

# Record Mirror

**ALBUMS  
AND  
SINGLES  
OF THE  
YEAR**

The year's  
best and our  
own choice

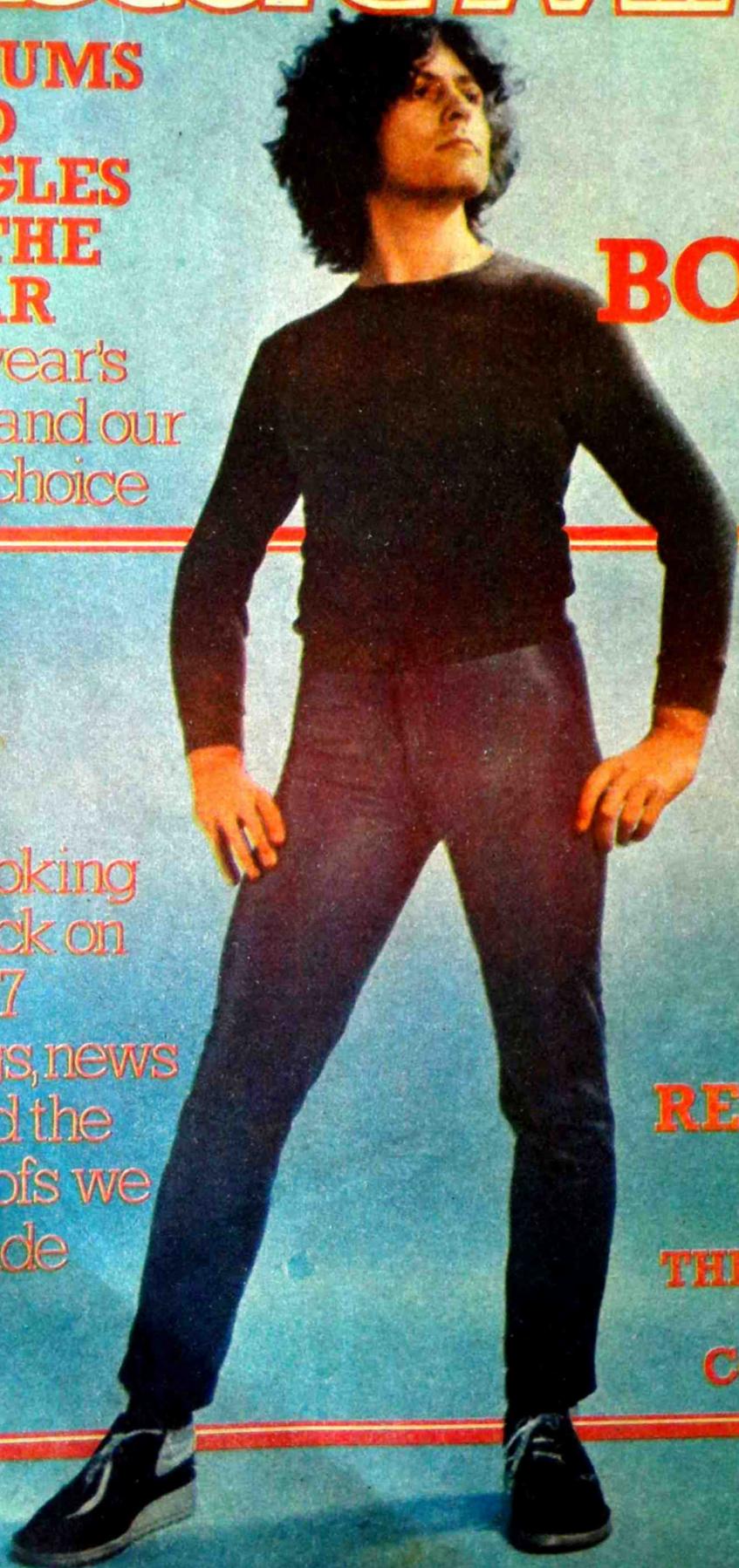
## BOLAN

Will he  
sweep  
the poll?

Looking  
back on  
1977  
Ligs, news  
and the  
goofs we  
made

**DOES  
SEX  
SELL  
A  
RECORD?**

**A DAY AT  
THE PISTOLS  
RECORD  
COMPANY**



# Record Mirror

## SINGLES AND ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

### TOP 100 SINGLES



DAVID SOUL No 1



JULIE COVINGTON No 2



LEO SAYER No 3



DAVID SOUL No 4



ABBA No 5

1	DON'T GIVE UP ON US, David Soul	Private Stock	51	ROMEO, Mr Big	EMI
2	DON'T CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA, Julie Covington	MCA	52	GOOD MORNING JUDGE, 10cc	Mercury
3	WHEN I NEED YOU, Leo Sayer	Chrysalis	53	SIR DUKE, Stevie Wonder	Tamla Motown
4	SILVER LADY, David Soul	Private Stock	54	TELEPHONE MAN, Meri Wilson	Pye Int
5	KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU, Abba	Epic	55	DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY, Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes	CBS
6	I FEEL LOVE, Donna Summer	GTO	56	PEACHES/GO BUDDY GO, The Stranglers	United Artists
7	WAY DOWN, Elvis Presley	RCA Victor	57	THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR, Deniece Williams	CBS
8	SO YOU WIN AGAIN, Hot Chocolate	RAK	58	I DON'T WANT TO PUT A HOLD ON YOU, Berni Flint	EMI
9	ANGELO, Brotherhood of Man	Pye	59	GOD SAVE THE QUEEN, Sex Pistols	Virgin
10	CHANSON D'AMOUR, Manhattan Transfer	Atlantic	60	TORN BETWEEN TWO LOVERS, Mary MacGregor	American Ariola
11	YES SIR, I CAN BOOGIE, Baccara	RCA Victor	61	DADDY COOL, Darts	Magnet
12	BLACK IS BLACK, La Belle Epoque	Harvest	62	PRETTY VACANT, Sex Pistols	Virgin
13	MULL OF KINTYRE/GIRLS SCHOOL, Wings	Parlophone	63	OH LORI, Alessi	A&M
14	FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN, Emerson, Lake & Palmer	Atlantic	64	SAM, Olivia Newton-John	EMI
15	MA BAKER, Boney M	Atlantic	65	DADDY COOL, Boney M	Atlantic
16	EVERGREEN, Barbra Streisand	CBS	66	YOU'RE MOVING OUT TODAY, Carole Bayer Sager	Elektra
17	NAME OF THE GAME, Abba	Epic	67	FROM NEW YORK TO L. A., Patsy Gallant	EMI
18	LUCILLE, Kenny Rogers	United Artists	68	CALLING OCCUPANTS OF INTERPLANETARY CRAFT, Carpenters	A&M
19	ROCKIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD, Status Quo	Vertigo	69	OH BOY, Brotherhood of Man	Pye
20	MAGIC FLY, Space	Pye Int	70	WHODUNIT, Tavares	Capitol
21	BOOGIE NIGHTS, Heatwave	GTO	71	I WILL, Ruby Winters	Creole
22	YOU'RE IN MY HEART, Rod Stewart	Riva	72	LIVE IN TROUBLE, Barron Knights	Epic
23	SIDE SHOW, Barry Biggs	Dynamic	73	JACK IN THE BOX, The Moments	All Platinum
24	WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS, Queen	EMI	74	SUNNY, Boney M	Atlantic
25	FLOAT ON, The Floaters	ABC	75	WONDEROUS STORIES, Yes	Atlantic
26	SHOW YOU THE WAY TO GO, The Jacksons	Epic	76	HAVE I THE RIGHT, Dead End Kids	CBS
27	BABY DON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND, Gladys Knight & The Pips	Buddah	77	CAR WASH, Rose Royce	MCA
28	FREE, Deniece Williams	CBS	78	NO MORE HEROES, The Stranglers	United Artists
29	SOUND AND VISION, David Bowie	RCA Victor	79	I CAN'T GET YOU OUTA MY MIND, Yvonne Elliman	RSO
30	AIN'T GONNA BUMP NO MORE, Joe Tex	Epic	80	YOU'RE MORE THAN A NUMBER IN MY LITTLE RED BOOK, Drifters	Arista
31	FIRST CUT IS THE DEEPEST / I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, Rod Stewart	Riva	81	TELEPHONE LINE, Electric Light Orchestra	Jet
32	GOING IN WITH MY EYES OPEN, David Soul	Private Stock	82	STAR WARS THEME, Maco	RCA Victor
33	HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE, Bee Gees	RSO	83	IT'S YOUR LIFE, Smokie	RAK
34	WHEN, Showaddywaddy	Arista	84	GOT TO GIVE IT UP, Marvin Gaye	Tamla Motown
35	YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES, Showaddywaddy	Arista	85	HOTEL CALIFORNIA, The Eagles	Asylum
36	OXYGENE, Jean Michel Jarre	Polydor	86	MOODY BLUE, Elvis Presley	RCA Victor
37	BEST OF MY LOVE, The Emotions	CBS	87	EASY, Commodores	Tamla Motown
38	THE CRUNCH, The Rah Band	Good Earth	88	NEEDLES AND PINS, Smokie	RAK
39	THE SHUFFLE, Van McCoy	H&L	89	SHE'S NOT THERE, Santana	CBS
40	BLACK BETTY, Ram Jam	Epic	90	FEEL THE NEED, Detroit Emeralds	Atlantic
41	NOBODY DOES IT BETTER, Carly Simon	Elektra	91	SING ME, The Brothers	Bus Stop
42	DOWN DEEP INSIDE, Donna Summer	Casablanca	92	DO ANYTHING YOU WANNA DO, Rods	Island
43	RED LIGHT SPELLS DANGER, Billy Ocean	GTO	93	EGYPTIAN REGGAE, Jonathan Richman	Beserkley
44	FLORAL DANCE, Brighthouse & Rastrick Band	Logo	94	YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A STAR, Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davies	ABC
45	ISN'T SHE LOVELY, David Parton	Pye	95	SUSPICION, Elvis Presley	RCA Victor
46	NIGHTS ON BROADWAY, Cantt Staton	Warner Bros	96	BABY I KNOW, Rubettes	State
47	WE'RE ALL ALONE, Rita Coolidge	A&M	97	LOVE HURTS ETC, Nazareth	Mountain
48	2. 4. 6. 8. MOTORWAY, Tom Robinson	EMI	98	SUNSHINE AFTER THE RAIN, Elkie Brooks	A&M
49	I REMEMBER ELVIS PRESLEY, Danny Mirror	Sonet	99	THINK I'M GONNA FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU, The Dooleys	GTO
50	DANCIN' PARTY, Showaddywaddy	Arista	100	HALFWAY DOWN THE STAIRS, Muppets	Pye

1	ARRIVAL, Abba	Epic	51	30 GREATEST, Gladys Knight & The Pips	K-Tel
2	20 GOLDEN GREATS, The Shadows	EMI	52	WISH YOU WERE HERE, Pink Floyd	Harvest
3	20 GOLDEN GREATS, Diana Ross & Th Supremes	Tamla Motown	53	EVEN IN THE QUIETEST MOMENTS, Supertramp	A & M
4	A STAR IS BORN, Soundtrack	CBS	54	NEW ALBUM, Bryan Ferry	Polydor
5	RUMOURS, Fleetwood Mac	Warner Bros.	55	ATLANTIC CROSSING, Rod Stewart	Riva
6	HOTEL CALIFORNIA, The Eagles	Asylum	56	HOLLIES LIVE HITS, The Hollies	Polydor
7	THE SOUND OF BREAD, Bread	Elektra	57	FEELINGS, Various	K-Tel
8	ENDLESS FLIGHT, Leo Sayer	Chrysalis	58	BOSTON	Epic
9	GREATEST HITS, Abba	Epic	59	GREATEST HITS, Hot Chocolate	RAK
10	THE JOHNNY MATHIS COLLECTION,	CBS	60	COMING OUT, Manhattan Transfer	Atlantic
11	ANIMALS, Pink Floyd	Harvest	61	20 GOLDEN GREATS, Glen Campbell	Capitol
12	NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS, The Sex Pistols	Virgin	62	MOONFLOWER, Santana	CBS
13	PORTRAIT OF SINATRA, Frank Sinatra	Reprise	63	HOME ON THE RANGE, Slim Whitman	United Artists
14	DISCO FEVER, Various	K-Tel	64	IN FLIGHT, George Benson	Warner Bros.
15	A NEW WORLD RECORD, Electric Light Orchestra	Jet	65	SIMON AND GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS	CBS
16	GOING FOR THE ONE, Yes	Atlantic	66	HEROES, David Bowie	RCA Victor
17	20 ALL TIME GREATS, Connie Francis	Polydor	67	A NIGHT ON THE TOWN, Rod Stewart	Riva
18	RED RIVER VALLEY, Slim Whitman	United Artists	68	SECONDS OUT, Rod Stewart	Charisma
19	SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE, Stevie Wonder	Tamla Motown	69	VISION, Don Williams	ABC
20	OXYGENE, Jean Michel Jarre	Polydor	70	SILK DEGREES, Boz Scaggs	CBS
21	STRANGLERS IV, The Stranglers	United Artists	71	PLAYING TO AN AUDIENCE OF ONE, David Soul	Private Stock
22	THE MUPPET SHOW	Pye	72	ROCKIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD, Status Quo	Vertigo
23	THEIR GREATEST HITS 71-75, The Eagles	Asylum	73	20 GOLDEN GREATS, Beach Boys	Capitol
24	HEARTBREAKERS, Various	K-Tel	74	TWO DAYS AWAY, Elkie Brooks	A & M
25	I REMEMBER YESTERDAY, Donna Summer	GTO	75	THE CLASH	CBS
26	40 GOLDEN GREATS, Cliff Richard	EMI	76	MOTORVATIN', Chuck Berry	Mercury
27	EXODUS, Bob Marley & The Wailers	Island	77	THE BEST OF LENA MARTELL, Lena Martell	Pye
28	THE BEATLES AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL, The Beatles	Parlophone	78	GET STONED, Rolling Stones	Arcade
29	LOVE AT THE GREEK, Neil Diamond	CBS	79	SHEER MAGIC, Acker Bilk	Warwick
30	EVITA	MCA	80	GREATEST HITS VOL. II, Elton John	DJM
31	FOOT LOOSE AND FANCY FREE, Rod Stewart	Riva	81	JAILBREAK, Thin Lizzy	Vertigo
32	NO MORE HEROES, The Stranglers	United Artists	82	THE BEST OF, Mamas & Papas	Arcade
33	MOODY BLUE, Elvis Presley	RCA Victor	83	LOVE YOU LIVE, Rolling Stones	Rolling Stones
34	GREATEST HITS, Showaddywaddy	Arista	84	MY AIM IS TRUE, Elvis Costello	Stiff
35	DECEPTIVE BENDS, 10 CC	Mercury	85	BAD REPUTATION, Thin Lizzy	Vertigo
36	THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON, Pink Floyd	Harvest	86	NEW WAVE, Various	Vertigo
37	DAVID SOUL	Private Stock	87	SHOW SOME EMOTION, Joan Armatrading	A & M
38	LIVE, Status Quo	Vertigo	88	IN THE CITY, Jam	Polydor
39	NEWS OF THE WORLD, Queen	EMI	89	THE UNFORGETTABLE GLENN MILLER	RCA Victor
40	LOW, David Bowie	RCA Victor	90	SONGS FROM THE WOOD, Jethro Tull	Chrysalis
41	BEST OF, Rod Stewart	Mercury	91	THUNDER IN MY HEART, Leo Sayer	Chrysalis
42	PETER GABRIEL	Charisma	92	A NIGHT AT THE OPERA, Queen	EMI
43	GREATEST HITS, Smokie	RAK	93	DEREK & CLIVE LIVE, Peter Cooke & Dudley Moore	Island
44	WORKS, Emerson Lake & Palmer	Atlantic	94	JOHNNY THE FOX, Thin Lizzy	Vertigo
45	A DAY AT THE RACES, Queen	EMI	95	EVERY FACE TELLS A STORY, Cliff Richard	EMI
46	WINGS OVER AMERICA, Wings	Parlophone	96	WELCOME TO MY WORLD, Elvis Presley	RCA Victor
47	WIND AND WUTHERING, Genesis	Charisma	97	22 GOLDEN GUITAR GREATS, Bert Weedon	Warwick
48	OUT OF THE BLUE, Electric Light Orchestra	Jet	98	BEST OF JOHN DENVER VOL. 2, John Denver	RCA Victor
49	TUBULAR BELLS, Mike Oldfield	Virgin	99	30 GOLDEN GREATS, Black & White Minstrels with Joe Loss Orch.	EMI
50	ELVIS PRESLEY'S 40 GREATEST HITS	Arcade	100	ON STAGE, Rainbow	Polydor

### TOP 100 ALBUMS



ABBA No 1



SHADOWS No 2



DIANA ROSS No 3



BARBARA STREISAND No 4



FLEETWOOD MAC No 5

# Record Mirror

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# Juicy Juicy

## The awards that really count

GOOD EVENING and welcome to the show... Juicy Juicy's Awards for 1977. Sit down at the back there, your name will come up in a minute.

LIG OF THE YEAR: There have been several nominations for this much-vaunted trophy and as a result several occasions have shared the award: **NEIL DIAMOND** at



**DOLLY PARTON:** quote of the year

Woburn: A pre-concert buffet followed by exotic cocktails in the afternoon sun, basking ourselves gently on the grass in the grounds of Woburn Abbey. Such was the idyllic build-up (you didn't miss it, did you darling?) to Mr Diamond's magnificent open-air concert which was nearly (swoon) the event of the year. Many thanks to Lord and Lady Tavistock and CBS for such a splendid day. And Neil, you were great son!!! You can



**BRITTE EKLAND:** laughing all the way to the bank?

be mine forever - geddit?????

**ROSE ROYCE:** A surprise beano at the London Rainbow, featuring mucho smoked salmon and many a handsome super-dude black plus spouse; efficient and enjoyable - in direct contrast to the concert itself.

**JETHRO TULL's** dinner at the Carlton Tower Hotel was magnificent, my dears, prime beef, smoked salmon, exquisite sweets and the luvly cudderly Ian Anderson.

The party for **TED NUGENT** at a London Greek restaurant took place on the very evening that Elvis died, but the hilarity and plate smashing continued into the small hours. Mention too, for the **URIAH HEPP** train trip to Birmingham on which more than just plates were smashed. Also nominated for lig of the year: **Rod Stewart's** backstage bash at Olympia, **Burlesque** at the Zanzibar, **Phil Lynott's** birthday party in Dublin.

**BUM LIGS OF THE YEAR:** Top prize, methinks, must go to **Arista** for their incredible gall in launching **Alan Parsons's** deadly dull LP 'I-Robot' onto the unsuspecting Press at the Festival Hall. Not only were 150 pairs of headphones wired up to some record player in a darkened room, but all the emissaries were forced to put them on... and to listen to the tedious album **ALL THE WAY THROUGH**. All exits were barred, only sherry (**SHERY????**) was served beforehand, and, horrors, we were expected to talk to the act afterwards. Never again!

Meanwhile, the Tubes proved themselves totally and utterly unlovable and similarly uninteresting at a yawn-filled reception at the cavernous Great Eastern Hotel. Nothing happened at all. Surprised anybody went really. After five minutes of this lig-to-be-avoided, most members of the Press were happily ensconced in the public bar... buying their own drinks - that's how bad it was.

And for those with truly perverse interests, the two filthiest events: First, the non-exciting **Drones** gathered the Press at a seedy grimy massage parlour to promote their album. Nobody came. Second, **Luicy** did hear of some sort of joint with the vile and dirty **AC/DC** to the coast somewhere. She wished she hadn't. For pure filth, those Aussies don't just take the biscuit, they lick the ground it lies on.

**QUOTES OF THE YEAR:** "Of course, this is popular folklore." **Al Clark.** "Abortion is a messy business." **Al Clark.** "Say something dirty." **Bill Grundy.** "I only came to see her tits." **Reporter at Dolly Parton reception.**



**KERMIT:** frog of the year

**JOKE OF THE YEAR:** **Britt Ekland.**

**ADVERT OF THE YEAR:** **Gaye.**

**DEATH OF THE YEAR:** **Victor the Giraffe, Groucho Marx, Maria Callas, National Rock Star.**

LEAST PUBLICISED



**DEBBIE HARRY:** putting the boot in

**EVENT OF THE YEAR:** Star Wars.

**BAD TEMPERED SEX OBJECT OF THE YEAR:** **Debbie Harry.**

**MALE SEX OBJECT OF THE YEAR:** **Victor the Giraffe.**

**BUM OF THE YEAR:** **Anna of Abba, Jean Jacques Burnel.**

**JAILBAIT OF THE YEAR:** **Miss Piggy, Margaret Thatcher.**

**MUM OF THE YEAR:** **John Weller.**

**ALTERNATIVE TO WEMBLEY STADIUM AS A MAJOR ROCK VENUE AWARD:** **The Hope & Anchor.**

**DRINK OF THE YEAR:** 'A **Jeremy Thorpe**' - Liberal amount of Scotch on the rocks.

**MOST OVERBLOWN GROUPS OF THE YEAR:** **Wire, Siouxsie and the Banshees.**

**OFF THE CUFF REMARK OF THE YEAR:** **Tim Lott:** "I don't think this is very witty."

**PARANOID PERSONS OF THE YEAR:** **Jake Riviera, Elvis Costello, Johnny Rotten, Jonathan Richman.**

**FROG OF THE YEAR:** **Kermit.**

**POSTER OF THE YEAR:** **Sex Pistols' God Save The Queen, Derek and Clive's Lavatory poster.**

**BADGE OF THE YEAR:** **Ian Dury, 'Sex Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll.**

**PRESS OFFICERS OF THE**

**YEAR:** **Al Clark** for services above and beyond the call of duty. **Alan** 'I hate the Strangers anyway' **Edwards.** **SLEEPING PRES OFFICERS OF THE YEAR:** **Tom Nolan (EMI), Michael Grey (UA).** **T-SHIRTS OF THE YEAR:** **Frankie + + + + + Miller. Stiff - If it ain't stiff etc.** **WORST T-SHIRTS OF THE YEAR:** **Honey M, Ralph McTell.** **HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLE OF THE YEAR:** **Mr and Mrs Tony Blackburn.** **POSE OF THE YEAR (incorporating best dressed award):** **Caroline Crowther, Gaye Advert, Jean Jacques Burnel.** **DARBY AND JOAN CLUB TROPHY:** **Jet Black.** **BODILY REARRANGEMENT TROPHIES:** **Elton John, Sid Vicious, Poly Styrene.** **SID OF THE YEAR:** **Vicious, Bonkers.** **MAN OF THE YEAR:** **Joe O'Neal.** **WOMAN OF THE YEAR:** **Wayne County.** There y'are then kids. Happy New Year, see y'all soon. Byeccc.



**ANNA:** what a big one

# Ray Charles

listen to the sheer magic with his superb version of

# I can see clearly now.



HLU 10554



10cc: PAUL BURGESS, STUART TOSH, TONY O'MALLEY.  
**Week ending May 14**  
 ROGER DALTRY releases solo album. STRANGLERS announce major tour. BAY CITY ROLLERS sack bass player PAT MCGLYNN (19). Over £1,000 worth of damage caused at Rainbow concert headlined by CLASH and JAM Theatre spokesman: "There is no question of us banning the CLASH or any other punk band because of this." CHRIS HILLMAN walks out of European tour with ROGER MCGUINN and GENE CLARK.

**Week ending May 21**  
 SEX PISTOLS sign to Virgin for an unspecified sum. Spokesman says: "However other record companies might protest, they would all have liked to have signed the SEX PISTOLS."

**Week ending May 28**  
 THE JAM pull out of the CLASH 'White Riot' tour. STRANGLERS having problems with their UK tour - council objections etc. VIBRATORS banned from London's New Victoria Theatre.

**JUNE**  
 Pistols blackout  
 Clash fined  
 Rotten attacked



**STRANGLERS**  
**Week ending June 4**  
 MCA sign LONDON. DEE GENERATE (18) quits EATER. BBC place radio and TV ban on PISTOLS' 'God Save The Queen' which this week jumps into the charts at number 11. BBC spokesman describes the record as being "in gross bad taste."

**Week ending June 11**  
 WINGS deny Knebworth Festival rumours. PAT MCGLYNN forms new band SCOTTIE. Leicester Poly bans all new wave bands. 'God Save The Queen' has now sold 150,000 copies to date despite being banned from all TV and radio exposure.

**Week ending June 18**  
 STRANGLERS sign long-term to A&M. In US, FRANKIE MILLER'S FULL HOUSE kick off US tour in Chicago. JOE STRUMMER and NICKY HEADON of the CLASH fined for theft in Morpeth, Northumberland. DAVE BROMBERG blows out British tour. GLC keeping dossier on all new wave bands. BEACH BOYS sign to CBS - first details of their ill-fated British summer tour announced. PETER KNIGHT, BOB JOHNSON quit STEELEYE SPAN. MARTIN CATHY and JOHN KIRKPATRICK join EMERSON LAKE AND PALMER start their mammoth world tour with first US concert for three years. ELP have



BEATLES

touring entourage of 115 people.  
**Week ending June 25**  
 YES release 'Going For The One'. GENERATION X get new drummer MARK LAFF. GENESIS sell out Earls Court. PISTOLS' ROTTEN and COOK attacked in separate incidents. "Britain is not the place to be if you want to speak your mind," says Virgin spokesman.

**JULY**  
 Who buy  
 Capital gain  
 Teds march



**WHO**  
**Week ending July 9**  
 THE WHO buy part of Shepperton Studios for £350,000. JACKIE FOX (17) quits the RUNAWAYS. £10,000 worth of equipment stolen from Ronnie Lane's mobile studio. STEVE HARLEY splits with COCKNEY REBEL on eve of release of first live album.

**Week ending July 16**  
 10cc to record live album in Manchester. More ELP British dates rumours. In London report shows that Capital Radio is gaining listeners from Radio 1.

**Week ending July 23**  
 ELVIS COSTELLO tours Britain. BEACH BOYS scrap British tour.

**Week ending July 30**  
 Ariola Records from Munich to invest a million and a half pounds in British talent. GENERATION X sign



ELVIS PRESLEY

to Chrysalis. Teds march on BBC demanding air-time for rock 'n' roll.

**AUGUST**  
 Marc stars  
 Damned add  
 Presley dead



**DAMNED**  
**Week ending August 6**  
 SID VICIOUS fined £125 for assaulting a policeman and carrying an offensive weapon. ELVIS PRESLEY releases 'Moody Blue' album. MARC BOLAN to star in own TV series from August 24. VICKI BLUE (17) new basel for the RUNAWAYS. RARE EARTH reform.

**Week ending August 13**  
 THE DAMNED add a new guitarist, LU. VIC COLLINS quits KURSAALS. ROSETTA STONE sign to Private Stock. IGGY POP tour confirmed for late September. JULIE COVINGTON signs to Virgin. FRANKIE MILLER rearranges his Full House band - only one original member remains. JONATHAN RICHMAN to tour next month.

**Week ending August 20**  
 VIBRATORS quit Britain to live in Berlin. LEO SAYER to make his first major British tour at the end of September. Virgin sign XTC. PHIL LYNOTT publishes second book of lyrics / poetry. LINDA RONSTADT releases 'Simple Dreams'.

**Week ending August 27**  
 ELVIS PRESLEY dies. SPARKS return with new album, new single and new label, CBS. CAMEL return to UK. BUZZCOCKS sign to UA. HUGH MCKENNA leaves SAHB, replaced by TOMMY EYES. BETHNAL sign to Phonogram. RACING CARS release second album. ELTON JOHN to appear on MUPPET SHOW. 100,000 mourners give ELVIS PRESLEY the most emotional farewell in the history of rock music.

**SEPTEMBER**  
 Elton's Wembley  
 Wings split  
 Bolan dies



**JIMMY McCULLOCH**  
**Week ending September 3**  
 STATUS QUO, RAINBOW, DEMIS ROUSSOS, announce tours. CAROLE BAYER SAGER for London, ELTON JOHN for Wembley in November. FABULOUS POODLES debut album.

**Week ending September 10**  
 JIMMY McCULLOCH quits WINGS and joins SMALL FACES. BUDDY HOLLY Week almost here. STRANGLERS announce gigantic tour. JAM LP for November release. DONNA SUMMER to play Britain. The police chief in Lindos, Greece, removed from office after complaints from PINK FLOYD'S RICK WRIGHT. BOWIE'S

new LP 'Heroes' due out October 7.

**Week ending September 17**  
 MARC BOLAN dies in car crash. RANDY MEISNER splits from the EAGLES, replaced by TIM SCHMIT of POCO. STEVE GIBBONS put out live LP. GIZMO LP out next month to retail at £11. 'So It Goes' to return.  
**Week ending September 24**  
 CHERRY VANILLA announces her imminent arrival here. LEO SAYER releases 'Thunder In My Heart' LP. SAHB announced exotic Christmas extravaganza.

**OCTOBER**  
 Tom's single  
 Hackett quits  
 Skynyrd crash



**STEVE HACKETT**  
**Week ending October 1**  
 TOM ROBINSON releases '2-4-6-8 Motorway' and to the States. **Week ending October 8**  
 DJM sign a punk band - Satan's Rats. 999 sign to UA. PAUL COOK plays with the HEARTBREAKERS. STEVE HACKETT quits GENESIS.

**Week ending October 15**  
 NZ outfit SPLIT ENZ return to UK. DAVID ESSEX announces tour. SEX PISTOLS forced to withdraw colour sleeve of 'Holidays In The Sun'.

**Week ending October 22**  
 ROD STEWART releases new album. TUBES confirm British dates for November. CLASH tour. WILKO announces line-up of his new band. 'Never Mind The Bollocks' goes gold.

**Week ending October 29**  
 RAINBOW'S tour to continue despite RITCHIE BLACKMORE'S arrest in Vienna. BRUCE SPRINGSTEIN now has 36 tracks recorded but still no sign of album release. WISHBONE ASH to play the Marquee. LYNKYRD SKYNYRD involved in tragic air crash, three members of the band die. The plane apparently ran out of fuel.

**NOVEMBER**  
 Alex retires  
 Blackburn divorced  
 Stranglers cleared

**Week ending November 5**  
 ALEX HARVEY retires, walks out of rehearsals at BBC. GARY GLITTER breathalysed. P.J. PROBY to play ELVIS. DAVY JONES, MICK EY DOLENZ for 'The Point'. 'Love Songs' by the Beatles released.

**Week ending November 12**  
 THIN LIZZY start British tour. OZZY OSBOURNE quits BLACK SABBATH. TONY BLACKBURN divorced. SEX PISTOLS widow display seized. ELTON JOHN plays his last live performance. ZAL CLEMINSON hits out at ALEX.

**Week ending November 19**  
 KURSAALS disband. ARETHA FRANKLIN pulls out of British dates. STEVE WINWOOD to back JOHN MARTYN. BONNIE TYLER forms new band.

**Week ending November 26**  
 BBC ban KENNY WILLIAMS' single 'You're Fabulous Babe'. Hope And Anchor festival starts. CLASH to play the Rainbow. Virgin boss RICHARD BRANSON to appear in court over PISTOLS' album cover. STRANGLERS cleared on drunk charge. DAVE WALKER joins BLACK SABBATH. ZAL CLEMINSON forms new band.

**DECEMBER**  
 Kids tour  
 Roxy to close  
 Mull million

**Week ending December 3**  
 RICH KIDS announce tour. KISS release live album.  
**Week ending December 10**  
 RICH KIDS record with MICK RONSON. ROXY theatre to close. ROLLING STONES to release album in March. DEKE LEONARD forms new band.  
**Week ending December 17**  
 WHO announce details of major film project, then play surprise London gig. WINGS to appear on Mike Yarwood Christmas show. 'Mull Of Kintyre' sells a million. SEX PISTOLS to tour - official, first gig at Brunel University, Uxbridge. BRIAN CHATTON joins John Miles' band. ELVIS COSTELLO, NICK LOWE sign to UA breakaway group Radar Records. PAT TRAVERS cancels tour.

**Week ending December 24**  
 SEX PISTOLS to play children's party in Huddersfield on Christmas Day. MANHATTEN TRANSFER, GILBERT O'SULLIVAN, EMMYLOU HARRIS, XTC to tour in the new year. LINDISFARNE sell out five concerts in Newcastle. RECORD MIRROR goes to press for the last time in 1977.

# ON TO '78 Will Marc win?



THE MAN himself has been gone four months now, but he certainly isn't forgotten. In fact, it looks like his following is stronger now than it's ever been.

In their regular newsletter, his fan club told Marc's fans about the RECORD MIRROR Poll and reminded them all to send in their votes. But even they couldn't have anticipated the results of their appeal.

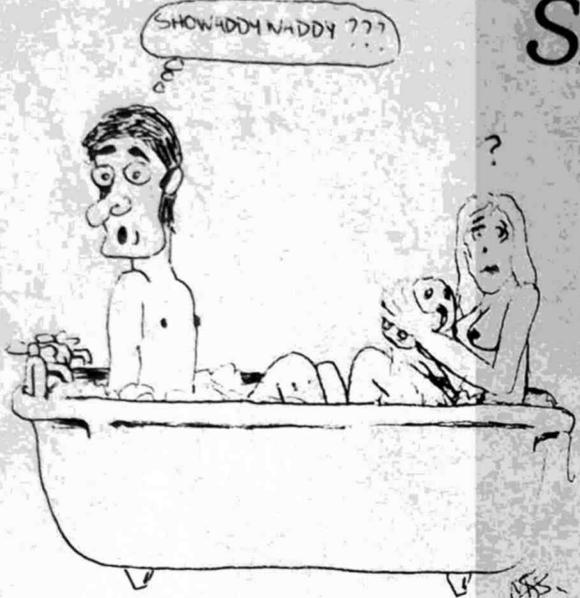
With two thirds of the coupons counted, Marc's position is looking invincible in at least two, or maybe three categories. And not only that - his influence has even reached the sections he obviously can't win - like Female Singer, where Gloria Jones is scoring strongly, and Best New Group where the Boomtown Rats have gained many votes simply because, as one fan wrote on the coupon, Marc once said in his column he really liked them.

How many categories will Marc win? To find that out, you'll have to wait a few weeks, till we've finished counting 'em. But we're betting on Bolan.

# Off Centre Edited by TIM LOTT

## SHOWADDYWADDY!

That's what happens when you make it in the bath



**SUFFERING FROM** that ol' post-Christmas indecision? Wondering what on earth to do with all those ancient aunties' book tokens. If you're looking for a good laugh, I can do no better than recommend that you make for your nearest branch of WH Smiths and purchase a copy of the following literary gem, 'Punk Rock' by Richard Allen. For the small price of 60p you'll find more hilarity than in a whole series of the Basil Brush Show.

We've picked out a selection of the passages for you to share. Punks with safety pins stuck everywhere (and I mean everywhere):

Teds on the rampage; fanzines called Spins where all the reporters smoke marijuana and live off bribes from record companies. What a wheeze.

There's only one snag: the author (and I used the term advisedly) is not joking. I repeat: he means it seriously.

Who is the author? The inside cover of the book informs us that he was also responsible for those classic novels,

'Dragon Skins', 'Terrace Terrors', and that delightful work, 'Knuckle Girls'.

See, his stock-in-trade is jumping on whatever bandwagon happens to be rolling at the time, doing a small (very small) amount of research on it, and dashing off a badly written 20 chapters on the subject.

Unfortunately, he's somewhat missed the boat with this one, since

the Punk/Ted outrage lasted only three days in July. But undeterred, he's rumoured to be currently engaged on a new epic, 'Skateboard Scandals'.

Who is Richard Allen? To find the answer to that question, we rang the publishers, New English Library.

Now, about 'Punk Rock'...

A slightly embarrassed laugh from the other end of the phone.

Who is Richard Allen? Can we speak to him?

"No I'm afraid I can't tell you anything about him. No, I can't put you in touch with him. No, we don't know anything about him."

This is beginning to sound like the CIA. But then, having read the book, I can't blame them for doing a cover up job.

SHEILA PROPHE

"Can you...?" she began to ask. Gaspd when he did. Jerked forward to meet his demanding upward thrust, grinding down. Her neck arched, head flung backwards with chestnut hair trailing in the slopping water. 'Yes... you've got what it takes!' Showaddywaddy! he thought. Then, all there was worth concentrating on were the thrills which gathered pace, steam, urgency...

## BOB-BOB BOBBIN' ALONG

— with Baez

THE OTHER Sunday, while many comfortably watched 'Fiddler On The Roof', for us down at a Park Lane hotel, it was a night of endless, nauseating politics... and a heavy dose of it as well.

In the room where Howard Hughes was once walled up a mini press conference took place in the presence of folk queen Joan Baez.

The attitude was straight and political. There was very little hope that she'd talk about music.

Today Joan, known for her peace movements, has never really had commercial success in Britain but still her presence demands attention.

"People know that if they go to a Joan Baez concert they're bound to get a lecture of some sort," she explained.

During her 18-year career as a singer she washable to mix her personal beliefs with her music. However the impression she made that night was that she's still a victim of solitariness but her thoughts were convincing and persuasive.

The miscellany of politics included the war in Vietnam, (how it officially ended but nothing really got better); the coup in Chile, the centre of non

violence which she founded together with other pacifists and The Shah: "he embraces the US President but he still murders children in front of their parents," she stated.

"I don't really know who's bugging who these days," she replied when asked whether she's still under surveillance. The Gun Control joke, Nixon (who?), Steve Biko's heartbreaking situation and many others not exactly in the comedian's line.

From her recent CBS 'Blowing Away' dpee she was asked about 'Time Rag', a number featuring curious questions from a Time mag journalist. "What about Bobby?" he asked. The same situation found itself here.

"Was it Bobby Kennedy or Bobby Dylan?" someone asked.

"Neither, it was Bobby Fisher," she demanded.

"Are you still seeing Bobby?" "Are you still on the same wavelength as Bobby?"

"Now that's what I call a load of questions," she answered. "Can someone change the subject?"

Well then, what does she think of The Rolling Thunder Review? (very wise?)

"It's a magnificent circus but I won't do it again..."

However reluctant to answer questions about her association with Dylan, she made one thing clear, and thank God it was about music.

"I wanna go back to the acoustic days but I'm not going to sing to whales, sharks or dolphins. There are more important things to do." RAY BONICI

NEW FACES celebrated, what was it, 150 shows the other week and youthful (shame about the bags, though) Derek Hobson read out the names, in typical orgasmic way, of the acts who have since become 'stars'.

There was Showaddywaddy, Marti Caine, Roger de Courcy and Nookie Bear, er, Showaddywaddy, er, Showaddywaddy, er, Not a very impressive list, huh?

Opportunity Knocks also hasn't fared too well in the star market. A handful of names in 20 years ain't exactly successville. Seems like all we got out of that particular rubbish heap was a couple of hundred thousand "Thankuuu rrrrendz."

They only serve to illustrate the gross invalidity of glossy talent shows which raise the importance of a cheap laugh onto a higher plane, than the actual participants who are chosen by people who have little idea of public tastes anyway.

But it doesn't prevent a whole host of New Faces spin-offs. There's the local boozier talent night where you get Harry the butcher revealing just why he left his heart in San Francisco.

There's the Butlin's specials where fear-some holidaymakers freed from the shackles of normality indulge in Al Jolson impressions. And there's the Vitavox LiveSound Award.

Last week yours truly became Tony Hatch for a night. I was invited onto a judging panel

including Peter Skelern, Biddu, a promoter, an assistant editor of a trade mag and a Vitavox official. Our aim? Simply to find the best new band of 77.

Eager exponents of contemporary (?) rock sent in literally hundreds of tapes to Sally James and John Peel who sifted, filtered, selected. After a few preliminary rounds in the provinces three bands came through to the London finals.

After I was introduced, by Miss James as a "distinguished music journalist" (she never did know what she was talking about - Ed) the first band came on. Grace.

Grace were a diluted Genesis: 58 out of 100. Screens next, XTC on an average day: 73. Contempt last, city gent rock: 60. Screens win mucho sound equipment but not a great deal of prestige.

Oh, by the way, Landscape won last year (who the f--- are Landscape? Ed).

BARRY CAIN



BARRY CAIN

COMPLETE WITH WRITTEN DRUM PARTS AS PLAYED ON THE RECORD

### PULSE OF TIME

by LLOYD RYAN

PART I. ROCK DRUMMING

INCLUDING 2001 · HEY JUDE · MKARTHUR PARK LIVE AND LET DIE AND MANY MORE

'THE PULSE OF Time' is a new record on the PVK label. It isn't a potential chart smash and it won't get much airplay on the Beeb. In fact, to our ears, it sounds like nothing more than yet another album of weak, synthesiser versions of old MOR tunes. Just what the world needs, huh?

But then, it seems, 'The Pulse Of Time' isn't supposed to be listened to - it's supposed to be played along with. Because, according to the press release, it is what they

call 'A Lecture / Demonstration On Modern Drumming'.

Says Lloyd Ryan, the guy doing the lecturing: "I chose those songs because they're easily recognisable. It might not sound very rocky, but when you get down to the basics of drumming, there really isn't that much difference between rock and other kinds of music. The basics are the same, whatever you're playing."

In the past, Lloyd's taught a long list of famous drummers from Status Quo's John

Coghlan to Phil Collins of Genesis. And he's still teaching in his basement studio in Covent Garden.

Any potential stars amongst his current pupils?

"I have one boy who's in the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, he's very good, and there's a boy called Martin, who's in a punk group called Puncture. It would give the punk fans a surprise to see him sitting in my studio learning to play samba!"

Lloyd's latest project

is a once monthly drum clinic, held free of charge in his studio. Anyone interested come along, chat to other drummers, and watch demonstrations. The first one was held in December and according to Lloyd was a roaring success. He intends to make it a regular event from now on, so if there are any budding Keith Moon out there who fancy going along, drop Lloyd a line care of RM, and we'll pass your letters on to him.

SHEILA PROPHE

## Binga bonga banga?

# XTC'S CHRISTMAS HUMILIATION SPECIAL!

## YES! THIS IS IT, NEXT YEAR'S THING!

JUST AS McCLAREN LIFTED RICHARD HELLS TORN SHIRT AND SPIKEY HAIR THEN APPLIED IT TO HIS OWN LITTLE PISTOLS, CREATING A WHOLE NEW MOVEMENT, THEN SO FATE WOULD HAVE IT, ANDY PARTRIDGE OF SWINDON'S OWN PULSATING SCIENTIFIC POP TEAM XTC, CAME ACROSS (?) THIS LETTER IN A CERTAIN ADULT JOURNAL LATE THIS YEAR.

AS YOU CAN SEE THE AFFECT ON THE REST OF THE BAND WAS SHATTERING! THEY ARE NOW DEVOUT FOLLOWERS OF 'BABYISM' OR 'NEW HUMILIATION' AS CAN CLEARLY BE SEEN FROM RECENT LIVE PHOTOS OF THE BOYS.

SO THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU DITCH YOUR OLD SAFETY PINS FROM '77' THEY COULD HAVE A WHOLE NEW PURPOSE IN '78'. YES! KEEPING YOU FIRMLY IN YOUR NAPPY!

### Actual Letter

### BABYISM IN THE HOME

Dear Sir,

I am delighted to see, from a letter in your latest issue, that other ladies appreciate the value of humiliation in controlling and disciplining the male sex, and have found nappies and baby treatment the ideal way of ensuring that a husband is kept in such a permanent state of embarrassment and shame that misbehaviour is impossible.

The discipline becomes even more effective if, as in my own husband's case, he happens to be tall and heavily built because the absurdity of his appearance in very short baby frocks and frilly petticoats, and of course with his nappies well on view, makes a truly delicious spectacle. I do not normally allow him to wear a bonnet, so that this pitiful travesty of

babyhood is instantly recognisable as a male, and as I also insist on him using a dummy at all times, the humiliation of his position is such that resistance of any sort is quite impossible.

One of my great delights always is parading my lovely helpless Baby in front of my women friends. Of course, I keep him beautifully turned out and he has lots of really pretty baby frocks and dainty lace-trimmed little petticoats, and the knowledge that he is dressed just like a real baby adds still further to his discomfiture. When we have company I always put an extra nappy on him, to act as a restraint and also to give added bulkiness, and naturally his frocks and petticoats are kept short enough to ensure that his be-nappied condition cannot be overlooked.

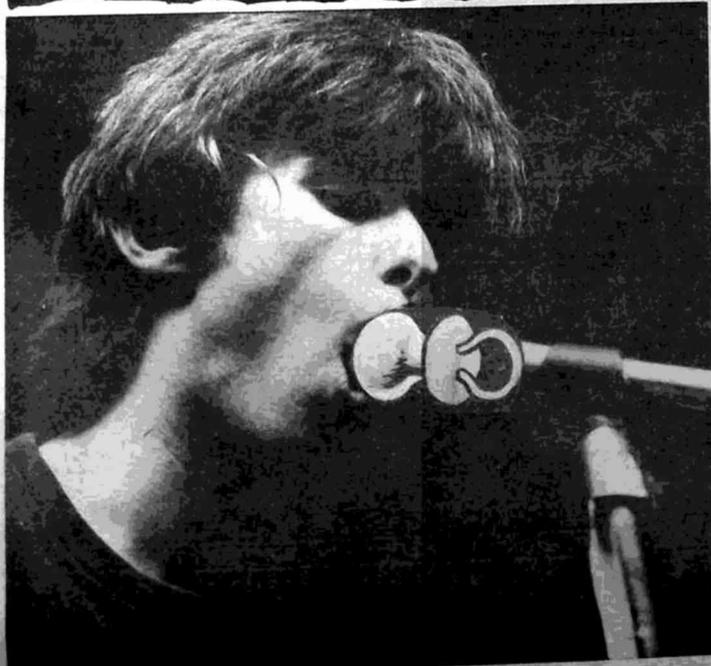
To his great disgust and misery, he must always use a dummy and this in itself never fails to lead to much teasing and amusement at his expense, as ladies love seeing him use it and forcing him to talk to them in baby language with his dummy in his mouth. It would be impossible anyway for him to talk properly like this and the silly meaningless noises which he makes as he

lipsis out his pretty baby - talk are really funny to listen to.

I am enclosing some sketches of what my six-foot Baby looks like in his infantile attire, and I think they do show the depths of the humiliation to which a grown man can be subjected through the use of baby dress and treatment. Especially so, perhaps, where he is shown pushing his doll's pram along in front of my neighbour's two young daughters, and I hope I have managed to convey something of the amused contempt with which they greeted the spectacle of my enormous nappy-clad and dummy-sucking child 'at play'. His dolls and pram, incidentally, are made regular use of for the purpose, together with other baby toys with which he is forced to amuse himself for the entertainment of visitors, both inside the house and also, much to his distress, in the garden, where he is in full view of the neighbours.

I look forward hopefully to many other letters on this fascinating subject.

Yours truly  
Ms E. D., Wilts



XTC'S BASSIST COLIN MOULDING USING HIS PITIFUL DUMMY TOP MIKE! AND SEEN SPORTING HIS 'MERE CHILD'S' HAIRCUT.

DRUMMER TERRY CHAMBERS SEEN HERE USING HIS FAMOUS 'RATTLE' TECHNIQUE!

RECORD MIRROR REFUSED TO PRINT PHOTOS OF THE XTC KEYBOARDS MAN, BARRY ANDREWS, AND GUITAR PLAYER, PARTRIDGE, AS THE TWO LAYING NUDE ON A FUR RUG, COULD OFFEND IN SUCH A FAMILY PAPER! NOEL!



# Albums

## Nursery punk

**EATER: 'The Album' (The Label TLR LP001)**

THERE WAS a time when it looked as though Eater were gonna come through. A year ago they were there with the best of them avoiding phlegm rolls and getting their name in the national hack peep-shows. I mean, Rat Scabies taught Dee Generate all he knew.

They were the youngest. THE youngest. And suddenly that began to show. They started pumping out twilight zone dross from behind the shield of their own label... Dee Generate left... nobody wanted to touch them... all washed up at 16.

And, heaven forbid, it was time for an ALBUM. But they little ones, it ain't that BAD.

The album 'The Album' (that's pronounced 'The Album') proves that if nothing else a guy can have fun in a pop group. Sixteen songs, predictable but uncertain, blindly naive but lovable. Talking about their contribution by the way, cos they also included two Lou reed songs 'Waiting For The Man' and 'Sweet Jane', Bowie's 'Queen Bitch' and a tribute to Alice Cooper 'Fifteen'.

Strange that such a nursery rhyme band should select the outsiders from the Warhol bloated New York early seventies. Someone lurking in the shadows maybe?

'The Album' is harmless but contagious and I guess that's what it really is all about. +++ **BARRY CAIN**



**EATER: contagious album**

warped leadeness of their present album, 'Manifest Destiny' - recorded for Warners a stultifying two years later.

Back in 1975 Ross the Boss, Top Ten, Stu Boy, Big Dick and ex-writer Andy Shernoff (who may have started the whole thing anyway) were really ace, man. They churned out the riffs and the power chords on a bunch of Shernoff HM Identikit epics - true masterpieces like 'The Next Big Thing' and 'Master Race Rock' or 'Teengenerate'; the titles said it all. Or miasacred - lovingly - 'I Got You Babe' and

'California Sun', later swooped on by the brothers Ramone.

Best of all, perhaps, it was funny enough to make Dick 'Look At My Muscles' Manitoba split his sequined pants right down the seams. Still is. Loony kamikaze rock needed a sense of loony humour... and with 'Go Girl Crazy', for the first time, it got it. Don't miss the chance second time around to let it slug ya the way it was meant to. Let the ex-handsome band in rock 'n' roll call the shots. Warning: This album has been described as 'young, fast and scientific'. ++++ **JOHN SHEARLAW**

**GARY WRIGHT: 'Touch And Gone' (Warner Bros K 54435)**

IN WHICH our hero, having long left the workaday Spooky Tooth for headier solo climates (viz. American dollars falling like manna from heaven), appears to be using 'Star Wars' to make a relevant artistic statement as 1977 slips away from him in a welter of safety pins.

Yes, here is our blue-eyed, curly-headed mainman posing laughingly in intergalactic drag on the sleeve and throwing out all accepted rock instruments inside it to come up with an album that is made

entirely with keyboards and synthesizers (except for bass and drums).

Actually Gary has come quite near to making a good soul album. His keyboards work remarkably well, often pounding out solid backings and not at all like the hippy-drippy meanderings you'd expect.

Mr Wright's voice doesn't quite match of course, it often wavers most unsoufully at the end of lines, but that's his style after all, the thing that has made him such a golden boy in middle America. Juxtaposing different styles never stopped one D. Bowie after all.

Once you've played the album a couple of times the tunes begin to stick. It's got nothing to do with the prevailing mood of music today but who'd expect that? The guy's come up with a well made album and his fans'll be delighted. +++ **DAVID REDSHAW**

**THE OSMONDS: 'Greatest Hits' (Polydor Select Double 2675 153)**

HERE Y'ARE kids, just in time for Christmas, 22 top tracks from the wholesome family group from Utah. There are numbers from Donny, numbers from Donny and his delectable wholesome sister Marie, numbers from young chubby Jimmy and numbers from the whole lot of 'em. In fact, the

ideal Christmas present for any Osmond fan, though most will probably have the majority of cuts already either in album or single form. While I find the majority of their music too sugary, sweet and shallow, one track stands out: 'Crazy Horses'. Why have they never done more in that vein? + + + + for 'Crazy Horses' + + + + for the rest. **SHEILA PROPHET**

**MAX BOYCE: 'The Road And The Miles' (EMI MB 105)**

OH BOYO we've got news for you! The incredibly Welsh Max Boyce has turned his broad, muscular back on humour (which after his rugby 'Deck Of Cards' was very funny indeed) to sing down and incredibly Welsh folk songs about valleys, lumps of slate and the ludicrous profusion of daffodils in that dry Celtic hinterland.

His xenophobic warblings are pretty, to be sure (or is that Irish?), and about as exciting as a nature ramble on a slag heap. If hearing things like 'Y Ferch O Penderyn' is your cup of tea buy this to go with the gentle whirr of the spinning wheel in the miller's cottage we keep hearing so much about.

Only to be played on Sundays - when there's nothing else to do in Wales anyway + + **JOHN SHEARLAW**

**THE DICTATORS: 'Go Girl Crazy' (Epic EPC 80767)**

AT LAST the re-release of the record that made Handsome Dick Manitoba a household name before he even became famous... from the label who dropped them before they hardly even

got started, ya hear?

That the cruel blow of "not taking up the option" nipped Dick's meteoric rise to the stellar plane fairly comprehensively in the bud is easily seen by comparing this cod heavy metal hunk of brilliance with the pedantic and time-

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AFTER A full examination and a day's enquiry which left no stone unturned, a team of reporters has found out the true story behind the ugly public facade of Virgin Records - the company who release records by the controversial Sex Pistols.

No filing cabinet was left unopened. No ledge was left unknocked upon. No keyhole was left unlistened through. No managerial cover-up was tolerated. No puffed-up press releases were accepted in place of...

THE FACTS. For Virgin, operating from a sumptuous suite of offices off London's Portobello Road, have been accused of peddling more junk than the famous market which they adjoin.

BUT... there was a surprise for our team: the company welcomed our investigation.

### Catchphrase

Said a spokesman, 29-year-old, Spanish-born Al Clark, who is 29: "I think and I believe that this is the customary catchphrase to be employed on occasions like this, that a day's observation of our activities would dispel the myths and rumours that naturally seem to gather around operations such as ours, and would simultaneously provide a deeply meaningful and interesting insight into the modus operandi of a small, independent record company of which we are in fact a perfect example."

"There are no secrets here. We are as much concerned with the truth as any member of the Press. As is customary on occasions like this our doors are open and any assistance relevant to your particular demands will be willingly and promptly furnished."

Mr Clark is Press Officer for Virgin. He is an ex-journalist. He is also 29.

Hard-working, and slightly balding, he in particular is well aware of the way the Press can misinterpret the image of his company.

Often Mr Clark will talk to reporters for over an hour... only to find that his perfectly constructed and extremely long-winded quotes are condensed to a terse "no comment".

### Controversial

He is less than happy about this situation. A spokesman for Virgin would, however, make no comment.

But it can't be denied that his job is tough. Virgin Records are controversial and no mistake.

For they've gone from being a decent family-minded company to one whose name has recently been dragged through the mud.

Formerly they sold records by instrumental favourite Mike Oldfield. Now the picture they present has brought a new dimension to the word 'muck'.

And by hitting the headlines they've shocked decent-minded citizens up and down the country.

FIRSTLY they signed the foul-mouthed Sex Pistols for a huge and unspecified sum. They released the group's

I think, and I believe that this is the customary catchphrase to be employed on occasions like this, that a day's observation of our activities would dispel the myths and rumours that naturally...

# NO COMMENT!

said a spokesman for Virgin Records



AL "I've got nothing to say" CLARK and fearless JOHN SHEARLAW. Right (top pic) LINDA (sexy) GAMBLE and SALLY (sexy) COOPER.

controversial debut album, 'Never Mind The Bollocks'. The display of this record's sleeve led to a court case.

SECONDLY they released an album, 'Derek And Clive Come Again,' which contained unadulterated filth. A company spokesman even admitted: "This record has no redeeming social value whatsoever."

THIRDLY they continued unabashed to make available records by a varied selection of artists. Ranging from U-Roy, a black Jamaican, to Tangerine Dream, a German futuristic music band.

Yet - staggering as it may seem to right-minded folk - the truth is simply this:

Life at Virgin Records proceeds with politeness, innocence and latter-day charm.

The restrained orderliness of the Virgin nerve centre was - according to the assiduous researchers of our reporters - in direct contrast to the storminess surrounding their artists.

We make no apologies for printing these findings.

Unfortunately for our circulation no last-minute High Court injunction was sought to prevent us from doing so.

But an understandably relieved spokesman for the company, a Mr Al Clark, said: "This could well turn out to be a timely end to the build-up of unfounded rumour and popular folk lore which has to..."

Mr Clark's statement has been cut for reasons of space.

Virgin Records came into being as an offshoot from a mail order chain of record stores at the turn of the decade.

Boas and supremo Richard Branson, aged

29, is now well on his way to becoming a millionaire.

As we entered the front doors - decorated by 'punk' graffiti and advertising material relating to the foul-mouthed Sex Pistols - the buzz of young and dynamic efficiency was obvious.

Obviously this was no High Street bank.

Telephones rang continuously as people flitted about the reception area in the course of their duties. Some, it has to be admitted, were dressed in the 'punk rock' style, but most were indistinguishable from the average young person in the street.

One observation began in the very hub of Virgin Records' activities... the Press Office.

Here sat Al Clark, 29 and his two assistants Sally Cooper, 24 and Norfolk-born, and Linda Gamble, an attractive 27 year-old from Paisley.

Although Mr Clark deals with the controversial Sex Pistols he is a family man.

### Pleasant

Before arriving at work he had already driven his young son, aged seven, to a school in Ealing - a pleasant residential suburb in West London where he lives. Photographs of his two children are displayed on his desk...

Next to filthy advertising material describing one of Virgin's more controversial acts.

Much of Mr Clark's work is conducted by telephone. The alarming jangle punctuates every conversation.

Dispensing politeness and charm, the three members of the Press Office deal with all manner of enquiries. Dates for the Sex Pistols tour are made freely

available, genial Mr Clark invites nearly every second caller out to lunch and within an hour has promised to send - absolutely free of charge - over 50 long playing records to those who ask for them.

At one point Mr Clark describes, somewhat controversially, the pilgrimage to see Sex Pistols' concerts as being like Paul on the road to Damascus.

The atmosphere remains humorous and unharried. A lightning visit - with no previous forewarning - to other parts of the complex led our team to the conclusion that nothing of an unpleasant or an anti-social nature took place within Virgin's walls.

NO referees are openly smoked.

NO corruption and bribery appeared evident in either the International Publishing Division, the Radio Promotions Department or the lavatories (conveniently situated on each floor).

NO burly security guards hover around the entrance.

NO ever-hopeful young groups are sent packing from the Talent Department with their demo tapes around their necks.

In fact every demand of a reasonable nature is promptly and efficiently catered for.

In between long telephone conversations Mr Clark finds time to dispense gems of wisdom regarding his and the company's role in contemporary society.

The Spanish-born family man is fond of lampooning - with a self-confessed heavy-handed irony - the unfortunate vernacular of both the Fleet Street journalists he has to be in contact with and the grosser excesses

of 'music business speak' which is the sad affliction of those involved in making, selling and publicising records.

This is frequently amusing. To emphasise the aforementioned heavy-handedness it is not unusual for Mr Clark to precede his more perceptive comments with "I believe the catchphrase is..." or even more laconically with "as we Press Officers are wont to say..."

Mr Clark, his two assistants and other casual visitors to the office can often be heard to laugh loudly - a feature of life at Virgin that was borne out by our highly-trained team of investigators examining every aspect of life in the building.

Mr Clark professes to being "a 10-a-day man myself" but smokes at least that before lunchtime.

Very little else happens apart from the dictation of a few small news stories until the feasting hour.

Meanwhile the Artists And Repertoire Department continue their task of sifting through the tapes they have been offered... and deciding what to do with those they have already signed.

### Expense

Virgin employees lunch long and satisfactorily.

For a complete picture our team was fortunate enough to gain ingress to a phenomenon known as 'the free lunch'. Here journalists and acts signed to the label eat and drink copiously... at the expense of the record company.

This, Mr Clark explained, aids promotion of the act's records, otherwise known as 'product'.

by promoting free and easy (and usually alcoholic) intercourse between them and the journalist - who then translates his enthusiasm by writing 'articles', otherwise known as 'free adverts' or 'plugs' for the organ by which he/she is employed.

The 'system' works well.

Suffice to say that XTC, a popular Swindon combo, were present and provoked much hilarity. The conversation was tape-recorded but no bribes took place.

The frequent brow-wiping and belly-clutching of the guests continued until well into the afternoon... with no thought of other work.

It was with little prompting therefore that Mr Clark and his two petite and attractive assistants were persuaded to pose for the photographs which accompany this investigation.

All departments remained hard at it between the hours of 4.30 and 6.30 pm.

The reception area was the scene of frantic comings and goings. Several punks appeared and departed. A act - in the person of I-Roy - arrived and departed. And after much frivolity XTC (plus tame journalist) were persuaded to leave.

The phones were again busy.

Inevitably the controversial and foul-mouthed Sex Pistols took up most of the time. Yet Mr Clark was adamant that Virgin would never neglect any of their acts signed to their label.

"We have always been a friendly, approachable label with a varied roster of acts. To single out one for special attention

would be neglecting, to our detriment, the rest..."

Again Mr Clark has been cut short for reasons of space.

Several hundred more free albums were dispatched to members of the Press in the far-flung regions and a further 24 lunches were organised.

At no point did money change hands.

Meanwhile the International Department continued to "hold for Japan". The Talent Department continued to listen to extremely loud and raucous music, coffee continued to brew and cigarette ends continued to mount up in the various ashtrays positioned around the 'open plan' complex.

### Rhapsodic

Al Clark, 29, admitted to us: "Far be it from me to adopt a rhapsodic tone at this stage in time but this is one office where one will see genuine, normal enthusiasm. We enjoy our job and make every effort to make sure that those we come into contact with enjoy theirs as well."

"In three years we've moved from a Woodstock situation (he refers here to Virgin's signing of many erstwhile 'hippie' acts) to a Trenchtown situation (he refers here to Virgin's signing of many erstwhile Rastafarian/Jamaican acts) to what can be called only a freely interacting, slightly scruffy but totally meaningful street situation (he refers here to Virgin's recent signing of all manner of totally ridiculous, completely unnecessary and universally entertaining acts)."

The fading evening light revealed the egg-stains and fag ash remnants on our battered raincoats.

### Jammed

Knees aching from being jammed on window ledges, eyes running from their close proximity to draughty key holes; we had to confess we were beat.

We had no alternative but to award Virgin a clean bill of health. We could conclude only that allegations of filth-mongering and wide-scale corruption were completely untrue.

In the end we'd been beaten by bureaucratic litany, a monstrous surfeit of information and the single-handed attention of one man.

And that man? None other than Al Clark, 29, Press Officer of Virgin Records, and his two slim, sexy assistants.

"If you don't enjoy your work you might as well just resign yourself to laking out the key when you get home," he concluded triumphantly.

We ended the day drinking toasts to the success of Virgin Records in their local pub in the company of Al Clark, his two outrageously glamorous and sexy assistants and Kevin Coyne - a Virgin act.

Throughout our enquiry the foul-mouthed and controversial Sex Pistols, who are four, were in Holland.

Ms Julie Covington, who is also signed to Virgin Records, would make no comment at the time of going to press.

A spokesman for Virgin said an enormous amount but it proved impossible to write it down in the (limited) time available.

The only just conclusion is, therefore, "NO COMMENT".

Head of investigation, JOHN SHEARLAW

# RM's BLACK PLASTIC AWARD OF 1977

OUR TOP 10's weren't in any special order, so the overall records of the year were chosen on the basis of one point per Top 10 appearance. Since there are only nine of us, it was especially close, fought especially in the albums section where three groups tied for second place. But in both sections, it was clear from the start who'd be first — the Pistols simply swept the board. Well done chaps — now let's see if you can keep it up in '78!

## Barry Cain



THE BOYS, The Boys, Norms  
THE CLASH, The Clash, CBS  
DEATH OF A LADIES' MAN, Ian Dury, Stiff  
NEW BOOTS & PANTIES, Ian Dury, Stiff  
OUT OF THE BLUE, Electric Light Orchestra, Jet  
THIS IS THE MODERN WORLD, The Jam, Polydor  
ANOTHER LOAD OF BOLLOCKS, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
RATTUS NORVEGICUS, The Stranglers, United Artists  
MARQUEE MOON, Television, Elektra  
SMALL CHANGE, Tom Waits, Asylum

Singles  
SOUND & VISION, David Bowie, RCA  
DO ANYTHING YOU WANNA DO, Eddie & The Hot Rods, Island  
BORN TO LOOSE, Heartbreakers, Track  
IN THE CITY, The Jam, Polydor  
TELEVISION SCREEN, Radlaters From Space, Chiswick  
2-4-6-8 MOTORWAY, Tom Robinson Band, EMI  
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
PRETTY VACANT, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
GRIT, The Stranglers, United Artists  
WHITE FUNKS ON DOPE, The Tubes, A&M  
1977 — The year the muzak died.

## Jim Evans



LET IT FLOW, Dave Mason, CBS  
OUT OF THE BLUE, Electric Light Orchestra, Jet  
JUST FOR LIFE, Eric Clapton, RSO  
ITALIANS FROM OUTER SPACE, Albert Y Lost Trifos Paranoida, Transatlantic  
STICK TO ME, Graham Parker and the Rumour, Vertigo  
THE MUPPET SHOW, The Muppets, Eye  
FULL HOUSE, Frankie Miller, Chrysalis  
BAD REPUTATION, Thin Lizzy, Vertigo  
CONSEQUENCES, Lol Creme and Kevin Godley, Mercury

Singles  
WHOLE WIDE WORLD, Wreckless Eric, Stiff  
YOU UPSET ME BABY, Dr Feelgood, United Artists  
SWEET GENE VINCEIN', Jan & Dean, United Artists  
SIDEWALK SUREFN', Ian Dury & The Abury Jukes, Stiff  
THE FEVER, Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes, Stiff  
LAY DOWN SALLY, Eric Clapton, RSO  
FEACHES, Stranglers, United Artists  
HOTEL CALIFORNIA, Eagles, Asylum  
SPANISH STROLL, Mink De Ville, Capitol  
1977 — Year of the punk and a lot else too — all interesting and entertaining. Difficult to narrow the field down to 10 of each, but that's what the governor ordered. If you don't already own any of the albums in my very wonderful selections, use your festive record tokens to purchase them.



SEX PISTOLS No 1 ALBUM



SEX PISTOLS No 1 SINGLE



CLASH, STRANGLERS and TELEVISION No 2 ALBUM



TOM ROBINSON No. 2 SINGLE



ABBA and JONATHAN RICHMAN No. 3 SINGLE

**Albums**  
**LUST FOR LIFE**, Iggy Pop, RCA  
**GET IT**, Dave Edmunds, Swansong  
**GHOST WRITER**, Garland Jeffries, A&M  
**RATTUS NORVEGICUS**, The Stranglers, UA  
**MARQUEE MOON**, Television, Elektra  
**ROCKET TO RUSSIA**, Ramones, Sire  
**MY AIM IS TRUE**, Elvis Costello, Stiff  
**LOW**, David Bowie, RCA  
**TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS**, Shelter  
**TRANS EUROPE EXPRESS**, Kraftwerk, Capitol

**Singles**  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**PRETTY VACANT**, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**DETECTIVES**, Elvis Costello, Stiff  
**ALISON**, Elvis Costello, Stiff  
**BOWIE**, P., Nick Lowe, Stiff  
**SOUND AND VISION**, David Bowie, RCA  
**HEROES**, David Bowie, RCA  
**THE NAME OF THE GAME**, Abba, CBS  
**ROAD RUNNER**, Jonathan Richman, Berserkeley  
**MONY MONY**, Cella and the Mutations, UA

1977 was street level, guttersnipes and anti-heroes. The best year for a decade. In 1978 comes the reaction - pop music, clean cut teenage fun with harmonies and lux letters in the sand - Tommy James and the Shondells ride again. A step up from bubblegum, a step sideways from 'new wave'. The signs are all there for a return of the "pop star", Elvis Costello and The Jam kicking out at the fore. On their heels will follow XTC, Yachts, The Rubinoos, even Nick Lowe maybe. Go to a barbers and shop at C&A's - 1978 is kleen.

### Tim Lott



**ALBUMS**  
**ROCKIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD**, Status Quo, Vertigo  
**OUT OF THE BLUE**, Electric Light Orchestra, Jet  
**NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS, HERE'S THE SEX PISTOLS**, Virgin  
**RUMOURS**, Fleetwood Mac, Warner Bros  
**BAD REPUTATION**, Thin Lizzy, Phonogram  
**BOOMTOWN RATS**, Ensign  
**A NEW WORLD RECORD**, Electric Light Orchestra, Jet  
**MOTORS 1**, The Motors, Virgin  
**STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP**, Llar, Decca  
**THE BOYS**, Nems

**SINGLES**  
**SLOW DOWN**, John Miles, Decca  
**BLACK BETTY**, Ram Jam, CBS  
**GOLDEN EARRINGS**, The Enid, EMI Int  
**LIDO SHUFFLE**, Boz Scaggs, CBS  
**2, 4, 6, 8, MOTORWAY**, Tom Robinson Band, EMI  
**FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN**, Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Atlantic  
**BE GOOD TO YOURSELF**, Frankie Miller, Chrysalis  
**BOOGIE NIGHTS**, Heatwave, GTO  
**EGYPTIAN REGGAE**, Jonathan Richman & The Modern Lovers, Berserkeley  
**HOTEL CALIFORNIA**, The Eagles, Asylum

Boring old fart from the sticks makes vain attempt to get into new wave. What were once vices are now habits, which accounts for Quo, ELO, and the other established names. Will the newbies last in '78? Who knows? Who cares?

### Steve Orme



**ALBUMS**  
**MARQUEE MOON**, Television, Elektra  
**THE CLASH**, The Clash, CBS  
**WOMAN OVERBOARD**, Linda Lewis, Arista  
**RATTUS NORVEGICUS IV**, The Stranglers, United Artists  
**IN THE CITY**, The Jam, Polydor  
**MY AIM IS TRUE**, Elvis Costello, Stiff  
**BAD REPUTATION**, Thin Lizzy, Vertigo  
**SHOW SOME EMOTION**, Joan Armatrading, A&M  
**STICK TO ME**, Graham Parker, Vertigo  
**THIS IS THE MODERN WORLD**, The Jam, Polydor

**SINGLES**  
**HOLD BACK THE NIGHT**, Graham Parker & The Rumour, Vertigo  
**GOOD MORNING JUDGE**, 10cc, Mercury  
**MARQUEE MOON**, Television, Elektra  
**IN THE CITY**, The Jam, Polydor  
**I CAME TO DANCE**, Nils Lofgren, A&M  
**ALISON**, Elvis Costello, Stiff  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**, The Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**2, 4, 6, 8, MOTORWAY**, Tom Robinson, EMI  
**WATCHING THE DETECTIVES**, Elvis Costello, Stiff  
**THE NAME OF THE GAME**, Abba, CBS

The year of the British. The first time since 1962/63 that the Americans have taken notice of the whole British scene. The best year for ages, will next year be as good?

### Alf Martin



**ALBUMS**  
**(U)M STRANDED**, Saints, EMI  
**NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS HERE'S THE SEX PISTOLS**, Virgin  
**SEX PISTOLS**, Virgin  
**RUMOURS**, Fleetwood Mac, Warner Brothers  
**FULL HOUSE**, Frankie Miller, Chrysalis  
**BOOMTOWN RATS**, Boomtown Rats, Ensign  
**THE CLASH**, Clash, CBS  
**LUXURY LINER**, Various, EMI  
**LIVE AT THE ROXY**, Various, EMI  
**RAY SAWYER**, Ray Sawyer, Capitol  
**NEW HARVEST**, First Gathering, Dolly Parton, RCA

**SINGLES**  
**MULL OF KINTYRE**, Wings, Parlophone  
**LOOKIN' AFTER NO 1**, Boomtown Rats, Ensign  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**ALL AROUND THE WORLD**, Jam, Polydor  
**ONE TWO THREE FOUR (EP)**, Saints, EMI  
**GARY GILMORE'S EYES**, The Adverts, Anchor  
**YOU'RE IN MY HEART**, Rod Stewart, Riva  
**CHINESE ROCKS**, Heartbreakers, Track  
**SHEENA IS A PUNK ROCKA**, Ramones, Phonogram  
**EGYPTIAN REGGAE**, Jonathan Richman, Berserkeley

It's nearly broken my heart to leave Rod Stewart's latest album out of the list, but I don't honestly believe that 'Footloose And Fancy Free' is his best, or can compete against the albums I've chosen. It takes a line down the middle, where the albums are extreme examples of their kind. Not only that, I think they're landmarks in music, and for the artists, in '77.

### Rosalind Russell



**ALBUMS**  
**NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS, HERE'S THE SEX PISTOLS**, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**RATTUS NORVEGICUS**, Stranglers, United Artists  
**IN THE CITY**, The Jam, Polydor  
**MY AIM IS TRUE**, Elvis Costello, Stiff  
**FRANKIE MILLER'S FULL HOUSE**, Frankie Miller, Chrysalis  
**TELEVISION**, Television, Elektra  
**RAMONES LEAVE HOME**, Ramones, Sire  
**BLONDIE**, Blondie, Chrysalis  
**BERSERKLEY CHARTBUSTERS**, Various Artists, Berserkeley  
**THIS TIME IT'S FOR REAL**, Southside Johnny and the Asbury

**SINGLES**  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**PEACHES**, Stranglers, United Artists  
**SNUFF ROCK EP**, Albertos Y Lost Trios Paranoias, Stiff  
**I CAME TO DANCE**, Nils Lofgren, A&M  
**SOLSBURY HILL**, Peter Gabriel, Charisma  
**GARY GILMORE'S EYES**, The Adverts, Anchor  
**2, 4, 6, 8, MOTORWAY**, Tom Robinson Band, EMI  
**ROADRUNNER**, Jonathan Richman, Berserkeley  
**NAME OF THE GAME**, Abba, CBS  
**HALFWAY DOWN THE STAIRS**, Robin, Pye

A year of new names, new energy, new life. Tony Blackburn ignored it, but it didn't go away. Let's hope it keeps happening in '78.

### Sheila Prophet



**ALBUMS**  
**ROCKIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD**, Status Quo, Vertigo  
**LOVE FOR SALE**, Boney M, WEA  
**EAR CANDY**, Helen Reddy, Capitol  
**AGROVATORS MEET THE REVOLUTIONERS AT CHANNEL ONE**, Third World  
**RASTA AMBASSADOR**, U-Roy, Virgin  
**NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS**, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**CLASH**, Clash, CBS  
**LEAVE HOME**, Ramones, Sire  
**TRAVELON**, Big Tom and the Travellers, Denver  
**BABY FACE**, Wing And A Prayer Five And Drum Corps, WEA

**SINGLES**  
**OL' BLACK JOE**, Jerry Lee Lewis, Charly  
**KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU**, Abba, CBS  
**SHEENA IS A PUNK ROCKA**, Ramones, Sire  
**SATISFACTION**, The Residents, Ralph  
**POCKET MONEY**, The Residents, Ralph  
**YES SIR I CAN BOOGIE**, Baccara, RCA  
**ROCKIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD**, Status Quo, Vertigo  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**, Sex Pistols, Virgin  
**BLACK BETTY**, Ram Jam, Epic  
**COMPLETE CONTROL**, Clash, CBS

Status Quo are brilliant. U-Roy proves his genius yet again (who said toasters were out of fashion?) The other eight are indispensable . . . to me anyway. The singles are the ones which stack - the best is probably a toss-up between 'Complete Control' and 'Satisfaction'. That's all, except for me to say: oh-oh Black Betty (bam-a-lam), oh-oh Black Betty (bam-a-lam), oh-oh Black Betty (bam-a-lam), oh-oh Black Betty (bam-a-lam), oh-oh Black Betty . . . And thanks to Buryesque for pointing out how good that was.

### John Shearlaw



**ALBUMS**  
**SECONDS OUT**, Genesis, Charisma  
**WORKS VOLUME I**, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Atlantic  
**WORKS VOLUME II**, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Atlantic  
**GOING FOR THE ONE**, Yes, Atlantic  
**RUMOURS**, Fleetwood Mac, Warner Bros  
**FRONT PAGE NEWS**, Wishbone Ash, MCA  
**OXYGENE**, Jean-Michel Jarre, Polydor  
**SPIRAL**, Vangelis, RCA  
**EARTH BIRTH**, Paul Brett, RCA  
**ROUND THE BACK**, Cafe Jacques, CBS

**SINGLES**  
**DREAMS**, Fleetwood Mac, Warner Bros  
**FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN**, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Atlantic  
**GOING FOR THE ONE**, Yes, Atlantic  
**WONDEROUS STORIES**, Yes, Atlantic  
**2, 4, 6, 8, MOTORWAY**, Tom Robinson Band, EMI  
**EGYPTIAN REGGAE**, Jonathan Richman, Berserkeley  
**RUMOURS**, Fleetwood Mac, Warner Bros  
**MOON AND I**, Linda Lewis, Arista  
**WHAT CAN I SAY**, Boz Scaggs, CBS  
**AIN'T GONNA BUMP NO MORE**, Joe Tex, Epic

Ah ha ha, I'm concerned the oldies still rule.

### Robin Smith



**Here's  
looking  
at 1978  
blue eyes**



## JANUARY

M 2 9 16 23 30  
T 3 10 17 24 31  
W 4 11 18 25  
T 5 12 19 26  
F 6 13 20 27  
S 7 14 21 28  
S 1 8 15 22 29

## FEBRUARY

M 6 13 20 27  
T 7 14 21 28  
W 1 8 15 22  
T 2 9 16 23  
F 3 10 17 24  
S 4 11 18 25  
S 5 12 19 26

## MARCH

M 6 13 20 27  
T 7 14 21 28  
W 1 8 15 22 29  
T 2 9 16 23 30  
F 3 10 17 24 31  
S 4 11 18 25  
S 5 12 19 26

## APRIL

M 3 10 17 24  
T 4 11 18 25  
W 5 12 19 26  
T 6 13 20 27  
F 7 14 21 28  
S 1 8 15 22 29  
S 2 9 16 23 30

## MAY

M 1 8 15 22 29  
T 2 9 16 23 30  
W 3 10 17 24 31  
T 4 11 18 25  
F 5 12 19 26  
S 6 13 20 27  
S 7 14 21 28

## JUNE

M 5 12 19 26  
T 6 13 20 27  
W 7 14 21 28  
T 1 8 15 22 29  
F 2 9 16 23 30  
S 3 10 17 24  
S 4 11 18 25

## JULY

M 3 10 17 24 31  
T 4 11 18 25  
W 5 12 19 26  
T 6 13 20 27  
F 7 14 21 28  
S 1 8 15 22 29  
S 2 9 16 23 30

## AUGUST

M 7 14 21 28  
T 1 8 15 22 29  
W 2 9 16 23 30  
T 3 10 17 24 31  
F 4 11 18 25  
S 5 12 19 26  
S 6 13 20 27

## SEPTEMBER

M 4 11 18 25  
T 5 12 19 26  
W 6 13 20 27  
T 7 14 21 28  
F 1 8 15 22 29  
S 3 10 17 24

## OCTOBER

M 2 9 16 23 30  
T 3 10 17 24 31  
W 4 11 18 25  
T 5 12 19 26  
F 6 13 20 27  
S 7 14 21 28  
S 1 8 15 22 29

## NOVEMBER

M 6 13 20 27  
T 7 14 21 28  
W 8 15 22 29  
T 2 9 16 23 30  
F 3 10 17 24  
S 4 11 18 25  
S 5 12 19 26

## DECEMBER

M 4 11 18 25  
T 5 12 19 26  
W 6 13 20 27  
T 7 14 21 28  
F 1 8 15 22 29  
S 2 9 16 23 30  
S 3 10 17 24 31

# Mailman

## And you want to see THIS naked?

I AM dying of incredible lust. A lust to see the naked bodies of my favourite singing heroes (cor!)

So please could you print in your fantastic (crawl, creep etc) magazine some nude pin-ups of the following dudes: David Bowie (wow!), Cliff Richard (yum!), Elvis Costello (yum yum!) (whaat? - Ed), Leo Sayer (far out!), Denis Roussos (swoon!), Barry White (aagh!). Thanks a lot. Ann, Ifracombe, Devon.

● Sorry, can't help you... this is a RESPECTABLE paper, do you hear?

### Dizzy...

HAVE BARRY CAIN and Jim Evans flipped their lids? Their article on the Radiators From Space was extremely misleading.

In it we were led to believe that Thin Lizzy were the supporting group and that the Radiators were actually good.

Nothing, but nothing, could be further from the truth.

I saw them at the Liverpool Empire where they came on first (so London wasn't so much of a precedent was it?). After half an hour the audience were shouting for Lizzy.

And while we're getting our facts straight LIZZY were the main attraction and rightly so. Even to talk about the Radiators in the same breath is so absurd it's unbelievable. - Diane Rampling, Warrington.

### Lizzies

I WOULD like to support Sarah Openshaw (17/12/77) in criticising BARRY CAIN: In the same issue I read, to my disgust, Barry Cain's write-up about Thin Lizzy/Radiators From Space.

One question... did he go to the gig or did he write the article watching 'Stars On Sunday'?!?

1 The ticket I bought was to see Thin Lizzy plus support (not vice versa).

2 The Radiators were suffering from sound problems and hence just made a din.

3 The highlight of the evening was the big entrance made by Lizzy, not during the Rads' performance.

4...  
● Oh, dry up. Thin Lizzy themselves saw the joke, even if humourless idiots like you two didn't.

### Violence

I AM afraid I have to reveal the fact that there are going to be two deaths and a possible explosion in the near future.

The first killing will be



ELVIS: a great loss to music

of that deranged creep who calls himself 'The Allen'. He signed his death warrant when he oh - so - carelessly implied that good Queen records are non-existent.

He should have known better than to touch on such dangerous ground, for now he has aroused DANTE the QUEEN- NIAC (messenger to Mercury) from the depths of subnormal suburbia to go about this grisly business.

As a mark of respect however, I will bury his body in the fifth galaxy, just behind the Plough Inn.

The second killing will be of a Mr Jim Farber whose extremely biased review of Queen's New York gig was maddening. He made no attempt to be constructive, just poking fun at and attempting to crucify Queen.

This man's timely death will be slow and painful.

The explosion will be at RM's office unless I am given a good reason for your printing Mr Farber's damned stupid review.

DANTE THE QUEEN- NIAC.

● Fanatical, these Queen followers...

### Pathetic

I THINK Status Quo are crap. In fact I think they are utterly pathetic. As for the Sex Pistols who just don't know how to sing and the Strangers are just as bad. There is only one kool group around and that are Queen.

Freddie Mercury's vocals are just brillo, there is no one who can sing like him so I wish all the nerds who knock Queen would shut their mouths and that includes Razor from Derbyshire. He is probably a little fart. The Fonz, Liverpool.  
● Tolerant, too...

### Hot love

TO DONNA SUMMER: I Feel Love 'cos I Love To Love You Baby It's Cold Over Here in Finland but When You Sing It's HOT (ooooohh) I Love You. A Donna Boy Forever.

### Best charts

CONGRATULATIONS on the ace new feature 'Radio Playlists'. RECORD MIRROR has always been the only paper for charts and now it's even better. Keep it a regular feature please. (Do you realise this is one of the rare letters praising RM?)

Ian Bell, Speke, Liverpool.

● Actually, we get hundreds but we don't like to brag.

### Rudolph red legs

LOOK, I think RECORD MIRROR'S great but I WANT RUDOLPH NUREYEV!

Andy, Derby.

● You're tu tu much.

### Hate mail for Redshaw

GLAD to see you really enjoyed yourself at the Hope And Anchor Burlesque gig. You

were obviously too worried about getting your torso roughed up a bit to appreciate the act... If only I'd known you were in need of a wheelchair I would have gladly kicked (censored 'cos we hate violence).

If you were bored stiff perhaps you should have gone home and played 'Sing-alongamax' - I'm sure you wouldn't have had any difficulty sussing out the lyrics. If your journalistic talents were half as good as Burlesque's musical talents you'd be thankful. Avril Levack, London E3.

● He says you can rough up his torso anytime. Meanwhile...

DEAR MR REDSHAW I've just bought a copy of your rag and read your review of Burlesque. I think you're blaming the band too much. They didn't build the place just because they agreed to play there.

I enjoy their style a great deal and everyone I stood next to seemed to be enjoying it too. You must have been the person sitting on the shelf down by the bar with a half of shandy!

This isn't a hate letter, but give the band another chance. Punk rock's too serious but I like it, MoR is too

nothing at all so they're an opening for something with a sarcastic, sardonic message for all us trapped human beings who wished they could have spent a couple years at the ratepayers' expense drawing plants and

daubing acrylic motifs on material.

I bet you're quite nice really when you're not reviewing bands in cramped cellars. Yours affectionately, Addie Barrington, London N17.

● Don't you believe it.



BURLESQUE: Antonia's got naked legs. Will that do?

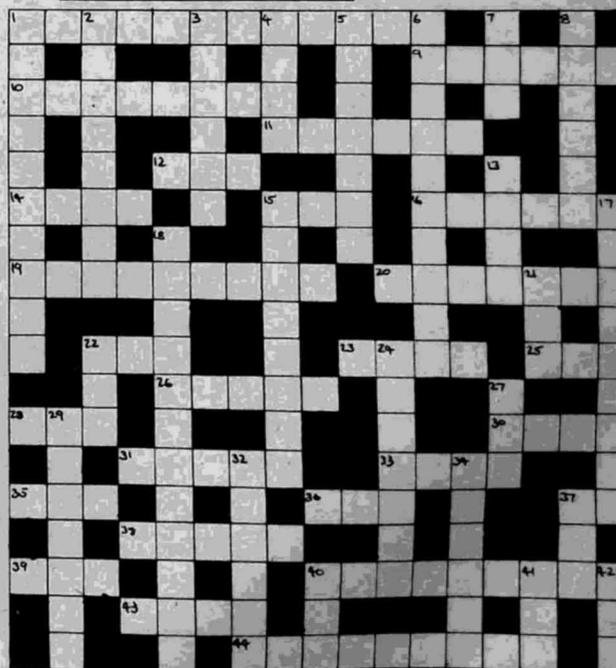
## Discword

### ACROSS

- Were they in the same class as Mary Of The Fourth Form? (8,4)
- Japanese electronics wizard who has had success with his interpretations of Debussy and Stravinsky (6)
- See 12 Across
- 1971 Kinks single (6)
- +10 Across. Member of 41 Down who gave us 'Ollas Of Sunnhillow' (3,6)
- Legend has it that the Dylan classic 'Visions Of Joanna' was written about her (4)
- Wings supersonic single (3)
- Former Deep Purple bass player (6)
- The 'Motor City Madman' (3,6)
- See 4 Down
- Mike Nesmith hit (3)
- Ex-Supreme singer (4)
- Elvis told us that his is not true (3)
- The first all-female rock band (5)
- Now defunct Welsh rockers (3)
- Everyone was getting fat except her (4)
- Legendary American label (5)
- Goes with Whisky in Alice Cooper LP (4)
- Metal of Small Faces soldier (3)
- Wishbone Ash label (1,1,1)
- Initially Kevin Coyne (1,1)
- +13 Down. Beatles' LP (5,4)
- See 32 Down
- John Lennon single from his 'Rock 'N' Roll' LP (5,2,2)
- What Roy Harper had in a ming vase (4)
- Group that brought Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page to prominence (9)

### DOWN

- 1977 hit single Bom - A-Lam (5,5)
- Boxed-in composer (8)
- Former Elton John Band drummer (6)
- +20 Across. Former member of Labelle who recently toured



- with Peter Gabriel (4,7)
- Punk rockers featuring TV Smith (7)
- Punk rockers featuring Jet Black (10)
- TRB label (1,1,1)
- American Gospel-singing family (6)
- See 38 Across
- Waylon the Outlaw (8)
- Their 1972 debut LP produced by Pete Sinfield (4,5)
- Completely unexpected ELO LP (3,2,3,4)
- Bowie label (1,1,1)
- One-third Who classic (3)
- Faces LP (3,2,2)
- What Status Quo had in the sun (3)
- The north east's pride and joy (7)
- + 39 Across. They told us about the glory of the Royal Scam (6,3)
- Former American session guitarist who gave
- us Chicken Skin Music (6)
- Mr Fowley (3)
- Lulu gave a present to him with love (3)
- They're going for the one (3)
- Heroes' co-writer (3)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- ACROSS: 1 Blowing In The Wind, 7 Don't, 10 Ramones, 11 Iron, 12 Genesis, 13 Otis Redding, 15 Ten, 19 Listen To The Music, 21 Go, 22 Unit, 24 Ron, 25 Rak, 26 Dog, 27 Joni, 28 Klastu, 29 Ape, 30 Aja, 31 Green, 33 Rush, 34 Grape, 36 SOS, 37 Ted, 38 Rain Dances.
- DOWN: 2 Led Zeppelin, 3 Wonderous Stories, 4 Nico, 5 Way, 6 Pins, 8 Taste, 9 Peter, 10 Riot, 11 If I Could, 14 Instant Karma, 16 Meco, 17 Star Wars, 18 Beck, 20 Iggy Pop, 22 Uptight, 23 I, 24 Riva, 32 Now, 34 Gun, 35 Ace.

# Give sis the heat treatment

I AM in desperate need of help and I have no one else to turn to. A few months ago my sister came home after living away for a couple of years. During those two years I often went to visit her but didn't realise how much she had changed in that time.

She brings friends home and stays up until two or three in the morning and as my bedroom is directly above the living room and I can hear the slightest noise going on it's damned annoying when I'm trying to sleep.

My mum is rather upset too as she has to worry about paying gas and electricity bills. She's a widow and has no one else to depend on except me.

The other night I told my sister that the sooner she gets out of the house the better. But I don't think that did much good, so now I'm seriously considering leaving home myself which I don't want to do.

It's not just me she's upsetting - it's everyone in the family. She's bossy, selfish and pig-ignorant. Both my mum and I have tried talking

to her but she just doesn't want to know. I'm planning to leave soon - please help.

**Paul, Milton Keynes**

● Sounds like one helluva put-down would help your sister realise she's not the only living, breathing humanoid who matters. And you're the one to give her a heapin' helping of the shock treatment. Don't even consider leaving home - what would your mother do then?

If you've already tried talking reasonably to her with no positive results in terms of a cash contribution towards running the household or a marked increase in her sociability rating, direct confrontation is your best course of action.

Don't just lie in bed letting the noise of assorted saturnalia lacerate your brain. Walk right in there, scream, shout, foam at the mouth, switch off the music.

Or why not anticipate the event and turn the living room into your sleeping quarters, invite one of your heftiest mates (who doesn't fancy her!) to stay the night (several nights?)

on the sofa, or simply disconnect the record player plug.

Work out your own anti-terrorism campaign but whatever you decide to do make sure the sparks fly. Your sister is entitled to her freedom but so are the rest of the family and where better to land a few home truths but in front of her friends / boyfriend?

Discussing her weekly share of household expenses and attitude to communal living while she's engaged in a passionate clinch on the couch could be a real turn-off, not to mention an embarrassment.

Once she realises that neither you nor your mother is going to take her anti-social behaviour without a battle, your sister may decide to leave home again of her own free will or she may agree to compromise, pull her weight and stay.

But if the situation doesn't improve, it's well worth spreading the word that anyone over 18 can be evicted from their parents' house by means of a court order if they're not paying rent and are no more and no less than a pain in the neck.

Your mother can approach your nearest County Court for this order and your local Citizens' Advice Bureau will give advice on how to go about this heavy but sometimes necessary procedure.

## Should it hurt?

**MY GIRLFRIEND** and I have been going out with each other for about three and a half months now. I'm 18 and she's 14. We've been having sexual intercourse regularly. When I first had sex with her - I'm not her first boy, by the way - there was no soreness between us but she has recently complained that she's sore inside.

We've tried again and she says it hurts even more. As we are getting engaged next March I'd appreciate it if you would publish this letter as it worries both of us.

**Andy, Braintree**

● Many girls and women experience a certain amount of internal soreness as they adjust to a sexual relationship. Your girlfriend may be experiencing discomfort because she's tense or worried.

Her vagina may be 'dry' simply because she's not totally turned on just when you want to have sex and she's not producing enough lubricating fluid to moisten the entrance to the vagina.

Often women feel pain in the lower abdomen if the penis reaches deep inside during intercourse and the womb is also ultra-sensitive in the days before a period

is due.

Your sex life could improve if you give her more time, prolong the petting stage before intercourse and try to be as gentle as possible too.

Unless she has a minor vaginal infection or irritation this soreness should naturally disappear - with time. But if it doesn't or she suspects that something is wrong she MUST take medical advice. A simple course of treatment will clear up any problem.

Are you using a reliable form of contraception or taking any contraceptive precautions at all? If not your girlfriend has every reason to be tense and worried, which takes us back to square one.

If she doesn't want to approach her family doctor about this problem she can get in touch with the nearest Family Planning Clinic, at 17a, Coggishall Road, Braintree. They're open every Wednesday from 6 to 9 pm (ring Braintree 28004 for an appointment).

Or, even better, why don't you both combine a Saturday morning shopping trip with a visit to the London-based Brook Advisory Service, 233, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (nearest tube Tottenham Court Road), Ring 01-580 3991 for a Saturday morning appointment and informal counselling.

# Feedback

FEEDBACK answers your questions. Send your letters to: Record Mirror, 40 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JT. Please don't send a stamped addressed envelope as we can't answer your letters individually.

## Julie Covington

COULD YOU tell me if Julie Covington has a fan club?

**T. Lowes, Cumbria.**

● She hasn't but for information write to Virgin Records, 2, Vernon Yard, Portobello Road, London W11.

## Frankie Miller

COULD YOU tell me if Frankie Miller is married, whether he is planning any more London dates soon and whether he's got a new album coming out? I'd also like to know where he lives.

**M Iron, London.**

● Frankie isn't married and he isn't planning any London dates for the near future. He's started work on a new album but no release date can be given yet. Frankie is known to migrate around the Kings Road and Fulham.

## Linda Ronstadt

COULD YOU tell me what state Linda Ronstadt was born in?

**Phil Macalister, Bristol.**

● Tucson, Arizona.

## Thin Lizzy

COULD YOU tell me how tall Phil Lynott, Scott Gorham and Brian Downey of Thin Lizzy are?

**Diana Corbin, Isle of Wight.**

● Phil Lynott is 6 ft 1 in, Scott Gorham, 5 ft 11 in, Brian Downey, 5 ft 10 in.

## Kiss

COULD YOU give me a list of the albums and singles released by Kiss?

**Andy Rowley, Sutton Coldfield.**

— Albums: 'Destroyer' (Casablanca CAL 2009); 'Dressed To Kill' (Casablanca CAL 200); 'Hotter Than Hell' (Casablanca CAL 2007); 'Kiss' (Casablanca CAL 2006); 'Love Gun' (Casablanca CALH 2017); 'Rock And Roll Over' (Casablanca CAL 2001); 'Alive' (Casablanca CALD 5001); 'Alive II' (Casablanca CALH 2021).

Singles: 'Hard Luck Woman' (Casablanca CAN 102).

# COLUMBUS WAS 700 YEARS TOO EARLY...



the band of opportunity-AMERICA-creators of a string of massive hits, caught live at the Greek, all on one superb new album that proves that you don't have to travel 3000 miles to experience AMERICA



# Upfront

The information here was correct at the time of going to press but it may be subject to change so we advise you to check with the venue concerned before travelling to a gig. Telephone numbers are given where possible.

## Wednesday

- DECEMBER 28**
- LONDON**, Brecknock, Camden (01-485 3073), Secrecrow
- LONDON**, Castle, Tooting, Sucker
- LONDON**, Dingwalls, Camden Lock (01-267 4967), The Voice Squad
- LONDON**, Golden Lion, Fulham Palace Road (01-385 3942), Jackie Lynnton's Happy Days
- LONDON**, Greyhound, Fulham Palace Road (01-385 0528), Trader
- LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Alberto's Lost Trios Paranoias
- LONDON**, Matildas, Old Swan, Kensington Church Street, Bruce & The Wombats
- LONDON**, Music Machine, Camden (01-387 0428), Strife/Doppelganger
- LONDON**, Pegasus, Stoke Newington, The Depressions
- LONDON**, Red Cow, Hammersmith (01-748 5720), The Boyfriends
- LONDON**, Rochester Castle, Stoke Newington (01-349 0198), The Stukas
- LONDON**, Rock Garden, Covent Garden (01-240 3961), Pickpockets/Stamps
- LONDON**, Upstairs at Ronnies, Frith Street (01-439 0747), Colah Brothers Band
- LONDON**, Windsor Castle, Harrow Road (01-286 1083), Matchless

## Thursday

- DECEMBER 29**
- BATH**, Viaduct (Limply Stoke 3187), The X's
- BATLEY**, Variety Club (475228), Alvin Stardust
- BIRMINGHAM**, Coach & Horses, West Bromwich, Garbo/Celuloid Heroes
- BIRMINGHAM**, Rebeccas (021-643 8951), Eater
- BOLTON**, Galeys Bar, Ials
- BRANSFORD**, Worcester Bank House (32248), The Drones
- BRISTOL**, The Glen, Graham Fenton's Matchbox
- BRISTOL**, Granary Club (28267), The Statues
- CHELMSFORD**, City Tavern (412601), Steel Pulse
- COVENTRY**, Mr George's (27529), Plummet Airlines
- DUNFERMLINE**, Kinema

A THIN week on the gig front - the colleges are all out on their Christmas hols, but there are still a few sparks of action in an otherwise frozen picture. American punk pioneers The Ramones speed on, supported by worthy Scots punk ensemble The Rezillos at Stoke Victoria Hall (Thursday), Aylesbury Friars (Thursday) and their latest UK blow-out culminates at London's Rainbow Theatre, Finsbury Park (Saturday) where Generation X join as special guests.

Racing Cars see out the old year by playing London's Nashville (Friday and Saturday). The Boyfriends undertake a short series of London-based pub n' club dates - Red Cow Hammersmith (Wednesday), Nags Head, High Wycombe (Thursday), Hope & Anchor, Islington (Friday) and Jackson's Rock Club, Archway (Saturday). Or you can get yourself a spoonful of the new look Doctors at Penance Winter Gardens (Thursday), Newport Village (Friday) and Nottingham Katties (Saturday). If you happen to be spending Hogmanay in the land where REAL whisky is made, why not check out a few of the Scots bands playing right now. Or see the New Year in with Cafe Jacques - dates this week include Edinburgh Tiffany's (Monday). But don't forget to check 'em out before you go.

- Ballroom** (21902), Bilbo Baggins
- EDINBURGH**, Nicky Tams Taverns (2256589), Mother Earth
- EXETER**, G Froucho's
- GLASGOW**, Burns Howff (041-332 1813), Necromancer
- GLASGOW**, Maggi Sauchiehall Street (041-332 4374), Bees Knees
- HIGH WYCOMBE**, Nags Head London Road (21758), The Boyfriends/El Seven
- LONDON**, Albany Empire, Deptford (01-692 0785), Heroes (Rock Comedy)
- LONDON**, Brecknock, Camden (01-485 3073), Urchin
- LONDON**, Castle, Tooting, Painted Lady
- LONDON**, Dingwalls, Camden Lock (01-267 4967), Adverts
- LONDON**, Duke of Lancaster, New Barnet (01-449 0465), Godrilla
- LONDON**, Greyhound, Fulham (01-385 0526), Tamkin
- LONDON**, Hope & Anchor, Hotel (6495), Woody And The Splinters
- LONDON**, 100 Club, Oxford Street (01-636 0933), Matumbi
- LONDON**, John Bull, Chiswick, Zaranabna
- LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Fabulous Poodles
- LONDON**, Music Machine, Camden (01-387 0428), Stamps
- LONDON**, Red Cow, Hammersmith (01-748 5720), Tonight
- LONDON**, Rock Garden, Covent Garden (01-240 3961), Brian Knight Band
- LONDON**, Rochester Castle, Stoke Newington (01-349 0198), Neon Hearts
- LONDON**, Royalty Ballroom, Southgate (01-886 4112), Ray Camp/ Mac Curis / Rollin' Colin Winski / Wild Wax Show
- LONDON**, The Swan, Hammersmith (01-748 1043), Contempt
- LUTON**, Royal Hotel (419584), The Statues
- MACCLESFIELD**, Crumblies Club, Bulliet
- MORECAMBE**, Inn on the Bay (414224), Cruisers
- NOTTINGHAM**, Langley

- Mill Club**, Eastwood, Merlin
- NOTTINGHAM**, Sandpiper Club (54361), Black Slate
- PENANCE**, Winter Gardens (2475), The Doctors
- READING**, Target Club (585887), Killer
- ROCHESTER**, Nags Head (3150), Venom
- ROTHERHAM**, Windmill (38733), The Crabs 2/3
- SOUTHPORT**, Dixieland (38733), Trapeze
- WARRINGTON**, Lion Hotel, Body
- WOCESTER**, Bank House, Bransford (Leigh Sinton 419584), The Drones

## Friday

- DECEMBER 30**
- AYLESBURY**, Friars (89448), Ramones / Rezillos
- BATLEY**, Variety Club (475228), Alvin Stardust
- BIRMINGHAM**, Barbarellas (021-643 9413), Fabulous Poodles
- BOGNOR REGIS**, Sussex Hotel (6495), Woody And The Splinters
- BRIGHTON**, New Regent (27800), The Depressions
- BURNLEY**, Bankhall Miners Club, Whitefire
- BURTON ON TRENT**, 76 Club, Salt
- CHORLEY**, Town Hall (5811), Strife
- CROYDON**, Swan and Sugarloaf, Tennis Shoes
- EDINBURGH**, Clouds (021-228 5353), Sebastian
- EDINBURGH**, Nicky Tams Tavern (031-225 8589), Red Poutlice & The Running Sores
- EYEMOUTH**, Town Hall, Bilbo Baggins
- GLASGOW**, Burns Howff (041-332 1813), Giro
- HORNCASTLE**, (Lincs), Two Town Hall, Flying Saucers
- HORNCHURCH**, The Bull, Jerry The Ferret
- KIRCALDY**, Kinzie Nook, The Eagle
- KIRKLEVINGTON**, Country Club, Claire Hamill's Transporter
- LEEDS**, Haddon Hall (751115), Dawnweaver
- LIVERPOOL**, Sportsman (021-709 3757), Whitefire
- LIVERPOOL**, Constonsone (051-709 5886), Mainline Station
- LONDON**, Albany Empire, Deptford (01-692 0785), Heroes (Rock comedy)
- LONDON**, Brecknock Camden (01-485 3073), Mister Sister
- LONDON**, Duke of Lancaster, New Barnet (01-449 0465), Nebula
- LONDON**, Golden Lion, Fulham (01-385 3942), Brakes
- LONDON**, Greyhound, Fulham Palace Road (01-385 0528), Screens
- LONDON**, Hope & Anchor, Upper Street, Islington



THE ADVERTS: at London Dingwalls on Thursday

- (01-359 4510), The Boyfriends
- LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Racing Cars
- X'RAY SPEX**
- LONDON**, Music Machine, Camden (01-387 0428), Jackie Wynton's Happy Days / Stamps
- LONDON**, Music Machine, Camden (01-357 0428), Bees Make Honey
- ROGER THE CAT**
- LONDON**, Nashville, Kensington (01-603 6071), Racing Cars
- LONDON**, Rock Garden, Covent Garden (01-240 3961), Dire Straits
- LONDON**, Royalty Ballroom, Southgate (01-886 4112), Romantics
- LONDON**, Roxy, Neal Street (01-836 8811), Exiles
- LONDON**, Three Rabbits, Manor Park, Tequila
- LONDON**, Upstairs at Ronnies, Frith Street (01-439 0747), Hi Tension
- LONDON**, Western Counties, Paddington (01-723 0685), Hollie
- LONDON**, White Horse, Willesden, Gina & The Rockin' Rebels
- MARGATE**, High Cliffs, Queens Hotel, Eater
- MORECAMBE**, Inn on the Bay (414224), The Cruisers
- NEWPORT**, (Shrops), The Village, The Doctors
- NOTTINGHAM**, Sandpiper (54361), Some Chicken
- RABBIT G**, Target (585887), Zenith
- REDDITCH**, Tracey's (61180), Tickle
- RIPLEY**, Cock Hotel, Strange Days
- SCARBOROUGH**, Penetration (63204), American Train
- WEST RUNTON**, Pavilion (203), Graham Fenton's Matchbox / Whirlwind
- WHALEY BRIDGE**, Jodyell Arms, Bullet
- WOLVERHAMPTON**, Lafayette (26285), Trapeze

- LONDON**, Jacksons Rock Club, Archway, The Boyfriends
- LONDON**, Music Machine, Camden (01-387 0428), Gonzalez / North Side Rhythm & Blues Ensemble
- LONDON**, Nashville, Kensington (01-603 6071), Racing Cars
- LONDON**, Rainbow, Finsbury Park (01-263 3148), Ramones / Rezillos / Generation X
- LONDON**, Rochester Castle, Stoke Newington High Street (01-249 0198), DDT
- LONDON**, Rock Garden, Covent Garden (01-240 3961), Voice Squad
- LONDON**, Swan, Hammersmith (01-748 1043), Woody And The Splinters
- LONDON**, Upstairs at Ronnies, Frith Street (01-439 0747), Hi Tension
- LONDON**, White Hart, Tottenham, Ray Camp / Rollin Rock Revue
- LOUGHBOROUGH**, Town Hall (63151), Graham Fenton's Matchbox / Whirlwind
- LUTON**, Griffin, Chapel Street, Toad The Wet Sprocket
- MORECAMBE**, Inn on the Bay (414224), Cruisers
- NOTTINGHAM**, Imperial Hotel (42884), Venom
- NOTTINGHAM**, Katties (256070), The Doctors
- PRESTON PANS**, Town Hall, Sebastian
- READING**, Hexagon, Jain Band
- SOUTHEND**, Minerva, Flying Saucer
- SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD**, Golden Diamond (2690), Cadillac
- UPPER HEYFORD**, USAF, Mupples

- SUNDAY**
- ATV** - The Muppet Show (7.15 - 7.45): Peter Sellers becomes this week's guest victim thrown into the ravaging claws of Miss Piggy, Kermit, Fozzie, Gonzo and the gang. Check regional details for your local time slot.
- ATV** - Year of the Punk (11.30 - 12.15): Janet Street-Porter looks back at how the music biz turned on and the punks sold out in '77.
- TUESDAY**
- BBC2** - Old Grey Whistle Test (11.25 - 12.10): Focus on The Ramones and The Motors.

## Sunday

- JANUARY 1**
- BIRMINGHAM**, Golden Eagle, Cruisers
- BRACKNELL**, Arts Centre (27272), Zenith
- BURTON**, George Hotel, Garbo / Celluloid Heroes
- GLASGOW**, Apollo Disco (041-332 6055), Jack Easy
- JACKSDALE**, Grey Topper (Leabrooks 3232), Hit Fantastic
- LIMERICK**, St John's Pavilion, Boomtown Rats
- LIVERPOOL**, Eric's (051-236 7881), Victor Brox Blues Train
- LIVERPOOL**, The Sportsman (051-709 3757), 29th And Dearborn
- LONDON**, Brecknock, Camden Road (01-485 3073), Urchin
- LONDON**, Duke of Lancaster, New Barnet, Grand Hotel / Jerry The Ferret
- LONDON**, Roundhouse, Chalk Farm (01-267 2864), Radiators from Space / Penetration / Steel Pulse / Rezillos
- LONDON**, Windsor Castle, Harrow Road (01-286 1083), Woody and The Splinters
- READING**, Target, Bulls Centre (585887), Keir Hardie
- RYDE** (I.O.W.), Lakeside Inn, Woking, Gina and The Rocking Rebels
- SHEARSHY**, Bath Hotel, Venom
- WOLVERHAMPTON**, Lafayette (26285), Neon Hearts

## Monday

- JANUARY 2**
- BIRMINGHAM**, Barrel Or

## Thursday

- BATH**, Brillig Arts Centre (64364), Kevin Coyne
- Zoot Money**
- BIRMINGHAM**, Cedar Club, Garbo / Celluloid Heroes
- COLWYN BAY**, Distelund Showbar (2594), No Dice
- COVENTRY**, Tiffany (24579), The Heat
- LIVERPOOL**, The Moonstone (051-709 5886), Isambard Kingdom
- LONDON**, Brecknock, Camden Road (01-485 3073), Mister Sister
- LONDON**, Bumbles, Wood Green, Flying Saucers
- LONDON**, Dingwalls, Camden Lock (01-267 4967), Medium Wave Band
- LONDON**, Duke of Lancaster, New Barnet, Raw Deal
- LONDON**, 100 Club, Oxford Street (01-636 0933), Metal Urban / Cheaters
- LONDON**, John Bull, Chiswick High Road, Evil Weasel
- LONDON**, Marquee, Wardour Street (01-437 6603), Bethnal
- LONDON**, Music Machine, Camden (01-387 0428), Alfalfa
- LONDON**, Rainbow, Finsbury Park (01-263 3148), Mud / Lulu (Winner in Wonderland)
- LONDON**, The Vortex, Wardour Street (01-734 4916), Sham '09 / Menace / Mistakes
- NEWBRIDGE**, Memorial Hall, The Doctors
- NOTTINGHAM**, Shipley Boat, Eastwood, The Montanas
- SWINDON**, Affair (30670), The Stukas / Neon Hearts
- WALSALL**, Three Crowns, Muscles

## see it

**BBC2** - Old Grey Whistle Test (11.10 - 12.10): Special edition featuring last year's Rod Stewart wop at Olympia.

**SATURDAY**

**BBC2** - Old Grey Whistle Test (10.00 - 11.25): Bumper package of highlights from the last series like Clapton, Dylan, Led Zeppelin, Fleetwood Mac, Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt, Elton John and Buddy Holly.

**SUNDAY**

**ATV** - The Muppet Show (7.15 - 7.45): Peter Sellers becomes this week's guest victim thrown into the ravaging claws of Miss Piggy, Kermit, Fozzie, Gonzo and the gang. Check regional details for your local time slot.

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**BBC2** - Old Grey Whistle Test (11.25 - 12.10): Focus on The Ramones and The Motors.

## heat it

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

**Radio** - John Peel (19.00-12.00): John Peel sees the old wave out and the new wave in tonight and every weekday night.

**THURSDAY**

**Piccadilly Radio** - Reflections (8.00-11.00): Pete Baker raps with a couple Ramones who are, we hear, good talkers.

**FRIDAY**

**Radio Clyde** - The Record Producers (8.00-11.00): Product special featuring the work of Todd Rundgren, Phil Spector, Roy Baker and dynamic duo Malcolm Cecil - Robert Margules the backroom boys behind some excellent Stevie Wonder tracks.

**Radio Luxembourg** - New Year Party (12 midnight - 3.00 am): Stuart Henry backtracks a selection of 1977's hot releases.

**SATURDAY**

**Radio One** - Rock On Retrospective (1.31-2.50): What's going down on the rock front over the past year.

**Radio One** - It's Rock 'n' Roll (5.31-6.30): Sessions from Dana Gillespie and the Frankie Reid Band, plus all the best and the rest of the latest greased-back releases.

**Radio One** - In Concert (6.30-7.31): Bob Harris introduces the best solo and acoustic performers featured on the progsof '77.

**SUNDAY**

**Capital Radio** - Worst Wireless Show Part 2 (10.00 am - 2.00): Kenny Everett's unique Bottom Thirty strikes again with a vengeance.

**Radio London** - Honky Tonks Heroes (11.30 am - 1.30): Razor-blade king Charlie Gillet introduces all you listener's choice of the best rock 'n' roll track this year, followed by Reggae Time's review of the past six years of black music (1.30-3.00).

**SUNDAY**

**Radio One** - Elvis Presley Story (5.10-6.00): Part 97: Good Times, Bad Times, narrated by Wink Martindale.

**TUESDAY**

**Radio Clyde** - Peter McCartney (11.00-12.00): Confessions of the perpetrator of Wings, with sidekick Denny Laine.

**CHRISTMAS CHARITY FESTIVAL**

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**DEC 30 VISIONS Plus Scion 6.30**

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NEW YEARS EVE

**BITTERSUITE**

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Dec 28 The Stukas . . . 50p

Dec 29 Neon Hearts . . . Free

Dec 30 Sore Throat . . . Free

Dec 31 DEAD FINGERS TALK . . . 50p

Jan 1 The Crabs . . . Free

# Roadshows

# RAMONES SHOCK!

## Writer misses point

**THE RAMONES** - Manchester Apollo GABBA GABBA hey. Yes they're back again, the pioneers of two and a half chords, three line blitzkrieg boogie - The Ramones. Back again for their UK tour.

Support band for the tour are the Sire's latest signing The Rezillos - perhaps an unwise choice for support as they have a large enough following of their own and for my money they damn near blew Joey and Co off the stage.

The thing is that The Rezillos were musically and visually entertaining the formation pogging of Fay and Eugene is quite a wonder to behold.

The Ramones' stage presentation on the other hand is none too wondrous. Joey sings with all the enthusiasm of a union leader delivering an impassioned speech almost but not quite motionless, giving the occasional clenched fist salute.

Johnny and Dee Dee adopt typical guitar hero postures as methodically as clockwork mice. Tommy sits impassive behind the skins and thumps out the four / four monotone as efficiently as the average metronome.

It would be difficult to say exactly what numbers they played. As pauses were kept to a minimum so eventually you begin to wonder if they haven't played this song before. Such are the perils of playing short fast three riff tunes. Eventually the compilations exhaust themselves and you've got problems. This technique has seen the Ramones through three albums and one hit single but what next. If that performance in Manchester is anything to go by the answer is not a lot.

Credit where it's due though The Ramones are fun. You can hop to your hearts content and have a real good time, providing you don't listen too hard and the bouncers don't take too much of a dislike to you. Just as well the Ramones didn't play 'Beat On The Brat' The Apollo bouncers might have taken it too seriously.

**STEVE MORRIS**  
**ELVIS COSTELLO**  
**AND THE ATTRACTIONS**  
Nashville Rooms, London

ELVIS, clad as ever in ill-fitting suit, shirt and tie, clutching at the mike, arms jerking wildly - an earnest, deranged - looking geek burning his way through (The Angels Wanna Wear My) Red Shoes. Why so success-

ful? - Cos he writes good songs. Good, powerful, harmonic, sincere songs. Every one a winner.

He played 'Waiting For the End of the World'. As in the other numbers, nothing detracts from the vocals. No solos, no digressions. The backing is focussed down to an exact, balanced support for his spasms of desperate lyrics, varying with his expression, and controlled by the excellent, but unobtrusive, keyboard playing of Steve Nave.

They worked through some different styles - from rock and roll to ballad to the thin, reggae feel of 'Watching The Detectives'. A longer and more varied version, with Pete Thomas, drums, and Bruce Thomas on bass, fading out to just hint at the rhythm, and Elvis, not very much at ease, letting loose his forceful and emotive vocals.

Last, and best, was 'I'm Not Angry', played to an ecstatic audience. A more defiant stance, more sweat, more accusing glares, more harsh, torn guitar chords - always impossible to anticipate his changing moods. It's amazing how compelling his anti-hero image is. I hardly took my eyes off him once in the whole set.

No doubts as to whether Elvis was missed while touring the States. Anyone who returns to play their first gig on borrowed gear, plagued with PA problems, and still get that kind of reception, isn't going to have to start busking in the near future. A truly great and imaginative new musician.

MARK ELLEN

### DARTS

Rainbow, London

OK I'LL admit I spent the first 15 minutes mourning the passing of Manhattan Transfer from this fair Isle. But I soon forgot my misery, for what Darts lack in professionalism, they amply compensate with fun, fun, fun.

The show did not get off to a good start. The sudden departure of curtain from stage resulted in an undignified scramble from bar to seat for many, and little impact other than indigestion.

The sound was none too hot either. The vocals appeared muffled / drowned / murdered alternately throughout the first four or five numbers and there was an impression that they were trying to race through the set.

Then came the change. It began when Rita Day took over the vocals for 'Mama' and

suddenly the show began to fall into place. Through 'Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart' and '12 In The Kitchen' until finally at 'Shotgun' the full force of Darts could be felt.

Their democratic approach allowed each member his/her moment of glory. Saxist Horatio Hornblower took on the vocals for 'Annual County Fair', Hammy Howell rattled out his piano solo, and Den Haggerty, well, Den just momopolised 'Cell Block No 9' with his antics. He appeared in the aisles, fell into the audience, singing as he was tossed around like a bean bag and finally gave everybody palpitations when he appeared to fall from a ladder, only to be gracefully swept up and fly across the stage, limbs akimbo, gesticulating wildly.

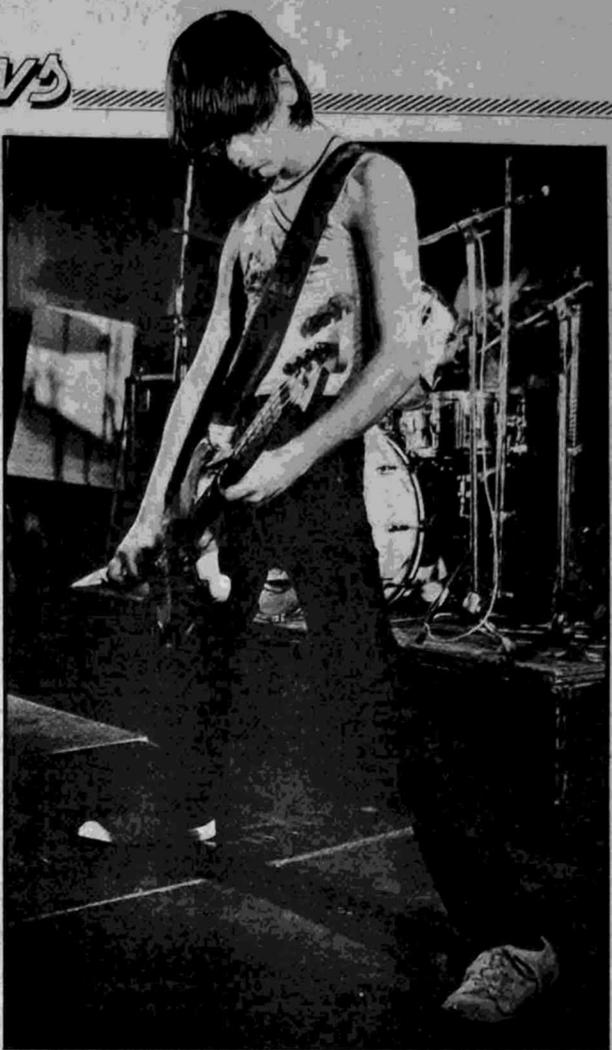
Their show is essentially visual, from the clothes they wear (Den's Bacofol suit and Rita's pink satin and gold tatted pencil dresses) to the effects used on stage.

But their music is excellent too! Perhaps the lyrics aren't particularly profound, but the songs were written or inspired by the good old days when teenagers were teenagers, not miniature Callaghan / Healey / Marx's, and it makes a pleasant change not to have to delve into each number with a Thesaurus, dictionary and map. They all have melody! Rhythm!! Harmony!!! And what's more, those irresistible doo-wop tunes that you sing for weeks afterwards.

Move over Man Tran, Darts are on their way.  
**KELLY PIKE**

**JOHN OTWAY WITH SCRATCH**  
Victoria Palace, London

IF OTWAY and Barrett were ever to fulfil their dream of becoming rich



RAMONES: you can hop to your hearts content

and famous, it seemed a necessary step for them to acquire the services of a backing band. Much to my delight this is precisely what has happened, so with great anticipation I went to the Victoria Palace to see John Otway and Scratch.

The evening confirmed a fact, that should be obvious to anyone who has had the pleasure of seeing Otway live. Once on stage this juvenile looking madman turns on a true performance. He runs, jumps and cavorts around the equipment, while in between such visual eye - openers as 'Making Love Down The Road', this clown even sings gentle and beautiful ballads, 'Bluey Green', 'I Can't Complain' and

the magnificent 'Geneva' which is strangely reminiscent of 'McArthur Park', all successfully contrasting with the set's wilder moments.

Otway can write first class songs of such diversity that it makes you wonder why cynics still dismiss him as a fool.

By now you've probably realised that I rate Otway as something special. However, one nagging problem stayed with me throughout his riveting set. His new band contributed a musical fullness, but little more. In fact, Otway seemed to have lost some of his innocent charm as he stuck to the rigid guidelines set down by the band.

He never forgot any words and rarely

improvised. The discipline from working with a band simply takes a way the spontaneity all important to Otway's stage act. Still, John Otway is sheer enjoyment even with a band, but for maximum ecstasy the infamous duo; Otway and Barrett, remain supreme.

PHILIP HALL

**MUD**  
**MUSIC Machine,**  
London

THE MUSIC MACHINE is one of those places where people arrive in single sex pairs only. Throughout the disco and bottom - of - the - barrel support it's eyeing-up time, right?

The fellas, resplendent in their new high-waistlers and platform, prop up the bar exchanging jokes while the girls in their white T-shirts fight for a place beneath the strobe and practice their Colgate smiles on their frequent visits to the ladies, via the bar of course.

After a few hours, it's getting pathetic, the guys are getting drunk and the girls are getting desperate. Can anything save the scene?

Pazam! A couple of flashes in the corner and it's Mud, only an hour overdue, launching into 'L-L-Lucy'. Ah, a good-time rock'n'pop'n'roll band ready to loon for a dozen tunes sounds just the tonic for all these lonely hearts.

It's handclaps and sway time through 'Oh Boy' as the 'I Love Mud' scarves appear. A few

more boppers from the boys in blue (and white) and then, THEN the moment everyone's been waiting for, a chance to smooch with sexy Cyril of lovely Lana or 'Show Me You're A Woman'.

Give time for 'The Cat Crept In', finishing with a drum roll brought to a sudden halt by Dave Mount's cry of 'Ooh my / + ?! finger!' He follows this er side-splitting line with a short dialogue, complete with references to M. Whitehouse and C. Coon.

Les Gray's prime time comes next with an Elvis medley, much appreciated by all those wild rockers in the crowd. A further selection of past glories takes them to the finale, a quick flick through the pop volumes finally to produce 'Glad All Over'.

They return seconds later to hammer out yet more hits, climaxing with 'Tiger Feet'. That's neat, that's neat the Camden cretins love it; shake 'n' pop rules OK?

Just to be festive they round off with a heart-lending (ahem) version of 'Lonely This Christmas'. G'night folks, and as Janet and John leave arm - in - arm, plain Jane weeps alone in the corner.  
**KELLY PIKE**

**ALBERTOS**  
Belle Vue, Manchester

WHO ARE these guys? They take the piss out of everything, is nothing sacred? The Albertos could be described as musical re-developers, they tear everything apart and rebuild it to their own easy design.

They started with a short satire of Elvis Costello, complete with glasses and crooked stance. What was that I heard? A doo-wop version of 'Anarchy in the UK'? The truth is that these fellas have real talent, they can perform everything with convincing reality.

The drawback with the Albertos' fast moving antics is that so much is happening simultaneously that it becomes difficult to follow. To the right a game of cards is taking place, to the left a reject from Oxfam is banging his head on the speaker cabinet and in the middle, Jimmy, ranting and raving with a generous spattering of Anglo-Saxon mono-syllables.

Throughout, he displayed tremendous energy and imagination, but tended to border on bad taste.

The show reached its climax with the performance of Snuff Rock, as every rodent will know the story of the ultimate in fads, on stage suicide. With these guys around who needs music? They can turn their hands to anything, punk, reggae, or country they perform with convincing realism. If you are feeling depressed go see the Albertos and witness gut-aching, vomit making, side splitting humour. On the other hand you might be disgusted.

ERIC LETHERMAN

## It wasn't all right on the night

**DAVID ESSEX**  
Dominion Theatre, London

SO IT does make a change to see a rock show where the band or artist just stands up there and sings or plays. And it is the time of the year for pantomimes but David Essex's 'Pop-Up Picture Show' was a vain attempt that didn't work.

David should own up and admit that the people who go to his concerts just want to see and hear him. He could probably stand on stage, not do anything and some would still think they'd got their money's worth.

The show started with an old Western movie and David jumping through the screen. His extravagant production was also made a bit tatty with the clothes he was wearing, leather studded jacket, T-shirt, jeans and knee high boots. If you're going to try and tell a story and everyone else is in costume, why not dress the part yourself? I said

story earlier, but all it was was the linking of song titles.

A Jewish sally approaches him, suggests he should go to the Big Apple and it's into 'America'. When there, Abraham Lincoln says 'We're Gonna Make You A Star' and so on.

He even tried to tell a joke. After about six attempts he succeeded.

What am I doing? It wasn't that bad, in fact I quite enjoyed it but if you are going to put on something like that it's got to be done properly. If it had been the theatre people would have been demanding their money back.

Even for the encore the microphone went, another was brought on and that didn't work.

I didn't like it - the audience did. But as I said, he could probably stand there and they'd be satisfied.

One other moan. Who needs an interval at a rock concert? Especially for ice cream and popcorn.

ALF MARTIN

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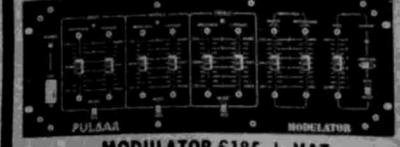
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## Blood and hype?

AMANDA LEAR'S 'Blood And Honey' (Ariola) has been a massive Euro-hit, following on perfectly from Baccara, and is doing well in the Disco Chart.

Evidently though it isn't selling here, or why else would Ariola ally themselves with a Doncaster-based promotion company to try to persuade disco DJs to change that situation.

Now it's not as if this page didn't review — indeed, predict success for — the record even before it came out here, but... for the past two weeks we have been inundated with potted reviews from disco DJs, all telling us what the bloody thing sounds like!

Great, fab, but what's the point? Evidently

BADJA, the promotion company, masquerades as a free association of DJs, and does out records to its members.

In doing out the Amanda Lear 12in (and also another Ariola single by Lynne Jones 'Come Softly To Me'), BADJA asked all the recipients to write to this page with their comments about them.

Had they come out in the open and asked the DJs to send in Disco Charts containing the records they could have been accused of hype. On the other hand those charts would have had to contain a dozen other records not necessarily issued by BADJA.

Amanda Lear's is a good record which works well, and I use it myself. It has

every right to appear in disco charts — if those are a true representation of dancers' reaction.

From the way this page is structured it should be obvious that we welcome correspondence from DJs which is then broken down to provide all the info that goes into each section of the page.

What were we meant to do with all the BADJA members' comments? It really ought to be the duty of any DJ on a record company mailing list to justify his position by submitting disco charts to Record Mirror regularly he can influence the whole country and not just his own piddling little venue.

But he should not just list all the freebies he's received, regardless. Also please realise that while I enjoy getting letters they are wasted unless they contain specific news or a chart that can be used on this page, and an SAE if the answer is required. End of lecture. Happy New Year!

(4) Mick Ames' Cornish tour hits St Austell YC then THURSDAY (5) Helston Sea Hawk; SATURDAY (7) Andy Loyd starts a weekly late licence night at East Kent's Grove Ferry Inn, and Mick Ames hits Penzance Winter Gardens; SUNDAY (8) Mike McLean moves to Giffnock's MacDonald Hotel, Glasgow; MONDAY (9) Tricky Dicky's Dick's Inn gang party at Croydon Dr Jim's with the Disappointer Sisters; WEDNESDAY (11) Steel Pulse open the new reggae night at Southgate and Mick Ames hits Bristol Cadbury Heath.

## DJ Hotline

PLEASE REMEMBER, post your DJ Charts now to reach us by Wednesday! Rose Royce 'It Makes You Feel Like Dancing' (Whitfield LP) hangs on for Jon Taylor (Norwich Cromwells), Larry Foster (Hackney Downstown), Sterling Van (Stepney Green Old Globe), but their 'Funk Factory' (Ips Tery Emm (Dunstable) 'Quint 'Hold Me' (UA) has Mick Ames (Bedford), Billy The Kid (Margate Saracen's Head) 'Tommi 'Disco Satisfaction' (Private Stock) stuns Stuart Mason (Leeds), James Heron (Stranraer), more 'Shu-Bi-Du' 'Rap Jul (White Xmas) (Danish Polydor) pulls Rob Har-knett (Harrow Gilbey Vintners), Black Paul 'The King In Black Disco' (French Delphine 12in) gets Gary Allan (Liverpool), Le Pamplemousse (Preston), Bing & Grace 'Le Spunk' (US AVI) adds Nick Titchener (Wimbledon), Patrick Juvé 'Ou Sont Les Femmes' (French Barclay LP) nabs Norman Davies (Dublin Phoenix), Keith Tee (London Rock Garden) ran into a lamp-post and is now not very fit — neither's his car!

Bill Fredericks 'Love With You' (Polydor) adds Greg Davies (Watford New Penny), High Inergy 'You Can't Turn Me Off' (Motown) adds Tom Amigo (Cardiff), Blackbyrds 'Street Games' (Fantasy LP) funks Feds (Cardiff Flops), Fatback 'Master Booty' (Spring) culls Chris Archer (March Cromwells), Mass Production

'Cosmic Lust' (Coffillon) adds Mark Ryman (Swansea Cinderellas), Roberta Kelly 'Zodiacs' (Gash) hits Dougie Law (Falkirk Maniqu), Fantastic Four 'Fire Down Below' (Atlantic LP) rakes Ray Robinson (Leicester Tiffanys), Staple Singers 'If You're Ready' (Stax) bags Bob Cheek (Lowestoft Moulton Rouge), Third World '96 degrees In The Shade' (Island) dubs Dave Simmons (Preston Scamps), Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders 'Zulu' (Alaska) freaks Alan Farmer (Edinburgh Murrayfield Rink), Al Johnson 'Swanee' (MCA LP) swings Tony Allen (Hinckley Bubbles), Mike Oldfield 'Cuckoo Song' (Virgin) trills Stewart Hunter (Preston), Bing & Grace 'True Love' (Capitol) smooches Johnny Daylight (Swindon Affair), Rory Block 'Help Me Baby' (Chrysalis 12in) adds Tony Barnfield (South Harrow Circles), Gloria Jones 'Bring On The Love' (EMI) adds Phil Dodd (Shoreham Lighthouse), Lynne Jones 'Come Softly To Me' (Badger) does Dave 'Dastard' Lee (Merthyr Tydfil) and Brian Stevenson (Roylton), Mink DeVille's 'Cadillac Walk' (Capitol) adds Les Aron (Lancing Place), Redillos 'Flying Saucer Attack' (Sire) — they're really good, live — punks Dr John (Telford Disco-Teche), Steve Hillage 'Not Fade Away' (Virgin) gets Gordon Lyle (Glasgow Savoy).

## UK Disco Top 50

1	LOVE'S UNKIND	Donna Summer	GTD
2	DANCE DANCE DANCE	Chic	Atlantic
3	NATIVE NEW YORKER	Odyssey	RCA 12 in
4	JAMMING	Bob Marley & The Wailers	Island
5	MULL OF KINTYRE	Wings	Parlophone
6	GALAXY	We	MCA
7	LOVE OF MY LIFE	Doolays	GTD
8	SAN FRANCISCO	Village People	DCA
9	DADDY COOL	Doris	Magnet 12 in
10	EGYPTIAN REGGAE	Jonathan Richman	Basenote
11	RUN BACK	Carl Douglas	Pye
12	BACK IN LOVE AGAIN	LTD	AGM 12 in
13	COME GO WITH ME	Shoewaddywaddy	Arista
14	BELEAST	Boney M	Atlantic
15	2, 4, 6, 8	MOTORWAY	Tom Robinson Band
16	COCCOMOTION	El Coco	EMI
17	WHITE CHRISTMAS	Bing Crosby	Pye
18	RUNNING AWAY	Ray Avram Ubiquity	RSO
19	HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE	Bee Gees	Polydor
20	UP TOWN TOP RANKING	Arhis & Donna	Phil Int
21	COME GO WITH ME	Pockets	CBS
22	ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE	Billy Paul	Phil Int
23	ROCKIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD	Status Quo	Vertigo
24	GET ON THE FUNK TRAIN	Munich Machine	Oasis
25	ZODIACS	Roberta Kelly	Oasis
26	BLOOD & HONEY	Amanda Lear	Ariola
27	I WILL	Ruby Wintm	Creole
28	FFUN	Conf/Shun	Mercury
29	I GOT TO HAVE YOUR LOVE	Fantastic Four	Atlantic
30	KEEP DOIN' IT	Shoedown	State 12 in
31	I DON'T WANNA LOSE YOUR LOVE	Emotions	CBS
32	I HAVEN'T STOPPED DANCIN' YET	Gonzales	EMI
33	FLORAL DANCE	Brighouse & Rastriac Band	Transatlantic
34	THE GROOVE LINE	Heatwave	GTO
35	DON'T MAKE MY BROWN EYES BLUE	Crystal Gayle	UA
36	DO YOU SPEAK FRENCH	Nite School	Ensign
37	I LOVE YOU	Donna Summer	Casablanca
38	RUMOUR HAS IT	Donna Summer	Casablanca LP
39	IT'S A HEARTACHE	Bonnie Tyler	RCA
40	SAY YOU WILL	Eddie Henderson	Capitol
41	ON FIRE	T-Conexion	TK 12 in
42	HOLLYWOOD	Bob Seagars	CBS
43	GET YOUR BOOM BOOM AROUND THE ROOM	Le Pamplemousse	Barclay
44	WHO'S GONNA LOVE ME	Imperials	Power Exchange
45	CHOOSING YOU	Lenny Williams	ABC LP
46	DO YOU REMEMBER	Long Tall Ernie	Polydor
47	WE / HAPPY PEOPLE	Bass Construction	Coffillon
48	MAGIC MANDRAKE	Star Band	UA LP
49	THE BULL	Mike Theodoros Orchestra	Calendar
50			Atlantic 12 in

## Disco Dates

THURSDAY (Dec 29) Rollin Colin Winski and Mac Curtis rock the boppin' Southgate Royalty again; FRIDAY (30) Mick Ames hits Hertford Castle Hall; NEW YEAR'S EVE (31) Greg Edwards, Robbie Vincent and Tony 'Shades' Valence funk it in at Southgate Royalty, while Gina and Lola Davine eat fire and do naughty things with snakes at Bournemouth's Village;

SUNDAY (Jan 1) Tony Barnfield counts down 77s soul top 30 between 8-10.30 at South Harrow Circles; BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY (2) The Reading Top Rank all-dayer welcomes 2,500 funk and northern fans (get there early if you haven't a ticket already), starting at 2 pm, with Messrs Edwards and Vincent, Chrises Hill and Brown and sundry northern jocks; WEDNESDAY

(4) Mick Ames' Cornish tour hits St Austell YC then THURSDAY (5) Helston Sea Hawk; SATURDAY (7) Andy Loyd starts a weekly late licence night at East Kent's Grove Ferry Inn, and Mick Ames hits Penzance Winter Gardens; SUNDAY (8) Mike McLean moves to Giffnock's MacDonald Hotel, Glasgow; MONDAY (9) Tricky Dicky's Dick's Inn gang party at Croydon Dr Jim's with the Disappointer Sisters; WEDNESDAY (11) Steel Pulse open the new reggae night at Southgate and Mick Ames hits Bristol Cadbury Heath.



PAUL SIMONON - A MATE OF MICK'S

# Discos

 by ROBBIE VINCENT

## Xmas nervous breakdown

AT THE time of writing this and Christmas approaches, DJs were getting fat and dusting off last year's big festive time hits. Reggae Christmas by the Gable Hall School Choir got its annual airing and even 'Renta Santa' got oldie plays.

Radio producers started looking back to some of the better records over the past 12 months as the number of new records released dropped dramatically. In the clubs and pubs it was a couple of weeks of pure silliness. GREAT.

We all take everything far too seriously anyway. Scratch off the labels of records so other jocks can't find out what it is, tell all the punters that because you played such a record it's a hit and so on.

But let's spare a thought for the record promotion men and what they have to put up with. Thousands of jocks bombard record companies with pleading, begging, heart-breaking letters asking to go on mailing lists.

Each letter is checked to find bouncing Bill Conman is there again. His residency never moves and his audience

is always the same. It's mum and dad plus the catathome.

Give yourself a headache sorting that lot out and then comes the dreaded reaction sheet. Now fair is fair. I'll send you free our new records if you fill up the reaction sheet to try and get a genuine feeling how the record's going down with the consumer. Everyone's happy.

But wait. Back come the sheets. Favourite words like great, super, out of this world, monster, biggie arrive on the promotion man's desk. The jock, it's been discovered on more than one occasion, hasn't even played it.

We now reach the nervous breakdown stage. The death of Elvis Presley was a great loss to music and sent one promotion department round the bend.

You may have already guessed but as soon as certain jocks could get on the phone to organise an Elvis Presley night they did. Clubs which for years had built up a reputation for good solid funk suddenly decided on an Elvis Presley night.



ELVIS PRESLEY: sent promotion department round the bend

"Could we have the Elvis Presley back catalogue please?" We thought we'd do a bit of Elvis Presley promotion. Say no more, I've gone round the bend.

Sure, many jocks could tell equally appalling stories about promotion men but most of 'em ain't idiots you know. It's give and

take. HIGHLIGHT of my year must of course have been the opportunity to get the long, hot, soulful summer together on Radio One.

It seems an awful long time ago trying to recall some of my favourite records of the year. Popular - wise it must be 'Float On' by The

Floater. Dave Simmons played it on his Radio London R&B programme on Thursday night and from there it all happened.

But what about the ones that didn't make it? 'Baby Come Back' by Jean Carn for instance. And how is it possible 'Running Away' by Roy Ayers has

not crossed over to pop and been a big hit? If Roy Ayers can't make it, The Fact Of Life with their fine album had no chance.

HOW ABOUT some predictions for the New Year? Heatwave will go from strength to strength. We might even lose them to the States. Their new 45 'Groove Line' out in January will be a big hit.

The Commodores will grow and grow in the UK and 'Star Wars' will freak everyone out until at least June.

That fine reggae Release band Steel Pulse will turn ripples into waves and QPR will just escape relegation.

The Boomtown Rats will get bigger and bigger if Bob Geldof doesn't fade away from an overdose of Lemsip. And watch out, little Geldofs, your father is a hard man. If and when you're born, don't annoy him. He'll throw you out.

Bob was a guest on my Radio London phone-in show and it's surprising what you find out about people.

Disco biggies look like being 'Big Blow', Manu Dibango on 12"; 'Choosing You', Lenny Williams on 12" on UK release January 6 but up front for some jocks; 'Funk Reaction', Lonnie Smith; 'Native New Yorker', Odyssey will also go pop and hit the

charts. I'm getting good reaction from 'Nobody's Got Time' the Couchouse Rhythmic Section on Eddie Grant's ICE label. Wrote about this one last month and fingers crossed, it could happen on the disco charts.

War's 'Galaxy' on UK MCA plus Theme Song from 'Which Way Is Up', Stargard on American MCA, are two other obvious movers.

ON JANUARY 2 the Top Rank at Reading hosts what looks like the south's biggest ever all-dayer. Many coachhulls are already organised, as are one or two other things which you'll only believe if you actually SEE them.

The line-up of Greg Edwards, Chris Hill or Lacey Lady fame, Chris Brown from Frenchies and Pantiles plus yours truly looks like making it something really special. I'm regularly asked where to get tickets so to save my throat phone Pete Matthews at Bracknell 21880. He'll help.

By pure coincidence I'll be working with Greg Edwards to see the new year in at the Royalty Ballroom in Southgate. Also on stage will be Tony Valence of Radio Medway.

That's it for another month. Let me be the first to wish you a FUNKY NEW YEAR.

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# SEX and SEX and ROCK and ROLL

**But does it  
sell records?**

WITH 1977 came the social new wave — anti-style, anti-image, 'accessability'. The focus of ideals was to chop the feet from under the false idol, the object. In some ways it flunked out — Rotten's a star however hard he tries to avoid it — but the movement wasn't completely ineffective.

It seems too much of a coincidence that this year, flesh-selling took a tumble and the tit girls lost their deposits.

Sex as marketing is with us constantly — of course — but, hot on the heels of the Runaways, a few managers decided there were other bandwagons to jump on outside the new wave.

The watershed was when model girl / sixties' legend Twiggy had a hit at the tail end of 1976 with 'Here I Go Again'.

"Aha," thought one businessman after another — sooner or later — "cattle market has come round again."

What these sharpsters failed to notice was that Twiggy's subsequent record, despite a fat push, flopped like a wet cod. Novelty is OK but it's not enduring as good pop. People got bored.

Undeterred, Warner Brothers and Chrysalis jumped in at the deep end, Warners signing Page Three and Chrysalis, the rather more attractive Blonde On Blonde.

The Warners product — and that's exactly what it was — comprised Stefani Marrion, Felicity Bulrski and Clare Russell who were not only a bit ropey looking, but who were responsible for a dreadful single 'Hold On To Love' which went up the charts like a plutonium elephant and disappeared without trace.

Blonde On Blonde — a couple of admittedly luscious human beings — brought out a slightly better waxing but the interview with them by Robin Smith cast some doubts on their credibility.

"We're not trying to rely on our sexy image," said Nina Carter. "We hope people are going to take us seriously." This, you might remember, is after posing showing half their respective snatches on the cover of RECORD MIRROR and posing three quarters naked with dog collars around their necks.

Their single, 'Subway', an old Bee Gees number, even made the breakers in the charts, but never quite made the Top 50. The fulsome twosome — the other half is Jilly Johnson — are currently in Japan and are threatening another record.

The signs by this time might have seemed bad enough to deter any entrepreneur but the flops presumably escaped the attention of Ariola who released 'Blood And Honey' by Germanic beauty Amanda Lear. A straightforward disco lunkalong, it missed the charts by a few miles.

Not one to be deterred by history, Island are now spending bags of money promoting their new disco discovery, American whip merchant Grace Jones, a top black model who shaves her head and looks more horny than all the European efforts put together. All the same, her single and album aren't moving mountains. They're not even moving molehills, in fact.

There are two conclusions to be drawn from this piece:

(a) that 1977 was the year in which music was re-established in the consciousness of the record-buying public instead of blind following of flesh images.

(b) that we wanted an excuse to print some horny fodder.

TIM LOTT



BLONDE ON BLONDE  
(top) PAGE 3 (above)  
TWIGGY (left)  
AMANDA LEAR (be-  
low).



## NEXT WEEK

Even  
more  
sex  
when  
IAN  
DURY  
catches a  
look at  
some  
short  
skirts  
when  
RECORD  
MIRROR  
presents  
Ian  
Dury  
on ice.  
If you  
miss it,  
we'll  
melt  
ya!



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OF ALL PEOPLE, TONY BLACKBURN INTRODUCES THE SEX PISTOLS ON TOP OF THE POPS.



FOR THOSE WHO REMEMBER THE READING FESTIVAL WASH OUT



BUT



OUR DEAR QUEEN (GOD BLESS HER) HAS HER SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AND LOTS OF BUSINESS MEN MAKE LOTS OF CASH THEN, JUST AS THEIR SALES ARE FLAGGING, ELVIS PRESLEY DIES AND THEY SWITCH THEIR OPERATIONS TO SELLING ELVIS SOUVENIRS. DON'T LET 'EM GET AWAY WITH IT GANG!



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ELVIS COSTELLO GETS HIP AND STARTS REVENGE ROCK

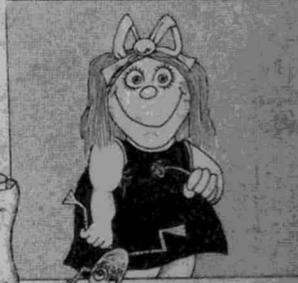


SOME PAPERS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT THE ROLLING STONES NEARLY START A NEW CRAZE CANNIBALISM!!



## 1977 Skateboard Champion

ELSIE SNAGG, THE LITTLE SIX YEAR OLD WON HER WAY INTO THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS AS SHE PUSHED THROUGH GREAT CROWDS TO PRESENT THE QUEEN WITH A DEAD FROG, A DANDELION AND SOME SLIGHTLY USED COB STOPPERS ON A JUBILEE WALKABOUT !!



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IN CASE YOU GET BORED WHILE CHRISTMAS PART NOUGATS AND COGNAC

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**  
ALF MARTIN + ROSALIND RUSSELL FOR THEIR FORSIGHT IN EMPLOYING ME. MUMMY + DADDY NANA LULY, NANA MAY, KEN HASSELL (GOOD LUCK IN AFRICA), LESLEY JONES, DIANA ANNABEL (WHY DO YOU TREAT ME MEAN?), JUJU + NESTA. ALL AT COMMUNITY SERVICES ESPECIALLY CHRISTINE FOR THE TYPING AND BRENDA FOR SITTING ON MY LAP. THANKS AGAIN TO JILL AND SALLY FOR EVERYTHING!! SPECIAL MENTION TO CLYN LEFTY STAPLETON, JOANAH, KID SHAMBLES, DAVE LEWIS, STEVE NO IT DIDN'T COME FROM MARKS AND SPEAKER OWEN AND PITW'NAM + DAI READ (BEST NOT TO TALK TO THEM). DAVID FOR TAKING THE DOG OUT AN' DEBBIE FOR WHIPPING IT OFF FOR ME AFTER THE LITTLE ACCIDENT. RIGHT ON!!! THAT GIVES A LOT OF CHRISTMAS CARDS.  
BIG THANKS TO ALL RECORD MIRROR READERS 1977 IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR LOOK AFTER YOURSELVES. GOOD LUCK AN' UP THE RATZ!!!

AND NEXT YEAR? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PUNK MEETS STAR WARS? JOHNNY R.I.N AND THE SEX RAY-GUNS? SPACE PUNK? FLYING SAFETY PINS? WAIT AN' SEE

