

## BONZOS-3 TOP U.S. TV SHOWS

THE Bonzo Dog Band has been booked for a six-week American tour starting in mid-May. It will be the group's first visit to the States and will include guest appearances in three major U.S.-TV series — "Ed Sullivan Show," "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" and "Laughers Brothers Show." The remainder of the visit will be devoted to an extensive coast-to-coast schedule of college and concert dates.

The tour has been set up by the Band's business manager Tony Stratton-Smith—who is currently visiting America to finalize details of the trip—in conjunction with its promotions manager Brian Somerville. The Bonzos will return to the States in mid-summer for a longer tour, taking in the whole of July and August. The group's "Urban Spaceman" hit was released in America last week.

## THE SQUIRES GO IT ALONE



THE SQUIRES have broken away from Tom Jones, after eight years as his backing group, in order to seek success as an attraction in their own right. They have been signed by NCA Records, and their first solo single "Games People Play"—produced by Tom's manager, Gordon Mills—is released next week. Commented Tom: "It's a completely amicable parting, and it comes about because I am now unable to use them for more than three months every year, due to the nature of my commitments." Our picture shows (left to right standing) newcomer MIKE STEVENS who has just joined the group as vocalist, VERNON HOPKINS and CHRIS SLADE, with BILL PARKINSON seated in front.

## Mac's 'Albatross' notches a million

WORLD-WIDE sales of Fleetwood Mac's "Albatross"—which retains its No. 1 spot in the NME Chart for the third week in succession—have now passed the million mark so qualifying the group for a Gold Disc award. The record is currently in the Top Ten in eight different countries. Cover versions have been waxed by several leading orchestras — including Mantovani, Roberto Mann and the London Pops Orchestra.

As exclusively reported in last week's NME, Mac begins a British concert tour with B. B. King at London Royal Albert Hall on April 23. Additional dates now set for Newcastle City Hall (23), Portsmouth Guildhall (25), Bristol Colston Hall (27), Birmingham Town Hall (29) and Manchester Free Trade Hall (29). When Mac's third LP is released in late March, buyers will receive a free bonus of a solo EP by group member Jeremy Spencer. It will be a comedy disc comprising a mucky take of an American pop show.

During the current U.S. tour—from which it has expected to return on February 16—Peter Dinklage and Danny Kirwan have been asked to write the musical score for three Hollywood films. Manager Clifford Davis has flown to America to make the offers, said to be worth over \$100,000.

The group has pulled out of its projected concert at London Royal Festival Hall on February 24, although no reason has been given for its withdrawal.

## POP TV MAN MOVES

TV producer Mike Mansfield has severed his association with South-eastern TV, for whom he directed such successful series as "Tommy Boy Blackburn," "Countdown" and "As You Like It." He has joined ALS Management Ltd., a subsidiary company of the Robert Stigwood Organisation, and has already begun work on a pilot show for a projected new series of pop series to be independently produced for the international market.

## CLIFF DOCUMENTARY

Cliff Richards has agreed to take part in a EMI television colour film titled "Give Us This Day," which is basically a short documentary about John Groom's children's homes in Kent. Cliff will sing the ballad "This Day" in the picture, which will be made available free of charge to schools, clubs and voluntary organisations.

## Good replaces Cream in new-look Cream group

THE CREAM is being re-formed, with ex-Traffic leader Stevie Winwood replacing original member Jack Bruce! That is the basic implication of the news—revealed this week—that former Cream stars Eric Clapton and Ginger Baker are getting together with Winwood to form a group. But the new team will not be known as Cream—its founder members are in the process of selecting a name, and are simultaneously looking for a bass player to augment the line-up into a quartet. The NME understands that there is no question of Jack Bruce, remaining member of the previous Cream group, being involved.

Clapton, Baker and Winwood have spent this week living and rehearsing together in Stevie's Berkshire cottage. They had originally planned to commence recording tomorrow (Saturday) but available studio space could not be found. Because of this the initial session has had to be postponed for a few days.

Eric Clapton told NME: "Our first intention is to get an album together. This will give us something to work from and, once this has been achieved, we'd hope to commence live performances within about a month."

The group's attitude to singles would be the same as the Cream's, explained Clapton. He added "We will not set out with the principle of making singles—but if any track stands out as an obvious single then we shall certainly release it as such."

On the subject of the Clapton-Baker reunion, Eric said "We haven't really picked each other up. I personally do not anticipate any contractual difficulties for the new group, because anyone who signs the way of a project like this would be mad!"

## TESTS ON RADIO

THE Foundations, the Equals, the Fortunes and Unit Four Plus Two are among guests appearing daily in Radio 1's "Keith Skues Show"—the holiday replacement for the Dave Cash series—from Monday, February 17, to Friday, February 21. They are joined by the Hinos, the Paul Williams Set, the Art Movement and the bands of Alex Welsh and Ken Mackintosh. This same line-up also appears in the Saturday-afternoon pop show, hosted by Chris Denning, on February 15.

Booked for the "Jimmy Young Show" during the week beginning February 17 are Simon Dupree and the Big Sound, Cliff Bennett and his Band, Raymona, Froggy, Epiotis, Six, Lita Roza, Mark Wynter, Sight And Sound, Two Of Us and the bands of Edmundo Ros and Ronnie Aldrich.

Chart newcomers Harmony Grass and Peter Sarstedt both appear in the "Tony Brandon Show" starting on February 22 week. Also set are the Trogs, Caravan, Happy Magazine, the Cymbalists, Sons And Lovers, Consortium and the Acker Bilk.

Another booked for the Foundations is in "Pete's Sunday People" on February 23, when the line-up also includes Lita Roza and the Ian Wright Quintet. The previous day (15), Morgan James and Max Harris are in "Pete's Saturday People."

## QUO 'ROCK' MOVIE

Status Quo is to star in a half-hour rock'n'roll film titled "Blues And Rock" which will be shown in America during the group's forthcoming U.S. tour, with the remainder of the film being shot in London club and short acting roles in the picture.

## Foundation dates off

Plans for the Foundations to make concert appearances throughout the rest of this year on behalf of Lytro Jean—the dates were to have begun on February 25—have been dropped because the group has so many other commitments, including the forthcoming Stevie Wonder package tour.

## COCKER BAND SWITCH

Several changes have taken place within Joe Cocker's Grease Band. Drummer Kenny Sisto and Tommy Eyre (organ) have left the group, but have been replaced by Peter Rowlands and Alan Spenser. In order to accommodate Spenser, who is in a bass player, existing bassist Chris Stanton switches to electric piano.

## TINY PALLADIUM?

THE NME understands that Tiny Tim is being sought to headline a variety season at the London Palladium in the spring. If negotiations are successful, Tim would follow the current panio at this venue—which ends on April 12. He would play a limited season before the opening of the summer revue, which is expected to star Des O'Connor.

The Rolling Stones have still not decided whether or not to undertake a world-wide concert tour in the spring—despite constant reports of dates having been set for them in America and Europe. Latest developments include an announcement in the U.S. magazine Variety that the Stones will appear on American tour on March 21—and a statement issued by A & M Records in Hollywood claiming that one of their artists, the Flying Burrito Bros., will tour Europe with the Stones in mid-March.

But a spokesman for the Stones told the NME: "At this stage, nothing is signed or even decided—and no steps can be taken until Brian Jones returns from Ceylon. The confusion regarding the Flying Burritos probably stems from the fact that one of them, ex-Byrd Graham Parsons, is a good friend of Keith Richards—and Keith may produce the group's next LP. Undoubtedly the Stones will play concerts this year, but absolutely nothing is finalised."

The Hollies first single to feature new member Terry Sylvester—who recently replaced Graham Nash in the group—is being issued on Parlophone on February 28. Titled "Sorry Suzanne," it was written by Stephen McAuliffe and Geoff Stephens.

The Dave Dee group's "Don Juan," after written by the now-married team, is released by Fontana on February 21. Out the same day are "I've Got a Feeling," "Mystery Trees" and Ken Dodd's "With You Beside Me" (both Columbia). Smokey Robinson and the Miracles' "Baby Baby Don't Cry (Lama Motown)" and the Humphreys' LP "Engelbert" (Decca).

The Fourmost revive the old jazz classic "Rosetta" for their next single, which comes out on February 21 and was produced by Beale Paul McCartney.

"Pumba Wizard" is now definitely set for February 21 (Fontana). The group's Atlantic re-issues Sam and Dave's "Hold On 'Til I Come." Confirmed for the following Friday (23) are the Foundations' "In the Bad Old Days Before the Long Hair" (Cap) and the Marbles' "The Walls Fell Down" (Polydor).

## FROG GROUP'S U.S. TOUR

The U.S. tour by the Mason, Capaldi, Wood and Frog group has been pushed forward by three days and will start in New York on March 9. It will last between a week and eight days, taking in concerts throughout the States.

## HOLLIES SHOWCASED IN BERLIN FESTIVAL

THE Hollies have been booked as a major headlining attraction at the bi-annual Disc Festival to be staged in Berlin for three days from March 12. Also appearing in the event — to be covered by German TV and made available to most continental countries via the Eurovision link—are Dusty Springfield, Mireille Mathieu, Paul Mauriat, Johnny Cash and Jane Carter, Richard Anthony, Miriam Makeba and Mantovani.

The Hollies are also booked for a week in cabaret at Middlesbrough Showboat, opening on April 13. Their next Swedish tour will take place in mid-May and will last for 14 days. As reported in last week's NME, the group stars in its own "An Evening With The Hollies" concert at London's Royal Festival Hall on June 27. A more immediate booking for the group on March 21 is a Dutch-TV colour special titled "Jam" — for which Barry Ryan, Lula and Amen Corner are also set.

## Mary's Italian triumph

MARY HOPKIN scored a major success last weekend when she was placed second in Italy's annual San Remo Song Festival — an event usually dominated by Italian artists. In this contest each song is performed by two different singers — and this year's winners were Bobby Solo and Ira Zanicchi with a song about a gipsy fortune-teller. Mary's partner in the festival was Italian baladeer Sergio Endrigo, and their second-place song was "Lontano" (Dagbladet). Mary's partner in the festival was Italian baladeer Sergio Endrigo, and their second-place song was "Lontano" (Dagbladet). Mary also won the title of Best Individual Artist in the contest.

## STAR NAMES FOR DISC GALA

The Moody Blues, Harry Secore, Pentangle and the Flirtations will represent Britain at the annual Grand Gala du Disque in Amsterdam on Friday, March 7. Also taking part in the event are Gladys Knight and the Pips, The Equals, the Ike and Tina Turner Revue, Buck Owens, the Sandpipers, Miriam Makeba, Peggy March, Mireille Mathieu, Nini Rosso and the James Last Orchestra. The gala will be televised on the Eurovision link, but is unlikely to be screened in this country.

## Move signs up replacement

THE MOVE has signed a replacement for Trevor Burton who — as reported in last week's NME — has left to join Birmingham group, The Ugly's. The new member is 21-year-old Rick Price, who for the past two years, has been lead guitarist with another Birmingham outfit, Slight And Sound. He will, however, switch to bass guitar now that he has joined the Move. He makes his TV debut with the group in Granada's "Discotheque" next Wednesday.

The Move had narrowed the search down to two candidates — the other being Geoff Lynn of Idle Race. But Lynn dropped out of the running owing to contractual difficulties so leaving the field open for Rick Price. Commenting on the Move's Carl Wayne: "We chose Rick because he is a talented musician, a good singer and a fast feller."

Latest one-nighter bookings for the

More — including Rick Price — are

Stamford Top Of The World (February 13), Cambridge Cross Exchange (15), Bishop's Stortford Road Centre (16), Tunstall Golden Torch (18), a concert at London Royal Albert Hall (20), Mireille Mathieu at the George's Hall (21), Nantwich Civic Hall and Chester Clocktower (22), Stockton Priests (26), and Woolwich Polytechnic (28).

## WORLD TOUR PLANS SET? ROLLING STONES DENY IT

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## IN PERSON — THE FABULOUS

and full supporting cast including

## JOE BROWN

BIRMINGHAM Odeon Sat. Feb. 22, 6.30 & 9 p.m.

LONDON Palladium Feb. 23, 6 & 8.30 p.m.

MANCHESTER Odeon Sat. March 1, 6 & 8.45 p.m.

NEWCASTLE Odeon Sun. March 2, 6 & 8.30 p.m.

## MONKEE MAN LAUNCHES NEW GROUP IN BIG-BUDGET FILMS

U.S. RECORD and TV producer Don Kirshner has manufactured a blaze of publicity, similar to that which greeted the advent of the Monkees—the first of the groups in which Kirshner was closely involved. The new team, formed in conjunction with film producer Harry Saltzman, because anyone who signs the way of a project like this would be mad!

ported Kirshner's other plan to form a second group, which would provide the soundtrack music for a U.S. TV cartoon series—and this is at present being screened in America as "The Archies." The first of the Kirshner-Saltzman films will be titled simply "Tomorrow," after the name of the group. United Artists plan to release a soundtrack LP by Tomorrow, to coincide with the premiere of the picture.

After Tomorrow has become established by way of its debut film, it is intended that the group will undertake personal appearances.

## THE HOLLIES, DAVE DEE SET McCartney waxes Fourmost

THE Hollies' long-awaited new single has at last been scheduled for release. New discs by the Dave Dee group, the Dave Clark Five and Ken Dodd come out later this month—as well as a Sam and Dave re-issue. Paul McCartney has produced the latest single by the Fourmost. Release dates have now been set for previously-announced discs by the Foundations, the Who and Marbles. A new Engelbert Humperdinck album will be in the shops next week.

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## City's new releases from Decca

Members of the Laugh-in cult must have a copy of FREDDIE CANNON's latest, which is all about "Beautiful downtown Burbank." If you've never seen the programme, you'll still appreciate the record, which is a thumping rocker in true Cannon style. On London, H.K. 10252.

THE WORLD OF OZ are becoming something of a cult themselves. Although they haven't yet topped the charts, they have a huge following both here and in the States. Listen to "Willows harp" and you'll understand why. It's on Deram, DM 223. Very weird and wonderful.

Whoever U.K. JONES may be, he's made a nook record titled "Let me tell ya." It's a hand-clapping, tambourine-bashing party raver, on Deram number DM 231.

BOOTS RANDOLPH is all set to tour here very shortly, so let's hope we hear plenty of "Games people play" because it's a winner. The riff is persistent and builds tremendously — just about everything's there. I think I can even detect a steel guitar. Great stuff! It's on Monument, number MON1028. See you.

DECCA group records