

ABBA REALLY NICE CHRISTMAS

# Record Mirror



This is a  
feast

**GARY  
GLITTER**

**DANA**

**YVONNE  
ELLIMAN**

plus  
**KISS**  
in colour

Pull the  
cracker  
and see  
what's inside:  
An A-Z of  
'76 albums  
of the year  
and dinner  
with a king

# Record Mirror

## British Top 50 Singles

1	2	WHEN A CHILD IS BORN, Johnny Mathis	CBS
2	1	UNDER THE MOON OF LOVE, Showaddywaddy	Arista
3	5	MONEY MC N'Y MONEY, Abba	CBS
4	3	SOMEBODY TO LOVE, Queen	EMI
5	9	PORTSMOUTH, Mike Oldfield	Virgin
6	4	LIVIN' THING, Electric Light Orchestra	Jet
7	6	LOVE ME, Yvonne Elliman	RSO
8	18	DR LOVE, Tina Charles	CBS
9	12	LIVING NEXT DOOR TO ALICE, Smokie	RAK
10	11	BIONIC SANTA, Chris Hill	Philips
11	37	DON'T GIVE UP ON US, David Soul	Private Stock
12	7	LEAN ON ME, Mud	Private Stock
13	22	FAIRY TALE, Dana	GTO
14	14	LITTLE DOES SHE KNOW, Kursaal Flyers	CBS
15	20	GRANDMA'S PARTY, Paul Nicholas	RSO
16	8	IF YOU LEAVE ME NOW, Chicago	CBS
17	19	WILD SIDE OF LIFE, Status Quo	Vertigo
18	13	GET BACK, Rod Stewart	Riva
19	27	THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE, 10cc	Mercury
20	16	STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE, Billy Ocean	GTO
21	17	SORRY SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD, Elton John	Rocket
22	29	I WISH, Stevie Wonder	Motown
23	26	SIDE SHOW, Barry Biggs	Dynamic
24	10	YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE DANCING, Leo Sayer	Chrysalis
25	33	HAITIAN DIVORCE, Steely Dan	ABC
26	25	MISSISSIPPI, Pussycat	Sonet
27	15	LOST IN FRANCE, Bonnie Tyler	RCA
28	41	RING OUT SOLISTICE BELLS, Jethro Tull	Chrysalis
29	24	YOU'LL NEVER GET TO HEAVEN, Stylistics	H&L
30	23	IF NOT YOU, Dr Hook	Capitol
31	49	DADDY COOL, Boney M	Atlantic
32	47	YOU'RE MORE THAN A NUMBER, Drifters	Arista
33	36	KEEP IT COMIN' LOVE, KC & The Sunshine Band	Boy
34	42	SING ME AN OLD FASHIONED SONG, Billie Jo Spears	UA
35	46	EVERYMAN MUST HAVE A DREAM, Liverpool Express	Warner Bros
36	31	MAGGIE MAY, Rod Stewart	Mercury
37	-	DON'T CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA, Julie Covington	MCA
38	38	ANARCHY IN THE UK, Sex Pistols	EMI
39	21	DON'T MAKE ME WAIT TOO LONG, Barry White	20th Century
40	30	SO SAD THE SONG, Gladys Knight & The Pips	Buddah
41	50	SLIP, Jesse Green	EMI
42	34	HEY MR DREAM MAKER, Cliff Richard	EMI
43	44	HANG ON SLOOPY, Sandpipers	Satin
44	-	HERE'S TO LOVE, John Christie	EMI
45	-	WINTER MELODY, Donna Summer	GTO
46	-	CAR WASH, Rose Royce	MCA
47	40	SAILING, Rod Stewart	Riva
48	-	SMILE, Pussycat	Sonet
49	-	SUSPICION, Elvis Presley	RCA
50	-	LOST WITHOUT YOUR LOVE, Bread	Elektra

## UK Disco Top 20

1	3	UNDER THE MOON OF LOVE, Showaddywaddy	Bell
2	1	YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE DANCING, Leo Sayer	Chrysalis
3	2	ISN'T SHE LOVELY, Stevie Wonder	Tamla Motown
4	8	KEEP IT COMING LOVE, KC & The Sunshine Band	Jayboy
5	5	PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC, Wild Cherry	Epic
6	15	LIVING THING, Electric Light Orchestra	Jet
6	7	MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, Abba	Epic
8	6	PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS, Rose Royce	MCA
9	4	DON'T TAKE AWAY THE MUSIC, Tavares	Capital
10	-	GRANDMA'S PARTY, Paul Nicholas	RSO
11	-	CAR WASH, Rose Royce	MCA
12	-	I WISH, Stevie Wonder	Tamla Motown
13	-	DR LOVE, Tina Charles	CBS
13	10	STOP ME, Billy Ocean	CTI
15	9	GET BACK, Rod Stewart	Riva
16	19	BIONIC SANTA, Chris Hill	Philips
17	16	LOVE ME, Yvonne Elliman	RSO
18	17	DADDY COOL, Boney M	Atlantic
18	-	SOMEBODY TO LOVE, Queen	EMI
20	-	WILD SIDE OF LIFE, Status Quo	Vertigo

## Star Choice



GRAHAM GOULDMAN of 10cc

- 1 HAITIAN DIVORCE, Steely Dan
- 2 SORRY SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD, Elton John
- 3 KILLER QUEEN, Queen
- 4 HEY JUDE, Beatles
- 5 ONE OF THESE NIGHTS, Eagles
- 6 THEME FROM SHAFT, Isaac Hayes
- 7 SUPERSTITIION, Stevie Wonder
- 8 LOVE AND AFFECTION, Joan Armatrading
- 9 NO WOMAN, NO CRY, Bob Marley
- 10 MY SWEET LORD, George Harrison

## Record Mirror/BBC Chart

Supplied by British Market Research Bureau / Music Week  
UK Chart supplied by Billboard. UK Soul Singles by Blues & Soul. UK Disco Chart compiled from nationwide DJ returns

## Yesteryear Charts

### 5 YEARS AGO

- 1 January 1972
- 1 ERNIE (FASTEST MILKMAN IN THE WEST) Benny Hill
  - 2 JEPSTEK, T Rex
  - 3 SOMETHING TELLS ME, Cilla Black
  - 4 I'D LIKE TO TEACH THE WORLD TO SING, New Seekers
  - 5 THEME FROM SHAFT, Isaac Hayes
  - 6 SOFTLY WHISPERING I LOVE YOU, The Congregation
  - 7 TOKOLOSHIE MAN, John Kongos
  - 8 NO MATTER HOW I TRY, Gilbert O'Sullivan
  - 9 SOLEY, SOLEY, Middle of the Road
  - 10 GYPSIES, TRAMPS AND THIEVES, Cher

### 10 YEARS AGO

- 31 December 1966
- 1 GREEN, GREEN GRASS OF HOME, Tom Jones
  - 2 SUNSHINE SUPERMAN, Donovan
  - 3 SAVE ME, Dave Dee and Co
  - 4 MORNINGTOWN RIDE, The Seekers
  - 5 DEAD END STREET, The Kinks
  - 6 WHAT WOULD I BE, Val Doonican
  - 7 FRIDAY ON MY MIND, The Easybeats
  - 8 WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKEN HEARTED, Jimmy Ruffin
  - 9 IF EVERY DAY WAS LIKE CHRISTMAS, Elvis Presley
  - 10 YOU KEEP ME HANGIN' ON, The Supremes

### 15 YEARS AGO

- The chart published in Record Mirror on December 30, 1961, was described as a 'skeleton' compilation and was said at the time to be incorrect. Therefore there are some placings missing in the chart below which is a different chart compiled to agree with the last week's placings of 6 January, 1962.
- 1 TOWER OF STRENGTH, Frankie Vaughan
  - 2 No official placing
  - 3 MOON RIVER, Danny Williams
  - 4 JOHNNY WILL, Pat Boone
  - 5 LET THERE BE DRUMS, Sandy Nelson
  - 6 No official placing
  - 7 MIDNIGHT IN MOSCOW, Kenny Ball
  - 8 TAKE FIVE, Dave Brubeck
  - 9 TOY BALLOONS, Russ Conway
  - 10 I'D NEVER FIND ANOTHER YOU, Billy Fury

## Star-Breakers

- THE CHAMPION, Willie Mitchell London  
YOU + ME - LOVE, Undisputed Truth Warner Bros  
DON'T BELIEVE A WORD, Thin Lizzy Vertigo  
YOU, Randy Edelman 20th Century  
SAVE ME, Clodagh Rodgers Polydor  
FIGHTING FOR STRANGERS, Steeleye Span Chrysalis  
I WANT A GO BACK, New Seekers CBS  
DANCE TITHI DADDY, Alex Glasgow BBC  
MONTY PYTHON ON SONG, Monty Python Charisma  
M & O BAND'S CHRISTMAS DISCO, M & O Band Paladin

## British Top 50 Albums

1	1	20 GOLDEN GREATS, Glen Campbell	Capitol
2	2	ARRIVAL, Abba	Epic
3	5	100 GOLDEN GREATS, Max Bygraves	Ronco
4	3	DISCO ROCKET, Various	K-Tel
5	-	HOTEL CALIFORNIA, The Eagles	Asylum
6	4	GREATEST HITS OF, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons	K-Tel
7	10	GREATEST HITS, Abba	Epic
8	-	A DAY AT THE RACES, Queen	EMI
9	9	A NEW WORLD RECORD, Electric Light Orchestra	Jet
10	8	SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE, Stevie Wonder	Tamla Motown
11	6	22 GOLDEN GUITAR GREATS, Bert Weedon	Warwick
12	12	GREATEST HITS, Hot Chocolate	RAK
13	30	GREATEST HITS, Gilbert O'Sullivan	Mam
14	7	20 ORIGINAL DEAN MARTIN HITS, Dean Martin	Reprise
15	-	GREATEST HITS, Showaddywaddy	Arista
16	18	DAVID SOUL, Private Stock	Private Stock
17	14	44 SUPERSTARS, Various	K-Tel
18	13	FOREVER AND EVER, Demis Roussos	Philips
19	24	INSTRUMENTAL GOLD, Instrumental Gold	Warwick
20	23	SONGS OF GLORY, Various	Arcade
21	15	THOUGHTS OF LOVE, Shirley Bassey	United Artists
22	17	THE STORY OF THE WHO, The Who	Polydor
23	19	BLUE MOVES, Elton John	Rocket
24	22	ATLANTIC BRIDGE, Billy Connolly	Polydor
24	42	HIS 20 GREATEST, Gene Pitney	Arcade
26	16	SOUL MOTION, Various	K-Tel
27	11	HEJIRA, Joni Mitchell	Asylum
28	25	BEST OF THE STYLISTICS, The Stylistics	H&L
29	33	SOME MORE OF ME POEMS AND SONGS, Pam Ayres	Galaxy
30	-	GREATEST HITS OF WALT DISNEY	Ronco
31	81	GOLD ON SILVER, Beverley - Phillips Orchestra	Warwick
32	26	20 GOLDEN GREATS, The Beach Boys	Capitol
33	20	A LITTLE BIT MORE, Doctor Hook	Capitol
34	27	THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME, Led Zeppelin	Swansong
35	32	DEREK AND CLIVE LIVE, Peter Cooke and Dudley Moore	Island
36	35	THIRTY THREE AND 1/3, George Harrison	Dark Horse
37	-	GREATEST HITS, Linda Ronstadt	Asylum
38	29	THE INCREDIBLE PLAN, Max Boyce	EMI
39	48	THEIR GREATEST HITS 1971 - 75, The Eagles	Asylum
40	31	FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE, Peter Frampton	A&M
41	41	BOXED, Mike Oldfield	Virgin
42	40	ATLANTIC CROSSING, Rod Stewart	Warner Bros
43	47	A NIGHT ON THE TOWN, Rod Stewart	Warner Bros
44	36	SING SOMETHING SIMPLE 76, Cliff Adams Singers	Warwick
45	39	TUBULAR BELLS, Mike Oldfield	Virgin
46	44	INVITATION, Peters and Lee	Philips
47	21	ENDLESS FLIGHT, Leo Sayer	Chrysalis
48	67	L, Steve Hillage	Virgin
49	54	SOME OF ME POEMS AND SONGS, Pam Ayres	Galaxy
50	34	CHICAGO X, Chicago	CBS

## US Disco Top 20

1	DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY, Thelma Houston	Tamla
2	FOUR SEASONS OF LOVE, Donna Summer	Oasis
3	I WISH / ISN'T SHE LOVELY, Stevie Wonder	Tamla
4	OVERTURE / DON'T KEEP IT IN THE SHADOWS, D. C. Larue	Pyramid
5	CAR WASH, Rose Royce	MCA
6	YOU'RE MY DRIVING WHEEL, Supremes	Motown
7	DANCING / SEARCHING FOR LOVE, Crown Heights Affair	De-Lite
8	SORRY / THAT'S THE TROUBLE, Grace Jones	Beam Junction
9	DAZZ, Brick	Bang
10	MAKES YOU BLIND, Glitter Band	Arista
11	WHEN LOVE IS NEW, Arthur Prysock	Old Town
12	DOWN TO LOVE TOWN, Originals	Motown
13	DADDY COOL / FEVER, Boney M	Atco
14	UNFINISHED BUSINESS, Blackbyrds	Fantasy
15	WELCOME TO OUR WORLD OF MERRY MUSIC, Mass Production	Cotillion
16	I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOUR LOVE, Emotions	Columbia
17	HA CHA CHA, Brass Construction	United Artists
18	OPEN SESAME, Kool & The Gang	De-Lite
19	I'M YOUR BOOGIE MAN, KC & The Sunshine Band	TK
20	LOVE BUG, Bumblebee Unlimited	Red Creg

## US Top 50 Albums

1	1	SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE, Stevie Wonder	Tamla
2	2	A NIGHT ON THE TOWN, Rod Stewart	Warner Bros
3	3	BOSTON	Epic
4	-	HOTEL CALIFORNIA, Eagles	Asylum
5	5	THE PRETENDER, Jackson Browne	Asylum
6	7	A NEW WORLD RECORD, Electric Light Orchestra	United Artists
7	-	WINGS OVER AMERICA	Capitol
8	9	THE BEST OF THE DOOBIES, Doobie Brothers	Warner Bros
9	10	FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE, Peter Frampton	A & M
10	11	FLY LIKE AN EAGLE, Steve Miller Band	Capitol
11	12	ROCK AND ROLL OVER, Kiss	Casablanca
12	4	SPIRIT, Earth, Wind & Fire	Columbia
13	15	GREATEST HITS, Linda Ronstadt	Asylum
14	8	BLUE MOVES, Elton John	MCA/Rocket
15	17	THIRTY THREE & 1/3, George Harrison	Dark Horse
16	18	HEJIRA, Joni Mitchell	Asylum
17	6	THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME, Led Zeppelin	Swan Song
18	20	HOT ON THE TRACKS, Commodores	Motown
19	19	CHICAGO X	Columbia
20	14	ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD, Lynyrd Skynyrd	MCA
21	21	BIGGER THAN BOTH OF US, Daryl Hall & John Oates	RCA
22	22	THEIR GREATEST HITS 1971-1975, Eagles	Asylum
23	13	CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, Bee Gees	RSO
24	24	SUMMERTIME DREAM, Gordon Lightfoot	Reprise
25	26	YEAR OF THE CAT, Al Stewart	Janus
26	28	BRASS CONSTRUCTION II	United Artists
27	45	AFTER THE LOVIN', Engelbert Humperdinck	Epic
28	39	JAMES TAYLOR'S GREATEST HITS	Warner Bros
29	29	IT LOOKS LIKE SNOW, Phoebe Snow	Columbia
30	40	CAR WASH, Rose Royce	MCA
31	32	THE BEST OF GEORGE HARRISON	Capitol
32	33	DR BUZZARD'S ORIGINAL SAVANNAH BAND	RCA
33	34	SONG OF JOY, The Captain & Tennille	A & M
34	35	LEFTOVERTURE, Kansas	Kirshner
35	37	I HOPE WE GET TO LOVE, Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr	ABC
36	38	BURTON CUMMINGS	Portrait/CBS
37	25	SILK DEGREE'S, Boz Scaggs	Columbia
38	41	A STAR IS BORN, Barbara Streisand & Kris Kristofferson	Columbia
39	16	NO REASON TO CRY, Eric Clapton	RSO
40	47	GOOD HIGH, Brick	Bang
41	42	SPIRIT, John Denver	RCA
42	43	NIGHTS ARE FOREVER, England Dan and John Ford Coley	Big Tree
43	23	DREAMBOAT ANNE, Heart	Mushroom
44	44	SPITFIRE, Jefferson Starship	Grunft
45	-	NIGHT MOVES, Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band	Capitol
46	46	LONG MISTY DAYS, Robin Trower	Chrysalis
47	43	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, Barry Manilow	Arista
48	-	ALL THIS & WORLD WAR II	20th Century
49	49	FLEETWOOD MAC	Reprise
50	50	FLOWERS, The Emotions	Columbia

## US Soul Top 20

1	2	CAR WASH, Rose Royce	MCA
2	1	DAZZ, Brick	Bang
3	4	HOT LINE, Sylvers	Capitol
4	3	ENJOY YOURSELF, The Jacksons	Epic
5	5	DO IT TO MY MIND, Johnny Bristol	Atlantic
6	6	OPEN SESAME, Part 1, Kool & The Gang	De-Lite
7	8	SATURDAY NITE, Earth, Wind & Fire	Columbia
8	9	DARLIN' DARLIN' BABY, O'Jays	Philadelphia
9	10	FREE, Deniece Williams	Columbia
10	7	I KINDA MISS YOU, Manhattans	Columbia
11	31	I WISH, Stevie Wonder	Tamla
12	12	LOVE ME, LOVE ME, LOVE ME, The Staples	Warner Bros
13	11	KEEP ME CRYIN', Al Green	Hi
14	14	DON'T TAKE AWAY THE MUSIC, Tavares	Capitol
15	13	I DON'T WANNA LOSE YOUR LOVE, Emotions	Columbia
16	25	I LIKE TO DO IT, KC & The Sunshine Band	TK
17	15	YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A STAR, Marilyn McCoo	ABC
18	-	FEELINGS, Walter Jackson	Chi-Sound
19	19	SUPERMAN LOVER, Johnny Guitar Watson	DJM
20	-	YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, Pointer Sisters	ABC/Blue Thumb



STATUS QUO

## US Top 50 Singles

1	1	TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT, (Gonna Be Alright), Rod Stewart	Warner Bros
2	3	YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A STR/Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr	ABC
3	2	THE RUBBERBAND MAN, Spinners	Atlantic
4	5	YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE DANCING, Leo Sayer	Warner Bros
5	6	MORE THAN A FEELING, Boston	Epic
6	7	SORRY SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD, Elton John	MCA/Rocket
7	18	I WISH, Stevie Wonder	Tamla
8	12	DAZZ, Brick	Bang
9	17	CAR WASH, Rose Royce	MCA
10	11	AFTER THE LOVIN', Engelbert Humperdinck	Epic
11	15	STAND TALL, Burton Cummings	Portrait/CBS
13	14	HOT LINE, Sylvers	Capitol
13	13	I NEVER CRY, Alice Cooper	Warner Bros
14	16	LOVE ME, Yvonne Elliman	RSO
15	19	LIVIN' THING, Electric Light Orchestra	United Artists
16	4	MUSKRAT LOVE, Captain & Tennille	A & M
17	8	NADIA'S THEME, Barry De Voron & Perry Botkin Jr	A & M
18	10	NIGHTS ARE FOREVER, England Dan & John Ford Coley	Big Tree
19	22	SOMEBODY TO LOVE, Queen	Elektra
20	48	NEW KID IN TOWN, Eagles	Asylum
21	31	ENJOY YOURSELF, The Jacksons	Epic
22	26	LOST WITHOUT YOUR LOVE, Bread	Elektra
23	9	YOU ARE THE WOMAN, Firefall	Atlantic
24	28	JEANS ON, David Dundas	Chrysalis
25	29	SHAKE YOUR RUMP TO THE FUNK, Bar Kays	Mercury
26	30	SATURDAY NITE, Earth, Wind & Fire	Columbia
27	33	THIS SONG, George Harrison	Dark Horse
28	38	WALK THIS WAY, Aerosmith	Columbia
29	42	TORN BETWEEN TWO LOVERS, Mary MacGregor	Ariola America
30	35	I LIKE DREAMIN', Kemy Nolan	20th Century
31	21	LOVE SO RIGHT, Bee Gees	RSO
32	40	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT, Manfred Mann's Earth Band	Warner Bros
33	36	WHISPERING, Dr Buzzard's Original Savannah Band	RCA
34	20	LOVE BALLAD, LTD	A & M
35	50	WEEKEND IN NEW ENGLAND, Barry Manilow	Arista
36	37	MADAMOISELLE, Sly	A & M
37	43	AIN'T NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING, Donny & Marie Osmond	Kolob
38	39	KEEP ME CRYIN', Al Green	Hi
39	41	DO WHAT YOU WANT, BE WHAT YOU ARE, Daryl Hall & John Oates	RCA
40	47	DRIVIN' WHEEL, Foghat	Bearsville
41	23	BETH, Kiss	Casablanca
42	46	WHAT CAN I SAY, Boz Scaggs	Columbia
43	-	FREEBIRD, Lynyrd Skynyrd	MCA
44	44	FLIGHT '76, Walter Murphy Band	Private Stock
45	24	HELL-OLD FRIEND, Eric Clapton	RSO
46	-	SOMEBODY TO LAY DOWN BESIDE ME, Linda Ronstadt	Asylum
47	-	I LIKE TO DO IT, KC & The Sunshine Band	TK
48	27	DISCO DUCK (Part 1), Rick Dees & His Cast Of Idiots	RSO</

# Record Mirror

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# A warning to all festive hell-raisers . . . DON'T MESS WITH JUICE!

I HAD to take things in hand at A&M Records' Christmas bash in downtown King's Road.

There I was, enjoying a large gin and tonic and surrounded by male admirers when some drunken music man took it upon himself to empty the contents of a can of beer over my head. Rugged woolly-haired Billy Connolly was about to come to the aid of a damsel in distress when I settled the issue with one thrust of my black leather boot. The beer-throwing music man fell to the ground clutching a vital part of his anatomy.

Unfortunately, the Christmas parties I've attended so far have been over-crowded affairs attracting freeloaders of all shapes and sizes from all corners of the globe. At Mountain Records, for example, it took Judge Dread half an hour to make his way from the door to the bar (where he proceeded to hold court for the evening).

It was nice therefore to spend last weekend in Glasgow in the company of charming Irish axeman Rory Gallagher and his friends. Rory and his brother, Don, do an excellent line in Irish jokes. They came thick and fast as we dined on



BILLY CONNOLLY looks on in amazement as Lucy puts the boot in.

T-bone steaks and sipped red wine.

Have you heard of the Irishman who thought a Rover 2000 was the bionic dog? Or old Paddy who thought Slim Panatella was a country and western singer? Or Sean who thought Eartha Kitt was a set of gardening tools?

As we whiled away the small hours of Saturday morning, aided by substantial quantities of a little concoction known as 'Bloody Mary', Rory and the boys began to regale us with interesting tales about their adventures in the US of A.

There was the elderly man who streaked on a jumbo jet and made a dirty fool of himself.

Bob Dylan's backstage visit . . . a buffalo charging a car (try claiming that on your insurance) . . . and a lot more juicy



items that I can't possibly tell you.

The conversation lulled as a man in black made his way into the bar, clutching three bottles of white wine and an ice-bucket.

It was none other than Shane Fenton (alias Alvin Stardust). Old ring fingers was singing the praises of Billy Fury's pink leather suit and frequently wandering down rock 'n' roll memory lane.

Lou Martin, Rory's keyboards player, fell asleep and Alvin did several impersonations of Leo Sayer. I wish I could remember more, but the rest of the proceedings are something of a blur in my memory bank.

Choking over a can of Fosters, the manager of Sherbet - an Aussie

outfit - rang to tell me that every time a picture of the Bay City Rollers appears in the Down Under Press, sales of Tam's boys' concert tickets plummet. Stop sniggering at the back.

Xmas media overkill: Country punk band The Wurzels are appearing on Top of the Pops on Christmas Day. Swap Shop on Boxing Day, Blue Peter on December 30, an HTV Special and a Hogmanay Special on New Year's Eve and some other programme involving the entire cast of Ruby Flipper. Pity their latest record (The Wurzels that is) is so boring.

Festive congratulations to Roger and Judy Glover on the birth of baby daughter Gillian who weighed in at a healthy 7 lbs 12 ounces.

More reproduction. Jan, wife of former Faces drummer Kenny Jones is expecting a happy event in May next year. Kenny wouldn't spill the beans to me on his current musical activities, but you can be sure he has something up his sleeve.

So that's it for 1976, boys and girls, have a great Christmas and don't do anything Aunt Lucy wouldn't approve of. See y'all in '77. Thanks for having me!



ALL RIGHT, how come no-one gave us a surf board?

# NEWS SHORTS CAPITAL DJs TO GIVE NEW AWARDS

LONDON'S commercial station Capital Radio has announced a new series of annual music awards.

Capital DJs have made five nominations in each of the seven categories - Best Album, Single, Promising Group, Best Male Singer, Female Singer, Best London Band and Best London Concert - for whom listeners may vote. The awards will be presented at a special reception at Grosvenor House on February 3, where the cabaret will be provided by Twigg.

MANHATTAN TRANSFER are to return to Britain in February to play London New Victoria on the 23rd and 24th and Manchester Palace on the 27th. Tickets for the Manchester concert are priced £2.80, £2.20 and £1.75.

CHARLY RECORDS release a series of British early-sixties rock albums next month.

They include Gary Farr & The T Bones: 'London 1964-5', Eric Burdon & The Animals: 'Newcastle & The Tyne December 1963', Graham Bond Organisation: 'The Beginning Of Jazz - Rock', Julie Driscoll & Brian Auger: 'London 1964-67', and The Steampacket: 'The First Supergroup'.

On January 7 they release 'Pretty Little Angel Eyes' by Curtis Lee, who had the original hit of 'Under The Moon Of Love' currently covered by Showaddywaddy. 'Angel Eyes' was produced by Phil Spector.

JOE COCKER is to make a rare British concert appearance on New Year's Day. It'll be his first official

concert here for over two years.

Joe will be joining Kokomo for a special show at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, at 7.30 pm on January 1.

Tickets are £2.50 each and are available through Virgin outlets and other Midlands record shops or by post (enclose S.A.E. from John Tully, 41 Cumberland Street, Birmingham 1).

Recently returned from California, Joe has already made some impromptu appearances with Kokomo who include ex Grease Band players, Neil Hubbard and Alan Spenser.

JAMES BROWN makes his first appearance in this country for five years on Friday, January 14.

He'll be doing two shows at the Hammersmith Odeon. Tickets are available from the box office and usual outlets.

The shows are part of a short European tour including dates in Germany and Holland. James is bringing his complete 17-piece review with him, including his singers and dancers.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

ABBA, a paperback book on the top pop group by Harry Edgington and Peter Himmelstrand, is published by Everest Books, price 70p on February 10.

Rick Dees and His Cast of Idiots follow up to 'Disco Duck' is 'Dis-Gorilla'. Steve Gibbons Band play London's Dingwalls on December 28 and 29.

MOON play there on the 30th and 31st, and Johnny Thunder & The Heart Breakers on January 3. Gay and Terry Wood's version of the classic 'Save The Last Dance For Me' is issued as a single on January 14.

Gene Pitney is to make a UK tour during February including a night at the London Palladium on February 27.

Donny and Marie Osmond's next single will be 'Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing', released on January 7.

Phoenix are to record one side of their second album live in America. THE OLYMPIC RUNNERS single 'Personal Thing' is released January 14.

Jim Croce's 'I'll Have To Say I Love You In A Song' from his 'Photographs And Memories'

LP issued as a single on January 14.

STIFF Records have a new Year single.

SHOWADDYADDY received a gold disc for their first ever No. 1 single 'Under the Moon of Love'. Their 'Greatest Hits' LP went silver only days after release.

THE WURZELS plan a major UK tour throughout March.

ROY ORBISON'S new single is 'Tony Joe White's 'I'm A Southern Man', released on January 28.

THE OUTLAWS cancelled their UK tour to record new album to be produced by Eagles / Joe Walsh producer Bill Szymczyk.

BONEY M presented with gold disc in Europe for single 'Daddy Cool'.

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BRYAN FERRY

# FERRY ALBUM IN JANUARY

## To tie in with solo tour

A NEW Bryan Ferry LP - as yet untitled - is released at the end of January to tie in with his UK tour in February. Musicians included on the LP are guitarist Chris Spedding, Elton John's percussionist Ray Cooper and Kokomo's bass and guitar players. Bryan's tour, rearranged for February due to his illness in October, begins on the 1st at Southampton Gaumont, and continues Bournemouth Winter Gardens 2, Leicester De Montfort Hall 3, Peterborough ABC 4, London Royal Albert Hall 7/9, Cardiff Capitol 12, Bristol Colston Hall 13, Birmingham Odeon 15/16, Manchester Opera House 17, Leeds Grand 19, Newcastle City Hall 20/21, Glasgow Apollo 23/24, Edinburgh Playhouse 25, Liverpool Empire 27 and Sheffield City Hall 28.

# GARY IS COMING BACK!

GARY GLITTER is to make a comeback following his one off concert at London's Theatre Royal on Saturday night.

He says he has been considering making a comeback and that the reception of his fans at his appearance made his mind up, though he says he won't be touring with a rock road show or performing with the Glitter Band.

## Cassidy tour

DAVID CASSIDY is to visit Britain in 1977, but there are still no definite tour plans.

His new album, 'Getting In The Street', featuring guitarist Mick Ronson, is planned for February release.

# Beatles quizzed over 'Doll' murder

EX BEATLES John Lennon and Paul McCartney have been questioned by detectives trying to identify the Hampshire 'Doll' murder victim.

Police say the woman - known as the doll because of her round face - may have worked for Lennon and Yoko Ono.

The woman's body was found in a field near a Hampshire village in September 1975 and as yet has not been identified.

The police spoke to Paul McCartney and his wife



McCartney Linda at a London recording studio and to Lennon on the telephone at his New York home.

# SUPERPOP DROPPED

LONDON WEEKEND Television is to drop the 'Superpop' series.

Mike Mansfield, producer of the series and also 'Supersoul', produced 12 Superpop programmes with his independent production company.

London Weekend TV bought eight of the programmes and has said they will buy no more of the existing programmes and have no plans to buy the programme in the future as there is "no slot" for the programme in their current schedule.

# Chicago here in January

CHICAGO HAVE confirmed they will be playing three British dates in January, as part of a European tour. They appear at Birmingham Odeon on January 23, London Hammersmith Odeon 25 and Manchester Free Trade Hall 28. Tickets for Manchester and Birmingham are £3, £2.50 and £2 and are available by postal application, and London prices are £3.50, £3, £2.50 and £2 and go on sale this week. Chicago will perform



CHICAGO

for two and a half hours, without a support act. These are their first UK appearances for three years.

# Climax single

CLIMAX BLUES Band have announced a new single and tour to follow up their success with 'Couldn't Get It Right'.

The single 'Together And Free' is from their 'Gold Plated' album and is released on January 21. They play Liverpool University on January 21, Salford University 22,

Hemel Hempstead Pavilion 23, Hanley, Stoke, Victoria Hall 24, Newcastle Mayfair 28, Leicester Poly 29, London Rainbow 30.

The Rainbow concert will be recorded for a possible future live single or EP. They begin work on a new album in the New Year.

# EIGHT MUD

MUD PLAN a series of eight gigs for next February at venues not included on their current tour. Dates to be announced soon. Their

follow up to 'Lean On Me' is recorded in January, and they will work on material for a new album during that month.

# Soul bonanza

SEVEN ALBUMS of prime US soul are to be made available in this country for the first time by WEA Records, with the issue of their 'This Is Loma' collection.

The 130 tracks cover the 1964-69 period and include Ike and Tina Turner, Bob and Earl, The Dolls, Lorraine Ellison, The Enchanters, J. J. Jackson and Linda Jones. Many rare Northern soul favourites are included on the albums.

# Rod adds date

ROD STEWART had a special police bodyguard during his stay in Newcastle last week, after threats that he would be beaten up.

The threat came after an incident in the city the last time Rod was playing there. He cancelled a visit to a reception held in his honour by Newcastle United football club, but his concerts went ahead as planned.

An extra date has been added to his tour, at Edinburgh Playhouse on January 10, his 32nd birthday. Rod and band rehearse for their new album next April to be recorded in the Summer, and there is a possibility they will make European outdoor festival appearances too.

# Punks recover

PUNK ROCK seems to have made a recovery from the grave situation two weeks ago with the announcement of new signings and gigs.

The Stranglers - whose single 'Grip' is released by United Artists on January 28 - have announced a concert at London's Roundhouse on January 2, along with the Pink Fairies, Little Bob Story and Hammersmith Corillas. Teen band Eater play a Christmas Eve gig at London's Hope And Anchor at 9.30 pm, proceeds to the Hope And Anchor benefit fund.

North London based group The Rats have a Tuesday night residency

at New Barnet's Duke of Lancaster in January and appear there on Thursday February 10.

Dates for The Vibrators include The Rock Garden, London on January 4, Hammersmith Red Cow 6, Loughborough University 22, Kingston Poly 28 and London's Nashville Rooms on the 29th.

Stiff Records announced this week that they had signed The Damned for a long term contract, making them the first long term band on the label.

Canadian guitarist Pat Travers and band have issued a challenge to the Sex Pistols for a musical duel to play anywhere, anytime - if all the money raised by the event can be donated to charity.

The Pistols play Plymouth Woods Centre tonight instead of Paignton and add Ipswich Manor Ballroom on Thursday night.

# TOURS...TOURS...TOURS

URIAH HEEP: Birmingham Odeon February 28, Leicester De Montfort Hall March 1, Portsmouth Guildhall 2, Bristol Colston Hall 3, Manchester Free Trade Hall 4, London Rainbow 6, Sheffield City Hall 8, Newcastle City Hall 9, Liverpool Empire 10, Glasgow Apollo 11. GEORGE HATCHER BAND: London Marquee January 5, Dublin Morans 8, Limerick Glentworth Hotel 9, Dublin Belfast University 11, Gordonstown Poly 12, Coleraine New University of Ulster 13, Dublin Blefield University 15, Belfast Queen's 16, London Marquee 19 and February 2, Glasgow Hamilton College 4, Edinburgh Heriot Watt University 5, Stafford College of Further Education 11, Manchester Electric Circus 12, Sheffield Top Rank 13, Doncaster Outlook 14, Cardiff Top Rank 15, Newport Showways Club 16, Swansea Circles Club 17, Burton-on-Trent 76 Club 18, Bromley Saxon Tavern 25, Dudley JB's 26, London Roundhouse 27, Brighton Top Rank March 1, Wolverhampton Lafayette Club 4, Wigan Casino 5, Chelmsford Chancellors Hall 6, London Marquee 7, Retford Porterhouse 11, Birmingham Barbarellas 12, ALKATRAZ: Retford Portchester University 7, Bolton Institute of Technology 8, Burton-on-Trent 76 Club 14, Birmingham Barbarellas 15, Sheffield Top Rank 18, Doncaster Outlook 17, Sunderland Poly 21, Manchester University 22, Barnet College 28, LSE 29, Cheltenham Pavilion February 4, Bedford College of Further Education 5, Scarborough Penthouse 18, Scunthorpe Priory Hotel 19. RY COODER: Legendary US guitarist Ry Cooder makes his first ever UK tour in January with his Mexican/Hawaiian band the Chicken Skin Band: Manchester Free Trade Hall January 27, Birmingham Odeon 28, Hammersmith Odeon 29, Oxford Polytechnic February 2. Tickets: London £3-£1.50 available now. Manchester and Birmingham £2.50-£1.50 available now. Oxford £1.75 postal application only at present. LONE STAR: Brighton Top Rank January 18, London

Westfield College 21, Bradford University 22, Plymouth Flesta 24, Cardiff Top Rank 25, Bristol University 28, Birmingham Barbarellas 29, Sheffield Top Rank 30, Manchester University February 5, Aberystwyth University 7, Liverpool University 9, Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall 12, Newcastle Poly 18, Swansea Top Rank 23, Hatfield Poly 25. RALPH McTELL: The scheduled tour has now been split into two parts in February and May. He will now tour universities in February and a concert tour in May, including his first major London appearance since his Royal Albert Hall concert last May. JACK THE LAD: Glasgow University March 5, Redcar Coatham Bowl 6, Stafford Top of the World 7, Liverpool University 9, Manchester University 10, Birmingham Aston University 11, Loughborough University 12, Exeter University 14, Plymouth Flesta 15, Warwick University 17, Uxbridge Brunel University 18, St Albans City Hall 19, Bristol Poly 26.

# Moon and Mae

KEITH MOON of the Who has been offered a cameo part in a new film called 'Sextet', starring Mae West.

He plays the part of Mae's dresser and says: "The reason they cast me as a dresser is that Mae West has spent so much time in previous films taking off her clothes they thought it would be nice if I put some on her." Also appearing in the film is Ringo Starr.

Moon has also been confirmed for a part in the 'All This And World War II' stage presentation in London on January 17.

Regarding the reason for cancelling his wedding plans, Keith says he is too young to get married.

# Vintage Beatles

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD recordings made by the Beatles in Germany are to be released as a double album set. Paul Murphy, managing director of BUK Records has set up a new company Lingasong to issue the records, which are being reprocessed from their original mono form.

# Gladys adds

AN EXTRA show has been added by Gladys Knight and the Pips to their January shows at London's New Victoria at 9pm on the 6th. A new single, 'Nobody But You' is released on January 7, coupled with the title track from the 'Pipedream' album.

# SAHB TOUR

THE SENSATIONAL Alex Harvey Band are to tour minus their leader in January and February to promote their own album. Their tour kicks off at Derby King's Hall on January 26, and continues at Carlisle Market Hall on the 27th, Edinburgh University 28, Glasgow Strathclyde University 29, Aberdeen Music Hall 30, Tiffans 31. February dates are Leeds University 2, Liverpool University Montford Hall 3, Durham University 4, Lancaster University 5, Redcar Coatham Bowl 6, Hull Tiffans 7, Manchester Electric Circus 8, Cardiff Top Rank 9, Cambridge Corn Exchange 11, Southend Kersall 12, Southampton Top Rank 13, Portsmouth

Locarno 15, Newcastle Mayfair 16, Sheffield University 19, Bristol Locarno 20, London Marquee 23/25, Uxbridge Brunel University 25, Bracknell Sports Centre 26, Dunstable Civic Hall 27, Swansea Top Rank 28. The band's album 'Fourplay' is released on January 14. The tracks - all band compositions - are 'Smouldering', 'Chase It Into The Night', 'Shake Your Way To Heaven', 'Outer Boogie', 'Big Boy', 'Pick It Up And Kick It', 'Love You For A Lifetime' and 'Too Much American Pie'. Alex Harvey is currently working on the 'Vibrant' album. A Summer tour is being fixed featuring the band with and without Alex.

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# ROYAL FLUSH

Gary Glitter returns but our lady on the spot can only keep her eye on THE box

ON SUNDAY, December 19, Her Highness Princess Margaret was forced to attend a rather tedious evening of pop music at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Her Highness was at first tempted to turn down the invitation, but on hearing that it was being organised by the 'Daily Mirror' (a popular newspaper) in aid of charity, and was being filmed by Mike Mansfield for television, she felt that it was her Royal Duty to go along and wave the flag. However, there were moments during the evening when she found it difficult to stifle a yawn or two.

On being told that Gary Glitter would be making his 'come-back' during the show, Her Highness entered into the spirit of things by choosing to wear her second-best silver evening dress. As it turned out, it was an excellent choice. It not only toned in with the onstage decor, but also matched Mr Glitter's trousers.

As she entered the Royal Box, Her Highness immediately became aware that the children in the stalls were in extremely high spirits. But she took it all in good part.

However, the gentleman who seemed to consider himself in charge of the proceedings — Russell Harty — seemed to be extremely irked by the children's enthusiasm. At one point he even told them that the next act would not appear unless they were silent.

The first act on the bill were a group of young men known as the G Band. Although Her Highness was not acquainted with their selection of numbers which included 'Almost American,' 'Lay Your Love On Me,' 'People Like You And People Like Me' and 'Goodbye My Love,' she found their music most acceptable.

After they had completed their act, Mr Harty appeared onstage, accompanied by Joanna Lumley — a former companion of the singer Rod Stewart and who now appears in the television programme, 'The New Avengers.' Joanna thought the group were 'smashing'.

Next, Tina Charles was presented with an award for being 'Best New Female Singer of '76'. Tina then proceeded to sing, in a rather piercing voice, a selection of four numbers, which unfortunately tended to sound very similar.

The next act to appear were Guys 'n' Dolls — a group of young men and women, who appeared to be dressed in rather uncomfortable suits made of a kind of silver foil. Most unstylish — the Princess decided to recommend her dressmaker to them.

After the interval, there

was a group called TRex, led by a rather overweight young man, Marc Bolan. The Princess had heard that he'd once been some sort of star in the pop world, but she couldn't think why... she found his music most tiresome.

Luckily, Her Highness had been presented with a box of chocolates at the beginning of the show, and she took advantage of the somewhat dim lighting during the next act to open the box and share the chocolates with her companions. This act was a young man called John Miles, who we were

assured had several hits. After Mr Miles had finished, the former model Twiggy came onstage to do a few songs.

Then, at last, it was time for the star of the show. Princess Margaret had witnessed Mr Glitter's performance on a previous occasion, and had found him to be an amusing young man, if somewhat lacking in taste.

This time, he appeared from behind a large star with his back to the audience. As he turned round, one could see he was wearing a very dashing silver outfit, with

a pink scarf adding a splash of colour at the neckline. Amidst screams from the audience, he sang a medley of some of his best-known songs, as well as one new one, the name of which I'm afraid I didn't catch. The Princess thought it was a pleasant song, and she was heard to make a small wager with her young companion that it would reach the Hit Parade.

At the end of his act, Mr Glitter came to the edge of the stage, and sang a song directly to the Princess — A gesture Her Highness thought most charming.



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# '76

## What THEY thought about it

1976 WAS the year of the Stones at Knebworth, 10cc splitting in half and Cliff Richard becoming fashionable again. Some good things and some bad.

We asked the stars what they thought of 1976, the highlights and rockbottoms — and what they looked forward to in 1977.



PAUL NICHOLAS



G BAND



JOHN MILES



SHOWADDYWADDY



SLIK



10CC



GRAHAM of 10CC



DANA



TINA CHARLES



MUD



KURSAALS



GOODIES

**PAUL NICHOLAS:** "The best single thing for me was the Chicago record 'If You Leave Me Now'. I thought it was a classic and even better than 10cc's 'I'm Not In Love' which I thought perfect until now."

"The worst thing about the year was inflation and how it hit the rock fans. It was a real shame that they had to pay out so much money for tickets to shows."

"In 1977 I hope that music is more fun and not full of doomy messages!"

**G BAND:** Pete Phipps and Harvey Elliman of the G Band agreed that, all in all, '76 had been quite a good year for music.

"I think the best thing that's happened is that the barrier have gradually been breaking down," said Pete. "Now the scene's much more open, which makes it more difficult for the individual groups, because there's a lot more competition around, but it's healthy for the scene generally."

And what's the worst thing that's happened?

"The worst thing has definitely been the trend towards violence at concerts," said Harvey. "I mean, I just don't see how anyone can get off on watching 10 people beating each other. The only ones who can get off on it are the ones who're doing the beating."

**JOHN MILES:** "With regard to 1976, I was glad to see Chicago at number one, and glad to see manufactured music, from the likes of the Bay City Rollers and Kenny, dying out. In general it's been a good year and I've got no complaints. For 1977 I'd like to see more good class musical bands like Chicago in the Top 30."

**MALCOLM 'THE DUKE' SHOWADDYWADDY,** speaking on behalf of the band: "Generally, it is now recognised that it is the quality of the song and not its age or who does it that matter. The worst aspect of 1976 has been that more and more artists are being forced to look abroad as people here can no longer pay the fees. So audiences are unable to see their stars as often as the artists would like."

**SLIK'S MIDGE URE:** "One of

the worst points of '76 was the manufactured disco sounds which had the habit of sounding like 20 different backing tracks with the same artist singing over them. It's good to see a lot of classy American rock singles. In '77 I sincerely hope there will be more up and coming young acts that are musically competent to get rid of the boring old men of rock."

**HUGH McDOWELL ELO:** "In '76 the quality of the charts improved and it was great to see bands who have been around for a long long time, like Thin Lizzy, coming back into recognition on their musical ability alone with no hype at all. The worst things: Benjamin Britten — a great influence on the British music scene — dying, and punk rock. In '77 I'm looking forward to seeing Zappa on a British tour and the long awaited decline of the Rollers."

**GRAHAM GOULDMAN 10cc —** "The worst thing? No doubt in my mind at all — punk rock. The best thing was to see Thin Lizzy and Joan Armatrading finally coming good. Nice to know that bloody hard work pays off at times. In '77 I hope to see a return to musical sanity and not the hypes that we've seen. Punk rock will definitely go making way for quality."

**DANA:** "The worst thing? Well! Well, Whew! Well, let's start with the best! I think it began in '75, and it certainly continued in '76. There seems to be a much wider acceptance of different kinds of music. I mean, lots of people like different kinds of music. But when you turned on the radio in the past, you used to hear the same kind of music being pumped out all the time."

"When you look at the charts over the last few months, they've been full of pure classics — pop, country and western, soul, middle of the road. It's quite phenomenal how varied the charts are now. It's partly because of the commercial radio stations opening. There's just a much wider variety of music on the air."

"As for the worst — I think I can honestly say I don't think '76

has had anything horrendous. Maybe one of the things that is unfortunate is that there seems to be a scarcity of new songs."

"As for '77, I think things will just get better. There was so much good music around in '76. My favourite singer and composer is Stevie Wonder — I've liked him since he was Little Stevie Wonder. While there's music like his around, you just can't go wrong!"

"There's so much good talent around — and I think things will just get better and better!"

**TINA CHARLES:** "The best thing was knowing that I could produce more than one hit single and at last I was getting somewhere. The worst thing was punk rock, I'm patriotic and I didn't like the way they were being nasty about the Queen. My ambition for '77 is to settle down in a nice house somewhere. I'll be happy if I do that."

**LES GRAY, MUD:** "Yes the worst thing was definitely punk rock. There must have been such an awful lot of talent going to waste because every record company just wanted to book such lousy bands. The best thing was playing to packed houses everywhere. It's nice knowing you've got a whole load of fans despite rising concert costs."

"In '77 our ambition is to conquer America. We all want to climb the Empire State building, pockets bulging with dollars."

**PAUL SHUTTLEWORTH KURSAALS FLYERS:** "The best thing was seeing a return to fun singles. I was also glad that our friends Eddie and The Hot Rods made it and put Southend on the map. It was a pretty good year for us. I can't complain. Ambitions for '77 I hope the sun shines all the year round in Southend and we get across to America."

**THE GOODIES:** "It was great seeing a Polar Bunting on Fair Isle," says Bill Oddie. "I made the first sighting and it made up for any troubles I had throughout the year. My ambition for '77 is to see a Siberian Ruby Throat in, May on the Catskerries, Shetland."



YVONNE ELLIMAN: giving them what they want

# Every picture tells a story

Jim Evans talks to Yvonne Elliman

**THERE ARE** two men in the life of Yvonne Elliman — Eric Clapton and her husband. In spite of spending half a year on the road with EC, Yvonne still manages to live the life of a happily married lady wedded to RSO Television chief Bill Oakes.

Yvonne left her native Hawaii at 17 for a promised but never realised recording contract in London. "I didn't know what to expect. I thought the streets would be paved with gold. I soon found this wasn't so at all. I was too young. I became disillusioned."

What she did find was a singing job in a King's Road folk club. It was there that she was discovered by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice... and landed the role of Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar. Though she featured on the original recording, she didn't make much money out of it. She took a flat 300 dollars recording fee instead of the half per cent offered her.

"It was either get the money instantly, which I needed, or wait and see how the album went. Of course I never dreamed 'Superstar' would be such a success. But

later on they made it up to me a bit. "But really 'Superstar' was too straight for me. I was into acid rock at the time."

Though she wasn't into it, 'Superstar' gave Yvonne the springboard she needed to launch herself on a solo career. She made two solo albums, the first of which was produced by Webber and Rice. Then in 1974 she joined up with Eric Clapton and has been an integral part of EC's return to the recording and touring scene. She sang throughout his '461 Ocean Boulevard' and 'There's One in Every Crowd' albums.

She won't hear a word spoken against EC and says, "I admire him so much. After two and a half years in the band I still idolise him. Recording my own album now is so different. I'm working regular hours, but with Eric we wouldn't go into the studio until midnight and we'd start work at it through to the morning."

Yvonne is modest with regard to her achievements in the musical world. Being told of the great success of her single 'Love Me' in the UK, she says "I think I may have reached it at last. Up until a year ago, I was trying to be another Grace Slik. With my vocalising, I was trying to emulate her power."

"But people seemed to want me to sing

ballad type songs. So I thought I'd give them what they want. I'd like to string up a couple more hits. It's never happened to me like this before."

So what's next? "Just another tour with Eric, unless I get an invitation to London. I love London, the West End, Piccadilly, the Cockneys and everything. And I miss Sussex, the lovely downs, the cows and the countryside."

"Of course, I still like Hawaii. I like going back there. I don't want to loose my roots. My parents are coming over here to California for Christmas, they've never been here before. It'll be a real family Christmas. We haven't been here long ourselves. We bought this house only this summer."

In fact, though they've been married four years, their home in Hollywood is their first. Previously they were both living in and out of suitcases. Bill's work often took him to New York City and Yvonne was frequently away on tour.

Oh, and just for the record, Yvonne dabbles in oil painting and does pictures for 'the very special' people in her life and incorporates "little private jokes" in them. I wonder how many are hanging on Eric's wall, what the jokes are and what Yvonne's old man thinks about it all...?

I JUST didn't believe in her. Dana, the pure Irish colleen, the vision of sweetness and light — the person the Daily Mirror chose a few weeks ago to calm the shattered nerves of all those readers who'd found the snarling Sex Pistols on the cover a bit too much to take.

"We've had enough of the ugly side of pop," they trilled. "So here's a view of the other side — the prettier side." And there she was, smiling soothingly out of the page, reassuring everyone that today's young people weren't all bad after all. Nope, I didn't believe it. Nobody's that nice. There just had to be a prize bitch lurking in there somewhere.

**'I thought Sex Pistols were something you bought in a sex shop'**

So come on, Dana, spill the beans... let's have the real truth! "I do sometimes get journalists who come along with that image in mind, and think, 'Right, I'm going to get a really sensational story. I'm going to reveal her as she really is!'" she tells me. "It's a bit of a pain, really — they can reveal the truth if they like, but I'm just ordinary, run-of-the-mill."

# Was Dana topless? — the truth

So how has that sort of image come about? "It must just be other people's impressions of me," she says. "I've certainly never cultivated it deliberately. I get a lot of people who say to me, 'You have this really sugary image — what do you think about it?' In other words, 'How can you bear it?'! But I don't find it insulting — I think it's quite flattering. I mean I don't have any ambition to go down as the last of the great Irish ravers!"

So about the Daily Mirror feature... "You want to know if I was topless!" she says. "That's what everyone asks!"

Well, actually, no, I didn't... but were you? "No, I wasn't!" she laughs. "But it was quite a funny photo, because it was shot at half past eight at night, and I'd been working since half past eight in the morning. We'd checked during the day to see if it was casual or evening wear, and they said casual, so when I went along to the studio, I just took a few polo necks."

The photographer, who was a very nice lady, said there must have been a misunderstanding, because they wanted really soft romantic photos. I said I'd send home for something, but she said, "Oh no, I've had a really long day" and I said, "So have I!" So we did a makeshift thing with a piece of yellow satin, and she said, "Don't worry about it anyway, it's only a face shot."

"So what I did was pull the thing really tight

by Sheila  
**"Thumbscrews" Prophet**

round my chest, because I didn't want to be bothered with it slipping up and down, and when they printed it, I looked a really funny shape! It looked like I had my bust tucked under my arm.

"I had my tonsillitis creeping up on me at the time and I just felt terrible. Afterwards, I could see the joke, but at the time I thought, 'Oh God, this is all I need.'"

**'I don't have any ambition to go down as the last of the Irish ravers'**

But back to the question I was really meaning to ask... what do you think of the punk thing and all the fuss the papers made about it?

"Well, do you know, the one day that all that sensation was going on, I was in Dublin," she says. "I missed it all. I came back from Dublin the morning after they appeared on TV, and I went straight to the BBC. I was waiting in reception, and the girl at the desk said to me, 'Absolutely disgraceful, those Sex Pistols!' Well, I'd never heard of the Sex Pistols, so I thought it was



DANA: in a festive mood and THAT picture some kind of new device you'd buy in a sex shop! "She said: 'You know, they came in here yesterday, and they were all wearing safety pins in their ears!' I mean I couldn't even bear the thought of having my ears pierced, so when you think of safety pins..."



... drinking coffee and eating chocolate cake. It seems that, not only is she just as nice as everyone says, she's also got a great sense of humour! Besides, she's had a run of bad luck which started in October when she had an operation on her throat. For a time, she didn't know if she'd be able to sing again. "There was a time when it seemed very probable that I

even though her single 'Fairytale' is in the charts. She's had to cancel her appearance as the star of a West End performance of 'Cinderella'. In fact, the day I spoke to her was her first day up after a week in bed.

"It was agony," she says. "I lost half a stone, because I just couldn't swallow!"

The tonsillitis has proved a big setback to her plans, but she says she hasn't had time to get depressed about it.

**'It looked like I had my bust tucked under my arm'**

"There's still plenty to do... I'm doing a radio show for Radio Two, which goes out from January 4. We've done five shows, but there are 17 in all, so there's still plenty of work to be done. Also, I'm recording a Japanese album early in the New Year, so I've got to learn a whole album full of songs in Japanese!"

"I've already recorded a Japanese version of 'It's Gonna Be A Cold, Cold Christmas', and it took ages! The sounds themselves are all very simple, because Japanese is all vowel sounds.

"It's just remembering which order they go in — that's the problem!"

## Everybody's Talking 'Bout Love.

by **Silver Convention**



**IT'S THE TONY BLACKBURN RECORD OF THE WEEK**  
Week commencing **DEC 20th.**

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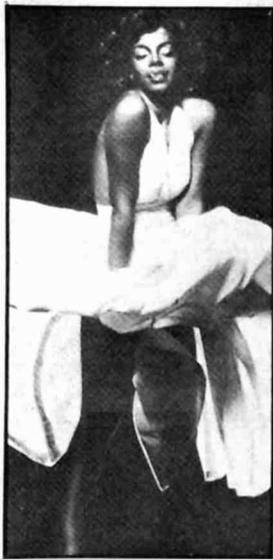
# AN A-Z

Forget the intellectual view of rock 'n' roll. We don't pretend to give you the definitive diary of '76, but we do give you the truth!



**A** is for Abba (above), Sweden's biggest export since safety matches and open sandwiches. (Wonder why Sweden has the highest suicide rate?) They make plenty of green ones and end the year by bringing out a song to commemorate their fortune called 'Money Money Money'. A is also for 'Arrival', the album that will make them even richer. A is for Armatradng, Joan. One of the nicest albums all year. She looks like being a star of '77. A is also for AC/DC but that's not nice, so we won't talk about it.

**B** is for Bolan, who's done very little this year except pose and also for Bay City Rollers who rarely appear in a picture without their thumbs turned to the camera and who change the young boys in their line - up all the time (keeps them in the news) and whose manager hasn't mentioned a word about his engagement to art student Marcella since the publicity in the national press. B is also for Max Boyce, the second rate ethnic comedian and for Baileys clubs. B is for Be - Bop Deluxe who are doing well and for the Bee Gees who have a new disco image after all these years. B is also for Bowie (below) - the man who fell to pieces.



D is for Donna Summers and disco hits



**D** is for Demis, the fat man who lives in a tent and still has thousands of women queueing at the guy ropes. It's also for The Damned who brought rock back to the bottom. D is also for Dee, Kiki, the lady who owes so much to Elton John. It's also for Disco, where YOU break the new sounds.

**C** is for Chi - Lites who are boring and for Cliff who isn't. It's also for Carpenters who were so awful they needn't have bothered coming over. C is for Tina Charles who wears funny clothes and for Billy Connolly whose stage gear was insane. It's also for Clapton, who's no longer God - he stood down for Bert Weedon.



C is for Chicago, who read the best papers

**E** is for Essex, who's trying to introduce musical integrity to his act, so he's not just a pretty face. It's also for ELO, dem livin' things and Elton who's giving it all up (again). It's also for Elvis who gave up years ago. E is for Eddie and the Hotrods, an exciting new band who deserve to get on. And E is for Engelbert who should be getting off.



E is for Eddie (alias Barrie Masters) and the Hot Rods

**F** is for Freddie Mercury the flowers' friend and for Frampton who showed us the way. It's also for Feelgoods who hope to feel better. F is for Funk that has to be black, and for Bryan Ferry who needs a comeback. It's also for Follies (Rock ones - below) the TV disaster that's supposed to be real.



**G** is for Gary (right) who bowed out this year and for his band which is trying to get heavier. G is for Marvin Gaye who was disappointing and for Golden Earring who thankfully haven't been around. G is also for Garfunkel whose eyes are too close together.

**H** is for Heep who've spent the year scrapping, also for Harley who is a prima donna and is not as handsome as Hutch (David Soul). H is for Steve Hillage the cosmic cowboy and for Alex Harvey, the cosmic Caledonian. H is for Dr Hook - the dirtiest band in the world and also for Hot Chocolate, the bedtime boogy.



H is for Hook, the dirty doctor

**I** is for Janis Ian, the ugly duckling who turned into a famous swan and also for Ian (Mitchell) who's out for a duck. I is for inflation, the illness that drives rich pop stars to America where they can be richer and for Burl Ives who must have been the most surprised man on the planet when he made the front cover of a bourgeois pop paper.



Jagger makes a bid to escape crippling taxes



**J** is for Jagger who lists Linda Ronstadt among his closest chums but who doesn't see a lot of Bianca. It's also for Elton John (left), that well - knowing football nut and for Jingles on Radio One which are silly. It's for JJ Barrie who was nauseating.

**K** is for Kiss, all klothes and no klass, it's also for Keith (Richard) the krassiest punk of all. K is for Jonathan King who was very kross when he was beaten at his own game and also for Kursaal Flyers (right) who are inkredible.





# RECORDS OF THE YEAR

## David Brown

**IAN HUNTER:** 'All American Alien Boy' (CBS81310). A first class selection of rock statements, showing a fresh maturity for one of the scene's most charismatic figures and songwriters. It reflects the thoughts behind those shades of a UK rocker living in the USA. Every song is a killer. Some critics couldn't resist the temptation to compare some tracks with one Bob Dylan, to which Ian said: "They never mention me when they review his albums."  
**WARREN ZEVON:** 'Warren Zevon' (Asylum K53039). An outstanding collection from one of several good singer / songwriters to emerge this year of which Warren leads for his amazing choice of subject matter and the way in which his songs are exquisitely delivered.  
**EDDIE AND THE HOT RODS:** 'Teenage Depression' (Island WIP6354). This group and this single encompass everything that's good about rock in the mid - seventies and expresses just why teenagers feel the need to lay down their own brand of rock. It should ensure that this outfit above all the other so called "new wave" bands will survive well into the future.



## Barry Cain

**THIN LIZZY 'Jailbreak'**. He sat alone in the vinyl cell. "Everything is so black. My God it's years since I last saw the sun. I wonder what's happening out there. I wonder . . . I can't go on." He wept and a tear slid off his cheek and splashed onto a silver album cover. "What's this?" And Behold even as he played the record the sun fell upon the cell and melted the blackness.  
**PETER FRAMPTON - 'Frampton Comes Alive'**. "I'm free" he cried and ventured out into the light. 'Twas winter and a carpet of snow lay upon the ground. "But which way do I travel to reach the town?" He panicked. Images of his lonely cell appeared in his mind. And lo he looked up and saw a strange light called Frampton showing him the way.  
**THIN LIZZY - 'The Boys Are Back In Town'**. And he went.



We all look back at some time or another. Well, the staff of Record Mirror have looked back and have picked out their top two albums and top single of the year. Did we miss any out? Let us know.

## Jim Evans

**LOU REED:** 'Rock and Roll Heart' (Arista ARTY 142). The best thing he's done since his halcyon days with Velvet Underground. It could easily be re - titled 'The Complete Lou Reed'. The title track 'Rock and Roll Heart' is destined to join 'Sweet Jane' and 'Walk On The Wild Side' in the Lou Reed book of classics. It's great to have you back Mr Reed.  
**LINDA RONSTADT:** 'Greatest Hits' (Asylum K53055). There's no truth in the rumour that I've chosen the lovely Linda because I'm hoping they'll see fit to print a full length picture of her. It wouldn't be a bad idea though. 'You're No Good', 'Silver Threads And Golden Needles', 'Desperado', 'Love Is A Rose', 'That'll Be The Day', 'Long Long Time', 'Different Drum', 'When Will I Be Loved', 'Love Has No Pride', 'Heat Wave', 'It Doesn't Matter Any More' and 'Tracks Of My Tears' all on one delicious platter.  
**LYNRYD SKYNYRD:** 'Sweet Home Alabama / Double Trouble' (MCA). Though only a minor hit, this offering brought the admirable Florida based outfit to the attention of the public. Saw them at Knebworth, heard the record, loved it.



## Sheila Prophet

**RAMONES:** 'Ramones'. Nobby seems too sure if the Ramones' humour is intentional, or if they really are as dumb as they look! But either way, this album is FUN - a great change from all the balding creeps who go around taking themselves and their music so seriously. At least you can't accuse the Ramones of that - no one with lyrics like theirs can be entirely serious. Can they?  
**ROBERT PALMER:** 'Some People Can Do What They Like'. His last two albums were good, but this one's a killer. Smooth, funky - great songs and great playing. Robert looks like being yet another British artist to be acclaimed in the States before his own country. But there's still time for us to catch up - if we hurry.  
**STARLAND VOCAL BAND:** 'Afternoon Delight'. Okay, I know it's unaggressive, clean - cut, deodorised music, but it was also the summer sound of '76, and it still evokes lovely memories of lazy, hazy days when it was too hot to sleep at nights, and you just couldn't imagine what winter felt like. Brr!



## Alf Martin

**'JOHNNY THE FOX'**, Thin Lizzy (Vertigo). This is what music SHOULD be all about. Good, crisp rock 'n' roll. Phil Lynott's writing's getting better all the time. There's a message and it comes over in the melody. The best album this year and the best live band.

**'T SHIRT'**, Loudon Wainwright III (Arista). Put it on, you'll like its style, it'll fit like a glove. The words on it will kill ya. If you haven't got it already, do yourself a favour, you'll look smart with it. You won't be stitched up.

**'LOVE AND AFFECTION'** Joan Armatrading (A&M). I knew she could do it, and she did. What a beauty.



## Ros Russell

**'Night On The Town'** was Rod Stewart's annual offering and for me the best album of the year, even though it didn't supercede 'Atlantic Crossing'. It gave us two superb singles - 'Tonight's The Night' and 'Killing Of George'. A light album, perhaps a bit too smooth, a big step towards the new Stewart era.

Joint second favourites were Joan Armatrading's album and 'The Best of the Eagles'. Joan's because it was the best new artist collection with the lush 'Love And Affection' track and tons of potential for 1977, and the Eagles because 'Desperado' is such a moving, summer sound. Dolly Parton's 'Jolene' is my top single because it encapsulates the complete Dolly in one song. A fast running, hard pleading Southern belle, bringing country and western to rock and roll.

## Seamus Potter

**TIREDD, LISTLESS, depressed?** For immediate relief take a large dose of 'Stupidity' by Dr Feelgood as many times daily as your head can stand. Especially effective is a mixture of 'Roxette' and 'Walking The Dog' shattered, not stirred. In the unlikely event of the head remaining the same sprinkle liberally with 'Teenage Depression', Eddie and the Hot Rods.

Or maybe you want to slow down a little? Cure all your innermost tensions with a gentle earful of 'Songs In The Key Of Life'. Worth the tormented wait and guaranteed to quieten the whole range of nervous conditions. Careful how you tread over three sides - some parts need heavy diluting, but there's never been a more wide - ranging and effective potion from Dr Wonder.

To relieve post - operative elation, fasten your electrodes to J. J. Barrie's 'No Charge' - the most dangerous poison ever known to mankind.

And a Happy New Year to all head - cases everywhere.



## Robin Smith

**LED ZEPPELIN:** 'The Song Remains The Same'. Okay, so the album was recorded four years ago but what the hell! There's enough energy on this record to pulverise most other bands into nine tins of cat food. Overstuffed with turkey and Christmas pud and nothing to do except play another game of Monopoly? Put this on the turntable and whirl your granny round the floor.

**WISHBONE ASH:** 'New England'. At last they're back with a bang. Wishbone have captured the zest of their early efforts. Stand out tracks are 'Lorelle' and 'Outward Bound' the latter with guitar playing that could melt butter. Vocally they're also much improved and the songs are precise. And what about the album cover? The record's worth buying for that alone.

**LINDA RONSTADT:** 'Lose Again'. The most emotional voice of the century combined with thoughtful lyrics. Fed up with life, girlfriend / boyfriend away for Christmas? - then cry along with Linda. This single deserved 10 times the airplay it received.



# Albums

**CHI-LITES: 'Chi - Lite Time' (Brunswick BRLS 3023).**

This album's sub-titled 'The Very Best Of The Chi - Lites', and it certainly lives up to its name. There are 16 tracks in all, making up over an hour's playing time, and it includes all their big hits - 'Oh Girl', 'You Don't Have To Go', 'Homely Girl' and 'Have You Seen Her?'. There's no doubt about it - it's great value for money. Personally, I find two sides of their very distinctive sound a bit too much to take. After a while, it all starts to sound the same. But for fans, it's a real goodie. +++ Sheila Prophet

**MILLIE JACKSON: 'The Best Of Millie Jackson' (Polydor Super 2391 247).**

A pretender to Aretha Franklin's Queen of Soul title, Millie Jackson has a considerable voice range which she shows off in this collection taken from her albums, 'Millie Jackson', 'Caught Up', 'Still Caught Up' and 'Free And In Love'. She has also reduced many a good man to tears with her tear-jerking songs. +++ Jim Evans.

**STYX: 'Crystal Ball' (A&M AMLH 6404).**

Lurking within a somewhat tame package is an album which is in parts little short of sensational and generally above the norm. They've discovered a novel way of opening 'Put Me On' a sort of introduction to the LP and a taste of things to come. The invitation to turn the volume up really high is a tip worthy of consideration, even though the vocalist does claim to be "the madman screaming in your living room...". At the other end of the collection is 'Ballarina', cleverly woven in with 'Clair De Lune', a robust but pure sound. Their range is wide, and they deliver in a stylish manner. +++ David Brown.

**BONEY M: 'Take The Heat Off Me' (Atlantic K50314).**

Oddball band of three girls and a guy all born in the West Indies but based in Berlin - of all places. Their single 'Daddy Cool' which is included on this set has held the German Number One slot for many weeks. But then, that isn't too much of a feat. Germans tend to go for anything these days. They sing passable but very average glamorous reggae. ++ Barry Cain

## Chi-Lites are a de-lite

**DC LARUE: 'Cathedrals' (Pye 28225).**

This is a concept album, which means we've got to take it seriously. Dr Jerry, who wrote the sleeve notes, does " 'Cathedrals', 'he reckons, 'is taking a step forward, making the past the present, making tomorrow today.' Oh yeah? Well, I've heard the single and it seems nothing special - the usual disco fodder. But how about the rest? Well, there's 'I'll Still Be Here For You', which apparently is part of Handel's Messiah (a new concept in pinching riffs). It's okay to dance to, I suppose - the guy has quite a good voice, anyway. Then there's 'Deep, Dark, Delicious Nights', which has lots of heavy breathing, but not much else. And last, but unfortunately not least, is 'I Don't Want To Lose You' which takes up a whole side. Goes on a bit, but it'd be okay if they cut out the middle and the end. Yeah, well, it's all right - but what was Dr Jerry making all the fuss about? +++ Sheila Prophet

**GHEORGHE ZAMFIR: 'Themes' Epic EPC 81780).**

Remember the Clangers on TV kiddies? Strange space creatures that made high pitched whistling noises like ruptured sparrows? No, well never mind. Gheorghe Zamfir sounds very similar. His pan pipe playing has a strange haunting effect - but then who wants to be haunted? ++ David Brown

**AJL BAND: 'Sweet Sticky Thing' (Eye BE 602)**

What a good idea... get some anonymous group to record a bunch of successful tracks, put 'em all together on one album, stick a label on the cover saying 'Best Of The Disco Hits', then sit back and wait for the cash to roll in. Don't be fooled - save your money ++ Sheila Prophet

**'The Best Of The New Riders Of The Purple Sage' (CBS 81742)**

The New Riders are a great country rock band, but have lived too long in the shadow of the Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia. He started out as their mentor and now



## NO MILESTONE FOR 'STRANGER' JOHN

**JOHN MILES: 'Stranger In The City' (Decca TXS 118).**

You never really know where you are with John Miles. The master of the three minute pop song changes his image and musical direction with each record - and he's only been in the public eye for a year. The new album reveals a rocky Miles, a lot looser than 'Rebel' though the 'engineered' feel to his music is still inherent in each track. There are only

his influence on their music is overpowering - the extensive slide guitar work on 'Last Lonely Eagle' for instance. It's a beautiful song despite all this. But if you don't know the Dead, then this opinion won't worry you. A good introduction to the band. ++ Rosalind Russell

**JOHN RENBOURN: 'The Hermit' (Transatlantic TRA 336), STE-FAN GROSSMAN: 'My Creole Belle' (Transatlantic TRA 326)**

A lot of people are probably going to get their first guitar for Christmas, and a listen to either of these two master guitarists will either inspire you to great things or make you wish you'd never started. John Renbourn, formerly one fifth of Pentangle, plays a fine selection of mainly British music, while Grossman delivers a set of blues and

ragtime tunes. Both give some tuning details on the sleeve notes, and both manage to make it sound so easy on record. +++ David Brown

**BILL WITHERS: 'Naked and Warm' (CBS 81580)**

Withers is best known for 'Lean On Me' - Mud's current high-riding chart success. It's a pity this album doesn't live up to that standard. It's mainly a selection of half-boiled funk. On 'Close to Me' Bill tries a James Brown impression that suffers from an over-long introduction and never gets off the ground. Bill sounds uncomfortable on most of the tracks particularly 'Naked and Warm' (Heaven On Heaven) where he struggles with a bad arrangement. Lay off the heavy funk Bill and stick to what you do best. ++ Robin Smith

**THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA: 'Isn't It Romantic' (Transatlantic TRA 335)**

When the din of the wailing guitar has died down, do you ever crave for something a little light-hearted, something to dance to, an echo of yesteryear when it was all so wonderful? If so lend an ear to this lot, who, clad in white suits and dicky bows, play authentic twenties and thirties music as if it

never went out of fashion. Songs like 'Cheek To Cheek' and 'Singing In The Rain' maintain their charm - but be careful, this stuff is addictive. +++ David Brown

**GORDON LIGHT-FOOT: 'Early Morning Rain' (Sunset SLS 50398).**

A collection of oldish songs from the Canadian singer/songwriter, which seems rather a pointless release for this country. Fans of his are likely to have all these tracks already, and I can't honestly see it creating much new demand. Still, it's a very pleasant album, with some good tracks - I particularly liked the title song, 'Did She Mention My Name' and his version of 'The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face' - very different from the soulful sound that Roberta Flack was later to make famous. Well worth a listen. +++ Sheila Prophet

**SEALS AND CROFTS: 'Sudan Village' (WEA K56307).**

If you like singers who sound like they need a nose operation, you'll love Seals and Crofts. This album was recorded live, so without the usual studio doctoring they sound worse than usual. On 'Advance Guards' they're particularly bad - deteriorating into a low muffled

buzz. It's often a case of tight musicianship being more appealing than the singing, as on the opening track 'Sudan Village'. ++ Robin Smith

**THE NEW SEEKERS: 'Together Again' (CBS 81616).**

After two years apart, the New Seekers reformed in April this year. Joining Marty, Paul and Eve are new members Kathy Ann Rae and Danny Finn who replace Peter Oliver. Their two singles since their reformation included here are: 'It's So Nice (To Have You Home)' and 'I Want To Go Back'. Neither have made any significant chart impact though they both have liberal splatterings of chart ingredients - sweet harmonies, sloppy lovey-dovey lyrics - all good Eurovision song contest stuff. The album contains nine other tracks none of which are over-memorable except perhaps the rip-off of 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart'. Perhaps they should cast their eyes to new musical horizons instead of relying on the old formulas. ++ Jim Evans.

**GRINDERSWITCH: 'Pullin' Together' (Capricorn CP 0173)**

Hey y'all it's yet another band from the Capricorn record stable deep in the South, sho' nuff. Grinderswitch turn out unoriginal boogie with the type of guitar-work you can hang whiskers on. They're competent players but they sound too much like the other bands Capricorn has to offer. 'Higher Ground' boasts a riff that sounds the twin of the Allman Brothers on 'Jessica'. The other tracks drag along predictably with very few highlights. No band is totally original, but even so Grinderswitch could have tried harder. ++ Robin Smith

**CAN: 'Opener' (Sunset SLS50460)**

This represents the cream of their middle stages, showing how the

+++++ Unbeatable  
++++ Buy it  
+++ Give it a spin  
++ Give it a miss  
+ Unbearable

band have developed from their slightly obscure beginnings into their more fluid style. The two tracks off 'Soon Over Babaluma' - 'Come Sta, La Luna' and the exciting 'Dizzy Dizzy' - make it a good buy, especially if you've only recently got the taste. ++ David Brown.

**VARIOUS ARTISTS: 'BBC TV's Best Of Top Of The Pops' (BBC BELP 000)**

This record is the sort of specially designed Xmas offering mums will rush out in droves to buy for their off-spring. But will the offspring appreciate it? Well, if they're fans of Barry White, Acker Bilk, Can, the Bay City Rollers. ++ Sheila Prophet.

**THE MANHATTANS: 'I Wanna Be Your Everything' (DJM DJB 26084)**

If you liked their style on recent hits like 'Hurt' and 'Kiss and Say Goodbye' you'll enjoy this album. It goes back many years but includes 10 tracks that haven't dated too badly and shows the Manhattans were always best at ballads. Listing the titles is pointless as most of the tracks will mean little except to the most fastidious of soul fans. Fine liner notes by Adam White but the sound reproduction is not quite of five star quality. ++ Robin Katz

**THE NEW TONY WILLIAMS LIFE-TIME: 'Million Dollar Legs' (CBS 81510)**

Jazz trumpeter Miles Davis was the first to utilise the extraordinary percussive talents of teenager Tony Williams. From Davis he progressed to form Lifetime, which at one time featured bass player Jack Bruce and guitarist John McLaughlin in their line-up. The band were, as they say, before their time, and now when jazz rock/funk has finally caught up with them comes a new Lifetime. This album has been around for a while on import and not raised many eyebrows yet. It seems more soulful and more easily approachable than its forerunner and in many ways much less adventurous than the early band. ++ David Brown

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## Clifford's restful waves

**CLIFFORD T. WARD: 'Waves' (Philips 9109 216)**

I've always been a sucker for Clifford T. Ward's gentle kind of music. On this album, his songs are simpler and less worldly than before, and he seems to have discarded the overblown sound effects that marred the last album. At the same time though, there seem to be fewer melodies with instant appeal - maybe they need time to grow on you. But otherwise, it's the same mixture as

before - Clifford's wistful vocals, a fine backing band, (with some particularly nice sax from Pete King) and a collection of pretty, romantic songs. I liked 'Ocean Of Love', which continues the nautical theme of the title track, 'A Song For Susan', which lyrically is like one of his earlier songs, and 'Witches And Ghosts', a strange little song with a jazzy instrumental ending, which sounds quite eerie in parts. A nice, restful record to come to after a hard day. +++ Sheila Prophet



**Merry  
KISSmas**  
from all  
at RECORD  
MIRROR

# Upfront

Record Mirror's weekly guide to

Concerts, TV, Radio, Books and Films

## Wednesday

**BIRMINGHAM**, Elizabethan Days, Hooker  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Mermaid, Flying Saucers  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Metropole Hotel, Brother Lees  
**BLACKBURN**, Cavendish (662662), Chants  
**BLACKBURN**, Lodestar (Ribchester 400), Strife  
**BRIGHTON**, The Dome (662127), New Seekers  
**CAMBRIDGE**, Corn Exchange (3937), Johnny Wakelin  
**CORK**, City Hall, Falling Asunder Rock Review with Jimi Steven Band / White Falls / Smiley Boger  
**COVENTRY**, City Centre Club (51120), New Vaudeville Band  
**COVENTRY**, Sportsman Club, Applejacks  
**DERBY**, Baileys (363151), Sweet Sensation  
**GLASGOW**, Apollo Centre (041-332 6055), Sidney Devine  
**LEICESTER**, Baileys (26462), Paper Lace  
**LITTLE STOKEY** (Nr Huntingdon), Camelot Club, Geno Washington  
**LONDON**, Bridge House, Canning Town, Streamliner  
**LONDON**, Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush (01-743 5050), The Fosdyke Saga  
**LONDON**, Dingwalls, Camden Lock (01-267 4967), Carol Grimes & The London Boogie Band  
**LONDON**, Fänge, Praed Street, Heatwave  
**LONDON**, Hope and Anchor, Upper Street (01-359 4510), Generation X  
**LONDON**, Lord Nelson, Holloway Road, Vibrators  
**LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Alberto Y Los Tríos Paranoías  
**LONDON**, Nashville, North End Road (01-603 6071), Aswad  
**LONDON**, New Victoria Theatre, Wilton Street (01-834 0671), Caravan / Oor  
**LONDON**, Olympia, Hammersmith Road (01-603 3344), Rod Stewart  
**LONDON**, Railway, Putney High Street, Max Collier Rhythm Aces  
**LONDON**, Cinderella's (40704), Muscles  
**LONDON**, Rock Garden, Covent Garden (01-240 3961), The Darts  
**LONDON**, Ronnie Scotts, Frith Street (01-439 0747), George Melly and John Chiltons Feetwarmers / Ronnie Scott Quartet  
**LONDON**, Upstairs at Ronnies, Frith Street (01-439 0747), Manic Street  
**LUTON**, Caesars (51357), Barron Knights  
**MEXBOROUGH**, Jesters (3867), Scallywag  
**NEWCASTLE**, City Hall (200077), Lindisfarne  
**NEWCASTLE**, La Dolce Vita (26793), Love Affair  
**NEWCASTLE**, UPON THE WALL, University Theatre, Haymarket, Bill Caddick  
**OLDHAM**, Baileys (061-652 8421), Champagne  
**PLYMOUTH**, Woods Centre, Sex Pistols / Johnny Thunder's Heartbreakers / Clash  
**SALISBURY**, High Post Hotel, Dave Berry and the Cleveland County Band  
**WATFORD**, Baileys (39848), Sparrow  
**WELLINGBOROUGH**, British Rail Sports Club, Sun Session  
**WEST BROMWICH**, Oaks Dale Social Club, Hellraisers  
**WIGAN**, Wigan Casino, Stray

**LEICESTER**, Baileys (26462), Paper Lace  
**LEICESTER**, Tiffany's, Corn Exchange, Market Place, Flying Saucers  
**LONDON**, Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush (01-743 5050), The Fosdyke Saga  
**LONDON**, Cart and Horses, Stratford, Jerry the Ferret  
**LONDON**, Dingwalls, Camden Lock (01-267 4967), Dingwalls Christmas Party Nite with FBI  
**LONDON**, Golden Lion, Fulham Road, RDB  
**LONDON**, Hope and Anchor, Upper Street (01-359 4510), Midnight Wolf  
**LONDON**, Hop Poles, King Street, Country Wise  
**LONDON**, Kensington, Russell Gardens (01-603 3245), Roy St John Band  
**LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Genaro Y Los Tríos Paranoías  
**LONDON**, Nashville, North End Road (01-603 6071), Racing Cars  
**LONDON**, Olympia, Hammersmith Road (01-603 3344), Rod Stewart  
**LONDON**, Red Cow, Hammersmith Road, Nashville Teens  
**LONDON**, Rock Garden, Covent Garden (01-240 3961), Sam Apple Pie / Fabulous Poodles  
**LONDON**, Ronnie Scotts, Frith Street (01-439 0747), George Melly and John Chiltons Feetwarmers / Ronnie Scott Quartet  
**LONDON**, Speakery, Margaret Street (01-580 8810), Pacific Eardrum  
**LUTON**, Caesars (51357), Barron Knights  
**MALDEN**, Hibernian Hotel, Falling Asunder Rock Review with Jimmy Sevin Band / White Fall / Smiley Boger  
**MIDDLESBROUGH**, Rock Garden, Vibrators  
**NEWCASTLE**, City Hall (200077), Lindisfarne  
**NEWCASTLE**, La Dolce Vita (26793), Love Affair  
**NEWCASTLE**, UPON THE WALL, University Theatre, Haymarket, Bill Caddick  
**OLDHAM**, Baileys (061-652 8421), Champagne  
**PLYMOUTH**, Woods Centre, Sex Pistols / Johnny Thunder's Heartbreakers / Clash  
**SALISBURY**, High Post Hotel, Dave Berry and the Cleveland County Band  
**WATFORD**, Baileys (39848), Sparrow  
**WELLINGBOROUGH**, British Rail Sports Club, Sun Session  
**WEST BROMWICH**, Oaks Dale Social Club, Hellraisers  
**WIGAN**, Wigan Casino, Stray

## Friday

**BATLEY**, Variety Club (47529), Grumbles  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Barabrellas (021-643 9413), Fantastics  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Monica's, Merseybeats  
**BLACKBURN**, Cavendish (662662), Chants  
**BURNORD**, Topic Folk Club, Star Hotel, Westgate, Robin Garside / Paul Gough  
**BRISTOL**, Granary, Welsh Back (28267), Avon Bites  
**BUCKHURST HILL**, Prince of Wales, Original East Side Stompers  
**BURTON ON TRENT**, Paradise Room, Second Hand Band  
**CAMBRIDGE**, Corn Exchange (5897), Eddie and the Hots Roks / Aswad  
**CONNAHS QUAY**, Albion Club, Maloney  
**COVENTRY**, City Centre Club (51120), New Vaudeville Band  
**COVENTRY**, Sportsman Club, Applejacks  
**CREWE**, Masonic, Market Street, Any Trouble  
**CROYDON**, Fairfield Hall (01-688 9291), Bassi  
**DRUMS**, Xmas Show / Hellraisers  
**DERBY**, Baileys (363151), Sweet Sensation

## Thursday

**AYLESBURY**, Friars Vale Hall, Eddie and the Hot Roks / Orbi  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Mermaid, Stratford Road, Hellraisers  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Monicas, Merseybeats  
**BILLINGHAM**, Theatre Upstairs, Five Hand Reel  
**BLACKBURN**, Baileys (662662), Chants  
**COVENTRY**, City Centre Club (51120), New Vaudeville Band  
**COVENTRY**, Sportsman Club, Applejacks  
**DERBY**, Baileys (363151), Sweet Sensation  
**EDINBURGH**, Nicky Tams Tavern (031-225 6569), Kharta  
**GLASGOW**, Maggi (041-332 6055), Spike

**DUNSTABLE**, California Ballroom (62804), Heatwave  
**EASTBOURNE**, Sundowners, Bethnal  
**EDINBURGH**, Nicky Tams Tavern (031-225 6569), Dragon  
**GLASGOW**, Burns Howff (041-332 6055), Spike  
**GLASGOW**, Maggi (041-332 6055), Spike  
**KNARESBOROUGH**, Borough Belliff, Kitsyke VIII  
**LEICESTER**, Baileys (26462), Paper Lace  
**LEIGHTON BUZZARD**, Hunt Hotel, One Ups Record Player  
**LONDON**, Brecknock, Camden Town, Streamliner  
**LONDON**, Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush (01-743 5050), The Fosdyke Saga  
**LONDON**, Golden Lion, Fulham Road (01-385 3942), Pirates  
**LONDON**, 100 Club, Oxford Street (01-636 0933), Max Collis Rhythm Aces  
**LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Loving Awareness  
**LONDON**, Nashville, North End Road (01-603 6071), Max Merritt and the Meteors  
**LONDON**, New Victoria, Wilton Street (01-834 0671), John Miles  
**LONDON**, Olympia, Hammersmith Road (01-603 3344), Rod Stewart  
**LONDON**, Red Cow, Hammersmith Road, Strutters  
**LONDON**, Rochester, Stoke Newington High Street, Hellraisers  
**LONDON**, Rock Garden, Covent Garden (01-240 3961), FBI/Sox  
**LONDON**, Royal Oak, Harlesden High Street, Dragon Milk  
**LONDON**, Upstairs at Ronnies, Frith Street (01-439 0747), Split!r  
**LUTON**, Caesars (51357), Barron Knights  
**MEXBOROUGH**, Jesters (3867), Scallywag  
**MIDDLESBROUGH**, Rock Garden, Vibrators  
**NEWCASTLE**, La Dolce Vita (26793), Love Affair  
**NORTHAMPTON**, Racehorse, Wild Thing  
**NOTTINGHAM**, Boat Club (869032), Plummet Airlines  
**OLDHAM**, Baileys (061-652 8421), Champagne  
**SALISBURY**, High Post Hotel, Dave Berry and the Cleveland County Band  
**SOUTHEND**, Kursaal (66276), Dr Feelgood  
**ST ALBANS**, Civic Hall, John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett  
**STOKE**, Baileys (23958), O'Haras Playboys  
**STOWMARKET**, Maltings, Station Road, Brother Lees  
**WATFORD**, Baileys (39848), Sparrow  
**WEST RUNTON**, Pavilion (203), Sam Apple Pie / Ram

## Sunday

**BIRMINGHAM**, Barabrellas (021-643 9413), Suburban Studs  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Monicas, Bob King  
**BRISTOL**, Granary, Welsh Back (28267), Surf City  
**CAMBERLEY**, Lakeside Club (Deeput 5939), New Seekers  
**CARLOW**, El Ruedo, Falling Asunder Rock Review with Jimmy Sevin Band / White Falls / Smiley Boger  
**LONDON**, Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square (01-437 1449), Sweet Sensation / Clowns  
**LONDON**, Greyhound, Fulham Palace Road (01-385 0526), Stripjack  
**LONDON**, Nightingale Club, Hooblo  
**LONDON**, Rochester, Stoke Newington High Street, Bees Make Honey  
**LONDON**, Royal Oak, Harlesden High Street, Dragon Milk  
**SOLIHULL**, New Cresta (021-743 7001), Candlewick Green  
**WATFORD**, Baileys (39848), Dooley Family



## CHRISTMAS SEE IT!

**KING KONG / 'A' Certificate (Opens London, Boxing Day)**

THE LATEST screen superstar is a star with a difference - a handsome brute, taller than even Charles Bronson standing on Burt Reynolds' standing on Paul Newman's head.

His name is King Kong. He stands 40 foot high and lives on an undiscovered island where he is naturally respected by the local natives who keep him well supplied with dusky maidens.

Just what a 40-foot gorilla wants a dusky maiden for is open to question, but that's his business.

The thirties horror classic King Kong has come in for the 1976 treatment.

An updated tale of beauty and the beast, the new film has ruthless exploiters looking for oil on uncharted uncharted island.

Beauty appears in the delectable form of Jessica Lange, making one of the most impressive screen debuts of all time - she literally floats in, and then she gets picked up by the star of the show.

Reason is represented by Jeff Bridges, the wholesome ecology student, who doesn't want to see this unique beast taken away from his natural habitat.

As he rightly predicts, only tragedy can ensue.

This version plays it for laughs. It gives us a solemn, sad creature rather than one which will send a shiver down the spine.

## XMAS BOX

**THE G BAND**, John Miles, Guys 'N' Dolls, Linda Lewis, Marc Bolan and Gary Glitter feature on 'Christmas Supersonic' (Christmas Day, 2.15, ITV).  
 'Rock Nativity' (ITV, Sunday, 6.25 pm) is a stage musical about the birth of Christ. Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent wrote the music.  
 Murray Head and his guest on 'Christmas Runaround' (ITV, 3.40 pm, Boxing Day). Same day, same channel has Gilbert O'Sullivan playing his greatest hits at 6 pm.  
 Tuesday, 10.25 pm, ITV sees 'International Pop Proms' with Andrew Lloyd Webber, Barbara Dickson, Love Machine, Gene Pitney, Tina Charles and Biddu.

Noel Edmonds introduces Thursday's 'Top of the Pops' (BBC1). Later on BBC1 at 11.20 pm is 'The Splinters at Christmas' - the Liverpudlians annual homecoming to Merseyside.  
 The Old Grey Whistle Test, Christmas Eve, BBC 2, 10 pm, features The Rod Stewart Group live from the stage at Olympia, London.  
 Noel Edmonds and Dave Lee Travis introduce a special Christmas Day edition of Top of the Pops at 2.10 pm, featuring some of the Number One records of the year - including Abba, JJ Barrie, Elton John and Kiki Dee, Queen, Dennis Rossos, SIB and The Wurzels. Same time Sunday, Jimmy Savile and Tony Blackburn introduce Brotherhood of Man, Chicago, Four Seasons, Pussycat, Showaddywaddy and The Real Thing.  
 The New Seekers guest with Mike Yarwood at 7.55 pm, BBC 1 Boxing Day.

## Monday

**BATLEY**, Variety Club (71537), Alvin Stardust  
**BEDWORTH**, Furnace Inn, John Otway and Wild Willy Parrett  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Rebeccas (021-643 9931), Captain Cooks Dog  
**BIRMINGHAM**, Barabrellas (021-643 9413), Raymond Froggit  
**BRISTOL**, Granary, Welsh Back (28267), Yuletide Rock 'n' Rave  
**CAMBERLEY**, Lakeside Club (Deeput 5939), New Seekers  
**CARLOW**, El Ruedo, Falling Asunder Rock Review with Jimmy Sevin Band / White Falls / Smiley Boger  
**DERBY**, Baileys (363151), Tommy Hunt  
**DUBLIN**, National Stadium, Rory Gallagher  
**EDINBURGH**, Nicky Tams Tavern (031-225 6569), Kharta  
**LEEDS**, Fforda Green Hotel (623470), Jenny Hann's Lion  
**LEICESTER**, Baileys (26462), Sparrow  
**LONDON**, 100 Club, Oxford Street (01-636 0933), Gene Allan Jazzmen  
**LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Stray  
**LONDON**, Nashville, North End Road (01-603 6071), Fabulous Poodles  
**LONDON**, Q Club, Praed Street, Paddington, Trax  
**LONDON**, Red Cow, Hammersmith Road, Midnight Wolf

**LONDON**, Rochester, Stoke Newington High Street, Gloria Mundi  
**LONDON**, Upstairs at Ronnies, Frith Street (01-439 0747), Crossfire  
**LONDON**, White Horse, Uxbridge Road, Tidal Wave Band  
**NORTHAMPTON**, Lings Forum (348811), U Ro  
**OLDHAM**, Baileys (061-652 8421), Merseybeats  
**PETERLEE**, Senate Club, Geno Washington  
**ROMFORD**, Volunteer Country Music Club, Camelot, Manor Road, Lambourne End, Three-wheel  
**SCUNTHORPE**, Baths Hall, Applejacks  
**SINFIN**, Saxon Arms, Strange Days  
**SOLIHULL**, New Cresta (021-743 7001), Candlewick Green  
**STOKE**, Baileys (23958), Fiddleyds  
**WATFORD**, Baileys (39848), Dooley Family  
**WESTCLIFF**, Queens Hotel (44417), Flying Saucers

**DUBLIN**, National Stadium, Rory Gallagher  
**EDINBURGH**, Nicky Tams Tavern (031-225 6569), Legal Tender  
**GLASGOW**, Maggi (041-332 6055), Right Hand Band  
**LEICESTER**, Baileys (26462), Sparrow  
**LONDON**, Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush (01-743 5050), Fosdyke Saga  
**LONDON**, Dingwalls, Camden Lock (01-267 4967), Steve Gibbons Band  
**LONDON**, 100 Club, Oxford Street (01-636 0933), Roogalator / Jam  
**LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Bert Jansch  
**LONDON**, Nashville, North End Road (01-603 6071), Pacific Eardrum  
**LONDON**, Red Cow, Hammersmith Road, Martin Heywood's Freelance  
**LONDON**, Rising Sun, Rushey Green, Catford (01-690 5814), Threadbare Consort  
**LONDON**, Rochester, Castle, Stoke Newington High Street, Buster Crabbe  
**LONDON**, Upstairs at Ronnies, Frith Street (01-439 0747), Hungry Horse  
**MIDDLESBROUGH**, Madisons (45432), Muscles  
**OLDHAM**, Baileys (061-652 8421), Merseybeats  
**SOLIHULL**, New Cresta (021-743 7001), Candlewick Green  
**STOKE**, Baileys (23958), Fiddleyds  
**WATFORD**, Baileys (39848), Dooley Family

## HEAR IT!

**RADIO ONE** highlight on Christmas Eve will be the live hour - long simulcast on John Peel's stereo programme and BBC2 of the Rod Stewart concert from Olympia, starting at 10 pm.

On Boxing Day (December 27), it's EJ the DJ when Elton John spins his personal choice of records in a two-hour programme starting at 11.31 pm.

On the same day, Radio Two has a scoop at 8.3 pm when David Allen interviews Johnny Cash at his lakeside home outside Nashville.

Abba are featured in a 75-minute special with Tom Browne on Radio One at 12.45 pm.

Nazareth vocalist Dan McCafferty is the guest on Radio Clyde's 'Hear Me Talkin'', 10.02 pm Christmas Day.

BBC Radio Birmingham have local group Hooker in concert at 6 pm on December 28.

The last hour (10 to 11 pm) of Nicky Horne's Christmas Eve edition of 'Your Mother Wouldn't Like It' is taken up with episode three of the Pink Floyd Story.

# THE FEELGOODS DO IT AGAIN

Dr FEELGOOD  
London

JOE LOSS was never like this!

Hammersmith Palais, the 'Do you come here often luv' centre of London, was well and truly doctored last Sunday night by the Mecca-nical men of rock. The heat was intense as the Feelgoods took the stage. "Santa Claus is dead - Dr Feelgood Lives!" screamed the announcer, hidden by a sparse Christmas tree.

Outside, a girl was pushed to the floor as she tried to get in.

A thousand plastic beer glasses were crunched up on the floor.

A sea of scarves swayed, soccer style.

The Feelgoods were at home. Lee Brilleaux walked on carrying an obscenely oversized safety pin. A symbol that obviously didn't go down too well with the punks in the vast audience - including Rat Scabies and Siouxsie Sue.

The jungle-like temperature was perfect. If you can't have a good sweat at a Feelgood's concert then where can you?

OK, so it's true once you've seen one Feelgood's concert you've seen 'em all. Brilleaux, the song-scourer, may not chain smoke anymore on stage but the

RORY  
GALLAGHER  
Glasgow

AN IRISHMAN and three friends exploded in Glasgow on Friday night - Rory Gallagher and his band were at the Apollo.

In all his 11 tours of the United States, I doubt if Rory has ever played to such an enthusiastic reception as they gave him in Glasgow.

A good 20 minutes before he came on stage, they were chanting for him. When their idol did run on stage, they were 10 times louder.

That was the audience, how's about the band and the music? Some say white men can't play the blues, but Rory plays his own particular brand excellently. All the influences - BB King and co - are there. And so are the rock influences from his early idols Gene Vincent and Fats Domino.

He has three fine musicians - Lou Martin on keyboards, Jimmy McAvoy on bass and Rod de'ath on drums. Martin was to the fore from the opening rouser, 'Moonchild' and his boogie riffs proved an admirable foil for Rory's wandering guitar.

At times it was hard to make out the bass lines from McAvoy, but he played an interesting duel with Rory on 'Calling Card', the title track of the latest album.

Rory don't believe in standing still too long and has developed a whim for running across the stage, hopping on one foot and machine-gunning the audience with his Stratocaster.

For his acoustic set he opened with 'Out On The Western Plain', changed guitars for a touch of mean pickin' and then announced, "This one's called 'Alcohol'" to receive the biggest cheer of the evening.

With the band back on stage, it was back to loudness with 'Souped Up Ford', 'Tattooed Lady' and 'A Million

pong remains the same (I'm talking about the jacket of course).

And Wilco Johnson - rock robot extraordinary - may have traced the same static steps. But who cares? Feelgood are excitement personified - in two and a half minutes of straight rock 'n' roll.

They played all the old faves. 'I Don't Mind', 'Stupidity' and 'She Does It Right'. There were a few new ones as well including 'Everybody's Carrying A Gun' and 'Time And The Devil'.

And the stand-outs were the same as at every concert - 'Back In The Night', 'Riot In Cell Block Number Nine' with the awesome shadows of Wilco and Lee glaring down from the huge backdrop and 'Roxette'.

Wilco is a master of the dual rhythm and lead guitar attack pioneered by Mick Green of The Pirates back in the early sixties. He makes it look so easy as he struts around the stage, his ghostly white face not budging an inch.

The heat finally got to him. At the end of 'Roxette' he collapsed as he left the stage. Roadies hoisted him out into the fresh air and dragged him back on again for the encore - 'Johnny B Goode'.

And that was it. Another Feelgood's concert over and done with. Another bunch of fans exhausted. Another Christmas cracker. BARRY CAIN.



LEE BRILLEAUX, pin back yer ears and get a load of this!

## Roadshows

Miles Away'. Rory gave his blues - thirsty followers two encores, closing with his classic 'Bullfrog Blues'. But they'd have happily settled for a lot more as they chanted, "Next one Rory, Next one son, Next one Rory, Let's have another one." JIM EVANS.

DANA GILLESPIE  
London

THIS DANA is certainly no fairytale.

What a body. Figure-hugging jeans, so tight she must have poured herself into them. And those hips. And what about those, drool drool... Must pull myself together.

The very funky 'She's French' opened the set at Dingwalls, Camden Lock. It was a pleasing appetiser to Dana's main course, which wasn't all that meaty.

Dana is probably best known for her role as Mary Magdalene in the West End stage version of 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. Now she's back on the road again with a varied selection of numbers - some that work, some that fall abysmally.

On the credit side: Dr John's 'Walk On Gilded Splinters' with a great soprano sax solo from Bernie Stimmonds and Dana oozing sex appeal throughout. The jazzy 'Your Mind Is On Vacation Because Your Mouth Is Working Overtime' and the Robert Palmer tribute - "This is for my favourite male singer" - called 'Keep In Touch', hint, hint. The old rocker 'Sea Cruise' - ooowee baby.

Debit side: 'Just go' - probably ruined by an assortment of drunks dozing under the mike, and a criminal version of the Drifters' 'Save The Last Dance For Me', which as an encore, drowned in the atmosphere created by 'Sea

Cruise'.

The rest of the 11 numbers she sang fell about mid-way, but a few more gigs should see her back in top form. There is a large gap in this country when it comes to female singers and Miss Gillespie might be just the person to fill it.

Coz' looking around the music business I've got to admit that Dana must have the biggest pair of CENSORED. BARRY CAIN.

HAWKWARD  
Bracknell

VISITORS FROM another world invaded the Bracknell Space Station on Saturday night - or that's what Hawkward would like us to believe.

The Hawklords are still churning out the same tangled, howling electronics and two chord rock and roll riffs that they were when they first started.

After support band Strapps had played an unpretentious, hard-rocking set, they came on stage and attempted to blast off with their usual cosmic fury. But what does it all mean?

There's no excuse nowadays for musical incompetence - although punk rockers would disagree. Hawkward played loud and the 'dutch barn' acoustics of the Sports Centre made them sound like nothing more than a crowd of outmoded, space-rocking Bert Weedons.

Their light show is spectacular, if repetitious, and costumes ranging from an astronaut, a space monster to Lawrence of Arabia partly made up for the meaningless noise.

They played some old favourites such as 'brainstorm', but missed out their only chart hit, 'Silver Machine'. Audience reaction, apart from the usual idiot dancers, was tepid. No one seemed to

notice or care that sax player Nik Turner didn't appear on stage all evening.

Hawkward are light years behind genuine 'progressive' music. Guitarist Dave Brock turned his back on the audience for much of the gig - perhaps he was too ashamed. TERRY KERR.

MANNFRED  
MANN'S EARTH  
BAND / BANDIT  
London

A FEW years ago they were all at it. Fiddling around with knobs and synthesizers to produce an array of strange sounds to add to the existing range of noises available to the adven-



STEVE HILLAGE: across the great divide

turous keyboards player. Manfred Mann was in at the beginning with his Earth Band and subsequently has developed the incorporation of keyboard wizardry into a pop/rock format and into a fine art.

The current line-up has shown itself to be one of the best and has consistently delivered the goods on their UK tours this year. But the set has hardly altered - with the exception of some re-arrangements - and is in need of some fresh life.

They play at a breath-taking speed and dash through numbers like 'Spirit In The Night' as if they want to get it over as soon as possible. The constant taut feeling to the music sometimes makes it a bit much to take, and as they show on the new number in the set - 'Davy's On The Road Again' with its neat boogie phrases - they are capable of

producing a looser, more relaxed sound without losing their own distinctive stamp. Some of the solos also lean towards self-satisfaction rather than mass appreciation, though guitarist Dave Flett delivered a real Christmas cracker on Dylan's 'Father Of Day'.

On their earlier tour they introduced a lot of us to the talents of Racing Cars. On the current one they do the same with an up-and-coming band called Bandit.

They have some good material to work on with 'Hard On A Loser', 'Hug Up On Your Love', 'Rocking My Soul Out' and 'Mr James' from their forthcoming debut album.

Vocalist Jim Diamond has one of those gritty 'down-home' voices that gives them a big advantage over similar outfits. DAVID BROWN.

# BROWNE, WARREN MAKE A MEAN TEAM

JACKSON BROWNE  
/ WARREN ZEVON  
London

IT HAD all the makings of an unmemorable evening.

Outside it was a miserable, damp Friday night with the assembled multitude shuffling restlessly to the news that the concert would be delayed as the equipment had only just arrived from the airport.

An hour late, Warren Zevon strolled to the piano. Minus a band he had to work hard to fill the gaps with just his voice, piano and guitar on one number, but surprisingly it worked. He even managed to fill in the hum of the radiators from his song 'Desperados Under The Eaves'.

'The Excitable Boy', a new autobiographical tune, proved we can look forward to some good things to come from Warren in the near future.

Jackson Browne's uncompromising dark lyrics made a sharp contrast and the delicate framework built up round his lyrics by a talented band was regrettably struggling for survival via a poor sound system.

But occasionally the beauty of his songs was able to shine through on numbers like 'The Fuse' and 'For A Dancer'. Towards the end of the set he rocked gently with Warren joining in on harp and then launched into a rare, if manic, treat with the extremely loose 'Werewolves Of London'.

By popular demand 'Take It Easy' was the first encore, but alas, an easy evening it was not.

DAVID BROWN.

## Hillage battles with elements - and wins!

STEVE HILLAGE  
London

THE SPIRITS of the great cosmos weren't smiling on Steve Hillage at the Hammersmith Odeon.

A small fire delayed his set by half an hour, but his fans sat patiently, one even meditating at the front of the stage, while someone displayed placards full of meaningful words. The lights dimmed and Hillage - resplendent in white kaftan, jaunty cap and satin trousers - led his band onstage as strange noises issued from the darkness.

His lady, Miquette, played gracefully on keyboards and the sound was swelled by pipes as the band launched into 'Hurdy Gurdy Man', the old Donovan classic. Hill-

age leant back with his guitar, smiling blissfully all the time and talking to himself. You could almost believe he was communicating with the great beyond.

The Organic Electric Gypsies' saw Hillage strumming on acoustic guitar before it developed into a hoe-down. He has an excellent backing band who varied the pace from heavy rock to lighter funk.

'Lunar Music Sweet' showed Hillage at his cosmic best. Using a variety of effects he launched into a staggering solo, whipping the sound from the speakers. Fed up with punk rock? Then give Steve Hillage a listen - it's an invigorating experience.

ROBIN SMITH.



# Mailman

Write to Mailman, Record Mirror, Spotlight House, 1 Benwell Road, London N7 7AX

The TV, the dailies and Record Mirror have all had their say on punk rock, now it's your turn. Your verdict seems to be . . .

## STOP MAKING THE PINS!

### AGAINST

#### Loony

IF THE Sex Pistols call themselves sane then I'm far happier being a loony. Johnny Rotten looks like a drowned rat and the rest of the band aren't up to much. Despite what he may say, many people aren't prepared to dress up like him. Long live Bert Weedon.

**Rod Eversley, Hull.**

#### Boring

MY OPINION on punk rock? — it's absolutely boring. There's nothing new about it, the Stones were doing it years ago. Punk rock is just a passing fad. Pretty soon the bubble's going to burst.

**Amanda Nichols, Cheshire.**

#### Sick

THE SEX Pistols make me sick. Not only are they depraved and disgusting, but they're also liars and hypocrites. If they have so little interest in money, why did they negotiate a £40,000 contract with EMI? I wish they'd open their mouths and admit they're a greedy bunch of idle layabouts, using the

music industry to show that they're a load of idiots. Shirley Price, Wolverhampton.

● Album winner

#### Pathetic

ALL I can say about the Sex Pistols is that they are a pathetic bunch of idiots. Anyone in their right mind can see Johnny Rotten is a maniac. The Sex Pistols are repulsive and they sound like a bunch of old crows. There is no good in swearing, it just shows ignorance.

One of the punk haters, Sussex.

#### Nasty

PUNK ROCK — the dictionary definition of punk is prostitute. The people who follow punk should realise that they're just selling themselves to a cheap, nasty image.

Mark Lambert, Northwich.

● Album winner

#### Clowns

IF I have to depend on four naughty children calling themselves the Sex Pistols for entertainment, I think I'll give up listening to music altogether. The Sex Pistols are just a bunch of clowns.

**Ted Wyatt, London.**



#### Perverts

WHO THE hell do the Sex Pistols think they are? Apart from being an insane bunch of perverts their music is unintelligent and plain boring. The Who and the Stones did more for rock in one year than the Sex Pistols could do in 10,000. Their music isn't rock, it's all based on image. You may think that sticking pins in your ears is fun, but the rest of us think it's a bloody stupid game.

Caroline, Hastings.

#### Disgusted

HAVING WATCHED the Sex Pistols on the London Weekend Show, I was disgusted by them. They were as pleasing as the back end of a bus with a bad exhaust. It is beyond me why EMI gave them a recording contract. I'm glad to hear that they may be dropped. Perhaps now we'll see some real talent being taken on.

Justin Halver, New Malden.

#### Cheek

I THINK the Sex Pistols have a cheek saying

groups like the Stones and the Who have nothing to offer. They're far more musically worthwhile. The Stones don't need safety pins through their noses, just pure undiluted energy that could knock the Sex Pistols to the floor.

J. Hetherington, Southall.

● Album winner

#### Suicide

MMMM, PUNK rock? Well, I suppose it's alright if you're prepared to spend a painful stay in your local casualty department with a million stitches all over your mug. From what I've heard you'd be better off committing suicide than going to see a punk rock concert. Where's the enjoyment in getting yourself beaten up?

C. Brocksley, Keighley.

#### Worst

I USED to think the Bay City Rollers were the worst band in the world — until I discovered the Sex Pistols.

Bert May, Reading.



### FOR

#### Interesting

IF ENOCH Powell and the Prime Minister can air their views, why can't Johnny Rotten? Okay so he swears a bit but he's a damn sight more interesting.

A. Pank, Lancashire.

#### Prejudice

I WONDER how many people who criticise the Sex Pistols have actually seen them playing. It seems a lot of comments about them have been based on prejudice. See them before you start criticising.

Scott Macfarlane, Glasgow.

#### Vitality

I THINK the Sex Pistols have added a new dimension and vitality to British music. Most of what they say is true, the Stones are too old to hold anybody's attention anymore. We've had teenage rebellion before and look at all the good groups it

threw up. Punk rock can only do the same. Anyway, at least it gives parents something to worry over, and that's always fun.

Fred Totten, Neasden.

● Album winner

#### Powerful

IT'S ABOUT time somebody gave the music industry a kick in the ass

and that's what the Pistols have done. Now pop music is back in the hands of young people. We're fed up and bored with Radio One brainwashing us with manufactured rubbish like Barry White, 'Anarchy In The UK' is a powerful single and deserves to be Number One.

Andy Singleton, Huddersfield.

● Album winner

## Feedback

FEEDBACK answers your questions. Send your letters to: Record Mirror, Spotlight House, 1, Benwell Road, London, N7 7AX. Please don't send a stamped addressed envelope as we cannot answer letters individually.

#### Record info

Who recorded 'Resurrection Shuffle', 'Tomorrow Night' and 'Along Comes Mary'?  
 ● Clive Needs, Brocksley, Cheshire.

#### Hunting

Could you give me some information on Tommy Hunt?  
 Shirley Preston, Lincs.

#### Paxton born

Where was Tom Paxton born and when did he start writing songs?  
 Chris Walters, Sudbury.

#### Ralph's tall

When was Ralph McTell born and how tall is he?  
 Rita Norman, Wales.

#### Line-up

Could you tell me the line-up of the Drifters' Drifters fan, Chelmsford?  
 ● They are Johnny Moore, Billy Lewis, Jon Hunt and Clyde Brown.

#### Natural?

Is Robert Plant's hair entirely natural?  
 Suzanne Folkson, Slough.

● Swansong, his record company, say it is. Apparently Robert maintains his curls by washing his hair and drying it in front of the fire. Nature does the rest.

#### Smokie

Could you give me the address of the Smokie fan club?  
 Jane Potter, Norfolk.

● Write c/o Susan Crabtree, 18 Westcliffe Rise, Westgate, West Yorkshire.

## Discword

1	2	3	4	5	6
			7		
8				9	
10			11		
12	13	14		15	16
17			18		
19				20	

**ACROSS**

- Habitat of urban man? (5)
- It goes with lace, group-wise (5)
- Where to see the Rocky Horror Picture Show (6)
- Little dancer? (4)
- Rick, the leader of the cast (4)
- Jazzman Erroll? (6)
- Troubled water croser (6)
- "Sittin' On The — of The Bay" (4)
- Jazz in a recent radio show (4)
- One of the guitar Kings (6)
- Mr Cramer? (5)
- One called the Rising Sun? (5)

**DOWN**

- It's one of the deadly sins, Charley (5)
- The label game (5)
- Low or Larry? (5)
- Hot Rod leader (5)
- Miss Bell might name a Rod Stewart hit (6,3)
- Description of country music? (5)
- Cool pop? (5)
- "When Papa Played The —" (5)
- The younger Jagger (5)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Hangs on. 7 Laura. 8 Angel. 9 Fade. 10 Octet. 11 Sun. 12 Idiot. 14 Slow. 17 Nancy. 18 River. 19 Sad-eyed.

DOWN: 1 Hoed. 2 Ne-ar. 3 Season. 4 Night. 5 Old Friend. 6 Al Stewart. 11 Stayed. 13 Innes. 15 Loved. 16 Troy.

## And the rest of the world carries on

I FIND many groups are becoming so technical that they can never perform their singles live. Take 'Bohemian Rhapsody', it always has to be combined into a medley and it's always a big disappointment on stage.

Steve Swindells, Salford.

I WANT to complain about the lack of pictures and interviews with this country's greatest singer / songwriter Kiki Dee. She's even prettier than Johnny Rotten.

Darling Ted, Newcastle.

WITH REGARD to Fred Silver's letter about Thin Lizzy's Brian Robertson fighting. He should realise it wasn't Brian's fault. He was smashed in the face with a bottle so he's hardly likely to have sat there and grinned. Obviously he lashed out.

David Foster, Tooting.

I WENT to Batley Variety Club and saw the most professional group around, the Hollies. Despite the fact they haven't had a hit single for three years they still have a huge following. Come on everyone, dash out and buy their records.

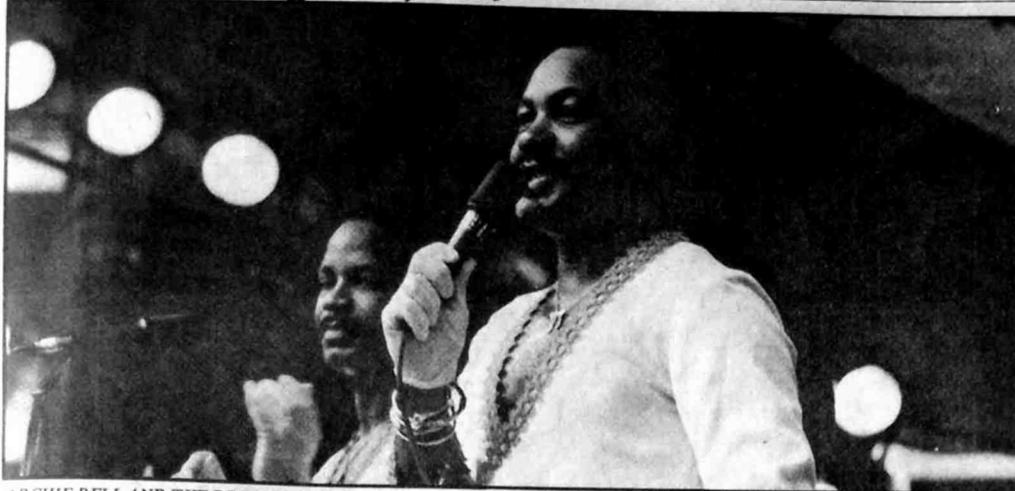
John Bell, Bradford.





# Disco Kid

by JAMES HAMILTON



ARCHIE BELL AND THE DRELLS: sizzling

## New Spins

**ROSE ROYCE: 'Car Wash' (MCA 267).** Here it is, truly by DJ and public demand, the single of Norman Whitfield's monster catchy clapper!

**ARCHIE BELL & THE DRELLS: 'Everybody Have A Good Time' (LP 'Where Will You Go When The Party's Over' Philadelphia Int PIR 81567).** Absolutely sizzling 8:16 galloper simply loaded with verve and vitality, and a beat that don't quit! The chunky 'I Bet I Can Do That Dance' has synthetics and funky appeal, while other disco cuts are 'Nothing Comes Easy', the title track and 'Dancin' Man'.

**STANLEY BLACK: 'La Camparsita' (EP 'Discover The Tango' Decca DFE 8684).** Completely straight version of this quintessential Tango, already causing a stir in some gay discos... really! Good MoR, too.

**DEE DEE SHARP: 'I'm Not In Love' (LP 'Phillybustlers Vol IV' Phila Int PIR 81638).** Superb dead slow souling of the 10cc classic, previously unissued here, which stands out on an album loaded with the obvious recent biggies by such as the O'Jays, Archie Bell, Lou Rawls, Billy Paul, People's Choice, MF8B, Blue Notes, etc.

**T CONNECTION: 'Disco Magic' (Seville SEV 1021, via President).** Rattling rhythms and synthetic strings on a good fast Brass Construction - type groover.

**SLY & THE FAMILY STONE: 'Family Again' (LP 'Heard Ya Missed Me, Well I'm Back' Epic EPC 81641).** Funkily throbbing 'Dance To The Music 77' sort of idea, with lots of rhythm breaks and little vocal. Also of interest to hip jocks should be 'Let's Be Together', 'Sexy Situation' and 'What Was I Thinkin' In My Head'.

## Royce: The cleanest record of the year

**THE DUPARS: 'Love Cookin' (Contempo 12 inch CX 16).** Venetta Fields and the funky gals soo their hang over a rolling and tumbling bass - bumped beat that's totally modern, while flipside J. J. Barnes 'The Errol Flynn' is a mundane old - style Northern dancer that's short on appeal.

## DJ Hotline

**STEVENSON'S ROCKET 'Poetry In Motion' (Magnet) clicks for Colin McLean (Shuffles, Glasgow), Kid Johnson (Ellesmere Port), while JOHN VALENTI 'Anything You Want' (Ariola America) breaks for Terry Emm (Dunstable), Capuchino (Bromley) ... uh-oh, Mike Thomas Swansea University) tips SYD LAWRENCE 'American Patrol' (Contour LP) - what's he trying to start? ... Jon Taylor (Cromwells, Norwich) jumps on WEBSTER LEWIS 'Theme' (Epic) and Ray Robinson (Tiffans, Leicester) goes for CLODAGH ROGERS 'Save Me' (Polydor), two that I thought might happen! ... JACKSONS 'Enjoy Yourself' (Epic) charts deservedly for Mark Ryman (S. Wales) ... WALTER MURPHY 'Flight 76' (Private Stock) and BUMBLE BEE UNLTD 'Love Bug' (Sky) both buzz for Steve Day (Chingford), who's hot for the long LP VICKIE SUE ROBINSON 'Daylight' (RCALP), as I ... don't forget last year's WALTER MURPHY 'Disco Bells' (US Major)! ... Brian Johnstone (Babalou, Kirkby) is another on KEITH BARROW 'Precious' (CBS) and Peter Clegg (Oswestry) joins in on GLOGO 'I Wanna Funk With You' (GTO). ... PUSSYCAT 'Smile' (Sonet) bubbles for Steve Ingram (Wey-**

bridge), Willy Cash (Appleby) ... Ric Simon (Crazy Daisy, Warrington) digs THIRD WORLD

**BAND 'Disco Hop' (Creole) and Dave Macrae (Seaham) rates RUBY JAMES 'Burn A Hole In My Soul' (Rak) ...**

**PENNY McLEAN: 'Lady Bump' (EMI 2865).**

**Reactivation the Silver Conventioneer's big US disco hit of a year ago.**

**FLYING SAUCERS: 'Keep on Coming' (Alaska ALA 2093, via President), Basic modern British rockabilly bopper, good for specialist Rock 'n Roll DJs.**

## Mix-master

**NOTHING ELABORATE,** just a couple of topical tips! David Brooks of Muswell Hill Pebbles does a nifty segue out of Led Zeppelin 'Trampled Under Foot' (Swan Song) into KC & The Sunshine Band 'Keep It Comin' Love' (Jay Boy), which looks unlikely but sounds superb, while I myself do a nice chop - mix just as ELO 'Livin' Thing' (Jet) is about to reach one of its 'bomp - bomp - bomp' beat bits, cutting straight into the first 'bomp - bomp' on Rod Stewart's 'Maggie May' (Mercury). Try 'em and see!

## PARTY GAMES

**HERE'S PART two** of the party fun and frolics suggested by DJ WEBSTER of Fabio's Disco, Worrall, Sheffield. He suggests that the party will need to be well advanced before you try this one!

**'PAUL JONES STRIP':** With equal numbers, men and women form two circles, women on the inside. Holding hands, each sex moves in an opposite

direction when the music starts. When the music stops ... the man and woman facing each other have to swap one article of clothing each! Start the music again and repeat - but nothing can be swapped that's been swapped before. When everyone has chickened out, award prizes to the two most daring exhibitionists left on the floor. Now, how about a nice little game of Sardines?



PUSSYCAT: breaker in DJ Hotline

## DJ Top Ten

DOUG FORBES from Kenilworth is DJ at Warwick's Klonds disco, and currently charts the following interesting selection:

- 1 ISN'T SHE LOVELY, Stevie Wonder Motown LP
- 2 DAZZ, Brick US Bang
- 3 I'M THE BOOGIE MAN, KC & The Sunshine Band Jay Boy LP
- 4 CAR WASH, Rose Royce MCA LP
- 5 I WISH, Stevie Wonder Motown
- 6 WE CAN WORK IT OUT, Four Seasons Warner Bros
- 7 KILL THAT ROACH, Miami Jay Boy
- 8 I'LL PLAY THE FOOL, Dr Buzzard's OSB
- 9 DR LOVE, Tina Charles RCA
- 10 JAWS, Lalo Schifrin CTI

### BREAKERS

- 1 HAITIAN DIVORCE, S teely Dan ABC
- 2 CA THE DEALS, DC LaRue Pyle LP
- 3 THIS MASQUERADE, George Benson Warner Bros

## Disco Dates

**THURSDAY (Dec 23):** Greg Edwards has prizes for fancy dressers 'n dancers at his Nice 'N Naasty Xmas Party in London's 100 Club, 100 Oxford St; Paul Frizzby brings his teenybopper disco during the afternoon to Weasex Street Play Scheme, London E2; Muscles hit Leeds Cinderellas, Heatwave hot up Norwich Crockers and Chanb do it for two nights at Blackburn Balleys.

**XMAS EVE:** Andy Cassidy and the staff transform London's Sundown in Charing Cross Road into a Dickensian scene with artificial snowstorm at midnight, the biggest - ever Pin the Tail on the Donkey game, Xmas party films and hot punch to drink; Chris Hill has party hats, safety pins and bubbly at Ilford's Lady Lady; Steve Ingram has heavy fun and plays '5 by 4' - 36 songs alternating by Stones and Beatles - at Woking's The Cricketers, Westfield; Heatwave sizzle at Dunstable California, Real Thing footsie at Wigan Casino and Santa Claus gets stuck in the chimney.

**XMAS DAY:** Chris Hill opens up the Lady Lady, High Road, Seven Kings,

Ilford for everyone who's fed up with Xmas, and awards Bionic Santas for the most creatively ripped new Xmas pressie clothes.

**SUNDAY:** Billy Hall shakes his disco body at Croydon's Scarlets every Sunday; Heatwave hit London's Lyceum and Tommy Hunt stars at Wigan Casino's all-day.

**MONDAY:** East Anglian Soul Club has a Boxing Day all-day at Kettering's Central Hall; JALN Band bounce at Birmingham's Bingley Hall, Heatwave hoof it to Hull's Westfield Country Club and Real Thing pop up at Morecambe's The Bowl.

**TUESDAY:** Richard Sealing does an RCA promotion and joins many star Northern jocks at all-day on Morecambe Central Pier; Jimmy James funky congas at Mexborough Jesters and Muscles start four nights at Middlesbrough's The Madison.

**WEDNESDAY:** The Wild Wax Show join Flying Saucers and three more Rock Revival bands for a hop at London's Lyceum, and Jimmy James hits Hull Balleys.

## This is your life . . .

IF YOU'VE ever thought that a DJ's life was one big laugh, you'd be both wrong and right in the case of HARRY PARK from Newcastle-On-Tyne. 'Dirty Harry', as he's professionally known, writes a really good letter, and his most recent epistle has had me in stitches. It's actually a bit personal, but deserves to be shared.

'First the build-up, then the plot. So there I was all set for the Summer, three nights at the Corner House, two nights at the local Lodge Club and a residency from 10.30 to 2.00 at a newly - opened night - spot in a nearby seaside town - enough to make any DJ drool at the styhus. Mucho loot, mucho variety, mucho tax as well!

The following sequence of events is in chronological order:

- 1) Corner House raided following mysterious tip-off, no arrests, but disco stopped by the brewery.
- 2) Lodge Club catches fire (again nothing to do with me).
- 3) (Plot thickens) Wife runs off with walking advert for Today's Army.
- 4) (Plot turns seamy) Superb new night-spot's manager's naughty

daughter starts making lucid suggestions. Now not that I'm averse to a little wholesome home play, but the woman was most explicit - so I made my excuses and left.

5) Taking stock of the situation, I flogged my big disco equipment, loaded up the trusty Renault and headed for Mecca. Mecca Blackpool that is.

6) Magic: within one hour of arrival I'm firmly ensconced as a stagehand at the North Pier Theatre by day, and a DJ by night - a job I got through the grapevine. Aha! Once again things are decidedly rose (in fact, Matuses Rose).

7) Wait for it, I must be a prize idiot: aforementioned spouse decides Joe the Super Hero isn't for her, rings Blackpool's new superstar asking for new start. So what did I do? Natch, I went back (boo, hiss, rubbish!).

8) Reconciliation lasts three days.

9) Back to Mum.

10) Back to the human race.

11) Mates rally round offering guest spots at their bookings (in Trev, Neil, Craig, Satch, Reuben).

12) Re-purchase disco gear - which fetches us

up to date, almost.

Well, strange things started to happen. The speed with which not only I but my audiences also got sick of popular soul records accelerated, which made me sit back and take stock. Seeing the rise of new-wave rock and people like the Feelgoods, I recruited three good-looking young roadie / DJ / dogsbodies and dropped all my pub / club bookings to concentrate on youth clubs. Within weeks I'd built up four nights of residencies at local youth clubs.

The eventual plan is to mix the disco with live energetic Rock / R&B bands, and - if it goes down well - we're going to graduate to taped start, then disco music before a live group finish. We (and I stress the 'we') feel we're giving fuller entertainment value even if it does cost a bit more. The show's going out under the name Dirty Harry's Quick Flash, but I'll be keeping the straightforward discos in youth clubs, etc, appearing myself when possible or hosting on tapes.

Now, there's enterprise for you! You can contact Harry Park (Jnr) c/o 20 Holywell Avenue, Walker, Newcastle-On-Tyne 6.

IT WAS a Christmas to be remembered. Such scenes have never before been witnessed by such mere mortals as I. Come fly with me to Christmas at the Court of the King, Memphis, Tennessee.

The windscreen wipers were fighting a losing battle with the blizzard conditions sweeping across the State Highway. The yellow cab took a right. I drew heavily on my Capstan Full Strength as we slipped and slithered our way towards our destination - Heartbreak Hotel.

Slowly, the ominous building loomed out of the whiteness. Waved on by the security guards, we swept through the wrought iron gates and down the tree lined drive. So this was it. You may not believe what follows, gentle reader, but I know, I was there.

Nervously, I pushed open the swing doors and made for reception. "You're late, they've already started," drawled a voice from behind the counter. "He don't approve of lateness. Where's yer invitation then?" I fumbled in my pocket for the gold-embossed card which said 'Elvis at Home'. The black-leather clad security guard put down his chain saw and snatched the aforementioned card.

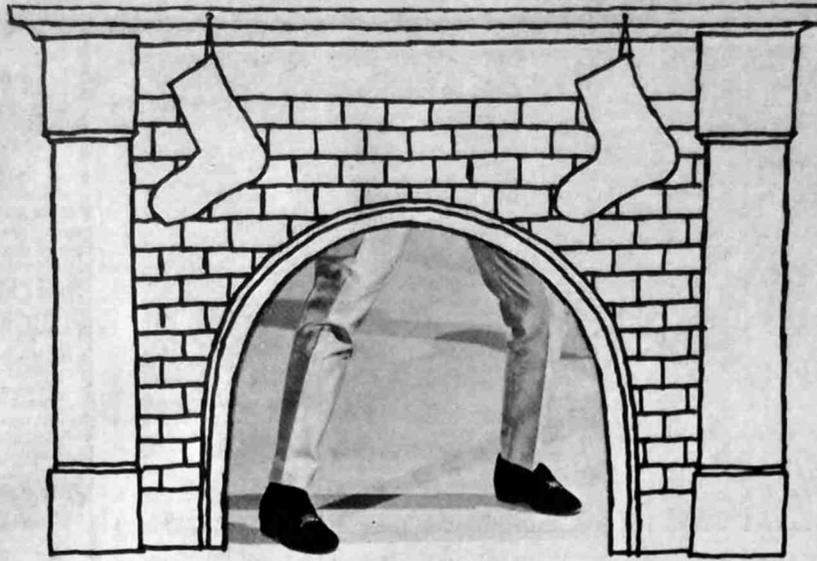
There was a long silence. I looked round the reception area. The wallpaper was of black leather, dashed with golden studs. There was a framed oil painting of Old Shep hanging at a precarious angle. In the far corner lay a pile of gold discs gathering dust in the quiet light, interrupted only by the dulcet tones of 'Love Me Tender' emanating from the Wooden Heart suite.

The guard grunted, tripped over his Thomson sub-machine gun, and motioned me to go through to the suite. The party was in full swing. "So what have you come as funny man?" snarled the Colonel. "But nobody told me it was fancy dress.



"Com'on Jim, just one little picture."

## JIM EVANS visits Heartbreak Hotel . . . and lives to tell the tale



# Dinner with a King

all I can offer are my Giant Green Parrot Y-fronts."

"Okay. Okay, cut the hard-luck stories, have a drink." A bottle of Old Granddaddy was thrust upon me by a beautiful young thing with tinsel in her hair and not much else on at all. "He'll be down soon. You anything to do with this National Rockstar?" "Never heard of it", I replied, recalling the Colonel's strange temperament.

"I mean we would like to play old London town, but really, Vegas pays so much better and you've gotta be careful about these things. Perhaps we'll come over for the Queen's Silver Jubilee."

My conversation with the Colonel was getting very deep and wonderful when there was a large bang, the sound of a crashing car right outside the French windows. "I don't recall inviting Cochran," muttered the military man as he went to investigate. But it wasn't the ghost of Christmas Past making such a noisy and untimely entry. Nor was it Frank Sinatra on his way to Midnight Mass.

The conversation lulled as the windows were pulled open and the surprise visitor revealed himself, or rather themselves. There was a large figure dressed as Santa Claus, crawling on all-fours and balancing a glass of Napoleon Brandy on his nose.



"Please Jim, just a very quick interview."

"If that's Demis Roussos, he can get back to Athens," roared the grappa-fuhrer as he strode toward the offending personage. But the grunting and groaning gave Mr Mystery away. "I Wanna Lay Down With You Baby. Uhhhhhhhh. Get right in there. Uhhhhhhhh. Now I'm gonna make love to you. Uhhhh." At this juncture, the brandy glass fell off his nose and shattered in an undignified heap on the wall to wall Wilton.

Such people kept coming and going. David Bowie fell off his rightful position atop of the Christmas tree. Dolly Parton and Dana Gillespie came as the Rocky Mountains. Bob Marley came as Miss World and Telly Savalas as a lollipop. Abba made a late arrival

owing to fog at CBS Records. Cliff Richard sat in the mince pies and Bill Haley felt his age.

And so the drinks flowed, the crackers were pulled and people fell about. Wherever you fell, you fell into someone who was (nearly) famous. In one corner, next to the guitar-shaped standard lamp, a group of legless liggers were indulging in a game of festive strip poker. Rod Stewart played a full house and the lovely Yvonne Elliman was left with nothing more than a copy of Melody Maker which didn't cover much at all.

The mistletoe proved an attraction, but Barry White who had now re-filled his brandy glass was hogging the scene. However he made a rapid departure when Billy

Jo Spears discarded her blanket and lunged towards him. Tammy Wynette stood under the white berries for a while, but nothing happened. The drink was taking its toll. Three hours we'd been there and there was still no sign of The King. Was this all a hoax, were we on Candid Camera, was he really going to come at all? Was it all just another Elvis Presley appearance rumour story?

But wait, what was this? Muffled grumbling sounds from the fireplace. The buzz of conversation died down, glowing faces turned towards the hearth. A blue suede shoe appeared down the chimney, then another, then a pair of legs in leather daisies. The King was coming down the chimney "How original", chortled the late Buddy Holly. "Hold your tongue," bawled the Colonel. "Let's help him come down."

So the King came down, but Glory didn't exactly shine around. He was covered in soot, clutching a half-empty Tequila bottle in one hand and scratching his ruffled hair with the other.

What would he say, what would his opening line be, was this all just a bad dream? Amidst much confusion, muttering and drunken carol singing, there was a loud bang and a flash as the fairy lights went out on the Christmas Tree. "Oh ma gawd", sneered the King. "Ray Charles did that last year", as Stevie Wonder picked himself up from what remained of the Woolworth's style imitation Christmas Tree.

The King was saved further embarrassment by the arrival of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir harmonising sweetly with a rousing rendition of 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen'. The festive fare began to flow again. Barry White ate fifteen helpings of Christmas pudding. Elton John choked on his chestnut stuffing and his multi-coloured glasses fell into the cranberry sauce. Alice Cooper passed round his holiday snaps which everybody agreed were very wonderful, especially the ones involving a snake and a lady of oriental extraction.

A good time was being had by all. All, that is, except one lonely figure, slumped in an armchair beside the fire. I made my way through the jostling laughing masses to offer some comfort to him. He managed a smile as he saw me approaching him. "I don't think we've met", I opened. "I'm from Record Mirror, London. Not a bad party is it. You anything to do with the music business?"

"Presley's the name," he replied enthusiastically. "I sing a bit and can pluck a few chords. Could you see your way to doing me a favour by giving me an interview, we could go up to my study if you like."

"Mr Presley, I'm sorry, but we only go for the really big names now."

I woke up sometime the next day. Covered in snow I was lying in a ditch beside the State Highway. I was aware of a pain in my ribs and fingered my blood-stained shirt.

Perhaps I'd used the wrong approach. Still, there's always ext year.

## 50 OF THE G BAND'S NEW ALBUM PLUS 15 T-SHIRTS

One of these fabulous PARIS MATCH albums from THE G BAND or a consolation T-Shirt. Just answer the questions as shown, cut out and post to:

The G Band Competition, Box 195  
Spotlight Publications, London N7 7BB

The Editor's decision is final.

WIN

WIN



1 Which G Band member left to become a solo singer?

2 Name the two drummers in the group

3 Name the Glitterband's first solo hit single?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



# Boston's basement tape party

WOULD YOU believe that one of America's biggest selling albums this year was recorded in a bloke's basement? Well, it's true. Boston have come up with one of the fastest selling albums in the history of recorded music.

Not bad going for a debut album by an unknown group, who only took to the road after the album took off. Individually Boston are Tom Scholz, guitar, Brad Delp, vocals and guitar, Barry Goudreau, guitar and keyboards, Fran Sheehan, bass and Sib Hashian on drums.

Together they've managed to capture America's rock market and take it by storm. They are a little taken by surprise with their sudden rise to glory, and Tom Scholz, on the line from the States, seemed at a loss to explain what they had that others didn't.

"We're just a five man rock 'n' roll band," he said. "It's not as though this music has suddenly just come together overnight. It represents the total of about six years' work."

"Our music is all based

by David Brown

on the stuff younger kids like. It's all solid rock 'n' roll — maybe that's what we have to offer."

When closely examined that album gives a few more pointers. It starts with a perfectly constructed song, 'More Than A Feeling' with catchy acoustic runs and a steadily rumbling tune. As a single in the States it shot up the chart, but on release over here, didn't take off, probably because our radio stations are still too cautious to play new names.

The following tracks on side one have rich textures, slabs of classical-influenced keyboards and strong harmony vocals.

Side two is more basic rock orientated, and comes as something of a

**'We've been playing bars all these years — it's like a dream come true.'**

disappointment, but is still a good cut above the norm.

It is too early to see what effect the album will have on the UK charts yet, but if it manages a mere fraction of its US popularity it will do very well.

## Neighbours

And yes, most of it was recorded in Tom Scholz's basement. What did the neighbours think about that?

"I guess they got used to it after a while," Tom laughed. "It was OK really with it being suburban and anyway we don't play too loudly."

The initial basement tapes were the ones they impressed their record



BOSTON: Ready for Britain next year sometime

company with and form the majority of the numbers on the album. Tom worked with 12 track equipment which he brought after years of working full time during the day to finance his musical sidelines.

"In the end I just had to stop working for a couple of years to get the music together," he says. "I had the present band in mind when I first started working on the music. I knew I could get them together once we had something good to work on."

"But when the album came out we just couldn't get over the reaction, so we had to prepare for a tour straightaway."

Since it's usually the

other way round, touring first then recording, did they have any difficulty in transferring the studio sound to a live sound?

"We haven't got lost yet," was the reply. "I mean because we weren't overdubbing too much it meant we could carry out what we put down."

"The tour has been great, there'll be another in the spring and who knows, perhaps if the album takes off we'll be ready for Britain next year some time. We've already had one tempting offer."

What were his personal musical tastes?

"I haven't listened to much music of recent years. I'm pretty deep rooted in the sixties I

guess I was quite surprised to find that our music had such a wide age group. I mean people who are about 30 see the sixties influences, and the youngsters get a kick out of the solid rock sound."

Having made such an impact with their first effort, they are now setting about the task of coming up with a second LP to follow through.

## Acoustic

"We have already been playing about half of the numbers we have ready for the second album, along with most of the first one," Tom explains.

"If people liked the first album they won't dislike the second. There are a

few acoustic numbers and one which is less rock and roll, but generally it won't differ radically from the sound we created on the first."

Was the new album likely to be another cellar job?

"No, it will be a studio job this time. After working in a basement I didn't like working in the studios, you get pressured by time and all that, whereas as in my own studio I could work when and how I wanted."

So, what tips had he got for budding rock bands who wanted to get it right the first time?

The answer was inevitable: "Well, they could start by getting a good basement."

# J. Edward Oliver 'I'm Screaming of a Fright Christmas'

**WRITTEN RIDDLES FROM:** JANICE HOARE, KINLOCH STREET, CARNOUTIE, ANGLUS \* JUN 4 1977 MODEL PLASTIC WARTHOIS! SEND ALL GARBAGE TO: J. EDWARD OLIVER FAMOUS NAME CARTOONS, RECORD MIRROR, SPOTLIGHT HOUSE, 1 BELLWELL ROAD, LONDON N7 7AX.

**EDWARD OLIVER'S Instruments**

**garbage**  
COLUMN

**FESTIVE FLOP TOP**

1. NEVER CAN SMY GOODBYE - GARY GLITTER. THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME.
2. HOT CHOCOLATE
3. IF I COULD (SING) - ROD STEWART
4. THE OTHER SIDE OF ME - ELTON JOHN
5. COULDN'T GET IT RIGHT - EDWARD HEATH
6. THE INCREDIBLE PLAN - DON REVE (NOT RELATED TO JOHNNY ROTTEN)
7. ROCK 'N ME - VAL DOONICAN
8. SWEARING TO GOD - SEX PISTOLS
9. JAGS - JOHNNY ROTTEN (DISTANT RELATIVE OF JOHNNY ROTTEN)
10. SCHOOL'S OUT - N.U.P.E.

COMPILED BY (114) ROBERT EDWARDS, ROASTERY, BALD; AND (E-10) ALAN CALHAN (NO RELATION TO JOHNNY ROTTEN). AGE IS (E-4) YEARS YOUNGER THAN JOHNNY ROTTEN BUT NO RELATION OF HIM). SUTTON COLDFIELD, G.I. MIPPS (NO MIDS IS OVER 100 MILES AWAY FROM LONDON AND ALAN CALHAN IS NOT IN ANY WAY RELATED TO JOHNNY ROTTEN).

**SEASONAL SCREWBALL SCRIBBLES**

1. LIGHT MICROBE

2. TREATING THE PUTTING MICROBE

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**CHRISTMAS COINCIDENTAL LIES**

1. EDWARD OLIVER AND FRANK SINATRA GET PAID EXACTLY THE SAME!

2. BOTH JOHN BROWN AND BOLAN BOLAN HAVE PERFECTLY SQUARE, TAN NEES.

3. NIGEL ROBINSON ONLY SHAVES ONCE A YEAR - AND THEN IT'S JUST HIS LEGS!

4. ALSO FROM EDWARD OLIVER 338/69

THIS WEEK: J. Edward Oliver wishes a Merry Christmas to all his readers!



J. Edward Oliver's

# FASTER-MIND!

A QUICK-THINKING POP GAME FOR ANY NUMBER OF PLAYERS

**DISCARD PILE**

**CARDS**

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED**

One token (counter, button, coin, etc) for each player and one pack of cards. Any number can play.

**EXPLANATION**

Each playing card represents a letter of the alphabet, depending on which space your token rests.

If you are on a square marked 'A-M', the cards represent the first half of the alphabet. An ace stands for the letter A; a two represents B; 3 equals C; 4 equals D; 5 equals E, and so on until the King - which represents M.

If you are on a square marked 'N-Z', the cards represent the second half of the alphabet. In this case, Ace equals N; 2 equals O; 3

equals P; 4 equals Q; 5 equals R, etc. (King equals Z).

Jokers may represent any letter you choose.

**HOW TO PLAY**

Place players' tokens on start square.

Shuffle cards and place face down on space marked 'CARDS'.

The first player turns over the top card and places it face up on the 'DISCARD PILE' space.

Each player then works out which letter of the alphabet the card represents for him (see above), and calls out a word or phrase beginning with this letter. EACH PLAYER'S WORD OR PHRASE MUST BE IN THE CATEGORY SHOWN ON THE SPACE ON WHICH HIS TOKEN RESTS.

The first person to shout out his appropriate word (and

ONLY the first person to do so) moves his token to the next space on the board.

The second player then turns over the next card and play continues.

The first player to reach the FINISH space is declared winner and Faster-Mind Of The Year!

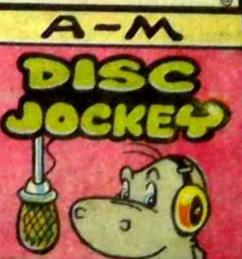
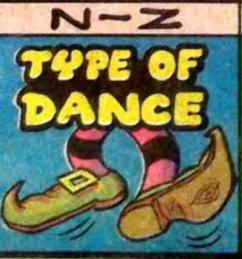
**NOTES**

1 If nobody is able to think of a correct word or phrase, another card is turned over.

2 In the event of an answer being disputed, the remaining players should vote on its acceptability.

3 A winning word may not be used again by any player. But if a word has been previously called but did NOT win, it can be used again.

4 When the category is a name, either the first name or surname is acceptable.



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