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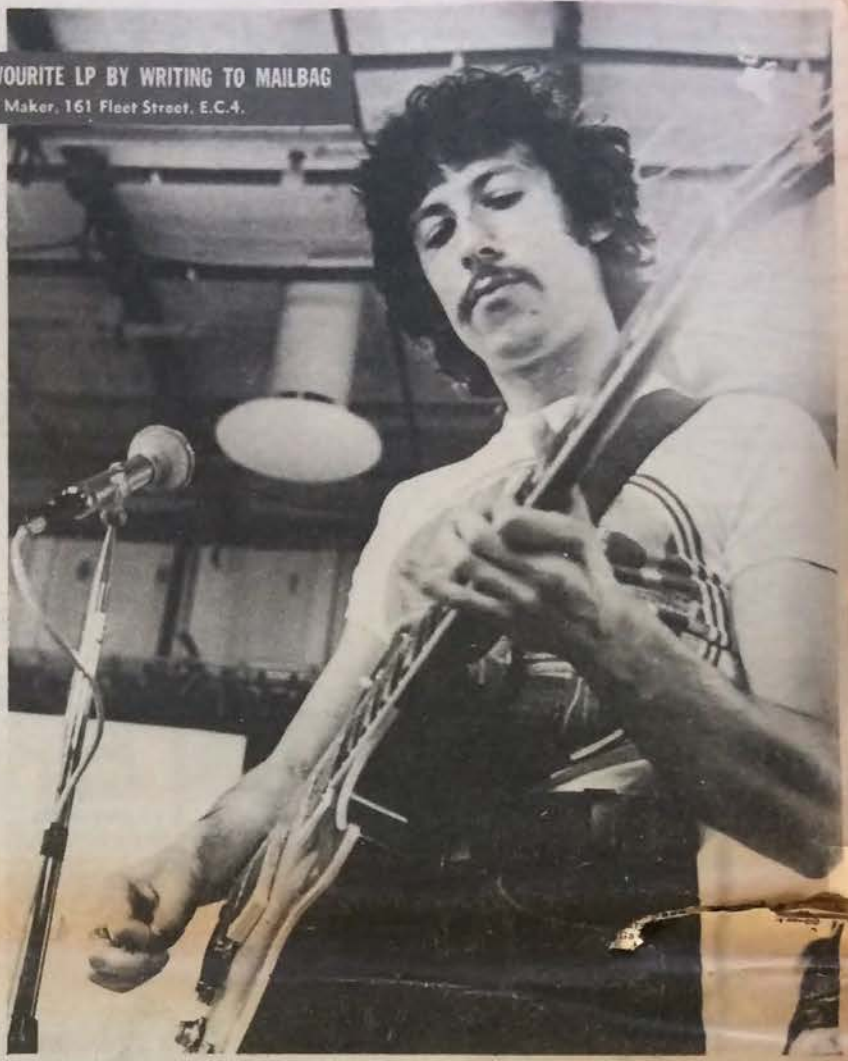
Oh, how could you, Fleetwood Mac!

PARTRIDGE
Blind Date mention

FLEETWOOD MAC have jumped on to the commercial pop bandwagon. In the beginning Green and his men played hard-driving solid Chicago blues influenced by Elmore James, Muddy Waters, Otis Spann and other great blues men. They were Britain's premier blues group.

No longer I'm afraid. They have bowed to the demands of the mindless teenybopper, using far too much feedback and a degree of volume that shatters the eardrums. — **KEITH WEEDON, Hornchurch, Essex.**

WHAT ON earth has happened to Fleetwood Mac? "Albatross" was sweet and nice but it just wasn't Fleetwood Mac! Please don't say that they are dropping all their original blues just to get into the charts like so many other groups? — **JANI EDGAR, Workington, Cumberland.**



FLEETWOOD MAC: jumped onto the commercial pop bandwagon.

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New look for Top Of The Pops?

WHEN WE judge Tony Palmer's pontifications it should not be a simple choice between being for or against him, but a question of realising the limits of his approach.

He neatly drew attention to these himself in Blind Date when he refused to make a sincere assessment of Gene Chandler's classic "Duke Of Earl." It's hard to talk intellectually about crude, hard R&B and if you start looking for subtleties and complexities in "Duke," "Whole Lotta Shaking" and other similar pop greats you tend to miss the point by several miles.

All credit to our Anthony for increasing public respect for the music of Beatles, Floyd, Cream, etc, but please, Mr Palmer, stop thinking occasionally and just dig. — **IAN HOARE, London, N5.**

"BLIND" IS the key-word for Tony Palmer who mentioned in MM's Blind Date that Don Partridge's "Breakfast On Pluto" is just like 80 million others. Critics of the world unite and cast out Tony Palmer. — **R. A. YOUNG, East Twickenham, Middlesex.**

Further to Mr. Dunne's letter (Mailbag 8.2.69) would it not be a better idea to have Top of the Pops based on the Top 20 LP charts instead of the singles.

Most of the progressive groups (Cream, Jimi Hendrix, Jethro Tull, Nice) concentrate on LP's and their singles invariably come from these LP's. An LP also shows a wider variety of a group or solo artist's talent and the record buying public would be able to hear a selection of music from a top twenty artist rather than the same single plugged every week.

Many new and unheard groups record LP's before they become firmly established so they would not be ruled out of such a programme. Admittedly the Sound Of Music would soon wear a bit thin but if this chart were to become more competitive then such LP's would have a smaller run.

One would at least dispense with such one hit wonders as Donald Peers, John Rowles and Malcolm Roberts from our television screens and at last see the true music talents and progressive original and progressive records. — **GLEN JACK, London, S.E.24.**

WE WERE appalled at the suggestive lyrics and films aired on the BBC's Top Of The Pops on Thursday (Feb 6).

We were subjected to a most disgusting scene in the Fleetwood Mac film; namely a dog gyrating in an open umbrella. The umbrella left alone by the sea suggested that the boy and girl had stripped completely naked and gone for a swim together. This is going a bit too far.

Isn't it about time the BBC stopped corrupting the youth of today in this manner? — **R. A. CHAUNDY, Wheatley, Oxford.**

● **A BBC spokesman said: "We would not have shown the film if we'd thought it was 'disgusting.' Any viewer is entitled to his own opinion."**

THE MUSIC of Bach and Beethoven survives because it is outstanding music written by great men. The reason given by Mr de Millie (Mailbag Feb 8) that "they hung on to the aristocracy and the church" is absurd.

The authorities of Bach's time did not recognise his genius as a composer; he was noted only for his instrumental ability. It was left to musicians of the 19th century to discover his music and bring it to the notice of the public. — **JOHN BAYNE, Luton, Beds.**

Mods on the march . . .

Thank you for a funny and perceptive article by Chris Welch (MM Feb. 7). Now it's a mod, mod, mod, mod world—it was hilarious due solely to the fact that it was pure and utter truth.

Rarely have we read anything that so brilliantly categorises these rather pathetic members of the community. Perhaps through more articles such as these they may be induced to see the folly of their ways and return to a more humanitarian existence. — **THREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL DROP-OUTS, Upminster, Essex.**

I am writing to you on behalf of all mods to protest about your article regarding mods (MM 8.2.69). The headlines read "Chris Welch discerns a new threat to our society." Ha, Ha. That's a joke. The guy is obviously a nut.

We wear red steel toe-capped boots and have cropped hair so we are labelled a threat to society. Just what does one have to wear before one is labelled normal and harmless?

As far as my friends are concerned, this article is a load of cobblers and we would like an apology. The thing we are most annoyed about is that he also says that we don't idolise anybody. What does he think we go to football for? And blue mohair suits went out about ten years ago, that's why the rockers wear them. — **STEVE JANNAWAY, London W12.**

Congratulations on your recent expose of the mods or as they are known more locally, "mates". It really is about time that this sort of thing was realised on a national scale. I enclose one pair of steel-tipped boots and one bullet-proof mohair suit, mate, for your protection whilst wandering through the provinces. — **NICK KEMP, London SE27.**

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