

FOR EVERYONE IN THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC

29 MAY 1999 £3.50



W

# music week





...3.5 MILLION AND COUNTING

**PLATINUM**

- ARGENTINA
- AUSTRALIA x 3
- BELGIUM
- CANADA
- DENMARK
- INDONESIA x 3
- IRELAND x 5
- ITALY x 2
- MALAYSIA x 2
- NEW ZEALAND x 4
- PHILIPPINES
- SWEDEN x 2
- TAIWAN
- THAILAND
- UK x 2
- USA



**GOLD**

- CHILE
- HOLLAND
- ISRAEL
- KOREA
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**RCA RECORDS WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE FIVE  
ON SELLING IN EXCESS OF 3.5 MILLION ALBUMS WORLDWIDE**



THE NEW SINGLE "IF YOU'RE GETTIN' DOWN" WILL BE RELEASED 12TH JULY!





**NEWS:** Tributes are flowing in after the death of **ROB GRETTON**, a key Manchester music scene figure  
News 6



**NEWS:** Positiva founder **NICK HALKES** is to leave EMI to set up his own dance label with MoS backing  
&R News 9



**PROFILE:** From small beginnings, **Music ZONE** is growing into one of the UK's most active indie retailers  
Profile 10



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FOR EVERYONE IN THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC



# musicweek

## Warchild album to raise Kosovo funds

by Stephen Jones

The UK record industry is taking a lead in raising funds for Kosovan refugees from the Balkans crisis with plans for a second Warchild album and a mass collection appeal by summer festival promoters.

The follow-up to 1995's *Help*, the new Warchild album is in the early planning stages and artists have yet to be confirmed. However, it appears that while the 1.5m-selling *Help* - which won the 1996 Brit Awards' Freddie Mercury Award - was a Britpop band-led UK project, the intention this time is to involve superstar names recording tracks for a worldwide release.

The album, which is understood to be a Motown-related project called *What's Going On?*, is being spearheaded by two of the people behind *Help*, Independent's Tony Crean and Terri Hall from Hall Or Nothing. It is understood that talks are also being held with Universal Music Group UK chairman John Kennedy.

Crean declines to comment,



**The Chemicals:** adding support while Hall will only say, "We can confirm plans are going ahead for an album. I can say it will be on a more global level than *Help* - we are in healthy negotiations with artists here and abroad. People will ask, 'how much bigger can you get?' But it will be."

Meanwhile, Mean Fiddler director Alison Charles has taken a lead in backing the Sound As A Pound campaign, under which everyone who attends the Homelands, Fresh and Reading/Leeds '99 festivals will be asked to donate

£1 towards the Warchild and Dublin-based Cradle charities. Promoters of festivals such as Glastonbury and V99 and one-off summer gigs are also being approached to participate.

Mean Fiddler chief Vince Power, who has visited Mostar in Bosnia four times during the past four years in did-related projects, hopes his festival's alone will generate at least £120,000 for the chosen charities.

"When you go in to see what it's like, it's a great inspiration to do something. We've always collected at the festivals where most have volunteered money and I think plenty [of people] will want to throw money in. It won't be compulsory to give, but the collection points will be very visual at the entrances," he says.

The Chemical Brothers, who headline Homelands this weekend, said in a statement, "We are pleased to support the campaign for Kosovan refugees. Give a pound and make some serious noise this summer."



Jive Records was on course yesterday (Sunday) not only to score its fourth number one single of the year, but challenging to take the first number one album in its 18-year history. Shariks & Bigout's former underground club hit *Sweet Like Chocôlatte* was set to debut at the top after selling more copies than the rest of the Top Five singles put together throughout the week. Jive also hoped to secure the number one album with Backstreet Boys' Millennium, although the record was fighting off a tough challenge from *Abba's Gold - Greatest Hits*, which on Friday was only 2,000 sales behind.

## Howard Marks joins Interactive City bill

Celebrated former drugs baron Howard Marks will take the hot seat for the celebrity interview at this week's Interactive City in Glasgow.

Marks, who wrote the autobiographical *Mr Nice* about his experiences smuggling cannabis and his subsequent imprisonment inside a US maximum security jail, will be interviewed by ITC co-founder Tony Wilson on Thursday evening in a slot titled from

*Interpol To The Internet*. The keynote speech at the May 27-28 conference will be delivered by e-commerce guru Bruce Rayner and will tackle the issue of "disintermediation", a term he coined about ridding organisations or systems of middlemen.

A live webcast from Los Angeles, featuring Lollapalooza founder Marc Geiger and MP3 advocate Chuck D, is also planned.

## Indies back Aim's online sales plan

Leading independent music companies have welcomed a plan by the Association of Independent Music (AIM) that will enable members to sell their catalogues online via the group's central website.

Members will be able to offer their catalogues via mail order or directly via digital download depending on individual preferences. Aim is in negotiation with several technology companies to set up the facility on its site www.musicindie.com and a decision is expected by early July.

Telstar and Beggars Banquet are among those who have agreed in principle to put their catalogues on the site.

Martin Mills, chairman of Beggars Banquet, says, "The attraction of having a central indie music site that can offer both e-commerce and a route to individual sites is incredibly strong."

## Barlow debuts Fastrax system

Gary Barlow's single *Stronger* was due to make radio history this morning (Monday) by becoming the first release delivered to stations for broadcast using the Fastrax distribution system.

Fastrax, which has been carrying out trials of its digital delivery system for music at selected stations during the past three months, planned to send the RCA track to 23 commercial stations including Capital FM, Key 103 and Heart 106.2 at 8am today.

Another 139 stations were due to receive the track at the same time through the operation's Independent Media Distribution Network, which is used to distribute radio commercials digitally.

Barlow himself was planning to be at Manchester's Key 103 for the track's digital arrival, while Radio One, which has not yet adopted Fastrax, was due to receive a physical copy. "It's brilliant to see the way technology can be used for



**Barlow: first for Fastrax music,** says Barlow.

RCA director of promotions Dave Shuck says the label is happy to be at the vanguard of the system, although he adds, "It'd be foolish to say it's going to do away completely with the need for promotional CDs."

The delivery of the Barlow single, which is reissued commercially on July 5, paves the way for Fastrax to become a paid-for service. To date tracks have been delivered free of charge on a test basis.

● Barlow - in his own words, p9

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\* Source: Home Office statistics.



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# BPI voices piracy concerns as Rio hits 25,000 UK sales

by Tracey Snell  
Around 25,000 Rio MP3 players have been sold in the UK since the controversial product's launch five months ago, its manufacturer revealed last week as the most aggressive campaign yet promoting it kicked off in the national press.

Survey-based Tiny Computers has begun offering the Rio, a portable player which plays MP3 music downloaded from the internet, as part of a complete entertainment system costing just £5,526. It includes a computer, a DVD drive, a CD-R and software for making customised CDs.

The offer is being advertised in the national press and in-store at Tiny's 105 UK showrooms. An ad

in *The Times* last week, headed "The internet music revolution is here", showed a picture of the Rio with the straplines "Copy your favourite music" and "Record digital quality music from the internet". It also carried a small disclaimer, warning readers it is unlawful to copy copyrighted material without the permission of the copyright owner.

The ad has concerned the BPI, which fears it could encourage piracy – the vast majority of MP3 music currently available on the internet is illegal. Jolyon Benn, the BPI's operations executive, says, "We are not happy about it, though we are pleased to see they have put a message on there about copyrights."

## ENCOURAGING PIRACY?



A Tiny spokesman disputes it is encouraging piracy. "We are taking advantage of technology that is

already there. We are not condoning piracy. If it is slightly controversial then that is the way it is sometimes. We've checked it legally and we're happy to go ahead."

Diamond Multimedia, which manufactures the Rio and recently started co-operating with the music industry through initiatives such as SDMI, has distanced itself from Tiny's move. Neil McGuinness, Diamond's PR manager for northern Europe, says, "It's a good ad but unfortunately it wasn't given to us to proof-read. They probably would have been a wee bit more diplomatic."

McGuinness says Diamond has sold 200,000 Rio players worldwide, an eighth of which have been sold in the UK.

This year's Glastonbury Festival is to stand as a tribute to co-founder Jean Eavis, who died on May 16, just five days after her 60th birthday. Eavis, who had been suffering from cancer, staged the first festival at Worthy Farm in 1970 with her husband Michael after the couple were inspired by the Bath Blues Festival. Ahead of this year's June 25-27 festival, Michael Eavis (pictured right with his wife) saluted her determination which he described as Glastonbury into the event it is today. "I hope those who come will join with me in celebrating a life so well lived and loved at Glastonbury Festival 1999 as a tribute to Jean," he says. The funeral took place last Saturday at the Methodist Church in Pitton, Somerset.



## Consumer relaunch boosts dotmusic hits

Music Week's sister website dotmusic has been confirmed as the UK's most popular music site, according to figures from the official auditing organisation ABC/electronic.

The ABC audit has confirmed that the site attracted 258,000 users and 6.2m page impressions during April, a 318% increase on its previous audit nine months ago.

Chris Sica says, "Since we re-launched as a consumer site in December 1998, our traffic has gone through the roof. We are delighted with these results and aim to continue to offer music fans the most comprehensive music service on the web."

Dotmusic's most recent initiative was the launch of an e-mail-audio postcard format in partnership with US company GMD to promote EMI-Chrysalis artist Geri Halliwell.

Music Week editor-in-chief Steve Redmond says, "Music Week has successfully promoted music within the trade for 40 years. dotmusic now allows us to take new music direct to the consumer as well."

## Sony bucks trend with big summer conference

Sony is preparing to tread a lone path for a second successive year by being the only UK major record company to stage a full-scale summer conference.

The major, which held its conference at the Grand Hotel in Brighton last year, will move to Bournemouth's Royal Bath this year for its September 3-5 event. Its keynote speech will again be given by chairman/CEO Paul Burger.

Other record companies scheduling conferences are all planning one-day events. Universal Music will host a retail presentation featuring live performances at London's Mayfair Theatre on August 26, while BMG will stage a presentation at the capital's Baffa venue on September 9 and EMI plans to hold a day for retailers in September. Warner sales director Jeff Beard reports his company has no specific plans at present but suggests an event is likely to take place later in the year.

Virgin, Fincade, Vital and 3rwh have no conference plans for the UK, though Virgin is holding an international conference for affil-



Burger: hosting Sony conference

ates in Mexico at the end of July. Universal conference and displays manager Nigel Draper says having a one-day conference can sometimes be a more effective way of reaching the target audience of retailers than holding a long, drawn-out event. "With these seaside conferences people could end up spending a week out of the office going from one conference to another," he says.

Together with the day in London, Universal is also holding its third series of roadshows for independent retailers, visiting London (on September 13), Leeds (September 15) and Birmingham (September 16). These will be attended by senior company executives.

## Precious head Top 10 with Eurovision entry

Precious's Say It Again was on course yesterday (Sunday) to make a Top 10 entry, one of the best chart debuts yet by a UK Eurovision entry.

The EMI single's chart arrival is in contrast to the previous two years' entries, Love Shine A Light by Katrina & The Waves and Where Are You by Imaan, which took several weeks after their release to make the Top 20.

Great British Song Contest music executive Jonathan King highlights the support of Woodworm, which has agreed to place the single in the top 10 of its own chart for at least three consecutive weeks.

Ahead of the contest in Jerusalem this Saturday, BBC1 is screening a half-hour documentary on Precious at 7.30pm tonight (Monday).

## Polydor fights imports of Boyzone hits album

Polydor is raising the stakes in the fight against parallel imports by including an additional track on the UK release of Boyzone's *By Request*.

The UK version will have 19 tracks when it hits the shops on May 31 compared with 18 for the rest of the world, giving retailers less of an incentive to import the international version.

Although the move is not unprecedented – record companies have also employed the tactic of releasing albums earlier in the UK – one indie retailer called it "cute" because it gets around the import problem by providing extra value. He envisages retailers could end up pricing the two albums differently, letting customers decide.

However, a source at one large music store says it does not believe the move will make much difference. "The only consideration is price. Unless you are a huge fan with a tracklisting you won't know," he says.

In Australia, labels sometimes include as many as five extra tracks to deter cheap imports from Asia.

## newsfile

### UNIVERSAL CONFIRMS UK TEAM

Paul Connolly, Universal Music Publishing executive VP of Europe and UK managing director, last week confirmed his senior management team. In addition to those already reported, it includes A&R/multimedia manager Miles Jacobson, head of film and TV Laurence Kaye, senior synchronisation manager Barbara Zamoyka, head of business affairs Sarah Levin, senior business affairs manager Mark Fiori and head of UK finance Deborah Stanbury.

**MUELLER JOINS THE BOX**  
Daniel Mueller is being appointed to the newly-created position of commercial director at The Box. Mueller will be responsible for growing the music channel's revenues and all areas of business development. He joins from Emap's corporate planning unit.

### EMI SHARE PRICE INCREASES

There was some positive movement in EMI's share price last week ahead of high expectations for this Tuesday's full-year results. The shares climbed 24p on Wednesday to close at 475.25p before slipping back on Thursday to close at 467.25p.

### SRH ANNOUNCES PROFITS RISE

Scottish Radio Holdings reported a 35% increase in profits for the first half of the year last week. The Glasgow-based group made pre-tax profits of £7.2m in the six months to March 31 on the back of turnover up 15% to £24.5m.

### MTV SIGNS LIBERTY MEDIA DEAL

MTV Networks and Liberty Media's TCI Music division have struck an online music alliance under which MTV will acquire Liberty's website Son@Net, while Liberty will take a 10% stake in MTV's Online Music Ventures arm.

### BBC UNVEILS NEW DANCE SERIES

Carl Cox is to host the first in a new six-part dance series called Acetate which BBC2 is screening at 11.55pm weekly from Monday, June 14. Guests lined up include Roger Sanchez and Masters At Work.

### WRIGHT MOVES TO AFTERNOON SLOT

Steve Wright is returning to an afternoon radio slot as Ed Stewart's successor weekdays between 2pm and 5pm on Radio Two. Wright, who takes over on July 5, will be replaced on his 10am to 12m Saturday show by Jonathan Ross who starts on July 3.

### CD SYSTEMS/VIDEO DUPLICATING CO

CD Systems/Video Duplicating Co was erroneously omitted from the map of UK manufacturing plants published two weeks ago. The company is located at VDC House, South Way, Wembley, Middle HA9 0EH, tel: 01873-93345, fax: 0181-900 1427, e-mail: [ians@cd-systems.co.uk](mailto:ians@cd-systems.co.uk).

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OUTLOOK

Question No. 9

Which Girl Group had a No 3 Hit as a collaboration with UR  
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## WARCHILD DESERVES OUR SUPPORT

It is all too easy to be cynical about charity events — if it's many of them, too many different agendas — it is even easier to be cynical about industry-related charity initiatives. But cynicism can be misplaced. Watching the first pictures coming out of Kosovo, it was impossible not to be affected.

There has been an increasing number of one-off music initiatives, but no more centrally-coordinated industry response. Such things take time, as those working on the latest Warchild album can attest to.

But now that a couple of broader initiatives are shaping up, they deserve our support. One problem can be that a project such as a charity album takes months to put together, while the war may only be on the front pages of the newspapers for weeks. The fallout of the crisis in the Balkans will be felt for years, however. This is an initiative we should all support.



## Hair quits virgin Radio to head Beat 106

Virgin Radio programme director Bobby Hair is quitting the station to become managing director of Beat 106 in Scotland, just four months after he was promoted to his current position.

Hair is expected to start his new role in the summer and will effectively be building the station from scratch. Beat 106 won the second central Scotland FM licence in February against stiff competition from the likes of Capital and Jazz FM and is due to begin broadcasting to a potential audience of around 2.3m adults at the end of the year. Hair is the first executive to be appointed.

"That's one of the attractions of going, to be starting with a blank



Hair: starting from scratch

sheet of paper," he says. "Opportunities like this are few and far between in my native Scotland."

Hair, who had been at Virgin Radio for three years, believes his knowledge of the market and

understanding of non-traditional music formats will prove invaluable in his new role. "The station is going to be new mainstream, pulling together a post-Britpop sound with a touch of the kind of dance music Scotland is crying out for," says Hair.

Following his promotion to programme director from head of music at Virgin, Hair split the role into two separate functions, appointing a head of music programming and a head of music scheduling. A spokesman for the station says the changes have made for a stronger programming group at Virgin. "We're on to a winning formula but we are very sad to see Bobby go," he says.

A couple of years ago Sony Music Germany started to sticker all the albums it sold so it could tell which dealers were stocking parallel imports. In places like Japan and now Australia companies go further, adding extra tracks to the local versions of International releases.

It's such a simple idea it's a wonder that UK companies haven't done it more often. So it will be interesting to see what effect Polydor's addition of an extra track to the UK version of Boyzone's *By Request* will have. It may be confusing if retailers rack it out at a higher price than (legal) imports of the same album sourced from elsewhere within the EU. But if the extra track is strong enough, it could ensure that a UK label for one retains more of the sales by one of its own signings.

At a time when most labels are still devoting so much effort to using extra tracks to play the singles-formating game, why not shift attention to albums? It's a political minefield, but pursued cleverly the potential impact on the bottom line could be far greater.

Ajax Scott

## WEBBO

## BRUCE: STILL THE BOSS

In 1981, I had the privilege to see the most intense, spiritually uplifting, enjoyable and exhausting series of rock concerts I have ever seen. They were by Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band and since then I have taken almost every opportunity to see him perform in the UK and elsewhere.

When The E Street Band were disbanded in 1988, I still went to see the new (markedly inferior) band and also the introspective acoustic shows of recent years.

The shows that have just taken place in Manchester, Birmingham and London harked back to those in 1981, and the stadium shows of the mid-Eighties — even in the cold cavern that is Earl's Court.

Different, of course, in that we are all 18 years older and a 49-year-old Bruce, while still able to perform a tiring three-hour show, is not as young as he was.

What is great to see, however, is an artist who is able to revisit his catalogue, revamp songs, play oldies, B-sides from the Tracks set and even unrecorded songs in front of the best band in the world while so obviously loving what he is doing. Whether he'll ever sell albums in the quantity of Born in the USA (or even as many as the live tickets he sells) I doubt, but then that is the same for most of his generation. When (if?) he comes back again with The E Street Band miss it your peril.

However, one thing did stick in my throat. At all three venues (the Manchester Evening News Arena, Birmingham NEC and Earl's Court) there was that increasingly popular practice of confiscating all drinks including water (and even ice creams in Manchester) found in bag searches at the door. This practice is only there to boost drinks vendors' profits. It may be legally defensible (the right to refuse admission is a condition of purchasing a ticket), but should this practice not at least be admitted to on the tickets?

Or would it make whoever is responsible look too stupid?

Jon Webster's column is a personal view

## Manchester in mourning for manager Rob Gretton

by Robert Ashton

M People's Mike Pickering is one of many who paid tribute last week to New Order manager Rob Gretton, one of the greatest innovators and characters of the Mancunian music scene who died suddenly on May 15.

In addition to guiding the career of arguably the city's most influential group, Gretton is also credited as being one of a handful of key figures who helped shape the city's unique sound and nightlife during the past three decades.

Pickering, who had known Gretton since the mid-Seventies as a fellow Manchester City fan, says, "He transformed Manchester. A lot of what has happened to the city is down to Rob. It was him who wanted to open the Hacienda because he said Manchester was a crap place to live. He was a central figure and a great guy."

Factory Records founder Tony Wilson, who first met Gretton on the starwheel at Manchester's infamous Ruffians club 22 years ago,



Gretton: central Manchester figure

adds that Gretton should also be credited with starting the indie record movement because he suggested Joy Division stay in Manchester for Factory instead of jumping ship to a major. "I worshipped Brian Epstein and

adored Malcolm McLaren and Peter Grant, but Rob Gretton was Mike's best," says Wilson.

London Records managing director Laurie Cockell, who had known Gretton since New Order signed to his label in the early Nineties, also credits Gretton's influence. "Without him, Joy Division, New Order and the Hacienda you wouldn't have had bands like the Happy Mondays. He was the fulcrum for the whole Manchester thing."

Kevin Dawson, BMG development director, who worked as a road manager for Pickering's former band Quando Quango when it supported New Order in the mid-Eighties, adds, "Anyone who goes to a house club in Rochdale has Rob Gretton to thank."

A spokesperson for New Order says the band were too upset before the funeral, which took place at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church last Friday, to comment.

Gretton, who was 46, is survived by his partner Lesley Gilbert and a son Benedict and daughter Laura.

## Hal David to be honoured with special Ivor award

Veteran lyricist Hal David is to be the first recipient of a new honour being introduced at this year's Ivor Novello Awards to recognise the achievements of overseas songwriters.

Ascap board member David, most celebrated for his collaborations with Bert Bacharach, will receive the inaugural special International award at the ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on Thursday. David, whose songs have been recorded by acts as diverse as Dionne Warwick and the British Street Preachers, is due to be given the award by an artist who has covered his material.

PRS chief executive John Hutchinson says, "Not only have Hal David's songs been performed by several generations of British artists, but his work as a music statesman has benefited his fellow writers internationally."

The award, being presented jointly by the PRS and the British Academy Of Composers & Songwriters, has been introduced to recognise the impact on the UK of non-PRS, overseas writers. It will not automatically be given every year.

## Industry offered standard database

Music Industry Chart Services (Mics), owner of the official music charts, is commissioning chart compilers Millward Brown to develop the CIN product file to enable it to become an industry standard database.

The product file, used since 1994 to compile the official charts, contains vast amounts of new information about formats, artists and labels and has already been adopted for use by around 100 independent retailers to help them identify product.

Millward Brown's chart unit director Bob Barnes says the Mics initiative means the chart compiler will now work towards making the product file a multi-functional database containing daily-updated details of all known and currently available audio and video titles. "We are able to say what Boyzone or Björk records are available, the distributor and the labels they are on to make it the most comprehensive product file in the UK," says Barnes.

He adds that by twinning the system the product file can become an ordering tool, thus making it attractive to multiples who use their

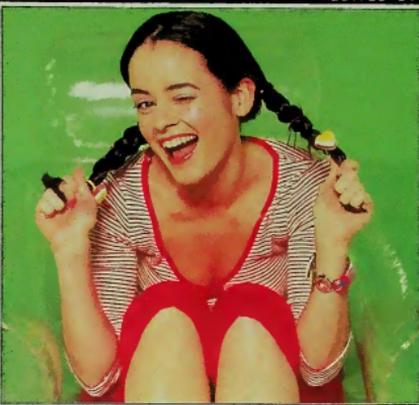


Boyzone: details on the database

own product file. Components, such as the video files, can also be isolated while further enhancements, such as the inclusion of track listings, are being considered.

"This is an opportunity to develop it to accommodate more retail-ops and ordering companies and, of course, our requirements to compile the charts," says Barnes. "Also, it is important because this is something that is owned by the industry."

Polydor-sounding Lilly is being turned into a magazine cartoon character as part of a move to attract a pre-teen audience. The record company is in negotiations with several magazine publishers to run a regular cartoon strip featuring Lilly. Polydor product manager Alex Bartie says targeting an eight to 12-year-old age group requires a rethink of standard music marketing concepts. "Magazines like *Style Girl*, *Starz*, *Pets*, *Girl Talk* and *Bunty* don't normally have much music coverage, so we had to find new ways of reaching a pre-teen audience and presenting her as more than just a pop star," says Bartie.



## O Zone 'toughens up' with stronger image

The O Zone is to be 'toughened up' and given a new identity as the BBC makes a series of editorial changes to the music show fronted by Jamie Theakston and Jayne Middlemiss.

It follows the appointment last month of Jo Pilkington as producer and Mark Cooper as executive producer.

Pilkington, who joined from BBC Choice, says the programme is to take a stronger journalistic stance and be marketed as a youth programme with a core audience of 18 to 19-year-olds. "I sometimes felt that the programme wasn't very clear about who its audience was," says Pilkington.

The June 8 edition of the show will feature acts including S Club 7, The Chemical Brothers and Björk, although Pilkington stresses it will not be ignoring pop. She also wants to secure a permanent time slot for the show, which is first screened on a Tuesday evening.

# Worth back MoS brand but remain in dark about MP3

by Tracey Snell

Forget the MP3 hype — 84% of UK 15 to 24-year-olds have never even heard of the compression technology that is threatening to revolutionise music distribution, according to a new youth research study.

The figure is contained in the latest Roar study into the attitudes, habits and views of late teen and early twenties consumers. The research, now in its fourth year, involved around 1,000 respondents and is a joint project backed by Carlton Screen Advertising, The Guardian/The Observer, Kiss FM, Channel Four, Emap Consumer Magazines and BMP OMD.

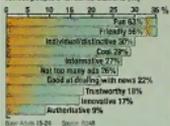
Only 12% of respondents knew what MP3 was, with 3% saying they were unsure and 84% saying they did not know. Jon Wright, senior research executive at RSGB, which conducts the field work and analysis for Roar,

says, "You have to bear in mind that the current penetration of the internet among the age group surveyed is 80% and it's less likely that people are going to know what MP3 is if they don't have internet access."

Elsewhere the survey also sought to identify which characteristics are most important in a radio station (see graph, right), it also firmly endorses Ministry of Sound's strategy of extending its brand into new areas. Some 68% of respondents believe MoS would make a good radio station — higher than any other brand listed in the survey including broadcaster Kiss FM, which scored 52% in the same category. MoS, which is an early pioneer of club merchandise, was also considered an ideal brand for a fashion/clothing range by 56% of respondents, coming highest of the eight brands listed which included Marks &

### REASONS TO TUNE IN

The general characteristics that strongly reflect people's favourite stations (%)



Authoritative 16%  
New music 13.2% Source: Roar

Spencer, FHM, Mixmag, Sorry, The Guardian and Sky Television. Almost half of respondents — 49% — thought Kiss FM would make sense as a record label, putting it third behind MoS (73%) and Sony (64%), while 51% considered Emap's PFM could make a good TV show — 9% more than its closest rival Sky

Television.

Wright says this is the first time that these findings have been asked about specific brand perceptions in different markets. "Ministry of Sound is seen as a strong brand. It's one that young people identify with," he says. "The reason for the question was to get a perception of different brands, but it could be an indicator of how a brand might be perceived in another market."

Andy Roberts, programme director at Kiss 100, dismisses the fact that the findings suggest MoS would make a better radio station than Kiss, and notes that Roar is one of a number of tools the company uses to help create marketing strategies.

Roar will be hosting a conference to discuss its latest research findings at Bafta in London this Thursday. For further details call 0800-7834440.

## Seven-year partnership ends for Savage & Best

Savage & Best, a linchpin of independent PR in the mid-Nineties through its work with acts such as Suede and Pulp, is splitting into two companies.

Partners Phil Savage and John Best will officially move into separate operations on June 5 in an amicable split which will see Best running Best Established and Savage heading Savage And Savage.

Savage, who first worked with Best in the press department at Virgin Records, says the decision to disband after seven years will allow the pair to work in new areas.

"Our company has got quite big and John and I sat down and talked and thought maybe it would be better off if we went our separate ways," he says.

Rachel Hendry, a PR at Savage & Best, will remain with Savage after the split with the pair operating from



Going solo: Savage (left) and Best

4 Warren Mews in west London. The new company's roster will include Suede, Ultrasonix, Fat Les and Black Box Recorder, while it is also looking to expand its interests into areas such as PR for footballers.

Best's new team will be based at 5 Castle Road in north west London and will continue to look after Pulp. During the past seven years, Savage & Best has enjoyed huge success with acts including Suede, Pulp, Texas and Elastica and won two Music Week PR awards.

## Universal-Island strikes Target deal

Universal-Island has rationalised its media buying and planning by striking a single deal with Target Media.

Target beat two other media agencies to clinch the deal, which has been prompted by the merger of the Island and Universal operations following Seagram's purchase of PolyGram. They are understood to include Media Mix, Universal's existing media buying and planning agency.

Target Media previously performed the same function at Island Records, planning campaigns such as last year's Thames boat launch to publicise U2's *The Best Of 1980-1990* which involved producing images of the album's cover on to famous landmarks up and down the river.

Karl Badger, Universal-Island's marketing director, says, "With the company growing I felt very strongly that we needed a media company which would cope with the growth of the label and its roster."

Lucy Barclay, an associate director of Target Media, says the

agency is delighted to have won the contract. "We pitched against such large agencies — we're only the nine or tenth biggest," she says.

Under the deal, which based on the combined spend of the two companies is expected to be worth around £1.5m a year, Target Media will be responsible for all media including TV, press, radio and new media, such as web advertising.

Among its first projects will be media planning for The Charlatans' new album. Target Media's other recent company clients include Mercury acts Pulp and Polyrad, V2 Records and 4AD Records. Universal-Island was unavailable for comment.

Robert Wilkerson has been appointed to the newly-created role of managing director at Target Media. He was previously general manager/media director. Meanwhile, Lucy Barclay and Julian Ireland have both been promoted to associate directors.

## newsfile

**VIRGIN WINS WEMBLEY CONTRACT**  
Wembley Arena has turned to Virgin Radio to strike its biggest sponsorship deal to date. The £200,000 contract includes Wembley providing branded sites for Virgin on each concert in the arena as well as the main entrances. Virgin Radio will also be played at the venue during event days.

**GALAXY JOINS MTV FOR CLUB NIGHTS**  
MTV has teamed up with Mornag and Galaxy Radio to stage its first series of club nights. The Dancefloor Chart Show — Resident in Ibiza '99 will take place over the next four months, followed by club nights in the UK and Ireland.

**PANIC TAKES ON LIBERTY PR**  
London AM station Liberty Radio has appointed PR and management company Panic to look after its public relations. Station director John Ogden says the link-up came about through one of Panic's clients, Tamara Beckwith, who is a presenter on Liberty.

**BIG EVENTS IN MILLENNIUM GIG DEAL**  
London-based The Big Events Company has won exclusive TV distribution rights worldwide for First Moment — First Light, the millennium concert taking place on December 31 in Gisborne, New Zealand, and starring David Bowie and Split Enz. The company plans to package the concert to programme as either a live broadcast or edited highlights.

**MTV IS SPONSORING 1999**  
MTV is sponsoring the second stage of this year's V99 festival, the first time it has sponsored a festival stage. James Brown and Mercury Live are among the acts appearing at the event which takes place at Chelford and Weston Park in Staffordshire on August 21 and 22.

**SHANKS & BIGFOOT GO GOLD**  
Shanks & Bigfoot's *It's A Sweet Little Chocolate* went straight to a gold EMI award last week with the same award going to TLC's *No Scrubs* and the Backstreet Boys single *I Want It That Way* and album *Milennium*.

### HOW TV SHOWS' RATINGS COMPARE

Programme	audience (000s)	% change on 1998
Top Of The Pops	4,145	+7%
TFI Friday	2,248	-6.4%
The O Zone	1,574	-15.1%
CD:UK	1,284	n/a
Planet Pop	672	n/a
Later/Jools Holland	507	-6.1%
Pepsi Chart Show	469	-34.6%
Jo Whiley	326	+3.5%

Source: Mediamark TMB/Barb w/ May 9

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[www.postquestion.co.uk/8](http://www.postquestion.co.uk/8)



## RCA signs Safe's new untitled female group

Safe Management's Bob and Chris Herbert, the team who put the Spice Girls together before Simon Fuller took over, have developed and signed a new five-piece female pop act to RCA.

The deal for the girl act — understood to have the working title *Girl Thing* — was completed last week amid nine months after BMG & A&R consultant Simon Cowell — who also A&Rs fellow Safe act *Five* — began planning the project with Chris Herbert.

Herbert says, "Having done the Spice Girls a lot of people expected us to come back with another girl pop act this time, but we didn't. We did the boy thing with *Five*. To me it's not rocket science. We sat down and looked at the current crop of girl bands and thought everyone's been trying to change the girl group thing, with bands or gitters. It still works fine as long as you've got the right characters."

The girls, aged 15-19, were put together through auditions and are currently writing with unpublished singer/songwriter Allison Clarkson (formerly Betty Boo). Spice Girls collaborators Richard "Blitz" Stannard and Alan Price and Chris (Backstreet) Boys, Britney Spears) are understood to have expressed an interest in working with them.

"It's pure pop, but with a Sixties influence and a bubblegum glow. With Spice Girls the running theme was out-and-out hit songs and we learned you can jump in and out of different areas. But I'm not going to use any references to the Spice Girls from now on," adds Herbert.

Cowell, who is currently enjoying success with Westlife besides A&R'ing other projects from Mero to Gary Barlow, says only: "They are going to be the new girl band."

## "IN THEIR OWN WORDS..."

**ACT:** Gary Barlow  
**LABEL:** RCA  
**SINGLE/ALBUM:** Stronger/Stronger Now  
**RELEASED:** July 5/October 4

Ahead of his first new material since 1997's *Open Road*, Gary Barlow talks to Paul Williams about songwriting, changes at *Paul Williams* and interviews his single, *Stronger*, goes to radio this week ahead of its release on July 5.

"After seven years I felt I had to stop for a bit. I didn't feel I was moving forward and in a lot of ways it showed on the last album. I was starting more to listen to other people's opinions than my own and it was a very heavy A&R'ed album. I can't listen to that album. It was probably the most unsatisfactory piece of work I've ever done. The last year has been a great year for me. I feel I've written stuff on this album which is better than anything I've written before. Everyone has been new who I've worked with on it. Jon Douglas (George Michael, Eternal,

# Makes quits End to launch his own label

by Stephen Jones

Positive founder and EMI dance director Nick Halkes is leaving this week after six years to set up his own dance label with backing from the Ministry of Sound.

Also investing in the start-up, which has yet to be named, is a mystery investor, described only as "a leading software entrepreneur". Positive's head of A&R Kevin Robinson — who replaced Dave Lambert late last year when he left for AM-PM — has swiftly been promoted to take over as Positive's director by EMI:Chrysalis managing director Mark Collen.

Halkes declines to comment on the move beyond issuing a statement in which he says he wants to "compete with established players yet offer a much more flexible approach to increasingly sensitive areas such as licensing and international".

He adds, "I plan to continue having hits and building careers — the difference is that now I'll be doing it in a way that is even more in sync with the needs of the artists I'm working with."

Backing Halkes' new label is the latest move by MoS to develop its own A&R sources. The company has faced increasing difficulties in licensing material from the majors, who are opting to keep tracks for their own compilations rather than license them to a competitor.

In October MoS announced it was investing in Defected, the label launched this year



Halkes: going independent

by former AM-PM chief Simon Dunmore, and it also covers Dave Fiction's Azuli imprint.

MoS managing director Matt Jagger was unavailable for comment, but in a statement says, "We believe that being independent allows the freedom of mind and movement to realise your full potential and we are delighted to be helping Nick to do so."

Halkes, who originally worked at XL where he was involved in signing the Prodigy, has enjoyed critical and sales success at EMI with acts such as Reel-2-Real and Adam F. Positive has enjoyed success of late with DJ Sakin and particularly Vengaboys, whose the Party Album is still in the Top 30 after nine weeks having sold around 85,000 copies.

Robinson, who started the Additive label and signed Vengaboys, has worked up on the sales force, having joined EMI in 1990.

"It's refreshing now at RCA. It's very difficult being signed to a label when you've been there seven years. It's very easy just to become part of the furniture and it's been a joy to me seeing all these new people come in. They're just up for it. I feel it's like I'm back when Jeremy [Marsh] first took over and Take That began. It feels right."

"I love to write on my own but I've done three co-writes on this album — no covers this time. It was EMI Music Publishing's A&R director Sally Perryman who suggested Graham Gouldman. Just instantly it felt good. He opened up with the chords to Stronger (the first single) and I had already written the title, it came together so quickly."

"About a couple of years ago I did a song with Max Martin at Cheron and it was very much the big thing at the moment. I loved working with them, but I felt it was a little bit wrong for me. However it works. For All That 'You' Was is a hit record."

"As for the recent Sun interview, it's been a couple of years since I've done anything tabloid. At the end of the day what they printed was the truth, but to me I was a bit disappointed because it looks like I'm trying to be a naughty boy."



Barlow: upbeat about new material

Louise) played a big part on the album. He was a great find, not only as a producer but as a friend.

"We went with Simon Cowell at BMG for A&R. The best thing about Simon is he's really not been breathing on my toes at all. He's very much left me to do what I do. Richard (Griffiths, BMG UK chairman) really came on board when he heard Lie To Me, the second single. It's the best record on the album. It's the key to this record for me."

## newsfile

ANNUAL HOUSE GET NAME APPROVAL

Boltonhouse-signing *Animal House*, comprising former Ride members Mark Gardener and Lou Colbert and ex-Mystic member and Supergrass-producer Sam Williams, have been granted approval to use their name by Universal's US film division. The Band Register is credited with having helped negotiations, which have taken almost a year since it first looked like a name change would be necessary. Williams is currently producing their first independent EP — expected to include the tracks Animal, Sodium Glow and Essence — for release in July/August.

BANANARAMA GET BACK TO WORK

Banarama's Karen Woodward and Sara Dallin, who are working together on new demos in undisclosed London studios, having just hired Los Angeles-based Silletto Management. The girl group, whose last UK Top 40 hit was More More More with producer Mike Stock in March 1993, are currently without a deal but are already confirmed for support on Culture Club's December UK tour.

NEW HIT FOR DINAH CARROLL RELAUNCH

Dave Sears, who worked on Kareem Ramirez' Looking For Love, has mixed the radio edit of Dinah Carroll's forthcoming single, Without Love, set for release on July 12. Rhett Lawrence, who worked on most of her album, Canny (Lawrence Nelson) and Todd Terry all attempted edits before the right mix was found. As part of Carroll's relaunch she will now appear on First Avenue/Manifisto rather than First Avenue/Mercury as before.

METALHEAD! SYKES JOIN MUSHROOM

Adrian Sykes, who used to run Goldie's label Metalheadz and previously worked at MCA Records, has been appointed to an A&R role at Mushroom UK. Sykes will primarily work on Red Ant material following the labels' recent licensing deal with the US independent.

NW PLATIST



**K-Ci & Jolo — It's Real (MCA)** The brothers Haley deliver the goods on this cracking R&B set (album, June 21); **Merz — Many Weathers Apart (Epic)** (Epic) Still sounding totally unique (single, July 10); **Oswley — Love (Giant/RCA)** Tipped by *MW* after SaCW 1998, this is a must hear (album, tbc); **The Frames — Dance The Devil (ZTT)** An enthralling, chilled-out listen (album, tbc); **Reef + Sweetie (52)** Their best song since Place Your Hands (single, May 24); **Thunderbuds — Friends Forever (Epic)** More Divinyls than Bananas (single, August 10); **Raphael Saadiq & Q-Tip — Get Involved (Remix) (Ede)** — Germany adds flavour to this tone (single, May 31)

## Global Talent launches with McCabe

Global Talent Records, the label formed by David Forecast — tour physician to stars including Elton John and Michael Jackson — and former Capital Radio Group music assistant Ashley Tabor, launches next month after 18 months in development.

Forecast will serve as financial director while Tabor, who has also worked as Backstreet Boys assistant tour manager, will handle A&R and marketing for the acts Global manages or signs to its record label.

Former Music Innovations and Massive Management co-ordinator Laura Edwards has joined to oversee the group's management arm while Katherine Richmond, who worked at Ignition Management, is working as label manager.

The label's first release is Nothing by singer/songwriter du McCabe — who are described as being reminiscent of Ben Watt/Tracey Thorn — on June 14. The pair

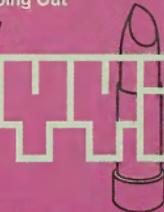


McCabe: first Global release

have been working in Metropolis with Gustavo Moratino and Nick Pugh after demoing with Squere's Chris Difford at his Heliconic Studios in Sussex.

Meanwhile Global's five-piece pop boy band, Northernline, start work with Herbie Critchlow (Backstreet Boys, Five) in Stockholm next week.

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If you have ever had the misfortune of being burgled and having your precious CD collection stolen, then chances are that retailer Music Zone Trade Direct has played an important role in replacing them. The northern retail chain has secured lucrative contracts with insurance companies to source titles that claimants need replacing, and it is now one of the country's biggest suppliers to this niche market.

Music Zone founder and managing director Russell Grainger prefers not to talk too much about this side of his business. In fact, he has traditionally kept a low profile about all the chain's activities. But his recent ambitious store opening programme has not only raised a few eyebrows within the independent retail sector, it is also establishing him as a retail player to watch.

Last year Music Zone opened two stores in prestigious locations: at the Trafford Centre in Manchester (the only other music retailer there is HMV), and on Glasgow's famous Sauchiehall Street. It has also begun trading in Burnley, Ecton and St Helens in the past year, and now has eight shops and almost 25,000sq ft of retail space in the North West and Scotland. Four more outlets – at Liverpool, Birkenhead, Bury and Edinburgh – will be trading by the autumn.

Along with "Now", which has grown from nine stores in 1994 to its current 54 outlets and is concentrating on opening more concessions this year plus outlets in Warner Studios in Lakeside and Glasgow, this makes Music Zone one of the most active indie retailers in the country.

A former Manchester club DJ and music market stall holder, Grainger opened the first Music Zone store in Stockport 15 years ago, before adding small shops in Wigan and Leigh. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Music Zone's most recent expansion at a time of economic uncertainty has aroused the curiosity of other retailers. "Grainger is bucking the trend in opening sites when things are tough for the independent sector,



Grainger: driving trade via the Trafford Centre car park bus

## Music Zone's man with a retail mission

yet he has the same overheads. How is he doing it?" asks one rival store owner.

Denying suggestions that he has received any outside investment, Grainger says he has spent more than two years planning the expansion, waiting until the company's corporate structure and finances were secure. Much of the credit for the company's strong financial position he attributes to financial director Michelle Baldwin, an accountant who joined four years ago.

According to Grainger, in the financial year to May 1996 turnover grew by 310%, followed by a 246% increase in the next 12 months and a further 149% to May 1998. The latest sales data is still being

calculated, but he is confident trade will have risen by a similar level. "Our turnover will be in excess of £20m by May 2000," he predicts.

During the next couple of years Music Zone will continue to open in small northern towns, which it perceives as being poorly served by music retailers, while meeting the multitudes head-on in large shopping complexes. Grainger's personal ambition is to open a store in his home town of Newcastle but he has no plans to open shops any further south than the Midlands.

The MD of another well-known independent chain says the trade should admire Grainger's confidence to expand at a time when music sales for most stores are

discouraging. He also notes that prime sites can become available on a reverse premiums basis whereby a landlord or retailer who wants to get out of a rental agreement offers to pay the first year's rent for whoever takes it over. This in turn can secure newcomers prime High Street locations and help to pay for shop fitting and stock in the first year.

However he is doing it, Grainger certainly has a maverick approach. Three years ago when he moved the Stockport shop to larger 4,000sq ft premises over three floors to handle admin and warehousing as well as retailing, the new site had no ground floor and no windows for displays. But although customers had to climb a flight of stairs to reach the shop, this had little impact on trade. The Glasgow site is also located upstairs.

Targeting the 25-plus age group – you are likely to hear Tony Bennett being played in-store – Music Zone focuses on mainstream music and video rather than seeking to cater to specialist tastes. It sells chart and back catalogue titles for between £9.99 and £10.99 and runs special promotions such as three-for-two offers on videos.

"Our prices are very competitive because we try to keep the same structure across all titles from chart to back catalogue. We do have promotions but the pricing is consistent. We do not, for example, use aggressive discount campaigns to entice people in to our stores," he says.

Meanwhile, the chain has signed a deal with a local cable TV company to run co-op ad campaigns with the majors, and has bought space on a giant billboard site outside the Trafford Centre.

Grainger discounts the possibility of selling the chain to a rival in the future, saying he is having too much fun in the moment. "I enjoy what I do. I have never worked for another music retailer and this has allowed me to think logically. I have made mistakes, but I have learned from them. I am still only 45 and I am on a mission," he says. **Steve Hemsley**

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# Music sales reflect wider slowdown

By Paul Gorman and Alan Jones

It may be of little consolation to music retailers coming to terms with the reality that the latest BPI trade delivery figures, which show the value of UK shipments slumping by 3.8% to £223m in the first quarter of this year. But their counterparts in other sectors, including many of those selling comparable leisure and entertainment goods, are not faring too well either. Even the historically rock-solid Marks & Spencer has succumbed to the gloom, announcing a significant profit fall for the first time in years last week.

According to the British Retail Consortium (BRC), UK High Street sales overall declined 4.6% from April 4 to May 1 this year, while the latest three-month moving average shows growth of just 2.1% between January and March and 0.5% between February and April.

HMV Europe managing director Brian McLaughlin says music has fared particularly badly. "Sales are flattish everywhere, and the BRC's 2.1% growth figure for the first three months of this year may not be brilliant, but it is still far better than music's fall of nearly 4%", he says. However, he is a firm believer in the importance of strong repertoire and is confident the situation will improve with the arrival of key new releases.

The BPI figures show fairly robust singles sales, which expanded 9.1% by volume and 0.5% by value year-on-year. Here the prevalence of boy bands and girl groups skewed singles buying to the younger age group, and helped cassettes (average price 78p) much more than CDs (£1.67) or 12-inch singles (£2.10), keeping the overall value low despite the increase in sales.

But it was a different story on album sales, which slumped by 8.7%. Though albums released in the last quarter of the previous year traditionally carry the market through the difficult first quarter, they are usually bolstered by some frontline releases which did not make it in time for the Christmas season. In 1998, the three biggest-selling first quarter new releases were James Horner's Titanic (£18,000 sales), Madonna's Ray of Light (£30,000) - both of which made the Top 10 for the quarter (see table) - and the Lionel Richie Christmas Truly (£26,000), which finished 12th. In contrast, in 1999 the only new release to make the Top 10 for the quarter was the Stereophones' Performance & Cocktails (£26,000) in eighth place, which was well ahead of Blur's 13 (£150,000 sales, 17th place) and Dionne Brandy's Sat. (£107,000 sales, 29th place) in the rankings.

While BPI statistics show album shipments slipping by 8.7%, sales data collected by CIN suggests a more genteel decline of just 2.8%, though the Top 10 albums were a mere 15.5% down on the previous year. Reasons for this disparity are hard to establish with any degree of accuracy, but one chain unofficially admits to reducing its inventory by more than 8%, while the strength of the pound makes parallel imports - which are not included in trade delivery figures - an increasingly popular alternative to UK-sourced albums.

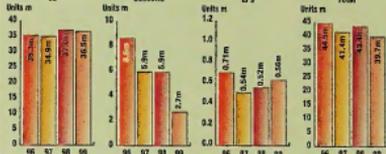
One dealer notes that almost all frontline albums can be picked up from importers for £7.95 within a week of their UK release, often at prices of more than £3, while mid-price releases offered at £5.55 by UK companies are usually priced at £3.95 by importers. Another dealer has a simple explanation for the decline. "Let's face it," he says "we were spoilt last year. We had massive albums by The Verve, Robbie Williams and Celine Dion which carried on selling through the quarter, bolstered by the unexpected success of Titanic and a new Madonna album. This year, it's mostly bread and butter stuff."

Two points to note that many customers are holding back from buying new releases, aware that in the current ultra-competitive

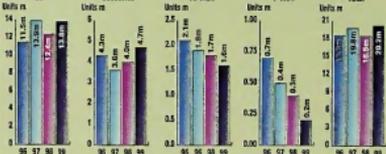
## HOW 1999'S FIRST QUARTER TRADE DELIVERIES SHAPED UP



TOTAL VALUE = £193.2m  
FIRST QUARTER ALBUM SALES



TOTAL VALUE = £30.1m  
FIRST QUARTER SINGLE SALES



Pie charts show value of first quarter trade deliveries. Bar charts show unit sales of formats during the first quarters of the past four years. Source: BPI

climate may of today's premium-priced releases will be heavily discounted sooner rather than later.

Retail analysts cite several external factors stoking overall consumer caution - recent interest rate cuts not benefiting UK retailing and the current situation in Kosovo, which was last week blamed by financial markets for another shares slide.

The ripple effect is being felt everywhere, although much evidence is anecdotal since it is difficult to obtain direct comparisons with other leisure goods because most sectors and their industry organisations do not report as quickly as the BPI.

Marketing intelligence company Mintel estimates sales of toys and non-computer games grew by just 0.6% last year despite the Yo-Yo fad adding £30m to the total market value of £1.66bn. Mintel estimates that sports clothing sales grew by 3.6% last year to £1.8bn with trainers recording their biggest ever share at 21.5% or £1.05bn.

"Retailing is going to be pretty flat for some time to come," warns Verdict director Mike Goddard. "The economy has been locked into a volatile cycle over the past 15 years but that looks to be evening out. About a year ago there were concerns as world markets crashed, but the fears of a recession were unfounded. However, everyone is still incredibly wary, and that looks set to continue for some time."

Verdict predicts that total UK retail sales will show unspectacular single digit growth for the next four years while music sales' annual growth will range from 3.6% to 4.7%.

### PERCENTAGE OF DELIVERIES BY PRICE CATEGORY (Units)

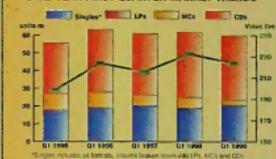
	Q1 97	Q1 98	Q1 99
Budget	13.3%	13.7%	14.7%
Mid Price	15.5%	16.3%	17.6%
Full Price	71.2%	70.0%	67.7%

### PERCENTAGE OF DELIVERIES BY PRICE CATEGORY (Value)

	Q1 97	Q1 98	Q1 99
Budget	8.2%	6.4%	7.5%
Mid Price	12.7%	12.6%	14.7%
Full Price	81.1%	81.0%	77.8%

Source: BPI

### FIVE-YEAR FIRST QUARTER MARKET TRENDS



### BIGGEST SELLING ALBUMS - Q1 1998

Rank	Artist/Album	Sales
1	URBAN HYMNS - The Verve	629,000
2	TITANIC - James Horner	518,000
3	LIFE THRU A LENS - Robbie Williams	469,000
4	LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE - Celine Dion	459,000
5	ALL SAINTS - All Saints	436,000
6	POSTCARDS FROM HEAVEN - Lighthouse Family	325,000
7	RAY OF LIGHT - Madonna	302,000
8	WHITE ON BLACK - Texas	246,000
9	FULL MOUTH - GSI	227,000
10	SPOOKWORLD - Spice Girls	218,000

### BIGGEST SELLING ALBUMS - Q1 1999

Rank	Artist/Album	Sales
1	TALK ON CORNERS - The Corrs	519,000
2	I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU - Robbie Williams	407,000
3	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY - Fatboy Slim	372,000
4	THE MISADVENTURE OF... Lauryn Hill	300,000
5	STEP ONE - Shaz	295,000
6	FORGIVEN NOT FORGOTTEN - The Corrs	276,000
7	LADIES & GENTLEMEN - Rest Of - George Michael	251,000
8	PERFORMANCE & COCKTAILS - Stereophones	225,000
9	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 42 - Various	220,000
10	THIS IS MY TRUTH... - Masc Street Preachers	214,000

Sales of computer games and software, however, are expected to buck the trend and jump by as much as 30% a year, while the home computer market is expected to grow by between 10% and 20% annually.

The bright future for new technologies and communication products can only add to the gloom felt by traditional music retailers. BMG worldwide chief Strauss Zellnick recently told a forum in New York that the market for online sales will grow from \$200m in 1998 to several billion

dollars within the next couple of years. Zellnick's caveat that "traditional retail isn't going away - people like to go out and shop" will provide some solace, while HMV's McLaughlin says the potential of MP3 and online sales has not yet been comprehended by the general consumer.

However, if music retailers are understandably exhibiting signs of pre-millennial tension, they are little different from most of their High Street neighbours in other sectors.

## Younger Younger 28's We're Going Out Now



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CD1 - featuring Valerie & Marry Man. CD2 - featuring the Mint Royale mixes. Limited edition sparkling pink vinyl 7"

TOP 75

Pos	Last	Title	Artist (Producer/Publisher)	Label	CD/Cass (Distributor)
1	NEW	<b>SWETS LIKE CHOCOLATE</b>	Cherise Bay/Pepco (EMI Langens/Motown)	EMI	7712
2	1	<b>YOU NEEDED ME</b>	Polydor 953332395324 (UK)		
3	2	<b>THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH</b>	Mercury 8700322/870034 (UK)		
4	NEW	<b>KISS ME</b>	Elektra E 37962/E 3796C (TEN)		
5	2	<b>LOOK AT ME</b>	EMI CEMJ 5427/CEM 542 (E)		
6	NEW	<b>SAID IT AGAIN</b>	EMI CEMJ 544/CEM 544 (E)		
7	4	<b>I WANT IT THAT WAY</b>	Jive 5523232/552324 (P)		
8	NEW	<b>I QUIT</b>	Columbia 6674072/667404 (UK)		
9	5	<b>NO SCRUBS</b>	LaFace/Arista 743216625/743216625A (BMG)		
10	NEW	<b>EVERY MORNING</b>	Low/Atlantic AT 00502/AT 0050C (TEN)		
11	NEW	<b>LIFT IT HIGH (ALL ABOUT BELIEF)</b>	Mercury/EMI 44400/44400A (DISC)		
12	7	<b>TURN AROUND</b>	Multiple COMUNITY 4/COMUNITY 4B (TEN)		
13	NEW	<b>DRIFTWOOD</b>	Independents ISO 23MS/ISO 23CS (TEN)		
14	NEW	<b>HATE ME NOW</b>	Columbia 6672555/6672554 (TEN)		
15	6	<b>SWETS IT AGAIN</b>	RCA 743921626/743921626A (BMG)		
16	3	<b>PICK A PART THAT'S NEW</b>	V2 VVR 500678/VVR 500675 (BMV)		
17	10	<b>CLOUD NUMBER 9</b>	A&M/Mercury 952645/952646A (UK)		
18	NEW	<b>HAPPINESS HAPPENING</b>	Marsory DJ MCA MCD505 1291 (MCA)		
19	7	<b>YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE</b>	MCA MCD505 4811 (UK)		
20	12	<b>RED ALERT</b>	XL Recordings XLS 1000C (V)		
21	NEW	<b>REMOTE CONTROLS MCS &amp; DJS</b>	Brand Ray/Atlantic CD05 812 (E)		
22	16	<b>PERFECT MOMENT</b>	Innocent SINC0 7130C 7 (E)		
23	8	<b>PRIVATE NUMBER</b>	Virgin VSD01 7130C 1730 (E)		
24	11	<b>BABY ONE MORE TIME</b>	Jive 5523232/552324 (P)		
25	14	<b>WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB?</b>	Columbia 6673545/6673544 (TEN)		
26	6	<b>THANK ABBIE FOR THE MUSIC</b>	Epic ABCD 1/ABC 1 (TEN)		
27	13	<b>WHAT YOU NEED</b>	Defected DEFECT 005/DEFECT 005C (DMV)		
28	NEW	<b>ON MY WAY</b>	Multiple COMUNITY 5/COMUNITY 5A (TEN)		
29	19	<b>BIG LOVE</b>	Essential Records ESCD 4/ESMC 4 (E)		
30	2	<b>WITCH DOCTOR</b>	Rev/EMI TQDND 17000 1 (E)		
31	3	<b>RIGHTS HERE RIGHT NOW</b>	Skint SKINT 46C/SKINT 46MC (BMV)		
32	2	<b>DAYZ LIKE THAT</b>	Wilderstar TWL15 13CA/WL15 15 (TEN)		
33	3	<b>SECRETLY</b>	Virgin VSD01 7130C 1732 (E)		
34	25	<b>IN OUR LIFETIME</b>	Mercury MERGD 517/MERGD 517U (TEN)		
35	2	<b>(NOT) THE GREATEST RAPPER</b>	Elektra E 37962/E 3796C (TEN)		
36	NEW	<b>IS THIS MY TIME</b>	Creation CRESC3 313/CRESC3 313 (BMV)		
37	11	<b>NORTHERN LIPS</b>	Creation CRESC3 314/CRESC3 314 (BMV)		

Pos	Last	Title	Artist (Producer/Publisher)	Label	CD/Cass (Distributor)
38	NEW	<b>WE ARE DA CLICK</b>	Hir FCD 361/FC3 361X (FX 363 UK)		
39	3	<b>MY NAME IS</b>	Intarscopo/Polydor INT 95363/INT 95363 (P)		
40	28	<b>WHAT'S IT GONNA BE</b>	Elektra E3762 CD/E3762 C/A (E-TEN)		
41	18	<b>IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY</b>	Arista 743216625/743216625A (BMG)		
42	NEW	<b>HURT ME</b>	Mercury 5739152/5739152 (UK)		
43	5	<b>BYE BYE BABY</b>	Virgin D1927/61927/2324 (TEN)		
44	2	<b>SHOWER YOUR LOVE</b>	Columbia KULA 232C/KULA 232C (TEN)		
45	NEW	<b>BE THERE</b>	Duffy Free DF 0900C (V)		
46	3	<b>FEELING FOR YOU</b>	Virgin D1928 18/D1928 18 (TEN)		
47	15	<b>BETTER BE FORGOTTEN</b>	Jive 5519420/5519421 (P)		
48	16	<b>WHEN THE GOING GETS TUGH</b>	Polydor 5691932/5691924 (UK)		
49	3	<b>CARTE BLANCHE</b>	Positive CD71 110/CD71 110 (E)		
50	5	<b>FLAT BAY</b>	Comunications/PAS Recordings 140/CDUKV 104/MC 10 (UK)		
51	17	<b>WE LIKE TO PARTY (THE VENGABUS)</b>	Positive CD71 110/CD71 110 (E)		
52	2	<b>THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN</b>	London LOND 432/LOND 432 (UK)		
53	1	<b>BREAK UPS 2 MAKE UPS</b>	Def Jam 74007272-4/74007271 (UK)		
54	3	<b>TABOO</b>	WEA WEA 203C/WEA 203C (TEN)		
55	6	<b>LOVE OF A LIFETIME</b>	1st Avenue/Mercury HZC2D 31H/ZC2D 31 (UK)		
56	NEW	<b>SKIN</b>	Parlophone/Rhino Records CORYTHS 204 (E)		
57	NEW	<b>SWEEP THE TOON</b>	Sarja TOONCD 001/TOONMC 001 (BMG)		
58	2	<b>CLAP YOUR HANDS</b>	VC Recordings VCRD 49 (E)		
59	23	<b>HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY</b>	Jive 5519420/5519421 (P)		
60	5	<b>HONEY TO THE BEE</b>	Innocent SINC0 8/SINC 8 (E)		
61	NEW	<b>I'M TELLIN YOU</b>	Cleveland City CORD 1300C/3 (MCA/7EN)		
62	2	<b>OPUS 40</b>	V2 VVR 500678/VVR 500675 (BMV)		
63	2	<b>CARROT ROY</b>	Domino RUG 900C/D (E)		
64	4	<b>BEAT MAMA</b>	Polydor 6639920/6639924 (UK)		
65	8	<b>DEAD FROM THE WAIST DOWN</b>	Rhino Y Negro NEG 152/CINE (TEN)		
66	5	<b>FLOWERZ</b>	Hir FCD 361/FC3 361X (FX 363 UK)		
67	2	<b>JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH</b>	AWP/Parlophone 12V1/12V2PM 12V1 (UK)		
68	2	<b>PHUTURE 2000</b>	Worldwide/Universal/EMI 001715 CDX (P)		
69	NEW	<b>LEAN ON ME (WITH THE FAMILY)</b>	Epic 6671326/6671324 (TEN)		
70	5	<b>BRING IN MY FAMILY</b>	Chesky/Chesky CD35 (MCA/7EN)		
71	3	<b>HUMAN</b>	WEA WEA 203C/WEA 203C (TEN)		
72	16	<b>GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND</b>	Intarscopo/Polydor INT 95460/INT 95460 (V)		
73	RE	<b>JUST LOOKING</b>	V2 VVR 500678/VVR 500675 (BMV)		
74	RE	<b>BE ALONE NO MORE (REMIX)</b>	Nonwestside 102/102/102/102 (BMV)		
75	2	<b>(SPM) TILL I COME</b>	Cub Clubs TUC 66066 (Import)		

Pos	Title	Artist
1	SWETS LIKE CHOCOLATE	Cherise Bay
2	YOU NEEDED ME	Cherise Bay
3	THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH	Cherise Bay
4	KISS ME	Cherise Bay
5	LOOK AT ME	Cherise Bay
6	SAID IT AGAIN	Cherise Bay
7	I WANT IT THAT WAY	Cherise Bay
8	I QUIT	Cherise Bay
9	NO SCRUBS	Cherise Bay
10	EVERY MORNING	Cherise Bay
11	LIFT IT HIGH (ALL ABOUT BELIEF)	Cherise Bay
12	TURN AROUND	Cherise Bay
13	DRIFTWOOD	Cherise Bay
14	HATE ME NOW	Cherise Bay
15	SWETS IT AGAIN	Cherise Bay
16	PICK A PART THAT'S NEW	Cherise Bay
17	CLOUD NUMBER 9	Cherise Bay
18	HAPPINESS HAPPENING	Cherise Bay
19	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE	Cherise Bay
20	RED ALERT	Cherise Bay
21	REMOTE CONTROLS MCS & DJS	Cherise Bay
22	PERFECT MOMENT	Cherise Bay
23	PRIVATE NUMBER	Cherise Bay
24	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Cherise Bay
25	WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB?	Cherise Bay
26	THANK ABBIE FOR THE MUSIC	Cherise Bay
27	WHAT YOU NEED	Cherise Bay
28	ON MY WAY	Cherise Bay
29	BIG LOVE	Cherise Bay
30	WITCH DOCTOR	Cherise Bay
31	RIGHTS HERE RIGHT NOW	Cherise Bay
32	DAYZ LIKE THAT	Cherise Bay
33	SECRETLY	Cherise Bay
34	IN OUR LIFETIME	Cherise Bay
35	(NOT) THE GREATEST RAPPER	Cherise Bay
36	IS THIS MY TIME	Cherise Bay
37	NORTHERN LIPS	Cherise Bay
38	WE ARE DA CLICK	Cherise Bay
39	MY NAME IS	Cherise Bay
40	WHAT'S IT GONNA BE	Cherise Bay
41	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Cherise Bay
42	HURT ME	Cherise Bay
43	BYE BYE BABY	Cherise Bay
44	SHOWER YOUR LOVE	Cherise Bay
45	BE THERE	Cherise Bay
46	FEELING FOR YOU	Cherise Bay
47	BETTER BE FORGOTTEN	Cherise Bay
48	WHEN THE GOING GETS TUGH	Cherise Bay
49	CARTE BLANCHE	Cherise Bay
50	FLAT BAY	Cherise Bay
51	WE LIKE TO PARTY (THE VENGABUS)	Cherise Bay
52	THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN	Cherise Bay
53	BREAK UPS 2 MAKE UPS	Cherise Bay
54	TABOO	Cherise Bay
55	LOVE OF A LIFETIME	Cherise Bay
56	SKIN	Cherise Bay
57	SWEEP THE TOON	Cherise Bay
58	CLAP YOUR HANDS	Cherise Bay
59	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	Cherise Bay
60	HONEY TO THE BEE	Cherise Bay
61	I'M TELLIN YOU	Cherise Bay
62	OPUS 40	Cherise Bay
63	CARROT ROY	Cherise Bay
64	BEAT MAMA	Cherise Bay
65	DEAD FROM THE WAIST DOWN	Cherise Bay
66	FLOWERZ	Cherise Bay
67	JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH	Cherise Bay
68	PHUTURE 2000	Cherise Bay
69	LEAN ON ME (WITH THE FAMILY)	Cherise Bay
70	BRING IN MY FAMILY	Cherise Bay
71	HUMAN	Cherise Bay
72	GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND	Cherise Bay
73	JUST LOOKING	Cherise Bay
74	BE ALONE NO MORE (REMIX)	Cherise Bay
75	(SPM) TILL I COME	Cherise Bay

As used by Top Of The Pops and Radio One



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# CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



## SINGLE FACTFILE

Sweet Little Chocolate by Shanks & Bigfoot debuts at number one after selling more than 251,000 copies last week to become the second number one on Zomba's Pepper imprint. It does so a year to the week after the first, The Tamperer's Feel It. Sweet Little Chocolate was first released on a limited edition, chocolate coloured 12-inch last December by the Chocolate Boy label, before being licensed to Zomba. The

publicity-shy Shanks & Bigfoot previously charted as Doolally, reaching number 20 last November with Straight From The Heart. Their real identities are a closely-guarded secret, though their surnames are Langsman and Meade, while lead vocals on both Straight From The Heart and Sweet Little Chocolate are performed by Shanks & Bigfoot. Sweet Little Chocolate is the fourth number one of 1999 for the Zomba group of labels.

Grade duo Shanks & Bigfoot's Sweet Little Chocolate makes its anticipated debut at number one after selling 251,000 copies last week, the highest weekly sale attained by any record since fellow Zomba signing Britney Spears' ...Baby One More Time sold nearly 464,000 on its February debut. Sweet Little Chocolate sold more than 74,000 copies on its first day in the shops, and continued to sell at a fierce pace throughout the week, eventually outselling the number two single — Boyzone's You Needed Me — by a margin of more than three to one.

Though their principals have charted before as Doolally, Sweet Little Chocolate is the first hit under the Shanks & Bigfoot name. With the three other highest new entries to the chart being Sixpence None The Richer's Kiss Me (number four), Say It Again by Precious (number six) and I Quit by Hepburn (number eight), the chart's four highest new entries are all by first time

## MARKET REPORT

### TOP 10 COMPANIES

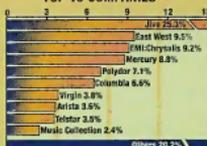
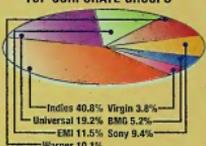


Figure shows top 10 companies by all sales since the Top 75, and excludes groups which are not first time on the Top 75.

### TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



## SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: +5.8%      YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: +3.0%

hitmakers for the first time ever. The fifth highest new entry is Every Morning by Sugar Ray. It debuts at number 10, significantly

## PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART

UK: 58.7%    US: 26.7%    Other: 14.7%

higher than the group's only prior chart record, Fly, which reached number 58 last year.

Another act enjoying their biggest hit to date are Travis. It is only their fourth top two since they made their chart debut with U16 Girls and they bag their seventh hit thus far this week, with Driftwood, which debuts at number 13, narrowly beating their previous best, the number 14 peak of their last single Writing To Reach You in March.

Veteran chart star Lulu makes her first appearance for four years, but narrowly misses the Top 40 with Hurt Me So Bad, which debuts at number 42. Released on Elton John's reactivated Rocket label, it is the 24th hit in total. These hits have accumulated in a little over 35 years and have been spread around 10 labels — more than any other artist.

Precious represent the United Kingdom at the Eurovision Song Contest in Israel next week with Say It Again already number six. Its high-bid debut instantly beats the number 15 peak scaled by last year's Euro entry, Insan't Where Are You.

## INDEPENDENT SINGLES

Pos	Title	Artist	Label (week total)
1	SWEET LITTLE CHOCOLATE	Shanks & Bigfoot	Chocolate Boy/Pepper 053032 (P)
2	I WANT IT THAT WAY	Backstreet Boys	Avicore 052232 (P)
3	LIFT IT HIGH (ALL ABOUT BELIEF)	1950 Manchester United Squad	Musik Collection MANUCO 4 (DISC)
4	RED ALERT	Bastemen Jaxx	XL Recordings XLS 100C02 (V)
5	PICK A PART THAT'S NEW	Stoneshipones	V2 VVR 500678 (DMW/P)
6	THIS IS MY TIME	3 Colours Red	Creation CRESCD 313X (DMW/V)
7	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	June 052752 (P)
8	BIGGEST HERE RIGHT NOW	Felony Slim	SKIN SKANT 842C (DMW/P)
9	NORTHERN LITES	Super Furry Animals	Creation CRESCD 314 (DMW/V)
10	BE THERE	Til Paul	Duty Free DF 006C (V)
11	OPUS 40	Mercury Rev	V2 VVR 500693 (P)
12	CARROT ROPE	Pavement	Domino DMO 90C01 (V)
13	PHUTURE 2000	Carl Cox	Worldwide Ultimatum/Esol 090175 (COX P)
14	FLAT BEAT	Mr Ooz	F Communications/PIAS Recordings F 104C (UK V)
15	PEARL RIVER	Johnny Shaker	Low Sense SESLSCD 24 (V)
16	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	Steps	June 051914 (P)
17	ROCK	DJ Spinn	Rainbow PCDS 5343 (P)
18	BETTER BEST FORGOTTEN	Steps	June 051921 (P)
19	CHANGES	2 Pac	June 052832 (P)
20	INVISIBLE	Titi	Hoe! Chooses HOOL 73C02 (V)

All charts © CMI

to hear the chart hot-off-the-press on Monday morning, call 0891 505290, calls cost 50p/min

## PEPSI Chart

Pos	Title	Artist	Label
1	SWEET LITTLE CHOCOLATE	Shanks & Bigfoot	Chocolate Boy/Pepper
2	I WANT IT THAT WAY	Backstreet Boys	Avicore
3	LIFT IT HIGH (ALL ABOUT BELIEF)	1950 Manchester United Squad	Musik Collection
4	RED ALERT	Bastemen Jaxx	XL Recordings
5	PICK A PART THAT'S NEW	Stoneshipones	V2
6	THIS IS MY TIME	3 Colours Red	Creation
7	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	June
8	BIGGEST HERE RIGHT NOW	Felony Slim	SKIN SKANT
9	NORTHERN LITES	Super Furry Animals	Creation
10	BE THERE	Til Paul	Duty Free
11	OPUS 40	Mercury Rev	V2
12	CARROT ROPE	Pavement	Domino
13	PHUTURE 2000	Carl Cox	Worldwide Ultimatum/Esol
14	FLAT BEAT	Mr Ooz	F Communications/PIAS Recordings
15	PEARL RIVER	Johnny Shaker	Low Sense
16	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	Steps	June
17	ROCK	DJ Spinn	Rainbow
18	BETTER BEST FORGOTTEN	Steps	June
19	CHANGES	2 Pac	June
20	INVISIBLE	Titi	Hoe! Chooses

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1999

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the essential guide to who's who in the music industry



29 MAY 1999

# CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



Abba's Gold – Greatest Hits is back on top of the album chart, and the 70,000 copies it sold last week represent its biggest weekly sale since shortly after its release in 1992. It is not the only Abba album to benefit from the screening of the Abba Story documentary, with the Love Stories compilation jumping 185-104, the double package containing Gold and the follow-up Forever Gold re-entering the chart at number 145, and the Spectrum compilation The Music Still Goes On returning to the top of the budget chart. The Music Still Goes On was the 60th biggest-selling album in the UK last week, but is excluded from the regular album chart because of its low dealer price. The Backstreet Boys also have a chart resurgence as their two previous albums were reissued last week. The first, entitled simply The Backstreet Boys, is number 82, while Backstreet's Back re-charts at number 53. The Backstreet Boys has sold 195,000 copies so far, while Backstreet's Back has

## MARKET REPORT

### TOP 10 COMPANIES



Figures show the share of the UK's total sales and copies of new titles, of the Top 10 labels.

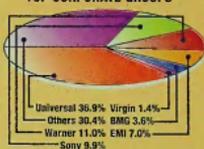
### SALES UPDATE



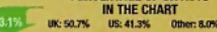
topped the 640,000 mark.

Kenny Rogers' All The Hits & All New Love Songs – as its title suggests a collection of

### TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



### PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART



classic recordings and new tracks – makes a surprisingly strong debut this week, entering the chart at number 14. The last time the

## ALBUM FACTFILE

Two years ago, the Backstreet Boys' Backstreet's Back album missed out on the number one position by a slender margin, failing to dethrone Texas' White On Blonde album. Fears that Texas' latest album The Hush – which debuted at number one last week – would similarly frustrate the Backstreet Boys' latest, Millennium, were unfounded, with The Hush selling 42,000 copies last week, while Millennium debuted with

59,000 sales – but it still wasn't enough to give the BSBs their first number one, as they were unfortunate enough to come up against Abba's Gold in resurgent mood. Gold increased its sales week-on-week by 11.3% to nearly 70,000 last week to seal its return to the chart summit, benefitting primarily from the screening of the ITV documentary The Abba Story, which pulled in a huge 10.2m audience.

veteran country singer, now 60, charted higher was back in 1985, when the Kenny Rogers Story reached number four, giving him the most successful album of his career.

Despite widespread acclaim, Cast are still waiting for their first number one album. Their 1995 debut, All Change peaked at number seven, while 1997's Mother Nature Calls peaked at number three. Glowing reviews for their third album, Magic Hour, suggested it might be the one to finally give them that deserved number one, so its debut this week at number six, with sales of a little over 12,000 – Cast eventually hit platinum with their first two albums – is a little disappointing.

Fatboy Slim's You've Come A Long Way, Baby will today (Monday) become the second biggest selling artist album of the year. By the end of the week, it will top the 500,000 sales mark for 1999, being beaten only by The Corrs' Talk On Corners, which has sold 642,000 copies thus far this year.

## COMPILATIONS

The battle of the trance compilations was, perhaps unexpectedly, resolved in favour of the Ministry Of Sound's latest, Trance Nation, which debuts at number one this week, ahead of Teatar's similarly themed Deeper – Euphoria. Trance Nation sold a little over 40,000 copies last week, while Deeper – Euphoria topped the 30,000 mark. Their simultaneous release had a huge impact on the three week old Transformer compilation, from Virgin/EMI, which slipped 4-6 as a result. The original Euphoria album has sold more than 220,000 copies since its release 17 weeks ago, enough to make it the second biggest selling compilation of the year, behind Now That's What I Call Music! 42. The latter album tumbles 1-4 this week, losing its grip on the compilation chart summit after a

seven week residency. It sold a further 21,000 copies last week, to take its tally so far to more than 612,000.

Motown compilations always do good business, and the latest – Dancing In The Street – is no exception to that rule, debuting at number 13 this week. The album, a double, features 43 cuts, among them classic fare such as Standing In The Shadows Of Love by the Four Tops, Stop In The Name Of Love by Diana Ross & The Supremes and The Tears Of A Clown by Smokey Robinson & The Miracles. The publicity it generated has helped Motown back catalogue too, notably the Motown Charbusters – Volume 3 album, a doublet its sales last week, and would be in the Top 50 of the compilation chart were it not a budget release.

## MARKET REPORT

### TOP 10 COMPANIES

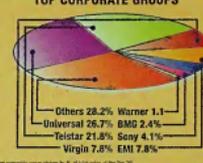


Figures show the share of the UK's total sales and copies of new titles, of the Top 10 labels and corporate groups, by % of UK sales of the Top 10.

### SALES UPDATE



### TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



### COMPILATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

Artist albums: 74.1%  
Compilations: 25.9%

## INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (Distribution)
1	NEW	MILLENNIUM	Backstreet Boys	Jive 952022 (P)
2	1	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	Stereophonics	V2 VWR 100438 (CM/PI)
3	2	REMEDY	Basement Jaxx	XL Recordings XLCD 125 (V)
4	3	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Fatboy Slim	Sirius BRASSIC 11CD (CM/PI)
5	4	HEAD MUSIC	Sade	Nude NUDE 1404 (CM/PI)
6	NEW	PLAY	Moby	Mute COSTUMM 17 (V)
7	5	WORD GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VWR 100438 (CM/PI)
8	7	BIG CALL IN BECK	Melanie C	Indochina ZEN 0120X (P)
9	8	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 952172 (P)
10	6	STEP ONE	Sevin	Jive 951912 (P)
11	12	GARBAGE	Garbage	Mushroom D 31450 (CM/PI)
12	11	DEFINITELY MAYBE	Oasis	Creation CRECD 189 (CM/PI)
13	13	VERSION 2.0	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH 2620 (CM/PI)
14	18	FIN DE SECLE	The Divine Comedy	Savane SETCD 052 (V)
15	9	DESKERT'S SONGS	Mercury Row	V2 VWR 100392 (CM/PI)
16	10	MUSIC VARIATIONS	Tom Waits	Epitaph 65472 (P)
17	14	WHAT'S THE STORY MORNING GLORY? Oasis	Creation CRECD 189 (CM/PI)	
18	15	GREATEST HITS	2Pac	Jive 952662 (P)
19	16	BEACUP FISH	Underworld	JBD JBD 105432 (CM/PI)
20	NEW	HELLDORADO	WASP	Sappier Music SMACD 818 (P)

## THE YEAR SO FAR... TOP 20 ALBUMS

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label
1	1	TALK ON CORNERS	THE CORRS	143/WARLANT/ACT
2	2	I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
3	3	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	FATBOY SLIM	SKINT
4	NEW	GOLD – GREATEST HITS	ABBA	POLYDOR
5	4	FORGIVEN, NOT FORGOTTEN	THE CORRS	143/WARLANT/ACT
6	5	STEP ONE	STEPS	EBL/JIVE
7	6	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	STEREPHONICS	V2
8	8	THE MISADVENTURES OF LAURIN HILL	LAURIN HILL	COLUMBIA
9	7	LADIES & GENTLEMEN – THE BEST OF	GEORGE MICHAEL	EMPIA
10	10	THIS IS MY TRUTH TELL ME YOURS	MANIC STREET PREACHERS	COLUMBIA
11	11	RAY OF LIGHT	MADONNA	MAVERICK
12	12	GRAN TURISMO	THE CARDIGANS	STOCKHOLM/POLYDOR
13	13	WHERE WE BELONG	BOYZONE	POLYDOR
14	14	LIFE THRU A LENS	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
15	15	13	BLUR	EGG/ARCADE/PHONE
16	16	BELIEVE	CHER	WEA
17	17	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	WHITNEY HOUSTON	ARISTA
18	18	BABY ONE MORE TIME	BRITNEY SPEARS	JIVE
19	19	EQUALITY CORDED AND BLESSED	CANTORINA	BLANCO Y NEGRO
20	20	AMERICANA	THE OFFSPRING	COLUMBIA

© NIP. Last weeks represent the chart placing from the last published issue for all above chart.

29  
may  
1999

# THE OFFICIAL CHARTS

29  
may  
1999

WV  
music week

AS USED BY



TOP  
SIT  
POPS

# singles



## 1 SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE

Shanks & Bigfoot Chocolate Boy/Pepper

- 1 YOU NEEDED ME Boyzone Polydor
- 2 THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH Shantia Twain Mercury
- 3 KISS ME Sixpence None The Richer Elektra
- 4 LOOK AT ME Gert Halliwell! EMI
- 5 SAY IT AGAIN Precious EMI
- 6 I WANT IT THAT WAY Backstreet Boys Jive
- 7 I QUIT Hepburn Columbia
- 8 NO SCRUBS TLC LaFace/Arista
- 9 EVERY MORNING Sugar Ray Lava/Atlantic



- 11 LEFT HIGH ALL ABOUT BELIER The 1999 Manchester United Squad Music Collection
- 12 TURN AROUND Phats & Small Multiply
- 13 DRIFTWOOD Travis Independent
- 14 HATE ME NOW NAS feat. Puff Daddy RCA
- 15 SWEAR IT AGAIN Westlife Columbia
- 16 PICK A PART THAT'S NEW Stereophonics VZ
- 17 CLOUD NUMBER 9 Bryan Adams A&M/Mercury
- 18 HAPPINESS HAPPENING Lost Witness Ministry Of Sound
- 19 YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE New Radicals NCCA



WV  
music week

AS USED BY

BBC RADIO 1



## 1 GOLD - GREATEST HITS

- 1 MILLENNIMUM Backstreet Boys Jive
- 2 THE HUSH Texas Mercury
- 3 PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS Stereophonics VZ
- 4 YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY Fatboy Slim Skint
- 5 MAGIC HOUR Cast Polydor
- 6 TALK ON CORNERS The Corrs Atlantic
- 7 REMEDY Basement Jaxx XL Recordings
- 8 FANMAIL TLC LaFace/Arista
- 9 I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU Robbie Williams Chrysalis



- 11 EQUALLY CURSED AND BLESSED Catatonia Blanco Y Negro
- 12 GRAN TURISMO The Cardigans Stockholm Polydo
- 13 FORGIVEN, NOT FORGOTTEN The Corrs Atlantic
- 14 ALL THE HITS & ALL NEW LOVE SONGS Kenny Rogers EMI
- 15 BABY ONE MORE TIME Brinney Spears Jive/Ebu
- 16 STEP ONE Steps Jive/Ebu
- 17 ON A DAY LIKE TODAY Bryan Adams A&M/Mercury
- 18 MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE Whitney Houston Arista
- 19 STAR WARS - THE PHANTOM MENACE (OST) John Williams Sony Classical

**Jamiroquai**  
CANNED HEAT

THE NEW SINGLE 24.5.99

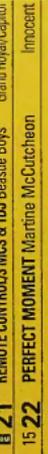
Available on CDs & Cassette  
Extra tracks & bonus video on CD  
& the exclusive new track 'Walk in Shoop Shoop'  
Available in the UK on 24.5.99  
© Jamiroquai



17 20 RED ALERT Basement Jaxx  
XL Recordings



21 REMOTE CONTROL M.C.S. & DJ Beasie Boys  
Grand Royal/Capitol



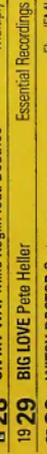
22 PERFECT MOMENT Martine McCutcheon  
Innocent



23 PRIVATE NUMBER 911  
Virgin



24 BABY ONE MORE TIME Brince Spears  
Jive



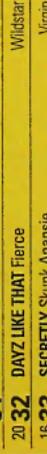
25 WHAT YOU DON'T YOU GET A JOB? The Offspring  
Columbia



26 THANK YOU Duane Harden/Detected  
Epic



27 WHAT YOU NEED Powerhouse feat. Duane Harden/Detected  
Epic



28 ON MY WAY Mike Koglin feat. Beatrice  
Multiply



29 BIG LOVE Pete Heller  
Essential Recordings



30 WITCH DOCTOR Cartoons  
Flex/EMI



31 RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW Fatboy Slim  
Skint



32 DAYZ LIKE THAT Fierce  
Wildstar



33 SECRETLY SKUNK Ananias  
Virgin



34 IN OUR LIFETIME Texas  
Mercury

# compilations

1 TRANCE NATION  
Ministry of Sound  
8 11 ESSENTIAL SOUNDTRACKS  
Telstar TV

2 DEEPER - EUPHORIA  
Telstar TV  
7 12 GALAXY WEEKEND  
Ministry of Sound

3 TOP OF THE POPS '99 - VOLUME ONE  
BBC/Universal TV  
13 DANCING IN THE STREET  
Universal TV

4 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC '02  
EMI/Virgin/Universal  
10 14 LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (JST)  
Island

5 KISS CLUBLIFE  
Universal TV  
13 15 DANCE NATION SIX - BILL PAUL & BUCK  
Ministry of Sound

6 TRANCEFORMER  
Virgin/EMI  
11 16 THE BEST HOUSE ANTHEMS...EVER!  
Virgin/EMI

7 NEW HITS '99  
warnermusic/global TV/Sony TV  
12 17 GATECRASHER RED  
Innovative

8 QUEER AS FOLK  
Almighty  
14 18 THE NEW SOUL ALBUM  
Columbia

9 21ST CENTURY ROCK  
Virgin/EMI  
15 19 THE VERY BEST OF LATIN JAZZ - 2  
Global Television

10 THE CHILLOUT ALBUM  
Telstar TV  
16 20 EUPHORIA  
Telstar TV

## SPECIALIST

29 MAY 1999

## MID-PRICE

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Cat No./Distributor)
1	1	DEFINITELY MAYBE	Orish	Crescent CRECD 181 (DMV/VP)
2	3	TRACY CHAPMAN	Tracy Chapman	Elektra 8506774 (TEN)
3	2	TODDNERG	Carbons	EMI 466924 (IE)
4	7	THE DOCK OF THE BAY	Orish Redding	Atlantic 95693170 (TEN)
5	NEW	SUNSHINE	Texas	Mercury 838712 (TEN)
6	6	GENERATION TERRORISTS	Manic Street Preachers	Columbia 471002 (TEN)
7	5	DOGGIE	Green Day	Reprise 8206322 (TEN)
8	NEW	A LIFE IN MUSIC	Dolly Parton	RCA 7422443 (BMG)
9	19	GREATEST HITS	Take That	NCA 743214256 (BMG)
10	12	REPLENISH	Reef	Sony 52 480382 (TEN)
11	4	FOUR SYMBOLS	Lad Zepplin	Atlantic 756762362 (TEN)
12	5	SCREAMADELICA	Primus Scream	Crescent CRECD 09 (DMV/VP)
13	17	THE COMPLETE STONE ROSES	The Stone Roses	Sienna 0822528 (IP)
14	NEW	THE VERY BEST OF	Lu Red	Candem 743216562 (BMG)
15	20	BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER	Simon And Garfunkel	Columbia 462482 (TEN)
16	NEW	THE BLUES BROTHERS (OST)	Various Artists	Warner Bros 756782782 (TEN)
17	15	GREATEST HITS	Bob Dylan	Columbia 4609079 (TEN)
18	NEW	THE BEST OF - THEMEDLOGY	John Barry	Columbia 460352 (TEN)
19	16	BROTHERS IN ARMS	Dixie Devils	Vertigo 82492 (U)
20	NEW	HOTEL CALIFORNIA	Eagles	Asylum K23551 (TEN)

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## COUNTRY

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Cat No./Distributor)
1	1	COME ON OVER	Shania Twain	Mercury 580002 (U)
2	2	TRAMPOLINE	The Mavericks	MCA Nashville UMD 9056 (BMG)
3	3	SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD	LeAnn Rimes	Curb/Nip Label/London 556022 (U)
4	4	WIDE OPEN SPACE	Dixie Dicks	Epic 484622 (TEN)
5	6	THE MOUNTAIN	Steve Earle	Grapevine SPACD 252 (BMG)
6	7	THE WOMAN IN ME	Shania Twain	Mercury 522862 (U)
7	5	HOW WILL ALWAYS WIN	Faith Hill	Warner Bros 82427312 (TEN)
8	8	TRIO II	Harris/Ronnie/Parson	Aylum 7595222 (TEN)
9	9	SONGS OF INSPIRATION LOVE SONGS	Darion O'Connell	Ritz RBZCD 715 (BMG)
10	10	MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS	Mavericks	MCA MCD 1134 (BMG)
11	12	SINGING WHITE FEMALE	Chely Wright	MCA Nashville MCD 3000 (U)
12	NEW	YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE	Lois Rimes	Curb/Nip Label CURCD 06 (BMG)
13	11	HUNGRY ANGEL	Dolly Parton	MCA Nashville UMD 9822 (U)
14	14	THE NEAREST TO PERFECT	Michael English	Ritz RBZCD009 (BMG)
15	15	FARMERS IN A CHANGING WORLD	Tractors	Arista Nashville 078218078 (BMG)
16	17	FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD	Charlie Landsborough	Ritz RBZCD 0045 (BMG)
17	18	SEVENTH	Garth Brooks	Capitol 65256 (IE)
18	19	LOVE SONGS	Kenny Rogers	Virgin KENYVCD 1 (IE)
20	16	WHAT I DESERVE	Kelly Willis	Rykodisc RCD 1068 (U)

© CN

## BUDGET

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Cat No./Distributor)
1	2	THE MUSIC STILL GOES ON	Abba	Spectrum 5511092 (U)
2	NEW	STRICTLY R&B	Various	Beechwood STRCD 06 (BMG/BMG)
3	NEW	STRICTLY IBIZA	Various	Beechwood STRCD 05 (BMG/BMG)
4	1	IBIZA TRAXX	Various	Columbia 488672 (Import)
5	NEW	UNTOUCHED GILLS EP	Various	Tony Tony 70191205 (4AD)
6	NEW	HARDCORE EXPLOSION	Various	Beechwood STRCD 08 (BMG/BMG)
7	7	THE BEST OF	Sneyhal M	Candem 743214581 (BMG)
8	9	THE COLLECTION	Michael Ball	Spectrum 5511112 (U)
9	5	THE BEST OF	Barbara Dickson	Epic 467392 (TEN)
10	4	MOTOWN CHARBSTROKS - VOLUME 3	Various	Spectrum 5541642 (TEN)

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## ROCK

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Cat No./Distributor)
1	1	AMERICA	The Dillinger	Columbia 491952 (TEN)
2	4	GARBAGE	Garbage	Mushroom D 31450 (GMP/VP)
3	2	BIDES	Reef	Sony 52 458282 (TEN)
4	3	POST MORGUE CHILL	Shark Amansi	Virgin CIVX 2081 (IE)
5	NEW	HILLBOROARD	WASP	Snapper Music SMOCD 818 (IP)
6	6	FOLLOW THE LEADER	Kum	Epic 451213 (TEN)
7	7	EXPERIENCE HENDRIX - THE BEST OF	Jimi Hendrix	Telstar TV TVCD 2345 (TEN)
8	5	NEVERMIND	Nirvana	Geffen DGCD 2462 (U)
9	9	BLOOD SUGAR SEX MAGIK	Rud Not Chii! Peppers	Warner Bros 783926812 (TEN)
10	NEW	APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION	Guns N' Roses	Geffen GFD 2044 (BMG)

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## R&amp;B SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No./Distributor
1	1	SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE	Shanks & Bigfoot	Chocolate Bay/Pepper 950350 (IP)
2	10	NO SCURDS	TLK	Lafayette/Arista 7432166052 (BMG)
3	NEW	HATE ME NOW	NAS feat. Puff Daddy	Columbia 667245 (TEN)
4	2	DAZZY LIKE THAT	Fierce	Widstar CDVHLD 19 (TEN)
5	4	WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?	Busta Rhymes feat. Janet	Elektra 51392021 (TEN)
6	17	BEYIE BAWDY	TI	Epic 6272171 (TEN)
7	7	MY NAME IS	Enman	Interscope/Polygram 60 5628 (U)
8	3	BREAK UPS 2 MAKE UPS	Method Man feat. D'Angelo	Def Jam 870271 (U)
9	5	TABOO	Clémex-Jai feat. Shola Ama	WEA WEA 20322 (TEN)
10	8	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Whitney Houston	Arista 7432154232 (BMG)
11	10	LOVE OF A LIFETIME	Honeycode	1st Avenue/Mercury 95493 (U)
12	9	SUPPIN'	DMX	Def Jam 870152 (U)
13	11	IT'S OVER	Rimes feat. Shaila Prospero	Columbia 6670126 (U)
14	18	CHANGES	J'Pac	Jive 052832 (IP)
15	15	GEORGY FORGY	Epic Benet feat. Faith Evans	Warner Bros W 4287 (TEN)
16	19	AS	George Michael & Mary J Blige	Epic 670122 (TEN)
17	12	GET ON IT	Phoebe Dee	Merca Records/MECK 1028 (IP)
18	21	YOU GOTTA BE	De'Vee	Dusted Sound/Sony 52 6669515 (U)
19	17	GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND	Blackstreet with Janet	Interscope/Polygram 60 5640 (U)
20	16	SECRET LOVE	Kelly Price	Island Black Music CD 729 (U)
21	13	SUPER BOWL SUNDAY	Donnasti	Almo Records TDM 413 (DMV/VP)
22	14	ALL NIGHT LONG	Faith Evans feat. Puff Daddy	Puff Daddy/Arista 7421185942 (BMG)
23	16	BE ALONE NO MORE (REMIX)	Another Level feat. Jay Z	Northwestside 7421185942 (BMG)
24	24	FUNK ON A ROLL	James Brown	Interno/Epic 6421073 (GMP/BMG)
25	22	EX-FACTOR	Luzmy Heli	Reflexious/Columbia 6666452 (TEN)
26	23	I STILL BELIEVE	Mariah Carey	Columbia 6670126 (U)
27	25	MY LOVE	Kela Le Roc	1st Avenue/Wild Card/Polygram 563812 (U)
28	26	MADE IT BACK 99	Beverly Knight	Parlophone Rhythm CDRHYTHS 18 (IE)
29	30	DR GREENGLASS	Cypress Hill	Columbia 6671202 (TEN)
30	28	RAW	Melky Sedick	MCA MCDST 4810 (U)

© CN. Compiled from data from a panel of independents and specialist multiples.

## DANCE SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No./Distributor
1	1	SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE	Shanks & Bigfoot	Chocolate Bay/Pepper 950350 (IP)
2	NEW	HAPPINESS HAPPING	Lit Wellness	Ministry Of Sound MDS 1201 (MVN)
3	NEW	REMOTE CONTROL M&S 10J	Bessie Bice	Grand Royal/Capitol 12C2, 812 (IE)
4	NEW	WE ARE DA CLICK	Da Click	4th FX 363 (U)
5	NEW	BE THERE	Tall Paul	Dusy Free DF 003 (U)
6	1	WHAT YOU NEED	Powerhouse feat. Duane Harden	Defected DEFECT 3 (DMV/TEN)
7	3	BIG LOU	Pete Heller	Essential Recordings ESX 4 (U)
8	2	CLAP YOUR HANDS	Camira	VC RECORDING VC17 49 (IE)
9	NEW	I KNOW	New Atlantic	3 Beat 187T418 (ADD)
10	NEW	ON MY WAY	Miki Kofin featuring Beatrice	Multiply TMMU15 (U)
11	11	PEARL RIVER	Johnny Shaker	Low Sense 125264 24 (U)
12	12	RED ALERT	James Jaxx	XL Recordings XL 100 (U)
13	NEW	FM TELL YOU HIS	Chubby Chucks feat. Kim Ruffin	Cleveland City CD 1395 (DMV/TEN)
14	5	CARTE BLANCHE	Veracocha	Positiva 12719 15 (IE)
15	NEW	SKIN	Charlotte	Parlophone Rhythm Series 12RH21M 20 (IE)
16	18	THE ANSWER	3 Spinits	Azuli AZNY 88 (U)
17	22	CHILD OF THE UNIVERSE	DJ Taucher	Positive 12AD 013 (U)
18	13	UNIVERSAL NATION	Push	Bonanz/Inferno TFRN 16 (MVN/TEN)
19	6	FEELING FOR YOU	Cassius	Virgin DMNST 181 (IE)
20	NEW	ROCK	DJ Spina	Bananas RHYTH 1081 (IP)

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## DANCE ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No./Distributor
1	1	REMEDY	Basement Jaxx	XL Recordings XLLP 1200X M 129 (U)
2	NEW	TRANCE NATION	Various	Ministry Of Sound -TNNM 1 (DMV/TEN)
3	NEW	PLAY	Moby	Muse STJUM 1292 (CD) 102 (U)
4	NEW	DESPER - EUPHORIA	Various	Telstar TV -TTM 100 172 (U)
5	NEW	FEAR OF FOLDS	Lamb	Fontana -F558214 (U)
6	4	A DAY IN THE LIFE	Eric Benet	Warner Bros -936247204 (TEN)
7	2	PURE SILK - THE ALBUM	Various	Pure Silk PURESDC 1 (CD/VP)
8	NEW	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	Whitney Houston	Arista -076219374 (BMG)
9	3	FARMAAL	TLC	Lafayette 730052051/730826554 (BMG)
10	NEW	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Fatboy Slim	Skint BRASSIC 111P (GMP/VP)

© CN

## MUSIC VIDEO

This	Last	Title	Label Cat. No.
1	3	ABBA Forever Gold	PolyGram Video 42562
2	23	BACKSTREET BOYS: A Night Out With	Video 021622
3	1	STEPS: The Video	Video 059175
4	2	THE MAREKCO Live At The Royal Albert Hall	Vol. 041030
5	1	THE ROLLING STONES: Bridges To Babylon Live	LC Video 590115
6	5	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Cats	PolyGram Video 47943
7	4	MARIAH CAREY: Around The World	SWN Columbia 501942
8	9	BOYZONE: Live - Where We Belong	Vol. 050603
9	6	UZ: The Best Of - 1980-1990	Vol. 051953
10	7	GEORGE MICHAEL: Ladies & Gentlemen - Best Of	SWN Epic 210652

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## CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES

While it has slipped to number 34 on the singles sales chart, Texas' In Our Lifetime retains its leadership of the airplay chart, increasing its audience from just under 80m to nearly 84m last week, despite declining slightly from its previous week's tally of 221.3 plays to 220.9. Bryan Adams' Cloud #9 and Shaggy's New The Richer's Kiss Me both make slightly smaller gains in audience, and continue to occupy second and third place. In Our Lifetime has now been number one for five weeks, equalling Texas' previous longest residency at number one, as posted by Say What! You. The introductory single from their 1997 album White On Blonde. In Our Lifetime currently has an audience of nearly 15m more than the number two single - a lead which gives them a 93% chance of remaining top next week, according to

● Bachelor Girl's debut single Buses And Trains is the fastest new add at Radio Two, with six plays, a total exceeded by only 15 other discs.  
● Two songs based on Stevie Wonder hits are competing for radio's attention. Will Smith's Wild Wild West - heavily sampling Sir Duke - jumps 65-34, while A Year of Pumps Off Mine's Just Round - derived

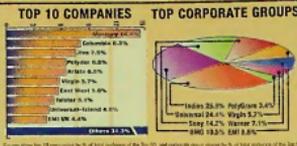
from Uptight (Outta Sight) - is just outside the Top 100, with Atlantic 252 giving greatest support (17 plays).  
● After registering the biggest increase in airplay of any record last week - to jump 25-11 - the Backstreet Boys' I Want It That Way slides to number 15, though it continues to add plays, improving from 1339 to 1522 detections this week.

previous chart patterns. Shania Twain's That Don't Impress Me Much catapults 19-9 this week, with a massive 70.8% increase in its audience. The main reason for its sudden explosion is that Radio Two has finally capped and put it into heavy rotation. A fortnight ago it was played just twice on the station, last week it received 19 spins. Fledgling country legends The Mavericks were even more blessed by Radio Two, and top the station's most-played list with 22 spins of their new single Someone Should Tell Her providing the main thrust for the record's 64-39 improvement on the airplay chart. Radio Two contributes a third of the record's total play and a massive 97.6% of its audience. The other 44 plays it received generated a total audience of just 392,000 compared to Radio Two's 16.1m. The highest new entry to the Top 50 this

week is the Chemical Brothers' Hey Boy Hey Girl, which jumps 58-27, though it would be in a sorry state without Radio One, which contributed 31 plays out of its grand total of 222 but more than 86% of its audience. The Chemical Brothers narrowly beat Madonna's Beautiful Stranger, which explodes from 66 to 25. Taken from the soundtrack to the movie The Spy Who Shagged Me, Beautiful Stranger received 24 plays from Radio One and even more from half a dozen ILR stations. Expect to see it make another giant leap next week, especially as dance stations will by now be in possession of the Victor Calderone remixes which were given their premiere on Kiss 100 on Friday night.  
The Stereophonics' biggest airplay hit by far, Pick A Part That's New, dips 9-14 this week, despite moving to the top of the Radio One list. It received 33 plays from the

station last week, one more than Shanks & Bigfoot's Sweet Like Chocolate. Radio One's exposure of the latter track help it to jump 13-9 on the airplay chart, while its debut atop the sales chart will doubtless push it into the Top 10 next week.  
With Superhero News The Richer, Sugar Ray, Shanks & Bigfoot and Heburn all now commercially released, the airplay chart returns to normal, with none of the Top 20 yet to hit the shops. The current champ among promos is Baz Luhrmann's Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen), which nevertheless slips 22-25. It is rare for a record to decline prior to release after making such a big impression, and it may just be that the novelty appeal of the single is already beginning to wear thin. Radio One is among those already scaling back support.

### AT A GLANCE WEEKLY MARKET SHARES



### MTV

Rank	Title/Artist
1	NO SCRUBS TLC
2	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE New Radicals
3	TURN AROUND Phish & Small
4	I WANT IT THAT WAY Backstreet Boys
5	SWEAR IT AGAIN Westlife
6	CANNED Heat Jamiroquai
7	RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW Fabray Slim
8	IN OUR LIFETIME Texas
9	HEY BOY HEY GIRL Chemical Brothers
10	YOU NEEDED ME Boyzone

Most played videos on MTV UK/Media Research Ltd w/e 21/5/99  
Source: MTV UK

### THE BOX

Rank	Title/Artist
1	I WANT IT THAT WAY Backstreet Boys
2	BRING IT ALL BACK S Club 7
3	SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE Shanks & Bigfoot
4	SOMETIMES RINôY Spears
5	BREATHE AGAIN Leif Ekkart
6	BOOM BOOM BOOM Don Vengaboys
7	LOOK AT ME Gert Halliwell
8	THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH Shania Twain
9	I OUI! Heburn
10	NO SCRUBS TLC

Most played videos on The Box w/e 16/5/99  
Source: The Box

### BOX BREAKERS

Rank	Title/Artist
1	VIVA LA RADIO Lolly
2	THIS IS MY TIME 3 Colours Red
3	DIEL OF THE FATES John Williams/PO
4	EVERYBODY'S FREE (TO WEAR SUNSCREEN) Baz Luhrmann
5	LEILANI Do You Want Me
6	DOO-DAR Cartoons
7	GOING OUT Younger Younger 28s
8	BE THE FIRST TO BELIEVE A
9	THE ANIMAL SOUND Savage Garden
10	TEARIN' UP MY HEART N Sync

Highest playing videos on the Box in advance of single release w/e 16/5/99  
Source: The Box

### TOP OF THE POPS

Performance: Sweet Like Chocolate Shanks & Bigfoot; Kiss Me Sapience News; The Richer's I Want It That Way Backstreet Boys; Say It Again Precious; I Quit Heburn; Morning Sugar Ray; Diffused Texas; Hate Me Now New feat. Puff Daddy; Happiness Happening Lou; Witness: Summer Soli Two

Draft line up 28/5/99

### RADIO ONE PLAYLISTS

**A-LIST** From The Heart Another Level; Red Alert; Eyewitness News; Hey Boy Hey Girl Chemical Brothers; Jilted Guy; Dust; Look At Me Gert Halliwell; I Quit Heburn; Canned Heat Jamiroquai; Beautiful Stranger Madonna; You Get What You Give New Radicals; Turn Around Phish & Small; Sweet Like Chocolate Shanks & Bigfoot; Kiss Me Sapience News; The Richer; Pick A Part That's New Stereophonics; Every Morning Sugar Ray; Pumping On My Stereo Subwoofers; In Our Lifetime Texas; No Scrubs TLC; Diffused Texas; Oh La La The Wisayats

**B-LIST** 13PM (LTM + CMT) ATE; I Want It That Way Backstreet Boys; Coffee & TV; Burn Your Needed Me Boyzone; Almost Don't Count Brian's; Saltwater Chalice; Seal Surfing Falloy Slim; You Look So Fine Garbage; Everything Is Everything Lauri Hill; My Love Is Your Love Whitney Houston; My Own Worst Enemy Lee; 'If I Stay My Love Jennifer Lopez; Happiness Happening Lou; Witness; Everybody's Free The Weas

**C-LIST** 23st Century Girls 21st Century Girls; Nonsense Me (Instrumental); Kiss 100 (Instrumental); All Or Nothing Chix; 'Sea Song; Innomia Feeder; 'Race For The Prize Fantasy; 'Ward Up Melanie G; Nothing To Decline Langer; 'Batter! Up My Heart N Sync; Scar Tissue Red Hot Chili Peppers; Sometimes RINôY Spears; Loose Louie The Three Animals; Where Are You Trappa

R1 playlists for week beginning 24/5/99  
\* Denotes additions

### MTV UK PLAYLISTS

**A-LIST** You Get What You Give New Radicals; Turn Around Phish & Small; In Our Lifetime Texas; No Scrubs TLC; Canned Heat Jamiroquai; I Want It That Way Backstreet Boys; Pick A Part That's New Stereophonics; Red Alert Basement Jaxx

**B-LIST** Every Morning Sugar Ray; You Needed Me Boyzone; Look At Me Gert Halliwell; Kiss Me Sapience News; The Richer; Strong/Milennium/Angels/Let Me Entertain You Robbie Williams; As George Michael & Mary J Blige; Cloud #9 Bryan Adams; Next That Greatest Ringer 1000s; Hey Boy Hey Girl Chemical Brothers; Pumping On My Stereo Subwoofers; Don So Long Jewel; New No Doubt; Sweet Like Chocolate Shanks & Bigfoot; Right Here Right Now Fabray Slim; Sussie A Agnès Westlife; My Love Is Your Love Whitney Houston

### CD:UK

Entire programme is taken up with a popumentary about four new guitar pop bands - Heburn, 21st Century Girls, The Moffatts and Head & Kne

Lineup 22/5/99

### RADIO TWO PLAYLISTS

**A-LIST** I Know My Love The Chiffons feat. The Moments; Bad Eyes Bruce Springsteen; That Don't Impress Me Much Shania Twain; Every Morning Sugar Ray; Kiss Me Sapience News; The Richer; Someone Should Tell Her The Mavericks; 'Joy Johnson; Little White Lies; Quiz; Say It Again Precious; Now That You've Gone Miles & The Mechanics

**B-LIST** 'Didn't I Warn You; Sometimes RINôY Spears; Hate Me So Bad Lou; You Needed Me Boyzone; Buses & Trains Bachelor Girl; In Our Lifetime Texas; Hey Boy Hey Girl Natalie Merchant; Canned Heat Jamiroquai; 'Queen Of Angels Mark News; Baby Don't You Break My Heart Soul World Shepherd

**C-LIST** Emotional Bonds (album) The Robbs; Motown Band; All Or Nothing Chix; Cloud #9 Bryan Adams; 'Nothing Hill (OST); Various; Nothing Is Real But The World; Human The Pretenders; 'I Will Remember You Sarah McLachlan; The Animal Sound Savage Garden; Diffused Texas; 'Hate On Tom Watts; Always The Same In Love Sarah Jory; New For You Station; 'Huggies Party Third World feat. Shaggy; Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen) Baz Luhrmann; Only Lonely Hoodie & The Bowfish

R2 playlists for week beginning 24/5/99  
\* Denotes additions and playlist promotions

### THE PEPSI CHART

Performance: Diffused Texas; Every Morning Sugar Ray; Sweet Like Chocolate Shanks & Bigfoot; I Quit Heburn

Draft line up 27/5/99



# SINGLE of the week

**MY LIFE STORY: It's a Girl Thing** (It Records TRDJ001). My Life Story's debut for Lord Lloyd-Webber's new It label is far and away the strongest song they have delivered so far. From the lyrics it would seem that the inspiration for 12 Reasons Why I Love You is history and no bad thing if this is the result — loveborn bitterness never sounded so sweet. Gone are

the pompous, over-egged arrangements of their previous Parlophone material, to be replaced instead with an infectious blend of Joe Jackson, Elvis Costello, Squeeze and XTC at their summertime best. They were reportedly writing with calling the album *Listen Without Prejudice II* — if programmers followed such instructions, this could be a hit to run and run in the summer. This could herald the return of the British rock star.



## SINGLE reviews



**RECOMMENDATION** BJÖRK: All Is

**LOVE (One Little Independent 2477FGD).**

Some might say that releasing a fifth single from an album almost two years old is pushing a label's luck, but this irresistible package more than makes up for such gripes. The stark electronic beauty of the original is complemented by mixes from Plaid, jzTz and Funkstörung, and all add an interesting new dimension to the song. CD3 also doubles as the first charitable DVD single, which allows the buyer to view the stunning video for the track — directed by Chris Cunningham — in which Björk is transformed into a robot. The buzz around the promo alone will ensure a respectable chart placing, although the track is unfortunately frustratingly short.

**RINGOISE: Machine Pour Les Oreilles (V2 VRS007253).** It's not easy blending house music, dub, disco and rock, but this French act have got it just about as right as one can hope for. The mix of styles impresses because the band know when to move from one to the other as precisely the right moment. Unfortunately, its four tracks make it non-eligible for the chart.

**SEBADOH: It's All You (Domino RUG89).** If proof were needed of the vibrancy of the alternative rock scene, then look no further than Sebadoh. Back with another better of a single after the Top 30 success of *Flame*, It's All You is all guitars, pounding drums and raw hooks. If Radio One backs the track in the same way that it supported *Flame*, It's All You stands a good chance of reaching the Top 40, but it should still sales of the band's album *The Sebadoh*.

**ALTAISTE: Higher (Curveball CURVE05CD).** This limited-edition release from the label set up by former Mushroom head of marketing Rob Jefferson is from one of the closest Oasis-sounding bands around. Both parties are undoubtedly capable of delivering much better.

**CORDUROY: Moshi Moshi (Big Cat ABS507353).** This big, brash soundtrack-style offering comes from south east London's Addison twins, who promise much but sadly don't ultimately deliver.



Reminiscent of a theme to an early Eighties British pop show, the track works better with the band's airy amusing video. Expect to hear this as background music to travel reports on the radio.

**INTERFERENCE: Wonderland (Electrically Enhanced/ffr FCD366).** Two of the more creative members of the eclectic fraternity deliver another helping of eclectic rhythms and grooves on the latest single taken from their self-titled album. The lively *Wonderland* comes in an array of cracking mixes that include jazz, house, breakbeat, salsa and samba influences. New school world music.

**CARTOONS: DooDah (EMI CDT005002).** Cartoons follow their successful debut single, the gold-selling *Witch Doctor*, with *DooDah*, another infuriatingly catchy pop-dance ditty based on the traditional song *Campana Races*. Although radio support for this Danish act is virtually non-existent, their fan-friendly image is a hit with the pre-teen market which is likely to push them into the Top 10 for the second time this year.

**TIMBALAND FEAT. JAY-Z: Lobster & Scrimp (Virgin DMS1018).** On this second single from Timbaland's debut album *Tim's Bio: Notes From Da Bassment*, he joins forces with hot hip hopper Jay-Z. Typically punchy beats and a deep bassline create the foundations for the duo's contrasting raps. Despite support in the clubs, it is yet to be picked up by the radio.

**TATYANA ALL: Everyday (Epic 6674472).** Following two Top 10 singles with *Daydreamin'* and *Boy You Knock Me Out*, this light mid-tempo swayer perhaps doesn't quite have the kick to make it a hit-track. Nevertheless, All is supporting the Backstreet Boys on their UK tour which should swell her fanbase ready for the re-promotion of her Kiss The Sky album.

**RECOMMENDATION** LIT: My Own Worst Enemy (RCA 74321 669992). The pre-release coverage of Lit's debut UK single has been enviable: a *Cracking* at MTV followed by a *Blazing* at Radio One in addition to being Jo Whaley's single of the week. It's unfortunate, therefore, that live appearances have been thin on the ground ahead of the release of this sparkling all-overdubbed production.

**RECOMMENDATION** CHICANE: Saltwater (Xtravaganza XCRV1CD5). The ever-prolific Nick Bragrodie returns with another massive club track, this time with the help of Mairé Brennan from Clannad on vocals. Production quality is typically top line, as the re-recorded *Hazy* Game sample provides the main hook, which is beautifully built upon a smoothly complicated arrangement that draws

everything together. Strong club support is highlighted by it entering *MW's* Club chart at number one a fortnight ago; Radio One has swiftly placed the track on its *Bliss*.

With a central riff that's reminiscent of Joan Jett's I Love Rock N'Roll and memorable chorus albeit a little too perfect for the tune, it already smacks of a top five track that might only go Top 20, although it beats The Offspring's *Smile* down.

**BRANDY: Almost Doesn't Count (Atlantic LC0121).** Brandy's third release from her Never-SAY Never album sees the US R&B star move into smoothy ballad territory. With its typically smooth production, Spanish guitars, lazy groove and Brandy's breathy vocals, *Almost Doesn't Count* could follow in the steps of her duet with Ma\$e, *Top Of The World*, which peaked at number two in the UK charts.

**RECOMMENDATION** NTI: Positive-ism (Epic XPDC225). NTI's first fully available single is a rolling blues/hip-hop hybrid that puts the Scottish-based band firmly on the map. The radio mix employs a simple chord loop over a rolling beat with Chris Potter's bluesy vocal delivery over the top. The choice of credible mixes from LA hip-hoppers Black Eyed Peas and London's very own Underdog will undoubtedly widen the appeal from the leftfield. The video is directed by Jake Scott of *Improvise Hurts* fame.



**RAE & CHRISTIAN: Swansong (For A Nation) (Grand Central NSC12CD5).** This third single from Rae & Christian's excellent Northern Sulphuric Soul album features the formidable vocal talents of Veta alongside a lush flute- and bassline-driven groove. Andy Weatherall's *Two Lone Swordsman* provide a leftfield riff, while the package also includes the more uptempo *Time To Shine*.

**RECOMMENDATION** SKENGA EP: Response (Response). With three tracks of dub-bassed music to choose from, the Skenga EP should suit all those reggae fans who like their music smoky and slow. The title track features the old school singjay vocals of Knati over a heavy digitised dub sound. There are also vocal chants from Froggy on *Do Right* which opts for a more Eastern-style vibe. However the dub versions, with their stripped-down beats, weird sound effects and all-enveloping bass, stand out.

**MINT ROYALE: From Rushmore With Love (Faith & Hope FHC005).** Best known for

their number two reworking of *Terraviva's* *Tequila*, this Manchester act are creating a buzz in their own right with this Indian-flavoured big beat single. There are echoes of Dave Nix's Sixties classic *Mather* (covered by Paul Weller and The Jam) in the star line, but the beefed-up beats should give the track dancefloor legs of its own. A session for Radio One's Steve Lamacq on the day of release should give a deserved boost to this rising act's profile.

**RECOMMENDATION** WITNESS: Witness (MCA CD749). Witness's third outing takes them further and further away from sounding like *The Verve*. Just like their Wigan compatriots, they take life seriously but that doesn't mean that they sound like Richard Ashcroft's recently dissolved band. Instead, *Witness* plunders Neil Young, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Nick Drake back catalogues for their appealing blend of rusty vocals and scratchy guitars.

**NEXT OF KIN: More Love (MCA MCA740207).** The Brantley brothers' follow-up to their Top 20 debut *24 Hours From You* is another three minutes of carefree harmonized pop. Surprisingly, although tailor-made for daytime radio, airplay support has been slow in coming, but their hectic TV schedule will ensure their target audience will not overlook them.

**RECOMMENDATION** TIM KEEGAN & DEPARTURE: Lounge: Out Of Her (Meek Giant

RECOMMENDATION MADONNA: Beautiful Stranger (Maverick W495CD). This new collaboration by Madonna and producer William Orbit is *Beautiful Stranger*, the first single from the Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me soundtrack. A contender for *MW's* single of the week, the specially-recorded track reflects the film's retro theme by eloquently mixing Sixties melodies with Orbit's Nineties technological know-how. Radio One put the track straight on its *Aliist* and *iLR* is furiously following suit.



**RECOMMENDATION** S CLUB 7: Bring It All Back (Polydor 561085Z). It's a tough week on the release front but this could be the debut of the year so far. Far more than a mere pop group, S Club 7 are a multi-faceted concept covering just about every area of youth entertainment. Their debut single arrives a full two months after the BBC's began assessing a TV series (June 7) featuring the band, while this thoroughly-planned project also takes in a website, sponsorship deals and much more besides. But that does not indicate a lack of attention to detail on the music itself: here manager Simon Fuller and Polydor boss Lucian Grainge have turned to a trio of proven songwriters — among them Spice Girls contributor Elliott Kennedy — to produce this fun-filled, uptempo pop outing, nursery rhyme-like in its approach and currently one of The Box's favourite tunes.

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## ALBUM reviews

**RECOMMENDATION** VARIOUS: Human Traffic: OST (ffr 556109Z). The soundtrack to *Human Traffic* — the most accurate club culture film

since *Flower Power*'s seminal *Weekend Update 1992* — features a wealth of dance heroes both past and present. Classics from *Primal Scream*, *Orbital* and *Public Enemy* are included alongside new tracks from *Underworld*, *Pete Heller* and *CJ Bullard*, whose showcase single from the film, *It's Gonna Be Me*, is out today. Overseas and combed by Pete Tong, this strong collection could well repeat the *Transporting* soundtrack's success and sell throughout the summer.

**RECOMMENDATION** TIM KEEGAN & DEPARTURE: Lounge: Out Of Her (Meek Giant

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the general standard of songwriting is high. The album's success in sales terms just depends on how many books have been put up by the type.

**MEEK003CD).** The debut album from what used to be known as Tim Keegan & The Homer Lounge. Out of Here is a beautiful collection of tunes. From the wry humour of Save Me From Happiness to the ebullient anthem of (We're Got) Everything We Need. Out of Here combines an understanding of the songwriter's art and a love of cracking tunes. The New You is all flute arpeggios and summery vibes and Stay on the Line has to be one of the better breakup songs yet recorded. An album to return to again and again.

**VARIOUS: Global Underground: Nick Warren - Budapest (Boxed GU011).** The Newcastle-based Boxed label keeps up its high quality standard with this double mix CD from DJ and Way Out West producer Nick Warren. Rather than focusing on obvious house hits, Warren makes a largely upfront selection of progressive house and trance tracks, including tunes by Danny Denzels, Breeder and Tilt. Warren's extensive DJing schedule should ensure it finds a wide audience.

**REGULAR FRIES: Accept The Signal (JBO JB01007502).** Despite being unlikely to sell in any high quantities, this debut album from the Regular Fries is sure to be a hit with many critics. The Junior Boys Own label clearly has signed the very best of the skunk rock outfits in the Fries. Tracks such as 'The Girls' elegantly-wasted electronics and Dream Lottery's hypnotic feel lift the album into Beta Band or Spiritualized territory but others — for example The Pink Room's reliance on texture over structure — miss the mark.

**PARADISE LOST: Host (EMI/Chrysalis 520672).** Paradise Lost's seventh album, Host, takes much of its influences from Depeche Mode circa Violator — especially on the opener So Much Is Lost — and spins it together with the group's own brand of dark, brooding metal sounds. Strong production values from Steve Lyon, responsible for recording The Cure and the Creatures among others, the record works surprisingly well, clichés notwithstanding.

**VARIOUS: Heavenly Live At The Social Volume Three (React REACTCD 152).** Mixed by Andy Weatherall and Richard

**GAY DAD: Lesirenoise (London CD551032).** The most shocking thing about this controversial five-piece's eagerly-anticipated debut album is how very respectful it is of all the classic rock 'n' roll reference points. Ten tracks, a Lou Reed song title here, an Eno-esque keyboard squiggle there — this is a pervasively conventional rock record with its feet planted just as firmly in the Seventies as anything by Ocean Colour Scene. That said, the choruses are big, the singles are excellent and the

Fearless, this double CD set is a top-notch foray into the worlds of deep and funky house, techno and electro. Weatherall goes the house route with some classic cuts from producers including Marshall Jefferson and Victor Simoneau. The marks men a little more quirky with the wonderful Chicks On Speed linking up with acts such as Primal Scream and Model 500.

**NATIONAL ANTHEMS 99 (Telstar TVYCD3052).** Mixed by the Ruff Drezzy, who has the same title as the Top 10 hit this year with Dreaming and La Musica, this house compilation features 37 of the latest in-demand dance tracks from acts such as Shanks & Bigfoot, Basement Jaxx, The Wiseguys and Underworld. Backed by Telstar's extensive TV ad campaign, it should see strong sales.

**SUGAR RAY: 14:59 (Atlantic 7567-83151-2).** Those that have been sufficiently impressed by the acoustic rock of Every Morning to send it into the Top 10, will find other easy-on-the-ear delights on this US Top 30 album, but they'll also discover a few surprises. The quartet take detours through hip hop, funk, hard rock and trash metal, taking the listener on a journey through the sounds of US alternative music. This may not be in tune with recent tastes, but anyone prepared to overcome their prejudice will be able to enjoy an album that stands up to repeat plays.

**OZOMATI: Ozomati (Almo Sounds ALMO561).** Fresh from their recent appearance on Later With Jools Holland, this LA-based hip-hop act release their debut album. Mixing rap, salsa, funk, dub and merengue, it's an entertaining melting-pot of sounds that stretches beyond the funky hip hop of singles Out Chemist Suite and Super Bowd Sunde to live percussion and Latin guitar. It should attract both fans of Latin rock acts such as Los Lobos and alternative hip-hop heads.

**JUNIOR DELGADO: Guns (Big Cat AB1007442).** Recorded in Jamaica and London with Adrian Sherwood and Skip McDonald, this wonderfully invigorating album by the roots veteran also features members of The Walkers and The Skatalites. So it's not surprising that Reasons has a



refreshingly straight-faced love song. Split On A Stranger, with Stephen Malkmus' vocals particularly strong throughout. The commercial portents are good, given that single Carrot Reeb debuted at number 27 last week, the band's highest singles chart position by far. Extensive press coverage and a generally high level of expectation should see Terror Twilight reach the Top 20.

very authentic reggae feel but there is also a strong dynamic to the production making it a very contemporary record too. The best Big Cat release in years.

**HOWE GELB: Hissr (V2 VYR1006302).** The hunt for the next Morisy Rev will no doubt reveal numerous septia-tentendlers. But perhaps the best will turn out to be former Giant Sand frontman Howe Gelb, whose Hissr album is an intimate collection of doodlings — sometimes folk, sometimes almost jazz, mostly just plain melancholic. It works because it creates an atmosphere that Gelb is able to maintain throughout its 22 tracks — a fact already picked up by some starting positive reviews.

**THE WISEGUYS: The Antidote (Wall Of Sound WALLCD020).** Taking the opportunity to capitalise on single Ooh La La (re-released today) which features on the Bushwicks' frogs' ad, The Wiseguys release their second album, originally released last September to a lukewarm reception. Never straying too far from their sample-heavy B-boy party formula, it struggles to sustain momentum for the duration and suffers somewhat from lack of invention. Ooh La La's impending chart appearance should, however, ensure last year's modest sales are improved upon.

**MEDAL: Drop Your Weapon (Polydor 5599022).** The debut album from this Oxford five-piece draws heavily from Floyd and The Verve. The latter comparison will serve them best in the current climate, and it is a head-to-head Medal come out of pretty well, imbuing their psychedelic freak-outs with rather more light and shade than the Wigan soap exerts. In any case, fans of the latter band should appreciate Drop Your Weapon, which features the singles Possibility and Up Here For Hours.

**PETIT VODO: Monom (Butcher's Wig SYRUP008CD).** When Sebastian Chevalier, aka Petit Vodo, says he is a one-man band, he means it. Playing guitar, drums,

harmonica, fiddling around with radio waves and singing is a bit of achievement, but doing all of them simultaneously marks this young Frenchman out as a truly talented individual. Mixing blues, bluegrass, hillbilly vibes and quite a lot of raucous punk rock, Monom is a revelation from start to finish. Think Beck meets The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion at a hillbilly hobo den and you're getting close to this remarkable album.

**THE LLAMA FARMERS: Dead Letter Census (Baggers Baggers DBQ12).** This promising bunch of young noisies have created a diverse debut which runs the gamut from the bright-eyed, pop epic of current single Get The Keys And Go to the Hüsker Du-mumps of Zorillo. The commercial potential depends entirely on the radio's inclination to pick up on a single, but it happened for Iliad.

**CITIZEN KING: Mobile Estates (Warner Bros 9362470232).** After weeks of heavy rotation on MTV in America, Citizen King's excellent debut single Better Days (And The Bottom Drops Out) is a high new entry to the US Hot 100 this week. It is a strange hybrid, combining old-fashioned rock values with modern beat-based savvy. The remainder of the album is equally eclectic, a quirky collage of samples and songs, with turnblist terrorism fighting it out against more traditional rock.

## Delayed releases

Releases previously reviewed in Music Week now set for release on June 7 (included): SHACK Comedy (London) (revised in May 22 issue) • BILLY CRAWFORD: Supernatural (V2) (May 22)

## Hear new releases

Audio clips from the releases marked with this icon can be heard on dotmusic at: [www.dotmusic.com/previews](http://www.dotmusic.com/previews)

These week's reviewers: Brad Beatnik, Jimmy Brown, Michael Byrne, Hamish Champ, Chris Finan, Tom Fitzgerald, Hugo Fluency, Simon Harper, Duncan Holland, Alan Jones, Stephen Jones, Sophie Moss, Simon Ward, Paul Williams, Adam Woods and Martin Worster.

## ALBUM of the week

**GERRI HALLIWELL: Schizophonic (EMI 5210092).** For all the media posturing and hullaballoo, the music is almost being forgotten as the defining subject of Halliwell's current incarnation. This is an eloquently-produced record whose

grooves thrust her solidly into female George Michael territory. Standout tracks include Bag It Up and Goodnight Kiss, more so than sleeky next single Mi Chico Latino, but this is as complete a package as the first Spice Girls album ever was. Only over-exposure might damage sales.





4	HARDCORE TRASH/ROCK MESSIAH	CD	MIMIC 04 MC	MEMO 03 12 04 150
5	HEAVENLY ALIVE! THE REAGAN/ON THE EDGE/CAPITAL	CD	529982	2 10
6	HONEY, WE'RE TRASH! THE LAST OF US	CD	529319	18 10
7	HUNTER HUNTER	CD	529318	18 10
8	IMPACT	CD	529317	18 10
9	IMPACT	CD	529316	18 10
10	IMPACT	CD	529315	18 10
11	IMPACT	CD	529314	18 10
12	IMPACT	CD	529313	18 10
13	IMPACT	CD	529312	18 10
14	IMPACT	CD	529311	18 10
15	IMPACT	CD	529310	18 10
16	IMPACT	CD	529309	18 10
17	IMPACT	CD	529308	18 10
18	IMPACT	CD	529307	18 10
19	IMPACT	CD	529306	18 10
20	IMPACT	CD	529305	18 10
21	IMPACT	CD	529304	18 10
22	IMPACT	CD	529303	18 10
23	IMPACT	CD	529302	18 10
24	IMPACT	CD	529301	18 10
25	IMPACT	CD	529300	18 10

1	BRAND NEW	CD	529300	18 10
2	BRAND NEW	CD	529299	18 10
3	BRAND NEW	CD	529298	18 10
4	BRAND NEW	CD	529297	18 10
5	BRAND NEW	CD	529296	18 10
6	BRAND NEW	CD	529295	18 10
7	BRAND NEW	CD	529294	18 10
8	BRAND NEW	CD	529293	18 10
9	BRAND NEW	CD	529292	18 10
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25	BRAND NEW	CD	529276	18 10

1	BRAND NEW	CD	529275	18 10
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20	BRAND NEW	CD	529256	18 10
21	BRAND NEW	CD	529255	18 10
22	BRAND NEW	CD	529254	18 10
23	BRAND NEW	CD	529253	18 10
24	BRAND NEW	CD	529252	18 10
25	BRAND NEW	CD	529251	18 10

**SINGLES**

1	21ST CENTURY	CD	529250	18 10
2	21ST CENTURY	CD	529249	18 10
3	21ST CENTURY	CD	529248	18 10
4	21ST CENTURY	CD	529247	18 10
5	21ST CENTURY	CD	529246	18 10
6	21ST CENTURY	CD	529245	18 10
7	21ST CENTURY	CD	529244	18 10
8	21ST CENTURY	CD	529243	18 10
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18	21ST CENTURY	CD	529233	18 10
19	21ST CENTURY	CD	529232	18 10
20	21ST CENTURY	CD	529231	18 10
21	21ST CENTURY	CD	529230	18 10
22	21ST CENTURY	CD	529229	18 10
23	21ST CENTURY	CD	529228	18 10
24	21ST CENTURY	CD	529227	18 10
25	21ST CENTURY	CD	529226	18 10

**RELEASES THIS WEEK: 138 • YEAR TO DATE: 3,026**

1	21ST CENTURY	CD	529225	18 10
2	21ST CENTURY	CD	529224	18 10
3	21ST CENTURY	CD	529223	18 10
4	21ST CENTURY	CD	529222	18 10
5	21ST CENTURY	CD	529221	18 10
6	21ST CENTURY	CD	529220	18 10
7	21ST CENTURY	CD	529219	18 10
8	21ST CENTURY	CD	529218	18 10
9	21ST CENTURY	CD	529217	18 10
10	21ST CENTURY	CD	529216	18 10
11	21ST CENTURY	CD	529215	18 10
12	21ST CENTURY	CD	529214	18 10
13	21ST CENTURY	CD	529213	18 10
14	21ST CENTURY	CD	529212	18 10
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18	21ST CENTURY	CD	529208	18 10
19	21ST CENTURY	CD	529207	18 10
20	21ST CENTURY	CD	529206	18 10
21	21ST CENTURY	CD	529205	18 10
22	21ST CENTURY	CD	529204	18 10
23	21ST CENTURY	CD	529203	18 10
24	21ST CENTURY	CD	529202	18 10
25	21ST CENTURY	CD	529201	18 10

**NEW RELEASE COUNTDOWN**

Key album releases scheduled for the next six weeks

**7 June 1999**  
Ger Halliwell Schizophrenic (EMI)  
Gad La Deiruse Nuse (London)  
Jamiroquai Synkronized (Sony S2)  
Pavement Terror: Warrior (Domino)  
Red Hot Chili Peppers  
California Connection (Warner Bros)  
Singer: Scar Tissue - May 31  
Super Fly: Marcus Gullentia (Creation)

**14 June 1999**  
Def Leppard Eruption (Mercury)  
Singles: Promises - May 31  
Marianne Faithfull Vagabond Ways (Virgin)

**21 June 1999**  
The Beta Band The Beta Band (Regal/Parlophone)  
Chemical Brothers Surrender (Virgin)  
Singles: Hey Boy Hey Girl - May 31  
Missy Elliott Da Real World (Elektra/East West)  
Singles: She's a Bitch - June 14

**28 June 1999**  
Garth Brooks In the Life of Chris Gartin (Capitol)

**5 July 1999**  
Tina Cousins Killing Time (Jive)  
Singles: Forever - June 21  
Kristin Hersh Sky Motel (4AD)  
Singles: Echo - June 14  
"I'm Not a Nurse (Northwestside)  
Singles: Tearing Up My Heart - June 14  
Smash Mouth Astro Lounge (Interscope)  
Singles: All Star - June 19  
Wilcoes (Island)  
Singles: Audition - June 7

**12 July 1999**  
Belle & Sebastian Tigermilk - Reissue (Jeepster)  
Masse Double Up (Bad Boy/Arista)

**RECORDS PREVIOUSLY LISTED WHICH RELEASE DATES HAVE BEEN PUT BACK TO 31/5/99**

1	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529200	18 10
2	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529199	18 10
3	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529198	18 10
4	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529197	18 10
5	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529196	18 10
6	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529195	18 10
7	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529194	18 10
8	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529193	18 10
9	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529192	18 10
10	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529191	18 10
11	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529190	18 10
12	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529189	18 10
13	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529188	18 10
14	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529187	18 10
15	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529186	18 10
16	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529185	18 10
17	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529184	18 10
18	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529183	18 10
19	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529182	18 10
20	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529181	18 10
21	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529180	18 10
22	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529179	18 10
23	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529178	18 10
24	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529177	18 10
25	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529176	18 10

**RECORDS PREVIOUSLY LISTED WHICH RELEASE DATES HAVE BEEN PUT BACK TO 31/5/99**

1	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529175	18 10
2	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529174	18 10
3	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529173	18 10
4	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529172	18 10
5	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529171	18 10
6	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529170	18 10
7	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529169	18 10
8	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529168	18 10
9	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529167	18 10
10	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529166	18 10
11	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529165	18 10
12	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529164	18 10
13	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529163	18 10
14	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529162	18 10
15	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529161	18 10
16	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529160	18 10
17	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529159	18 10
18	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529158	18 10
19	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529157	18 10
20	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529156	18 10
21	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529155	18 10
22	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529154	18 10
23	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529153	18 10
24	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529152	18 10
25	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529151	18 10

**RECORDS PREVIOUSLY LISTED WHICH RELEASE DATES HAVE BEEN PUT BACK TO 31/5/99**

1	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529150	18 10
2	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529149	18 10
3	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529148	18 10
4	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529147	18 10
5	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529146	18 10
6	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529145	18 10
7	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529144	18 10
8	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529143	18 10
9	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529142	18 10
10	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529141	18 10
11	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529140	18 10
12	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529139	18 10
13	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529138	18 10
14	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529137	18 10
15	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529136	18 10
16	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529135	18 10
17	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529134	18 10
18	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529133	18 10
19	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529132	18 10
20	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529131	18 10
21	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529130	18 10
22	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529129	18 10
23	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529128	18 10
24	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529127	18 10
25	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529126	18 10

**RECORDS PREVIOUSLY LISTED WHICH RELEASE DATES HAVE BEEN PUT BACK TO 31/5/99**

1	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529125	18 10
2	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD	529124	18 10
3	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	CD		

RETAIL FOCUS: **SISTER RAY**

by Karen Faux

While Sister Ray is undoubtedly one of central London's most credible and renowned indie outlets, there is nothing in the least bit intimidating about its in-store atmosphere. The shop has worked hard to be user-friendly for a wide range of customers and prides itself on customer service which manager Gareth Pritchard describes as knowledgeable and helpful.

Situated in Soho's Berwick Street, Sister Ray benefits from a prime location that is well known for its quality record shops covering the whole spectrum of music. Its customers run from the gamut of students, collectors, DJs, fans and tourists encompassing both passing trade and many regulars. "Having all the major record shops nearby on Oxford Street means we always offer competitive prices and a large selection of special offers and mid-price CDs," says Pritchard. "Mid-price campaigns are ongoing with a large selection of catalogue priced at £6.99. This is regularly changed and we work closely with record



Sister Ray: stocking a wide spectrum of music labels to keep the offer fresh.

After a decade of trading, Sister Ray's simple black, white and grey exterior is a landmark on Berwick Street. Inside the racks

## NETTING ONLINE SALES

Sister Ray launched its own website a year ago after having gained experience of processing orders through the net as part of the HMV's site. The emphasis has been on keeping the design simple, and information has been pared down to enable customers to find what they want as quickly as possible. "The site is updated weekly and carries 30,000 available items," says Gareth Pritchard. "People can access catalogue in different ways – such as by title or genre and the important thing is that it is bang up to date. The store's website complements its mall-order service which has customers from all around the globe."

are crammed full with CDs and vinyl, all well labelled and easy to find. "We base our success on covering a wide cross-section of music including indie, drum & bass, techno,

downbeat, heavy metal, gothic, industrial and post-rock genres – to name but a few," says Pritchard. "We also specialise in rare and hard-to-find second-hand items which customers can buy, sell or exchange."

This week Sister Ray's best-sellers have included Breakbeat Era's Rancid, Ultra Oscense and Bullet Proof limited edition 12-inches, Gimmix's Load Error EP and Ed Rush & Optical's Watermelon, and albums from Flaming Lips, Clinic, St Elmerie, Basement Jaxx, Atari Teenage Riot and Funkstorng. "Vinyl is still a very important part of what we do and we pride ourselves on our ability to source imports," says Pritchard.

Sister Ray is active on the PR front and publicises its signings and playbacks through the weekly music papers and the internet. "We specialise in artists who have small but loyal fanbases such as Gary Numan and The Creatures, for example," says Pritchard. "The Creatures recently did an in-store signing and the turnout highlighted just how effective our publicity had been."

## IN-STORE NEXT WEEK (from 31/5/99)



**Windows** – Jamiroquai, Travis, CDs for £11.99 or two for 20; **In-store** – Procul Harum, Dr John, William Walton, Steve Hackett, 21st Century Girls; **Press ads** – 21st Century Girls, Feeder, Geri Halliwell, Vills Lobos, Procul Harum, Dr John



**Singles** – Jamiroquai, Garbage, Chicane, Gay Dad, Supergass, DJ Sakin & Friends, The Wisegays, Shed Seven; **Albums** – Smash Hits Summer 99, Shania Twain, This, Happy Mondays, Music To Watch Girls By, Notting Hill, Dean Martin



**In-store** – three videos for 15, Advantage card bonus points on selected music and video titles, three classical CDs for £10, two music cassettes for £5, Ant, Sliding Doors



**Album of the month** – Las Rhythmes Digitales; **In-store display boards** – Pavement, Mr Scruff, The Wisegays, Heavenly Jukebox, Llama Farmers, Bogdan Radanski, Thievery Corporation, Soul Ascendants



**HMV Windows** – Summer campaign, Boyzone, Shed Seven; **In-store** – Gay Dad, Great Expectations, Miss Money Penny's, Dancing Street, Notting Hill, Ibrahim Ferrer, Cream In Ibiza, Sliding Doors; **Press ads** – Feeder, Trina & Tamara, Osmonds, 21st Century Girls, No Doubt, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Witness, Another Level, Chemical Brothers, Baz Luhrmann, Lilliani



**Singles** – Vonda Sheppard; **Albums** – Boyzone, Magic; **Windows** – Geri Halliwell, Beverley Craven; **Listening posts** – Shed Seven, Shania Twain, Boyzone, Geri Halliwell



**Album** – Mike & The Mechanics; **Windows** – Notting Hill, Boyzone; **In-store** – Vonda Sheppard, Beverley Craven, Rolling Stones; **Listening posts** – Diana Krall, Sugar Ray, Groove Armada, Wynton Marsalis, Mike Oldfield, Code Indigo, Fountains Of Wayne, Buena Vista Social Club 2



**Singles** – Goo Goo Dolls, Cher, Chemical Brothers, Tatyana Ali, Echo & The Bunnymen, Blondie, Ginuwine; **Albums** – Boyzone, Alan Powers, Street Vibe 3, Dance Hits; **Videos** – Fallen, Boyzone; **In-store** – Charly mid-price CDs at £7.99 or three for 20



**our price** **Singles** – Jamiroquai, Shed Seven, Reef, Supergass, Younger Younger 285; **Underworld**, The Wisegays; **Albums** – Bizarrard, Tori Funken, Ron Sexsmith, Insane Clown Posse, Super Collider, Ian Dignam, EZ Rollers; **Windows** – Blondie, Backstreet Boys, Happy Mondays, Lauryn Hill, Texas, Suede, Stereophonics, Abba, Travis, Trance Nation, Euphoria 2, Smash Hits 99, Top 75 chart CDs from £12.99; **In-store** – Travis, Notting Hill, CDs at £9.99, chart CDs from £12.99; **Press ads** – Miss Money Penny's, National Anthems, Garbage, Underworld, Shania Twain, Ibrahim Ferrer



**Specials listening posts** – Kick, Snug, King Kooba; **WASP**, Ibrahim Ferrer; **Male recommended stores** – Bukka White, Lonnie Johnson, Big Bill Broonzy, Blind Boy Fuller, Arthur Crudup, Peeble Wheatstraw



**Singles** – 21st Century Girls, Feeder, No Doubt, Trina & Tamara; **Windows** – buy two CDs and get one free, Boyzone, classical campaign, Lauryn Hill; **In-store** – 21st Century Girls, Keb Mo, Shed Seven, Lauryn Hill, classical campaign; **Press ads** – Basement Jaxx, Keb Mo, Shed Seven, Shawn Mullins



**Singles** – Osmonds, England's Barry Manilow, The Corrs, The Chemical Brothers; **Albums** – Gay Dad, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Vonda Sheppard; **Windows** – Shed Seven, Boyzone, Notting Hill; **In-store** – Gay Dad, Garbage, Underworld, Red Hot Chili Peppers; **Press ads** – Blondie, No Doubt, Feeder, Grooverider



**WHSmith** **Singles** – Vonda Sheppard; **Albums** – Boyzone, Magic; **Windows** – Geri Halliwell, Beverley Craven; **Listening posts** – Shed Seven, Shania Twain, Boyzone, Geri Halliwell



**WOOLWORTHS** **Singles** – 21st Century Girls, Leifur; **Album** – Magic; **Windows** – Boyzone; **In-store** – Mike And The Mechanics, Precious, Vonda Sheppard, Dawson's Creek



## ON THE SHELF

STEVE TURNER,  
manager, Solo Music,  
Barnstaple

"Our concept of providing two stores in one has worked very well since we opened last August. At over 600 sq m the store is pretty large and we have divided it right down the middle by a partition. On one side we sell rock, pop and DVDs and on the other we offer specialist genres such as classical and jazz. We have filled a market gap in the town for these genres and because we have the space we can stock in depth as well as providing a first-class ordering service."

"We've got two huge windows which are currently occupied by displays for Texas and PolyGram's Duo campaign offering classical CDs at £11.99 or two for £22. All of these are good recordings and some are doubles which makes it a very inviting campaign. We also have an ongoing three-for-£21 deal which features jazz and classical catalogue from the likes of Warner, PolyGram and EMI."

"On the rock and pop side we have a big

chart wall, supplied by International Displays, which provides us with a lot of display flexibility. Texas, Backstreet Boys and Cast are currently our biggest album performers and we're expecting Ged Halliwell to do well judging by the amount of pre-release interest there is out there. We're doing a lunch-time playback of the album prior to its release and tying it in with a competition that will provide money off the purchase. We are running an ad in the local paper so hopefully we'll get a good turnout and response. We recently ran a competition to see Reef live and we had more than 100 entries."

Folk singer Kate Rusby's album Sleepless has been steaming out over the past couple of weeks. The Oyster Band's Here I Stand has also found plenty of takers since it was released on Monday. On the classical front Ashkenazy's Shostakovich Preludes are selling well in addition to Evgeni Kissin's Chopin album."



## ON THE ROAD

JAMES AKERMAN,  
Vital rep for 3 Yorks &  
East Midlands

"I've worked for Vital for almost five years and was originally based in North Yorkshire. As the company has become more successful and taken on more reps our areas have been restructured and we now provide a more dedicated service. I have a good spread of stores within my region which includes Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield and Doncaster. I call on all the majors and every indie store which has a chart reporting machine."

"This week the Basement Jaxx single is still selling very well and has been in the chart for more than a month now. Tall Paul's single Be There on his Duty Free label is picking up steam since its release on Monday and we're hoping for a Top 40. The Pavement single, which went into the Top 30, is continuing to tick over nicely and we're still working Basement Jaxx's album which entered the top five last week."

"Add N To (X) are performing well on the

back of much critical acclaim and the strength of their live show. We're also seeing a very healthy Americana scene at the moment with the Slow River label proving particularly popular. Following on from the Beta Band's successful 3 EPs compilation we are now selling in their eponymous album, due for release on June 21."

"One of our most important upcoming singles is The Wisegays' Ohm La La, used in the Dawson's Creek and released on May 24. Meanwhile in-store support is looking strong for the Les Rhythmes Digitales album which is our next week and another album priority for us is Pavement's Terror Twilight, out on June 6. There is a lot of interest in the Mo Wax project Quantum, which is a collaboration between the likes of Latry and Blacklions. In a different vein, we've recently picked up Lord Lloyd Webber's 1 Records and the first single by My Life Story is scheduled for June 7."

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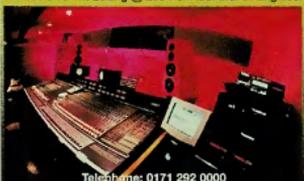
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It's as clear as day to anyone listening to the record: **SIXPENCE NONE THE RICHER'S** instruction is simply to Kiss Me. Nowhere do the lyrics talk about jumping on someone's back and making some strange sort of V-sign. Still, that didn't stop this particular crowd who last Tuesday mingled with the Sixpence gang at London's Cafe Showcase. Their cover of the La's There She Goes (the next single) impressed most. Pictured over the boys are Warner Music chairman **NICK PHILLIPS**, Elektra US International vice president **BILL BERGER**, band managers **MARK LITTE** and **KEN LEVITAN**, **PHILLIP HARDY** from their US label **Squint** and their UK pluggier **RICHARD PERRY**.



Remember where you heard it: Pity bigtime Red Devils fan **Laurie Cokell**. Not only was the London boss quoted £800 apiece for two tickets to Man U's cup final with Newcastle at the weekend, but a conference in Paris on Wednesday means he is risking being stuck in the **Channel Tunnel** when Giggs, Beckham & Co strut their stuff against Bayern Munich. "I'm sick as a parrot," says Cokell...What was that smell down in Brook Green last Wednesday? Some bright spark had the idea of **cooking up a curry** for sales reps who were enroute for a **Rico** showcase at the Barfly. Sadly, the pungent odour of this culinary feast succeeded only in **setting off the fire alarms**...Speaking of fires, a mysterious smell of smoke temporarily forced part of the crowd watching **Bruce Springsteen's Earl's Court gig** last Tuesday to exit their seats. No explanation is yet forthcoming on what caused it, but one thing is certain:

Springsteen's **I'm On Fire** did not make it on to the set list... After the gig, London's swinging Met Bar played host to a **Sony party** for Bruce and his E Street friends with **Emma Spice** among the celebs along for the ride...Which **unbelievable hit maker** is close to striking his own label deal?... Dooley reckons what comes around goes around with the **Hepburn** track actually turning out to be a **Natalie Imbruglia** "cover" recorded but **rejected** for her debut (a tape is doing the rounds) ...Which of this year's **top five acts** is already without a record deal?... Man U phobics should note **Andy Cole** has signed a **solo deal** with WEA thanks to Chelsea fan and press supreme **Barbara Charone**. And Dooley can reveal that when his debut is

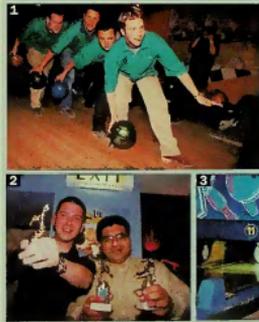
released in the autumn he will sound a lot more like **Will Smith** than the questionable 1999 Man Utd Squad's **Lift It High**...**BMG's Nick Stewart** is clearly a man who gets results - and by the sound of it he doesn't hang about. As he revealed at a showcase for **Sara Evans** last Thursday at London's **Ronnie Scott's**, within minutes of first meeting her the Nashville sensation revealed she was pregnant. "I'm pretty fertile, but not that quick," he quipped...Groucho in London was the scene last Thursday of the first of what could be a series of get-togethers for top indie publishers. Nearly 30 showed up for the event organised by Chelsea Music's **Eddie Levy** and Peermusic's **Nigel Elderton** ...Thinking of publishers, the **MPA** followed its Tin Pan Ally Ball fundraising efforts by sending its members a CD-Rom which contained, among other things, the latest **Save The Children TV commercial**. Anyone else wishing to contribute to the **Save The Children From Violence** initiative should contact the MPA on 0171-839 7779...Record companies' long-running **AP1/AP2** dispute over how they pay mechanical royalties has finally been resolved. The MCPS is due to hold a press conference on Wednesday (May 26) to talk through the finer details....

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**RCA** hired out the **Queensway Bowl** in London last Monday so industry shakers could mimic **LIT'S TEN PIN Bowling** video for their **My Own Worst Enemy** single (released June 7). Despite the absence of the band (on tour), the on-site refreshments meant that so much fun was had that some strippers bowed pilsnols so admired once by **Paul Weller**. The eventual winners were the team fielded by **Channel Four's Sunday morning show T4** comprising (1-4) producer/director **TIM VAM SOMEREM**, researcher **DOUG 'DONUT' JAMES**, music booker **NEIL MCCALLUM** and runner **JAMIE STOKES**. Second was **OUR PRICE** and third **EUK** including (2, 1-) singles buyer **WILL NICOL** and chart co-ordinator **JIT GONDALIA**. Dooley didn't think he did too badly, carrying off third prize, only for a re-count to place him fourth. Still, at least he remained on his feet all evening, unlike a certain music booker from **TTT FRIDAY - SUSAN MASTERS (3)**.

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