

THE SAME OLD SCENE Roxy Music3
ACE OF SPADES Motorhead10
KILL THE POOR Dead Kennedys10
PARTY IN PARIS UK Subs11
SHEPERMAN'S RIG SISTER
lan Dury & The Blockheads17
LOVELY ONE The Jacksons20
LOVING JUST FOR FUN Kelly Marie23
THE EARTH DIES SCREAMING UB4026
NEVER KNEW LOVE LIKE THIS BEFORE Stephanie Mills
Stephanie Mills33
THE NIGHT, THE WINE & THE ROSES Liquid Gold .33
CONCILIE CONCIL THE Specials
DON'T WALK AWAY Electric Light Orchestra38
PASSION Rod Stewart38
FLIGHT 19 B. A. Robertson47
BANANA REPUBLIC Boomtown Rats47
BLONDIE: Feature
THE JACKSONS: Feature 18/19/20
ROD STEWART: Colour Poster 24/25
SHEENA EASTON: Feature
ULTRAVOX: Colour Poster
FACT IS 9
CARTOON 9
BITZ
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN COMPETITION21
DISCO
CROSSWORD 27
REVIEWS28/29
MO-DETTES COMPETITION30
INDEPENDENT BITZ
STAR TEASER 32
BIRO BUDDIES 40
LETTERS
BADGE OFFER
GIGZ 46
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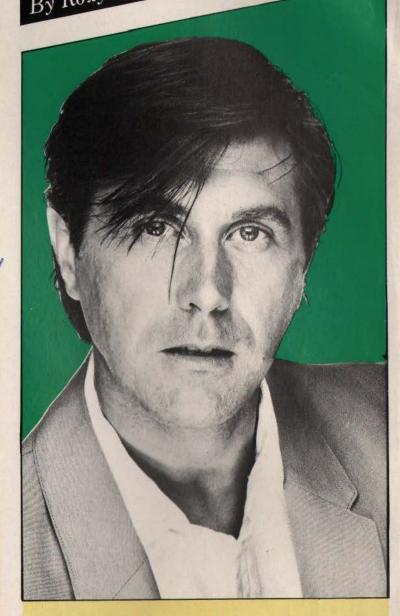
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The Same Old Scene

By Roxy Music on E. G. Records



Nothing lasts forever Of that I'm sure Now you've made an offer I'll take some more Young loving may be Oh so mean Will I still survive The same old scene?

In our lighter moments Precious few It's all that heavy weather We're going through When I turn the corner I can't believe It's still that same old movie That's haunting me

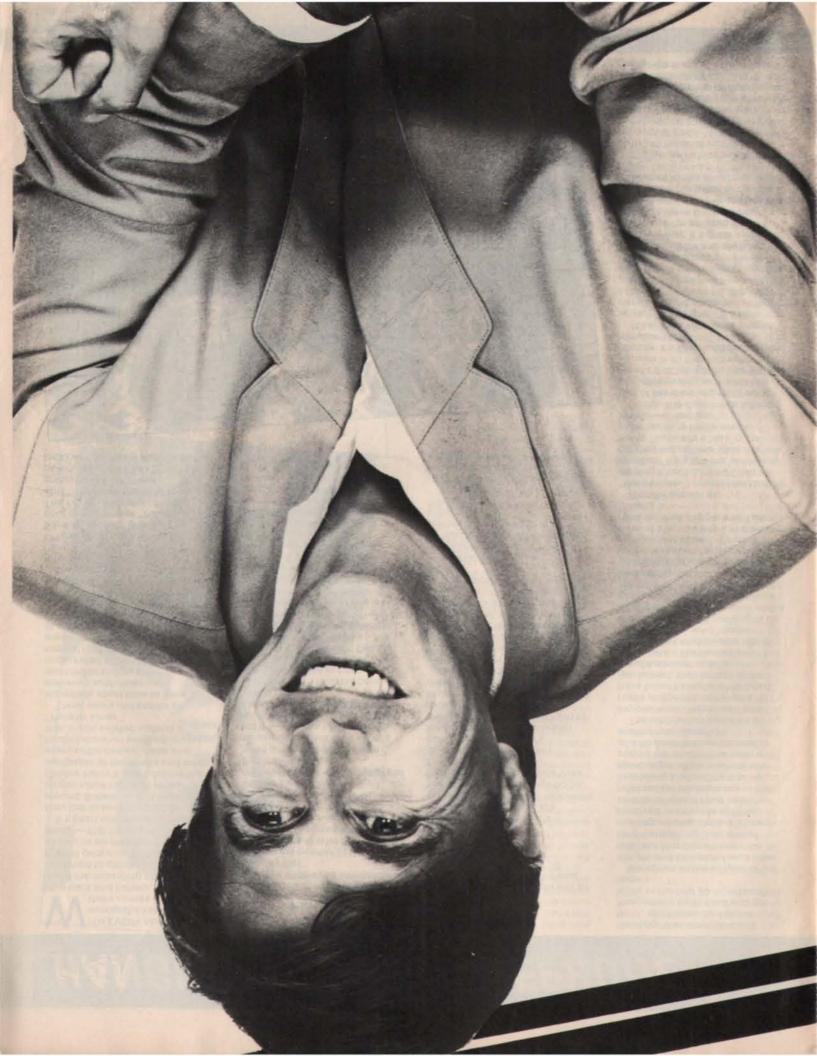
Young loving may be Oh so mean Trying to revive The same old scene

Young loving may be So extreme Maybe we should try The same old scene

Nothing lasts forever Of that I'm sure Now you've made an offer I'll take some more

Repeat last verse to fade

Words and music by Bryan Ferry. Reproduced by permission E. G. Music Ltd.



HANGING ON THE TELEPHONE

ITH EVERY hugely successful rock band, there comes a time to step back and survey. A time to resist the mounting pressures or be forced to get cynical before cynical gets you. With Blondie—as you've no doubt gathered lately—that time is NOW.

It's been nine months since they last braved the boards around Britain, and it feels even longer since the days when Debbie Harry's face became the wallpaper of the media and when every radio deejay, disco and boutique owner seemed unaware that music existed outside of "Parallel Lines".

Three years still seems an incredibly short time to have achieved such massive worldwide success and engineered a change of image so natural that it almost slipped by unnoticed. The Blondie of today, in many ways, couldn't be less like the mannered, slightly inept rock unit who first knocked on the British back-door by supporting Television in '77.

It wasn't to be long before the intensely fashion-conscious "street" numbers like "X Offender" and "Rip Her To Shreds" were to give way to the cool classic pop of "Hanging On The Telephone" and "Picture This". Nor was it long before the group image (or, more particularly, the Debbie Harry look) was to move seamlessly

Mark Ellen accepts the charges Pics: Virginia Turbett

from rough-cut experience to the harmless wide-eyed innocence of "Sunday Girl".

The same quarter of the American press who first saw Debbie as "controversial" and "morally threatening" suddenly wreathed her with praise and started comparing her with virtually every blonde-haired screen idol in the whole history of "Entertainment".

And when you get to these precarious heights (and — let's face it — you can't hope to get much higher), it's definitely time to ease down and take stock of the situation.

Coupled with this, the band have been locked in a two-year legal wrangle over a change of label and management. Debbie readily admitted in autumn '79, when asked about the business side of the group, that: "The only good thing about all of this is going into the recording studio. The next best thing to that is the hour or so you're on stage in front of an audience and — take it from me — the rest of it sucks!"

And in the meantime, a lot of people have been wondering whether Blondie hadn't just about exhausted their formula for the irresistible commercial single, despite the recent disco cross-over giving it an added

lease of life. These people will be heartened to hear that the new album, "AutoAmerican", is another bottle of pop altogether . . .

IT'S TEN at night, and it's Hallowe'en. Fireworks are exploding outside your reporter's humble London lodgings when the phone rings from New York. The voice of Chris Stein (Blondie's guitarist, main composer and Debbie's long-time boyfriend) crackles distantly, though it's still hard to believe he's in his rooftop Manhattan apartment over 3,000 miles away.

Were it not three in the afternoon over there he'd probably be hearing fireworks too. He has, however, got a Presidential Election to contend with, and that, plus Hallowe'en Night, is more than enough for any sane soul. Your vote, Chris?

"The Election? Aaaah — it's a big joke."

He assumes a more philosophical tone.

"You know that whoever gets elected is supposed to die in office anyway?"

I didn't.

"It's a fact. Every person since 1840 who's been elected in a year with a zero in it has died in office. Lincoln, Roosevelt, McKinley, Harding, Woodrow Wilson I think, and Kennedy. Maybe Reagan will be elected and get killed in the first 20 minutes. Who knows . . ?"

We return to the subject of the album, and Kennedy too, a little later but first there's been the time-consuming business of making movies. Debbie's been involved in a couple of films—neither of which have been released on these shores—the first being *Union City*, a fairly low-budget affair in which she played her debut "dramatic role" as a housewife to a reasonably warm press reception.

The second has had a lot of exposure (or "hype" as Chris curtly suggests), but seems to have failed to capture the heart (or, indeed, the money) of the great American public.

It's called The Roadie and mainly stars that lovable tub of lard, Meatloaf, who hangs around Texas with nothing to do 'til he suddenly falls in love with a groupie and gets mistaken for a roadie on the Rolling Stones tour. He eventually ends up at New York's Madison Square Gardens where he saves the gig from almost certain destruction in the form of alien invaders and acting roles by Mick Jagger and Tatum O'Neil.

Blondie appear as
"themselves", except that they're
playing an old Johnny Cash
number "Ring Of Fire" and wear
cowboy hats all the time, the film
being "basically a rock 'n' roll
saga/comedy that's mainly
Western-orientated".

Sadly, The Roadie has fallen foul of the standard Hollywood box-office safeguard, which means that, as it didn't do well enough in its first fortnight of release, it's been withdrawn from the cinemas.

"That's the way these people work," Chris sighs. "If a film doesn't do the projected amount of business — even if, like this one, it's critically well-received — they shelve it for other things like European and foreign release and for cable TV and stuff like that. Anyway, it's great and pretty funny and I'm amazed that it's not out over in England yet."

This reminds Chris of a book of his photos that's due to be published in this country around

"Same publishers as Monty Python," he adds with a certain amount of pride. "It's a book of my shots but it'll be like a regular photography book, not a fan book, with a good text that's being put together by Debbie and Victor Bockriss. It's a picture of all the things that have surrounded





us in the last seven years. And before. I've been shooting pictures since before I met Debbie."

CHRIS NEXT reveals the band have done some video work recently: a new sequence for the current single "The Tide Is High" which he says should be on Top Of The Pops very soon. It extends the kind of techniques they've used so successfully before to enhance the dreamy quality of their melodies and bring an edge of fantasy to the lyrics.

"This one was shot in Soho, New York," he explains, "with a guy directing called Art Perry who's just won an award for short films. It's very weird, even more special effects."

I mention that the single is my only reference to the new album, but that I've heard it's a far broader cross-section than "Eat To The Beat".

"Well, yes, 'The Tide Is High' isn't really representative of the record. We've tried to make it very diverse, tried to put a lot of very different kinds of music on it and all the songs stand up by themselves, I think."

"Diverse" sounds as though it's something of an understatement. The single is the only reggae-based number (originally recorded in '68 by John Holt and the Paragons, and covered later by U-Roy) and they chose it as the first 45 "'cos it was the most obvious one, the most 'up' song".

Chris also explains, in rather confusing terms, that he used horns on the track because "horns to me have always existed in the same musical psychological sphere as guitars". Oh.

The new album opens with an instrumental Chris wrote called "Europa" scored for a 30-piece orchestra. There's also a Big Band Swing song, "Here's Looking At You", a heavy disco funk song, "Rapture" — "a homage-to-Chic type thing" — but only two numbers that Chris would actually describe as "rock" songs.

A third "rock" song — but not on the album — is the flipside of the current single, "Susie And Jeffrey", an unlikely slice of romantic drama based around "a blood-test". Perhaps Chris will elucidate?

"There's a great story here. What happened was that we were in the studio one day — it was a weird day, must have been some strange planetary configuration or something — and Perry Como was recording his Israeli Christmas message

next door. Orson Welles was there too," he reflects, "making a commercial. And after a while, someone said: 'Come outside and see what's happened!'

So we went outside and this kid had driven his Audi right into the wall of the studio, completely totalled the car and left a huge gaping hole in the wall, right? So Debbie went over to the kid's girlfriend and started finding out what was happening, and they said they were on their way to get blood-tests for their marriage licence (compulsory in the States) and they'd had a fight.

"But the punch-line of the whole thing was that the kid gave us copies of his single — which was called 'Slammed In The Door' — and it turned out that he was in some S&M (sado-masochist) band where they dressed up in all leather and stuff. And it was just such a classic story that Debbie decided to write it up."

"I think that the centrepiece song on the album is one of Debbie's too," Chris decides when I tell him there are rumours of "cocktail bar jazz" in the air. "It's not exactly 'cocktail bar', as you put it, I think of it more as a 1980's Depression Era song, like 'Brother Can You Spare A Dime'.

"And, in a way, that sets off the tone for the whole record, although it's also quite different — it's just a combo, a trio; Debbie, sax, bass, piano. That's a jazz song, but I don't think it's 'cocktailly' at all. It's more a traditional jazz ballad blues.

"We do have a song from Camelot which, I think, will be our first 'Easy Listening' hit. It's called 'Follow Me' and it's sung by the nymph in Camelot to Merlin when she's coming to take him away. And Merlin doesn't really want to leave because Arthur is in trouble, right?, but she comes and takes him anyway and everything gets screwed up."

So it must have some kind of significance?

"Well, it just seemed really appropriate. I went to see the play — the production with Richard Burton — and the songs just seemed really appropriate on a lot of levels. The story of the play is that there was once this shining moment and then it's all destroyed.

"And when Kennedy came to The White House, he had his shining moment and that was destroyed too. So in a way, I thought it was symbolic of Blondie, which is not the kind of thing that's gonna last forever.

"It's also about people being taken away before their time is

continues over page



from previous page

up, before they're supposed to go. And that's what happened to Hendrix, and that's what happened to Kennedy, and that's what's gonna happen to a lot of people.

And you think it might happen to you as a group? That circumstances might force a premature end?

"It's different, y'know," he pauses. "As I said, it won't last for

BUT FOR the present, matters are very definitely under control. The band still work well together, Chris says, his relationship with Debbie he calls "stable" 'we're still getting along" is the only insight - but the group's legal problems haven't as yet been resolved.

Chris has developed a hardened professional attitude towards this sort of thing now and reckons, what with the endless amount of negotiations and wheeling and dealing that constantly surrounds him, that "the whole of showbusiness exists on paper"

Much of Chris and Debbie's time of late has been expended in keeping the inevitable pressures at arm's length. He says they don't really get hustled if they walk around New York, that most people are polite to them and that he doesn't think it'll ever get to the stage where they'll have to travel around in limousines.

"I don't really like having some guy run around and open the

he says, though with so little humour you can imagine the idea has been seriously entertained.

It's no surprise, then, that the album's so vastly different from what we've come to expect. And there's several reasons for the changes. I've always suspected that "Eat To The Beat" was so strictly geared towards a "live" band sound that it was intended as Blondie's swansong as a touring band, and Chris admits that "we really did try and make it a real band-sounding album"

So "AutoAmerican" was made without any future tours in mind?

'Well, that's one of the reasons it's much more varied. There wasn't any pressure to do an album that we could duplicate 'live'. Also we put a lot more effort into this one (it took two months to record as against three weeks for "Eat To The Beat") because we really felt it was important.

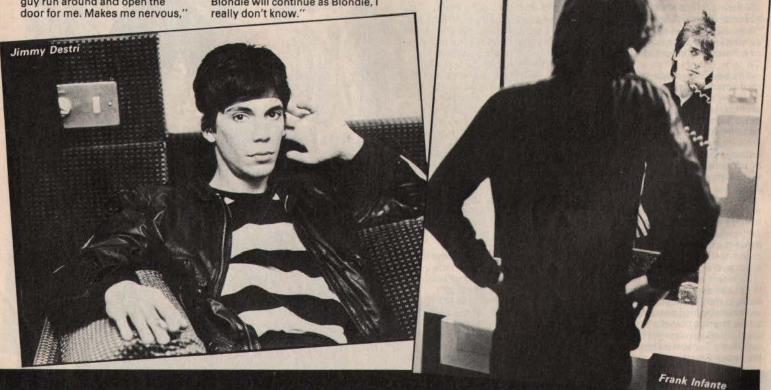
We felt that Blondie was really falling into a 'Blondie' mould. Much as there are a lot of other groups trying to fall into the Blondie' mould, it's the sort of trap you can set for yourself, y'know?"

So it was a conscious decision to escape from that mould?

'Well, it wasn't at first, but now that I see all these other bands . . . these Blondie clones . . . y'know, the heavy guitars and the girl vocalist. Like Pat Benatar for one. It's crazy.

We really had to break away from it, and we did," he concludes. "But how long Blondie will continue as Blondie, I





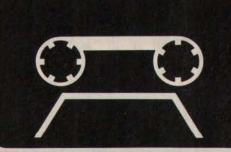
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NEW ALBUM

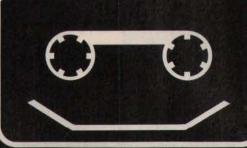
LUMINOUS BASEMENT

INCLUDES FREE SINGLE
IN LUMINOUS VINYL

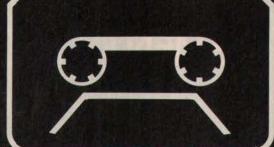
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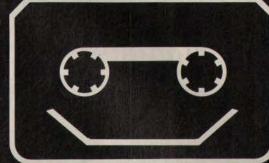
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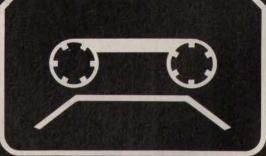
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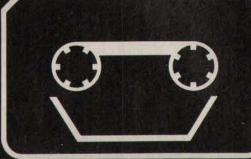
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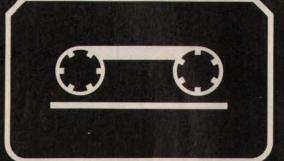
GIANT SIZED BABY THING



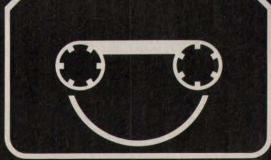
UOMO SEX AL APACHE



FOOLS RUSH IN



I WANT MY BABY ON MARS



RADIO G STRING



8 Lyrics and tunes
60001

FACTOS...

ENOLA HALLO (it says here!) of Worthing finds obtaining records easy enough but wonders if those marked "Promo — For DJs Only: Not To Be Sold" are illegal. Also, she says (being something of a collector), what's the difference between a demo, a promo and an acetate?

An acetate is a metal disc, playable on a normal record player and is the first test pressing from a finished master tape. They're not for public consumption (just for record company bosses, producers and the like) and are usually of poor enough sound quality not to be collectable.

A demo is a demonstration tape, while a promo is the same as the finished record that winds up in the shops but is one of the first batch off the press and therefore is more likely to be imperfect (jumps, scratches and all that). Being the very first copies available, they're stamped with "Promo — For DJs Only, Etc." and distributed to DJs for early radio play and to press for reviews, and they often have plain white sleeves and blank labels.

The "Not To Be Sold" stamp doesn't mean they're illegal (only actual "bootlegs" are illegal), it's just there to dissuade the penniless from flogging their free copy! The only time promos have any real value is when they're issued but then the official release is withdrawn.

DISGRUNTLED Simon Clifford of Chippenham has a bone to pick with The Talking Heads. Like why they're only playing a couple of dates on their "UK Tour" and none of them near Bristol. The Heads plead "not guilty" on this one as the current British stop-over is merely part of a swift European stint to promote the new LP and they've neither the time nor the mobility — (too many extra musicians) — to extend it. They're planning a longer return for the Spring, though.

"TWO POLICEMANIA Fans" seem desperate to get hold of a copy of the supposedly rare "No Wave" compilation to complete their coverage of the Boys In Blue. "No Wave" really isn't that much of a bonus, however, it being merely a sketchy A&M sampler (still available) hoping to expose some of their ropier acts on the strength of two earlier Police singles — "Can't Stand Losing You" and

"Roxanne" — which any self-respecting coppo-phile should already possess

should already possess.
Far more interesting is the follow-up sampler,
"Propaganda" (also on A&M) which does contain Police tracks not available elsewhere, namely live versions of "Landlord" and "Next To You".

TALES OF DOOM and despair are being brought to our notice by would-be buyers of independent records. For starters, there's one June Beverley of Perth who can't get hold of any Crass records for love nor money and is therefore somewhat peeved.

Well, Crass had a little
"disagreement" with the HMV
chain of stores, although this
was some months ago and,
needless to say, not nearly the
"scandal" it might have
appeared in the press. Police
simply applied pressure on
HMV to cease stocking product
on Crass's own Crass Records,
due to its allegedly "offensive"
anarchist content, and HMV
were reported to have
destroyed a sizeable amount of
Crass singles and albums.

If you have trouble locating Crass (or any) independent records, there's four possible steps to take. You'll presumably have taken the first — which is to check out your local independent shop — so the second is to try the big chain stores, Smiths, HMV, Virgin, etc. The reason big stores often don't often stock independent product is because there's only a small profit margin (particularly with Crass, whose singles are around 59 pence and whose double "Stations Of The Crass" album boasted an amazingly generous £3.00 mark-up).

The third step, if the chain stores can't help you, is to contact your nearest independent distributors, the most important of which are Red Rhino (York) 0904 36499; Inferno (Birmingham) 021-236 9201; Revolver (Bristol) 0272 299105; Discount (Manchester) 061-941 3810; Spartan (London) 01-903 4753 or the National Distributors, Fresh (London) 01-258 0572.

And if all else fails, the fourth option is to try the mail order department at Rough Trade, 202 Kensington Park Road, LONDON W11, whose basic flat rate for independent releases is 85p per single (plus 15p postage and packing) and £3.50



ACE OF SPADES

By Motorhead on Bronze Records

If you like to gamble
I tell you I'm your man
You win some, lose some
It's still the same to me

The pleasure is to play It makes no difference what you say I don't share your greed The only card I need is The ace of spades The ace of spades

Playing for the high one Dicing with the devil Going with the flow It's all a game to me

Seven or eleven Snake eyes watching you Double up or quit Double stakes or split The ace of spades The ace of spades

You know I'm born to lose And gambling's for fools But that's the way I like it, baby I don't wanna live forever And don't forget the joker

Pushing up the ante I know you got to see me Read 'em and weep The dead man's hand again I see it in your eyes
Take one look and die
The only thing you see
You know it's gonna be
The ace of spades
The ace of spades

Words and music by Kilmister/Clarke/Taylor. Reproduced by permission Motor Music Ltd. (Leosong)







By The Dead Kennedys on Cherry Red Records

Efficiency and progress is ours once more Now that we have the Neutron bomb It's nice and quick and clean and gets things done Away with excess enemy But no less value to property No sense in war but perfect sense at home

The sun beams down on a brand new day No more welfare tax to pay Unsightly slums gone up in flashing light Jobless millions whisked away At last we have more room to play All systems go to kill the poor tonight

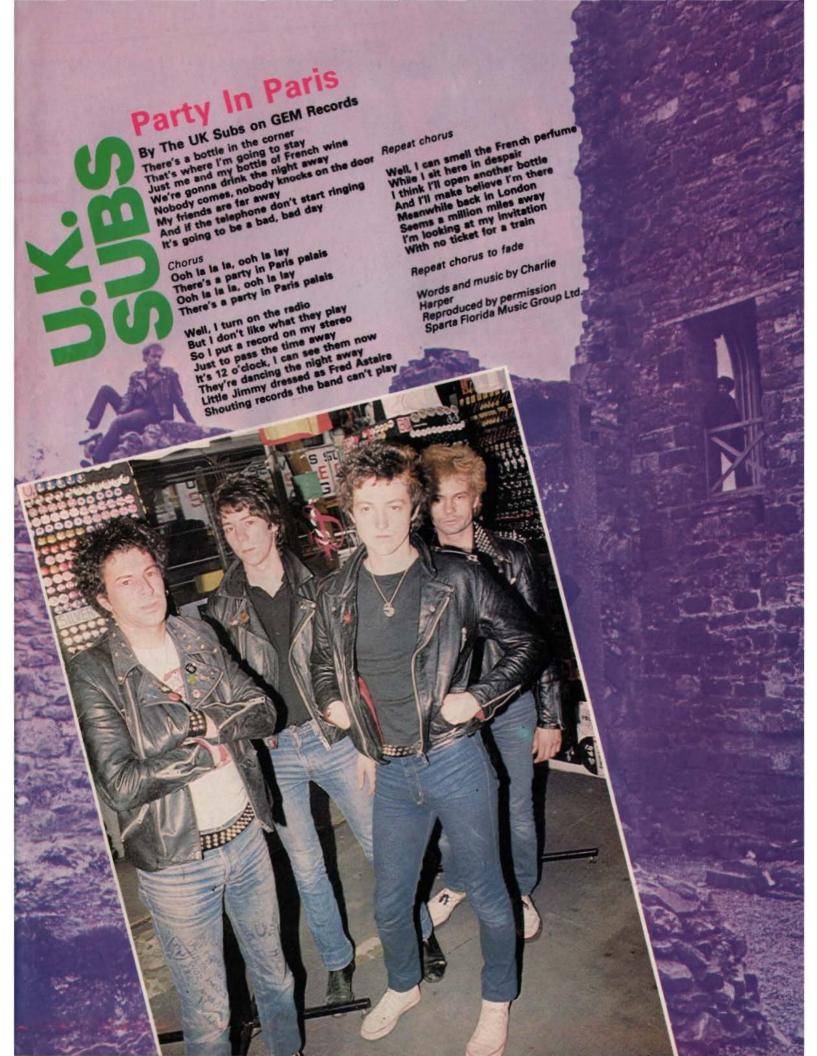
Chorus

(Gonna) kill, kill, kill, kill Kill the poor Kill, kill, kill, kill Kill the poor Kill, kill, kill, kill Kill the poor, tonight

Behold the sparkle of champagne
The crime rate's gone
Feel free again
Oh life's a dream with you, Miss Lily White
Jane Fonda on the screen today
Convinced the Liberals it's okay
So let's get dressed to dance away the night

Repeat chorus twice







ROCK AROUND THE BLOCKS

THE LONG-AWAITED tour by lan **Dury and The Blockheads has** finally been confirmed. Under the banner of "The Song And Dance Tour", it includes a couple of excellent support acts, Basement 5 and the three-piece bassless jazz/funk band Blurt. It'll be particularly interesting to see what changes have occurred since lan's musical director Chaz Jankel left and was replaced by Wilko Johnson.

The entire schedule comprises: **Belfast Mayfield Theatre** (November 21), Dublin Grand Cinema (23 and 24), Edinburgh Playhouse (26), Glasgow Tiffany's (27), Deeside Leisure Centre (29), Hanley Victoria Hall (30), Bristol Locarno (December 1), St. Austell New Cornish Riviera (2), Exeter University (3), Poole Wessex Hall (5), Brighton Centre (6), Southampton

Gaumont (7), Cardiff Sophia Gardens (8), Birmingham Top Rank (10), Coventry Tiffany's (11), Leeds University (14), Sheffield Top Rank (15), Bradford St. George's Hall (16), Newcastle City Hall (17), Manchester Apollo (18), Leicester De Montfort Hall (20), and London Michael Sobell Centre (21, 22 and 23).

Tickets go on sale from Saturday November 1 and are fixed at £3.50 for all gigs bar London (£4.00) and in Ireland where the prices vary. The London gigs mark the launch of the Michael Sobell Centre as a rock venue. It's a North London sports and leisure complex with a 3,000 capacity and you'll find it near the Rainbow in Seven Sisters Road.

Incidentally, Dury's new album "Laughter" is due around the end of November

DIVES BOMBED

THE B-52's — the most magnetic dance troop to hail from Athens, Georgia, fly into London soon to play the Hammersmith Palais (November 24 and 25). Those unacquainted with this circus of bongos, beat, beehives and bangle-earrings are strongly advised to be there or else do the Frug and the Shoo-ga-loo to their newest Island single "Strobelight" from the Top Twenty album "Wild Planet".

RECORD NEWS

BASEMENT 5, who combine dub reggae, acid rock and strains of PiL, have crept out of hiding to release a debut album on Island recorded with new drummer Richard Dudanski, formerly with PiL, The 101'ers and The Raincoats.

At the generous price of £2.50, it consists of dub versions of the songs they'll be releasing on their "official" debut early in the new year. This "first debut" is produced by Martin Hannett whose track record includes the two Joy Division albums, John Cooper Clarke and Pauline DINDISC RECORDS are burning candle 1 on the birthday cake and, to celebrate, are releasing a compilation album. The complete track list features Martha and The Muffins — "Echo Beach" and "Suburban Dream"; Monochrome Set — "405 Lines" and "Apocalypso"; Dedringer — "Sunday Drivers"; The Revillos — "Hungry For Love" and "On The Beach" and Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark — "Waiting For The Man", "Messages" and "Electricity". If you're not already seduced by the competitive £3.99 retail price, there's also a free "Gig



PRETENTIOUS? MOI?

BRUSH UP your Français. PiL's latest long-playing offering, a live set called "Paris Au Printemps" (that's Paris In Springtime to you and me), has its entire sleeve printed in French. This means they are no longer the PiL you know and love, but Image Publique S.A., and tracks like
"Poptones", "Chant" and
"Careering" are now called
"Timbres De Pop", "Psalmodie"
and "Precipitament".

That's not all! The cover features, in rather fetching oil on canvas, a poodle and a couple of mangy-looking horses with dental problems. These, according to artist (sorry, artiste) John Lydon, depict - in no definite order - himself, Keith Levine and minder Jeanette Lee.

Meanwhile, further PiL studio work is currently in hand with Martin Atkins on drums. Though Atkins is no longer an official

Game" included -- Dindisc's answer to "Snakes And Ladders"

SIMPLE MINDS are importing a 12-inch version of their current single "I Travel" which is a 61/2 minute version specially recorded for France.

BOB MARLEY'S follow-up to "Three Little Birds" "Three Little Birds" —
"Redemption Song" — is the
acoustic version taken from his
recent "Uprising" album, but the
B-side, the band version of the
same song, is available only on this single

group member, he's working with PiL when needed and devoting the rest of his time to his own group Brian Brain.



Talking Heads (left to right): Jerry Harrison (guitar), David Byrne (guitar), Chris Frantz (drums) and Tina Weymouth (bass).

HEADS ROLL

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED New York group Talking Heads are to play two London dates at the beginning of December. They'll be at Hammersmith Palais (December 1) and Hammersmith Odeon (December 2). Quite how they'll produce the kind of sounds on their new "Remain In

Light" album, we can only guess, but they'll be aided on stage by bassist Busta Cherry Jones, Bernie Worrell (of Parliament/Funkadelic), a percussionist, a backing singer and Adrian Below, best known as guitarist on the last David Bowie

and directly after the

Vocalist and hairstylist Phil Oakey has retained The Human

League name, along with "visual director" Adrian Wright. The pair

are reportedly loose in the band's

LEAGUE DIV ISION TWO Mammoth Picture Studio in Sheffield where they're writing material and recording a new single.

Oakey and W

They will be playing the League's two scheduled dates -**Doncaster and Liverpool Rotters** (November 12 and 13, respectively) - but advise there'll be "new staging and lighting techniques". They're also rehearsing new recruits for these dates and the following European tour, allegedly a backing vocalist and another keyboard player.

Just to make matters even more complicated, they claim that although Oakey and the new member will "both be playing keyboards live, neither is likely to be playing synthesisers live". No, we don't understand it either.

The other half of the original Human League, lan Marsh and Martin Ware, have since formed their own production company. Its nucleus is The British Electric Foundation, which is their own two-piece band and from which they'll enlarge to produce other singers and attempt various upcoming projects.

The first is the recording of three singles by their "latest discovery", vocalist Glenn Gregory. The second is the finalising of an instrumental album that "develops from where the 'Dignity Of Labour' single left off''. They assert that the BEF "will still be producing electronic music but, unlike the League, will be using more conventional instruments".

FALL-OUT SHELTON

FOLLOWING THE end of their recent British tour, Secret Affair and drummer Seb Shelton have parted company. Sorry to disappoint all you fans of high drama and violence, but the split was entirely amicable and due only to Shelton wanting to move on to pastures new. The rest of the band are reported to be "resting" after their tour, though Messrs Page and Cairns are reckoned to be writing together.

BABYLON MAKES TRACKS



Brinsley Forde

THIS WEEK sees the release of the soundtrack to "Babylon", a new British-made film that will open in the regions in early December.

The film, which has already garnered much critical acclaim, was originally conceived as part

of the BBC's "Play For Today" series. When it wasn't screened, script-writer Martin Stellman and director Franco Rosso decided to turn it into a feature film and the result — shot mostly on location in South London — takes "a stark and uncompromising look at the lives of black youth", based around the story of a battle of two rival sound systems.

An impressive array of reggae musicians feature on the album. Not least of these is Matumbi's Dennis Bovell — best known as the pioneer dub/rock producer of The Pop Group's "Y" album and The Slits' "Cut" — who's written most of the original music.

He's assisted by such other notables as Aswad's lead singer, Brinsley Forde — who also plays the central role of "Blue" — Aswad themselves, Cassandra, Michael Prophet, Yabby U and I Roy. The LP is released by Chrysalis.



"Babylon" opens on November 6th in London, Birmingham, Nottingham and Wolverhampton.



Dennis Bovell

MINI-TUNES

"MINIATURES" is what happened when Pipe Records sent invitations to a motley crew of well-known recording artists asking them to produce one minute's worth of sound. The result — pressed into 51 separate tracks — is not only fascinating but could well be the world's prime pioneer in the fight against "Easy Listening".

Gaze lovingly at the free poster while trying to adjust to poet Roger McGough reading four minutes of "The Wreck Of The Hesperus" in just 60 seconds, Pretenders' drummer Martin Chambers lecturing about British birds (?), or XTC's Andy Partridge's brilliant "History Of Rock'n'Roll" which condenses four decades of music into just twenty irreverent seconds. Don't miss it!

(In case of difficulty, write to Pipe Records at: Flat 10, 13 Linden Gardens, LONDON W2, enclosing a SAE.)



Pete Wylie (Wah! Heat . . .)

Everyone involved is a hero:

6. FRANK SINATRA: "Anarchy In The UK. 'Cos for obvious reasons.

3. DAVID BOWIE: Heroes (RCA). 'Cos in these days of grand illusions...

9. THE CLASH: Complete Control (CBS). Or any Clash song as opposed to a good song interpreted by The Clash.

4. JOY DIVISION: Transmission (Factory). 'Cos it gets us ready to play. 2. ROXY MUSIC: Both Ends

Burning (Island). 'Cos it puts me in the mood for the Night. 7. THE DOORS: The Crystal Ship (Elektra). 'Cos it shows

(Elektra). Cos it snows "psychedelic revivalists" how it's done.

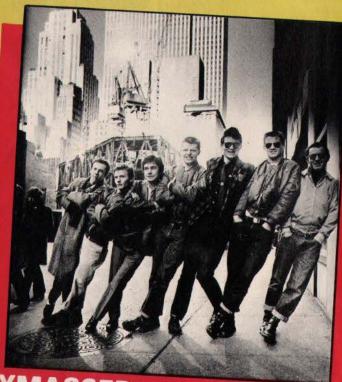
5. VELVET UNDERGROUND: Femme Fatale (MGM).

1. JIMI HENDRIX: All Along The Watchtower (Track). Cos of the atmosphere and the edge, wack!
10. IGGY & THE STOOGES:

Search And Destroy (Elektra).
'Cos he's my favourite word
writer and because it's alone and
it's got the shakes.

8. CHIC and SHEILA B.
DEVOTION: Spacer. 'Cos the bass and guitar were the best thing I saw live last year.

Dedicated to the spirit and attitude of Dexy's, The Fall, PiL, U2 and all who follow The Wah!



XMASSED MADNESS

THE MAESTROS of mayhem, Madness, are set to round off 1980 with a dozen dates spread around the country. All but two — those in Brighton and Glasgow — will include a special matinee performance for the under 16's as well

16's as well.

Under the banner of "The Twelve Days Of Madness", the dates confirmed are: Newcastle City Hall (December 8), Edinburgh Odeon (9), Glasgow Apollo (10), Manchester Apollo (12), Brighton Centre (14), Derby

Assembly Rooms (15), Birmingham Odeon (16), Hanley Victoria Hall (17), Southampton Gaumont (20), Leicester De Montfort Hall (21), London Hammersmith Odeon (22 and 23).

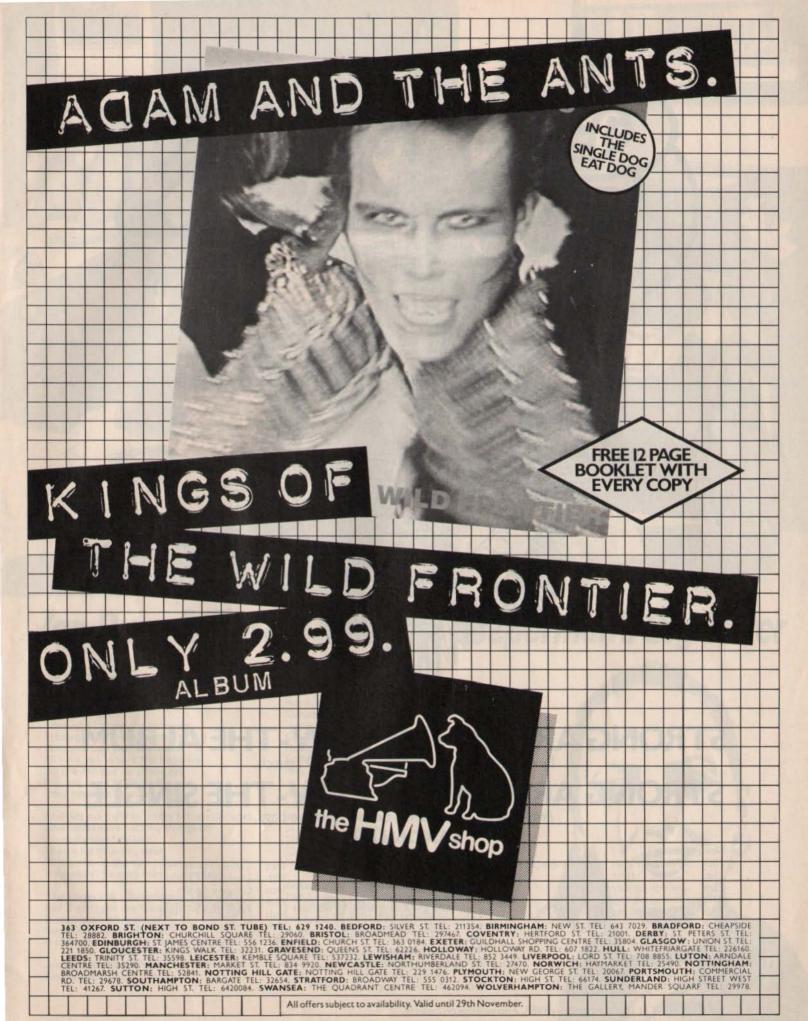
All the matinee shows will start at 5.30 pm (except for Hanley, which starts at 6.00pm). The ticket-price is set at only £1.00 and the group add there'll also be some "special surprises".

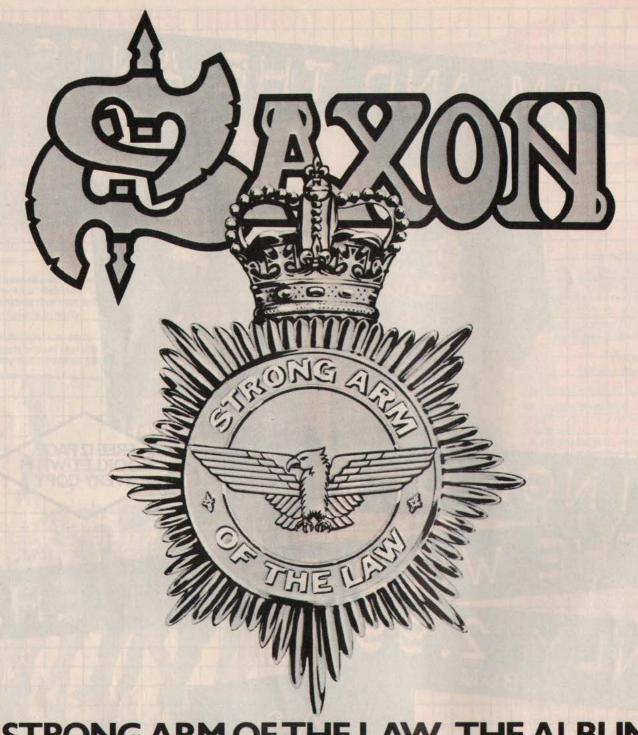
The evening shows will all feature at least one support act (yet to be named) plus yet more "special surprises". Tickets for the Hanley show will be £3.50, Leicester — £3.00 and £3.50, and for all the other shows they'll be £2.50, £3.00 and £3.50.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

A PARTICULARLY unhealthy week in rock 'n' roll has seen the death of Steve Peregrine Took who was Marc Bolan's sideman in the first acoustic stages of T. Rex. There's still no official cause known.

Paul Kantner, leader of the Jefferson Starship, has also been rushed to hospital in L.A. to undergo an operation for a brain haemorrhage. He's now said to be off the danger list; he'd previously been complaining of "headaches". Meanwhile Tom Robinson has been forced to cancel the rest of Sector 27's tour as he's suffering from hepatitis. And lastly, The Mo-Dettes have had to cancel all their tour dates on account of drummer June's broken toe.





STRONG ARM OF THE LAW-THE ALBUM Limited number available with 9" x 9" patch.

STRONG ARM OF THE LAW-THE SINGLE Available as a 7" and 12", both in picture bags.

SAXONLIVE

Nove		Decer	mber		
20th	St. Austell, New Cornish Riviera Lido	1st	Manchester, Apollo	12th	Carlisle, Market Hall
21st	Taunton, Odeon	2nd	Liverpool, Empire	13th	Edinburgh, Odeon
22nd	Swindon, Leisure Centre	3rd	Bristo, Colston Hall	14th	Glasgow, Apollo
23rd	Chelmsford, Odeon	4th	Leicester, De Montfort Hall	15th	Dundee, Caird Hall
24th	Hemel Hempstead, Pavillion	5th	Coventry, New Theatre	16th	Newcastle, City Hall
25th	Wolverhampton, Civic	6th	Oxford, New Theatre	17th	Birmingham, Odeon
26th	Card ff, Sofia Gardens	7th	Ipswich, Gaumont Theatre	18th	Malvern, Winter Gardens
27th	Sheffield, City Hall	8th	Southampton, Gaumont	19th	London, Hammersmith Odeon
28th	Sheffield, City Hall	9th	Derby, Assembly Halls	20th	London, Hammersmith Odeon
29th	Bradford, St. Georges Hall	10th	Hanley, Victoria Hall		
30th	Blackhurn King Georges Hall	11th	Middleshorough Town Hall		



lan Dury & The Blockheads: Sueperman's Big Sister

On Stiff Records

Till I met her
I thought I knew the answers
I thought a bit of treatment
Was all a body needs
I'll take you where the haps are
All the handsome chaps are
Squeeze you till I make
Your feelings bleed

She put me right in under fifteen minutes She could have had my things off So sadly was I raised I had a lot to learn, dear If I'd gone on the turn, dear It wouldn't be surprising nowadays

You know she's Sueperman's big sister Her X-ray eyes see through my silly ways Sueperman's big sister Superior skin and blister It doesn't seem surprising nowadays

Sueperman's big sister Sueperman's big sister Honk, honk it's the bonk Sueperman's big sister Honk, honk, it's the bonk Sueperman's big sister Honk honk I said she's Sueperman's big sister It doesn't seem surprising nowadays

And now I've had the sense to keep her friendship
And though I nearly miffed it
In many little ways
The story's got no sequel
'Cos me and her are equal
Is that so surprising nowadays?

Because she's Sueperman's big sister Her X-ray eyes see through my silly ways I said she's Sueperman's big sister His grown up skin and blister Is that so surprising nowadays?

Words and music by Dury/Johnson. Reproduced by permission Blackhill Music Co. Ltd.



THE JACKSON FILE Robin Katz takes a sentimental

976 WAS a great year for Queen Elizabeth as she kept readjusting her crown for a year of jubilee celebrations. It started as a lousy year for the Jacksons, formerly the Jackson Five. They had been out of this country for too many years. Had they many loyal fans left whose love could be rekindled into record sales?

They were also in an artistic slump with an uncertain future. And that seems a good place to start. (Otherwise the story reads too much like a fairy tale.)

At that point, the Jacksons had left behind Motown Records, the company who had made them household heroes. They had lost bass playing hearthrob Jermaine, who stayed with Motown because he married the president's daughter. Their last few albums for Motown didn't have the magic of their early hits. And they could no longer rely on lead singer Michael's pint size age to guarantee an audience.

Their first album for CBS produced by Gamble and Huff was different, but not as dynamic as some wished it were. 1976 was

mid point. Had they done their best work? Would they now be filed away in the soul history section as Mowtown's last fizzle of black champagne?

Such doubts filled my head as I sat in the luxurious Inn on the Park Hotel, about to reunite with the former black bubblegum Ovalteenies. I've written a lot of pieces about a lot of people. But the Jacksons were something much more for me.

I had started their British fan club, written a zillion columns in teeny magazines on their behalf, been the only writer to tour with them in '72 and then followed up with a weekly column in Record Mirror devoted to them.

My contemporaries at the time laughed at me. How could I write analytical pieces about Bruce Springsteen and then seriously hammer out "Michael's Secret Christmas Wish" for Mirabelle? Easily, I told them. I loved it. I'd rather have my file filled with all those Popswop confessionals than ever holding a torch for the Grateful Dead. Right on, teenage idols!! After all, we all believe in Santa Claus at some time in our lives.

THE JACKSON family believed in

Santa Claus too. Twenty two year old Michael can still vividly remember his grimy beginnings. It was in a Birmingham-like industrial town called Gary, Indiana. Their father (who they called Joseph, not Dad) was a mere sixteen when he married their mother Katherine. They had six boys and three girls.

Joseph made his living running

Joseph made his living running a crane on a construction site and escaped away from all those nappies in his spare time by playing guitar in a band called The Falcons. That was till he started noticing that someone was tampering with his prize guitar. Initially the culprit, usually Tito or Jermaine, would get a hiding.

But then Joseph did some soul searching and made a brave decision. He gave up his job, his music and his time, experience and talent to nurturing his eager sons. If he was going to take it seriously, he made it clear to them that they would too.

Rule one was that every son would learn to play an instrument. The Jacksons line-up today is based on that same set up. When the boys came home from school, the instruments were already set up for them. They were rehearsed every day and all through the weekends, saving time to eat, sleep and barely do homework.

After a year, Joseph felt his boys were sufficiently groomed and he entered them in a series of local talent shows. They won, often performing Motown staples of the 60s like The Temptation's "My Girl."

Michael had the natural flair to be a lead singer early on when his imitation of James Brown was mastered — age four.
Cousins Johnnie Jackson and Ronnie Rancifer were recruited on drums and organ respectively — not because of talent but because they had their own equipment.

They travelled on weekends as far as their cramped estate wagon would carry them. They cut a few singles with local record labels and built up a strong local following, opening for megastars of the day like The Temptations and Gladys Knight and the Pips. Eventually word got back to Motown. Motown got back to the

Jacksons. Diana Ross is given credit for "introducing" the group.

In 1969, they burst into the charts with their first Motown single "I Want You Back". Michael was ten and the older brothers were all under twenty. In an era when bubblegum music had nearly destroyed pop radio, the Jacksons revitalized pop and soul music. Michael's age and the group's colourful popcorn costumes made every male soul singer over 18 seem suddenly ready for a wheelchair.

For the next three years the J5 were invincible. They went from blatant nursery school rhymes ("ABC") to adult romance ("Never Can Say Goodbye" and "I'll Be There"), then branched out into solo albums.

Michael was the most successful with a string of songs. "Ben", the theme song from the film about the love between a boy and his pet rat, remains his favourite song from the early days. Jermaine and Jackie also ventured successfully into solo albums.

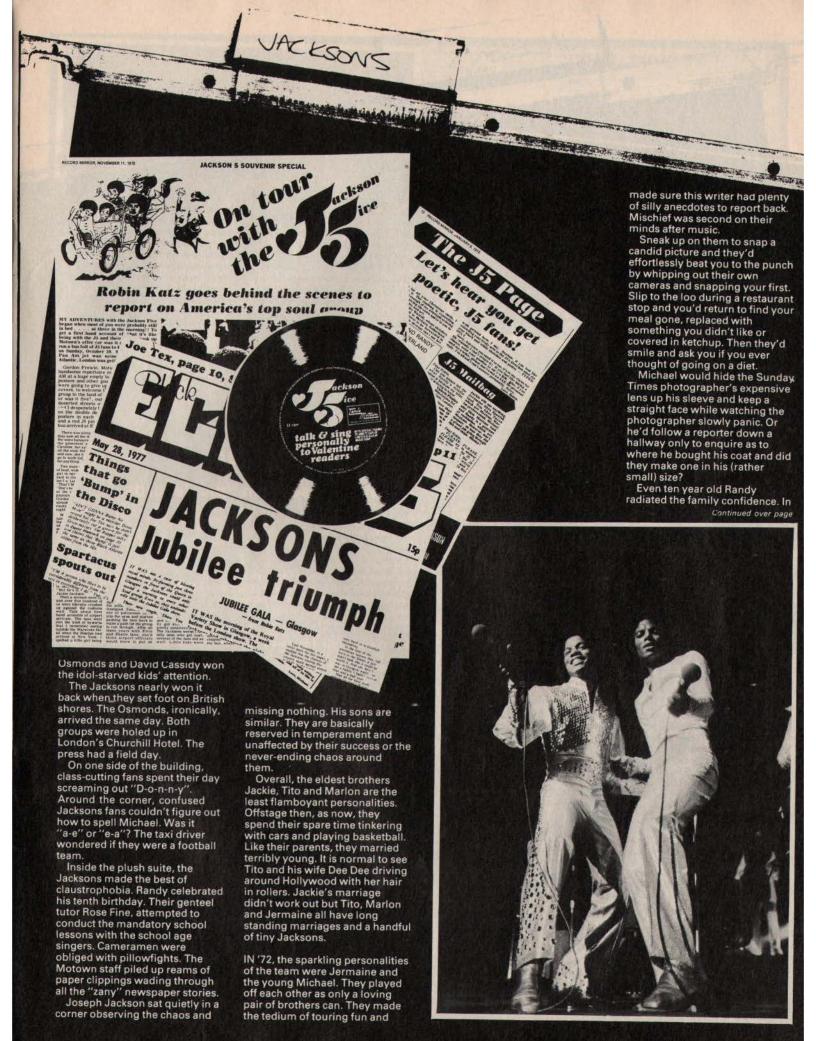
BUT BRITAIN, sadly, seemed to be the land that time forgot. In '72, the charts were flooded with a Motown revival. Old Isley Brothers songs ran up the chart side by side next to new songs. The J5 were just another group.

When I arrived in England, the J5 were starting to receive disproportionate stacks of mail. The Motown office was too understaffed to handle it. Motown Ad Astra, the Motown fan club, had the same problem. Yours truly volunteered to plough through the mail, if for no other reason, than to find a kid who could run a fan club solely for the J5.

But before British Motown could get it together, or get the J5 here, Polydor Records snatched the thunder. They put all their promotional guns out and saturated the teen idol market with their Mormon miracles, The Osmonds.

Polydor had plenty more photos, film footage and paraphernalia, and the girls' magazines of the time were a bit shy of repeatedly featuring a black group on their centre pages. So, the musically inferior







a five star hotel coffee shop, he walked alone to an empty table and casually summoned the waitress by crooning "Girl, tell me please. Do you sell french fries here? Can I have some?"

In those days, to know them was to love them. Their tour was a masterpiece. But they never came back in '73 or '74 to follow it up. Record sales eventually slipped and Osmondmania spread like bubonic plague.

In America, they retained their black audience and then moved into the show biz scene so desired by American entertainers. They did Las Vegas, bringing in their sisters Maureen, LaToya and Jannett (now a TV star there). They did a weekly variety show. In fact, they got so good at being slick that they lost touch with the streets, stagewise. But recordwise, the U.K. also passed over some funky stuff from the J5, like "Dancin" Machine".

SO, THEY arrived back here in '76. Randy had moved in where Jermaine had moved out. Their father explained that they had had problems with the promoter and then the record company. They were sorry they hadn't come back here sooner. They knew it meant starting over again and it was a price they were ready to pay.

In their London hotel room, we had a reunion. We celebrated the past and then we laid the ghost to rest. In '76 the teen idol was David Soul. Now he would be mobbed. On this trip, Michael would actually get to see a bit of London without being chased everywhere. He was quite happy about it.

By the time they left these shores "Show You The Way To Go" was topping the chart and Mick Jackson's "Blame It On The Boogie" was soon to follow. London's Hammersmith Odeon was sold out. The Jacksons had

won back Britain.

In the time that followed, they left Gamble and Huff's restricted Philly productions behind and fulfilled a lifelong ambition to produce their own work with "Destiny," Once again, the U.K. overlooked the funky stuff. Michael made his film debut in "The Wiz" with Diana Ross and came out with "Off The Wall", an album that contains more hit singles than most compilation hit albums.

The Jacksons returned to British shores in '79. The shows gave the audiences what they wanted. But is Michael outgrowing the limitations of the group?

The Jacksons, through no fault of their own, can only please their soulful audiences by succumbing to certain cliches expected of black groups, self contained or not. The glittery costumes that always look corny, the obligatory dance steps that can't be too precise or too casual to be effective, saying show biz lines to the audience, playing a cross section of hits that in themselves could make up a whole show.

Like The Commodores or Earth Wind and Fire, the Jacksons have a lot more going for them than the restrictions in their stage show even hint at. Can the group as a whole break new ground or will only Michael be able to move into more adventurous creative ground? He'd certainly like to.

On a personal level, Michael is

On a personal level, Michael is out on a limb too. He still lives at home, is not married and is almost resigned to giving up on a social life. He can't go for a hamburger in the States without it being written up somewhere, so he has withdrawn within himself.

Personally, I think both Jermaine and Michael have suffered badly for the professional split. When Jermaine was here earlier in the year to promote "Let's Get Serious", he showed traces of the same melancholy that Michael had shown a year earlier. It's not that musical success is unfulfilling. But all work and no privacy has surely taken some kind of toll on growing up.

THE JACKSONS still haven't lost their magic for all these years that they've outrun so much competition. The best interviews with any of them are still when you let them ask all the questions. For famous guys, they still ask delightfully down to earth questions. (Where did you get that shirt? STILL.)

The Jacksons are so much a

part of the established force of entertainers that their successes surprise no one and their failures will only be temporary lapses. And they'll endure because they won't spend their tomorrows dwelling on their yesterdays. When I met them midway through '76 Michael put it perfectly.

"I know you'll write 50 stories yelling about what took us so long to get here. Why don't you say that we're here now. That's what's important, isn't it?"
'Nuff said.

Lovely One

By The Jacksons on Epic Records

Why don't you believe me when I say that I love you?
I'm crazy 'bout you
You wear the face that tells me you think my loving ain't true
I'm all about you
You're my desire
I get higher every time I speak your name
All I do (that's all I do, that's all I do, that's all I do)
And the way that I can't sleep at night
Just proves what I go through
I'm crazy 'bout you

Now the first time that I saw you walking down the streets so pretty Gone with your bad self
Now you say that I don't love you, when it's giving my love pains It's the hurt and the tension
Girl, it's driving me insane

Chorus

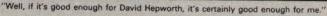
You are my, you are my, you are my lovely one You are my, you are my, you are my lovely one You are my, you are my, you are my lovely one You are my, you are my, you are my lovely one

Why don't you believe me when I say that I am true?
I'm crazy 'bout you
I'm here to love and please you, I'll do what you want me to
I'm all about you
Living and hoping, but I'm coping
With these things you put me through
That's all I do (that's all I do, that's all I do)
The way that I can't sleep at night
Just proves what I go through
I'm crazy 'bout you

Now the first time that I saw you walking down the street so pretty Gone with your bad self Now you say that I don't love you, when it's giving my love pains It's the hurt and the tension Girl, it's driving me insane

Repeat chorus & ad lib to fade

Words and music by M. Jackson/R. Jackson Reproduced by permission Carlin Music.



Bruce Springsteen

ALBUMS A-GO-GO!



To be in with a shout, all you have to do is answer the following five questions about The Most Wonderful Human Being In The History Of The Universe Etc. Etc., stick your version on a postcard and mail it to: Smash Hits (Bruce Springsteen Competition), 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, PETERBOROUGH PE2 OUF, to arrive by November 26 (the closing date). The first

twenty-five correct entries fished out of the bag on that day will each be on the receiving end of a copy of "The River" - fairer than which you cannot say.

- Right the questions:
 "Blinded By The Light" was a Bruce Springsteen song, but who was it a hit for?
- The man himself made four albums before "The River" "Greetings From Asbury Park", "Born To Run" and "Darkness On The Edge Of Town". What's the missing
- "Fire" is another Bruce Springsteen song - but who took it into the Top 40 last year?
- 4) The 'B' side of the current single "Hungry Heart" isn't on "The River". What's it
- "Because The Night" was co-written by Bruce Springsteen with another person who had a hit with it. Name that person.

ORGANISATION Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark





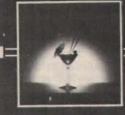


New album and cassette on DINDISC/DID6 Features the new single ENOLA GAY and limited edition free EP

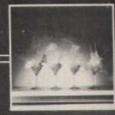
November tour supported by The Fatal Charm

UK Tour starts November 1 Aylesbury, Friars/2 Hanley, Victoria Hall/3 Bristol, Colston Hall 4 Southampton, Gaumont/5 Reading, Top Rank/6 Guildford, Civic Hall/7 East Anglia, University of 9 Wolverhampton, Civic Hall/10 Glasgow, Apollo/11 Edinburgh, Odeon/12 Manchester, Apollo 13 London, Victoria Apollo/15 Ipswich, Gaumont/17 Sheffield, City Hall/18 Birmingham, Odeon 19 Blackburn, King George's Hall/20 Liverpool, Empire/21 Newcastle, The Polytechnic.











THE NEWALBUM



THE SAD CAFE TOUR

NOVEMBER: 8th Guild Hall, Preston - 9th Odeon, Birmingham - 10th Gaumont, Ipswich - 11th De Montfort Hall, Leicester - 12th Victoria Hall, Hanley
Lith Gaumont, Southampton - 14th New Theatre, Oxford - 16th Colston Hall, Bristol - 17th Odeon, Hammersmith - 19th Empire, Liverpool
20th City Hall, Sheffield - 21st City Hall, Newcastle - 22nd Odeon, Edinburgh - 23rd Apollo, Manchester

THE ONE thing I like about Kelly Marie being back in the charts is that it always solves the problem of an intro for my column. As you can see, not only is my page graced with the presence of the lyrics of her latest dynamite 45, but we also have not one but two photos of the lovely Scots lassie herself for you to feast your eyes on. Talk about "before" and "after"! Heineken certainly refreshes the parts that other beers don't reach!

Pressing on to the records, we find there's the normal pre-Christmas slump in output, as all the majors prepare themselves for the seasonal rush (they hope). There are a few interesting offerings though. The best is "I'm Coming Out" (Motown) by Diana Ross, the 146th track taken from the Chic produced "Diana" album, and will probably be in the charts by the time you read this. It has an unusual quirky beat and though



not as instant as "My Old Piano", a few plays through reveal it to be a really strong single choice.

a really strong single choice.
"Is It In"? (TK Records) is the
rather risque title of the new
single by Jimmy Bo Horne (no
jokes please). It has a good
danceable rhythm, with a backing
not unlike Instant Funk's "I Got
My Mind Made Up". Unlikely
chart success but a winner in the
clubs.

Thumbs down though to Level 42, the UK jazz-funk outfit, for their latest waxing "(Flying On The) Wings Of Love" (Polydor). The 12inch features both a US mix and a UK dance floor mix, neither of which I found particularly exciting. Same goes

for "Summer Love" by Rick James (Motown) which is taken from his latest album "Garden Of Love". He's ditched his normal uptempo funk in favour of a slushy, slower sound. Nice enough but not my cup of Horlicks.

"House Party" by Fred Wesley (RSO) is a good soulful sounding dance track featuring a tasty horn section. Not particularly instant, but another one best appreciated on the dance floor. Shakatak's new single is the jazzy "Feel's Like The Right Time" (Polydor). It's mainly an instrumental track accompanied by occasional Herbie Hancock style vocoder vocals. Unfortunately it lacks

Herbie's magic touch, and all in all a bit repetitive.

Other new releases in the pipeline are "If You Feel The Funk" (Polydor) by La Toya who's got an immediate claim to fame by being the sister of The Jacksons. Peaches and Herb have a double 'A' side on the way consisting of the uptempo "Funtime" and the Christmassy ballad "One Child Of Love" (Polydor). Also the Fatbacks will be following up "Backstrokin'" with "Let's Do It Again" on the Spring label.

Finally a pat on the back for Charly Records who have released some classic 60's soul compilation albums. These collections by such notables as Betty Everett ("The Shoop-Shoop Song") and Gene Chandler ("Duke Of Earl") are a must for everyone who thinks that soul music begins and ends with the

Q-Tips.

Beverly



Loving Just For Fun

By Kelly Marie on Calibre Records

I feel good vibrations
Oh oh, strange sensations
Running up and down my spine
When you are near me
Yes I know that you could love me
seriously
Don't you know that I like

Chorus
Loving just for fun
Baby, you're the one
You've got me on the run
Yes, you're my number one
Oh baby, loving just for fun
Baby you're the one
You've got me on the run
Yes, you're my number one

I get excitations
Oh oh, that radiation
Everytime you take me in your arms
I'm helpless
Then you spoil it all by saying I love
you
Don't you know that I like

Repeat chorus

Oh, when I get those good vibrations
Tell me that you need me
Oh, when you send those radiations
And when you give those excitations
Take it nice 'n' easy
I can't when you
Give those good vibrations

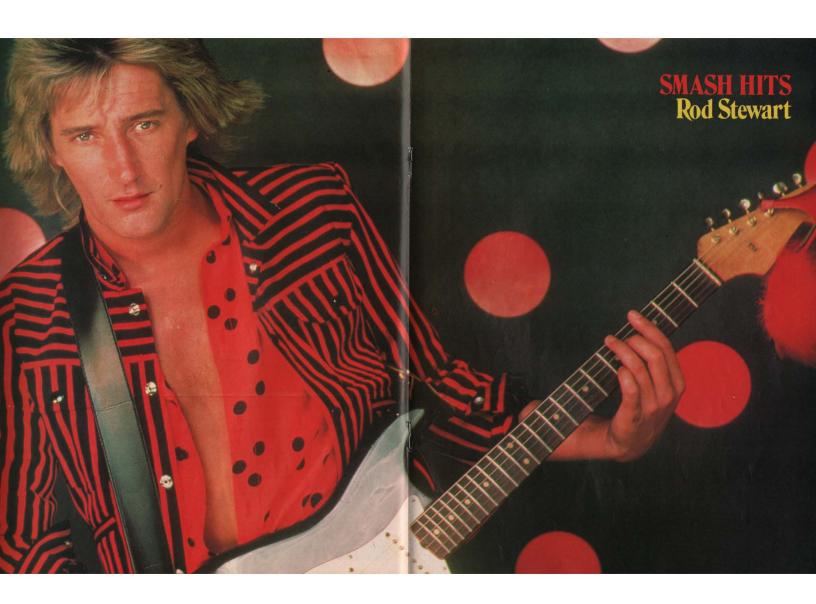
You'll be saying to me Before this night is over That your love for me will never die Oh oh, I like

Repeat chorus to fade

Words and music by Yellowstone/Voice Reproduced by permission Red Bus Music (Int) Ltd./Grade One Records Ltd.

disco top 40

THIS WEEKS WEEK AGO TITLE/ARTIST		
1 NEW CELEBRATION KOOL & THE GANG	LABEL	BPM
2 20 I LIKE (WHAT YOU'RE DOING) YOUNG & CO	DE-LITE	122
3 11 NEVER KNEW LOVE STEPHANIE MILLS	EXCALIBER	119
4 26 INHERIT THE WIND WILTON FELDER	20TH CENTURY	114
5 8 CAN'T FAKE GERALDINE HUNT	MCA	116
6 10 IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT DOUGH	CHAMPAGNE	115
6 10 IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT ODYSSEY 7 12 FALCON RAH BAND	RCA	SLO
4 LOVE X LOVE GEORGE BENSON	DJM	120
9 2 CASANOVA COFFEE	WARNER BROS	116
10 1 YOU'RE LYING LINX	DE-LITE	126
11 3 D.I.S.C.O. OTTAWAN	CHRYSALIS	122
- CITAWAN	CARRERE	124
THE TIME TOWN BROWNE	ARISTA	119
THISTERINE GINES INCUGNITO	ENSIGN	
THE HIGHT TIME SHAKATA	POLYDOR	112
TOTAL ONE SACKSUNS	EPIC	122
THE TOOK LOVING IZENA MARIE	MOTOWN	110
TOWN CIGHT OF THE WORLD	ENSIGN	102
CHANGE CONTROL OF SIDE GAP BAND	MERCURY	120
TOWN MELLY MANIE	CALIBRE	115
THE THILL BEAVEN HALE	TK(IMP)	
- CONG CLOUD	FLASHBACK	
- THINGS DEACH SEATE	ENSIGN	REG
THE PROPERTY OF THE PURE	BILJUMA (IMP)	114
THE POST OF MINU TEMPO	A&M	127
The state of the s	MILESTONE	104
TOTAL MIT LOVE COUT GRANT	ENSIGN	124
THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O	CHAMPAGNE	117
THE TALK CANTH WIND & PINE	CBS	112
29 NEW MORE BOUNCE TO THE OUNCE ZAPP	WARNER BROS	106
THI BACK SAMES BRUWN	TK (IMP)	116
- THE OF UK PLATERS	GB	
12 NEW BOURGIE BOURGIE GLADYS KNIGHT	CBS	
33 NEW THE NIGHT, THE WINE LIQUID GOLD	POLO	132
34 14 NIGHT CRUISER DEODATO	WARNER BROS	114
35 25 THE BREAKS KURTIS BLOW	CONTRACTOR DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON NAM	115
36 NEW HELP YOURSELF EDIT POINT	EARTHSHAKER	
37 16 MASTERBLASTER STEVIE WONDER		132
38 15 SEARCHIN CHANGE	71002	128
39 NEW MR MAGIC GROVER WASHINGTON JR	datas 1	104
40 NEW HOUSE PARTY FRED WESLEY	RSOCURT	CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSONS
	HOUGON	





The Earth Dies Screaming

on Graduate Records

A warm dry wind
Is all that breaks the silence
Highways quiet scars across the land
People lie, eyes closed, no longer dreaming
The earth dies screaming

Chorus

The earth dies screaming (the earth dies screaming)
The earth dies screaming (the earth dies screaming)
Your country need you, let's strike up the band
The earth dies screaming (the earth dies screaming)
The earth dies screaming (the earth dies screaming)
Despite all odds we must defend our land

Like scattered pebbles cars lie silent waiting Oiless engines seized by dirt and sand Bodies hanging limp no longer breathing The earth dies screaming

Repeat chorus

Half eaten meals lie rotting on the table Money clutched within the boney hand Shutters down the banks are not receiving The earth dies screaming

Repeat chorus

Words and music by UB40
Reproduced by permission Graduate/New Claims/ATV Music

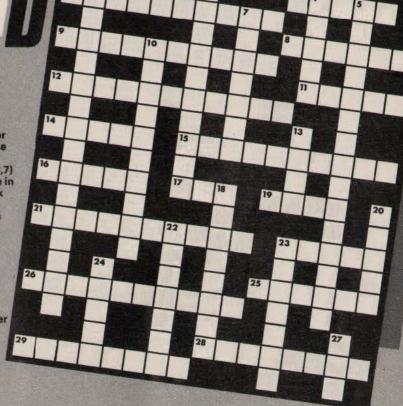
GROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 3 Times two, he's an Undertones 45 title!
- 6 Bev's no, everybody's!! favourite disco starlet (5,5)
- See 27
- 9 A song about a piece of second-hand furniture! (2,3,5)
- 11 & 28"Bronco Billy" was one of his recent films
- 12 Sounds like The Jam need a map (7,4)
- 14 He wrote Barbra Streisand's current hit
- 15 Radio 1 DJ (5,5)
- 16 She goes on and on and on and on: find the anagram!
- 17 Are they hiding in the next clue?
- 19 Glitter man?
- 21 "Contact" was one of his big disco hits (5,5)
- 23 & 29 Sounds like this hit LP should be the theme for Hammer House Of Horror
- 25 Miss Elkie
- 26 British reggae band (5,5)
- 28 See 11
- 29 See 23 across

DOWN

- 1 One of the year's biggest selling albums (8,8)
- 2 Actor/singer (5,5)
- 4 & 20 US star best known for his theme from "Shaft"; the Kojak of Soul!
- 5 Matchbox hit and album (8,7)
- 7 Solo singer who used to be in Brinsley Schwarz with Nick Lowe (3,4)
- 10 A Wing who sounds like an address! (5,5)
- 13 They're the same going backwards!
- 18 The Great Pretender
- 20 See 4
- 22 & 24 Mike Oldfield's most famous album
- 23 American soul singer, formerly Mrs Stevie Wonder
- 24 See 22
- 27 & 8 Adam's anthem (3,3,3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 39



REVIEWS

singles

By Mike Stand

JOHN OTWAY: Green Green Grass Of Home (Stiff). At least you can't fault Otway's timing. Only 14 years since Tom Jones was at Number One with this aromatic heap of country manure and already our John's on the case with the send-up version. Haltingly "emotional", then a howling Sex Pistols final stanza. If this had been funny it would certainly have been funny.



MATTHEW BUTLER: Bright Eyes (CBS). Small friend of the Tiswas team renders/rends Art
Garfunkel's maudlin "Watership
Down" hit. He pursues the tune
with great determination and I
don't doubt he'd have caught it if
the hole in the middle hadn't got
there first. A daunting odds-on
for the Top Thirty. Cute at first,
but with saturation airplay Master
Butler is set to become the most
hated child in the country.

B-52s: Strobe Light (Island).
Luckily The B-52s are here to
prove that comedy is not dead in
1980. I roared with mirth. The
neighbours called the fire
brigade. My only concern is that
it may be too rude for radio. You
see it's about the disgraceful
practice of making love and Fred
Schneider as Romeo goes so far
as to tell his goil "I'm gonna kiss
your pineapple!"

I happen to know that both the Beeb and the Independent Broadcasting Authority have explicitly banned any mention of fruit In pop songs on the grounds that it might incite the youth of the nation to go forth and multiply. Even without vocals "Strobe Light" would be a well-nigh irresistible dance track. Both sides from the "Wild Planet" LP by the way.

SECTOR 27: Invitation: What Have We Got To Lose (Panic). Seriously though, the threat of censorship does rear its hideous head here as Tom apparently was pressed into changing a reference to "them bastards" to "them masters". In all other respects this single suggests that after a year Sector 27 are coming together with power and originality. Stevie B's coarse, vibrant guitar sound is the key. In fact I prefer the flip, "Dungannon", with its subtler vocal and emphasis on story rather than slogan/chorus. Spiffing double-sider.

DEVO: Whip It (Virgin). Eh? More dubious Yankee lyrics? "Whip it . . . into shape". Ah, of course. Disco pogo for punks in pumps. The first sign of life from Devo since "Jocko Homo" days. Eccentric in an orderly way. Synthesisers jab the rhythm instead of droning. Fraught and overwrought in all departments. A dazzler.

VARDIS: Too Many People (Logo); IRON MAIDEN: Women In Uniform (EMI). Vardis deliver honest, unremarkable boogie culled from the Gospel according to Status Quo. The Maiden are just noisy and offensively sexist.

COLIN NEWMAN: Classic Remains (Beggars Banquet). Synthesisers are starting to rock. Maybe they will replace guitars eventually. Ex-Wire person Newman has drums kicking as in the best disco then runs amok with keyboards, a biffing bassline, a crunching riff and then letting anarchic effex riotously wreck any mass sale possibilities it had. Not pretty, but brave.

TUXEDO MOON: Dark Companion (Ralph). Not the sort of record anybody really *likes*.



(Accessible though, by Ralph and Residents standards.) Guitars grind in the modern cement-mixer mode which indicates that Art is taking place, the bass bucks and heaves fit to make you seasick, back-up voices moan and the vocal requests "Another drink for my dark companion". This may grow on me. Fortunately I have a good doctor.

THE FABULOUS POODLES: Stompin' With The Cat (Blueprint). An uncanny imitation of the original American rockabilly style as per ten-gallon characters like Sleepy Labeef and Arthur "Hardrock" Gunter. More, this has a life of its own leaping off the turntable. I've never enjoyed the Poodles before, but this puts UK Teds like Matchbox in the shade. Brilliantly self-produced. Oh — if you like that sort of thing of course.

STRAY CATS: Runaway Boys (Scat). The hugely hyped Stray Cats also require you to like that sort of thing, though with '80s technology boosting guitar and bass. Their sponsors could hardly have hoped for a better debut than this loping and tumbling landslide of good old R&R. The "Runaway Boys" theme is shrewdly commercial while their playing seems naturally exuberant. I'm puzzled that a band with so much music in them can muster enough interest in hair to keep those guiffs erectand the mediocre 'B' side reminds me not to overrate them on the basis of one stirring track.

RANDY CRAWFORD: Tender Falls The Rain (Warner Bros). Singer of The Crusaders' delectable "Street Life" continues, in her more recent vein, to put excessive emotion into banal material. Perhaps even she got fed up with simpering "One Day I'll Fly Away" because she wrote "Tender Falls The Rain" herself and though it is a fifty per cent improvement, essentially she's still wasting her ability.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN: Hungry Heart (CBS). Taking it that Dylan can be temporarily listed AWOL in Heaven, I rate Springsteen the greatest living and active rock artist. And this song is one of his finest moments. Posterity may even rate "Hungry Heart" somewhere alongside Ike and Tina Turner's "River Deep Mountain High". His E Street Band are also magnificent, while the song starts with the most incisive piece of economical story-telling, a novel in two lines: "Got a wife and kids in Baltimore Jack/I went out for a ride and I never went back." Well. I think you'll like him.

SHONA LAING: Whispering Waltzes (EMI). From her appearance I feared that Shona was EMI's Sheena Easton Chapter 2. Not at all. She turns out to be an obvious devotee of Joan Armatrading — a devotion I share. Her tough voice and angular melody is set cleverly against a plain acoustic guitar and elaborate synthesiser work. The 'B' side is a disappointingly crass ballad. Promising?

THE GAS: It Shows In Your Face (Polydor). Just about average performance in The Jam's least experimental style. Producer Paul Fox of the Ruts DC is unable to transmit any of his own band's vigour because of lack of inspiration in both writing and playing on the 'A' side. The reggae reverse seems much more to the taste of all concerned and I hear enthusiastic reports of The Gas live, so don't dismiss them from your thoughts eternally.



RECKLESS: Victim Of Time (EMI). The best new heavy metal I've heard since Girlschool. Loud, rough, dirty, physical and not at all ponderous or pompous. No information on them beyond the sleeve picture of standard long-haired headbanger bloke (songwriter Steve Madden?) and the girl singer who, interestingly, looks as though she might have



been snatched from the B-52s' substitutes bench. 'B' side "All Night Woman" confirms their excitement. Presumably conservative HM fans won't buy Reckless into the singles charts until they've made seven albums and become extremely tedious.

SPLIT ENZ: Nobody Takes Me Seriously (A&M). The best track from their LP "True Colours" and should be the follow-up hit the New Zealanders need to stabilise their egos after their considerable talents were ignored first time round in the UK with Chrysalis. This has all the articulate, clownish intelligence which they are holding back in much of their current more obvious pop material. Some beautifully built rhythm and rhyme lines like "Every girl I met seemed to get apathetic when I looked at her that special way".

SUPERCHARGE: Peaches 'N'
Cream/Foxy (Criminal). Double
'A' worthy of the name. Big,
blasting soul-funk with larfs. Yet
Supercharge are such committed
failures probably nobody will
ever hear this. And singer Albie
Donnelly was championing bald,
fat chic when Doug Trendle was
just an awful suspicion in his
mother's eye . . .

PAUL SIMON: One-Trick Pony (Warner Bros). Lovely musicianship, seductive tune, mild surface sheen on a pool of acid. This is the single from the album of the film wot he wrote (and stars in, natch). Simon has laid himself on the line, and I wouldn't bet against him pulling it off.



DONNA SUMMER: The Wanderer (Geffen). If this lacklustre set of timid disco is anything to go by, Giorgio Moroder's jukebox is in dire need of a rewind. Donna doesn't seem too thrilled herself and reserves her conviction for the self-penned gospel tune at the end. The punchy keyboards and robot rhythms are starting to sound both tired and dated while the energy generated wouldn't bring a twinkle to a bike lamp. (4 out of 10)

David Hepworth



THE TOURISTS: Luminous Basement (RCA). Although The Tourists make mildly acceptable pop singles, this album suggests that they simply don't have the imagination or originality to fill twelve inches of vinyl. The songs are littered with boring guitar solos (vintage 1969) and Annie's normally impressive vocals seem a bit too folksy this time around. The Tourists are showing their roots and the end result is about as modern as a pair of beige flares. Not recommended. (4 out of 10).

Beverly Hillier

CHEAP TRICK: All Shook Up (Epic). Shuffling between extremely lame attempts to ape The Beatles (with the connivance of former Beatles producer George Martin) and tuneless stabs at headbanging music that aren't even funny, Cheap Trick have definitely painted themselves into a corner. The whole enterprise reeks of forced zaniness and suggests that Tom Petersen got out not a moment too soon. This is a Titanic-sized disaster. Boo. Hiss. (3 out of 10).

David Hepworth

MIKE OLDFIELD: QE2 (Virgin). For all its complexity of arrangement and production. what's most irritating about Oldfield's music is its stifling shallowness. At least this is less confused than the more diverse "Platinum", but it still falls into the same trap: trying to fuse three different types of music -Medieval, classical and cumbersome formal rock - and the necessary instruments (synthesised French Horn etc.), and ends up being neither experimental nor lastingly atmospheric. QE2? I'd rather swim. (3 out of 10).

Mark Ellen

STEVIE WONDER: Hotter Than July (Motown). Give thanks! Stevie steps out of the shrubbery long enough to prove that he's still got a knack for tight, subtle and superbly arranged love songs. Although his lyrical efforts wouldn't get him a job writing Get Well cards, when it comes to delicacy of delivery and pure pop instinct he has few equals. Not exactly deep but crisp and even nonetheless. (8 out of 10).

David Hepworth

MO-DETTES: The Story So Far (Deram). Yes, they're lovely to meet; they do photograph well; they're sexy in a cute kind of way; they even put enough sweat and gusto into a performance to make it work; but a Mo-dettes album—nol All that hippyish girls-together naivity is fine on an independent single, but a dozen repeats of the same sloppy rhythm section sound, Ramona's froggie drawl and that terrible scrawny guitar rapidly become a kind of afterpunk endurance test. Not for the faint-hearted. (4 out of 10)

Steve Taylor

CHAS JANKEL: Chas Jankel (A&M). As beautifully played and arranged as expected, this only just fails to satisfy as the man's big break from The Blockheads, being let down mainly by undistinguished vocals and the odd lyrical cliche. These sketches from a brilliant musical stylist climax early with the opener "Ai No Corrida" - very superior funky dance music - and continue with a celebration of such good old fashioned values as professionalism and tight control over mood Recommended if you like the smooth stuff. (8 out of 10).

Steve Taylor

THE SOUND: Jeopardy (Korova). With everybody still feverishly camouflaging (or even denying) any early influences, The Sound's powerful mesh of '70s/'80s tuneful rock is as refreshing as it is mostly successful. A four piece of effortless skill, they use standard "rock" dynamics to support and propel and broad, dense, synthesised overlay while still keeping it fluid and emotional. Dance music at its level best! A pity more bands aren't less self-conscious about their input. (8½ out of 10).

Mark Ellen

JAPAN: Gentlemen Take
Polaroids (Virgin). If Brian Eno,
rather than Bryan Ferry, had
rerouted the original direction of
Roxy Music, this might well have
been the result: Ferry's reptilian
diction backed by an atmospheric
and free-flowing soundtrack. The
evocative exoticism of
instrumental sections (like the
introduction to "Burning
Bridges") works better than the
straight songs, though there's no
reason why those shouldn't be
enjoyed as fragments of
dislocated film music, too. (8 out
of 10).

Steve Taylor

ADAM & THE ANTS: Kings Of The Wild Frontier (CBS). As opposed to the old rant-against-backcloth routine, the new Antmusic is a low tribal drumbeat, subdued woolly bass, fuzz-box guitars and the odd strain of feedback building a frame around Adam's theatrical vocal. The new ideas are all part



of the package — redskins, rancheros, pirates, chants, "antics", sexual ambiguities, all wound up in romantic legend and using mascara for warpaint. If you like strong, intelligent dance music with a dash of drama, go west, young people! (8 out of 10).

Mark Ellen

MO-DETTES COMPETITION:

Spill the Marbles, Ramona

SO YOU want to be a star songwriter? Or perhaps you'd like an autographed copy of "The Story So Far", the latest Mo-Dettes album featuring their current single, "Dark Park Creeping". Either way, here's your chance to make it by entering the Smash Hits Alternative Lyrics Competition.

It may have struck you that for all their magic, the performances of Mo-Dettes lead singer Ramona are not noted for clear pronunciation. It's her Swiss ancestry, some say; others reckon it's a case of marbles in the mouth.

Ramona's lyrics are often open to several interpretations and we are looking for the funniest



rewrite. Here's what you do: get hold of a copy of "Dark Park Creeping", listen to it and offer us your version of what you think she could be singing. Marks will be awarded for humour and originality. The best entry — picked by the Smash Hits Cultural Collective — will be printed in these very pages, with the winner and 24 runners up each receiving an autographed copy of "The Story So Far".

Your entry should reach the Smash Hits Mo-Dettes Competition, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF before November 25th. And now you're on your own.





By Red Starr

RUDER THAN YOU

DESPITE THE passing of 2 Tone's instant success phase, one band who certainly look destined for bigger things are The R.B.'s from Perth. A seven piece (including brass section) with an obvious traditional Scottish feel for soul music as well as ska, both their live set and "Explain"/"Let Me Feel It" (Phoenix) single show the attack, imagination and melodic instinct to build their own identity whatever the current musical climate. I doubt if they'll be on a small label for long — well worth investigating. (Contact: SAE to Phoenix, High Street, Edinburgh).

independent singles top 30

THIS WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	TITLE/ARTIST	LABEL
_	114	THE EARTH DIES SCREAMING/DREAM A LIE UB40	Graduate
1	100	KILL THE POOR Dead Kennedys	Cherry Red
2		SEVEN MINUTES TO MIONIGHT Want Heat	Inevitable
3	-	ATMOSPHERE Joy Division	Factory
4	1	EVOLOGED BARMY ARMY Exploited	Explaited
5	-	REQUIEM Killing Jake: Mi	dicious Damage
6	7	FLIGHT A Certain Ratio	Factory
1_		HOLIDAY IN CAMBODIA Dead Kennedys	Cherry Red
8	3	ZEROX Adam & The Ants	Do II
9	9	BLOODY REVOLUTIONS/PERSONS UNKNOWN Crass/Poison Girls	Crass
10	4	CARTROUBLE Adam & The Anis	Doll
11	12	CALIFORNIA UBER ALLES Dead Kennedys	Fast Product
12	- 6	FEEDING OF THE 5,000 (SECOND SITTING) (EP) Drass	Crass
13			Crass
14	5	REALITY ASYLUM Crass	Exploited
15	23	ARMY LIFE Exploited	Factory
16	10	LOVE WILL TEAR US APART Joy Division	Rough Trade
17	16	TOTALLY WIRED Fall	Crass
18	15	CANT CHEAT KARMA/WAR/SUBVERT Zoundz	Fresh
19	25	FOR MY COUNTRY U.K. Decay	Factory
20	11	TRANSMISSION Joy Division	4AD
21	-	THE FRIEND CATCHER Birthday Party	Crass
22	20		Clay
23	21	FIGHT BACK (EP) Discharge	4AD
2	2		tilegal
2	5 1		Big Beat
2	6 1		Rough Trade
2	7 2		Clay
2	8 1		Postcard
2	9 1	8 BLUE BOY Grange Juice	Malicious Damage
	0 2	8 WARDANCE Killing Joke	The same of the sa

independent albums top 10

•••		The second secon		
THIS	TWO WEEKS AGO	TITLE/ARTIST	3	LABEL
WEEN	400	SIGNING OFF UB40	*	Graduate
4	1	FRESH FRUIT FOR ROTTING VEGETABLES Dead Kennedys		Cherry Red
	2		200	4AD
	-	IN THE FLAT FIELD Bauhaus	-	Crass
	-	CHAPPAQUIDICK BRIDGE Poison Girls		Crass
	7	STATIONS OF THE CRASS Crass		
	3	CLOSER Joy Division		Factory
_	-	FIRESIDE FAVOURITES Fad Gadget		Mute
1				Do It
8	V	DIRK WEARS WHITE SOX Adam & The Ants	The state of	Factory
9		UNKNOWN PLEASURES Joy Division		People Units
10	-	LIVE AT THE COUNTER EUROVISION '79 Misty In Roots	V 1 5	People office



The mighty Wah! Left to right, Washington (bass), Pete Wylie (himself) and Rob Jones (drums).

WHAT WITH Orchestral Manoeuvres, Teardrop Explodes and Echo and The Bunnymen (not to mention Pink Military and the likes of Modern Eon), the city of Liverpool ain't exactly short of people who can knock out a good tune these days.

Undoubtedly one of the best of the Merseyside bands — though they'll probably be the last to make the national charts because of their wary attitude to the music business — are Wah! Heat . . . whose excellent new single "Seven Minutes To Midnight" (Inevitable) enters the independent charts this week at no. 3.

Wah! Heat . . . are led by guitarist, vocalist and all purpose hero Pete Wylie, one of the few genuinely inspiring characters left in an increasingly safe and conservative rock market place. By turns supremely entertaining and deadly serious, the man who wrote the rough, melodic "Seven Minutes" explains its background as follows:

"It's been called an anti-war song, an anti-nuclear song, which it basically is. That's

how it started out, anyway. There's some nuclear clock — it's not an actual clock, it's a meter scientists use. They take information from all over the world and any political event or whatever that could lead us closer to nuclear war is registered on this clock. And last year when the Americans and the Russians were having big arguments, the clock jumped forward about half an hour to seven minutes to midnight — midnight being the end, the apocalypse.

"I was really frightened of all that happening, like I think anybody sensible would be, and it started out as a song about war but everyone started writing songs about war so I wanted to make it something more than that. So now — although there are one or two lines which are specifically about the war situation — that song you can apply to any trauma. Seven minutes to midnight is that moment when something snaps in you and you don't know what to do."

(Contact for Inevitable: SAE to 4 Rutland

(Contact for Inevitable: SAE to 4 Rutland Avenue, Liverpool 17.)

BAUHAUS: In The Flat Field (4AD). In short, there's nothing here that's even nearly as good as their "Terror Couple Kill Colonel" or "Telegram Sam" singles (neither included here). Mostly it just sound like Banshees reject material — dark, edgy songs of soulless waffle posing as tortured imagery with hardly any melodic content — and no amount of self important vocals, shrill guitars or pounding drums can inject life where none belongs. Black and white sleeves complete the mood of grim desperation and any claims to divine inspiration can be cancelled out by what must

be a record number of spelling mistakes on the lyric sheet. This album is as attractive as a night in the local morgue — even dedicated fans should listen before investing. (Contact: SAE to 8 Hogarth Road, London SW5).







ESRMNOMISYLRACM WUBTADHELPRUPPE POAANSSENOT ONAKC OCLBSM C GG SHNHZR GA LMKMBC AOW TABBASK YOOLGWCN RRMGASDGOR PEEOHSYOBDE URKATRRACNIARPSKA THGINKSYDALG



The Night, The Wine And The Roses

By Liquid Gold on Polo Records

Ooh, yeah yeah yeah

Ooh, yeah yeah yeah

Ooh yeah, ooh baby, baby keep dancing Oh what a night this may be The kind of night when baby It feels so right Right to keep dancing

Without a doubt we're chasing The action now we're waiting For the midnight hour Got to keep dancing Here and now

The night, the wine and the roses (and the roses) And love in the air The night, the wine and the roses (and the roses)
And baby, I swear We're chancing, romancing I want you Ooh, yeah yeah yeah

I never knew this feeling I'm in the mood for stealing Away with you Got to keep dancing

Ooh, yeah yeah yeah Ooh, yeah yeah yeah Baby, keep dancing here and now

Repeat chorus

Baby, keep dancing, keep dancing

Repeat chorus to fade

Words and music by Adrian Baker/Eddie Seago. Reproduced by permission Cellar/ATV/Leeds Music.





Never Knew Love Like This Before

By Stephanie Mills on 20th Century Fox Records

I never knew love like this before Now I'm lonely never more Since you came into my life You are my love-life, this I know And I'll never let you go You're my all and part of me Once I was lost and now I'm found And you turned my world around When I need I call your name

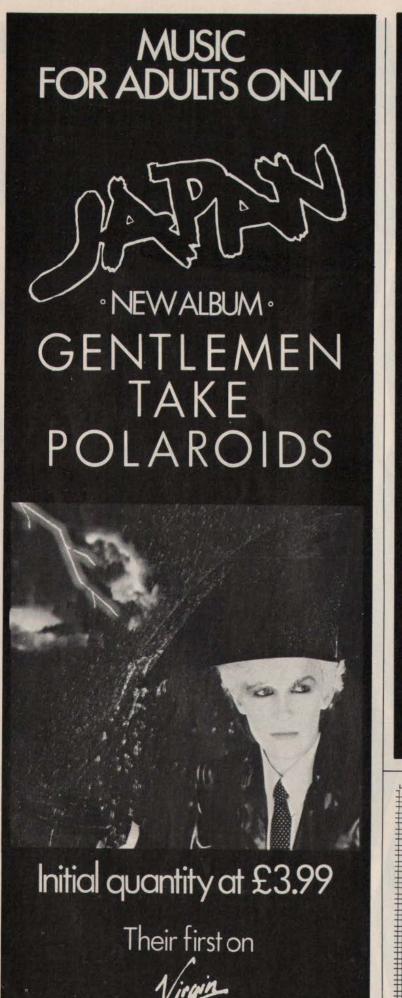
'Cos I never knew love like this before Open my eyes 'Cos I never knew tove like this before What a surprise 'Cos I never knew love like this before

This feeling so deep inside of me Such a tender fantasy You're the one I'm living for You are my sunlight and my rain And time could never change What we share for ever more I never knew love like this before Now I'm lonely never more Since you came into my life

Repeat chorus

I (never) never knew love like this before Inside of me Open my eyes (Never) never (never) never Never knew love like this I never knew (never) never knew (never) Never knew love like this I never knew (never) never knew (never)

Words and music by Mtume/Lucas. Reproduced by permission Frozen Butterfly Pub. Co.



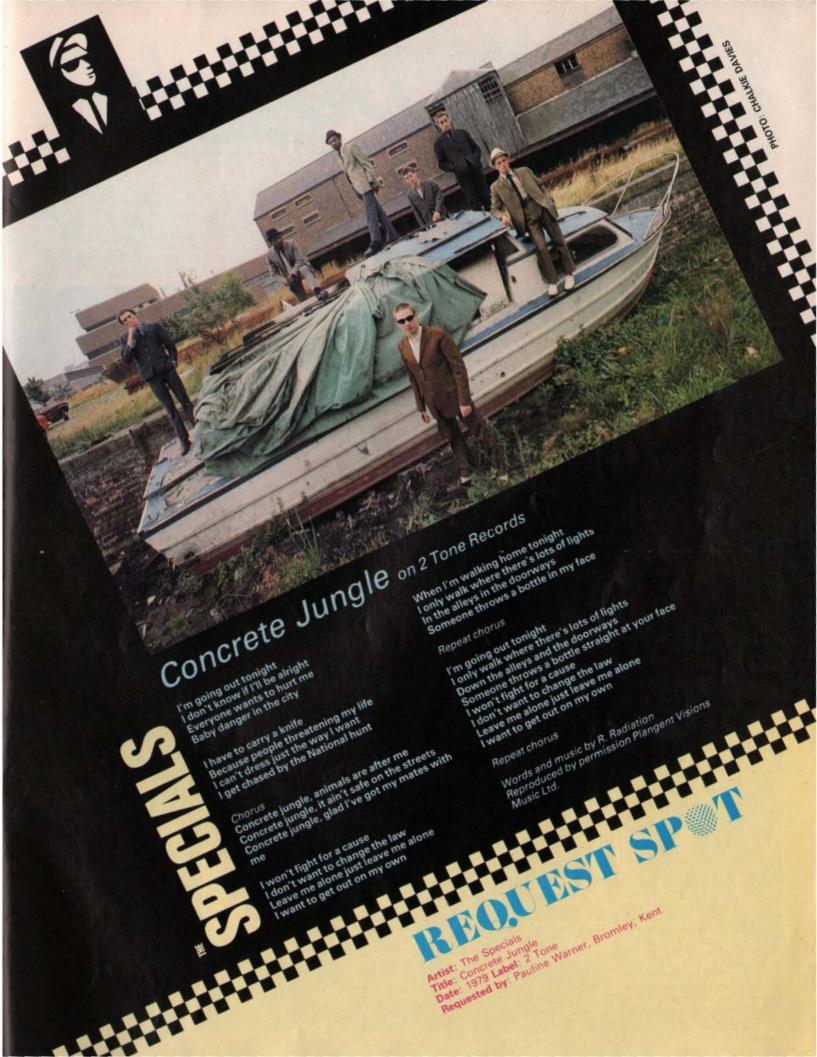




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~



Mark Ellen samples a new version

of an old recipe

"CHIRPY" IS how he describes our subject; "chirpy" and "very independent".

He's a reporter from London's Evening Standard, just returning from his allocated 20-minute interview. I'm just on the way in for mine. We're passing somewhere in the endless neon corridors of the Thames TV Studios at Teddington, where every other face is caked with make-up and has at some time or another made its appearance in your very own living room.

A door swings open to reveal

yet another familiar face, more mascara and a further blast of garish-coloured clothing. The ewel-studded pink satin jump-suit contains Sheena Easton, part-way through shooting a "Guest Spot" for London Night Out.

Sheena is polite and very talkative, occasionally revealing a hardened streak that belies her slightly frail exterior. Right now she's chewing throat lozenges and doing some repair work with an eyeliner pencil

Behind her stands her manager, Deke Arlon, who tells me later that he was so moved when Sheena played a show ecently in her native Scotland hat he "stood there in the wings and cried". I've no reason to disbelieve him.

"Chirpy" proves an apt description of Sheena's clipped Glaswegian manner; more so than "very independent". It soon becomes apparent from her past history and her musical likes and dislikes that Sheena Easton is simply another rising star in the relatively secure and carefully coiffured world of Middle Of The Road (MOR) music.

You can be "independent", yes, but only within the carefully mapped-out limits of a musical/visual package which is largely supervised by the people behind the scenes - managers, producers, song-writers etc.

That's not to say there's no room for talent and individuality. There is, It's just that — as you well know if you've seen the well-groomed Sheena on Top Of The Pops or heard one of her flawlessly delivered singles the bland MOR and challenging Rock routes to the Charts are about a million miles apart.

Even at the age of 21, Sheena has developed a surprisingly workman-like approach to her career, something you rarely meet in rock-orientated circles Expressions like "professional", "cabaret circuit" and "three-piece orchestra" are regular fixtures in her conversation and she answers questions with the practised, polished air of one whose enormous self-assurance has only been strengthened by recent critical fire.

TO BACKTRACK a little, Sheena was born in Bellshill, Glasgow, and went "semi-professional" at the age of 17, singing anything from Top Twenty Hits to "old-time things" while "catering for a very wide audience dances, weddings, functions".

She recalls lean times on her home turf when she played to a mass audience of two and reckons one of the greatest assets of her newfound success is never having to sing songs like "Feelings" again.

"Excellent song," she adds, wincing at the memory, "but done to death, murdered!"

Around October of last year she was signed to EMI. Looking in those days - no more glamorous than the average cash-till operator in a downtown shopping mall, she released the first of her original two-single contract, "Modern Girl", which eventually made it to Number 56 with very little publicity.

Next came the break which was to convert her — almost evernight — from a virtual unknown to part of the household furniture - Esther Rantzen's The Big Time.

"I didn't write in to the show and apply for an audition. A lot of people seemed to think that's what happened.

"Basically, Esther wanted a young girl singer to do the 'pop' show and she contacted the Scottish Education Department. They got hold of a man who directed plays at our college was a drama student 'til I was 19 and he recommended me. I did the audition and Esther gave me the show."

Those who saw the programme will hardly need reminding of the format: briefly, young aspiring singer is given one-in-a-million chance to meet producers, musicians etc., and record a single. Nor will you need reminding that her next single for EMI, the unshakably memorable "9 To 5", was an immediate Top Ten Hit straight after the programme.

Clearly this success was partly due to to a sympathetic public reaction to the show's 'local-girl-makes-good" appeal, but partly because The Big Time

had reversed the usual turn of events. In other words, she already had the exposure, and merely needed a good pop single to compound it into chart success.

LUCKY? Incredibly so. Sheena's the first to admit it. At every mention of The Big Timewhich has now become something of a millstone round her neck in the eyes of her critics
— she stresses she's "eternally grateful" for this sudden springboard into wider recognition.

"I know I'm lucky, but any amount of luck can only take you a certain length of the road. But before the show, my first single ("Modern Girl") was being played 'off the air". The public had bought it to get it to Number 56. It was no longer 'Who's Sheena Easton?', it was 'Here's Sheena Easton's "Modern Girl"'

'New I wouldn't be pleased at staying at 56, but then it was the biggest thing that ever happened to me. Now I'm delighted that the new one ("One Man Woman") has entered at Number 38. Then it was great, but that was my first single, this is my third

What does she want out of all

. a fourth, a fifth, a sixth, a seventh, an eighth, a ninth. A wave of the hand suggests

the sky's the limit.
"Also," she adds, with more than a hint of distaste, "I want people to stop asking me if I'm trying to get any message across in my lyrics."

If she isn't, then how closely does she identify with the different girls in her songs? We are - for example - led to believe that her clean, secretarial

image is 'The Modern Girl'.
"I'm a Modern Girl, I'm not the
Modern Girl on the racord. I think of myself as being independent, but then most modern ladies/females nowadays are But I'm not here to preach to anyone or get across some kind of profound message or something in my lyrics.

"I'm singing good pop songs with a good, strong melody line and lyric and - I've said this before, but it's true - most singers can sing about any 'situation'. I mean, if I sing a song about my dog dying, it doesn't mean I kill my dog every night before I go on stage!"

I suggest it might be confusing that in "9 To 5" and "One Man Woman" she sings from the strictly faithful girl standpoint,

but in "Modern Girl" she "don't build her world round no single man" and - on the new 'B' side "Summer's Over" -- reflects upon "joys" with "those hot summer boys'

This earns an almost heated



"If I happen to be singing about war or about a country or something, I'm not advocating starting a war or going to Australia. So don't read too much into the lyrics. Just enjoy the song, but please don't think that every time I sing something I'm trying to prove something, 'cause I'm not."

So which of the two types of girl does she feel closer to?

"A bit of both. I'm a bit of a One Man Woman but I'm 99.9 per cent me and I hope that comes through. My personality comes through no matter what song I'm singing so please see me rather than the individual I'm portraying. I'm not an actress, remember, I'm a singer."

THIS, OF course, all conforms to the standard MOR marketing theory that there's always room in the charts for one more immaculately presented girl armed with strong, slick commercial songs.

You only have to observe the case history of Sheena's producer and main song-writer, Christopher Neil, to know what kind of category we're dealing with. His past production credits include the likes of Dennis Waterman, Marshall Hain, Dollar, David Essex and Paul Nicholas. He himself once played Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar.

Sheena has similar tastes. Her favourite singers are Barbra Streisand, Billy Joel, Gerard Kenny, Frank Sinatra and she also likes Steely Dan and The Average White Band. (Her favourite food, incidentally, is "sweeties, tuna fish and brown bread sandwiches, apricot jam and toast", and she hates "lumpy custard" and "spiders in the bath". Now you know.)

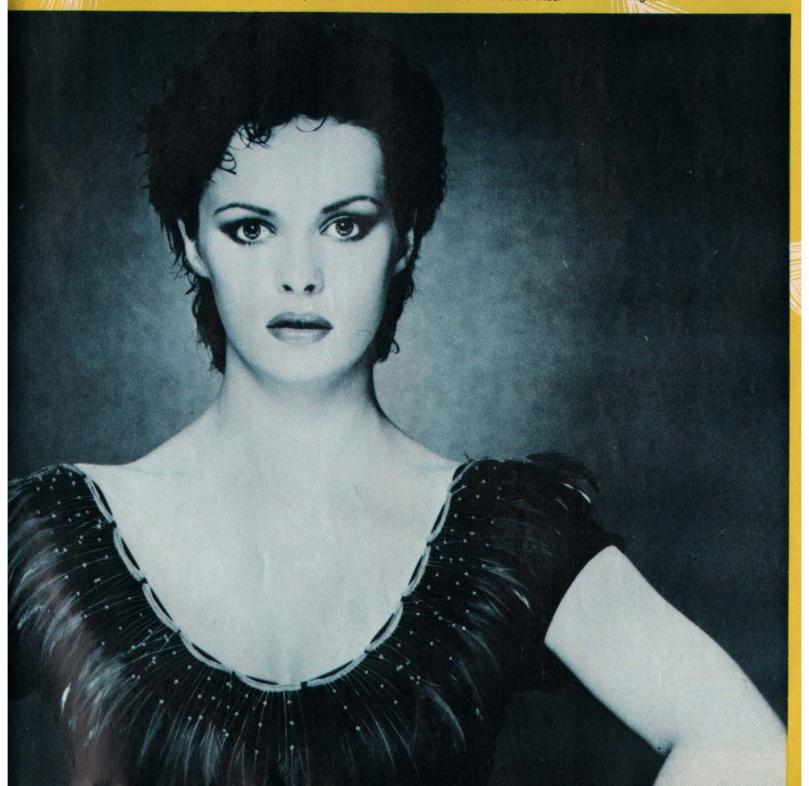
So Sheena merely performs the chosen songs and doesn't seem to give much thought to their relative strengths. I point out that it's perverse that where most people buy singles because they represent an escape from their everyday surroundings, so many should have bought "9 To 5" which celebrates the daily journey to the office.

Sheena thinks otherwise.

"I think it sold because the nice thing about '9 To 5' is that although she's singing about someone who's got a 9 to 5 job, the idea behind it is that they're really happy. The boyfriend, or husband, and the girl he's coming home to every night, they're really having a good time.

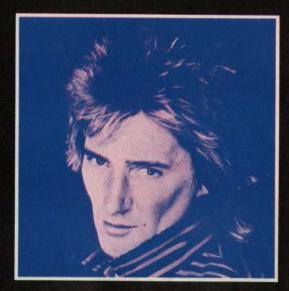
"And 'Modern Girl' says the same thing, and so does 'One Man Woman'. I like optimism. I could never put out a song that didn't have a bit of hope in it

"Also I reckon '9 To 5' sold so well 'cause everyone just couldn't stop humming it. At the end of the day, over half a million people can't be wrong."



Passion

By Rod Stewart on Riva Records



Somebody somewhere In the heat of the night Looking pretty dangerous Running out of patience

Tonight in the city You won't find any pity Hearts are being twisted Another lover cheated (cheated)

In the bars and the cafes (passion) In the streets and the alleys (passion) A lot of pretending (passion) Everybody's searching (passion)

Once in love you're never out of danger One hot night spent with a stranger All you wanted was somebody to hold on to, yeah (Somebody to hold on to)

Passion, passion, passion,

New York, Moscow (passion) Hong Kong, Tokyo (passion) Paris and Bangkok (passion) Lotta people ain't got passion

Hear it on the radio (passion) Read it in the papers (passion) Hear it in the churches (passion) See it in the schoolyards (passion)

Repeat chorus twice

Alone in your bed at night (passion) It's half past midnight (passion) As you turn out your side light (passion) Something ain't right (passion) There's no passion, there's no passion, there's no passion

I need passion You need passion We need passion Can't live without passion Won't live without passion Can't live without passion Even the president needs passion Everybody I know needs some passion Some people die and kill for passion Nobody admits they need passion Some people are scared of passion

Words and music by Stewart/Chen/Grainger/Savigar/Cregan. Reproduced by permission Riva Music Ltd/Warner Bros. Music.

DON'T WALK AWAY

By Electric Light Orchestrá on Jet Records

Why do I say, don't walk away You'll be the way you were before When you don't want me anymore

Don't turn around, don't ever leave A lonely room where empty days Are gathering to meet me when you're gone Gone - how in the world will I go on?

(Don't walk away) All you gotta do is stay (Don't walk away) All you gotta do is stay (Don't walk away)

Don't walk away (don't walk away) Don't say goodbye (don't say goodbye) Don't turn around (don't turn around) Don't let it die (don't let it die) When shadows fell (when shadows fell) When day is done (when day is done) All through the night (all through the night)
All of my life (all of my life) Don't walk away

Is it a dream? When will it end? When everything we've ever known Has ended and I'm all alone

Where will I go? Where will be? The feelings that I've never shown Maybe I'll find the answer when you're gone Gone — how in the world will I go on?

(Don't walk away) All you gotta do is stay (Don't walk away) All you gotta do is stay (Don't walk away)

Repeat chorus to tade

Words and music by Jeff Lynne. Reproduced by permission Jet Music Ltd/April Music Ltd.



COMPETITION WINNERS!

FINALLY, after much agonising, heart-searching and late night pondering, we have come up with a winner in our Orchestral Manoeuvres/Korg Synthesiser Competition from issue October 2. Before we name the lucky person — selected from literally thousands of forms — the correct answers were as follows: A = Dalek I (Love You); B = Factory; C = Winston; D = The Gramophone Suite; E = The Undertones — "My Perfect Cousin."

And now (fanfare please) the winner of the Korg Synthesiser is: Dave Wiggins of (where else?) Liverpool! (cue tumultuous cheers).

And so to the fifty runners-up who made us smile or pause most during our hours of wading through tons of entries. They'll each be receiving an Orchestral Manoeuvres album and are, in no particular order:

Brain Hargan, Glasgow; A. M. Glover, Old Swan, Liverpool; Valerie Kelly, Widnes, Cheshire; Stephen Dowd, Sheriff Hill, Gateshead; Nigel Huddleston, Mapperley, Nottingham; Graham Whitehead, Manchester; James Leathem, Winton, Eccles; Joanne Westwood, Lightcliffe, Halifax; John Ball, Coaltown of Balgonie, Fife; Shaun Cooper, Sussex Hospital, Chichester; Adrian Lord, South Wonston, Winchester; Derek Loudon, Mount Vernon, Glasgow; Nicola Holden, Pomphlett, Plymouth; Martin Ling, Enfield, Middlesex; George Ritchie, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow; Gail Reynolds, Holbrooks, Coventry; Peter Jones, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton; Richard Neville, Beighton, Sheffield; Louie Keen, Middleton, Manchester; Brian Hayes, Dundee; Philip Thompson, Totton, Hants; Robert Ashworth, Stretford, Manchester; Michael Wandowski, Poole, Dorset; Caroline Relph, Leicester; Jenny James, Gloucester.

Alan Beale, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham; C. B. Gardener, Stockport, Cheshire; Wendi Hodkinson, Haydock, St Helens; April Lowe, Castle Vale, Birmingham; Lee Hankins, Totton, Hants; Francesca Cabrelli, Dundee; William McCulloch, Carryduff, Co Down; Mark Taylor, Benfleet, Essex; Julie Taylor, Oswestry, Salop; Paul Rock, Barnt Green, Birmingham; Oonagh Keating, Old Swan, Liverpool; Mark Reed, St Andrews, Fife; Steve Boyle, Woolton, Liverpool; Julie Portman, Darton, Barnsley; Allan Edwards, Glasgow; Kenneth Joynes, Tavistock, Devon; Claire Stephens, Cheadle, Staffs; Nancy Hamer, Market Drayton, Salop; Ian Thomason, Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne; Michael Hudson, Castlefields, Runcorn; Julie Mulligan, Greasby, Wirral; Buzz Williams, Bury, Lancs; Dave Cadwallader, Kensington, Liverpool; Christopher Endealott, Elland, Halifax; Nicholas Jones, Machynlleth, Powys.

And now over to the winners of the Automatic Kids Pinball Machine Competition in issue October 16:

PINBALL MACHINE WINNERS: Andrew Mills, Tupsley, Hereford; Simon Hughes, Poynton, Cheshire; P. Campbell, Abington, Oxon.

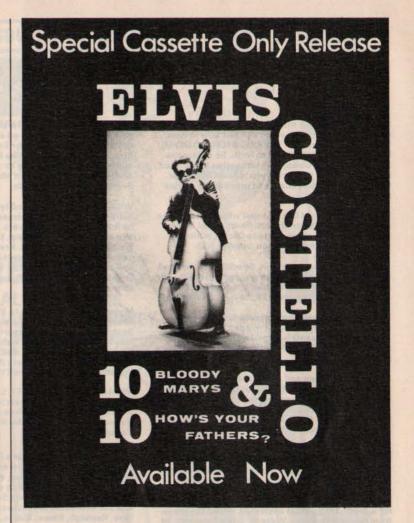
AUTOGRAPHED SINGLE WINNERS: Steve Hambleton, Buxton, Derbys; Mark Andrews, Cambridge; Andrew Walker, Witney, Oxon; Linda Willis, Preston, Lancs; M. Harris, Ombersley, Worcestershire; M. Quayle, Winsford, Cheshire; Adrian Goldsmith, Welton, Northants; G. Lowne, Charlton, London; Dexter Lancaster, Castleford, W. Yorkshire; Kenneth Nightingale, N. Carbrain, Cumbernauld; Graham Beech, Stockport, Gtr. Manchester; Janet Evans, Wokingham, Berks; Tracy Walsh, Thurnby Lodge Estate, Leicester; Graham Kinch, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex; Andrew Bushnell, Jericho, Oxford; Miles Bartaby, Hendon Way, London; Andrew Baker, Royston, S. Yorks; Daniel Lissett, Weston-super-Mare, Avon; Dave Woodmansey, Darlington, Co Durham; Neil Stonehill, Aylesbury, Bucks; Paul Deeming, Harpenden, Herts; John Miles, Chapeltown, Sheffield; David Rose, Nairn; J. Carter, Scunthorpe, S. Humberside; Julie Ellis, St Neots, Cambs.

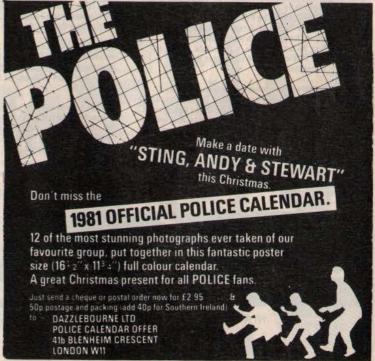
Your prizes will be on their way to you very shortly if they haven't arrived already.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD ON PAGE 27

ACROSS: 3 "Jimmy (Jimmy)"; 6 Kelly Marie; 8 "(Dog) Eat Dog"; 9 "My Old Piano"; 11 Clint; 12 "Strange Town"; 14 Barry (Gibb); 15 Simon Bates; 16 Donna (anagram of and on); 17 XTC (in next clue); 19 Gary (Glitter); 21 Edwin Starr; 23 "Scary (Monsters)"; 25 Brooks; 26 Steel Pulse; 28 Eastwood; 29 "(Scary) Monsters".

DOWN: 1 "Zenyatta Mondatta"; 2 David Essex; 4 Isaac (Hayes); 5 "Midnight Dynamoes"; 7 Ian Gomm; 10 Denny Laine; 13 Abba; 18 Chrissie (Hynde); 20 Hayes; 22 "Tubular (Bells)"; 23 Syreeta; 24 "(Tubular) Bells"; 27 "Dog (Eat Dog)".





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buddies

FROM BENEATH our mountain of penpal-seeking postcards we were this week still just able to hear Linda's muffled cries of "PLEASE, STOP, NO MORE, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" and so forth. So before the Smash Hits office disappears altogether in the flood, one more plea to the rest of you: please hold your fire until we've had a chance to process the entries already received.

Orchid White would like a penpal who is into 2-Tone, Beat, Selecter, Bodysnatchers, Skids. Aged 15-22. Must hate heavy metal. Write to Orchid White, 87 Listria Park, Stoke Newington, London N16.

Jackie (16), interested in Jam, Specials and the Beat. Must be fun, good humoured and just enjoy life. Age required 15-99. Write, with photo if possible, to: Jackie Nash, 188 Capworth St., Leyton, London E10.

My interests are reading, swimming and most sports. Fave group is Abba. I'm aged 12 and would like a penpal the same age, preferably a girl. Write to: Susan Compton, 31 Rydal Avenue, Sale, Cheshire M33 1WN.

I am 14 years of age and would like to write to a boy or girl of the same age. My favourite hobby is train spotting. My fave groups are Madness, Beat, Specials, Lambrettas and Black Sabbath. Write to: Debbie Collins, 8 Station Cottages, Lesbury, Alnwick, Northumberland.

Male and female penpals, 17+. I'm interested in most types of music except classical and rock 'n' roll. Recently started going to concerts. See lot of films and modern plays. Also very interested in youth work. I would like biro-buddy to be considerate and have great sense of humour. Maybe meet one day for a concert. All replies answered, especially those from far distant places. Write to: Josie Criminak, 39 Bemersyde Pl., Dongola Road. London E13.

My hobbies are walking, listening to records, collecting small ornaments. Fave groups: Blondie, Sham 69 (especially J. Pursey), Hazel O'Connor and Cockney Rejects. Also the Police. I go weak at the knees when I see Sting or Jimmy Pursey. Not bothered what the penpal is like, as long as the person's 15 or 16 and female, if possible. Write to: Sharon Jayne Pilkington, 24 Leicester Road, Billesdon, Leicestershire.

One lone Bad Manners freak wants another Bad Manners freak (preferably male and 15/16 yrs. old) who is asking for a Bad Manners freak to write to. If you are of the above description, write to me with your photo enclosed at: 6 Forest Road, Witham, Essex CM8 2PF. The name's Tracey Warren!

I'm 17 and would like penpals of about the same age. My faves are Elvis Presley and Showaddywaddy. Please write to: Carol Thompson, 26 Curzon Road, Aylestone, Leicester. Who wants to write to a 16-year-old "Pisces" girl who wants penpals from all over the world. I can write in French, German or English. I have an endless number of hobbies and I like Peter Gabriel, Genesis and the Beatles etc. Write to: Adele Pickering, 108 Andrew Road, Bustleholm Mill Estate, West Bromwich, West Midlands.

White-faced flyingsuit-clad type wants to correspond with any madmen, S.U.'s or U.D.'s. Must be into Numan, synthesizers, science, cybernetics and other synth groups, e.g. Orchestral Manoeuvres, Human League, Ultravox, Kraftwerk etc. Preferably Intergalactic correspondents but Universal ones not refused, any age . . (I'm 15). Write to: Rebekah Owens, 1 Bilberry Drive, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham.

My penpal does not have to like sports, but must like Ska records. Fave groups are: The Special AKA, The Beat, Selecter and Madness. Other interests are meeting new people and writing as well as reading long interesting essays. I dislike school, punk and heavy metal. Write to: Mary Alexis, 155 Corporation Street, West Ham, London E15. Aged 15.

Wanted boy/girl 161/2 or 17, London and Ireland. Share my interests in music (heavy rock, G. Numan, J. Foxx etc.). Sport and films also. Write, with photo if possible, to: Kevin Forde, 55 Abbotshall Road, Catford, London SE6.

We are three desperate girls (age 13-14) looking for three skinheads to write to who live in the Essex area. We like all mod music, and we love to have a good time. We would like to write to boys between 13-15 years. Our names are Sarah, Elaine and Laura, and our addresses as follows: Sarah, 50 Windsor Way, Rayleigh, Essex; Elaine, 71 Church Road, Rayleigh, Essex; Laura, 18 Derwent Avenue, Rayleigh, Essex.

Dead ordinary female (quite looney really) wants you (even gorillas, pet snakes etc) to write to me. I'm into everything (almost), even samariting: Kim Kase, 66 Craven Street, Burton-on-Trent. Aged 18.

Loyal female mod aged 17 is looking for dedicated mods male and female (17+) obsessed with clothes, scooters and the Jam. If this description fits you, write to: Mari Wilson, 62 Flanders Road, East Ham, London E6.

Bored 16-year-old disco fan wishes to write to male/female who likes most music except H.M. Must like sport, acting the fool and chip butties. Write to: Sandra Beckett, 29 Finnieston Street, Greenock, Scotland.

Bored and fed-up anarchist wishes to exchange views with somebody. I am into Crass and am aged 15. Write to: Peter Dillan, Stonehaven, Plas Bennion, Penycae, Wrexham, Clywd, N. Wales. I would like a penpal who only listens to Phil Wood (Piccadilly Radio), who likes brainsurgery and is 101% out of his or her mind. No sensible, righteous persons will do. Seriously, my interests are: discos, art, fashion and money. Write to: Rob Souls (16), 3 Devonshire St. East, Failsworth, Manchester.

Interests: Pop charts, sports. Favourite music: Abba, New Musik, Buggles, Sad Cafe, Kate Bush. I would like to hear from any male or female who shares my interests, especially anyone who follows the BBC charts. Julie Briant (20), 59 Hart Road, Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey.

I'm looking for someone into "good music" (i.e. heavy metal), preferably a boy who likes writing long interesting letters. Interests: roller skating, frisbee throwing etc. Write to: Miss Ruth Powell, 37 Springfield Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Zany, fun loving girl would like zany, fun loving bloke who's into ska and skins. Loves horror films and food, dossing around, writing, clothes, music—Chas and Suggs are my fave hobbies. Must be into braces. Write to: Tracie Kyne, 31 Sauncey Avenue, Harpenden, Herts.

I enjoy all types of music except heavy. Like sports, meeting people, eating and would like either male or female or both. Interests must be similar but not identical. Any age to: Caroline Stevenson (16), 27 The Crossway, Farley Hill Est., Luton, Beds.

I like: Madness, The Beat and the Specials. My interests are: discos and fashion. My dislikes are: disco music and heavy metal, and also homework. Write to: Kim Booker (14 almost), 8 Walshes Cottages, Fermor Road, Crowborough, East Sussex.

Trendy 14 year old girl into all kinds of music (especially mod, punk and electronic), enjoys going to parties and having a good time. Would like to write to good looking guy aged 15+. Must have decent fashion sense and outrageous sense of humour. Photo if possible. Write to: Linda Rowles, 199 Townsend Lane, Long Lawford, Rugby, Warks.

I'm looking for a female penpal (14+). I am a mod and am into the 60's music as well as the 80's mod music. Must be interested in going to gigs and parties. Photo if possible, to: Jim Buckle (15), 58 St. Agnes Road, Moseley, Birmingham.

Female into the Police, ska and disco requires a male aged 16-18 to write to. Likes discos, cinemas and records. Hates heavy metal and violence. Must have a sense of humour and lively personality. Write to: Jackie Elgar, 8 Sussex Close, Herne Bay, Kent.

PLEASE - NO MORE ENTRIES JUST NOW!

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- NEW!
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T.138 G. NUMAN





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I AM A FAN of The Skids, Bowie, The Clash, and Sid Vicious and have no argument against Freddie Mercury, Tony Blackburn, Mods, etc. So when I lifted my fortnightly milestone in the humdrum bustle of life in the 20th Century (i.e. Smash Hits) and read the "Newsdesk" feature by Messrs. Starr and Bush, which slagged off these and other artists, it would hardly have been surprising if I had gone into a psychotic state and acquired a burning urge to achieve the demise of these two gentlemen.

However, this is not what happened. Instead, I had a good old bout of hysterical laughter. And when I saw Robert Palmer frozen in that absurd pose on the back cover, I had another.

The following fortnight, I once again lifted the milestone in (etc.) and read through it. I noticed a letter from a Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. Angry from Fife who threatens to stop buying the milestone if this feature is repeated. How long has this reader been dead?

Anybody who cannot put up with a little pisstake or cannot laugh at themselves, must be a Warbling Hedgehog or an Electronic Ferret.

Murrique The Mutant, Wells.

Well said that Mutant.

I WOULD like to comment on lan McMillan's letter about singles being released from albums (issue October 16).

What about the poor types who buy cassettes? I yearn for The Jam to release an album (even if only on cassette) compiled of 'A' and 'B' sides that haven't appeared on their albums, but alas I have to make do with shabby recordings which usually include such backing features as mum's vacuum cleaner, dad blowing his nose and the dog barking at birds (feathered ones), not to mention bloomin' great articulated lorries thundering past the house. Female Jam and Police Freak,

Female Jam and Police Freak, somewhere in Beds.

TO THE Human League fan named Adrian who recently purchased a Soviet-designed nuclear missile complete with book of instructions (issue October 16).

I'll join you in that. Hang on a mo — I don't even like The Human League. A Toffee Toasted Gopher Called Topher, A Hole Up Here In Scotland. P.S. Let Zitty Ben DIE! DEARE SMASHE HITS,

I hath an importante psychological question to putteth to all ye mod haters all over the countrye. What be the difference between ye mod and ye Polo Mint? Givest thou up? Ye answer: Ye people like ye Polo.

Not that I findest anything wrong with ye mods except that ye knackered hayre-dryers which ye parker mob do travel around on. I meanest, I could get more speed out of ye corporation bus going up ye hill without ye petrol. Also ye extremely large parkers not only lookest very silly but they could sleep ye family of six on ye camping site. Nell Gwynne.

IT SEEMS to be the general opinion in your mag that ELO are a load of bull. Well, I agree — of course they are. But I suspect Jeff Lynne knows that too. I bet he just goes into the studio for a laugh now — he was probably rolling about after the recording of "Xanadu".

What annoys me is that most of the music press don't seem to realise that ELO existed before 1977. In actual fact, they were slogging away years before then it's just that they were almost completely ignored. Try taking a listen to early albums like "On The Third Day" or "Eldorado" and then you'll realise how talented Mr. Lynne really is (or was). So if you lot at Smash Hits must slag him off, do it with more respect, OK? Disappointed Former ELO Fan Who Now Likes Squeeze And The Cure, Bradford.

DEAR SHEYNA (President of the Gary Numan Has Great Legs Association),

It is a known fact that our Gary budgie is the one with the good legs in the family. Gary's Mum, Numan House, Numan Road, Numanhampton.

MY FRIEND Pam does a great earwig impression. Karen Fletcher, Little Acton, Wreyham

Yeah — it must be having eight legs that does it.

I AM from the National Society
For The Protection Of Snails and I
am writing in to protest at the
latest single by a certain group
called Madness. I quote from
their latest single: "Walking
home and squashing snails."

This, to my mind, encourages cruelty to snails. There are probably many young Madness fans out there who've never ever thought of squashing a snail but since hearing this single may take it into their vulnerable little minds to squash innocent little snails who may be on their way to the next Olympics or to pick up this month's paper. This is very cruel and heartless of Suggs and Chrissy Boy.

Very Distressed Snail Lover, Teardrop Explodes, Jam And Pink Military Fan, Liverpool.

JUST DROPPING a line to tell you that I've noticed your scheming plan to cheat us readers. The last two issues 'ave been 4mm shorter (gasp! controversy! civil war!) than usual.

Angry Buzzcocks fan, Llanelli.

You rumbled us! In fact, it was reduced to eliminate the white borders around the centre-spread. It'll be even smaller soon — to eliminate Red Starr. Talking of whom, here's someone who's clearly been studying his methods...

DEAR SMASH HITS,

You seem to be under the misapprehension that The Police are real people. I thought it was apparent that they are clockwork. I find it hard to believe that anyone could think that Sting (I'd love to meet the joker who designed his face) is real, and as for Stewart "Mouth Almighty" Copeland — well, that just goes beyond all bounds of belief.

(Somebody obviously overwinds him).

Smash Hits Letters 2-55 Carnaby Street London WIV IPF Come on lads — a joke's a joke but with the state of British Leyland I think you should give the spare parts back and give the world a rest.

Queen Christina Of Sweden.
P.S. How much paper-maché did
they use for Sting's head? Didn't
they have enough left to make
Andy Summers a full size model?

MY NAME'S Jones, see, and I live on the hill, see, I'm mad on Kate Bush, see, and I was wondering, see, if the wailing wonder, see, has got a fan club, see, 'cos I want to join it, see, so that when she does another tour, see, I can send away, see, and get tickets, see, before they go on sale, see. Clever aren't I, see? I've got to go now, see, and herd the sheep, see, before I go and practice with the choir, see.

Jones of the Hill, see, Hainault.

We see. P.O. Box 38, Brighton BNI, see?

WOMEN like the simple things in life — MEN! (Eat your heart out Red Starr).

Anon, Bath.

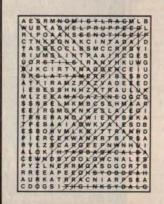
DEAR SMASH HITS,

Thank you very much! In future, whenever I'm feeling depressed, I shall turn to page 47 of issue October 16 and laugh myself silly at the picture of John Foxx trying to look unconcerned in a field of pretty flowers.

Yvonne Rixon, Kenton,
Middlesex.

Continued over page

PUZZLE ANSWER



FAN CLUBS

(Remember to enclose a SAE)

JAPAN 31 Hampton Court Parade, East Molesey, Surrey.

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T T B B

From previous page

THANK YOU very much for bringing back Zitty Ben. Why does Pigg Strangeways chain him up?

Wendy Pollard, Stafford.

No ropes handy, I should imagine.

YES! ANOTHER letter complaining about Top Of The Pops. First I see some long haired yobs playing guitars and singing about proposing and then repeating it about 50 times. Next I see The Nolans. Tell me — who buys their records? They try to be sexy but they're about as sexy as the back of a table. One thinks she's Pam Ewing from Dallas and the rest try to copy Legs & Co.

Then who do I see but some third-rate "musician" called Gilbert O'Sullivan singing about a kiss when he probably hasn't even kissed a girl himself. Then we have our friend Kelly Marie. And why is the backing music always Ottowan and "D.I.S.C.O.?" I wait maybe expecting a good record but then I hear the sickly chords of Air Supply and ask the dog to turn over to the comedy on ITV. Why do people buy such records? Anthony Starkey, Barforo, Warwick.

God knows, Ant. Comedy lovers like yourself probably.

OF COURSE Big Nigel thinks I'm good-looking (issue October 16). He is my boyfriend and I threatened to sing "Feels Like I'm In Love" to him if he didn't stand up for me. Anyhow, Bishop Muzorewa also thinks I'm good-looking. So there! Kelly (as in Marie, as in Osmond, as in Ultrabrite).

We believe you, we believe you! (We don't care much, but we believe you). PLEASE PRINT a picture of Margaret Thatcher for my dartboard. Dave Williams, Ellesmere Port.

Sorry Dave, but we have to draw the line somewhere. But talking of drawing . . .

I HAD a really great time defacing Kelly Marie. I'd have even greater pleasure defacing a picture of Sheena Easton (as, no doubt, many other sensible people would). So how about a nice defaceable piccy of Sheena, then?

Sam The Sham, Devoted Beat/Specials Fan, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Oh alright then — you talked us into it . . .



Now then — what will it be first, glasses or a missing tooth?

DEAR SMASH HITS,

I am not, according to false rumours, "The Numanette Over The Road Who Has A Good View Of The Park" (issue October 16) and I wish people would sign their real name at the end of letters 'cos it drives me up the wall.

An Annoying Person Who Does Have A Good View Of The Park (Really it's me, Julie N. of Reading).

DEAR EVERYONE,

No one will believe that "The Numanette etc." is me, Susan Jackson (Fan Club No. 1104 and Organiser of The Gary Numan Defence League) — but now you should! Susan Jackson, The Numanette

I WAS always led to believe that record reviews were meant to review the content of the record, but it seems that I was wrong. I am referring to Steve Taylor's review of 003 Minutes' "Automatic Kids" - not one mention about the actual record, only a mention of David Bowie followed by a rather sick remark about Gary Numan. Usually I enjoy reading the reviews but it annoys me when a band's record is used to slag other people. Angry And Upset Female Numanoid, Killay, Swansea.

I MUST SAY I actually agree with Red Starr (yes, you heard right!) in his review of "Telekon" by Gary Numan. I know this must come as a bit of a shock to you, so just sit down and take the rest of the day easy, OK?

Julie, who wants to join the "Gary Numan Has Nice Legs Association".

P.S. Ain't David Hepworth good-looking? (I haven't been for an eye-test recently.)

Eye-test? You need a brain transplant!

I'M NOT WRITING to say that I don't like Heavy Metal of Ska or Punk or Disco or Reggae or Bowie freaks or rockers or mods or whatever.

I don't care what kind of music people are into, it's just their own opinion. I personally think that all these music-critics are giving their own opinion of the pop songs, but it's up to the general public. We're the ones who want to listen to the songs, and if we don't like it, we won't buy it.

So all you music critics, just think of what we like, and not just your own opinion, which doesn't really count anyway.

A Numanoid who doesn't particularly like music critics.

It's your choice, Numanoid, but aren't we entitled to our opinions too?

MY OH MY, I think I'll have a sex-change. Claude of the Manor, Weirdo Glen.

Better still, have two and see if anyone notices.

IN EARLIER issues of Smash Hits you've had a Cat Top Ten, a Fruity Top Ten and God Knows what else. But now here is the All Time Top Ten and the Stars who should have recorded them:—

- "I Die, You Die" Sid & Nancy.
- 2) "Stand Down Margaret" Roddy Llewellyn.
- "Let's Get Serious" The Conservative Party.
- 4) "When Will I See You Again?" — X-Ray Spex.
- 5) "Ashes To Ashes" The Grateful Dead.
- 6) "We Are Glass" The Reflections
- Reflections.
 7) "This Town Ain't Big Enough
- For The Both Of Us" Demis Roussos and Bernard Manning. 8) "Don't It Make My Green Eye
- Blue" David Bowie.

 9) "And The Beat Goes On" —
- 9) "And The Beat Goes On" The Police.
- 10) "I'm The Leader Of The Gang (I Am!)" Maggie Thatcher. Gaye Hunt, Aston, Sheffield.

And there's always "Boils, Beef An' Carrots — Zitty Ben and the Blackeads.

SMASH

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The Jam in concert

Remember to check locally before setting out in case of late alterations.

Compiled by Bey Hillier

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13
Motorhead Portsmouth Guild Hall
Jam Leicester De Montfort Hall
Sad Cafe Southampton Gaumont
Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark
London Victoria Apollo
Tangerine Dream Ipswich Gaumont

Tangerine Dream Ipswich Gaumont Teardrop Explodes Birmingham Cedar Ballroom

Adam & The Ants Lincoln Drill Hall B. A. Robertson Bradford St. Georges Hall

Comsat Angels Hull Wellington Club Human League Liverpool Rotters U2 Sheffield Limit Club Selecter London Hope & Anchor Splodgnessabounds Hatfield Polytechnic

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14

Motorhead Southampton Gaumont Sad Cafe Oxford New Theatre Tangerine Dream Derby Assembly Rooms

Hazel O'Connor Belfast Ulster Hall Teardrop Explodes York University Adam & The Ants Hull Queen's Gardens

B. A. Robertson Liverpool Royal Court Comsat Angels Retford Porterhouse Splodgenessabounds York College of Ripon & York St. John

The Cure Birmingham University U2 Kidderminster Town Hall Ian Dury & The Blockheads London Hope & Anchor

UK Subs Crawley Technical College Black Slate Newton Abbot Seale Hayne College

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15
Jam London Rainbow
UK Subs Derby Ajanta Cinema
Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark
Ipswich Gaumont

Tangerine Dream Liverpool Royal Court

Teardrop Explodes Liverpool University

Splodgenessabounds Newcastle University

Adam & The Ants Cromer West Runton Pavilion Ruts D.C. Leicester University

B. A. Robertson Glasgow Strathclyde University

Comsat Angels Bradford University
The Cure Lancaster University

U2 Bristol Polytechnic Black Slate Torquay 400 Ballroom Split Enz Colchester University

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16 Motorhead St Austell New Cornish Riviera Jam London Rainbow

Yes Bristol Hippodrome
Sad Cafe Bristol Colston Hall
Hazel O'Connor Dublin Grand Cinema
Teardrop Explodes London Lyceum
UK Subs York Forge Inn
Black Slate Somerton Red Lion
Adam & The Ants Sheffield Top Rank
Split Enz Norwich University

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 Motorhead Leicester De Montfort Hall Yes Oxford New Theatre Sad Cafe London Hammersmith

Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark Sheffield City Hall Adam & The Ants Blackburn King

George's Hall
Comsat Angels Southend Zero 6
B. A. Robertson Greenock Town Hall
Splodgenessabounds Wakefield Unity

The Cure London Dominion Theatre UK Subs London Marquee Barracudas London Hope & Anchor Black Slate Penzance Demelza's Hot Chocolate Coventry Theatre Split Enz Manchester Rotters

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 Motorhead Leicester De Montfort Hall Jam London Hammersmith Odeon

Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark Birmingham Odeon Hazel O'Connor Cardiff Top Rank Adam & The Ants Manchester

Adam & The Ants Manchester
Polytechnic
B. A. Robertson Helensburgh Naval

Base
Compat Angels London Marques

Comsat Angels London Marquee Splodgenessabounds Liverpool Brady's

The Cure Cardiff University
U2 Reading University
UK Subs London Marquee
Ruts D.C. Sheffield Limit Club
Barracudas London Rock Garden
Black Slate Plymouth Fiesta
Hot Chocolate Bradford St. Georges
Hall

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19
Motorhead Coventry Theatre
Jam London Hammersmith Odeon
Yes Birmingham Odeon
Sad Cafe Liverpool Empire
Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark
Blackburn King Georges Hall

Blackburn King Georges Hall Hazel O'Connor Manchester Apollo Adam & The Ants Grimsby Central Hall

B. A. Robertson Salford University Splodgenessabounds Bristol Berkeley U2 Wolverhampton Polytechnic UK Subs London Marquee Ruts D.C. Durham University Barracudas Huddersfield Polytechnic Black Slate Pontypridd Polytechnic Hot Chocolate Edinburgh Odeon

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20
Motorhead Oxford New Theatre
Yes Birmingham Odeon
Sad Cafe Sheffield City Hall
Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark
Liverpool Empire

Rod Stewart Dublin Simmons Court Pavilion Adam & The Ants Leeds Polytechnic

Adam & The Ants Leeds Polytechnic Ruts D.C. Manchester Carousel Club B. A. Robertson Gt. Yarmouth Tiffanys Comsat Angels Manchester Rafters U2 Blackpool Polytechnic UK Subs London Marquee Barracudas Sheffield Limit Black Slate Port Talbot Troubadour Hot Chocolate Newcastle City Hall

Splodgnessabounds Newport Baileys

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21

Sad Cafe Newcastle City Hall Rod Stewart Dublin Simmons Court Pavilion

Hazel O'Connor Sheffield University B. A. Robertson London Middlesex Polytechnic

Orchestral Manoeuvres in The Dark Newcastle Polytechnic Comsat Angels Stoke North Staffs Polytechnic

Jon Anderson Ipswich Gaumont U2 Edinburgh Nite Club Ian Dury & The Blockheads Belfast Mayfield Theatre

Ruts D.C. Liverpool Brady's
Barracudas Scarborough Penthouse
Black Slate Birmingham Top Rank
Hot Chocolate Manchester Apollo

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

Motorhead Birmingham Odeon Yes Deeside Leisure Centre Sad Cafe Edinburgh Odeon Hazel O'Connor Lancaster University Adam & The Ants Aylesbury Friars Comsat Angels Middlesbrough Rock Garden

Jon Anderson Wolverhampton Civic U2 Liverpool Brady's Splodgenessabounds London Music Machine

Black State Newcastle University
Hot Chocolate Bristol Hippodrome
Ruts DC Wolverhampton Polytechnic

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23
Motorhead Birmingham Odeon
Sad Cafe Manchester Apollo
Hazel O'Connor Bristol Colston Hall
Adam & The Ants London Lyceum
Ian Dury & The Blockheads Dublin
Grand Cinema
Ruts D.C. Bath Tiffanys

Hot Chocolate Oxford New Theatre

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24
Yes Leicester De Montfort Hall
Rod Stewart Glasgow Apollo
Adam & The Ants Doncaster Rotters
B. A. Robertson Plymouth Fiesta
Sad Cafe Manchester Apollo
Jon Anderson Bristol Colston Hall
U2 Coventry Polytechnic
Ian Dury & The Blockheads Dublin
Grand Cinema
PS2's Leaden Hammersmith Palain

B52's London Hammersmith Palais Ruts DC Newport Stowaway

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25
Motorhead Crawley Leisure Centre
Yes Leicester De Montfort Hall
Rod Stewart Glasgow Apollo
Jon Anderson Southampton Gaumont
B52's London Hammersmith Palais
Ruts D.C. London Marquee
Hot Chocolate Birmingham Odeon

Adam & The Ants Oxford New Theatre

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26 Motorhead London Hammersmith Odeon

Odeon
Rod Stewart Glasgow Apollo
Hazel O'Connor Brighton Top Rank
Adam & The Ants Exeter St. Georges
Comsat Angels Bristol Berkeley
Jon Anderson Brighton Dome
lan Dury & The Blockheads Edinburgh
Playhouse

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF SMASH HITS

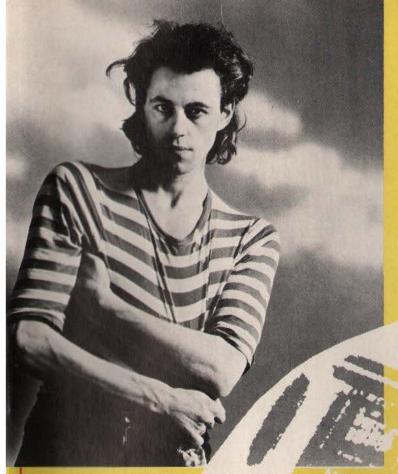
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Banana Republic

By The Boomtown Rats on Ensign Records

Chorus
Banana republic
Septic isle
Screaming in the suffering sea
It sounds like crying
Everywhere I go, yeah
Everywhere I see
The black and blue uniforms
Police and priests

And I wonder do you wonder
While you're sleeping with your whore
That sharing beds with history
Is like a-licking running sores
Forty shades of green, yeah
Sixty shades of red
Heroes going cheap these days
Price: a bullet in the head

Repeat chorus

Take your hand and lead you
Up a garden path
Let me stand aside here
And watch you pass
Striking up a soldier's song
Another tune
It begs too many questions
And answers too

Repeat chorus

The purple and the pinstripe
Mutely shake their heads
A silence shrieking volumes
A violence worse than they condemn
Stab you in the back, yeah
Laughing in your face
Glad to see the place again
It's a pity nothing's changed

Repeat chorus to fade

Words and music by Briquette/Geldof Reproduced by permission Sewer Fire Hits/Zomba Music Publishers Ltd.

FLIGHT 19

By B. A. Robertson on Asylum Records

At 14:06 on the 4th December 1945
Five US Navy Bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida
They were never seen again
This is the legend of Flight 19

Lootenant Taylor USN
This is Flight 19
With fourteen others meets his end
This is Flight 19
Now only Corporal Kosner
Has premonition so they say
He missed the mission on the day

They're flying East to Bimini
This is Flight 19
North and South West and home again
This is Flight 19
A simple tale, no angles
Except Bermuda has prescribed
You'll find this tangle's got three sides

Up in the sky
Did a bird or a plane or a flying machine
Swoop on down to pluck the young blood of Flight 19?
Bird or a plane or a flying machine
Or terrestrial things
On the day that Flight 19 really got their wings

A close encounter of a kind
This is Flight 19
Is what Chuck Taylor thought he'd find
This is Flight 19
Despatch a rescue mission
Unlucky crew numbered thirteen
Depart Miami, never seen

Repeat chorus

Mayday
(Taylor to Tower)
You consult the Captain's log
(Tower to Taylor)
If this had happened
Some years later
We could have sent you Kirk and Spock

Repeat chorus to fade

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