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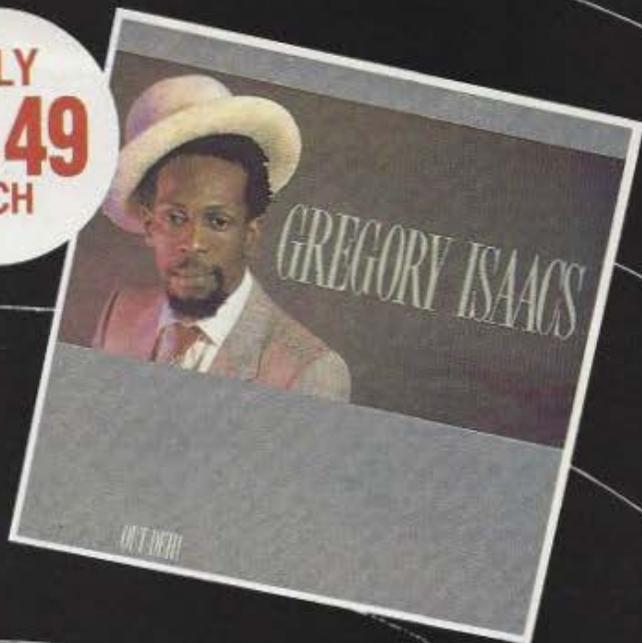
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Private Files



JIM REID: the casual attitude

BLIMMIN' HELL, I try my best, honest. What with my bobble hat enthusiasm for 'Carry On' films, carry out drink-ups and seaside humour, I've done my level best to reduce the RM office to the mayhem of the average four ale bar on the Harrow Road.

It's not easy introducing a bit of mirth and merriment into the nancy boy regions of Covent Garden, but when I saw Eric Fuller capering into the office this morning, crate of brown ale under each arm, singing 'Knees Up Mother Brown', I thought I'd finally won. Here was my dream — an office fit for brown sauce users. So you can imagine my pride this afternoon as the office boozily snoozed itself to sleep.

Scantly clad girls lay across my desk passing me bottles of Guinness, whilst bookmakers and petty criminals formed an orderly queue to hear the SP on tonight's dog meeting at Walthamstow. Exotic... it was bliss. I was just about to do a neat trade-off in stolen Irish watches when the sirens started a-wailing. It was Knacker of the Yard, infamous spoilsport and copper of this parish. I tried to do a runner, but really I was so plastered I only ended up colliding with Michael Pilgrim's office safe.

I was nicked; hung, drawn and quartered for running an illegal gossip column. So here I sit in HM Prison Bahamas, contemplating Xmas in chokey and the world's first pop polemic from behind iron bars...

... Still, the wacky world of pop doesn't wait for a man to do his time, it just goes on getting more and more mirthful by the moment. This week we have stories of dyed hair, deputy sheriffs and woodlice but first... **WOARRRGH!**

Yep, my spies on the outside tell me that the monster event of the week was the Def — a million bucks for every spot —



Pic by Ross Hallin

WOARRRRGGGGHHH: in fact double WOARRRRGGGGHHH! Yep, RM brings you all the news and views from the sensitive world of HM. Here we reveal the sensational Bananarama/Def Leppard link-up that is shaking the very foundation of Robin Smith's hamster cage. Pictured with the hair-gel gels are Leppard's spotty twosome Steve Clark and Phil Collen. Def-initely a winning fivesome, a right lovely bunch, etc (arrrrgggh).



Pic by Paul Starbery

IT'S TOUGH being a brain surgeon. It is a little known fact that the amount of facial hair on the average brain surgeon is an indication of his/her (there are some butch girls about) experience in the noble art of kneading the old grey matter. Pictured here are two of the oldest practical practitioners in the book Dr Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top and Lemmy of Motorhead.

Leppard lig at Chelsea football ground. The place was simply jam packed with dandruff cases, acne aces and people who are just downright plug ugly. Climbing over mountains of dandruff, avoiding swinging bullet belts and averting his eyes from outbreaks of mass mooning my man spotted **Randy California** (like, really wacky), **Scott Gorham, Philthy Phil, all of ZZ**

Top, Armoury Show and ex Whitesnaker Neil Murray. The Leps themselves were seen canoodling with their family whilst Bananarama did a fair canoodle with a vodka and orange. The Banana's incidentally are holding a party of holocaust-type proportions to celebrate their departure from skyrise Holborn. But that means nothing to **Lemmy**. He entered the party

● **STRANGE ACTIVITY:** Steve's latest preoccupations (apart from dodging 2 Para) are working out with weights and styling fashion features for 'The Mail On Sunday'. Such versatility...

● **METAL MADE:** Congratulations to Ian Gillan and his girlfriend Bron on the birth of their baby girl Grace. See — HM stars do not always breed monsters...

● **TEENYBOP FALLOUT:** After failing to make number one with 'Union Of The Snake', Duran Duran have seen their reign at the top of the LP chart with 'Seven And The Blah Blah' last exactly one week. My bet is that a lot of poster manufacturers are going to get their fingers burnt next year...

● **KITTY VACANT:** Rumoured to be playing Jimi Hendrix in the film version of Who manager Kit Lambert's life — Phil Lynott. Hmm, rather like lining yours truly up for a part in a sensitive Hungarian art flick...

carrying a drink and left the party carrying a drink. Lovely Marilyn arrived and left pronto. Ex Boomtown Rat Johnny Fingers arrived and no one knew who he was...

I've heard of some dodgy capers in my time — but The Smiths backing Sandie Shaw's new single seems a stranger collaboration than Burke and Hare...

... And talking of dodgy capers is it true that Street Sounds' latest act, The World Famous Lobster Rock Crew, are in fact a very famous group with contractual problems...?

Art — this lot should be arrested for breaking the trades

continues over

Private Files

from page 3

description act: A right motley collection of codgers and artists turned up for **Andy Summers'** piccy exhibition this week. They included **Pete Townshend (Who?)**, **David Bailey**, **Norman Parkinson** and **Mick** — ooh, my fingers just get carried away — **Karn**. Mr Summers is a member of the **Police**...

Yee-haw! **Blackhearted Joan** has been jetted into the force (arrest him — pun policeman). Ms Rock 'n' Rawl was making an in store appearance in Nashville when she was swooped on by a very sneaky copper. The Sheriff of Davidson County (for it was he) grabbed Joan and her band and made them official deputies — scrolls, badges 'n' all. Quoth Joan: "Now I can do body searches legally." Hang on, **Simon Hills** has just fainted...

Tedious: When you've heard it you'd wish you were in prison: wacky (zzzz) octogenarian **Ozzzzzzzy Osbourne**, a man well known for playing pranks and singing badly, has been at it again (the pranks I mean). Mr O is on a European tour and in a fit of comic originality dyed one of his roadie's hair bright red when he was asleep. No, we're not laughing either...

Thank God: **David Bowie's Serious Moonlight Tour** officially finished last Friday in Auckland, New Zealand. As the 80,000 crowd called for an encore Bowie let go of two doves and blathered something about 'World Peace'. Ain't he a concerned one, now...

Life begins at 40: **Michael Phillip**, not just content to fling around juggernaut-sized rumours about wedding bells, babies and the winner of next year's 'gum round ya plyms' award, has just signed a solo deal with CBS. This usually means that someone is going to don a woolly jumper, NHS specs and get awfully moody and introspective. Yep, Mr Jagger is about to suffer for his art... but where does that leave poor ole Nicaragua? Just a passing art concept dahling...

... And whilst Michael contemplates life on his Pat



Pic by Ross Hallin

WHAT A handsome foursome, just the sort of people you'd love to invite around to your maiden aunt's in Clapham for a nice cup of tea. Very restrained, ain't they? **Philly Phil**, **Denise** and **Kim** from *Girlschool* and HM's pin-up boy **Phil Lewis** of *Girl* and ex of *Britt Ekland*, our four model young people, are pictured at the annual **Heavy Rock Crochet and Knitwear luncheon**...

Malone, wild axeman and Jack Daniels fiend **Keith Richards** contemplates life on the big screen. Keefy has been asked to play the master of mirth, merriment and merry melodies **Max** — you know what I mean, don't you, missus? — **Miller**, in the film version of **Colin McInnes'** 'Absolute Beginners'. Whether Keef'll be able to stand the glare of the cheeky chappie's zany suits after a night on the bottle is one thing, but he'll certainly make a wackier character than McInnes worshipper **Paul Weller**...

... And talking of Jah (get your kneeling mats out lads), Mr Weller is to make his acting debut next year in a Channel 4 play based around the 'suedehead' theme that informs the **Style Council's** 'Solid Bond' video. Actually I prefer Paul in his role as 'spokesman for a generation' and isn't he a bit young to be returning to his childhood already...?

Soundcheck Success: or frosty chappies blag US tour shock. So effective was the **Icicle Works** soundcheck for the *Tube* last

week that the Liverpoolian indie hit machine **marve-outs** won themselves a support slot on the **Pretenders'** US tour. Yep, lovely **Chrissie Hynde** got an eyeful of the old '1234 let's do 'Roll Over Beethoven' and was so knocked out that she rushed over to the lads and spluttered "I haven't heard you before, but do you wanna support us on our American tour?" Phew, rock 'n' roll, where a dream hides behind every sound monitor...

Art art art: Aren't popsters arty little creatures? Ooooh, creativity and imagination oozing out of their very pores — funny haircuts, funny clothes, funny names, dropping obscure book titles into their songs — and sculpture. Aaaaah sculpture, the transmission of vision to the handy wandies et voila ART. And why has Reid's pen dipped into areas of which he knows nothing? Why, simply to tell you that **Mick Karn** is to open his own art gallery next spring in Kensington Park Road, London. The dextrous bassist says he hopes to make it easier for novices to exhibit their ART. Gonna be showing your own stuff then Mick? Only a joke, folks...

New Years paaarty: whilst most of us will be watching pink elephants crawl up walls, throwing up in pub toilets and kissing passing strangers — **Big Country** will be rockin' the Glasgow Apollo and being satellited over to the USA. Me, I'd rather see the new year in with cuddly **Andy Stewart**...

Flood and thunder: **Paul Young**, he of the **Lee Brilleaux** school of correct mike stand posture, has just had his new London flat flooded out. So until he hires a **Perry Haines** type to blow a bit of hot air on it, I guess it's a case of wherever I lay my hat that's my home...

THE CHARTS

DUE TO threatened industrial action by members of the NGA, this issue of *Record Mirror* went to press before the National Charts were available. These charts will now appear in next week's issue, December 24, which will be on sale one day earlier than usual.

Cover up with a Stones jacket



- 1) Which Australian legend did Mick Jagger play on film? Was it a) Skippy the bush kangaroo b) Don Bradman c) Ned Kelly?
- 2) The Rolling Stones logo is based on a portion of Mick Jagger's anatomy. Is it a) His nose b) His lips c) His naughty bits?
- 3) Who wrote the Stones' first top 20 hit 'I Wanna Be Your Man'? Was it a) Jagger/Richards b) Lennon/McCartney c) Bacharach/David?

Name.....
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WANNA GO 'Undercover Of The Night'? Well, you can look the dapper one in a Rolling Stones leather jacket. Yes, you read right! We've got a made-to-measure pure hide jacket up for grabs.

And that's not all! Five runners-up can cop themselves an official Rolling Stones satin tour jacket. Each winner will get a year's free membership to the official Rolling Stones Fan Club which includes a spectacular colour kit and a bi-monthly magazine.

The next 19 correct entries will also get free membership. That's 25 grand Rolling Stones prizes.

To win, all you have to do is answer three easy questions, indicate your answers, cut out the coupon and send it to: Rolling Stones Competition, RECORD MIRROR, PO Box 16, Harlow, Essex. First 25 correct entries opened on the closing date, Wednesday, December 28, win the swag.

EVELYN *Champagne* KING

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News



Rockit man

HERBIE HANCOCK comes to Britain next year for a short January tour. And he has an 11-minute megamix single released on January 13.

The single is called 'Future Shock' and features the title track, 'Autodrive', 'Rockit', 'Earthbeat', 'Tell Everybody', 'Doin' It', 'I Thought It Was You' and 'You Bet Your Love' all mixed together over 'Autodrive' and 'Rockit'.

'Future Shock' — an old Curtis Mayfield number — is also released as

That's all folks

GENESIS HAVE fixed up a series of shows in February... all at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre. The band have decided to allocate 50 per cent of the tickets to various regions of the country.

They play the venue on February 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. Scotland and the North East get ticket priority for 25, Manchester and Liverpool 26, South Wales and the West 27, London and the home counties 28 and Birmingham and the Midlands 29.

HOW TO BOOK: tickets cost £8.50 and £7.50 and are available from the following places — Bristol Virgin Records, Birmingham Cyclops Sound, Cardiff Spiller's, Edinburgh Usher Hall, Hanley Mike Lloyd Records, Lincoln AW Associates Box Office, Liverpool Royal Court Box Office, Manchester

a normal single.

Live dates start at the London Venue on January 7. Then Bristol Colston Hall 24, Manchester Apollo 25, Nottingham Royal Concert Hall 28 and Birmingham Odeon 29. Hancock will be joined by 'Rockit' scratcher D.ST.



Piccadilly Records, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Virgin Records, Nottingham Way Ahead, Reading Ticket Shop, Stafford Lotus Records and London Keith Prowse and normal agents.

Keith Prowse accept credit card bookings on 01 836 2184. The NEC will accept credit card bookings on 021 780 2016. General box office information is available by calling the NEC on 021 780 2516.



MUSICAL YOUTH bring out a single 'Sixteen' at the beginning of the New Year. The song comes from their 'Different Style' album and is released on January 6. It features Shalamar singer Jody Watley on guest vocals. On the B side is a new song 'Strictly Vibes' which the youngsters produced themselves.

SLF new group

STIFF LITTLE Fingers leader Jake Burns has formed a new group. The band is called the Big Wheel and features ex-Starjets bassist Sean Martin, drummer Steve Grantley and keyboard player Nick Muir.

There are no plans for a record from the Big Wheel, but they are to do a few live dates in the New Year and support the Alarm on their tour.

"We are grateful to the Alarm for giving us a shot at big venues so soon," said Burns this week. "They are friends of mine from way back. SLF tried to give them a break with some support slots a year or so ago and it is great of them to return the favour now that they have made it."

Snake dates

WHITESNAKE HAVE added a whole string of dates to their New Year tour. And the heavy metal group have finally fixed a release date for their new 'Slide It In' album — it comes out on January 30. A single 'Give Me More Time' comes out on January 3.

New live dates are at Dublin Francis Xavier Hall February 17 and 18, Belfast Ulster Hall 20 and 21, Liverpool Royal Court 24, Aberdeen Capitol 28, St Austell Cornwall Coliseum March 6, Cardiff St David's Hall 7, Brighton Centre 8, Newcastle City Hall 10 and 11 and Ipswich Gaumont 13. The St Austell date has been moved from February 23.

● **QUEEN** ARE back in action next month with a new single and album... and they're due to play a world tour later in the year. The group bring out their single 'Radio Ga Ga' on January 9. It comes from their album 'The Works' which comes out later in the month on January 30. They are currently finishing the LP in Munich.

● **MARILLION** have added four extra dates to their tour next year at the Edinburgh Playhouse on February 19, Plymouth Skating Rink 25, Exeter University 27 and London Hammersmith Odeon March 9.



TOYAH HAS fixed up two shows at the London Marquee at the end of the month. She plays the tiny club on December 21 and 22, and each night will be a fancy dress show with a different theme. Tickets for the shows are £5 and are available from the box office.



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Imagination

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Joe Jackson Night And Day
Michael Jackson Off The Wall
Michael Jackson Thriller
Elton John Too Low For Zero
Kajagoogoo White Feathers
Kid Creole & The Coconuts

Tropical Gangsters

Kids From Fame Kids From Fame
Kids From Fame Live In London
Kids From Fame Songs
Level 42 Standing In The Light
Malcolm Maclaren Duck Rock



Madness Complete Madness
Barry Manilow Manilow Magic
Barry Manilow

I Wanna Do It With You

Bob Marley Confrontation
Meatloaf Bat Out Of Hell
Men At Work Business As Usual
Men At Work Cargo
Musical Youth The Youth Of Today
Mike Oldfield Crises
Mike Oldfield Tubular Bells
The Police Synchronicity
"Reflections"

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Cliff Richard Wired For Sound
Cliff Richard Love Songs
Cliff Richard

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THE BEST FOR CHRISTMAS

News



XMAS SUGG-ESTION

MADNESS HAVE fixed up their Christmas party show, as revealed by RECORD MIRROR last week. The lads play the London Lyceum on December 21. It will be their only live date until autumn 1984, when they do a full tour. RECORD MIRROR'S Gary Crowley will be competing the show, and a special guest artist is expected to be announced soon. Tickets cost £5 and they go on sale by personal application only from the Lyceum box office from 12 noon on December 17. The band have just finished working on their new album, which is due out at the end of January. A single comes out just after Christmas.

● DR HOOK come back to Britain next year for what has become almost an annual tour. They play the Birmingham Odeon on March 10, Harrogate Centre 11, Newcastle City Hall 12, Edinburgh Playhouse 13, Aberdeen Capitol 15 and 16, Glasgow Apollo 17, Manchester Apollo 18, Preston Guildhall 19, Brighton Centre 21, Southampton Gaumont 22, St Austell Cornwall Coliseum 23 and 24, Liverpool Empire 26, Sheffield City Hall 27, Nottingham Royal Centre 28, Leicester De Montfort Hall 29, Portsmouth Guildhall 31, Bristol Hippodrome April 1, Oxford Apollo 2, Halifax Civic Theatre 3, London Hammersmith Odeon 5, 6 and 7, Croydon Fairfield Hall 9 and Ipswich Gaumont 10. Tickets for all shows are on sale

now. The group are currently recording an album and single, which will both be out at the same time as the tour.

● THE CRAMPS play Manchester Hacienda on February 15, Birmingham Odeon 18 and London Hammersmith Palais 19 and 20. They were to have played the dates earlier, but are now bringing in a new guitarist.

● YIP YIP Coyote, who are being touted as one of the bands for '84, bring out their first-ever single 'Dream Of The West' in January — although they still have to fix a release date. The group also play three London dates at the Brixton Fringe on December 17, Covent Garden Rock Garden 21 and Kensington Cromwellian 22.

TV + Radio

FRIDAY features 'Whistle Test On The Road' (BBC2, 11.35pm) which records Aztec Camera. 'The Tube' (C4, 5.30pm) has Echo And The Bunnymen in the studio and an interview with Paul McCartney, in which Leslie Ash travels round with the ex-Beatle in a taxi looking at the spots which were landmarks in his career. Killing Joke are the other live band.

SATURDAY'S regular 'Saturday Superstore' (BBC1, 9am) goes completely overboard just before Christmas with the Police, Duran Duran, Slade and Tracey Ullman all featured in the programme. 'My Top 12' (Radio One, 1pm) has Noddy Holder in the chair choosing his best discs. And 'In Concert' (Radio One, 6.30pm) should be a treat, with Elvis Costello providing the show. 'The Saturday Show' (ITV 10.30am) features the exceptionally handsome Flying Pickets live, and Nick Heyward on video.

SUNDAY has 'The Great Rock 'n' Roll Trivia Quiz' (Radio One, 4.30pm) with Steve Luscumbe of Blancmange, Matt Johnson and Alan Barton from Black Lace doing battle



TRACEY: BBC1, Saturday

with Warren Cann, Johnny Marr of the Smiths and Dave Lee Travis.

TUESDAY'S 'Razzmatazz' (ITV, 4.15pm) features the Eurythmics, Blancmange, Eddy Grant, Spandau Ballet, Adam Ant and the Police (gasp!) performing plus interviews with the Belle Stars, Junior and Musical Youth AND other stars might pop in as well.

GARY CROWLEY

HEY EVERYBODY, how've ya been? I'm the Busy Bee and I'm back again this week ranting and raving about some of those precious moments in life — those leisure pleasure hours known to one and all as "spare time."

I ask you, without them where would we all be? No doubt, living in a very depressing grey world, movin' and groovin' in a workmanlike style with optimism and colour completely absent.

I like to think of myself as one of those young blades with maximum enthusiasm — a purveyor of life, complete with an attitude to live life to the hilt and bust loose at every opportunity.

The culmination has to be the weekend, magical days when you can discard all the problems and pressures, and actually "live" a little. One of the first places my gang head for is the local temple of happiness (discotheque), dressing up and getting down and seeking adventures with the opposite sex.

That way of life started for yours truly at the local youth club, dancin' and romancin' to sounds like War's 'Low Rider', cultivating relationships and discovering yourself and the people around you. These are very important days in one's life, where you basically formulate your ideas and attitudes to the big bad world outside.

Always another essential pastime is the cinema, a lot of exploring has gone on in those places for me, many hours of fun, fun, fun with my bottom stuck well and truly to the seat, while my eyes are fixed firmly upon the big silver screen. Moving pictures such as 'Mad Max 2', 'Blade-Runner', 'Raiders Of The Lost Ark', etc. are of the genre I prefer, abounding with flash and excitement, escorting you into another world.

At the same time I can dig movies which on paper are a complete contrast. Something I lived for were the recent showings of those early Sixties black and white classics like 'Saturday Night Sunday Morning', 'A Kind Of Loving', 'Whistle Down The Wind', etc. great films taken from great books that really must be read.

All I hope and pray for is that video and home technology doesn't mean we won't venture from our rabbit warrens, and the cinema stays open for business. Because, as far as I'm concerned, you can't beat the adventure of a night out and the whole idea of it — I'd much rather than sitting at home with everything on a plate.

I love movement and discovery, and when it comes down to it, I absolutely detest boredom, sometimes dreaming of slowly turning into vegetable — you



Gal points Mad in the right direction

STEER STYLE

THIS WEEK our chart has been supplied by pop's Indiana Jones, that old son of a gun/intrepid explorer, Malcolm McLaren, a man with a mission to excite. You may not have heard some of the waxings listed, but try and check them out.

- 1 Indian Love Call, Slim Whitman
- 2 God Save The Queen, The Sex Pistols
- 3 White Christmas, Darlene Love
- 4 Now I Have To Call Him Father, Vesta Victoria
- 5 Arnold Layne, The Pink Floyd
- 6 I'm Not A Know It All, Frankie Lyman
- 7 The Tale Of Marcus Daley, Haywire Mack
- 8 Whole Lotta Love, Led Zeppelin
- 9 Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Gene Vincent
- 10 Instrumental, The Bolivian Indians

know, the sort you see just hanging around, doing nothing and saying nothing.

Anyway, back to inspiration, because I'm just going to climb into my pulpit and skip into my black gown. I'm now, once again, the reverend Gary Crowley (no relation), the high priest of pop. This week, sinners, I'm urging you to invest in a copy of 'Clean Heart', the five track 12 inch by the Inspirational Choir Of The Pentecostal First Born Church Of The Living God (rolls off the tongue does that!). I see every dude in town is tipping gospel as the in thing for '84. Well, just forget about that and get a load of this. It's stuck to my turntable at home, sending shivers down my spine. It's a mighty record. Waste no time in connecting. Until the next time, stay right and bright...

Hi there, pop Picketers

THE FLYING Pickets must be the most unlikely chart toppers we've seen this year. Their version of Yazoo's 'Only You' has shot to the number one slot quicker than a miner's pub crawl.

The Flying Pickets are six not so young men who have all the dress sense of Patrick Moore, but know how to sing a good tune. Well they have to really — they don't use any instruments.

"Please don't say we're an acappella group," pleads Rick Lloyd when I catch up with them somewhere on the Welsh coast. "Acappella is a terrible word and everyone says that's what we are. I prefer to think of us as being a vocal rock group." Rock is an apt word for the Flying Pickets, their live-set ranging from The Rolling Stones' 'Get Offa My Cloud' to Bob Marley's 'Buffalo Soldier'.

The Flying Pickets met up when they were all acting in a play about miners called 'One Big Blow' three years ago. The play toured Britain and to keep themselves amused on those long bumpy trips up and down the motorway, the chaps began singing in the back of the van, having no room to play any instruments.

When the dole queue seemed the inevitable conclusion to their



THE FLYING PICKETS: are these the bright new faces of pop '84?

theatrical career, they decided to take the plunge and become a full time musical group. So it was back to the van and off around the nation's clubs and colleges. Doesn't it get a bit tense in the van at times?

"No not really," says Rick. "We do have the odd barney obviously, but because there's six of us, we tend to co-exist

whereas if there was only three of us we'd probably get on each other's nerves. After three years together we've got used to each other's funny ways."

Rick seems very cool about The Flying Pickets' massive leap from number 50 to number 1 in only two weeks, almost unprecedented for a group's first single.

I suppose people just like the record," he says, totally unmoved.

THE RECORD itself is a very accomplished piece of 'vocal rock' but surely there's some studio trickery in there somewhere, I suggest?

"Well, we did vary the speed of our voices a little for the higher vocals but it's all our own voices, no real trickery," he assures me.

The name of the band, and their history of political drama would suggest that Rick, Gareth, Ken, Brian, David and the wonderfully named 'Red Stripe' are rather subversive pop stars. Aren't they afraid that the heady world of pop music may corrupt them?

"Not at all," says Rick. "Things like that don't bother us. We haven't come across any awkward moral dilemmas as yet. We just take things as they come." The Flying Pickets have recently finished a tour of Britain and are now recording various television appearances for the Xmas period, as well as starting work on their new album to be released early next year.

The first thing on Rick's list at the moment though, is Xmas. "We're all going off to various parts of the country for Christmas," he says. "I'm going to stay with my mother like you should at this time of year."

ANDY STRIKE

S H A R O N



NEW ALBUM & CASSETTE

Love How You Feel



GRAND

MASTER

WHITE LINES FEVER

THE BRONX, drugs, clubs and New York night life. Melle Mel knows all about these things, and turns his experiences into the blistering rhymes you hear on 'White Lines (Don't Don't Do It)' — a protest against cocaine and its use.

Bronx-raised Mel's name is credited along with Grandmaster Flash, but he has been one of the Furious Five since the group's inception back in 1976 — that's right, '76. And contrary to popular belief, Flash has never done a rap himself. He is the ace mixer, the man behind the discs while the Furious Five rap their thang.

Melle's loafing around the famous Sugarhill Records company (everybody loafs around Sugarhill from time to time) playing about in the studio. He struts out wearing a leather jock strap over his trousers and studded black gloves, gives a broad grin and a handshake, and is all ready to give an insight into the world of rapping, and the streetlife that goes with it.

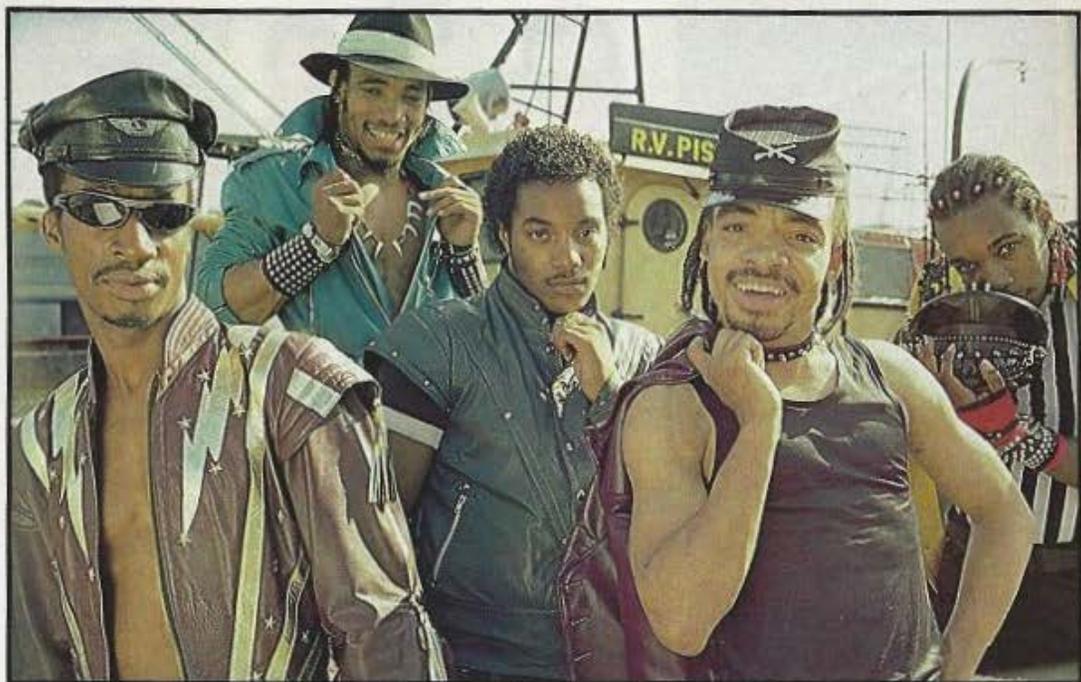
The starting point is his own rap number 'White Lines', which came from the 'Cavern' number by Liquid Liquid. "I don't really understand what the original was about," he admits. "It was the music that really inspired me, and that more or less gave me the urge to write it. It certainly wasn't to write the song better. Although I didn't really understand what the song was really about, it had a good vibe to it — it sounds in tune to what we're saying. We've given a new personality to the record."

"I wanted to talk about cocaine and its adverse effects, and the society that goes with it."

"Even for the average person, the problem is there, even if it isn't there for everybody to see, the cocaine industry is a colossal business. When you're in the music business and have been brought up in the ghetto then you're pretty familiar with it. On TV you learn of football players being suspended for getting high, you know that any sort of actor will get high, and people see the drug as being good."

"Some musicians think that if you get high, you get an artistic flow. I get my best stuff when I'm sober. It's one thing to go and get high for the sake of it, but it's another thing to get high in order to get higher, that's why we felt that it's important to have the record out there."

MELLE IS no angel or moral guardian. From his apartment in the East Village — still pretty rough, but nothing up to the Bronx — he



shoots around the Big Apple going to as many clubs as he can fit in.

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five pride themselves on the amount of times they go out and seek the nightlife, go to all the clubs, talk to people and check out what's happening on the dancefloors so they can choose records for their own music. Records to be bastardised, rapped over, mixed and scratched.

"Flash was one of the originals," says Melle. "We all went to various parties together, and Flash got well known playing those parties. Gradually we made up the Furious Five through knowing each other. We all came from different parts of the Bronx."

"A lot of people will be in danger there — mainly if you don't know nobody."

"To me, the area's not all that it's cracked up to be. If you look vulnerable, that would certainly leave you open for trouble. What you have to do is not look vulnerable and never leave yourself in a vulnerable position. It's like a shark won't run up on a dolphin unless it's crippled."

"I guess it's a good place to be brought up because you learn a certain way of life. If you come up against something in society then you've got to have an edge over someone else — you always have an edge if you come from a poor area."

"A lot of your time is spent hanging around corners thinking about things — especially how to get rich!"

"The East Village has the same sort of atmosphere as the Bronx,

it's just that it has different classes of people. There are a lot of white people around there. I suppose it goes to show that wherever you are, you're either rich, or you're poor."

"I'm not exactly either — so I guess I have my days for being both."

INSIDE the Sugarhill record company there are rappers, mixers, singers, musicians and engineers all working to make the hot sounds that end up on dance floors from Harlem to Huddersfield.

It's a unique company where everything happens behind one set of doors — from the artist getting signed, to getting his record cut, mixed and promoted. It works like the old Tamla Motown label, where there was a house band, house singers and house recording engineers. And instead of Berry Gordy as the guiding figure, here is Sylvia Robinson who runs the whole affair with her husband and kids.

And gradually the rappers and the mixers and the electro-funkers have drifted through its doors to make the label one of the few independents in the States — and even the world — to make any impression on the business.

But it's rapping that Sugarhill and Melle Mel are all about. And with seven years perfecting the art, Melle's technique illustrates that shouting words down a microphone is not quite as simple as you might think.

"What I basically do is listen to

the music then work the words round it," explains Melle. "I have words in my head all the time, but I try to do my lines at the last minute — it comes together better that way, when you know you've only got a certain amount of time to do it in."

"Otherwise you try and write something, then stop and come back to it so you miss the point and have to start up again."

"Anybody can rap, but it takes a certain amount extra to make it, to really get there. I'm into writing rhymes, but using the right words to make it more powerful. It's got past the point of just rapping, the art now is getting what you say to be more powerful."

"Certain words can work on the mind in a certain way, so rapping is quite psychological. People hear, but they don't always listen, so you have to work the words in a certain way."

"If you use a certain poem or rhyme that someone is used to hearing rather than something that's completely new then that person will listen because it's been heard before and you already have people's minds working. Nursery rhymes can work because they're ingrained in people's consciousness, so they pick up on it, and then they'll go on to listen."

"That's why we hang around in discos as well, so we can see what's turning people on. A lot of the time all of us just hang around — just standing around, smiling, man!"

"It's what called social politics. We go to a lot of clubs to get a certain vibe, you've got to be in

MINDS

by SIMON HILLS in New York

on what's going on, you've got to get ideas. You have to be around, shaking hands, go to all the clubs and meet everybody. Usually I'm pretty quiet though, I spend all my time rapping during the day, I ain't gonna do it all night as well!

"You get rapping from all over. The only reason why New York rapping will probably be the most powerful is because New York people have the history. All the big rappers will have been here from the beginning, although there might be one or two guys who are talented enough to come up with a good sound and image."

The Grandmaster Flash And The Furious Five image has been a very political one. They stormed into the British and American charts with 'The Message', and their next biggest hit has been Melle Mel's own 'White Lines'.

But Melle doesn't come across as a politico. He swaggers in from the studio with a brash confidence, and his comments are punctuated by wry grins and little bits of New York cockiness. But just by the nature of his background and the people he mixes with around the Big Apple, a Melle rap couldn't just be about meaningless words which happen to sound good.

"We are a political group in as far as we would say that we do exist to make a point when we try to make records," says Mel. "People label us as that because of the type of material we come up with and the kind of lifestyle we live."

"As far as politics go, it is partly overt, although we try to maintain a mainstream. With politics you're often limited to being on one side or another, and we don't want to put ourselves in the position where we are standing up on anybody's side — our numbers are about our points of view and our ideals."

THE PROBLEM now for the group is where they go. So far, Grandmaster Flash and Co have managed to make their renditions powerful enough to carry them forward, especially with the current sympathetic pop climate. But can Melle keep coming up with material that will keep the public interested, and will his art of rapping survive?

"I would see rapping move into the mainstream of modern music," he says. "A lot is still only in the clubs; it's very hard to get radio play. As far as it's gone so far a lot of artists are starting to use it in their music, but for it to go on they have to respect rapping."

"If it is going to be used in songs, then the artists have to respect it first before they can do

anything. If they don't, then it will only be the rappers who will get the achievement."

"As far as showbusiness itself goes, you get certain vibes from certain things, and that's what we'll be doing, and learning as we go. We probably will go on to try and write songs."

"When I'm on my own I actually sing, but not on record. So far I haven't been able to make people believe that I can sing — even though I know I can do it, especially as the record business isn't about being the greatest singer, anyway!"

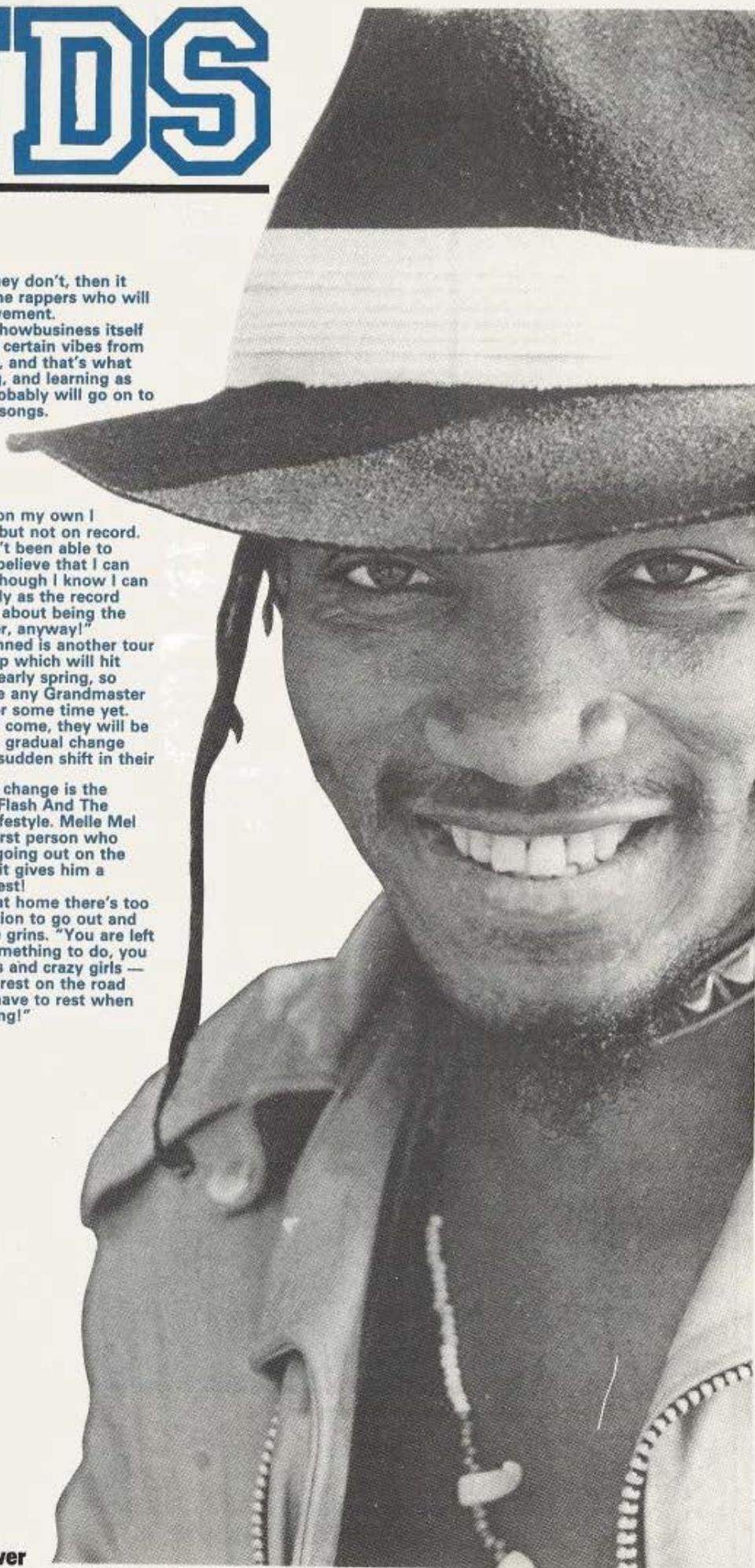
What is planned is another tour from the group which will hit Britain in the early spring, so there won't be any Grandmaster Flash toons for some time yet. When they do come, they will be the result of a gradual change rather than a sudden shift in their craft.

What won't change is the Grandmaster Flash And The Furious Five lifestyle. Melle Mel must be the first person who says he likes going out on the road because it gives him a chance for a rest!

"When I'm at home there's too much temptation to go out and do things," he grins. "You are left looking for something to do, you look for discos and crazy girls — you get more rest on the road because you have to rest when you're travelling!"

continues over

MELLE MEL: singing in private only



from page 11

A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS

JOEY ROBINSON picks up a phone and shouts a few instructions. He asks not to be interrupted again. Two seconds later, the phone rings and he answers a query.

He sighs and settles back to talk, but is interrupted within another few seconds by someone wanting some cash. Out of his pocket comes a roll of dollar bills that are about the same size as your average half pint mug, and takes out 150 dollars that make no impression on reducing the fistful of dollars' size.

Joey Robinson is the son of Sylvia, head of Sugarhill Records, and the man behind the West Street Mob — the group who hit the charts recently with their hip hop anthem 'Break Dancin' (Electric Boogaloo)'.

"I do find it a strain sometimes," he says. "Yesterday I went into the shower for an hour and a half. The water came half way up my legs by the end. But it's the only place where there are no phones ringing."

Joey is a company stalwart. He discusses contracts and money with his old man, who takes up a huge office on the ground floor of the huge house in the leafy suburb of Englewood, New Jersey, where Sugarhill has made its home.

"In any record company you have a string of hits and then you

have a quiet time for a few months," he says. "We've always managed to survive, although it's been ups and downs. Overall, though, it's been fantastic."

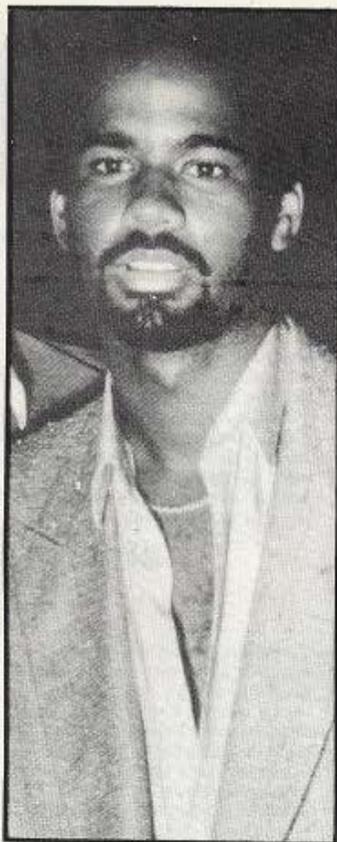
"I really do find it a strain, though. I can't even go to discos and stuff now. I don't have the time. From Saturday right through to Sunday I go to my room and just sleep for two whole days — for the last three months I've done that."

"There is so much to do. There are always good artists coming through, the only problem is getting to hear everybody. I don't like turning down a tape because you don't know what is on there. In the end you physically don't have time to do it, and then you have to get people to bring you the best of the music. It is impossible to keep going out."

JOEY'S OTHER main problem is fitting in his West Street Mob work with the business activities.

With everything going on in-house at the wooden house that is Sugarhill Records, there is no escaping from anyone wanting to speak to you, ask you about schedules or get you in to hear a new mix of some sort.

"I used to go to clubs and discos in New York to see what's going on, even though I was born and raised in New Jersey," says Joey. "We saw the break dancing and stuff, but we wanted to do something that everybody could dance to. Now we've really changed our style and we really went for everything that's going on and crammed it onto one record."



JOEY ROBINSON

"We play live as well, although that's difficult, too. I did four shows in New Orleans over a weekend and flew back to work

on the Monday. On Tuesday I flew out to do a concert in North Carolina, and flew from there to do a show in Baltimore, then back in the office by the end of the week.

"I love playing live. I always get nervous before I go on stage, my hands go cold and I start sweating. When I get on, though, I always forget."

"That guy on the phone there was trying to book us for two shows in Mexico. I really hope it comes off, man. I won't ask for no money other than expenses — although I'm not telling him that. I'm acting really cool, but really I want to go and rest up there more than anything else!"

Even though he works in such a tight-knit organisation, Joey isn't biased about the black music scene which is so influential at the moment.

"Music at the moment is quite different to before," he says. "It doesn't matter who you are or what you are, as long as you make a record you can move to or dance to."

"When McLaren came back with 'Buffalo Girls', I liked the record a lot, and he gave me a lot of inspiration. I like him and I like the record. He takes things that are creative and works it creatively. It's got humour and it's a really original sound."

Now Joey Robinson is going back into the studio to work on his own "concept" called 'Mosquito' which should be out in the New Year, when he also starts putting his new album 'West Street Mob 2' together ... as long as he can get out of the office, that is.

MEN WITHOUT HATS



OUT NOW... NEW SINGLE
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Singles



Reviewed by PETER STRINGFELLOW

Owner of London's Hippodrome
and Stringfellow's nightdubs

ANDY SCOTT 'Krugerrands' (Statik) He used to be in Sweet and this is exactly where they left off. It's a Sweet record and I think it's a hit. A good clever pop record that will be played a lot on the radio. I enjoyed it. I'm not too sure about the words, I hope it's not racist in any way, I don't think so.

AL JARREAU 'Love Is Waiting' (WEA) A very pleasant record. I'd like to listen to it when I feel very pleasant, about three in the morning. Nice record — pleasant.

THE WEATHER GIRLS 'Dear Santa' (CBS) Pity the word Christmas comes into it because I don't like that. I like the sound. It's well produced but I just hate the words Santa and Christmas, they're twee. Fabulous record, re-release it and take those words out.

JETS 'Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree' (PRT) Unless I'm wrong, this is an old Brenda Lee song in which case they should re-release the original because it's much better. Nostalgia wise, I feel good listening to it. Shame about the Christmas side of it, not that I'm a scooge or anything but I can't handle Christmas this early. Christmas Eve at Stringfellow's we have a ball, till then, I don't want to know.



IRENE CARA 'Why Me' (Epic) It's obviously going to be a big hit but it does nothing for me. I like records to excite me and to get me sexually moving in some way. It's not aimed for a 43-year-old club owner anyway, it's meant for nine-year-olds who are into 'Flashdance'.

Pic by Steve Pyke



TEST DEPT 'Compulsion' (Some Bizzare) Very, very funny. I like it. There's something different about it, they're trying something new. I'd like to have been in on producing this because I bet they had great fun hitting all those things. It's not going to be a hit but I'd buy an LP of this. My DJ hates it but I'd like to hear more of it, it's fun.

KURTIS BLOW 'Christmas Rappin'' (Mercury) Sounds like every other rap record I've ever heard and we've got guys at our club who can rap better. It's not anything special but my DJ says we'd play it. For me, I'd like to hear something a bit more special, it's just dance fodder.

ROBERT SLEIGH 'First Snow' (Stiff) I hate snow. I feel cold already so they're on a loser with me. I'd rather see the sun, I can't believe someone would actually release this. With a name like Robert Sleigh, it should be a giggle but it all sounds rather serious. Obviously someone having a laugh.

MEN WITHOUT HATS 'I Got The Message' (Statik) A good

pop record, but it doesn't excite me. A few years ago it would have been treated just as a flippant pop song but these days people take it all more seriously. 'Safety Dance' didn't do anything for me either, so this will probably be a big hit.

JANIE JONES AND THE LASH 'House Of The Ju Ju Queen' (Big Beat) It's Boys Town Shirley Bassey, isn't it? I expect this will be a top 10 Hi-NRG hit. I don't know what The Clash are doing on it though, just a nice gimmick for a bit of fun. The cover's a bit tacky: I like my sex serious, not with a giggle attached to it.

BOB DYLAN 'Jokerman' (CBS) I've never been a Bob Dylan fan. I never understand what he's

saying but I always feel he's preaching at me. I like to listen to the music and his words tend to get in the way. If I was listening to Radio One and this came on, I'd be pressing the button and looking for Capital. It says it's specially aimed for radio on the label but it's definitely not aimed for Peter Stringfellow.

GLORIA GAYNOR 'I Am What I Am' (Chrysalis) The music's brilliant but the words are a bit obvious and showbizzy. They nearly ruin the record. I like it, a bit too much 'A Star Is Born' sort of thing, but we'll go with it — a hit. I'd prefer it sung by a gay guy though because it's obviously a Boys Town record.

KABBALA 'Yen Nbo Ose' (Red Flame) A good fun disco record — party time — nothing exceptional though. Every so often a great African record comes along like 'Burundi Black', but there's probably another 50 around like this one. I doubt it will be a big radio hit because it goes on a bit, but I'd play it in my club mixed with something else.

HEAVY PETTIN' 'Rock Me' (Polydor) I think heavy metal records sometimes suffer because the music's so visual. This one's very good though and I'd like to hear it on the radio. I like heavy metal as long as the band's not too much of a cliché. I'm a great Saxon fan surprisingly, so I like this.

Y&T 'Midnight In Tokyo' (A&M) Interesting this, but not special. I'd have liked it to crack on a bit though they obviously know what they're doing. If it's supposed to be high energy heavy metal then it needs more energy.

SUPER MAZEMBE ORCHESTRA 'Shauri Yako' (Rough Trade) It's an ethnic record too specialised for the national charts. If you found yourself in some dark cellar at six in the morning in Soho with a jug of rum, this would be brilliant. I'd have to be quite smashed to get into it. Very nice though.

TEMPEST 'Montezuma' (Anagram) I've heard all this before in other guises. They're a new band which may click visually. On record it's all very well done, but I don't go for it.

JUDGE DREAD 'Not Guilty' (Kingdom) I hoped it would be better than this, it's out of time and twee. He should be much more outrageous if he aims to make a comeback. It's just old-fashioned.

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- LET’S STAY TOGETHER, Tina Turner

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SUSPENDED ANIMATION

SLADE 'The Amazing Kamikaze Syndrome' (RCA PL 70116)
 EAR PLUGS out, grab a can of Norseman and heerrr we go.

This album is Slade's ultimate celebration, now that they've won through the bad times and apathy to be chart contenders all over again.

Love them, hate them, or just feel plain indifference towards them, you at least have to admire Slade's diehard spirit and ability to stay the course.

Most of this album isn't exactly going to make you think deeply or alter the course of world history. It's no nonsense stuff to leave you with a throb in your pinkies and a wide smile.

Anyway, off we go with 'Slam The Hammer Down', a meaty great splodge of gut gurgling notes and Holder's voice freshly rubbed down with 00 gauge wire wool. My favourite track though is the stately pulse of 'Run Runaway', another single if ever I heard one. Some of it even sounds like Big Country. The mind boggles.

Next up comes the snorting 'High 'N' Dry' giving way to the trembling 'My Oh My', the best thing they've done for years.

Side two becomes somewhat more serious with 'Ready To Explode'. A real mega track this, about race track drivers and ferocious material at its best, I do assure you. Just time to mention 'And Now The Waltz (C'est La Vie)', 'Cheap 'N' Nasty Luv' and 'Razzle Dazzle Man'. Breathtaking entertainment guaranteed. +++++

Robin Smith

Happy new year

THE CURE 'Japanese Whispers: The Cure Singles Nov 82, Nov 83' (Fiction FIXM 8)

PLAYFUL. PICTURE a kitten scratching and crawling its way through a ball of wool, licking its lips at the very wickedness of it all. That's the attitude that informs most of this album.

Though the Cure deal in the dark secret corners of 'A' Level rock (prerequisites: an appreciation of existentialism, a pale complexion and a miserable childhood) they have always carried this burden with a jaunty, carefree attitude. Lacking the intensity of Joy Division or the pomposity of the Banshees, the Cure are an altogether lighter delicacy. Pop from a shadow.

And so, the Cure will never bring you to tears or lead you upstairs to a lonely bedroom — but they can be a lot of fun. Robert Smith is not going to give you it straight from the heart, but he has got a pretty fine line in grammar school humour. He comes from Crawley and things are never serious out there in the new town home counties.

So, 'Let's Go To Bed' is lovely, taut disciplined pop. 'The Walk' echoes the glorious early

Spandau Eurobeat. 'Speak My Language' is a lazy walk through percussive tibbits and 'Lovecats' is, well, wacky.

Some of the rest is Rob being introspective and is not much fun. Not crucial music — though some of the dyed hairs could do well to remember that music doesn't always have to be sooo serious — but, y'know, entertaining. +++++

Jim Reid

EARTH WIND & FIRE 'Electric Universe' (CBS 25775)

PERHAPS. THE soul superstars ought to start limiting themselves to something a bit less mighty than the Universe.

Amorphous would be a better way of describing this collection of slick but ultimately mediocre numbers which are only rescued by some superb Maurice White vocal arrangements — witness 'We're Living In Our Time' and 'Sweet Sassy Lady'.

From the rollicking over-fast 'Magnetic' — if any song was blanded out to appeal to the whole world, but stand out for nobody, then here it is — to 'Electric Nation' that finishes the affair out, there really isn't a number that stands out among them. Maurice White has simply overstepped the mark by trying to win over the universe. +++

Simon Hill

DAVID ESSEX 'The Whisper' (Mercury MERH 34)

SLOP. THERE was a time, way

back in the early Seventies, when Mr Essex graced TOTP with an idiosyncratic charm so rare in those charmless days of long hair and loon pants. He also made bloody fine singles, nice offbeat pop tunes with an imagery you could take in front of your bedroom mirror.

But as David got older he spread his talents too thin. He went real mainstream matinee idol. This album only extenuates that direction, being the classic work of a mid-thirties pop idol — ie, it's a watered down version of various contemporary pop trends, with no identity or character to call its own. Thus we get raunchy David, Sting — like David and so on.

Give it up David, and get back to acting. +

Jim Reid

POINTER SISTERS 'Break Out' (Planet FL 84705)

AT THEIR blistering best, the Pointer Sisters are one of the most dynamic vocal trios ever. At their most mediocre, their vast vocal talents are worth absolutely zero.

Their mad decision to go for the AOR has meant that a good record has not come from the girls since the steamy 'Slowhand' — and this album doesn't look like it's going to change things. A vast talent, crying out for good material. ++

Simon Hills



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Chartfile

PAUL YOUNG'S 'No Parlez' album returned to the top of the LP charts last week, ousting Duran Duran's single week topper, 'Seven And The Ragged Tiger'. 'No Parlez' was been buoyed by Young's streak of three consecutive top five singles, and a timely and succinct TV campaign. The LP has now sold upwards of 500,000 copies in the UK, and has three times risen to the top of the album chart, as did Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' earlier this year. Aside from these two, no album has turned this trick since 1975, when 'The Best Of The Stylistics' did so.

Both Young and Jackson's albums are showing remarkable stamina, and pose a real threat to any potential number ones, but neither can hope to rival 'The Sound Of Music', which first moved to the top in 1965, and recaptured the throne on a further 10 occasions by early 1968. On all but its last visit to the summit, 'The Sound Of Music' replaced the album which had topped it, never allowing a third party to intervene.

Civilisation may crumble, Wolves may be relegated, and snow may fall — but there'll always be 'Blue Monday' — or at least there always was 'Blue Monday' until last week, when it quietly slipped out of the chart after a nine month tour of duty. Whilst it was with us, 'Blue Monday' established several new precedents and defied conventions. In tribute to its passing, here's a summary of its finest achievements:

- With total sales of nearly 600,000, 'Blue Monday' has sold three times as many copies as any previous 12 inch release.
- In riding the UK singles chart for 38 weeks, 'Blue Monday' established a chart longevity record for a 12 inch only release.
- The same 38 week chart



MARSHA & CO: enough to drive a man Raven mad

residency was the longest by any record, 12 inch or seven inch, since Boney M's 'Rivers Of Babylon/Brown Girl In The Ring' enjoyed a 40 week tenure in 1978.

● 'Blue Monday' took 30 weeks to reach the top 10 after making its chart debut, and reached its peak position (number nine) after 31 weeks — both all-time highs.

● Whilst an even dozen singles have accumulated more weeks on chart than 'Blue Monday', only six of them have done so at a single stretch.

One year ago the official German chart, compiled by Musicmarkt, was brimming over with indigenous talent, as the perennial purveyors of 'schlager' — a peculiarly insipid brand of Euro-based muzak, extremely jolly and by comparison to which James Last sounds innovative and exciting — and the rising New German Wave bands battled it out for chart supremacy. This year, however, everything fell apart for the Germans, as their

charts have been dominated by the usual mixture of British and American acts with local content down to 10 per cent at times. But in America, German bands have been better received than ever before, charting in record numbers. Out of Hamburg came Peter Carey who landed two Hot One Hundred hits as a soloist, and fronted Planet P, who also struck lucky stateside with 'Why Me'. Since then, several German bands have toured the states and Peter Schilling's superb 'Major Tom (Coming Home)' has charted strongly.

The most exciting breakthrough of the year is that of a young lady called Nena. Unlike her countrymen, Nena declined to re-record her German number one, '99 Luftballons', in English. Nevertheless, it has enjoyed steadily growing popularity since being released in America over three months ago. Last week it debuted on the Billboard Hot One Hundred, becoming only the third entirely German-language single to do so, following the example set by Kraftwerk's 'Autobahn' and 'Sie Liebt Dich', by the Beatles. Curiously, the only German language record to top 200,000 sales in America never charted. It's the Austrian Falco's 'Der Kommissar', which maintained the edge in nightclubs even when After The Fire's anglicized cover was in the top 10. Falco certainly opened more than a few ears to German rock in America, and helped lay the foundation for Nena's hit, which also broke via the club circuit initially.

THIS YEAR'S Blonde, Enigma, Mojo and the Jingle Belles are all figments of the fertile imagination of Shakatak mastermind Nigel Wright. All have charted with medleys which accurately mimic a particular artist or type of music. This Year's Blonde hit with a Blondie medley. Enigma with a montage of disco songs, Mojo with an instrumental carbon-copy of the Shadows.

Now the Jingle Belles have a hit

with 'Christmas Spectre', which both doffs its hat to, and promoted sales of, the genuine article; Phil Spector's Christmas Album. Using top session musicians and the heavily disguised Marsha Raven and the Ravettes, Wright has come pretty close to imitating Spector's legendary 'Wall Of Sound'. Marsha Raven acquires herself particularly well in a rare departure from the Hi-Energy music for which she is known, and as 'Christmas Spectre' reaches a climax, with the Ravettes insisting that 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town', Marsha rips into 'White Christmas'.

Enough in itself to capture your humble correspondent, but as the single fades Marsha opens her lungs and belts out 'Town', holding the final note for 21 seconds. It may not match the unwavering and unending notes which opera singers delight in singing, but in the wacky untrained world of the pop singer it is something special. More, it's a record, pushing the 18-second note sustained by Bill Withers on his 1978 hit, 'Lovely Day'. Even as the Jingle Bells' single climbs the chart, Wright is in the studio putting together another medley, this one of George Benson songs. It will be released in January under the name of Mirage.

Like everyone else, I've listened to the Flying Pickets' 'Only You' and categorised it as an acappella hit. I still do, though with reservations. Early on, they do allow the intrusion of a double synthesised drumbeat, and a close listen to the latter stages of the song reveals that some of the vocal effects are achieved by unnatural means — namely, a Fairlight Synthesiser. It's the same synthesiser used by Freeez on 'YOU' and costs £12,000. The Flying Pickets use their expensive toy with some restraint, and though their version of 'Only You' is, strictly speaking, not acappella in execution, it is in spirit.

Alan Jones

Did you know? Did you know?

THE SONG most frequently sung on Earth is 'Happy Birthday To You'. It's therefore fitting that it was the first song ever sung in space, at least by humans. Its out-of-this-world premiere took place in 1969 when it was performed by astronauts of America's Apollo mission to the moon... Sandie Shaw is currently recording with the Smiths... Hal David's classic lyric 'A House Is Not A Home' was written in 1951, with music by Leon Carr. Thirteen years later, Burt Bacharach set the words to a fresh melody, which received widespread acclaim when recorded by Dionne Warwick. David, who always considered it one of his finest lyrics, was overjoyed... Sting's solo hit, 'Spread A Little Happiness', was written in 1929... The US singles chart has contained at least one British resident continuously since January 18, 1964. The British chart has always contained American records... Marilyn, Cliff Richard, Thereze Bazar, Thomas Dolby, Freddie Mercury and Engelbert Humperdinck are all considered British — but not one of them was born in this country... Rod Stewart and Kinks leader Ray Davies were in the same school football team in 1960... Finally, with the festive season upon us, I'd like very much to tell you about Dionne Warwick's favourite party trick, which involves the consumption of copious quantities of beans or rhubarb, a suitable interval, and a lighted match. Unfortunately, we're fresh out of space...

Product Patrol

—Singles—

AIRBORNE BURN IN HELL/tba Clubland SJP 844
ANIMAL HYSTERIA JINGLE BELLS/Do Your Own Thing Look LKSP 6789
BAGHDAD FIVE LOVIN' AFFECTION/tba Risky RR 2511
BARB I WANT MY MONEY BACK/Sugar Cane Magnet BARB 1; 12 BARB 1 12" inc extra tracks I Want My Money Back (Special Extended Sterling Mix)/Private Version
BARNBRACK MICKEY MARLEY'S ROUNDABOUT/Galway Sahe/Slievenamon/Love Is Teasin' Homespun HS 075
BARNES, J J SWEET SHERRY short version/long version Inferno Soul Club BURN 3
BASKING SHARKS DIAMOND AGE/New Industry Fin FIN 01
BOOTHE, Ken SHOW AND TELL/SLY & ROBBIE: Rain From The Skies Taxi IPR 2067
BOWIE, David CAT 1 Paul's Theme (Jogging Chase) MCA MCAT 770 12" Pic Bag
BRADY, Sean & Chorus THE TADISHEACHS HOOLEY/Molly Malone Crubeen CRU 001
BROWN, Dennis YOU ARE(Dub) Tad's TRD 111383 12" Only
BURNETTE, T-Bone BABY FALL DOWN/Art Movies Demon D1021 Pic Bag
BURREL, Roland BLOODSHOT EYES/Shot (Dub) Music Hawk MHD 09 12" Only
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CHIN, Leonard GROOVIN'/PT2 Cassia Music CAS 002
CLARK, Louis/The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra HOOKED ON CHRISTMAS/tba K-tel HOC 007 Pic Bag
COLE, Jordan LET'S MAKE THIS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS/Under the Mistletoe De-Luxe DEL 1
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FAITH, George TO LOVE SOMEBODY/Lonesome

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FRIEDMAN, Dean THE LAKELANDS/Duo Peach River BBPR 10
G FOR GIRAFFE SCIENTIFIC/Guilty Ami Disque CV 004
GALE, Erica I AIN'T GONNA LOSE MY HEAD/(Inst) Cassia Music CAS 001
GAYNOR, Gloria I AM WHAT I AM/More Than Enough Chrysalis CHS 2765 Pic Bag; 12CHS 2765 12" Pic Bag
GRIFFIN, Billy SERIOUS/Hit Me With The Beat CBS A4053
HALE, Barry A CHRISTMAS STORY/Tell Me Where Scarecrow BH 105
HAWKWIND A ZOO/HURRY ON SUNDOWN/Kings Of Speed/Sweet Mistress Of Paris Flickknife FLEP 100 12"
HIGH, Judy PUSH (JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER)/When You're With The One That You Want Spirit FIRE 2 Pic Bag; FIRE 2 12" Pic Bag
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HURRAH! THE SUN SHINES HERE/'ll Be Your Surprise Kitchenware SK2
I'M DEAD SECOND IDENTITY/The Sentence Gold Hanger GLUM 004 Pic Bag
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KELLY, Frank CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN/Yuletide Moonshine Ritz RITZ 062
KIRTON, Lew JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH/Don't Give Up On Your Dream Epic A4066; TA 4066 12" inc extra track Here's My Love (Come And Get It)
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PUBLIC, Joe WHAT I WANT/Why Did You Make Me Care Knocked Back KB 123
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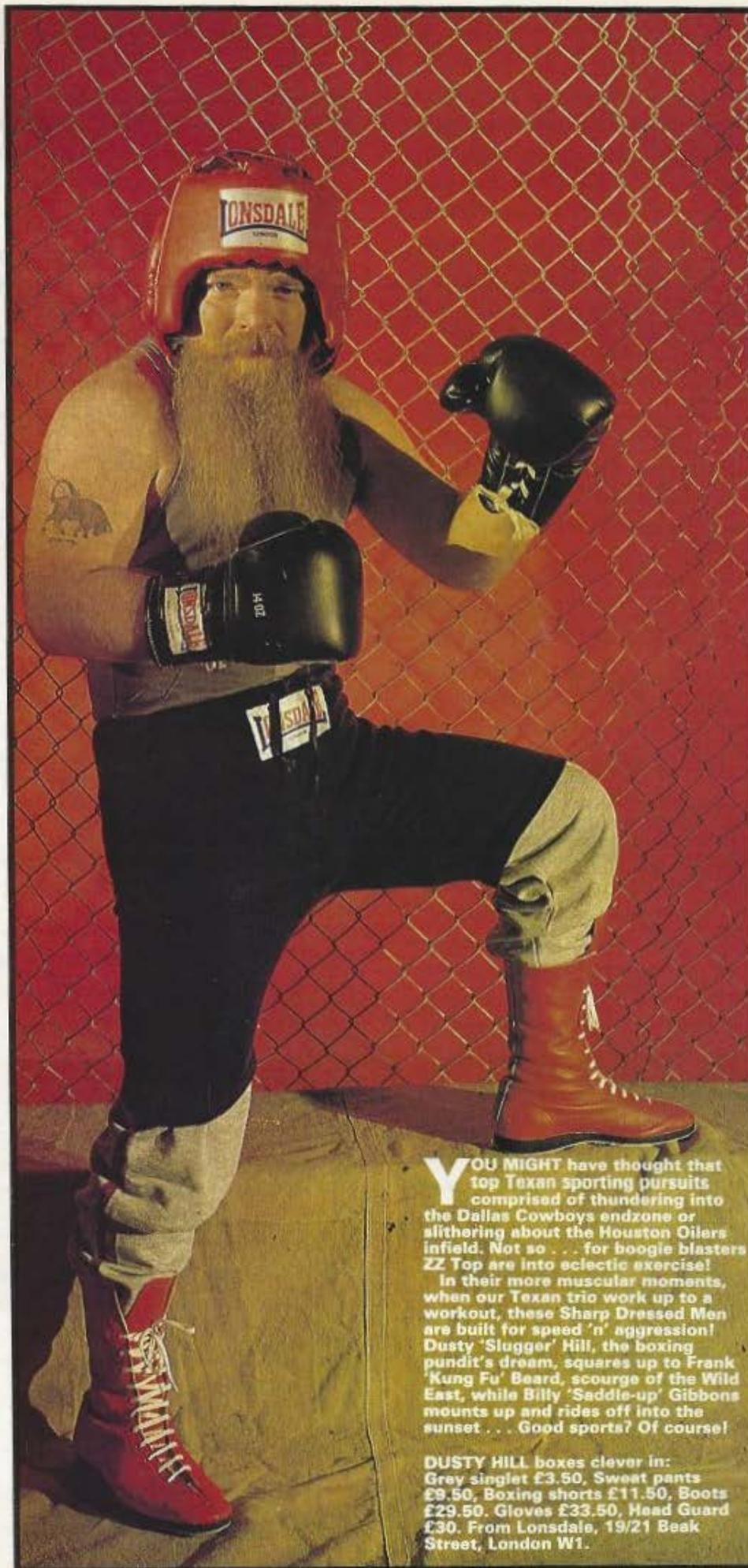
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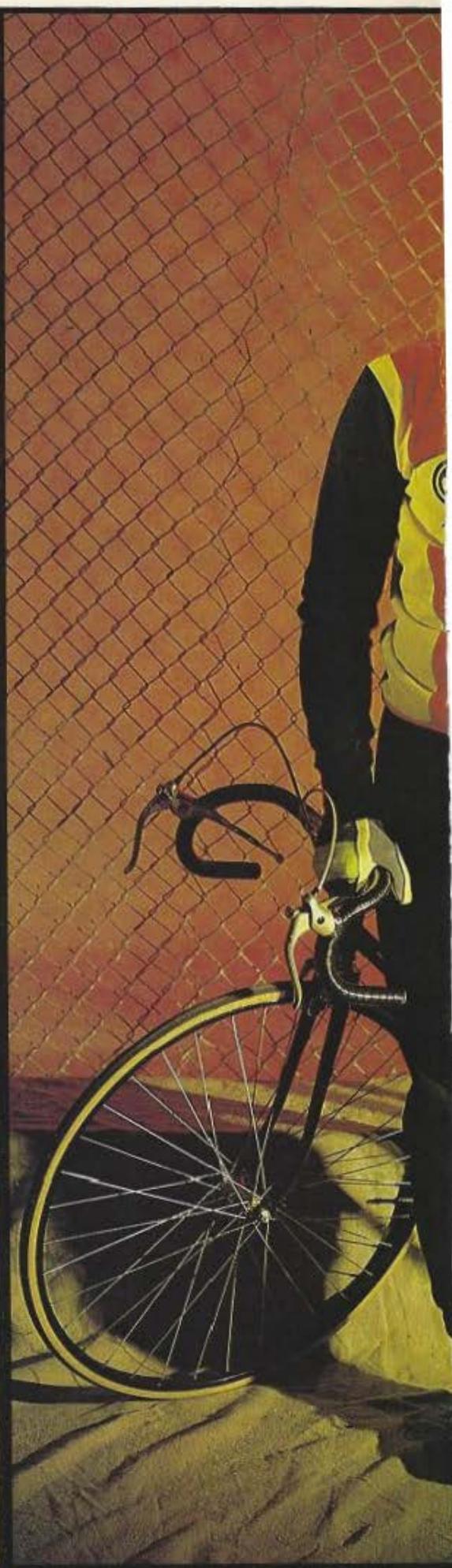
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 ALBUM (2 LP) Phil Spector Int PSLP 1/PSLK 1
 STANDELLS, The DIRTY WATER Eva EVA 12027/-
 STENBERG, Berdien RONDO RUSSO Lifestyle LEG
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 066 146 7981/1C 266 1467984
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 SUSPECTS Volume 3 'ABOVE SUSPICION'
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 VARIOUS SUPER TED AND THE STOLEN ROCKET
 SHIP Rainbow BOW 113 (Storyteller Cassette &
 Book)
 VARIOUS SUPER TED AND THE PEARL FISHERS
 Rainbow BOW 114 (Storyteller Cassette & Book)
 VARIOUS SUPER TED AND THE INCA TREASURE
 Rainbow BOW 115 (Storyteller Cassette & Book)
 VARIOUS SUPERCHART 83 Telstar STAR 2236/STAC
 2236
 VARIOUS WORZEL GUMMIDGE VOL 1 Rainbow
 BOW 111 (Storyteller Cassette)
 VARIOUS WORZEL GUMMIDGE VOL 2 Rainbow
 BOW 112 (Storyteller Cassette)
 WALKER, Dean OVER NOW Sumatra Music SUM 1/
 SUMC 1
 WALKER, T-Bone SINGING THE BLUES Conifer PM
 1546761/-
 WARLOP, Michel LE JAZZ EN FRANCE VOL 4
 'MICHEL WARLOP' Conifer PM 1727281/-
 ZAZAU BIKAYE NOIR ET BLANC Crammed Discs
 CRAM 025/-

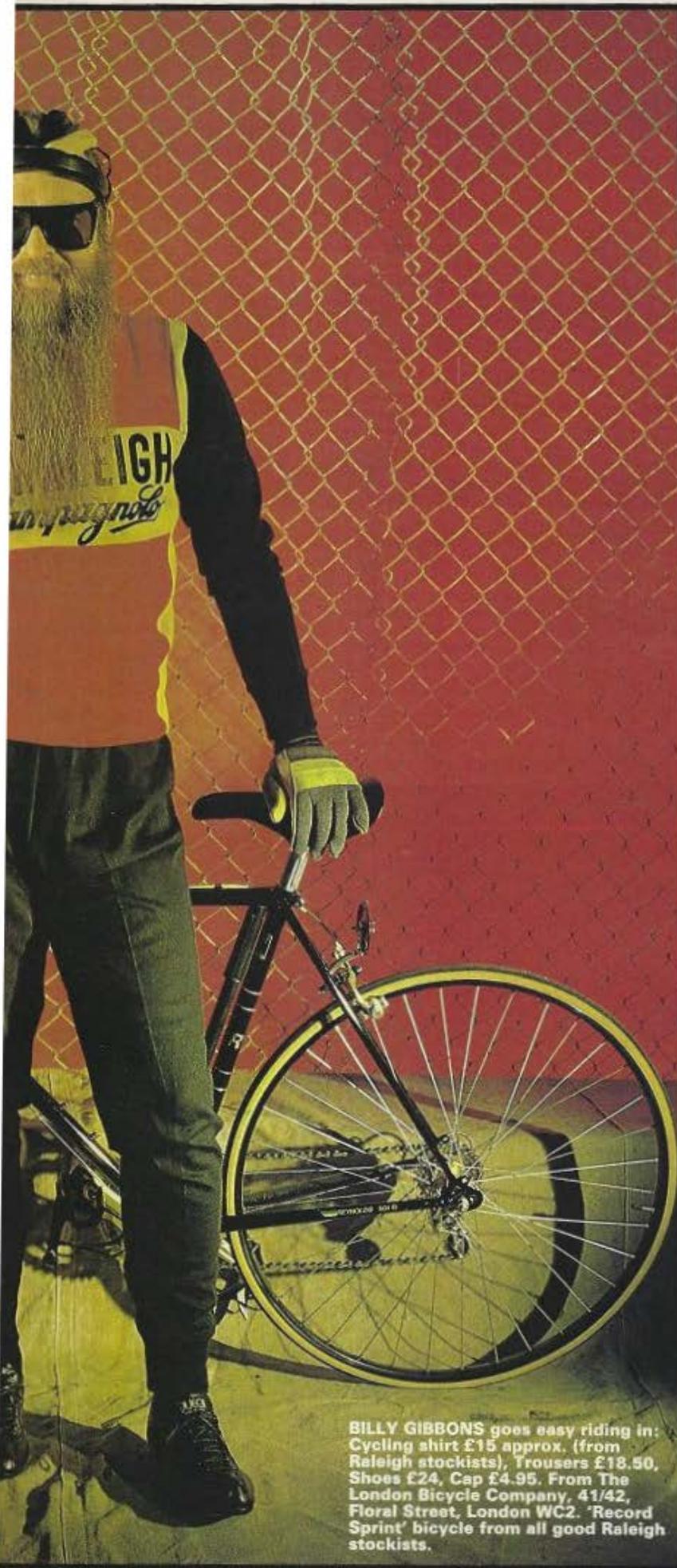
Plastic statistics
 Singles released — 96
 Albums released — 135



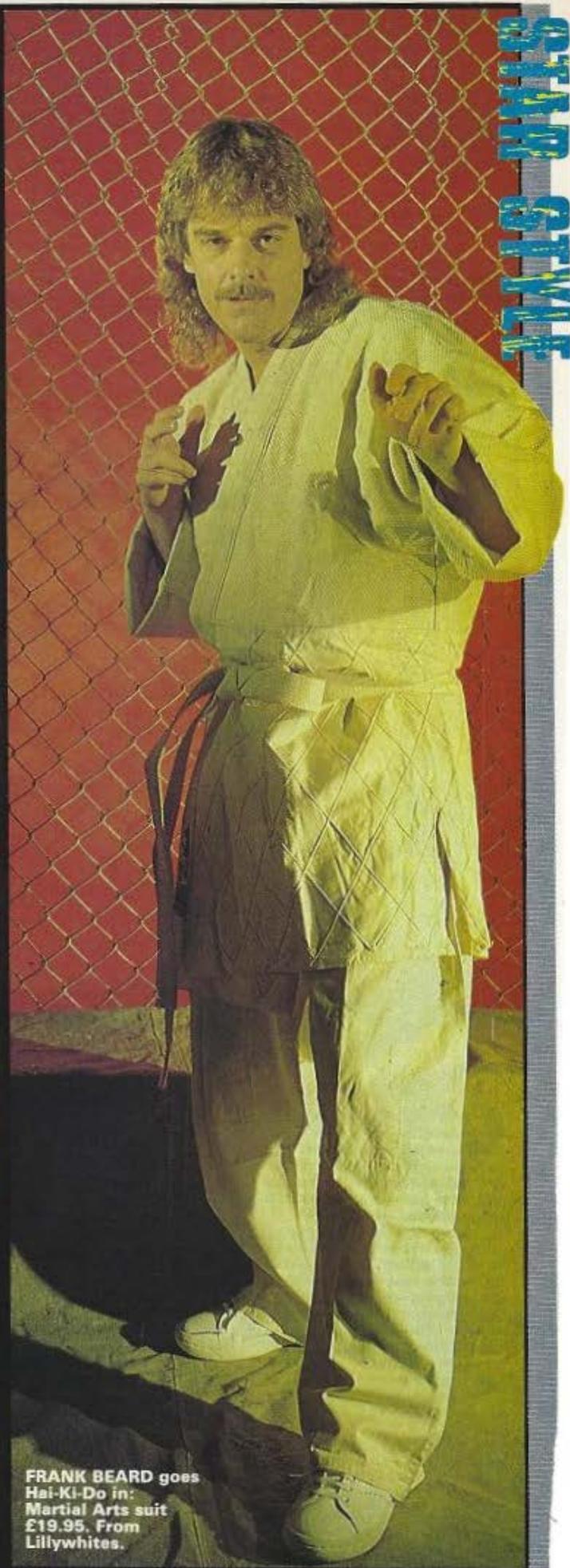
YOU MIGHT have thought that top Texan sporting pursuits comprised of thundering into the Dallas Cowboys endzone or slithering about the Houston Oilers infield. Not so . . . for boogie blasters ZZ Top are into eclectic exercise! In their more muscular moments, when our Texan trio work up to a workout, these Sharp Dressed Men are built for speed 'n' aggression! Dusty 'Slugger' Hill, the boxing pundit's dream, squares up to Frank 'Kung Fu' Beard, scourge of the Wild East, while Billy 'Saddle-up' Gibbons mounts up and rides off into the sunset . . . Good sports? Of course!

DUSTY HILL boxes clever in: Gray singlet £3.50, Sweat pants £8.50, Boxing shorts £11.50, Boots £29.50, Gloves £33.50, Head Guard £30. From Lonsdale, 19/21 Beak Street, London W1.





BILLY GIBBONS goes easy riding in: Cycling shirt £15 approx. (from Raleigh stockists), Trousers £18.50, Shoes £24, Cap £4.95. From The London Bicycle Company, 41/42, Floral Street, London WC2. 'Record Sprint' bicycle from all good Raleigh stockists.



FRANK BEARD goes Hai-Ki-Do in: Martial Arts suit £19.95. From Lillywhites.



EVEN MEGA woahh! merchants like ZZ Top have to relax some time. The constant kerrang of Hot-Rod geeetars and non-stop mayhem leaves a chap craving for pastimes of a gentler tempo — and what sound could be more than welcome to the topping Toppers' ears? When the last fuzz chord is but a dying echo 'tis the reassuring click of leather upon willow, the rattle of the scoreboard and the discreet applause of the cricketing cognescenti. Billy, Dusty and Frank in cricket gear? You bet.

Our cricketing trio wears:
Shirts £9.95, Trousers £19.95,
Sweaters £19.95, Slipovers
£15.95, Trainers £16.95,
Cricket bat £26.95, Pads
£15.95.
All from Lillywhites, Piccadilly
Circus, London SW1.

U.S. Singles

- 1 1 SAY SAY SAY, Paul McCartney and Michael Jackson, Columbia
 2 4 SAY IT ISN'T SO, Daryl Hall & John Oates, RCA
 3 2 ALL NIGHT LONG (ALL NIGHT), Lionel Richie, Motown
 4 3 UPTOWN GIRL, Billy Joel, Columbia
 5 7 UNION OF THE SNAKE, Duran Duran, Capitol
 6 5 LOVE IS A BATTLEFIELD, Pat Benatar, Chrysalis
 7 11 OWNER OF A LONELY HEART, Yes, Atco
 8 6 ISLANDS IN THE STREAM, Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton, RCA
 9 12 TWIST OF FATE, Olivia Newton-John, MCA
 10 10 CHURCH OF THE POISON MIND, Culture Club, Virgin/Epic
 11 14 UNDERCOVER OF THE NIGHT, The Rolling Stones, Rolling Stones
 12 8 CUM ON FEEL THE NOIZE, Quiet Riot, Pasha/Backstreet
 13 13 WHY ME? Irene Cara, Geffen/Network
 14 9 CRUMBLIN' DOWN, John Cougar Mellencamp, Riva
 15 18 MAJOR TOM (COMING HOME), Peter Schilling, Elektra
 16 16 SYNCHRONICITY II, The Police, A&M
 17 17 IN A BIG COUNTRY, Big Country, Mercury
 18 19 BREAK MY STRIDE, Matthew Wilder, Private
 19 21 I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE BLUES, Elton John, Geffen
 20 24 TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP, The Romantics, Nipper
 21 15 HEART AND SOUL, Huey Lewis And The News, Chrysalis
 22 22 AIN'T NOBODY, Rufus With Chaka Khan, Warner Bros
 23 23 SOULS, Rick Springfield, RCA
 24 27 READ 'EM AND WEEP, Barry Manilow, Arista
 25 30 RUNNING WITH THE NIGHT, Lionel Richie, Motown
 26 26 TIME WILL REVEAL, DeBarge, Gordy
 27 35 KARMA CHAMELEON, Culture Club, Virgin/Epic
 28 29 IF I'D BEEN THE ONE, 38 Special, A&M
 29 31 JOANNA, Kool & The Gang, De-Lite
 30 34 THAT'S ALL, Genesis, Atlantic
 31 32 I STILL CAN'T GET OVER LOVING YOU, Ray Parker, Arista
 32 45 PINK HOUSES, John Cougar Mellencamp, Mercury
 33 39 HOLIDAY, Madonna, Sire
 34 43 STAY WITH ME TONIGHT, Jeffrey Osborne, A&M
 35 36 I WON'T STAND IN YOUR WAY, Stray Cats, EMI-America
 36 20 PYT (PRETTY YOUNG THING), Michael Jackson, Epic
 37 44 GOLD, Spandau Ballet, Chrysalis
 38 46 THE SIGN OF FIRE, The Fixx, MCA
 39 41 WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, Naked Eyes, EMI-America
 40 40 THE WAY HE MAKES ME FEEL, Barbara Streisand, Columbia
 41 47 BABY I LIED, Deborah Allen, RCA
 42 25 TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HEART, Bonnie Tyler, Columbia
 43 48 IN THE MOOD, Robert Plant, Es Paranza

- 44 63 THE CURLY SHUFFLE, Jump 'N The Saddle, Atlantic
 45 52 LET THE MUSIC PLAY, Shannon, Mirage
 46 33 TONIGHT I CELEBRATE MY LOVE, Peabo Bryson/Roberta Flack, Capitol
 47 67 THINK OF LAURA, Christopher Cross, Warner Bros
 48 55 SEND ME AN ANGEL, Real Life, MCA/Curb
 50 - MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, The Pretenders, Sire
 51 - AN INNOCENT MAN, Billy Joel, Columbia
 52 28 SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER, The Motels, Capitol
 53 58 WHAT'S NEW, Linda Ronstadt, Asylum
 54 56 YOU DON'T BELIEVE, The Alan Parsons Project, Arista
 55 38 TELEPHONE (LONG DISTANCE LOVE AFFAIR), Sheena Easton, EMI America
 56 64 TAKE ME BACK, Bonnie Tyler, Columbia
 57 66 BIG CRASH, Eddie Money, Columbia
 58 37 THE SMILE HAS LEFT YOUR EYES, Asia, Geffen
 59 50 TENDER IS THE NIGHT, Jackson Browne, Asylum
 60 60 STREET OF DREAMS, Rainbow, Mercury

Bullets 61-100

- 61 69 THE POLITICS OF DANCING, Re-Flex, Capitol
 62 70 THIS MUST BE THE PLACE, Talking Heads, Sire
 63 - NIGHTBIRD, Stevie Nicks, Modern
 64 76 EBONY EYES, Rick James and Smokey Robinson, Gordy
 65 71 (YOU CAN STILL) ROCK 'N ROLL IN AMERICA, Night Ranger, Came/WMCA
 68 74 99 LUFTBALLONS, Nena, Epic
 70 79 THE DREAM, Irene Cara, Network/Geffen
 72 78 SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME, Dolly Parton, RCA
 73 86 YAH MO B THERE, James Ingram and Michael McDonald, Quest
 74 80 GLORIA, The Doors, Elektra
 75 84 ALMOST OVER YOU, Sheena Easton, EMI-America
 78 83 RED HOT, Herb Alpert, A&M
 80 - GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN, Cyndi Lauper, Portrait
 85 - LET'S GO UP, Diana Ross, RCA
 90 - SWEETHEART LIKE YOU, Bob Dylan, Columbia
 91 - LET'S PRETEND WE'RE MARRIED/IRRESISTIBLE BITCH, Prince, Warner Bros
 95 - ELECTRIC KINGDOM, Twilight 22, Vanguard

Compiled by Billboard

KOOL & THE GANG IN THE HEART



phonogram

BRAND NEW ALBUM INCLUDES THE SINGLE 'STRAIGHT AHEAD'

DeLuxe
RECORDING
DSR 4
DCR 4

US Albums

1 1 CANT SLOW DOWN, Lionel Richie, Motown



- 2 3 THRILLER, Michal Jackson, Epic
- 3 2 SYNCHRONICITY, The Police, A&M
- 4 4 UNDERCOVER, Rolling Stones, Rolling Stones
- 5 7 WHAT'S NEW, Linda Ronstadt, Asylum
- 6 6 METAL HEALTH, Quiet Riot, Pasha
- 7 8 EYES THAT SEE IN THE DARK, Kenny Rogers, RCA
- 8 9 COLOUR BY NUMBERS, Culture Club, Virgin/Epic
- 9 5 AN INNOCENT MAN, Billy Joel, Columbia
- 10 10 ROCK 'N' SOUL PART ONE, Daryl Hall & John Oates, RCA
- 11 11 GENESIS, Genesis, Atlantic
- 12 12 UH-HUH, John Cougar Mellencamp, Riva
- 13 15 90125, Yes, Acto
- 14 13 PYROMANIA, Def Leppard, Mercury
- 15 16 PIPES OF PEACE, Paul McCartney, Columbia
- 16 14 ELIMINATOR, ZZ Top, Warner Bros
- 17 30 SEVEN AND THE RAGGED TIGER, Duran Duran, Capitol
- 18 18 THE BIG CHILL, Soundtrack, Motown
- 19 21 YENTL, Barbara Streisand, Columbia
- 20 20 INFIDELS, Bob Dylan, Columbia
- 21 17 GREATEST HITS, Air Supply, Arista
- 22 22 THE CROSSING, Big Country, Mercury
- 23 19 LIVE FROM EARTH, Pat Benatar, Chrysalis
- 24 28 TWENTY GREATEST HITS, Kenny Rogers, Liberty
- 25 26 FLASHDANCE, Soundtrack, Casablanca
- 26 23 ALIVE, SHE CRIED, The Doors, Elektra
- 27 25 FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF NIGHT, Bonnie Tyler, Columbia
- 28 24 SPORTS, Huey Lewis & The News, Chrysalis
- 29 27 REACH THE BEACH, The Fixx, MCA
- 30 46 BARK AT THE MOON, Ozzy Osborne, A&M
- 31 31 NO PARKING ON THE DANCEFLOOR, Midnight Star, Solar
- 32 35 TOUR DE FORCE, 38 Special, A&M
- 33 29 LET'S DANCE, David Bowie, EMI-America
- 34 36 STAY WITH ME TONIGHT, Jeffrey Osborne, A&M
- 35 34 SPEAKING IN TONGUES, Talking Heads, Sire
- 36 37 SHOUT AT THE DEVIL, Mottley Crue, Elektra
- 37 38 HEARTS & BONES, Paul Simon, Warner Bros
- 38 40 1999, Prince, Warner Bros
- 39 49 GREATEST HITS — VOL II, Barry Manilow, Arista
- 40 47 IN HEAT, The Romantics, Nempcor
- 41 42 THE PRINCIPLE OF MOMENTS, Robert Plant, Es Paranza
- 42 44 ELECTRIC UNIVERSE, Earth, Wind & Fire, Columbia
- 43 72 TWO OF A KIND-SOUNDTRACK, John Travolta/Olivia Newton-John, MCA
- 44 45 COMEDIAN, Eddie Murphy, Columbia
- 45 43 FRONTIERS, Journey, Columbia
- 46 48 UNDER A BLOOD RED SKY, U2, Island
- 47 32 LITTLE ROBBERS, The Motels, Capitol
- 48 33 LICK IT UP, Kiss, Mercury
- 49 55 VOICE OF THE HEART, The Carpenters, A&M
- 50 54 RAPPIN' RODNEY, Rodney Dangerfield, RCA

Compiled by Billboard

TEN GREAT DANCE HITS...

I THINK I WANT TO DANCE WITH YOU
RUMPLE-STILT-SKIN

WALKING ON SUNSHINE
ROCKERS REVENGE

CANDY GIRL
NEW EDITION

GO DEH YAKA
MONYAKA

TONIGHT
STEVE HARVEY

LOVE TOWN
BOOKER NEWBERRY

DANCE MASTER

ALL MY LIFE
MAJOR HARRIS

1
VOLUME

ALL ON ONE
ALBUM OR CASSETTE

DRESSING UP
STREET ANGELS

BODY WORK
HOT STREAK

THE SUN GOES DOWN (LIVING IT UP)
LEVEL 42

MY PROBLEM is that when I have sex with my guy, I cannot feel his penis at all. I think it is because my vagina is too big. I'd like to know if I can have some stitches put in it.

J. Hull
 ● *There's no way that your vagina can be "too big" as it has walls which are sufficiently elastic to contain any size of penis, larger or smaller. Perhaps, by assuming that there's some problem with your physical size you're simply taking on your partner's equally unnecessary anxiety that his penis is too small.*

Why don't both of you forget about size, it doesn't matter, concentrate on something much more important — building a warm loving relationship.

If you are experiencing the lack of sensation you describe in your letter, see the doc for a quick check-up to ascertain what the problem might be.

EACH YEAR the students at Dundee University campaign to raise cash for charity and this time we hope to make some money by auctioning items donated by well-known people including bands and individual rock musicians. Is anyone out there in the music business interested in getting involved?

Do you have an item of clothing or any other personal possessions which we could auction?

Your help would be much appreciated!

Juanita Stanley, Charities Convener, Dundee University
 ● *C'mon rockstars, put your hands in your pockets. An autographed album or two, pairs of old socks, sunspex, bits of junk memorabilia and the rest could be helping a whole range of worthy causes when they're sold off by students at Dundee next year. Charities due for a shot in the arm include the British Heart Foundation, the Cyrenians, Tayside Mountain Rescue, Guide Dogs For The Blind, RNLI and Oxfam. Donations to:— Juanita Stanley, Dundee University Student's Charities Campaign, Student's Association, Airtle Place, Dundee DD1 4HN. (Tel: Dundee 21841).*

AS A lab technician, I work in a very noisy environment sometimes and need to protect my ears.

A while back, I found the address of a firm which makes protective ear muffs and wrote to them, but the envelope came back marked "gone away." The firm is Bilson International. Where can I find them?

Andrew, Lanarkshire
 ● *They've moved, that's all. One source of protective ear muffs is Bilson International subsidiary, IAS Ltd, 90 High Street, Odham, near Basingstoke, Hants. (Tel: Basingstoke 713666). Mail order muffs cost £2.99 or £3.99 per pair from this address.*

You may want to cover the cost to keep the peace but there seems no reason why you should pay for your own ear muffs as you're going to use them at work. In law, your employer is obliged to take reasonable care of your health and safety and to avoid exposing you to risks in these areas. Just like exposure to toxic chemicals, noise is considered a health hazard.

If you think you're under stress because of too much noise; if workers get a ringing noise, a tickling sensation or actual pain in the ears after a day's work; if you need to shout at someone just a short distance away or shout loudly to be

Brief encounter

CAN YOU help me locate a young university student I met on a train in mid-October? I know she's in her second year at Keele studying Greek, Social History and English. We talked about so many things and seemed to get on really well. But, at the time I didn't think of asking for her address. How can I contact her? I have her christian name.

RAF Reader, UK

● *Perhaps the question you could be asking yourself isn't how to get in touch with the girl on the train again but whether you should even try.*

Often strangers who meet each other for a short time, in circumstances where both of them know they're unlikely to meet again, can exchange confidences, discuss everything under the sun and build up a tremendous rapport.

Even though you may not be able to repeat it, this was a good experience.

With some research, you already have all the information you need to find this girl again, but will you? If either of you had wanted to exchange addresses you could have done so at the time.

heard at all; if older workers are hard of hearing, then it is likely that noise levels at your workplace are dangerous.

Ask your Health And Safety Representative to investigate means of protecting you from this noise in co-operation with management. More information on health and safety at work from your nearest Health And Safety Executive, 314 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XG, (Tel: 041-204 2646). Readers elsewhere in the UK who're interested in checking out health and safety rights at work write to Health And Safety Executive, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, Westbourne Grove, London W2 7TE. (Tel: 01-229 3456).

I'M 15 and used to go out with a girl of the same age. Our relationship lasted about a month, and since we split up I have seen her go from boy to boy.

Every time I feel so jealous, as I really do love her and it hurts me to see her with someone else.

It upsets me to hear her talking about other boys and I want her back,

although I honestly don't think she feels the same way.

Chris, Colchester

● *It's understandable to feel hurt and rejected when someone you care about very much doesn't seem the slightest bit interested in you in return.*

Yet, you'll be surprised to find that love 'n affection which simply isn't returned does tend to fade and die pretty soon.

You're a realist who has accepted that your infatuation with this girl isn't likely to lead anywhere and, though you're unlikely to be too convinced now, it is a fact that you will get over this girl far sooner than you think.

MY BOYFRIEND finished with me six weeks ago, and since then, we haven't spoken to each other. I know we won't go out again, but I still like him and wish we could just talk and be friends. Last time he saw me, he just ignored me.

Marilyn Fan, Gloucester

● *Don't upset yourself. Chances are, you will be talking to your boyfriend*



Help!



Problems? Need some ideas or information fast? Or would it help to talk things over? Write to Susanne Garrett, 'Help', Record Mirror, 40 Long Acre, London WC2. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope to ensure a personal reply. Alternatively, ring our Helpline, office hours, Monday to Friday on 01-836 1147.

again, just like the old friends you really are, if you do have something in common which is worth keeping. If not, then it isn't the end of the world and there'll be other people in your life who you'll like just as much. Christmas is a great time to get out and about and socialise instead of brooding over a past romance. Enjoy yourself!

MY EDUCATION at school finished several years ago and I'd like to have more academic qualifications than just 'O' levels. The idea of doing an Open University degree interests me. What's the best way of applying?

Pete, Basingstoke

● *Anyone aged 21 or over can apply for an Open University place, starting now. Full details of courses are available from Open University, Walton Hall, Walton MK7 6AA. If you're 18 or over, but under 21, it is still worth checking out the possibility of a place. These are sometimes open to your age group.*

I'M 18 years old and unemployed, and would like to start a fan club for my favourite band as I know there's no existing club at the moment. What's the first step I should take to get it off the ground?

Ben, Darlington

● *Think very carefully about whether you really want to let yourself in for an unpaid full-time job which will take lashings of blood, sweat and tears and maybe most of your dole money with it. Running a fan club successfully requires the same personal qualities involved in operating a small business. Can you handle it?*

If the thought of co-ordinating, writing and producing a newsletter of regular news mailings; answering lots of fanmail seeking a definitive response to the most esoteric of questions; organising the design and printing of a basic membership card and maybe a badge too, simply scares you, this may not be the best possible niche for your talents. Kicking-off your own small business and actually making yourself a small amount of money to live on might be a more constructive use of your time.

Determined? First-off you'll need permission from the band themselves and/or their management. If you don't know where to make initial contact with a management address, I'll try to put you in touch if you write back.

Young Free And Single

IF YOU'RE into Bowie, T Rex and 50s rock 'n roll music you could have a lot in common with Alan, currently in a Leeds prison. Drop him a line for the festive season c/o 'Help' if you're interested. Meanwhile, Martin, 20, also in Leeds, wants to write to Genesis, Toyah, Kate Bush or Mike Oldfield fans, and Gary Glitter enthusiast Steve, 23, from Oldham, is desperate to hear from others who like Ultravox, Adam Ant or Olivia Newton John. C'mon girls! Write to YFS at 'Help'. All letters will be forwarded.

IS THERE a Kirsty MacColl fan club or information service anywhere out there in the big wide world? I am a fan and haven't been able to track one down. Perhaps you can help me out.

Shona, Scotland

● *Kirsty has plenty of fans, but as yet there are no plans to launch a formal fan club. You can drop a line to Kirsty personally c/o Still Records, 115/123 Bayham Street, London NW1.*

Help!

SOMETIMES I get really depressed and have even felt like ending it all. Is there anyone I could just talk to in my area without my parents knowing?

Paul, Southend

● **Yes. Why not ring Youthline on Southend 40804 to talk things over in complete confidence. Lines to Youthline are open both day and night.**

FOR AGES now I've been thinking of having plastic surgery on my nose, which is much too big. I'm desperate. Who can I contact for treatment? Would I have to pay?

Dave, Gloucester

● **As a first step, you must discuss this possibility with your own GP who can refer you for either NHS or private treatment. To qualify for NHS treatment, free of charge, you would have to convince the doctor that this is causing you real physical or mental distress. No reputable plastic surgeon will treat you without a referral from your own doctor.**

FOR AGES now I've been trying to track down a supplier of poly-lined inner sleeves for my record collection. Also I need a fair number of cardboard mailing sleeves, but can't afford to buy in bulk.

John, Scotland

● **If your nearby specialist record stores don't stock mailers or inners mail order has to be the only possible alternative. For a full list of record accessories of the packaging kind, drop a line, with an SAE to West 4 Tapes And Records, 94 Sandy Lane, South Wallington, Surrey SM6 9RQ.**

Girl trouble

MY GIRLFRIEND says I'm worrying about nothing, but I can't help it. When we make love she gets a pain around the entrance to the vagina. She says it gets very sore there. If we try to make love twice in a row, she refuses because the pain is too much.

I'm very worried as she had an abortion in September 1982. The soreness started in April this year.

When she saw her doctor after the abortion last year she didn't tell him about the soreness as she was too embarrassed. He didn't ask either. What can we do?

Lance, West Sussex

● **It's clear that your girlfriend must have a full medical check up. The soreness and pain which she is experiencing may be due to an infection which can be easily cleared up with a prescription from the doctor.**

If there is no infection and this discomfort is being caused by an inability to relax due to fear of a repeat pregnancy perhaps, then you should both know so you can start working on some basic relaxation exercises together or perhaps go for a more reliable form of contraceptive than the one you're using, or try a position for sexual intercourse which your girlfriend finds comfortable. If your girlfriend would prefer to see a doctor specialising in women's medicine, who is willing and able to spend more time than the average GP, she might like to make an appointment at her nearest 'Well Woman' clinic, based at 13a, Western Road, Hove, Brighton. (Tel: 774075).

This service is not free, and will cost £20.00, but her visit will include a full and thorough medical check-up. Those who really cannot afford this amount won't be turned away. Perhaps you could go along with her if she chooses this option.

More information on 'Well Woman' clinics in other parts of the UK from The Family Planning Information Service, 27/35, Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ. (Tel: 01 636 7866).

Take a cut

I LIVE at home with my parents and draw supplementary benefit but have heard the amount I get is going to be cut next year. Is this true? I'm 19. Todd, London

● **This latest Government cut means that, from next April, people who're aged between 18 and 20 and not householders in their own right, but are claiming supplementary benefit and living at home with parents will lose £3.10 a week in benefits. Some 300,000 unemployed young people will be hit by this policy, which follows hot on the heels of previous Government action affecting 16 and 17 year olds who haven't been able to claim the £3.10 housing allowance for young people living in other people's households since April this year.**

Your parents may be eligible to claim that missing £3.10, but only if they too are claiming supplementary benefit, or qualify for already eroded housing benefit payments.

FOR THE last few years I've lived in a private residence and would like to put down my name for a council flat instead. I'm in Islington and wondered what are the chances of a young single person like myself finding this kind of accommodation? John, London

● **As you're resident in Islington, why not apply for the usual waiting list, but also increase your chances of finding a new place to live by checking out the Shared Singles Scheme and GLC Mobility plan too.**

A housing advisory officer at Islington Housing Department, 292, Essex Road, London N1 (Tel: 01 226 3300), will advise. Call in personally, write or ring for application forms.

If you're 16 you can apply for council accommodation as long as you can find someone, like a parent perhaps, to act as a rent guarantor, just in case you get into money trouble. At 18 plus, you're on your own.

The Shared Singles Scheme, especially formulated for the needs of young single people living in the borough, offers older-style three-bedroom flats in high rise or run down areas.

If you don't have any friends living in the borough, Islington will try to find you flatmates.

A successful application for yet another option, the GLC Mobility Scheme, could mean a move to another area, probably South London.

Young people seeking council accommodation in any London borough can check out policy with the nearest Housing Department or, alternatively, ring the Housing Advice Switchboard on 01 434 2522. (Monday to Friday, 10.00am-9.00pm — and Saturday, 10.00am-5.00pm). A useful publication, 'Finding A Place To Live In London', plus a free info sheet on any London borough, on request, is available, price £1.50, from Housing Advice Switchboard, 47, Charing Cross Road, London WC2.

Any young single person who is homeless during Christmas or the New Year can ring Housing Advice Switchboard to check out emergency accommodation at any time, day or night.

COULD you tell me how I'd find out what's happening in the Top 30 Euro charts week by week? I'm especially interested in singles. Any ideas? S, Flint

● **The internationally recognised Tros-Radio Eurochart, compiled from 11 national charts representing Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Eire, France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and West Germany is published weekly in leading music business paper 'Music Week', available in newsagents or on subscription.**

More info on the exclusive Euro chart used by a number of radio stations too, from Hugo Van Gelderen, Tros-Radio, PO Box 450, 1200 AL, Hilversum, Holland. (Tel: 010 3135 715 270).

I'M A musician and, over the past year, I've been making demo tapes of my music and sending them to record companies. But they always reply stating that my music isn't what

they're looking for at present.

I believe my music is commercial and could be hit material and I'm scraping around for ideas on what to do next.

A, Yorkshire

● **If at first you don't succeed, keep on keeping on until you do. Continue to send those demos along to the record company A&R departments which you think might be interested, first researching that your music is right for that particular label. You may have better luck with smaller, more enterprising record companies.**

Alternatively, try plying your wares to the music publishing companies. A full list of publishers, plus a free leaflet on how to submit your songs, is available on request from the Music Publishers Association, Kingsway House, 103, Kingsway, London WC2B 6DX. (Tel: 01 831 7591). An updated

list, price £1.00, will be ready at the end of the year.

Perhaps linking up with other musicians to form a band or writing material for other people who are together enough to make it in the music business could be another outlet for your work. Music press small ad columns are one way of making wider contacts.

Try to be self-critical as well as creative, and, above all be realistic. Ask one or more people who you can trust to be absolutely honest about what they think of the material you're writing. If necessary, take it from there.

I'M A fan of those heavenly twins, The Thompsons. Can you put me in touch with any kind of information service for the boys?

Penny, Romford

● **To check out what's happening on The Thompson Twins fan club front, write, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to Rick Drink, 3, Eccleston Street, London SW1. He's the club secretary.**

DOES A Dire Straits fan club exist? I've only recently got into their music and would like to know more about the band.

Jenny, Scotland

● **There's no fan club, as such, but the band does have a free information service. To add your name to the mailing list for up-to-date info on the latest news and tour plans too, drop a line to Dire Straits Information Service, c/o Damage Management, 152, Walton Street, Knightsbridge, London SW3. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope.**



SINCE MAY this year I've been trying to buy the new Kate Bush 'Singles File' video. But its release date has been put back time and time again. Last time I asked in HMV I was told they couldn't get hold of it.

I've even seen it reviewed in specialist video publications. What is going on?

Berney, Tyneside

● **At long last, this 12-strong collection of Kate's singles promos from 'Wuthering Heights' thru' to 'Suspended In Gaffa', really has been released. From December 5, Kate's collection can be ordered through any video retailer. (VHS-TVE 9014 302/Betamax TXE 9014 304).**

Why the ridiculous delay in release? "There have been various problems with the editing and artwork," explains Picture Music.

Young Free And Single

THIS WEEK'S slot is devoted to our free penpal service, so eyes down if you want to make contact abroad. Bridging the miles, college freshman John, 18, from Wisconsin, wants to hear from people who share his musical interests, including U2, China Crisis, Echo, XTC and Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark. Nina, 16, who lives in Norway wants lots of penpals from the UK, and Vilma, 15, from Yugoslavia, who says she collects badges and loves rock 'n roll, wants to hear from anyone out there who wants to drop a line or two. Meanwhile, Karin, 20, from Denmark would like to hear from followers of The Cure, Siouxsie And The Banshees, New Order and Aztec Camera. Write to YFS at 'Help'. All letters will be forwarded.

UPTOWN

MERCYFUL FATE have a very special guest at their concerts — the Devil. It doesn't take crates of booze or naughty women to get him along either. All they need is a couple of goose feathers and some human blood, explains King Diamond, the spooky voice on Mercyful Fate's new single 'Black Funeral'.

"We take the blood from one of our crew and then we sprinkle it on the feathers to invite Satan."

Scoff not. When Girlschool were supported by the Danish band, they had some very nasty experiences.

"They became very scared when they were at the back of the hall watching us. Everybody agreed that there was a presence that night and black atmosphere in the hall."

"When they came to play there were eerie noises coming out of the PA and then Kim was electrocuted and taken to hospital. Afterwards they checked the equipment but they could find nothing wrong with it."

King's been interested in the occult for many years. He claims his flat in Copenhagen is haunted and he hears voices all the time.

"Someone is trying to contact me. I'm going to be used for some purpose, but at the moment I'm not sure what it is."

"Objects have moved around in my flat and glasses have risen into the air. Other people have seen these things happening as well."

KING HAS a Satanic altar in his front room and his mike stand is constructed from genuine human bones picked up from a hospital. But King's most prized possession is a genuine human skull which he bought for 2,500 Danish kroner. He also has a Satanic bible, especially ordered from a bookshop in San Francisco.

"The skull has a split in the front which means that the person must have suffered a heavy blow. The interesting thing is that the wound healed over, although the person must have been in a bad way. I have a



MERCYFUL FATE

feeling he was possessed and died in a lunatic asylum.

"Films like 'The Exorcist' are not very far removed from real life events. Quite recently there was a little girl in Poland who became possessed. She started moving things around and speaking in a strange voice. Her entire character changed and she became evil."

Mercyful Fate's single isn't about possession though, but what happened to an unfortunate witch.

"She gave the secret of a coven away," continues King.

"For that she had to die and her blood was drained away before she was buried. She had to pay the ultimate price for breaking the rules."

"Yes, I am a witch myself and I feel that I am in league with the Devil. To me the Devil represents the idea that people can be free. You see the church has tried to place so many restrictions on people. I think the Pope is silly."

A MANY talented Satanist, King claims that he can cast spells. He makes drawings of what he wants to happen to a person and burns them with a

candle.

"You don't have to make bad spells all the time," says King. "If a person is feeling down you can cheer them up by depicting good things happening to them."

"I could be nasty to people I didn't like but I wouldn't murder anybody. I'm for freedom of the individual, but I draw the line at murder."

Mercyful Fate were formed from the remnants of heavy rock outfit Brats three years ago and they're one of Europe's leading shock horror bands.

King says he's been heavily influenced by Alice Cooper and he swapped a promising career

as a professional footballer for music. In his early days King used to fiddle around with pigs' heads on stage, but now Mercyful Fate settle for exploding nuns and other gory effects. If they can get enough cash, they're hoping to have a mock church on stage.

When Mercyful Fate aren't touring, King likes to stay at home with the curtains closed, studying the black arts.

"I do not like the light and sunny days. I feel uncomfortable in brightness. I'm a person of the night, I think more clearly then."

Thank God I ate some garlic for supper . . .

GHOU

Our horror double
bill by **ROBIN SMITH**

The Devil has all the best toms

FORGET PAUL McCartney and Michael Jackson, the team-up to watch is Ozzy Osbourne and Noddy Holder!

"Noddy and I went out for a few pints and a partnership is on the cards," says Ozzy. "Noddy's going to black up and wear a wig and I'm going to look like a gay waiter. McCartney and Jackson are doing such wet songs that we thought we must be in with a chance."

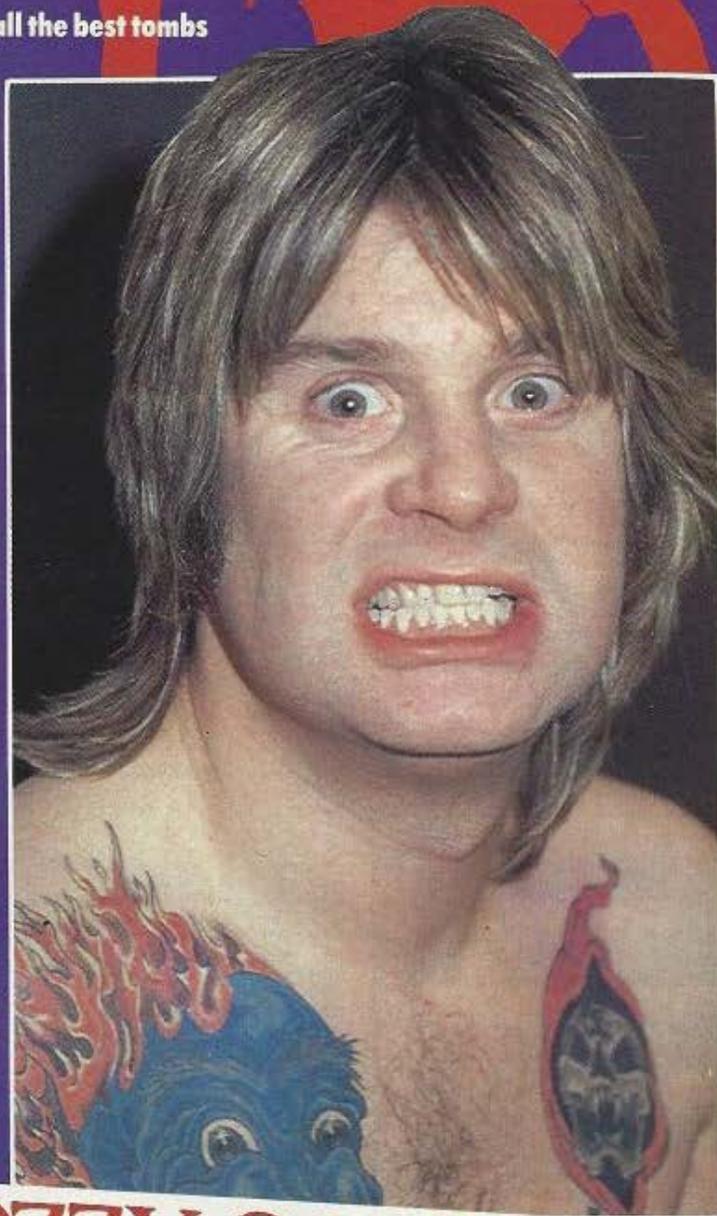
"McCartney's taking it easy. He was a brilliant songwriter but now he's writing kiddie's stuff. 'The Girl Is Mine' was sickening and the only good thing about 'Say Say Say' is the video."

Ozzy's happy to be putting a bit of beef back into the charts with 'Bark At The Moon'. He hasn't been on Top Of The Pops for about 13 years. His last appearance was with Black Sabbath belting out 'Paranoid'.

"I wanted to wear my werewolf outfit this time, but they wouldn't let me. They said I would frighten the children who watch the show, I suppose in a way they were right."

"But what really upset me, was when they said they'd have me on Top Of The Pops providing I behaved myself. Just what did they think I was going to do, run around and bite the commissioners? I am a reasonable bloke most of the time, I'm not a bloody madman."

"I'm really fed up with people treating me as though I'm some kind of stupid moron who bangs his head against a brick wall. There's a song on



OZZY OSBOURNE

the album called 'You're No Different'. It means that nobody is really different from me. At least I'm not going around putting guns in people's hands."

UNDERNEATH OZZY'S brash bat-biting exterior there lurks a nervous sensitive heart. Several songs on his new album reveal his phobias. Take a listen to 'Waiting For Darkness' and 'Spiders'.

"I can't sleep if I think my arm is going to dangle out of the bed. I'm always afraid that something is going to creep up it — a mouse, a rat, or a big spider."

"When I was a kid I was terrified of bogeymen. My mum used to say, 'Go to bed or the bogeymen will get you'. I used to go upstairs and lie under the covers frightened. How the hell can you get to sleep if you're afraid that some big black hairy thing is coming to get you?"

To ward off evil spirits, Ozzy's had a Japanese monster tattooed across his chest. The lurid multi-coloured beast is a baby-eating ghoulish taken from Japanese mythology.

"Each civilisation has its folklore about terrifying things and beings that roamed

the earth. I definitely think there must be something in it. If you get underneath the fantasy then I'm sure you'll find a lot of fact."

"I was doing an interview in a restaurant in Los Angeles. Apparently a lot of people had died in a fire there a long time ago. Suddenly an ashtray flew off a table and hit the floor for no apparent reason. The bloke I was with was absolutely terrified."

"I love watching old Hammer horror films and I've got a lot of horror mags. I can sit and watch films for hours. One of my favourites is 'Tell

Tale Heart'. A man murders somebody but he can't stop the noise of his victim's heart beating. It's great!"

"I met Oliver Reed down the pub, he used to be in a lot of those films. He was absolutely pissed, he's a good bloke."

OZZY'S SEEN the best side of 30, but he reckons he's good for a few more years yet. After the werewolf concept he's planning to do an album based around the 'Jack And The Beanstalk' fairy tale complete with a large tree on stage.

"I'm working with young people which is really stimulating," he says. "I'd hate to still be in Black Sabbath and be an old dinosaur just in it for the money."

"Ian Gillan might have a good voice and all that, but he just doesn't fit. Sabbath should have been buried honourably."

Ozzy starts a massive American tour in January which will last him to the summer. He's lined up a whole new armoury of special effects but expense and nervous council officials means we won't be seeing them later in Britain.

"I dress up like a Gary Glitter Dracula and we've got this Alfred Hitchcock 'Psycho' house on stage. I'm also going to have mechanical bats, a levitation sequence and a laser whip — just like something out of 'Star Wars'."

"I'm not the type of act who can sit at home and still sell records, I have to go out there and promote myself. I need more than a good video."

"What I'm doing now is heavy metal with melody. A lot of bands are reaching out, the old stomp is still there but we're writing some very good tunes."

"I like bands like Def

Leppard, they're our hope for the future. The trouble is that Britain has turned its back on them for such a long time. That happened when I started with Sabbath."

"But it's all valuable experience and this business has given me a lot of fun. In the future I'm planning to have three more kids with my wife Sharon in addition to our daughter Aimee. You've had the Osmonds and the Jackson Five and now you're going to have the Osbournes. They'll keep me entertained and make some money for me in my old age."

X WORD

FIRST CORRECT entry out of the postbag wins a blockbusting £5 record token

ACROSS

- 1 Friend of The Smiths (4,8,3)
- 7 Bride kisser (5,4)
- 8 Said by the Moody Blues (2,3)
- 9 What Adam called a non drinking non smoking person (5,3,5)
- 11 You'll find them Right By Your Side (10)
- 12 It remains the same for Guy (4)
- 14 & 20 down Where Julian Cope has fun (8,8)
- 15 Degrees or Dog night (5)
- 17 Written by Kirsty, a hit for Tracey (4,4,4)
- 21 What Limahl works for (4,3,4)
- 23 Heard on The Atlantic Years (5)
- 26 What Daryl and John want to hear (3,2,4,2)
- 27 Found singing Under A Blood Red Sky (4)
- 30 Guitarist who wanted you to Bop Til You Drop (2,6)
- 32 Place for the Village People to stay (1,1,1,1)
- 33 Group from down under who spent some time recently in a leaky boat (5,3)
- 34 Animal friend of The Bunnymen (9)

- 10 Kenny's rap (4)
- 13 Where reflections are seen by George (2,4,4)
- 15 Spot of trouble for Mike Oldfield (6)
- 18 ZZ Top LP (10)
- 19 See 22 down
- 20 See 14 across
- 22 & 19 down 1982 Japan hit (4,2,5)
- 24 Crawford or Vanwarmer (5)
- 25 Ex-Velvet Underground person who was transformed by David Bowie (3,4)
- 28 Is it a command from Adam?
- 29 Everybody wishes they could play guitar Just Like. (5)
- 30 What Eruption couldn't stand (4)
- 31 Dylan label (1,1,1)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

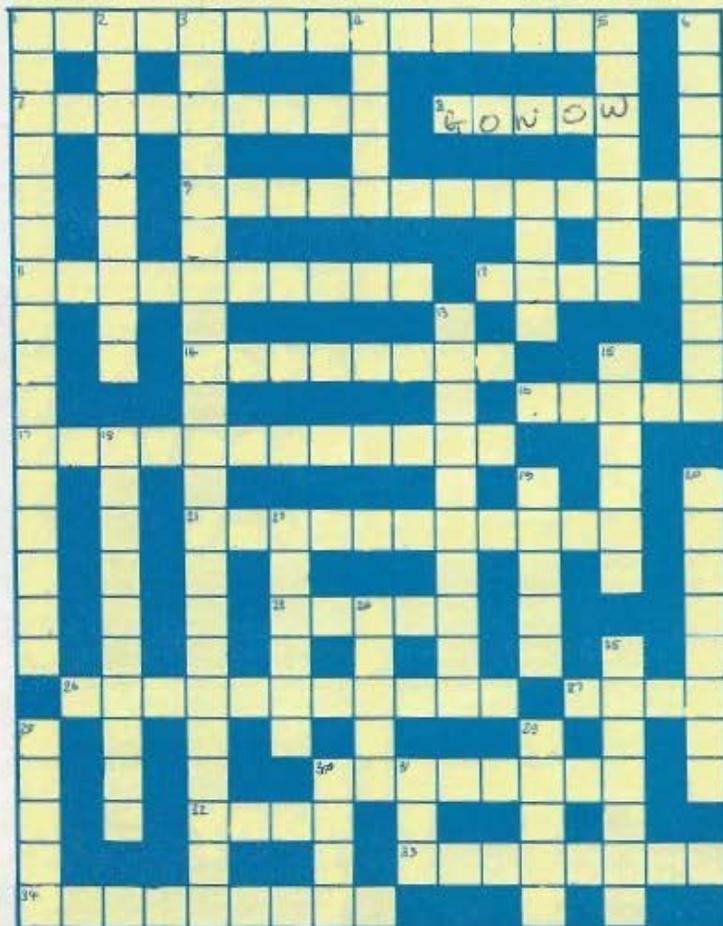
ACROSS: 1 'Thank You For The Music', 6 'Oh Diane', 8 Long Hot, 9 'Union Sundown', 10 AC/DC, 12 'You're In My Heart', 15 Dennis Greaves, 17 Rossi, 19 Carmel, 20 'Viva', 22 Roy Wood, 24 'Star', 25 'Metal Dance', 26 'The Cutter', 27 'The Crown', 31 'Heartbreaker', 32 Twins, 33 'Torment And Toreros'.

DOWN: 1 'The Sun And The Rain', 2 'A Solid Bond In Your Heart', 3 Freddie Mercury, 4 English, 5 'Chance', 7 Denny, 8 'Low', 11 'Christine', 13 'Never Never', 14 'Big Apple', 16 Grand Master, 18 Doors, 21 'Gold', 23 Flash, 28 'Raise', 29 Chic, 30 Mean.

LAST WEEK'S X-WORD WINNER
Cathy Lych, 12 Eaglesham Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, Scotland

DOWN

- 1 What Kid Creole has invited us to (3,8,5)
- 2 Group singing about Steamhammer Sam (9)
- 3 What The Beat couldn't do (4,3,4,2,6,3)
- 4 Pink Floyd classic from Dark Side Of The Moon (5)
- 5 Sung by Howard (3,4)
- 6 How Elvis nearly ended up (6,4)



GLORIA VANDERBILT and Fiorucci where are you? These freshly scrubbed poppets are Guys And Dolls with a severe trouser problem. They hit number five in 1976 with a cover of 'You Don't Have To Say You Love Me'. But who are the mystery brunettes on the left? Use your sense (cents) to start this week trivia quiz about hits that begin with "you".

TRIVIA QUIZ

- 1 Name Alvin Stardust's third top 10 hit of 1974
- 2 On which Hot Chocolate single did Errol Brown believe in miracles?
- 3 Who did Barbra Streisand advise 'You Don't Bring Me Flowers'?
- 4 Four artistes have had hits with 'You Got What It Takes'. Who was the fourth?
- 5 Which US band had a hit with the Supremes 'You Keep Me Hanging On'?
- 6 Name Real Thing's only number one hit?
- 7 What was the Who's first hit to feature Kenney Jones on drums?
- 8 Which single has provided Crown Heights Affair with their biggest hit so far?
- 9 Who said 'You Can Get It If You Really Want'?
- 10 Who duetted with Diana Ross on the hit 'You Are Everything'?
- 11 Which ex-Beatle had a hit with 'You'?
- 12 Name Meat Loaf's first hit
- 13 On which song did Sylvester feel mighty real?
- 14 'You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet' was a hit for Bachman Turner Overdrive. From which country did they originate?
- 15 Name the Chi-Lites last top 10 hit
- 16 Which Dusty Springfield hit is also the title of Simon Napier-Bell's recent book on the music biz in the 60's?
- 17 Shakin' Stevens had a hit with 'You Drive Me Crazy' What is his real name?
- 18 Name the Stylistics' biggest hit of 1974
- 19 From which album does Stevie Wonder's 'You Are The Sunshine Of My Life' come?
- 20 Name Limmie and the Family Cooking's biggest hit
- 21 Which version of 'You Can't Hurry Love' was a bigger hit, Phil Collins or Supremes?
- 22 What was Rod Stewart's second number one hit?
- 23 What was the first hit from 'Saturday Night Fever'?
- 24 Who had a hit with 'You Might Need Somebody'?
- 25 Which group had a number two hit with 'You Might Just See Me Cry'?

ANSWERS

1 You You Say, 2 You Soxy Thing, 3 Neil Diamond, 4 Showaddywaddy, 5 Vanilla Fudge, 6 You To Me Are Everything, 7 You Better You Bet, 8 You Gave Me Love, 9 Desmond Dekker, 10 Marvin Gaye, 11 George Harrison, 12 You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth, 13 You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real), 14 Canada, 15 'You Don't Have To Go', 16 'You Don't Have To Say You Love Me', 17 Michael Serratt, 18 'You Make Me Feel Brand New', 19 Talking Book, 20 'You Can Do Magic', 21 Supremes, 22 'You Wear It Well', 23 'You Should Be Dancin'', 24 Franky Crawford, 25 Du-Kal.

Prince comp winners

ANSWERS: 1(c) Vanity Six, 2(e) Minnesota, 3(a) True, Linda Sime, Edinburgh, M Spenser, Shirebrook, Notts; P Dann, Ramsgate, Kent; N Cudmore, Yeovil, Somerset; M Aderson, London E14; S Bishop, Liverpool; S Wise, Shirley, Solihull; A Massey, Leicester; C Johnson, London SW17; T Wright, Belfast; I Field, Merstham; Surrey; G Smith, Basildon, Essex; R Seal, Westerham, Kent; S Russel, Dulwich, London.

NIGHT CLUB '83

- 1 BILLIE JEAN, Michael Jackson, Epic 12in
- 2 BLUE MONDAY/THE BEACH, New Order, Factory 12in
- 3 I.O.U., Freeez, Beggars Banquet 12in
- 4 LET'S DANCE, David Bowie, EMI America 12in
- 5 ROCK THE BOAT, Forrest, CBS 12in
- 6 THE CROWN, Gary Byrd & The GB Experience, Motown 12in
- 7 BEAT IT, Michael Jackson, Epic 12in
- 8 FLASHDANCE... WHAT A FEELING, Irene Cara, Casablanca 12in
- 9 YOU CAN'T HIDE YOUR LOVE (FROM ME), David Joseph, Island 12in
- 10 LOVE TOWN, Booker Newberry III, Polydor 12in
- 11 ALL NIGHT LONG (ALL NIGHT), Lionel Richie, Motown 12in
- 12 GO DEH YAKA (GO TO THE TOP), Monyaka, Polydor 12in
- 13 DANCING TIGHT, Galaxy featuring Phil Fearon, Ensign 12in
- 14 BUFFALO GALS, Malcolm McLaren/World's Famous Supreme Team, Charisma 12in
- 15 ALL NIGHT LONG, Mary Jane Girls, Gordy 12in
- 16 WHAT I GOT IS WHAT YOU NEED, Unique, Prelude 12in
- 17 LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY LIFE, Indeep, Sound of New York 12in
- 18 DO IT AGAIN — BILLIE JEAN, Club House, Island 12in
- 19 THRILLER, Michael Jackson, Epic 12in
- 20 ROCKIT, Herbie Hancock, CBS 12in
- 21 SUPERSTAR, Lydia Murdock, Korova 12in
- 22 LOVE ON YOUR SIDE (RAP BOY RAP), Thompson Twins, Arista 12in
- 23 BODY WORK, Hot Streak, Polydor 12in
- 24 GET DOWN SATURDAY NIGHT, Oliver Cheatham, MCA 12in
- 25 PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, O'Jays, Epic 12in
- 26 TRUE/LIFELINE (US REMIX), Spandau Ballet, Reformation 12in
- 27 HEY YOU (THE ROCKSTEADY CREW), Rocksteady Crew, Charisma 12in
- 28 TOO SHY, KajaGooGoo, EMI 12in
- 29 WHAM RAPI (ENJOY WHAT YOU DO), Wham!, Inner Vision 12in
- 30 I WANT YOU (ALL TONIGHT), Curtis Hairston, RCA 12in
- 31 LOVE HOW YOU FEEL, Sharon Redd, Prelude 12in
- 32 YOUNG GUNS (GO FOR IT), Wham!, Inner Vision 12in
- 33 JOY, Band AKA II, Epic/Streetwax 12in
- 34 CANDY GIRL, New Edition, London 12in
- 35 SAY SAY SAY, Paul McCartney/Michael Jackson, Parlophone 12in
- 36 CHINA GIRL, David Bowie, EMI America 12in
- 37 WANNA BE STARTIN' SOMETHIN', Michael Jackson, Epic 12in
- 38 BAD BOYS, Wham!, Inner Vision 12in
- 39 IN A BIG COUNTRY (PURE MIX), Big Country, Mercury 12in
- 40 THE SAFETY DANCE, Men Without Hats, Statik 12in

BOYS TOWN '83

- 1 SEARCHIN' (I GOTTA FIND A MAN)/REMIX, Hazell Dean, Proto 12in
- 2 SO MANY MEN SO LITTLE TIME, Miquel Brown, Record Shack 12in
- 3 DON'T STOP, Sylvester, London 12in
- 4 GUILTY, Lime, Polydor 12in
- 5 I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, Pamela Stanley, US Komander 12in
- 6 THE NIGHT, Azul y Negro, Spanish Mercury 12in
- 7 ROCK THE BOAT, Forrest, CBS 12in
- 8 GOT YOU WHERE I WANT YOU BABY, Stereo Fun Inc, US Moby Dick/Ecstasy 12in
- 9 MAYBE THIS TIME, Norma Lewis, ERC 12in
- 10 THE BOYS COME TO TOWN, Earlene Bentley, Record Shack 12in
- 11 EARTHQUAKE, Flirtations Siam/Proto 12in
- 12 LOVE REACTION, Divine, Design Communications 12in
- 14 TAKE A CHANCE ON ME, Waterfront Home, US Bobcat 12in
- 15 SHOOT YOUR SHOT/JUNGLE JEZEBEL, Divine, "O" 12in
- 16 CATCH ME (I'M FALLING IN LOVE), Marsha Raven, Passion 12in
- 17 MEMORY, Menage, Carrere 12in
- 18 SHE HAS A WAY, Bobby "O", US "O" 12in
- 19 I'M ALIVE, American Fade, Proto 12in
- 20 ON THE GRID/ANGEL EYES, Lime, Polydor/US Prism LP
- 21 CAN WE TRY AGAIN, Technique, US Ariel 12in
- 22 GOT TO GET TO YOU, Charade featuring Jessica, Passion 12in
- 23 THE BEACH/BLUE MONDAY, New Order, Factory 12in
- 24 FANTASY, Hotline, Italian II Discotto/Canadian Unidisc 12in
- 25 FLASHDANCE... WHAT A FEELING, Irene Cara, Casablanca 12in
- 26 I AM WHAT I AM, Gloria Gaynor, Chrysalis 12in
- 27 BAND OF GOLD, Sylvester, London 12in
- 28 I'M FREE, Celi Bee, US Paris International 12in
- 29 THESE MEMORIES, Oh Romeo, US Bobcat/Canadian Unidisc 12in
- 30 (THEY CALL ME THE) QUEEN OF FOOLS, Jessica Williams, Passion 12in
- 31 IT'S RAINING MEN, Weather Girls, CBS 12in
- 32 TO SIR WITH LOVE, Vicki Sue Robinson, US Profile 12in
- 33 BURN IT UP (MR. DJ), Risque, US Imports/12 remix/Dutch Polydor 12in
- 34 AND I'M TELLING YOU I'M NOT GOING, Koffie, Red Rooster 12in
- 35 IN THE NAME OF LOVE (REMIX), Sharon Redd, Canadian Prelude 12in
- 36 LOVE HOW YOU FEEL, Sharon Redd, Prelude 12in
- 37 PRIMITIVE DESIRE, Eastbound Expressway, Record Shack 12in
- 38 EL WATUSI/LA BAMBA (MEDLEY), Rags & Riches, US Casablanca 12in
- 39 WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN, Magda Layna, US Megatone 12in
- 40 HE'S A SAINT HE'S A SINNER/MANPOWER, Miquel Brown, Record Shack LP
- 41 LAST NIGHT A D.J. SAVED MY LIFE, Indeep, Sound Of New York 12in
- 42 SHE WORKS HARD FOR THE MONEY, Donna Summer, Mercury 12in
- 43 WHERE IS MY MAN, Eartha Kitt, Record Shack 12in
- 44 WEEKEND, Class Action, Jive 12in
- 45 LOVE IS A STRANGER, Eurythmics, RCA 12in/US Hot Tracks remix
- 46 BOOGIE NIGHTS, LaFlour, Proto 12in
- 47 YOU ARE A DANGER, Gary Low, Savoir Faire 12in
- 48 DO IT AGAIN/BILLIE JEAN (MEDLEY), Club House, Island 12in
- 49 SHAKE IT UP, Divine, Dutch Break/Design Communications 12in
- 50 SHOT IN THE NIGHT, Paul Parker, US Megatone 12in



SYLVESTER and Marsha Raven
(right): just the way men like it



DISCO NUMBER ONE'S

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 18 Dec | 5 | HEAVY VIBES, Montana Sextet, Virgin |
| 22 Jan | 1 | BE MINE TONIGHT, Jammers, Salsoul |
| 29 Jan | 4 | LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY LIFE, Indeep, SONY |
| 26 Feb | 1 | BILLIE JEAN, Michael Jackson, Epic |
| 5 Mar | 1 | ROCK THE BOAT, Forrest, CBS |
| 12 Mar | 6 | YOU CAN'T HIDE YOUR LOVE, David Joseph, Island |
| 23 Apr | 2 | TWIST, Chill Fac-Torr, Philly World |
| 7 May | 1 | DANCING TIGHT, Galaxy/Phil Fearon, Ensign |
| 14 May | 7 | LOVE TOWN, Booker Newberry III, Polydor |
| 2 Jul | 3 | ALL NIGHT LONG, Mary Jane Girls, Gordy |
| 23 Jul | 1 | TELL ME LOVE, Michael Wycoff, RCA |
| 30 Jul | 1 | THE CROWN, Gary Byrd, Motown |
| 6 Aug | 5 | ROCKIT, Herbie Hancock, CBS |
| 10 Sep | 2 | JAM ON REVENGE, Newcleus, Becket |
| 24 Sep | 4 | BODY WORK, Hot Streak, Polydor |
| 22 Oct | 1 | I WANT YOU (ALL TONIGHT), Curtis Hairston, RCA |
| 29 Oct | 5 | ALL NIGHT LONG (ALL NIGHT), Lionel Richie, Motown |
| 3 Dec | 1 | I'M OUT OF YOUR LIFE, Arnie's Love, Streetwave |
| 10 Dec | 1 | THRILLER, Michael Jackson, Epic |
| 17 Dec | 1 | HOLIDAY, Madonna, Sire |

BOYS TOWN NUMBER ONE'S

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 18 Dec | 5 | IT'S RAINING MEN, Weather Girls, CBS |
| 22 Jan | 1 | SHE HAS A WAY, Bobby "O", US "O" 12in |
| 29 Jan | 1 | IT'S RAINING MEN, Weather Girls, CBS |
| 5 Feb | 2 | ROCK THE BOAT, Forrest, CBS |
| 19 Feb | 1 | FANTASY, Hotline, II Discotto/Unidisc |
| 26 Feb | 5 | ROCK THE BOAT, Forrest, CBS |
| 2 Apr | 4 | THE NIGHT, Azul y Negro, Mercury |
| 30 Apr | 5 | MAYBE THIS TIME, Norma Lewis, ERC |
| 4 Jun | 1 | SO MANY MEN SO LITTLE TIME, Miquel Brown, Record Shack |
| 11 Jun | 1 | MEMORY, Menage, Carrere |
| 18 Jun | 3 | SO MANY MEN SO LITTLE TIME, Miquel Brown, Record Shack |
| 9 Jul | 5 | SEARCHIN' (I GOTTA FIND A MAN), Hazell Dean, Proto |
| 13 Aug | 3 | GUILTY, Lime, Polydor |
| 3 Sep | 1 | GOT TO GET TO YOU, Charade featuring Jessica, Passion |
| 10 Sep | 1 | BAND OF GOLD, Sylvester, London |
| 17 Sep | 2 | I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, Pamela Stanley, Komander |
| 1 Oct | 3 | LOVE REACTION, Divine, Design Communications |
| 22 Oct | 1 | EARTHQUAKE, Flirtations, Siam/Proto |
| 29 Oct | 3 | CATCH ME (I'M FALLING IN LOVE), Marsha Raven, Passion |
| 12 Nov | 2 | EARTHQUAKE, Flirtations, Siam/Proto |
| 26 Nov | 4 | WHERE IS MY MAN, Eartha Kitt, Record Shack |

NIGHT CLUB NUMBER ONE'S

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 8 Jan | 2 | YOUNG GUNS, Wham!, Inner Vision |
| 22 Jan | 4 | BUFFALO GALS, Malcolm McLaren, Charisma |
| 19 Feb | 1 | LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY LIFE, Indeep, SONY |
| 26 Feb | 4 | BILLIE JEAN, Michael Jackson, Epic |
| 26 Mar | 2 | ROCK THE BOAT, Forrest, CBS |
| 9 Apr | 1 | YOU CAN'T HIDE YOUR LOVE, David Joseph, Island |
| 16 Apr | 3 | LET'S DANCE, David Bowie, EMI America |
| 7 May | 3 | BEAT IT, Michael Jackson, Epic |
| 28 May | 1 | DANCING TIGHT, Galaxy/Phil Fearon, Ensign |
| 4 Jun | 5 | LOVE TOWN, Booker Newberry III, Polydor |
| 9 Jul | 2 | FLASHDANCE, Irene Cara, Casablanca |
| 23 Jul | 1 | I.O.U., Freeez, Beggars Banquet |
| 30 Jul | 1 | ALL NIGHT LONG, Mary Jane Girls, Gordy |
| 6 Aug | 1 | I.O.U., Freeez, Beggars Banquet |
| 13 Aug | 2 | THE CROWN, Gary Byrd, Motown |
| 3 Sep | 3 | ROCKIT, Herbie Hancock, CBS |
| 24 Sep | 3 | WHAT I GOT IS WHAT YOU NEED, Unique, Prelude |
| 15 Oct | 2 | GO DEH YAKA, Monyaka, Polydor |
| 29 Oct | 1 | HEY YOU, The Rock Steady Crew, Charisma |
| 5 Nov | 1 | ALL NIGHT LONG (ALL NIGHT), Lionel Richie, Motown |
| 12 Nov | | chart discontinued |

DISCO '83

RECORD MIRROR'S COMPILATION CHART
OF THE YEAR'S HOTTEST VINYL

- 1 THRILLER, Michael Jackson, Epic LP/12in
- 2 ALL NIGHT LONG (ALL NIGHT), Lionel Richie, Motown 12in/LP/US instrumental
- 3 BILLIE JEAN, Michael Jackson, Epic 12in/LP
- 4 LOVE TOWN, Booker Newberry III, Polydor 12in
- 5 JOY/INSTRUMENTAL, The Band AKA II, Epic Streetwave 12in
- 6 SMOOTHIN' GROOVIN'/D.J.'S DELIGHT/D.J.'S DELIGHT MEDLEY (MEGAMIX WITH 'DREAMIN'), Ingram, Streetwave 12in
- 7 WHAT I GOT IS WHAT YOU NEED, Unique, Prelude 12in
- 8 ROCK THE BOAT, Forrest, CBS 12in
- 9 YOU CAN'T HIDE (YOUR LOVE FROM ME), David Joseph, Island 12in
- 10 ROCKIT, Herbie Hancock, CBS 12in
- 11 CHANGING FOR YOU/BOTTOMS UP, CH-Lites, R&B 12in
- 12 BODY WORK/INSTRUMENTAL, Hot Streak, Polydor 12in
- 13 OUT IN THE NIGHT, Serge Ponsar, WEA International 12in
- 14 WANNA BE STARTIN' SOMETHIN', Michael Jackson, Epic 12in/LP
- 15 ALL NIGHT LONG, Mary Jane Girls, Gordy 12in/LP
- 16 JUICY FRUIT, Mtume, Epic 12in
- 17 HIP HOP BE BOP (DON'T STOP), Man Parrish, Polydor 12in
- 18 IS THIS THE FUTURE?, Fatback, US Spring LP/12in/Club LP
- 19 GET ON UP, Jazzy Dee, Laurie 12in
- 20 GARDEN PARTY, Mezzoforte, Steinar 12in
- 21 WEEKEND, Class Action, Jive 12in
- 22 LAST NIGHT A D.J. SAVED MY LIFE, Indexp, Sound Of New York 12in
- 23 I WANT YOU (ALL TONIGHT), Curtis Hairston, RCA 12in
- 24 IT'S OVER, Funk Masters, Master-Funk 12in
- 25 DANCING TIGHT, Galaxy (featuring Phil Fearon), Ensign 12in
- 26 LOVE HOW YOU FEEL, Sharon Redd, Prelude 12in
- 27 I JUST GOTTA HAVE YOU (LOVER TURN ME ON), Kashif, Arista 12in
- 28 TIMES ARE TIGHT (INSTRUMENTAL), Jimmy Young, Nitelife Dance 12in
- 29 I AM SOMEBODY, Glenn Jones, RCA 12in
- 30 MUSIC/INSTRUMENTAL, "D" Train, Prelude 12in
- 31 TWIST (ROUND 'N' ROUND), Chill Fac-Torr, Philly World 12in
- 32 (DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME) TELL ME LOVE, Michael Wycoff, RCA 12in
- 33 A TIME LIKE THIS, Haywood, CBS 12in
- 34 PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, O'Jays, Philadelphia International 12in/US remix
- 35 FALLING IN LOVE, Surface, Salsoul 12in
- 36 GET DOWN SATURDAY NIGHT, Oliver Cheatham, MCA 12in
- 37 I.O.U./WE GOT THE JAZZ, Freeze, Beggars Banquet 12in
- 38 JAM ON REVENGE (THE WIKKI-WIKKI SONG), Newcleus, Becket 12in
- 39 WALKIN' THE LINE, Brass Construction, Capitol 12in/US remix
- 40 CRAZY, Manhattans, CBS 12in
- 41 SHOW ME THE WAY, New York Skyy, Epic 12in/US Salsoul remix
- 42 IN THE BOTTLE/MEGAMIX INCORPORATING 'THE SMURF', C.O.D., Streetwave 12in
- 43 I'M DOWN FOR THAT/SHE'S GOT TO BE (A DANCER), Jerry Knight, Funk A&Merica 12in
- 44 INSIDE LOVE (SO PERSONAL) (INSTRUMENTAL)/FEEL LIKE MAKIN' LOVE, George Benson, Warner Bros 12in
- 45 THE CROWN, Gary Byrd & The G.B. Experience, Motown 12in
- 46 GO DEH YAKA (GO TO THE TOP), Monyaka, Polydor 12in
- 47 ALL MY LIFE, Major Harris, London 12in
- 48 YOUNG FREE AND SINGLE, Sunfire, Warner Bros 12in
- 49 LADIES CHOICE, Stone City Band, Gordy 12in
- 50 SUPERSTAR, Lydia Murdock, Korova 12in
- 51 REACH UP, Toney Lee, TMT 12in
- 52 RESCUE ME, Sybil Thomas, West End 12in
- 53 DON'T YOU GIVE YOUR LOVE AWAY, Steve Shelto, Epic 12in
- 54 MINEFIELD, I-Level, Virgin 12in
- 55 JUST BE GOOD TO ME, The SOS Band, Tabu 12in
- 56 LET THE MUSIC PLAY/INSTRUMENTAL, Shannon, Club 12in
- 57 OUTSTANDING, Gap Band, Total Experience 12in
- 58 ONE MIND TWO HEARTS, Paradise, Priority 12in
- 59 DON'T YOU GET SO MAD, Jeffrey Osborne, A&M 12in
- 60 CANDY GIRL, New Edition, London 12in
- 61 COME WITH ME, Tania Maria, US Concord Jazz Picante LP/Club LP
- 62 YOU AIN'T REALLY DOWN, Status IV, TMT 12in
- 63 PHONE ME, Jonny Chingas, CBS 12in
- 64 TONIGHT, Whispers, Solar 12in
- 65 ALL OVER YOUR FACE, Ronnie Dyson, Atlantic 12in
- 66 I THINK I WANT TO DANCE WITH YOU, Rumples-Stilts-Skin, Montage 12in
- 67 OOH I LOVE IT, Salsoul Orchestra, Salsoul 12in
- 68 HOLD ME TIGHTER IN THE RAIN, Billy Griffin, CBS 12in
- 69 ROCK THE WORLD!!!, Crown Heights Affair, De-Lite 12in
- 70 BE MINE TONIGHT/WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE, Jammers, Salsoul 12in
- 71 MR D.J./MEGAMIX INCORPORATING '1 ADIES NIGHT', Wish, Streetwave 12in
- 72 NATURE BOY, Central Line, Mercury 12in
- 73 SOMETHING SPECIAL, Steve Harvey, London 12in
- 74 RIDE ON THE RHYTHM, Mahogany, West End 12in
- 75 GROOVIN' (THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOIN'), The SOS Band, Tabu 12in
- 76 TALK TO ME, Lew Kirton, Epic 12in
- 77 ALL NIGHT LONG/INSTRUMENTAL, La Famille, Sanity/PRT 12in
- 78 GET IT ON, Spence, Arista 12in
- 79 HAPPINESS IS JUST AROUND THE BEND, Cuba Gooding, London 12in
- 80 PARTY TIME, Kurtis Blow, Mercury 12in
- 81 YOU MAKE IT HEAVEN, Terri Wells, Philly World 12in
- 82 SAVE THE OVERTIME (FOR ME), Gladys Knight & The Pips, CBS 12in
- 83 AUTODRIVE, Herbie Hancock, CBS 12in
- 84 ROCKIN' RADIO, Tom Browne, Arista 12in
- 85 (HEY YOU) THE ROCK STEADY CREW, Rock Steady Crew, Charisma 12in
- 86 JINGO (REMIX)/JINGO BREAKDOWN, Candido, US Salsoul 12in/Street Sounds LP
- 87 AIN'T NOBODY, Rufus & Chaka Khan, Warner Bros 12in
- 88 USE ME, LOSE ME (LOSE ME, USE ME), Paul Simpson Connection, US Streetwise 12in
- 89 WHITE LINES (DON'T DON'T DO IT), Grandmaster & Melle Mel, Sugarhill 12in
- 90 GIMME THE FUNK, Charades, US Brunswick 12in
- 91 I'M OUT TO CATCH, Leon Haywood, US Casablanca 12in/Club LP



Pic by Chris Walker

MICHAEL JACKSON: the opposition never stood a chance



Pic by LFI

- 92 CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOU, Wickett, Streetwave 12in
- 93 MORNIN', Al Jarreau, Warner Bros 12in
- 94 DO IT ANYWAY YOU WANNA, Cashmere, Philly World 12in
- 95 WIRED FOR GAMES, C-Brand, US Spring 12in/Club LP
- 96 NEVER TOO MUCH, Luther Vandross, Epic 12in
- 97 TONIGHT, Steve Harvey, London 12in
- 98 UP ON THE HILL (MT. U), Trammips, US Venture 12in
- 99 BETWEEN THE SHEETS, Isley Brothers, Epic 12in
- 100 WE CAN WORK IT OUT, Brass Construction, Capitol 12in

Mailman

**Write to Mailman,
Record Mirror, 40 Long
Acre, London WC2**

ODE TO JIM REID
(to the tune of 'Motor Maniac')

Superhack, Wackyhack, I'm a Jim
Reid maniac,
Superhack, Wackhack, I'm a Jim
Reid maniac,
Superhack, Wackyhack, I'm a Jim
Reid maniac,
I've got a Private File,
Jim's at the start,
Just like a wacky hack —
He took my heart.
You'll see him at the Camden
Palace on a Saturday night.
Do, do, do, do, do, etc.
Superhack, Wackyhack, I'm a Jim
Reid maniac.
Well now on Thursday night,
Outside the Dog & Duck
I saw him on the ground —
He was puking up.
He tried to grin, but he just
couldn't stop.
**Wona The Wombat, The
Waterhole, Watford**
● **Lord Jim 'mouth 'n' trousers'**
**Reid has had all the doors
widened to get his bloated head
through, thanks to you**

IT'S magazines like yours Mr
Mailman that really piss me off. I
open my blockbuster, new look
RM (Nov 19) and what do I see on
pages 48 & 49? King bloody Kurt
again!



BEING IN the 'untamed South', I just
received a few RECORD MIRRORS via a
friend in the UK. I was hoping to see a Nick
Heyward-free edition. Not so, after a couple
of weeks during the end of the summer
when you ceased all reference to him and
started on Marc Almond, you seem to have
got back into this Record Mirror
incorporating 'Little Nicky Heyward' rut.

For goodness' sake, does this wimp work
on your staff or something? How about
turning over a new leaf at the New Year and
cutting his salary a bit, eh? There are plenty
of people around who are doing good things
in the music business that deserve attention,

why not give them some space.

It might encourage Little Nicky Heyward
to do something constructive with his life
apart from living off the revenues that he
gets for doing interviews and having his
face slapped all over the music press.

And before you get replies from his
devoted teeny bopper fans about what he's
done in the past, may I remind them of the
past record of the Stones and Genesis.
Follow that, Heyward.

R O Woolley, A genuine music fan, Falklands

● **We here see Nick Heyward mine detecting
on the advice of our Falklands hero**

I just can't understand why you
could waste so much space on a
quite obscure band, if you can call
them a band. OK so they had a hit
(very minor) with 'Destination
Zulu Land' but why all the

publicity? Are you all, dare I say
it, transvestites?

Duran Duran's snake

● **We need someone to re-'dress'
the balance.**

I'M WRITING to say how much
me and my mates enjoyed the
pictures of King Kurt in Record
Mirror the other week wearing
dresses.

Glad to see that the trend of
'men in frocks' is starting up
again! Let's hope this time that
lots more blokes won't be able to
resist the temptation of slipping
into a skirt every now and then.

**Roger in a ra-ra, Stockport,
Manchester**

● **We promise to skirt around
this issue more often**

DID JIM Reid really play the
Duran Duran album three times?
It's obvious to me that he'd made
up his mind not to like it even
before he'd heard the first track.

If he had bothered to listen to it
with an open mind and not
blinkers, then he would have
realized what a superb album it is.

"The first chapter in their
decline," my foot. This album has
all the craftsmanship we come to
expect from them, and it's sure to
secure their place as the country's
best group for a long time yet.

Alan, Poole, Dorset

● **He did approach it with an
open mind. It created a hell of a
draft**

YIPPEE! AT long last! Someone
has actually had the guts to say
the new Duran Duran album is
crap! Who am I referring to? Jim
Reid, of course.

So far in all the other mags I've
heard, 'Seven and the Ragged
Tiger' has been described as
"sophisticated", "mature",
"brilliant" drone, drone. How
refreshing it is to actually know
that there is at least one honest
reviewer in the world. Three
cheers for Mr Reid!

Le Bon and Co are simply only
good for one thing. The dustbin!
An avid OMD fan, Keighley, Yorks
● **The dustbin? Isn't that where
they got their ideas from?**



Stop me if you've heard this one before

IT HAS come to my attention in recent weeks
that a large number of people in the chart are
rip-offs. The worst exponent of this is Howard
Jones. Not content with copying Peter Gabriel
for his first single, he's now ripped off the
Thompson Twins' 'Love On Your Side' for his
new one.

But the Thompson Twins are no better as their
newie is a copy of Roxy Music's 'Dance Away'.
Also in the charts we have Billy Joel ripping off

the Four Seasons. Yes sounding remarkably like
the Police and even the mighty Kenny Rogers
and Dolly Parton have nicked a riff from Abba's
'SOS'.

So come on you pop stars, let's hear
something new for a change.

Robin Smith's Beard, Halifax

● **Something new? What do you think this is?
Christmas!**

On Stage

EURYTHMICS
London, Lyceum

GAZING NOSTALGICALLY at some classic 'Ready Steady Go!' footage recently, I mused on the subject of versatile female singers. Where is the Sandie, the Cilla, the Lulu of the '80s? Relief for our chanteuse-starved ears, I realised, comes courtesy of Annie Lennox, surely the most expressive popular vocalist (along with George, natch) currently putting her nodules at risk. She seems to be all of them rolled into one.

An intense character she may be, but this intensity allows her to push performance to the limit. Soul is a dodgy word to use, but her conviction shows: she knows what she wants, she's in control of it, and self confidence brims from her every pore. That's enough about Annie for now — the rest of it's pretty good too.

The Eurythmical stage show is slick and note perfect, but without the ABC-style glossy heartlessness that description implies. Their arrangements are painstakingly faultless — there's just enough of the horn section not to overpower each song, a trio of backing singers (the identical Croquettes) who play their part and really sing rather than stand and be decorative. And, of course, there's Dave Stewart no longer hiding behind glasses, looking relaxed in his success and making his guitar soar.

Tracking the Eurythmics' singles career to date, diversity would appear to be their key word. It's not until you see them in context that it becomes clear what an effective eclectic style they've developed. They embrace funk, shades of reggae, calypso, folk, electro, but with a very definite identity of their own stamped on it.

From the sublime ('Here Comes The Rain Again') to the exuberant ('Right By Your Side') to the haunting ('Love Is A Stranger') they handled themselves with an unerring precision and passion. Annie bounced off her raven haired backing trio, teasing tunes to their climax with the wily device of repeated phrases followed by explosive peaks, often coming right at the end of a song ('Regrets?') and leaving the audience gasping.

All the while, Annie continued to toy with her image. The clown suit revealed a threatening studded belt beneath. The bewigged Croquettes trooped back onstage after a short break sporting shiny black corsets. You get the general impression that the women are in control here, in a dominant yet feminine way.

The show ended with Annie sporting her leopardess look (growl!) and a host of kilted pipers playing the audience out. I defy anyone not to be impressed by the standard of this show and the power of the Lennox lungs. And it's such a pleasure to watch performers revelling in their position of influence *without* a hint of arrogance.

Betty Page

