sure you're sleeping before Santa comes down the chimney?**

I make a point of never falling asleep before Santa comes — I am always up and about with a camera ready to get an exclusive snap for Simon Bates' column.

● **How do you open presents with 36 layers of wrapping paper and tons of sellotape?**

It's never really a problem, I only get the one and I always know who it's from — I can recognize my own handwriting.

● **What do you say to dozy Aunt Dora who's bought you that tasteless kipper tie?**

I suppose a kipper tie will match my herringbone suit.

● **What do you get for that special someone in your life?**

I must admit this year I have bought Cindy the same present as last year — a giant picture of the most beautiful man in Henley, me.

● **How do you get out of the washing-up after the Christmas nosh?**

I always insist that Cindy doesn't cook anything special on Christmas Day. To save on washing up, we warm up some fish and chips saved specially for the occasion and eat them out of newspaper.

● **How's the best way to queue up for the January sales?**

I have never been much good at this; last year I queued for six days before I got to the front, then this guy said "sorry mate, full up" and rang the bell.

LOVE
&
PRIDE
FOR
'85
KING

MCP, by arrangement with TBA International and Friars Management, Presents

HOWARD JONES Plus Special Guests

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*Congratulations Paul
on your great 1984 UK Tour*

NOVEMBER			
Thurs	29th	GLASGOW, Apollo	SOLD OUT
Fri	30th	EDINBURGH, Playhouse	SOLD OUT
DECEMBER			
Sat	1st	NEWCASTLE, City Hall	SOLD OUT
Mon	3rd	MANCHESTER, Apollo	SOLD OUT
Tues	4th	LIVERPOOL, Empire	SOLD OUT
Wed	5th	BIRMINGHAM, NEC	SOLD OUT
Fri	7th	ST. AUSTELL, Coliseum, Cornwall	SOLD OUT
Sat	8th	BOURNEMOUTH International Centre	SOLD OUT
Sun	9th	BRIGHTON Centre	SOLD OUT
Tues	11th	WEMBLEY ARENA	SOLD OUT
Wed	12th	WEMBLEY ARENA	SOLD OUT
Thurs	13th	BRIGHTON Centre	SOLD OUT
Sat	15th	LEEDS, Queens Hall	SOLD OUT

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EDITION CHRISTMAS SINGLES TWIN PACK
AND POSTER BAG (WITH 1985 CALENDAR)



steinway



to heaven

How to write million-selling songs. Your piano teachers: George Michael and Jim Reid

WHILE MOST of you are stuffing your face with Leslie Crowther, overdosing on Brenda of Buck House and generally spewing over with good ol' Yuletide spirit, George Michael will be working. Wham! will be playing Wembley on 23, 24, 26, 27 December — that leaves them just enough time to unwrap their Christ-

mas presents, before thinking about work again.

Here in ever charitable, stocking fillin' RM, George Michael gives the low down on his attitude to songwriting, work and success. Remember folks, there are only five more festive days before you go back to work... so enjoy what you do!

● **Alright, you've made it big, but in what terms do you see success?**

"Selling records and writing better songs. That's the thing about being in any creative field — there's so much to do. Someone like an entrepreneur works solely towards making

money, but when they become very rich what is there left for them to do? We've got our security — I mean money is not what we're in it for now. You have to keep going for creative reasons... there's always a better record to make or more records to sell."

● **You're very thorough about things. Are you a workaholic?**

"We're both workaholics in that we don't let everything go by — I don't believe there's one band in this country that have worked as hard as we have this year — that's partly why we've sold so many records: If people think we don't deserve success and that they should be getting the same success as us, they

should try working a bit harder."

● **Can you improve your songwriting through hard work, or is it just a gift?**

"You improve it not through hard work, but by scrutinising it. The songwriting hasn't been hard work this year — it's been doing all the promotion and recording. I do very, very little work on songs — I must be the least prolific writer of all the successful bands at the moment — I write an average of eight or nine songs a year."

● **You seem to write more love songs now, whereas when you started your songs were more sorta throwaway commentary. Any reason for this? Are you in**

love, perhaps?

"No, neither of us are in love — it's all for a very, very basic reason. It's very straight forward. The songs that we originally wrote — we were in some position to talk about our age group and things that were happening around us. But I think once you've moved into the 'pop star' bracket, y'know, who wants to know. They might wanna watch you looking healthy and wealthy. They don't wanna know about your lifestyle — what are you gonna write about? What a terrible photo session and interview I've had today? Popstars lives aren't interesting — apart from the highs, playing live, making records. It's very difficult to relate

that to people — apart from that it's just work like everybody else. We don't have very much in common with our age group anyway. When you write about relationships — relationships bring everyone down to the same level. So you're still writing something everyone can relate to."

● **Would you ever consider ditching performing and just operating as a songwriter?**

"Oh, eventually I would imagine so. At the moment I'm too excited with the idea of something I write to give things to other people. Eventually the time's going to come when I've satisfied my ego, I suppose."

A VERY MERRY



WALLYMAS

Yes, it's the *only* guide you'll need for a festered season! Black Lace present the oaf-ficial version of how to do Xmas the Wally way

Your resident experts : Colin Routh, Alan Barton and Mike Gardner

REMEMBER THE song — Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat, look at that Wally, being sick in his hat?

Yes, the Wally is as important a fixture of our Yuletide scene as turkey sandwiches all the last week of December.

The Wally is deeply ingrained into the fabric of Christmas past. Who was it that suggested that the Virgin Mary should join the Bethlehem branch of the Judea One-Parent Family Association? Who was it that gave King Herod honorary membership to the NSPCC for his birthday? Who was the fourth wise man — the one that reckoned the star from the east was Ravi Shankar?

Who is it that thinks that a Christmas pudding is Christopher Biggins on Boxing Day? Who assumes that an Xmas turkey is 'The Sound Of Music' (again!)? Who believes that Christmas Eve comes in black lacy Christmas stockings?

Yes, it's that person again.

The Wally is easy to spot in summer — sporting his bottle tan, spots and beer gut on a Camber Sands Bozo Break. In the winter it would be easy to assume the Wally hibernates. But the Christmas season sees its return in full plumage.

This then is the RECORD MIRROR guide to Christmas Wally. Your hosts are Colin Routh and Alan Barton from Black Lace — renowned specialists in Wallyology from the David Attenborough Institute of Anthropology.

THEIR QUALIFICATIONS are unparalleled. Aside from such intellectually stimulating works as 'Superman', 'Agadoo' and 'Do The Conga' they are famous for performing the only British Eurovision entry NOT to become a hit single.

They also rejected 'The Birdie Song' — a huge seller over Europe — as they thought it had no commercial potential.

Finally after scoring heavy duty chart success with the aforementioned masterpieces, their distribution company went into the hands of the official receiver, owing the boys nearly £250,000.

Yes, these boys know exactly the sort of conditions in which the Wally flourishes. . .

Does the Wally take a mid-winter break?

CR: "No, he's already had a late September holiday in Cleethorpes. It's cheap then. In fact,

it's shut. You can play bingo all day to get out of the rain. It gets really exciting. You can watch the traffic lights change — three o'clock sharp!"

Where does a Wally do his Christmas shopping?

AB: "The Co-op because they give trading stamps. The Wally will splash out on his girlfriend though — he'll get her one of those £1.99 Casio watches from Shell garages."

What's the best way to spot a Wally?

AB: "He drives a mini with a spoiler on the back and wide wheels. He's usually a member of the Automobile Association — he's got the key and the handbook but can't understand why they haven't sent him the uniform. He has stickers from all over England on his rear window. He reserves a special place for his 'My other car's a Porsche — this is a recycled Ferrari' sticker."

CR: "He's the one at a dog track who's creating a fuss because he can't bet on the hare — he's sussed that it's not in a box and seems to get a head start."

Is there anything that will distinguish him at Christmas from a normal drunken party reveller?

CR: "He polishes his medallion for Christmas — he may even wear two. He presses his flares specially and may even get out his old loon pants because they suit his silver platform shoes."

AB: "He's the one who orders lemon tea or lager and blackcurrant at the bar."

"He's got the fattest 'black book', filled with phone numbers of girls. He thinks all the girls have dandruff problems because they're always washing their hair the night he calls."

What sort of job would he have?

CR: "He's probably a bingo caller — pity about his stutter."

What sort of joke would he tell?

AB: "A very longwinded one — and he'd forget the punchline. He'd probably tell the one about a cigarette talking to Superman. The cigarette would say, 'Superman, is it true you can leap tall buildings with a single bound?'. Superman would reply, 'Hmmm!'. The cigarette would then continue, 'Is it true you can run faster than a speeding bullet?'. Superman would answer, 'Hmmm!'. The

cigarette would then ask, 'Superman, why do you say 'Hmmm!' when I ask you a question?'. Superman says, 'I never say yes to a cigarette.'"

What would he like to get for Christmas?

CB: "A bottle of Brut aftershave, diamond patterned socks and jumpers, a deerstalker to cover his bald patch and a copy of Black Lace's 'Party Party' LP."

How would his Christmas Day go?

AB: "He'd wake up in his bedroom, the walls covered with his swimming certificates and 'Blue Peter' badge. The telly would go on straight away for the 'Lassie' film. He'd break the kids' toys before 10.00am. He'd wear his party hat all day but wouldn't win the prize in his cracker."

CR: "He wouldn't have turkey — he'd prefer beefburger and chips. He'd swallow the five pence piece in the Christmas pud."

AB: "He'd watch the Bond movie, even though it's too intellectual for him. He still can't understand why he wasn't chosen for the role in the first place. He'd get bored and put on either 'LingalongaMax', 'Chas And Dave's Greatest Hits' or Black Lace's 'Party Party' LP."

CR: "He'd have brought the Christmas tree down by now — his paisley kipper tie would have caught in the flex."

AB: "After all those lager and blackcurrants he'd be sick all over his kipper tie and nobody would notice."

CR: "He'd also be sick all over his Yorkshire Terrier dog and say, 'I don't remember eating that.'"

AB: "He'd like to visit the family but they'd know he's coming and would be somewhere else. He'd then join the queue for the January sales — especially for summer clothes and a colour TV — he's fed up of black and white. He'd camp out for three days and nights and then sleep in on the morning of the sale."

What about New Years Eve?

AB: "He still does the twist and manages to knock everybody's drinks over. He's got a theory that if he asks 20 girls for a cuddle, one will say yes. Trouble is that the first 19 slap his face and the final girl thinks he's red-faced with embarrassment and feels sorry for him."

What are his ambitions?

CR: "To be a bouncer for 'Mothercare'..."

AB: "Or a minder to 'Action Man'."

Help!



Problems? Need some ideas or information fast? Or would it help to talk things over? Write to Susanne Garrett, 'Help', Record Mirror, 40 Long Acre, London WC2. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope to ensure a personal reply. Alternatively, ring our Helpline, office hours, Monday to Friday on 01-836 1147.

EARLIER THIS year I sent a record company called *Link Records* of PO Box 223, Thornton Heath, Surrey, England some money in exchange for a "promotion contract". Since then, I've written numerous letters to them, but have had no reply and the last two have been returned. What is going on?

A J H Maybole, Scotland
 ● That PO box has long since been cancelled by the post office following complaints and an investigation. Sad to say, a number of bands have sent money and/or demos to *Link Records*, brainchild of one Philip August, its successor MPV using *Eagle House*, Sanderstead, Surrey as a mail pick up point, *Music Press* of Stone Court, Caterham, Surrey and a number of other names at that Caterham address, without result.

As part of an ongoing investigation, we welcome feedback from anyone who has sent a demo tape or money to any of the enterprises named above or to any so-called 'promotions' company which has taken their money and



BRAHMS AND LISZT

AS THE festive season is a time when just about everyone is plied with booze, I'd be interested to know if you can recommend any good hangover cures. How much is it safe to drink?

Richard, Hounslow

● Prevention is always better than cure, and the best way of avoiding a hangover is very simple. Don't drink too much! Also, steer clear of drinks with additives, like red wine, port or brandy in any quantity. They're more likely to produce a mouth like a dirty dish cloth and a sore head, than alternatives like white wine, vodka and gin. And, remember that drinking with a meal will spread both consumption and absorption into your blood stream over a greater period of time, the food acting as a barrier.

Always drink a pint or so of water before you go to sleep, to dilute the alcohol and prevent total dehydration, or alternate the booze with long soft drinks during the party.

Next day, your irritated stomach lining will start functioning again if you give it a fresh lining of raw eggs (go on, try it!), milk or a mild breakfast. Any non-alcoholic liquid will help re-charge your dehydrated groaning cells with essential fluid. But, only time will allow your liver to process all that poison out of your bloodstream and allow your nervous system to recover from the shock effect of booze.

Whether you sleep afterwards or not, it takes all of eight hours for your blood alcohol level to return to normal after drinking four pints of beer, for example; four hours to come down after just four small standard measures of wine, and four hours to recover from four standard single measures of spirits. And, if you drink just 2½ pints of ordinary

strength beer in the space of an hour, you're likely to be well over the limit as far as the breathalyser bag goes. If you're a small person with less body fluid to help dilute the invading alcohol, you don't even need that much to put you over the limit.

Every festive season sees its crop of deaths and casualties on the road, due to drunken and dangerous driving. If you drink you already know what not to do. Give the cabbies a bit of extra work instead!

Health-wise, it's best to keep your drinking down to a reasonable weekly level throughout the year. Health Education Council guidelines recommend sticking to two or three standard drinks, two or three times a week. A standard drink is defined as half a pint (not a pint!) of ordinary beer or lager, a single standard measure of spirits, one glass of wine, a small sherry or one measure of vermouth. Apple-crushers, beware — a mere half pint of cider weighs in as the equivalent of three quarters of a pint of beer and a half of strong cider gives the same shot of alcohol as a pint of ordinary British beer.

Ten standard drinks per week is the maximum anyone can imbibe without obvious damage to health, but girls and women who like a drop should remember that you do have more sensitive livers than male boozers and, as female bodies have less basic water content than males, it is advisable to aim below that target figure.

Anyone who wants a free copy of a useful guide to sensible drinking, packed with fax 'n figures and tips, as well as contact addresses for anyone who wants some help in controlling the booze habit, write to 'That's The Limit', PO Box 420, London SE99 6TE. Could be a timely stocking filler for someone!

produced no evidence of ever having done any promotional work on their behalf. Watch this space. *Record Mirror* readers haven't been asked to supply this kind of information before, but now's your chance.

Meanwhile, readers are advised to treat any advertisement you may see suggesting that "bands and artists" are wanted by a "recording company" or advertising other services from that Stonecourt address with extreme caution.

I'D LIKE to train as a nurse and wonder if there is any guide to schools of nursing in the UK listing academic qualifications needed?

Linda, Birmingham

● Yes. At long last a comprehensive guide to the 219 existing schools of nursing in Britain, detailing academic and other requirements and details of annual intake has been published. Essential for any school library or careers department 'Which School of Nursing?' costs £3, inc p&p, from 'Nursing Times' Publications, Macmillan Journals Ltd, Brunel Road, Basingstoke RG21 2XS.

The guide also lists universities and polytechnics where you can combine a basic nursing qualification with a degree.

FOR AGES now, my mate has been trying to find a Bonnie Tyler information service. Can you point him in the right direction?

Rod, Tonbridge

● Left hand down a bit. Fax on the Tyler gang from fan club secretary G Taylor, PO Box 308, London E6 1EP. See much needed.

PLEASE COULD you publish the address of the Save The Children fund which is sending famine relief to Ethiopia. This has been mentioned on television but I have lost the address.

Penny, Bournemouth

● Send your Christmas donation to Save The Children, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'Save The Children' (Ethiopia) and if you want a receipt, you're asked to enclose an sae. People who want to donate by Access or Barclaycard can do so by ringing a special number, 01-701 0894.

So far, over £5 million has been raised through Save The Children for Ethiopia, but this is a mere drop in the ocean compared to the amount of money actually needed to save lives. So, anyone who can spare a few pence, (or pounds), you know where to send it!

THANK U VERY MUCH: We don't often publish follow-ups to letters which have been printed but just so readers can see this service really does work here are a couple of thankyou to people who've helped out other music fans recently.

Thanks to *Simon H* from Cardiff for sending Ultravox 'Vienna' sheet music seeker *Dave* from Alconbury. (November 10 issue) a free copy. "I wouldn't like to think of the poor boy sitting in a cupboard somewhere, sobbing into his trench coat," sez *Simon*.

And thanks a lot to all the young women who've written in with messages of support for *Joanna*, (also November 10). All your letters have been passed on.

Young Free And Single

HOW MANY more bopping days to Christmas? Doesn't bear thinking about, does it? But, this week, readers get the chance to spread some seasons greetings overseas. Let's start with *Slawek* (23), from Poland, into new wave and rock music and interested in record exchange and correspondence with anyone, anywhere; next comes *Zoltan* from Hungary, who collects jazz rock but says that Western album material just isn't available in his country. Any offers? Nearer home, *Maisie* from Gloucester is hoping for a touch of sunshine from music fans in Jamaica; and *Eloise*, (15), from Hythe, who loves chart music, discos and roller skating wants to hear from boys somewhere in the world, the universe, the galaxy. Write to Slawek, Zoltan, Maisie or Eloise at 'YF&S', Help, Record Mirror, 40 Long Acre, London WC2. All letters are forwarded in confidence. If you're feeling lonely, or just want to meet some new people, drop a line, including some info on your musical tastes and I'll include you in the contact box. This is a free and confidential service.

MAS WORD

First correct solution to our bumper post-turkey crossy wins a stupendous £10 record token. Entries to: Record Mirror, 40 Long Acre, London WC2

ACROSS:

- 1 Christmas No 1 last year (4,3)
- 4 Upstairs Downstairs inspired this Depeche Mode hit (6,3,7)
- 8 Group that spent most of '84 spinning on their heads (5,7)
- 12 Rod Stewart LP that may be difficult to see (10)
- 13 David Sylvian couldn't see the wood for these (9,5)
- 14 Roxy Music hit you may find above your head (4,3)
- 15 & 10 down He spent 1984 racing against his fellow man (3,7)
- 19 Street full of Maisonnets (9,6)
- 20 A quiet word in George's ear took him to No 1 (8,7)
- 23 Bird of Paradise singer/guitarist (5,5)
- 25 He had the feeling that he was being watched perhaps by the Taxman (8)
- 27 Eaters that took The First Picture Of You (5)
- 28 It was subtitled 'Pray Like Aretha Franklin' (4,4)
- 33 Level 42 were up to their necks in it (3,5)

- 36 It was impossible not to do it during 1984 (5)
- 37 Is this where Phil Oakey took Joanne for their holidays? (3,7)
- 41 Quo's drinking song (10,4)
- 43 You'll find them at the door of the pleasure dome (7,4,2,9)
- 46 Pete who occupied the Beatles' drum stool before Ringo (4)
- 47 An emotional outburst from the Human League (8)
- 48 It kills according to Freddie (4)
- 51 See 116 down
- 52 Built to commemorate the success of Ultravox (8)
- 53 Mechanically operated Pointer Sisters hit (9)
- 55 Where Paul and Mick go for refreshment (4,4)
- 56 It meant nothing to Midge and his friends (6)
- 57 Kid Creole's gangsters (8)
- 59 Question raised by Howard Jones (4,2,4)
- 64 Rod's limbs sometimes get a bit warm (3,4)

- 65 Queen label (1,1,1)
- 66 Worn by Nick after a Chelsea defeat (4,3,3,1,4,3)
- 69 Song that leaves Spandau in the air (3,3,3,3)
- 70 Led Zep guitarist (4)
- 71 Joe and Alannah's Thompson twin (3)
- 72 Where you'll find Stuart and his friends (2,1,3,7)
- 75 A hit for Ben and Tracey all the way from Eden (4,3,5,3)
- 76 Live U2 LP (5,1,5,3,3)
- 80 They helped Dexy's Midnight Runners record Too Rye Ay (7,7)
- 85 The answer was blowin' in it according to Bob (3,4)
- 86 He wanted to wear The Crown (4,4)
- 90 1979 Elvis Costello hit (9,4,6)
- 93 Fans of the Cure have a lot of this (5)
- 94 Sky hit from 1980 (7)
- 97 Gang Leader (4)
- 99 Duran put them on film (5)
- 100 Black Sabbath caught in the act (4,4)
- 101 Partner of Sarah and Siobhan (5)
- 102 What Duran Duran saw in the sky on Monday (3,4)
- 103 Group featuring David Joseph who gave us the British Hustle (2,7)
- 104 Bruce confirming his place of birth (4,2,3,1,1,1)
- 105 See 96 down
- 109 Put on canvas by Japan (3)
- 110 David Grant had to be on the look out with this hit (8,3,8,2)
- 113 She led the Devotions into European battle (5)
- 114 Bronski Beat question (3)
- 115 Breakfast time drink for Edwyn Collins (6,5)
- 117 Heard by Tears for Fears during 1984 (7,4)
- 118 Found in white satin (6)
- 119 See 112 down

- 120 Home of Dr Beat's sound machine (5)
- 121 Group or road sign (3,2,4)

DOWN:

- 1 They contributed to our Junk Culture during 1984 (10,10,2,3,4)
- 2 Song of grief from Ultravox (6)
- 3 Sounds as if Divine wanted to start an argument (3,5,5,1,3)
- 4 They made a Come Back during 1984 (6,3)
- 5 Captain Sensible was Glad It's ---- (3,4)
- 6 Group that saw Babylon Burning (4)
- 7 Action that took Duran Duran to the top (3,6)
- 9 He said Goodbye Cruel World during 1984 (5)
- 10 See 15 across
- 11 A young one who had a hole in his shoe (4)
- 16 Written for a jester's tear by Marillion (6)
- 17 A warning from Michael (4,2)
- 18 Mr Alpert whose biggest hit was This Guy's In Love With You (4)
- 21 Soft or padded (4)
- 22 He barked at the moon (4)
- 24 Where Simple Minds watch the boats come in (10)
- 26 It was the best selling single of 1983 (5,9)
- 29 Leader of the Juniors who could be found At The Hop (5)
- 30 A find for Howard (5,2,3,5)
- 31 Performed by 8 across (6,5)
- 32 Group who are Big in Japan (10)
- 34 The Grandmaster's lines (5)
- 35 They feature Chaka Khan and hit the charts with Ain't Nobody (5)
- 38 A place to stay in California (5)
- 39 Mr Nelson who fronted Be Bop Deluxe (4)
- 40 A number of colourful balloons put her on top (4)
- 42 Heaven knows they were miserable during 1984 (3,6)
- 44 Martin's ballet brother (4)
- 45 Not a big 24 hours for Ultravox (3,5,3)
- 49 The Bunnyman's rain (5)
- 50 A wild boy (4,6)
- 51 Van Halen hit that was a result of joy (4)
- 54 What Bucks Fizz were doing in their sleep (7)
- 58 Posthumous Bob Marley hit (3,4)
- 60 A request from the Thompson Twins (4,2,3)
- 61 Up and down Madness LP (3,4,3,4)
- 62 Group who were Dancing In The Sheets during 1984 (8)
- 63 ELO conductor (4)
- 67 Debut hit of David Essex (4,2)
- 68 The Mael brothers as they were better known (6)
- 73 1970 Jackson Five hit (3,2,5)
- 74 What Talk Talk were living for in 1982 (5)
- 77 A harvest for Ultravox (4,3,4,4)
- 78 It's all you have to do and the Four Tops will be there (5,3)
- 79 Fortune and luck played their part in this Big Country hit (6)
- 81 You'll find him on The Big Express (4)
- 82 Sting's latest film (4)
- 83 It goes with corruption and lies (5)
- 84 Band or an empty space (3)
- 87 Sade's gem of an existence (7,4)
- 88 Along with Paul he was shouting at the top (4,6)
- 89 He might be able to answer the question How Are Men? (5,7)
- 91 & 106 down The feeling Rick Springfield wanted (5,5)
- 92 Annie's Eurythmic partner (4,7)
- 95 Carried out by numbers (6)
- 96 & 105 across Description of Billy Joel (2,8,3)
- 98 Quo man who could be The Wanderer (5)
- 100 Kenny who could be found Up On The Roof (5)
- 103 Ace classic which was also a hit for Rod Stewart (3,4)
- 106 See 91 down
- 107 Debbie's solo LP is one for the birds (3,3)
- 108 All Cried Out singer (6)
- 111 Paul Young sang about it when he was in the Street Band (5)
- 112 & 119 across they might go to war (3,5)
- 116 & 51 across He's no relation of Michael's (3,7)
- 117 Label found in a mac (1,1,1)

Disco

JAMES HAMILTON mans the decks

ODDS 'N' BODS

MANY MAY be surprised to hear I had a very enjoyable lunch with **Tony Blackburn**, sitting either side of **Evelyn Thomas** as guests of **Record Shack** at the annual **Music Publishers Association Christmas Bash**, not the least because **Tony** was recently quoted as calling me "the most boring man I'd ever met" — an expression I could well imagine him using lightheartedly, but which (as he apologetically announced on **Radio London** the day after it appeared in print) he had not actually used at all, the words having been put into his mouth as suspected by a student reporter hurrying to make a journalistic reputation no matter who he upset. **OK, Ralph Tee**, you can stop stirring it! ... **Solar-FM's** new studio had another "very heavy" raid last Tuesday afternoon (11) with absolutely everything confiscated again — but they were promising to be back on the air again soon ... **Ian Dewhurst** invites "imaginative, innovative, good DJs" to send their full details to **Dance, EMI House, 20 Manchester Square, London W1A 1ES** ... **Disco Dave Singleton** (our "oldest" reader?) is selling his giant video show for £1,000 and looking for DJs/groups on **Newton-Le-Willows 6018** as, after eight years jacking there, he's become general manager and licensee of **Eccles Rainbow** — a proper job at last! ... **"Purple Rain"** is already available on video Stateside and selling so fast it could outstrip **"Making Michael Jackson's Thriller"** — meanwhile, **Prince** has been modifying his **US tour's** content so that when he played predominantly black Washington DC he revived many of his soul oldies in singalong style before really turning on the funk aided by **Sheila E**, to delightedly stunned response (a thought: could it be that now he's won the white mass market with his rock style, he's going to turn them to us too?) ... **Madonna** topped **US Hot Dance/Disco** ... **Reggie Thompson**, who so distinctively mixed **Mtume's** hits amongst others, is

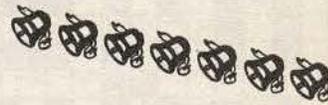


BIG BAM BOO! When recently in Birmingham, **AFRIKA BAMBAATAA** looked in at the 222 Broad Street headquarters of **THE STUDIO 222 EXPERIENCE** where young **PAUL DIXON** (left), street name "Mix Wizard", lays down his ambitious mixes — including a weekly selection featured every Saturday night on **Steve Dennis's BRMB** soul show.

currently adding synthesized drums and a modern "urban" treatment to a whole pile of unreleased 1968-1972 recordings by **Bob Marley & The Wailers** — the mind boggles ... February 23/24 **Hammersmith Odeon** has the **New York Jazz Explosion** — basically **Roy Ayers**,

Tom Browne, Lonnie Liston Smith & Jean Carn, each doing a set before combining for one giant jam (at last someone's promoting the sort of jazz bill people under 50 want to see!) ... **Haywoode** supports **Imagination** this Fri/Sat (21/22) at the **Hammersmith Odeon**, where the orchestra pit has been boarded over specially! ... **Rick Robinson** won't be playing **Five Star** any more at **Bermondsey Old Kent Road's Oasis** after they failed to turn up despite last minute confirmation (has TV gone to their heads?), but with any luck the much nicer **Cool Notes** will be there tonight (Thur 20) ... **Johnnie Gee** (ex-Tottenham Eltons) souls the **Old Kent Road's Oasis** Fri/Sun, while down the road **Les Adams** funks the **Green Man** Fri and **Dun Cow** Thur (plus Tues with **Greg Edwards**, for whose Saturday **Capital** show he creates a weekly megamix), **Les** also doing **New Malden Chemies Wine Bar** Sat ... **John Sachs** kids not, his weekday afternoon **Capital** show was practically wall-to-wall soul when last heard — keep it up! ... **Simon Harris**, mixing Saturdays at **Epping Billie Jean's** 18-21 disco, joins **Froggy** creating a special weekly mix for **Tony Blackburn** on **Radio London** ... **Paul Dakeyne**, spinning up-front sounds to up-front people at **Hull Romeo's & Juliet's**, is the creator of the weekly "Tasty Mixer" on **Carl Kingstone's** evening **BBC Radio Humber** disco show — and he sent me an absolutely excellent **Steinski-type** mix on cassette with lots of nice snappy speech drop-ins ... **Nicky A** (Aravis) has quit unfunky **Romford** to soul **Thur-Sun** at **Ilford High Road's ArBeez Wine Bar** (beer & spirits too), while **Dave Clark** is fairly funky **Mon/Sat** at **Barking's** non-dancing **Chains** wine bar ... **Trevor "Redeye" Hughes** is thankfully able to get quite soulful Saturdays at **Woodcote's Preachers** (in a converted chapel, between **Wolverhampton-Newport**) ... **Stuart Hughes** wears two hats both managing and jacking at **Sidmouth Carinas** (where **Nic Wakefield** used to hold court), open also as a fun pub lunchtime and the first UK club to be

fitted with a 60 selection **Thorn Laser Video System**, Wednesdays being jazz-funk night, Thursdays reggae ... **Nick Graham** fills **Werrington** (**Peterborough**) **The Gables** with up-front funk Thursdays ... **Glenn Jones** started out singing gospel, first recording when only aged 8 with the **Bivens Specials** on **Nashboro**, and later in his teens solo on **Savoy** ... **Billboard's** **Hot Black** chart has gradually been showing there must be an unheralded market presumably amongst young black Americans for records by cute kids, like **New Edition, Kids At Work, Force MDs, Menudo, Nolan Thomas** and probably even the **Fat Boys** — it would be ironic if this new youthful market was opened up by that former child star **Michael Jackson** ... **Passion** next year becomes an exclusively **HI-NRG** label, soul/funk going onto the provisionally titled **Debut** ... **Tricky Dicky's** record of the year at **Soho Newport Court's Record Cellar** shop is **Pamela Stanley's** "Coming Out Of Hiding", still selling five copies a week (as opposed to "High Energy" now doing one a fortnight) ... **Evelyn Thomas's** import LP now won't be out here until March! ... **Donna Summer's** two simultaneous singles, old and new, didn't do much did they? ... **Adrian Allen** (**South Shields Chelsea Cat** finally got his **Peter Brown** "Love In Our Hearts" after **Andy Gregory** **Laughton Tempo Rico**) rang him and rabbited for an interesting hour ... **Pete Haigh** (0253-824156) is after **New Birth "Z-Jee"** (**US RCA LP**), **JB's "Doin' It To Death"** (**Canadian/US Polydor 12in**), **Beginning Of The End "Funky Nassau"** (**LP version**) ... **Chris Ellis**, notorious wind-up artiste of recent Greek experience, is back not in **London** but looking for gigs with **David John** in **Lancashire** on 0772-22771 — could he be the **DJ Ellis** who's been doing the odd **Club Ranger** night out at **Morecambe's Harveys**? ... **Colin Hudd** (**Dartford Flicks**) quips at last there's a record for everyone who comes up to ask "Can you play anything for my mate?" — **Direct Drive** ... **Nicky Holloway** (**London Bridge Royal Oak**) stumbled on a good mix, **Dazz Band** into **Imagination's** old "Burning Up" — "same BPM and everything!" ... **Jeffrey Osborne** "Stay With Me Tonight" is resurging for **Alan Donald** in mid-Clyde on the **Isle of Bute** at **Rothsay's Ashburn**, where it "seems to be the type of beat they went up here the nool!" ... **New Year's Eve** once again I'll be doing **Capital Radio's** four-hour 10pm party tape, and what's more the full playlist will be in next week's **Record Mirror** along with the usual year-end features ... many thanks for all your cards, kind wishes and welcome drinks, and **LET'S HAVE AN OUTSIGHT, SNOWY WHITE, CHRISTMAS!**



record mirror

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NIGHTCLUB

POP JOX are playing: 1 (7) **Kool & The Gang** 12in, 2 (10) **Madonna**, 3 (1) **Temptations** 12in, 4 (3) **Dazz Band**, 5 (2) **Chaka Khan** 12in, 6 (4) **Billy Ocean**, 7 (5) **Sister Sledge** "WAF", 8 (8) **Matt Bianco** "HAM/MM2", 9 (9) **Eurythmics**, 10 (6) **Pointer Sisters**, 11 (14) **Breakout Krew**, 12 (23) **Stevie Wonder**, 13 (32) **Thelma Houston** 12in, 14 (46) **Kane Gang**, 15 (12) **Eugene Wilde** 12in, 16 (17) **Dead Or Alive**, 17 (15) **Chic**, 18 (19) **Bar-Kays**, 19 (28) **Switch**, 20 (40) **Gene Chandler**, 21 (31) **Roy Ayers** 12in, 22 (25) **Paul Hardcastle** "EYHO/RF", 23 (33) **Bob Marley**, 24 (22) **Duran Duran**, 25 (-) **Nik Kershaw**, 29 (41) **Evelyn Thomas** 12in, 30 (35) **Imagination**, 31 (11) **Sister Sledge** "LIM", 32 (re) **Talking Heads** "SP", 33 (21) **Frankie GTH**, 34 (27) **Human League**, 35 (29) **Nick Hayward**, 36 (-) **Trevor Walters**, 37 (50) **Intruders**, 38 (26) **Limahl**, 39 (-) **ABC**, 40 (18) **Murray Head**.

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HOT VINYL

THE LIMIT: 'Say Yeah' (Portrait TA 4808) Suddenly due in our shops on Christmas Eve — 'cos let's face it, it's too hot to hold! — this breezily skittering 123bpm light snapper with Gwen Guthrie joining the chaps is the deadly catchy "say-yay-yay-yeah!" singalong smash that's already number 2 in our chart just on import. UK copies will have the as yet unheard 'Destiny' added to the 12in inst flip.

AMII STEWART: 'Friends' (RCA RCAT 471) Exploding as predicted now that European imports have finally flooded in, this unexpectedly beautiful album 'I'm Not In Love' - like gently bubbling 0-94½bpm soft soul swayer is truly haunting and should with luck (her past Wally hits will help at Radio One) cross over to a wide public — don't miss it (inst flip).

SOUNDTRACK: 'Breakdance 2 — Electric Boogaloo' LP (Polydora POLD 5168) Hollywood's quickie follow-up film again has **OLLIE & JERRY** providing its title track, a chunky 112bpm lurcher obviously led by straining Jerry Knight with whinneying support and stronger than it struck me on 12in, plus their stark skittery 124½bpm electro 'When I.C.U.', while the **FIREFOX** girls return on the jerky strutting electro 121½bpm 'Radiotron' and similarly backed but more soulful 125bpm 'Stylin' Profilin', oldies being **GEORGE KRANZ**' eccentric 123bpm vocalised drum solo 'Din Daa Daa' and **MIDWAY**'s D Train-ish 119½bpm 'Set It Out' (both abbreviated). **CAROL LYNN TOWNES**' Hi-NRG pop 135bpm 'Believe In The Beat' being due as our first single. **MARK SCOTT**'s 'I Don't Wanna Come Down' being a Michael Jackson-ish fast 129½bpm jolter and **STEVE DONN**'s 'Gotta Have The Money' frantic 164½bpm flashdance — however, the one that'll do the business here is **RAGS & RICHES** 'Oye Mamacita', a light 117½bpm Latin chugger reminiscent of the Chakachas' 'Jungle Fever'.

BONZO GOES TO WASHINGTON: '5 Minutes' (US Sleeping Bag Records SLX 666-13) President Reagan's notorious "My fellow Americans . . . we begin bombing in five minutes" gaffe immortalised by Bootsy Collins and the Talking Heads' Jerry Harrison who cut and freak the actual quote through a burbling 102½bpm electro track of some invention (in T-T-T Three Mixes) — even so, the unaccompanied words at the start could be the most useful part (used with 'Two Tribes?').

XMAS CLASSIX

YOU CAN'T argue with weight of numbers (even if you wouldn't want to go to their gigs around Christmas!), these all-time seasonal classics having been compiled by 125 DJ members of the Disco Mix Club's Hit Squad:

- 1 MERRY XMAS EVERYBODY, Slade
- 2 HAPPY CHRISTMAS (WAR IS OVER), Lennon/Ono
- 3 WHITE CHRISTMAS, Bing Crosby
- 4 I WISH IT COULD BE CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY, Wizzard
- 5 I BELIEVE IN FATHER CRISTMAS, Greg Lake
- 6 PHIL SPECTOR'S CHRISTMAS ALBUM, Various
- 7 LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS, Mud
- 8 MARY'S BOY CHILD, Boney M
- 9 WONDERFUL CHRISTMASTIME, Paul McCartney
- 10 LITTLE DRUMMER BOY, Bing Crosby/David Bowie

Wot, no Elvis? Bah, humbug!

SEASONAL SILLIES

CRAIG DAWSON of Edinburgh's Road Runner Mobiles has come up with an inspired selection of "sillies" for the party season. He has so many regular annual bookings that he has to spend ages rummaging about in junk shops to find fresh material each year, but says it's well worth the trouble when he sees his floor packed to the most unlikely records — I know exactly what he means, this being my own policy.

- 1 HI HO, 'Snow White' soundtrack, Walt Disney Hits LP
 - 2 SCOTLAND THE BRAVE (MEDLEY), Royal Philharmonic Orch, K-tel 7in
 - 3 TULIPS FROM AMSTERDAM, Max Bygraves, Decca 7in
 - 4 BARE NECESSITIES/I WANNA BE LIKE YOU, 'Jungle Book' soundtrack, Disney EP
 - 5 WE ARE THE DIDDY MEN, Ken Dodd & The Diddy Men, MfP LP
 - 6 LONELY GOATHERD, Julie Andrews & 'The Sound Of Music' Cast, RCA LP
 - 7 DANCE OF THE NUTCRACKERS/BARBER OF SEVILLE, Royal Philharmonic Orch, Decca 7in
 - 8 TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC, Henry Hall, EMI "Kids' Faves" LP
 - 9 LITTLE WHITE BULL, Tommy Steele, Decca 7in
 - 10 A WINDMILL IN OLD AMSTERDAM, Ronnie Hilton, HMV 7in/EMI "Kids' Faves" LP
 - 11 THE DAMBUSTERS MARCH, The Enid, Pye 7in
 - 12 SHOUT, Isley Brothers/Lulu & The Luvvers, RCA 12in/Decca 7in
- Some of the above, and other useful oddities, have also been issued on 7in by the type of kids-aimed labels that often have browser bins in newsagents like WH Smiths, always well worth checking.

AIR FORCE 1: 'See The Light/Feel The Heat' (US Streetwise SW 2238) President Reagan again (or an impersonator) cut up to a jittery 111bpm ultra hip hop beat (dub flip).

JESSE RAE: 'It's Just The Dog In Me' (Supreme International Editions EDITION 84-5, via 031-225 1938) You may have seen this video-making eccentric helmeted Scot on 'The Tube' without realising he was one of George Clinton's cohorts, a member of Funkadelic offshoot the Space Cadets along with Bernie Worrell — who plays on this 1979-recorded loosely rambling 106(intro)-103½-105-104-105½bpm ancestor of 'Atomic Dog'! Last year's 100½bpm 'Be Yourself' flip is even tighter P'funk, though both are more interesting than essential.

THE REBELS: 'You Can Make It!' (Celluloid CART 348) Busily fronted by Shango/Peech Boys singer Bernard Fowler and rapper/synthesist Steven Brown, this choppy 105bpm hip hop jitterer has some splurges of acid rock guitar to make it a meaningful fusion (dub flip).

D.ST & JALAL: 'Mean Machine' (Celluloid CART 343) Acappella chant-introed juddering 108½-0bpm update of Jalaluddin Mansur Nuriddin's rapped street poem from the Last Poets' 1971 'This Is Madness' LP — yup, yet more intellectual hip hop that posers don't dance to (in three versions!)

GWEN McCRAE: 'Do You Know What I Mean' (Sierra FED 3T, via WEA) Uneasily jittering build-up to a then sparsely snapping 121½bpm gospel phrased soul strutter, dated despite its electronic rhythm and best for old-timers (edit/vocal dub flip).

JACKIE VERDELL: 'When The Saints Go Marching In' (WEA YZ27T) Produced by Joe Simon for a gospel LP on Spring last year, the dated 101-104-103-105-105½(break)-106bpm funky disco treatment could've been a gas ("Gabriel" blows his horn!) had it swung more, her 'Oh Happy Day'-style 'Can I Get A Witness' flip being much better.

WOMACK & WOMACK: 'Express Myself' (Elektra E9865T) Organ-backed murky rumbling 114-115bpm spurter getting little response despite a remix (dreary slow 'Woman' flip).

DOUBLE ENTENTE: 'Sleeping Dogs Lie' (US Columbia 44-05113) Randy 'King' Jackson-produced trite 119bpm trotting backbeat smacker with painful juvenile lead vocal of indeterminate

gender (edit flip).

GEOFF WILLIAMS: 'I Want You To Stop' (Code 12LOB-18, via PRT) Long unpromising 0-115bpm instrumental lead-in to a decently enough sung semi-falsetto wriggling weaver (inst flip).

DAZZ BAND: 'Jukebox' LP (Motown ZL72395) Disappointing set, 115bpm hit apart, experimenting with Prince's "billiard balls" beat on the 119bpm 'Undercover Lover' and 117bpm 'She's The One', reasonable slowies being the 0-86½bpm 'Heartbeat', 0-87bpm 'So Much Love', 0-177½bpm 'I've Been Waiting', while the mildly pleasant 113bpm 'Dream Girl' and whipping 125bpm 'Keep You Comin' Back For More', 124bpm 'Main Attraction' complete it.

DRUM KCOR: 'Drum Corps' (10 Records KCOR 112) Shallow UK-made sub-Break Machine 123bpm pop-hip hop.

PRINCE AND THE REVOLUTION: 'I Would Die 4 U' (Warner Bros W9121T) Excitingly spurring 134½-0bpm rock jerker, flipped by the rambling slow 'Purple Rain'-ish 'Another Lonely Christmas' and the older slow 'Free', unlikely to mean much on UK floors.

DISCO DATES

STREETWAVE/STREETSOUNDS Thursday (20) giant party at Hammersmith Palais has Greg Edwards, Tony Blackburn, Steve Walsh & Graham Gold presenting PAs by Rose Royce, Odyssey, Intruders, Major Harris, Phil Fearon, Hi-Tension, possibly Lenny Henry and many more surprises (including 3 LPs for the £12 admission) . . . Joe Field now souls Hemel Hempstead's Whip & Collar every Friday, plus Sundays with Martin Collins, this Fri (21) being a beach party, Sun (23) mince pie and sausage roll "stuff yourself with pastry" night, Sun (30) indoor fireworks, while Xmas Eve he hosts a ticket-only party . . . Steve Walsh funks Farnborough Recreation Centre with Tony Blackburn Sat (22), Stoke Newington New Willow Club Sun (23), Harrow Leisure Centre Fri (28), and is at London's Lyceum both Xmas and New Year's Eve . . . Chris Dinnis souls Bournemouth Upstairs At Eric's Sat (22), Bristol Trinity Wed (26), Exeter Boxes Mon (31) . . . Willy Wicket (well, will he?) has fun and games at Dorchester Buzz In Fri (21), Bude Headland Pavilion Wed (26), Willand Blazers near Cullompton Mon (24), Sat (29), and New Year's Eve (with Simon Bates), while Phil England does Hastings Rennies Fri/Sat (21/22), Yeovil Carnabys Mon (24) and then Blazers Wed (26), Buzz Inn Mon (31) . . . Kings Lynn Precinct's Sun (23) noon-midnight allday stars Froggy, Hereward Radio's Saturday 6pm soul jock Steve Allen, Trevor Mac, Kev Kingham and more, Steve & Trevor also joining Malcolm James Mon (24) for Peterborough's traditional Christmas Eve soul event at Fletton Fleet Centre, and Sat (29) for an electro-funk 10pm allnight at the same city's Marcus Garvey Club . . . Hull Romeos & Juliets has a St. Trinian's party Wed (26), all-white Snow Ball Thur (27) . . . Boxing Day (Wed 26) also finds Chris Brown, Sean French, Nicky Holloway, Chris Bangs, Joe Field, Jerry Green and more on two floors at London Bridge Tooley Street's Royal Oak (8pm), while Kev Hill has free admission at Harlow Whispers . . . New Year's Day (Tues 1) Chris Hill, Robbie Vincent, Froggy, Jeff Young & Pete Tong return to The Royalty — or rather Southgate's Pink Elephant — for a 6pm special with £1 discount to Caister "Passport" and Gold Card holders . . . HO-DE-HO!

FRITZ BAUSE: 'Terrific' (German Crisis Craaz CCR 012) Afro tinged brassy 118bpm phonetic jiggler, flipped by the really rather nice chick sung sophisticated smoochy 90bpm 'Half Past Midnight'.

TUGA: 'Drunk Driving' (US MCA MCA-23523) Downtempo weaving atmospheric 110bpm rap with sound effects and Edward G Robinson-type tipsy dialogue (inst/edit flip).

RISQUE: 'If It's The Last Thing I Do' (US Next Plateau NP 50026) Melle Mel-ish disjointed sung/rapped 107½bpm meandering judderer (dub flip).

CLANDESTINE featuring NED SUBLETTE: 'Radio Rhythm (S-I-G-N-A-L S-M-A-R-T)' (US Sleeping Bag SLX-00011) Slow to get going sub-'White Lines'-ish 0-118-0bpm burbling oddity with real percussion (bonus/dub/edit too).

HERBIE HANCOCK: 'Metal Beat' (US Columbia 44-04637) More ugly metallic 107bpm juddering scratches by D.S.T., flipped by the 115-116bpm afro-jazz piano instrumental 'Karabell'.

TIDE-E-T: 'Sequential Groove' (Carrere CART 318) Blatant 113bpm 'Rockit' ripoff, flipped by an 120½bpm 'Unlimited Dance Sounds' rhythm track possibly useful for scratchers.

SUGAR KAY & THE MIGHTY THREE: 'Rock On' (US Specific Records SR-343) Thunderously juddering 103bpm unison MC poppin' (alternative Mix flip).

KOLD KREW: 'Don't Let 'Em Drop The Bomb' (US Time Trax TT-003) Usual poppin' MCs/jerky 111bpm hip hop noises with a message (inst/edit too).

BARBARA JOYCE: 'Message In The Love' (US LuLu 2000) Plaintively wailed wriggling and plonking 114½bpm shuffler (dub flip).

HIT NUMBERS: Beats Per Minute for last week's Top 75 entries on 7in (f/c/r for fade/cold/resonant ends) — Band Aid 57½-115f, Wham 106½f, Wizzard 0-141-0-70f, Alvin Stardust 0-73-0r, Ian McCulloch 0-47½-0-95-0r, Sal Solo 120f, Smiley Culture 86c, Slade 122(intro)-127-129-131-0r, Grandmaster Melle Mel 0-101½-102f, ZZ Top 127f.

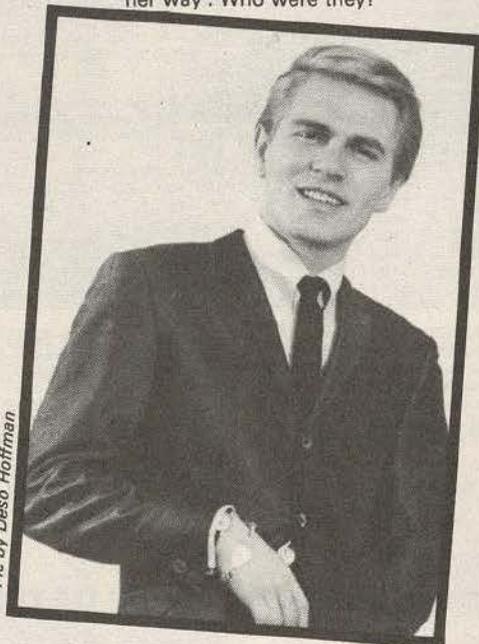
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 CREOLE AND (PHEW!) BROOKSIDE!

More painful than being dragged across gravel... more excruciating than sitting in a box of ice cubes... it's Alan Jones' festive trivia quiz

ENDUR

- 1 He recorded 'Step Into Christmas', 'Cold As Christmas' and 'Ho Ho Ho, Who'd Be A Turkey At Christmas'. Who is he?
- 2 Never a hit, but Chris De Burgh's seasonal disc has sold 60,000 copies in the last few years. Title please.
- 3 He was married on the Johnny Carson TV show and guested on the Beatles' 1968 Christmas record singing 'Nowhere Man'. Who is he?
- 4 Which famous black American group gave 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town' a chart outing in 1972?
- 5 Greg Lake's 1975 hit 'I Believe In Father Christmas' was based on the work of which classical composer?
- 6 She said it was 'Gonna Be A Cold, Cold Christmas', also in 1975. Her name, please.
- 7 Name the famous producer whose 'Christmas Album' was recorded in 1963, but didn't chart until 1972.
- 8 His first American hit, exactly 10 years ago, bore the cautionary title 'Don't Eat The Yellow Snow'. What is his name?
- 9 Three former Beatles have had chart hits with songs about Christmas or the New Year. Who are they, and what were their hits?
- 10 It was a million seller for Harry Belafonte in 1957, but what's its title?
- 11 His 1955 chart topper 'Christmas Alphabet' was full of corny couplets like, 'M is for the mistletoe where everyone is kissed, A is for the angels who make up the Christmas list'. Who is he?
- 12 The Waitresses, Dizzy Heights and Kurtis Blow all charted with variants of the same song title. What was it?
- 13 Name the Canadian school teacher who rode to fame with 'Snowbird' in 1970.
- 14 Irishman Gilbert O'Sullivan sang 'I'm not dreaming of a white Christmas, just a peaceful year' on which 1974 hit?
- 15 Born Vincent Furnier on Christmas Day 1945, he's better known by what name?

- 24 He was 'Snowbound For Christmas' in 1956. Who is he?
- 25 Posing as Father Abraphart, Jbnathan King suggested you do what in 1978?
- 26 A bunch of Danish aristocrats' 1960 hit urged, 'Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way'. Who were they?



Pic by Deso Hoffman



Pic by LFI

- 32 They charted a punk version of the carol 'Silent Night' in 1978. Who were they?
- 33 Originally recorded by Charles Brown in 1961, 'Please Come Home For Christmas' was a top 30 hit for which American group in 1978?
- 34 Their 'One Nine For Santa' was a hit at the height of the CB craze in 1981. Who were they?
- 35 Name the Irishman whose unusual interpretation of 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas' was re-titled 'Christmas Countdown' and charted last year?
- 36 Name the American singer who related the tale of 'Baby's First Christmas' in 1961.



THE FOLLOWING WERE ALL CHRISTMAS NUMBER ONES: BUT IN WHICH YEAR?

- 16 'Mull of Kintyre' by Wings
- 17 'Two Little Boys' by Rolf Harris
- 18 'Long Haired Lover From Liverpool' by Little Jimmy Osmond
- 19 'Don't You Want Me' by Human League 100
- 20 'Hello Goodbye' by the Beatles
- 21 Which deejay compiled 'Renta Santa' and 'Bionic Santa' from cleverly spliced snippets of other hits?
- 22 What was Judge Dread's Christmas location in 1975?
- 23 What was the colour of Elvis Presley's Christmas in 1964?

- 27 What was the shock horror revelation of the Beverly Sisters and Jimmy Boyd in 1953?
- 28 'The logs on the fire, fill me with desire', sang the Carpenters on which yuletide waxing from 1971?
- 29 Cliff Richard's 1982 Christmas single was a re-titled version of which Christmas carol?
- 30 What was the title of Adam Faith's story of woof justice in 1960?
- 31 What was Chuck Berry's advice to a famous reindeer in 1963?

- 37 Which legendary comedy trio walked backwards for Christmas in 1956?
- 38 They warned Santa not to molest them in this top 10 hit from 1974, sung to the tune of 'Glory, Glory Hallelujah'. Who are they?
- 39 Name the Salvation Army band whose version of the Nativity was a hit in 1964 under the title of 'A Starry Night'.
- 40 What was the name of the snowman the Ronettes sang about in 1963?
- 41 In 1962 she was 'Rocking Around The Christmas Tree', but two years later she

ANCE

R A T I N G S

72-75 **Genius** — apply for a job with Record Mirror pronto

65-71 **Very good**

56-64 **Good**

44-55 **Average**

30-45 **Poor**

0-29 **Try again when you're sober**



- 62 Who's the odd one out — Pat Boone, Bing Crosby, Darts, Jim Davidson, Glen Campbell, Mantovani or Freddie Starr?
- 63 Which of the following did not have an American hit with 'White Christmas'? Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, the Drifters or Pat Boone?
- 64 Who followed 'Footprints On The Snow' in 1957?
- 65 Where did Father Abraham spend Christmas in 1978?
- 66 Their 1980 release posed the question 'What Can You Get A Wookiee for Christmas When He Already Owns A Comb?' Who were they?
- 67 How many different versions of 'Merry Xmas Everybody' have been hits for Slade?
- 68 What happened to Grandma, according to Patsy and Elmo's near-hit in 1982?

declared 'Christmas Will Be Just Another Day'. Who is she?

- 42 Mud were 'Lonely This Christmas' in what year?
- 43 What was the title of Elvis Presley's plea to Father Christmas which reached the top 10 in 1957?
- 44 There's a regal view of Christmas in the charts at present. What is it, and who's it by?
- 45 'Hey Mr Christmas' was a hit for Showaddywaddy in what year?
- 46 Name the former vocalist with the Midneters who had a hit with 'White Christmas' in 1975.
- 47 Which well-known group recorded a Christmas single under the pseudonym of the Dumbells?
- 48 The grand-daddy of all Christmas records was an American hit on 19 separate occasions between 1942 and 1962. Name it.
- 49 On which albums can you find Queen's 'Thank God It's Christmas'? Is it 'The Works', 'Jazz' or 'Hot Space'?
- 50 Their 1981 hit was called 'Jingle Bells (Laughing All The Way)'. Who are they?



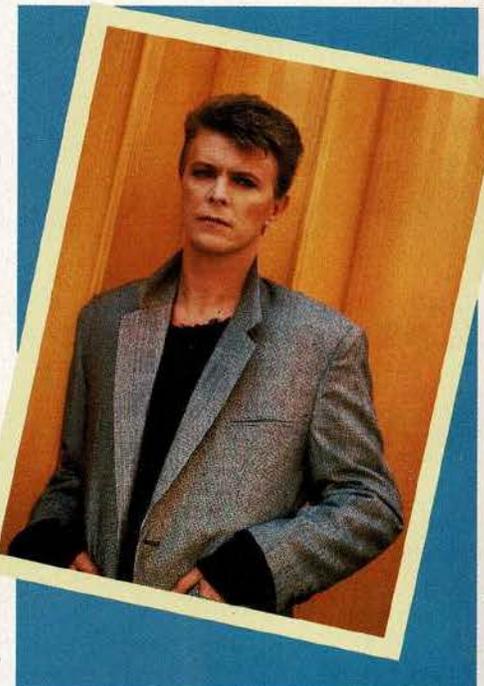
WHEN WERE THE FOLLOWING NOVELTY RECORDS CHRISTMAS HITS?

- 51 'The Trail Of The Lonesome Pine' by Laurel and Hardy
- 52 'Hokey Cokey' by the Snowmen
- 53 'King Of The Cops' by Billy Howard
- 54 'Lily the Pink' by the Scaffold
- 55 'Two Little Boys' by Rolf Harris
- 56 Which of the following do NOT appear on the current Band Aid smash? Bruce Foxton, Paul Weller, Dave Stewart, the Edge, Christopher Cross?
- 57 Some fictional furry inhabitants of Wimbledon had a Christmas hit in 1974. Who were they, and what was the record?

Pic by Chris Walter



- 58 One of last year's Christmas hits was a medley called 'Christmas Spectre'. It was credited to the Jingle Belles. By what name are they more usually known?
- 59 Which Giorgio Moroder associate had an American hit with 'When A Child Is Born' before Johnny Mathis got his hands on it?
- 60 One of the most unusual Christmas hits of all was sung in Latin, without instrumental accompaniment. What was it, and who sang it?
- 61 What did Dora Bryan want for Christmas in 1963?



- 69 David Bowie and Bing Crosby teamed on which Christmas hit?
- 70 Which Motown superstar recorded 'That's What Christmas Means To Me'?
- 71 'Jingle Bell Rock' was a hit in 1962 for which American duo?
- 72 What's the only Christmas song recorded by Bruce Springsteen?
- 73 Who had a hit with 'Xmas Party' in 1978?
- 74 Which country duo is contemplating 'Christmas Without You'?
- 75 Who wrote 'White Christmas'?

CULTURE SHOCK

Can you talk faster than Smiley Culture (estimated speed 200 words per minute)? Mark Cordery risks dislocation of the tongue

HIS SCHOOL reports weren't bad, but 'he could do better', as they say. He had a few 'O' levels and could've worked at something, probably, but after brief spells in the second-hand car trade, an advertising consultancy, and a hi-fi store, he decided to just get on with his life. So how come Smiley Culture?

"Smiley was a name I picked up at primary school. I had a posse of friends, six or seven of us, and we had this thing where we'd say to each other that we'd say a certain thing to passing girls, right? And my idea of it was that I'd whisper in the girl's ear, 'I just want you to smile for me, please,' and kiss her on the cheek. And she'd look over at them and she'd probably smile most of the time, so I used to get away with that. So I wasn't saying what I was supposed to be saying, right, which was probably rude, y'know what I mean? They just started calling me Smiley from then.

"So when I was about 15 I started MC'ing at sound systems around, and because I wasn't an MC who did slickness I just called myself Culture. And that's how the name Smiley Culture came about."

Slackness — sexually explicit lyrics, frequently disrespectful to the female of the species — is a quite popular form of address with some DJs at the sound systems that travel around to clubs and dances. But Smiley Culture has other ideas. Wicked though he is...

Like the real star DJs — not the cretins who babble on wonderful radio — Smiley worked out his skills in the dancehalls, where the rhyming and reasoning rave on through the night. The atmosphere is such that only the fittest survive. Sometimes that's literally.

"Usually I take a run around the block, just to clear my lungs. Because on a microphone, regardless of how fit you are, when a dance is HOT and sweaty there's not much air to breathe. So you will get tired. Being just that much fitter will help. If you wasn't fit then you would probably faint. It's never happened to me, but I've seen ... habaha!"

FAR FROM faint, and certainly fit, Smiley has stepped out to nice up the airwaves of the UK with his 'Police Officer' 45. Number one on the reggae charts for months and now making a dent in the national version.

It tells the tale of a stop and search of Smiley and his Lancia en route to a dance. A dodgy situation — often the cause of much anger and resentment — is dealt with here by a mighty and oft undervalued weapon: laughter. Indeed the track is so funny Lenny Henry should weep!

It's also one of the most seriously rivetting



performances in talkover style since 'The Message'. Fans of that stuff need look no further for more top quality commentary than right here under their noses. Not that Smiley, unlike many Masters Of Microphone Ceremonies, makes generally extravagant claims for himself. None that he can't back up anyway.

Absurd as it may be, he actually had to be persuaded to make a record in the first place.

"In the early stages I didn't think I was

ready to start making records. I wasn't that way inclined. I never thought I was good enough. People enjoyed it, but no one ever took it that serious. There was always a few people I remember at those times that said I could really get through, and that I should be making records. I was getting offers, but I didn't feel ready."

Meanwhile his popularity in the dancehalls increased, as he and long-time sparring partner Asher Senator developed their styles.

Chatting over the popular rhythms of the day, they progressed from a few improvised lines — "the sort of things everyone was saying" — through written and rehearsed 'continuous' rhymes on everything and nothing in particular, forward to the stage where melody and a strong story distinguish one style from another.

Eventually he did record 'Cockney Translation' for the South London-based Fashion label. The Sweeney, CID and East End villainy

chased each other through a commentary that switched between cockney and Jamaican slang.

"Fun was had with all parties concerned: 'Cockney have names like Terry, Arthur and Del Boy. We have names like Winston, Lloyd and Leroy. We bawl out YOW! While cockneyz say O!'"

The popularity of these records is taking him by surprise. Pleasantly, no doubt, but it's not something he was striving and scheming for.

"I never used to be one to practice, or sit down in my house every day, because it was never that serious to me. I always used to write when I felt like it, when I had time to write."

Must've been some, because he has books full of hundreds of styles (stories), some finished, some not...

"Now it's just happening! I was supposed to go to America this month, but I'm all booked up. And when I made a record I never expected it to go number one, even in the reggae charts. So I'm just taking it as it comes..."

SO WHAT does success mean? "The way I look at it, and this is just what I think, the top is there to get to, and once you get there there's only one way to go, y'know? One way to go. So this is why I insist on keeping my head level. Now everyone I know is proud of us, of what we're doing, and I think it's because we keep level with them."

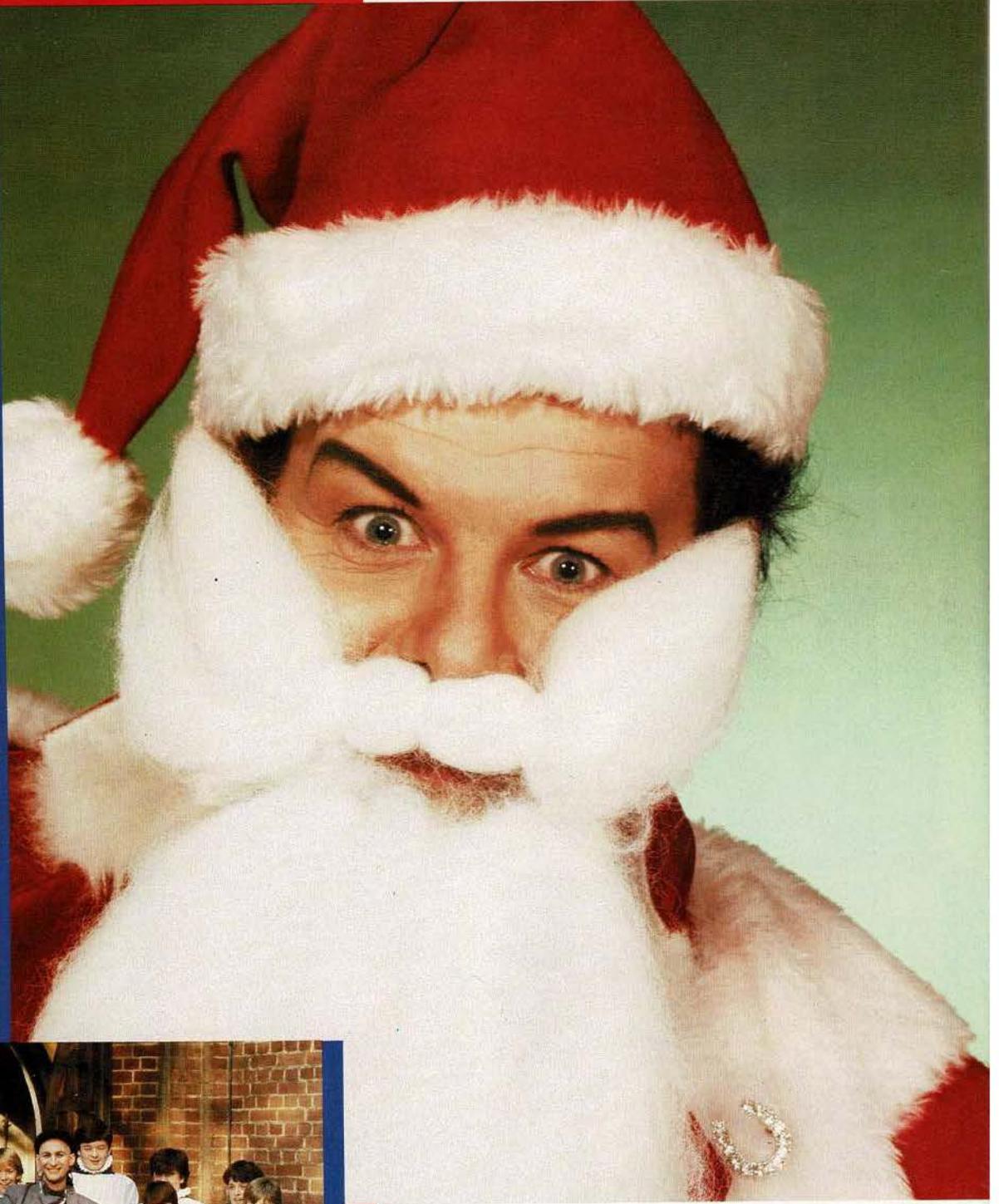
Smiley's stated ambition is to own a recording studio for the purposes of nurturing young talent. He'll probably be as good as his words.

"One thing that shocked me about 'Police Officer' is the amount of youths — and I mean even from three years old — who are into this sort of music. People tell me their kids run into the room when it's playing. And I don't know how to explain it, because they don't even know what I'm saying!"

Maybe it's the way he tells them. Two LPs are planned for release early next year: a compilation of the Fashion MGs including Smiley and Asher Senator — with whom Smiley usually performs live — and the Smiley Culture LP.

Reggae rhythms mobilise Culture's verbal flights, but given the similarities between MC's UK and NY style, is a Beatbox under consideration?

"I'm planning to do a soca track and a soul track, or two rapping tracks over soul rhythms. Because it's something to do with MC'ing it's something I can do. I can write the lyrics and I can sit on a rhythm, so it's not much of a problem. If I could sing I would sing over jazz rhythms!"



Santa Cal pic by Joe Bangay



X M
THE

SAL SOLO — pink pated, pleasantly spoken frontman of **Classix Nouveaux** — has a Christmas single out. He wants people to listen, drink in and find peace to it. He calls it 'San Damiano' and packages it with perfect images of symbolic light rays and absolutely NO pictures of himself — or the members of St Philip's Choir (age range nine to 14) who back him.

San Damiano is a holy place in Italy that Sal visited while touring with **Classix**. The experience changed his life.

"I didn't really believe in God," he explains. "I went to a Catholic school but just went along with it really. By the time I was 18 it had no relevance any more. When I went to San Damiano I knew that all the things I'd been taught — that God was good and God was eternal — was true. I was able to accept it. It made my life up to that point seem trivial. I just found peace."

Sal believes most people have "closet" religion — it's inside them even if they don't shout their mouth off about it. And though he has accepted Christianity and Catholicism, he doesn't subscribe to the foaming 'new born' maniacs who condemn anyone who doesn't stand up and shout 'I love Jesus and anyone who doesn't will rot in hell'.

"I believe people should lead a godly life," he says, "and that doesn't matter whether they're gay, black, white, or any other religion. Too many people concentrate on trivialities. Jesus said you mustn't judge people. Let's put it this way — I think there are many people who call themselves Christians in hell and very many people of other religions in heaven."

SAL WROTE 'San Damiano' to convey this experience to others. At one point he considered breaking **Classix Nouveaux** up, but now sees a point in carrying on and the group will begin working together seriously again in the New Year.

It was while he was with them in Italy that he received a phone call telling him the programme 'Rock Gospel' was interested in 'San Damiano'. Sal had always wanted to record with a choir, and they came up with St Philip's.

"I wanted a typically English sound," he explains, "and what could be more English than a church choir?" He believes most 'religious' music sounds uninspired even if it is — mainly because people try and copy American gospel rather than creating a sound of their own. The reactions to his song have pleased Sal, as well as earning him the ultimate accolade — a Blue Peter badge for his recent appearance on the programme.

This Christmas, Sal will be at Westminster Cathedral for Midnight Mass. He believes the true meaning of Christmas has been lost in a jungle of shiny commercialism.

"Christmas is a religious festival, it's the celebration of the greatest thing that's happened to mankind — the birth of Christ. It has no real meaning without that, has it?"

GARY GLITTER — larger than life, exuberant tinsel and tack king — has a Christmas single out. He wants people to dance, sing and fall over to it. He calls it 'Another Rock And Roll Christmas' and packages it with perfect over-the-top festive cliches and pictures of himself. As Gary says:

"For years I've been thinking Slade and John Lennon had such good Christmas records — and my favourite album of all for Christmas is the Phil Spector one . . . it just says it all. So I thought 'what's Christmas without a bit of glitter?'"

"So, in September when we were writing the new album, we thought 'let's have a Christmas single'. We could never quite nail the kind of record before, but I think we've got it now. It's pure party jive — not pretentious — just bland rock 'n' roll. I just thought it would be great — all those office parties when they're all hanging out drunk and falling out of windows and what have you."

Just to keep up the festive spirit, the picture disc sees our Gazza dressed up as Father Christmas.

"You can make it into a clock," he enthuses, "it'll make a great present."

GARY'S SPENDING Christmas appearing on various TV shows and concerts — accompanied as always by his faithful Glitter Band.

"I've known them longer than I've known any of my wives," he reveals — but don't ask him how many spouses have taken the name Glitter. "I'm not telling . . . but I've certainly had one coz I've got two children — my son's 20 and my daughter's 18."

One Christmas present — albeit a late one — that Gary is looking forward to, is his emergence from bankruptcy in the New Year. He's already paid back £50,000 to the taxman and hopes to be rid of the whole thing in the spring. Also at this time, Gary will be appearing in a film for the BBC's 'Arena' programme which also features Sting. It's a cameo role and Gal plays a man with a 'thing about shoes'. Sounds fascinating.

One final Glitter Christmas fact — Gary still believes in Father Christmas. Ahhh!

Gary Glitter (tinsel, booze) vs Sal Solo (religion, large choirs) in a festive friendly Story: Eleanor Levy

A S S I N G L E S
VINYL CONFLICT

Record Mirror Disco

- 1 1 YOU USED TO HOLD ME SO TIGHT, Thelma Houston, MCA 12in
- 2 6 SAY YEAH, The Limit, US Portrait 12in
- 3 2 TREAT HER LIKE A LADY, The Temptations, Motown 12in
- 4 5 FRESH, Kool & The Gang, De-Lite 12in
- 5 4 WHO DO YOU LOVE, The Intruders, Streetwave 12in
- 6 3 IN THE DARK/GOREE ISLAND, Roy Ayers, CBS 12in
- 7 11 YAH MO B THERE/INSTRUMENTAL/IT'S YOUR NIGHT (JELLYBEAN REMIXES), James Ingram, US Qwest 12in
- 8 7 LET IT ALL BLOW, Dazz Band, Motown 12in
- 9 8 HEARTLESS (REMIX), Evelyn Thomas, Record Shack 12in
- 10 19 ANYTHING?, Direct Drive, DDR 12in
- 11 14 PERSONALITY/LATELY/CHEY CHEY KULE/JUST BE GOOD TO ME/RAINBOW, Eugene Wilde, Fourth & Broadway 12in
- 12 18 (I GUESS) IT MUST BE LOVE/I'D RATHER SPEND THE BAD TIMES WITH YOU THAN SPEND THE GOOD TIMES WITH SOMEONE NEW/FANTASY AND HEARTBREAK, Thelma Houston, US MCA LP
- 13 9 SEXOMATIC, Bar-Kays, Club 12in
- 14 17 OPERATOR/PLA/MATES, Midnight Star, US Solar 12in
- 15 13 MYSTERIOUS (REMIX), Twilight 22, US Vanguard 12in
- 16 20 AFTER THE DANCE IS THROUGH, Krystol, US Epic 12in
- 17 27 YOU ARE THE ONE FOR ME, G.O., US Stadium 12in
- 18 23 FRIENDS, Amii Stewart, Italian RCA Italiana 12in
- 19 24 MY DEAR MR. GAYE, Teena Marie, US Epic LP
- 20 16 LOVE LIGHT IN FLIGHT, Stevie Wonder, Motown 12in
- 21 22 EYE TO EYE/THIS IS MY NIGHT/MY LOVE IS ALIVE, Chaka Khan, Warner Bros LP
- 22 10 I FEEL FOR YOU/REMIX, Chaka Khan, Warner Bros 12in
- 23 15 KEEPING SECRETS, Switch, Total Experience 12in
- 24 12 MATT'S MOOD, The Breakout Krew, London 12in
- 25 34 LIKE A VIRGIN (US DANCE REMIX), Madonna, Sire 12in
- 26 26 CONTAGIOUS/SOME KINDA LOVER/NEVER TOO LATE/SWEET SENSATION, The Whispers, Solar LP
- 27 21 HALF A MINUTE (REMIX), Matt Bianco, WEA 12in
- 28 52 I FOUND MY BABY/DISRESPECT, Gap Band, US Total Experience LP
- 29 38 CHANGE YOUR WICKED WAYS, Penny Ford, Total Experience 12in
- 30 37 CURIOUS/CAN YOU STAY WITH ME/SCIENTIFIC LOVE/LET'S CELEBRATE/BODY SNATCHERS, Midnight Star, US Solar LP
- 31 45 DANCIN' TO BE DANCIN'/LOVE IS BLIND/I GOT YOUR NUMBER/PAY-UP/IT'S MY LIFE, Skyy, Dutch Rams Horn LP
- 32 53 ARE YOU FOR REAL/NEVER KNEW LOVE/BUS STOP, Deodato, Warner Bros LP
- 33 41 I BELIEVE IN LOVE/THROUGH IT ALL (THE GAME)/WHAT EVER HAPPENED, Major Harris, Streetwave LP
- 34 32 RAIN FOREST (REMIX)/EAT YOUR HEART OUT, Paul Hardcastle, Cooltempo 12in
- 35 33 POO POO LA LA/COMPADRE, Roy Ayers, CBS LP
- 36 39 E.Z. LOVIN' U/SHARE YOUR (I.O.V.E.)/FOREVER MINE/K.O.G., Slave, Cotillion LP
- 37 44 FALLING BACK IN LOVE/AINT NOBODY, Scheer Music, US TBA LP
- 38 28 I FORGOT, The Cool Notes, Abstract Dance 12in
- 39 70 DANCE LOVER, Mikki featuring Starz, US Renaissance Recording 12in
- 40 49 LET ME SHOW YOU/SAY YES, BMP, US Epic 12in
- 41 25 CHIC CHEER (1984 REMIX)/(LP VERSION), Chic, Atlantic 12in
- 42 48 SURRENDER/EMERGENCY/CHERISH/YOU ARE THE ONE, Kool & The Gang, De-Lite LP
- 43 56 CAN I, Cashmere, US Philly World 12in
- 44 31 FINESSE/YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I LOVE/MEET ME HALF WAY THERE, Glenn Jones, RCA LP
- 45 35 LOVERGIRL, Teena Marie, US Epic 12in
- 46 30 CARIBBEAN QUEEN, Billy Ocean, Jive 12in
- 47 36 I'LL MAKE THE LIVING IF YOU MAKE THE LOVING WORTHWHILE, Gene Chandler, Bluebird/10 12in
- 48 50 LOVERIDE, Nuance featuring Vikki Love, US 4th & B'way 12in
- 49 62 LOST IN PARADISE, La Famille, Bpop 12in
- 50 61 PUSH (IN THE BUSH), Clair Hicks And Love Exchange, US KN 12in
- 51 57 POLICE OFFICER, Smiley Culture, Fashion 12in
- 52 54 WHEN YOU LOOK IN MY EYES (REMIX), Cherrille, US Tabu 12in
- 53 40 I'LL KEEP MY LIGHT IN MY WINDOW/MEMORIES/SET YOUR LOVE RIGHT/RUNNING, The Temptations, Motown LP
- 54 29 WE ARE FAMILY (1984 REMIX), Sister Sledge, Atlantic 12in
- 55 — WHO COMES TO BOOGIE, Little Benny & The Masters, US Jem-Rose 12in
- 56 71 STEP OFF (REMIX), Grandmaster Melle Mel & The Furious Five, Sugarhill 12in
- 57 42 GEORGY PORGY, Charmé, RCA 12in

- 58 69 20/20, George Benson, US Warner Bros 7in
- 59 74 SIMONE/FUNKY G/NAKINYE, Anansi, Ebusia LP
- 60 64 BOOGIE DOWN (BRONX), Man Parrish featuring Freeze Force, US Sugarscoop 12in
- 61 65 I WANT TO KNOW YOU/I AM GOLD/I WILL NO WISE CAST YOU OUT, Philip Bailey, US Myrrh LP
- 62 84 THIS GOOD GOOD FEELING, Take 3, Elite 12in
- 63 81 IN MY LIFE/WHATCHA GONNA DO WITH MY LOVIN', Stephanie Mills, Club 12in
- 64 43 THANK YOU MY LOVE, Imagination, R&B 12in
- 65 66 FLYIN' TO SANTA BARBARA, Special Occasion, Belgian Nunk 12in
- 66 55 NO ONE'S GONNA LOVE YOU (REMIX), The SOS Band, US Tabu 12in
- 67 72 I CAN'T GET OVER LOSING YOU/SERVE YOU RIGHT, Isley Jasper Isley, Epic LP
- 68 — SPREAD LOVE, Fatback (featuring Evelyn Thomas), US Spring 12in
- 69 60 I CHOOSE YOU, Paris, Bluebird/10 12in
- 70 67 SOLID, Ashford & Simpson, Capitol 12in
- 71 76 HANG ON TO YOUR LOVE, Sade, US Portrait 12in
- 72 re DANGEROUS/SPEND MY TIME WITH YOU/UH OH I MADE A MISTAKE/DON'T YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU/READY FOR LOVE, Penny Ford, US Total Experience LP
- 73 47 I KEEP CALLIN', Al Jarreau, WEA 12in
- 74 63 YOU TURN ME ON (REMIX)/FIRE AND DESIRE, Rick James, Gordy 12in
- 75 re LET HER FEEL IT, Simplicious, Fourth & Broadway 12in
- 76 77 UNDERCOVER LOVER, The Controllers, MCA 12in
- 77 79 COOL OUT, Magnum Force, US Paula Records 12in
- 78 51 MR. TURBULENCE/NEVER AGAIN/JUST BEEN HOME, Chosen 3, Plezure 12in
- 79 80 VALPARAISO, R.E.O., Passion 12in
- 80 85 THE ORIGINAL HUMAN BEAT BOX, Dougy Fresh, US Vintertainment 12in
- 81 73 EROTIC CITY, Prince, US Warner Bros 12in
- 82 — UNDER MI SENSI, Barrington Levy, Time 12in
- 83 — THINK FAST, Pamela Joy, US Pizazz 12in
- 84 re YOU MAKE ME HAPPY, Hi-Tension, Streetwave 12in
- 85 — LET'S MAKE A BABY, Pete Campbell, P.C. Record Production 12in

Hi-NRG Disco

- 1 2 SEX/TAKE ME TO HEAVEN/LOVIN' IS REALLY MY GAME, Sylvester, Cooltempo LP
- 2 8 LET ME FEEL IT, Samantha Gilles, Belgian Infinity 12in
- 3 1 DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, Hot Gossip, Fanfare 12in
- 4 19 DANCING IN THE RAIN/DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY, Carol Jiani, Streetwave LP
- 5 11 I'M ON MY WAY, Tabu featuring Debbie Sharp, Crystal City 12in
- 6 30 LET THE NIGHT TAKE THE BLAME, Lorraine McKane, Carrere 12in
- 7 22 I'LL CRY FOR YOU (1984 REMIX), Kumano, Canadian Power 12in
- 8 4 SECOND BEST, Evelyn Thomas, German Hansa/French In the Mix LP
- 9 3 WITHOUT YOUR LOVE, Paul Parker, Fantasia 12in
- 10 6 IN THE EVENING, Sheryl Lee Ralph, US New York Music Company 12in/Swedish remix
- 11 17 LOVE IS LIKE AN ITCHIN' IN MY HEART, Cijay, Canadian Power 12in
- 12 12 REACH FOR THE STARS/REMIX, Life Force, Polo 12in promo
- 13 7 ONE SHOT LOVER, Venus, Belgian ARS 12in
- 14 16 LAST CALL, Jolo, US Megatone 12in
- 15 28 THIEF OF HEARTS, Melissa Manchester, US Casablanca 12in
- 16 10 ALL AMERICAN BOY, Barbara Pennington, Record Shack 12in
- 17 25 DO YOU NEED ME (HI-NRG MIX), Touchdown, Krack 12in
- 18 5 HANDS OFF!, Laura Pallas, Record Shack 12in
- 19 18 RELIGHT MY FIRE, Café Society, Passion 12in
- 20 29 S.O.S. FIRE IN THE SKY (DISARMAMIX), Deodato, US Warner Bros 12in
- 21 — WORKING GIRL, Gilly, US "O" 12in
- 22 26 SHARPSHOOTER, Laura Branigan, US EMI America LP (soundtrack)
- 23 24 TURN THE TABLES, Liquid Gold, Ecstasy 12in
- 24 9 THE POWER OF LOVE, Astaire, Passion 12in
- 25 14 I FEEL LOVE (JOHNNY REMEMBER ME), Bronski Beat, London LP
- 26 13 HELPLESS, Flirts, US Telefon 12in
- 27 23 YOU SPIN ME ROUND (LIKE A RECORD), Dead Or Alive, Epic 12in
- 28 20 IF IT'S LOVE (THAT YOU'RE AFTER), Jackson Moore, ERC 12in
- 29 — SHOUT!, Donald Waugh, Midas 12in promo
- 30 — I CAN'T CONTROL MY NEEDS, Debbie J, Belgian Nunk 12in

ANSWERS TO 'ENDURANCE' QUIZ

1 Elton John, 2 'A Spaceman Came Travelling', 3 Tiny Tim, 4 the Jackson Five, 5 Prokofiev, 6 Dana, 7 Phil Spector, 8 Frank Zappa, 9, Paul McCartney — 'Wonderful Christmertime', John Lennon — 'Happy Xmas (War Is Over)', George Harrison — 'Ding Dong', 10 'Mary's Boy Child', 11 Dickie Valentine, 12 'Christmas (W)rapping', 13 Anne Murray, 14 'Christmas Song', 15 Alice Cooper, 16 1977, 17 1969, 18 1972, 19 1981, 20 1967, 21 Chris Hill, 22 'Christmas In Dreadland', 23 Blue, 24 Dickie Valentine, 25 'Lick A Smurf For Christmas', 26 Nina & Frederick, 27 'I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus', 28 'Merry Christmas Darling', 29 'O Little Town Of Bethlehem', 30 'A Lonely Pup In A Christmas Shop', 31 'Run, Rudolph, Run', 32 the Dickies, 33 the Eagles, 34 Fogwell Flax & The Ankle Biters, 35 Frank Kelly, 36 Connie Francis, 37 the Goons, 38 the Goodies (their hit was 'Father Christmas Do Not Touch Me'), 39 the Joy Strings, 40 Frosty, 41 Brenda Lee, 42 1974, 43 'Santa, Bring My Baby Back To Me', 44 Queen — 'Thank God It's Christmas', 45 1974, 46 Freddie Starr, 47 Roxy Music, 48 'White Christmas' by Bing Crosby, 49 none of them — it's a brand new song, 50 the Hysterics, 51 1975, 52 1981, 53 1975, 54 1968, 55 1970, 56 Bruce Foxton, Dave Stewart, the Edge, 57 the Wombles — 'Wombling Merry Christmas',

58 Marsha Raven And The Ravettes, 59 Michael Holm, 60 'Gaudete' by Steeleye Span, 61 a Beatle, 62 Glen Campbell — all the rest have had a British hit with 'White Christmas', 63 Pat Boone — all the rest have had an American hit with 'White Christmas', 64 Johnny Duncan, 65 in Smurfland, 66 the Star Wars Inter-Galactic Droid Choir and Chorale, 67 two, 68 'Grandma Got Ran Over By A Reindeer', 69 'Peace On Earth — Little Drummer Boy' (a medley), 70 Stevie Wonder, 71 Chubby Checker and Bobby Rydell, 72 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town', 73 the Snowmen, 74 Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton, 75 Irving Berlin.

X-WORD ANSWERS, DEC 15 ISSUE

ACROSS: 1 'Hot Line To Heaven', 4 Alf, 6 'When Doves Cry', 8 Junior, 10 'Real To Reel', 11 Ultravox, 13 'Just Can't Get Enough', 15 Road, 17 To Heaven, 19 Bronski Beat, 20 Fun, 23 Carpenters, 25 Shalamar, 27 Madonna, 28 Curt Smith, 31 Julio, 32 Eliminator, 36 Closest Thing, 37 Virgin.
 DOWN: 1 Howard Jones, 2 'The War Song', 3 The Heat, 5 Leo, 7 'You're The Best Thing', 8 Jet, 9 'Roxanne', 12 Angie, 14 'Caribbean Queen', 16 Dancer, 17 Tik, 18 Duran, 21 Frida, 22 Part, 23 'Come Back', 24 'Souvenir', 26 Aim, 29 Duran, 30 Boots, 33 Neil, 34 Tag, 35 'Boy'.

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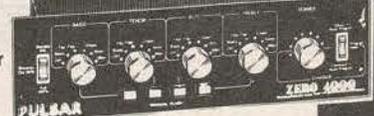
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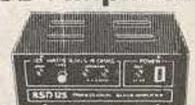
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... now that's what

● **Tony Blackburn** recorded a seasonal offering in 1980 under the alias of the Brandy Snaps ... **The Guinness Book of Records** contains data on many acts of gluttony, but recognises no record for eating mince pies, without which no Christmas could be complete. Chartfile believes the world record holder to be one James Brand of Wellington, New Zealand, who scoffed 38 in less than 10 minutes in a contest in 1980. Though he put away far more pies than anyone else, Brand was disqualified under a fiendish clause which stated that contestants must 'retain' their pies for a full ten minutes after the contest. Unfortunately, Brand made an involuntary epiglottal movement within seconds of the end of the requisite waiting time, leaving one of the judges with a distinctly warm feeling ...

● If that's not enough to convince you that moderation is the best policy, perhaps you'd like to know that boffins at the government's Central Statistical Office have discovered that more people expire on Christmas Day than on any other day in December. It seems that too many of us subject our bodies to a fatal bout of over-indulgence, with food and drink blamed equally ... **Tracey Ullman**, who'll be Christmassing in snowy LA, names her favourite Christmas record as **Slade's** 'Merry Xmas Everybody' ...

● It's not only the charts that defy rationale at Christmas. In soccer too, the form book goes right out of the window. The most bizarre example of this occurred in 1935. In a full Christmas Day programme **Oldham Athletic** whipped **Tranmere Rovers** 4-1 in a Division Three (North) fixture. The Oldham players must have celebrated a little too enthusiastically, because in the return game, played on Boxing Day, they were trounced 13-4 at Prenton Park by an unchanged Tranmere team. The aggregate of 17 goals scored that day remains the highest in a football league game. Punters may care to note that Christmas league leaders almost invariably go on to win the trophy. Last year this was particularly true, as the teams which came out of the Christmas fixtures atop all four English League tables subsequently emerged as champions ...

● This year's crop of Christmas singles in America includes **John Maddock's** tribute to Mother Christmas, 'Sally Claus' ... It has been estimated that as many as 25,000 Father Christmases are on duty in New York every year in the city's department



BING CROSBY: eternally wishing all our Christmases white

150,000,000 copies worldwide — a figure bested only by the cumulative sales of all versions of 'White Christmas' ...

● California's Rhino Records released the world's first Christmas tree shaped record and EP by **Malibooz And The Rovers** ... The first seasonal record to register a million sales worldwide was **Bing Crosby's** 'White Christmas', which took four years to make it to seven figures, but then accelerated rapidly ... Here's one you ought to know if you're planning a winter holiday in the Arctic — all polar bears are left-handed.



POLAR BEARS: What's our right paw for?



MOP-TOPS: the original Scalliwags

stores. One shop has a choice of 20, including black and women Santas ... The celebrated cartoon classic **Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer** will once again receive prime time exposure on America's CBS TV network. It's the 21st year in a row it's been screened — making it the longest running special in TV history. It's based on the song written by **Johnny Marks**, which has become an industry in itself, with nearly 600 different recordings in over 120 different arrangements selling an estimated

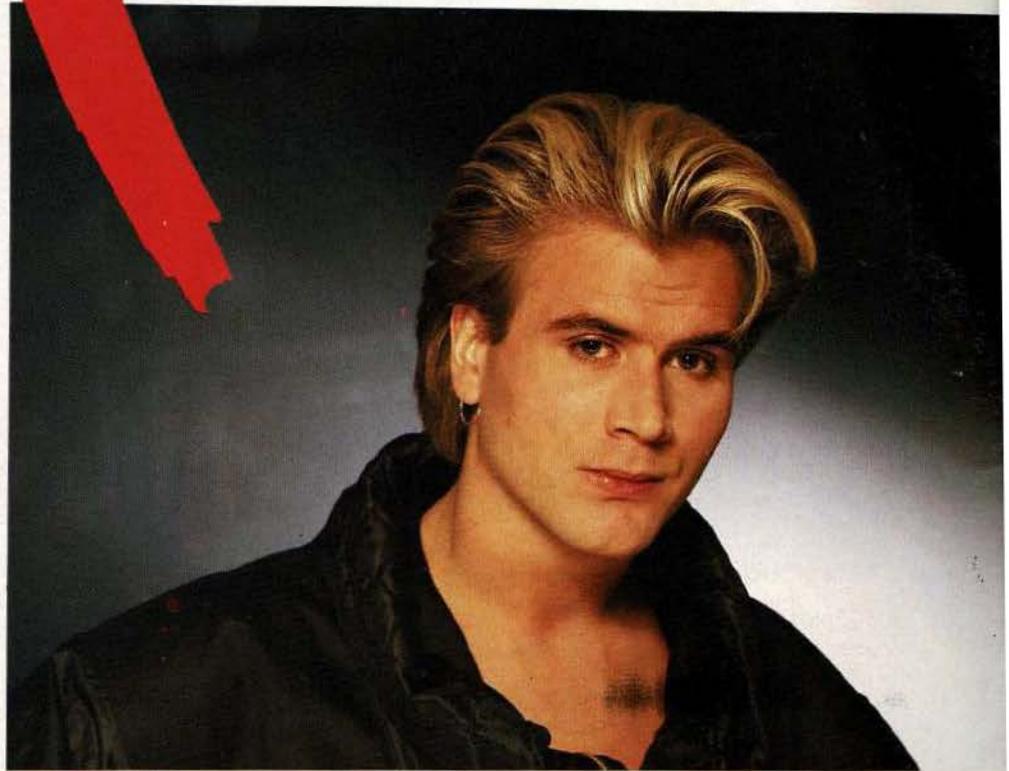
● The first Christmas cards were sent in 1843 by **Sir Henry Cole**, who thought it would be an ideal way of conveying good wishes to his friends. Within 20 years the sending of cards was widespread ... **St Nicholas** is the patron saint of thieves ... On the basis of chart longevity, the most successful album of Christmas songs is **Jim Reeves'** 'Twelve Songs Of Christmas', which first charted in 1964, and re-appeared in 1966, 1969 and 1971, for a total of 23 weeks in the chart ... The first million selling album of British origin was **Mantovani's** 1953 LP 'Christmas Carols' ... The most valuable Christmas records of all are those the **Beatles** sent out to their fan club members in the Sixties. The records, all flexi-discs, contained some outstanding examples of Beatle humour, sketches and songs interspersed with messages of thanks and praise to fans. Collectors now pay around £150 for the seven disc set, though they are readily available at a tenth of the cost on a bootleg album ...

I call Xmas trivia

compiled by Alan Jones

● **Elvis Presley** is the only artist to have more than one hundred hit singles in the UK, so it's appropriate that he also holds the record for most hits of a seasonal nature, having charted 'Santa Bring My Baby Back To Me' (1957), 'Blue Christmas' (1964), 'If Every Day Was Like Christmas' (1966), 'It Won't Seem Like Christmas Without You' (1979) and 'Santa Claus Is Back In Town' (1982) . . . It has been estimated that as many as 17 per cent of all Christmas cards bear a picture of **Erithacus Rubecula**, better known as the robin . . . Until overtaken by **Michael Jackson's** all-conquering 'Thriller' album earlier this year, **Bing Crosby's** recording of 'White Christmas' was the best-selling disc of all-time with sales of over 30 million since 1942. It was recorded on a hot day in June 1942, and was the first of nearly 100 Christmas songs recorded by Crosby in a recording career of 51 years. Four weeks before he died in 1977, he recorded his last Christmas song, a version of 'Sleigh Ride' . . .

● Each December up to 100 Christmas singles are released, but most fall by the wayside. Those which are hits have to triumph over the more usual chart fodder and a slew of novelty songs to reach the top of the charts. It's not surprising, therefore, that the Christmas



Pic by Paul Cox

HUNKY STEVE Norman keeps ultra-muscular without the aid of meat. Others who won't be chomping at the turkey on the 25th include Paul and Linda McCartney, Howard Jones, Morrissey, Alison Moyet and Tina Turner



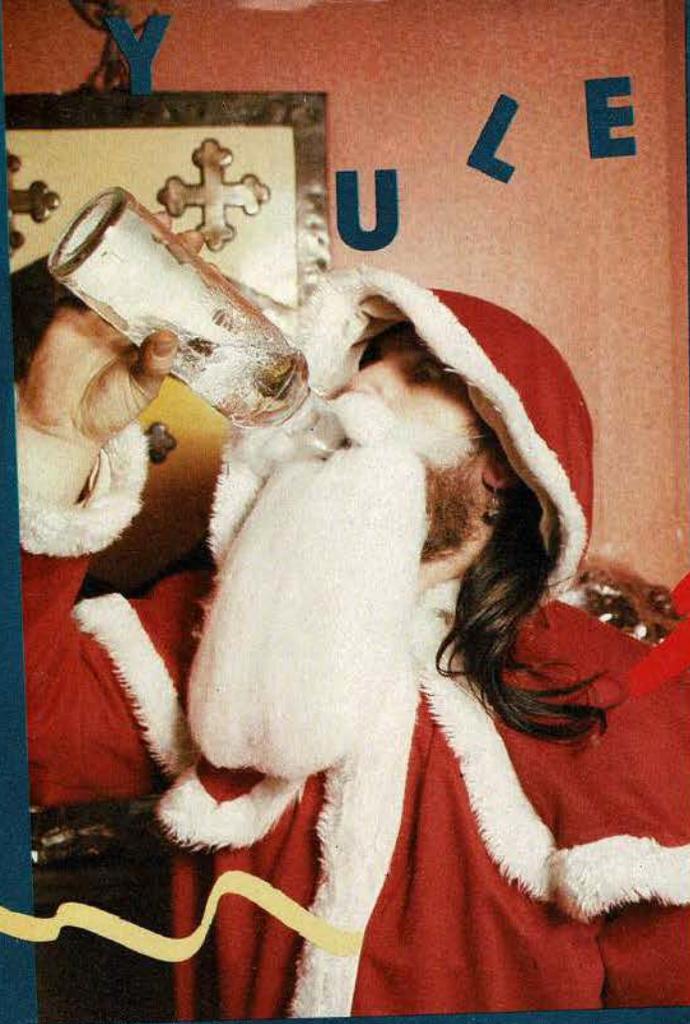
Pic by Simon Fowler

SLADE CELEBRATE having heard their Xmas anthem for the ten thousandth time

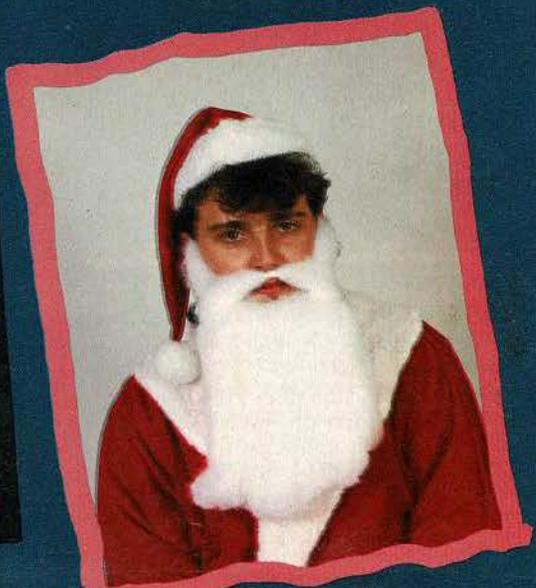
number one has been pertinent to the season on only six occasions. In 1955, **Dickie Valentine** was top with 'Christmas Alphabet', two years later **Harry Belafonte** was number one with 'Mary's Boy Child'. Yule was cool again in 1973, when **Slade** topped with 'Merry Xmas Everybody', and the following year

Mud were sitting at the top of the tree with 'Lonely This Christmas'. 1976 saw **Johnny Mathis** emerge as the chart champ with the tale of 'When A Child Is Born', a theme also pursued by **Boney M** in their 1978 chart-topping medley of 'Mary's Boy Child — Oh My Lord' . . .

● **Christmas Spirit** is the name of an American ensemble whose latest single is a boozy 63 song medley of seasonal favourites, crammed into just seven minutes . . . Since **Slade** and **Wizzard's** enormous success with unashamed celebrations of the season of goodwill in 1973, most British pop bands have reversed the previous policy of ignoring Christmas as an event worthy of celebrating on vinyl, but the reverse is the case in America, where most self-respecting bands find it too trivial to merit their attention. **Prince** is a recent exception, but the vast majority of Christmas records released in America are novelties by little known acts and bland-outs for MOR acts, with an assortment of **Chipmunks, Smurfs, Muppets, Fraggles** and **Peanuts** characters also represented. Only four of Billboard magazine's Christmas number ones are remotely seasonal. 'White Christmas' was number one in 1942 for Bing Crosby, **Spike Jones** was top in 1948 with 'All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth' and the following year the singing cowboy **Gene Autry** was number one with 'Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer'. Finally, 12-year old **Jimmy Boyd** reached the summit in 1952 with 'I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus' . . .



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